

**conference**

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**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

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ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I  
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**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 85/I/PV/1

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

FIRST MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE  
PRIMERA SESION

(13 November 1985)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 heures  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.00 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

**LE PRESIDENT:** Chers délégués, puisque le quorum est atteint, je voudrais vous demander de commencer nos travaux. Je voudrais pour commencer vous rappeler et j'en reparlerai, que nous avons beaucoup de points à l'ordre du jour et qu'il serait donc vraiment souhaitable de toujours commencer plus ou moins à l'heure, sinon je crains qu'on ne parvienne pas au but que nous voulons atteindre.

Cela étant dit, je ne vais pas faire un discours parce que je crois que nous devons gagner du temps et je désire me limiter à vous souhaiter la bienvenue et à espérer avec vous qu'ainsi notre travail pourra avancer et aura de bons résultats. Je voudrais aussi attirer votre attention sur le nouveau calendrier. Il s'agit du document C 85/INF/18 et je vous invite à en prendre connaissance parce que cela nous amène quand même à certaines conclusions.

En effet, en consultant ces dates et ces pièces dont nous devons parler vous allez voir que nous disposons de très peu de temps, je le répète; et, prenant cela en considération je voudrais vous faire quelques petites propositions pratiques.

La première me concerne: je ne vais pas faire de discours, on parlera simplement de choses pratiques et je voudrais aussi vous demander de ne pas me féliciter de me voir ici, etc. Parlons simplement. Je suis certain que vous êtes tous contents que je sois ici, donc il n'est pas nécessaire de me le dire.

Il faudrait aussi que vous soyez bien persuadés que nous n'avons pas beaucoup de temps parce que l'agenda a été changé et qu'un point très important a été ajouté. Donc, nous avons vraiment plusieurs raisons pour essayer d'être relativement brefs si c'est possible.

En pratique, ce que je voudrais vous proposer, si vous le voulez bien, parce que tous ici nous sommes entre vos mains, c'est d'être brefs car il n'est pas question de vous pousser à faire quelque chose que vous ne voulez pas faire. Si on peut employer le mot "consensus", il y a un consensus, celui d'être le plus bref possible, ce serait une bonne chose. Comme nous l'a dit le Président de la Conférence, ici il ne s'agit pas de réunions politiques, ce sont des réunions où l'on parle de faits et de technicité. Essayons donc d'être brefs et techniques. Je voudrais surtout vous inviter à réserver vos interventions à des questions qui ne sont pas contestées et là je crois qu'il est facile de se limiter.

Pour les questions où il y a des difficultés et où vous avez des opinions fort prononcées ou qui vont dans des sens différents, bien sûr, il est tout à fait normal qu'on en parle plus longuement; mais pour les questions où l'on est d'accord, les questions non controversées, je vous invite à être brefs.

Je crois que je dois maintenant dire un mot du point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Il s'agit d'un texte qu'on m'a donné, qui est en anglais et je vais donc le lire en anglais. Je m'en excuse auprès des francophones et auprès de nos amis les interprètes qui devront traduire

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION  
ET D'AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y  
ALIMENTACION

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation

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

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo

7.1. State of Food and Agriculture

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

7.1. El estado de la agricultura y la alimentatción

CHAIRMAN: Agenda item 7.4, as I said, Forestry, Action Arising out of the Ninth World Forestry Congress, Mexico City, July 1985.

The Conference has agreed that these matters shall be debated on the afternoon of Thursday 21 November. In accordance with the decision of the November 1985 Council the Manifesto of Mexico is to be submitted to the Conference for its adoption by a Resolution. I am informed by the Secretary of the Resolutions Committee that a Draft Resolution has been drawn up and will be presented to the Resolutions Committee to examine that its formal presentation is appropriate, before presenting it for substantive consideration in Commission I. (Continues in French).

Vous avez pris note de cette annonce et maintenant je crois qu'on peut s'attaquer au premier point de notre ordre du jour. Il s'agit donc du point 7: Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture; 7.1: Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Ceci pour la séance de ce matin. Je vous rappelle que vous avez ces documents devant vous et, en deuxième séance, cet après-midi, nous avons toujours ce même point 7, Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite). Vous voyez pour aujourd'hui aussi que nous avons beaucoup de pain sur la planche et je propose de commencer tout de suite en demandant au Prof. Islam de faire une introduction concernant ce point.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, as in the past, discussion of this agenda item is based on two documents: The State of Food and Agriculture, C 85/2, and its supplement. The supplement updates the earlier document by giving FAO's first estimates of the food and agricultural production in 1985, data on agricultural trade in 1984 and recent changes in flows of development assistance and other sources of development financing.

The theme of this year's SOFA embraces a review and appraisal of the food situation and trends in agricultural and rural development in the early 1980s.

The first part of the document is devoted to analyzing the major changes that took place in the world economy during the early 1980s and the impact of supply and demand for agricultural products on agriculture in general. What emerges is that the early 1980s have been dominated by the economic recession. The burden of adjusting to this fell more on some countries than others and the recession affected agriculture depending on how it was integrated into the world economy. Trade in agricultural products was particularly adversely affected and hence those countries more dependent on agricultural trade for export earning were more seriously hit. The harsh economic environment of the early 1980s has underlined the need for pragmatic, flexible and consistent policies at the national level, both in agriculture and the economy at large, to enable economic growth to be maintained.

One very welcome feature of the early 1980s has been the spectacular growth in agricultural output achieved in China, largely through the policy reforms dealing with producer incentives, and the continued solid progress in the rest of Asia. On the other hand, these years tragically highlighted the precariously chronic situation - both in food and agriculture and in overall economic development - in much of Africa.

The document emphasizes the important roles that external factors - prices, exchange rates and interest rates - and financial issues, particularly debt and its servicing and capital flows, have played in determining the course of economic growth and agricultural growth as well.

Agricultural trade was particularly adversely affected by the recession of 1980-82 and the unit values of developing countries' agricultural exports declined by 18 percent. Furthermore, the dollar value of these exports declined by more than 1 percent a year during the 1979-83 period after having expanded by more than 7 percent a year during the 1970s. Imports, including those of food, have had to be cut back but declining export earnings have resulted in worsening trade deficits.

With some exceptions, the early 1980s have not been a very favourable period for food and agricultural production.

Growth in food production in the developing market economies slowed down compared to the 1970s notwithstanding the good progress made in the Far East. Output of food grew very slowly in Africa and hence the Least Developed Countries as a group. Overall, the exceptional performance in raising food production in China, referred to earlier, was responsible for maintaining the annual increases in world aggregate production in the early 1980s at their average rate of the 1970s.

Mr Chairman, the document before you explores in a modest way long-term changes in the use of production factors such as land and labour, and inputs such as fertilizers. Throughout the developing world, the amount of land per person of the agricultural labour force is declining, with the exception of Latin America, and land use is intensifying, as shown by increased usage of fertilizer and irrigation. It seems that productivity of the agricultural labour force actually declined in Africa in the early 1980s which somewhat explains the continuation of the rural exodus there. In contrast, productivity rose in the Far East to a rate that implies a doubling in output per worker in approximately one generation, a conclusion that may be viewed with some optimism. But the picture shown is very diversified.

Nevertheless, increased usage of fertilizers slowed quite dramatically in the 1980s compared to the 1970s. This was due to a combination of factors: weak commodity prices, difficulties in financing imports, the need to remove subsidies, and poor weather. It was not due to a lack of supply because fertilizer prices tended to fall during the early 1980s. Although the US dollar was appreciating during the same time, most importing countries were facing higher prices in terms of their currencies. In this context, the FAO Commission on Fertilizers has drawn attention to the importance of maintaining fertilizer aid to low income countries.

The strengthening dollar and falling rates of inflation also shielded the full effect of the slowing down in the growth of external assistance to agriculture (OCA). But there was a significant hardening in its terms and more recent data indicate slower growth and even a decline in commitments.

There has been progress in raising levels of food intake. In Africa, however, there has been barely any progress at all over more than a decade, and a regression during the latest few years has taken place. This has been accompanied by a growing dependence on food imports, including food aid.

Mr Chairman, I just want to add here and draw attention to the record catch of fish made in 1984, largely due to a recovery in Latin American fisheries.

The last section of the SOFA is devoted to a closer, regional examination of the development experience of the early 1980s. It has been some years since SOFA included a comprehensive regional review and it is hoped that this will once more become a regular, if not annual, feature.

In conclusion, I wish to draw attention to the supplementary document, C 85/2-Sup.1, the main contents of which I referred to earlier on. The main points to be highlighted are as follows:

Firstly, the economic recovery which appeared to be well under way in 1984 and early 1985 is by no means assured. There were signs of its faltering in recent months and the shadows of disequilibria in exchange rates, protectionism and debt continue to appear across the scene.

Secondly, in terms of food and agricultural output, the regional pattern in 1985 is proving to be rather better than last year, even though the increase for the world as a whole will be smaller. The drought in Africa has been largely relieved and crop output in the affected countries has greatly improved.

Thirdly, cereal production will again expand this year to record levels because of increased production of maize, particularly in the United States, but also in Africa and the USSR. However, trade in cereals will be reduced, stocks will rise to record levels and prices are likely to remain depressed.

Fourthly, in 1984 the volume of agricultural trade grew less than that of trade in other goods but because agricultural terms of trade were more favourable, its value kept pace with that of other

goods. Growth in the agricultural trade of developing countries in particular was buoyant in 1984, compared to the earlier years in the 1980s. However, serious problems in agricultural trade remain, problems which were discussed last month by the Committee on Commodity Problems.

Fifthly and, indeed lastly, total commitments to agricultural "broad" definition declined by 7 percent in 1983 compared to 1982. The decline was in reality less, about 3 percent, when allowance is made for the appreciation of the dollar. Nevertheless, the decline in concessional commitments was much more severe, approaching a decrease of one fifth. The decline in multilateral concessional commitments continued into 1984 as well.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much Dr Islam for this very clear introduction.

Je voudrais maintenant vous inviter à prendre la parole en ce qui concerne ces documents introductifs, qui sont C 85/2 et C 85/2-Sup.1

Avant de vous accorder la parole, je voudrais tout simplement encore donner quelques informations d'ordre général.

Premièrement, en ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, il se réunira au moment prévu dans la salle des Philippines.

Deuxièmement, en ce qui concerne les Vice-Présidents, je vous rappelle, pour ceux qui ne le savent pas, les deux noms: M. Ladan du Nigéria et M. Khaled de la République démographique populaire du Yémen.

En ce qui concerne le Comité de rédaction, on emploie pour celui-ci la formule habituelle, c'est-à-dire que des consultations sont en cours, et je voudrais vous inviter à les activer, en demandant aux groupements régionaux de donner les noms et de les signaler ici au secrétariat. Certains l'ont déjà fait et d'autres pas encore. Dès que ces noms seront connus bien sûr, je vous les communiquerai.

Après ces quelques détails d'un ordre général, je vais maintenant vous inviter à prendre la parole sur ce document.

Ms N. MORAD (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): As you have said I will try and start by being brief. My comments will bear upon the documents which we have before us C 85/2, on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1985. The Egyptian delegation in its review of this document, especially paragraph 1.76 noted that this document shows that agricultural production in Egypt has been slowing down. The decline in agricultural production in Egypt is a fact, and has various causes. However, the cause indicated in this paragraph is not one of them and therefore I would prefer that this paragraph be amended to give a better reflection of the real situation in Egypt. I would hope that the Secretariat could use different terminology than that of "Sluggish Performances" which is used here for Egypt.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je vous remercie de votre intervention. Est-ce que le secrétariat désire faire une intervention à ce sujet?

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department) : We would be very grateful to the distinguished delegate of Egypt if she would give specific comments on the paragraph, and suggestions, as she seemed to think there are alternative explanations of the decline of food production in Egypt.



Ms N. MORAD (Egypt) (Original language Arabic) : I will review all the causes in the reduction of agricultural performance in Egypt later, and will comment upon them.

WU TIANXI (China) : First of all, please allow me to congratulate you, Mr Ladan and Mr Khaled on your election as Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of this Commission. I believe that under your guidance and in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, our deliberations will achieve fruitful results. I commend the Secretariat for the excellent documents they have prepared for our Commission. These documents facilitate our understanding of the current state of the world food and agriculture, and at the same time embody many thought-provoking recommendations. This is no doubt a guarantee of the successful proceedings at this Commission.

We have noted that the last two years witnessed economic recovery in a number of developed countries, better agricultural performance and improved food security in various countries. However, such progress is both unsteady and uneven. Africa and some other regions are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Most of the developing countries have not yet shaken off the shackles of the economic recession and are afflicted by heavy debt burdens. Regarding access to the international market, prices and the terms of trade of agricultural products, not only have these problems not been properly solved, but some developed countries have also intensified their protectionist measures in trade. In addition, there have been obstacles in the transfer of technology and financial resources by developed countries to the developing countries. Faced with such a situation, we can not afford to slacken our efforts in the future development of food and agriculture.

For many years, both the positive and negative experience and lessons in the world agricultural development have taught us that agriculture is not only the economic foundation on which the developing countries depend for their advancement, but it cannot develop without the support of the entire national economy. It must be incorporated into the national programme for economic and social development. Moreover, it should be given priority and thereby enjoy the support of other sectors. The supply of agricultural inputs should, to the greatest extent possible, meet the needs of production development, and be provided to the small farmers in concessional terms. Special efforts should be made to improve the extension of agricultural techniques, marketing and credit. Government involvement is highly necessary in rendering policy support and protection to agricultural development.

Ample facts have proven that a sound agro-ecological environment is essential for agricultural development. At present, blind exploration and exhaustive use of agricultural resources have led to destruction of forestry resources and vegetation on grasslands. Deserts are expanding, land fertility is degrading, environment is being polluted and animal and plant genetic resources are not receiving deserved attention. If such a state of affairs is allowed to continue, agricultural development will be facing worrisome prospects. Although we still cannot be independent from nature in developing agricultural production, damages can be alleviated and production conditions improved by applying modern science and technology in the construction of water conservation works, water and soil conservation, tree and grass planting, cultivation of stress-tolerant varieties and other measures. We should draw useful lessons from past experience and further pursue the above-mentioned objectives at relevant international fora in an effort to find possible solutions.

Concerning other important questions in agricultural development, our chief delegate, Minister He Kang, has already spoken about them at the Plenary, I am not going to repeat them here.

Mr Chairman, in the document prepared by the Secretariat for the Conference, China's agricultural development is mentioned several times. We are grateful to the Secretariat for its favourable comments on our agricultural achievements. Now, with your indulgence, I would like to give you some additional information.

The Chinese Government attaches great importance to agriculture. Since the beginning of the 80's, following the reform in the management and planning system in the rural areas, we have initiated reforms in the purchasing and marketing of agricultural products, prices, credit and service trade that adapts to existing rural conditions to further promote agricultural commodity production in our country. We deeply feel that we can only achieve development through reforms.

On the basis of the rural reforms, we have also endeavoured to readjust the rural economic structure. The principle that guides the readjustment is "sparing no effort in developing grain production while actively promoting a diversified economy". The readjustment is being effected under the guidance of the national economic plan and in accordance with specific local conditions. The purpose is to ensure an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, fishery and sideline occupations, so as to satisfy the growing consumption demand of our people by making full use of the superior conditions of different localities in production and of agricultural resources. Moreover, on the basis of the rational programming of land utilization, we have readjusted the structure of crop-planting by concentrating efforts on the establishment of commodity grain production bases and encouraging the farmers to grow cash crops where appropriate. We have transformed the irrational agricultural structure left over by history by developing mountainous areas, pastures and coastal shoals in a planned way. We have turned the land unsuitable for growing crops over to be used for the development of forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, resulting in their accelerated progress. In recent years, we have put more emphasis on developing rural enterprises to serve agricultural production, large-scale industries as complementing elements and consumption of the urban and rural people, by using abundant rural labour and raw materials. By doing so, not only have employment opportunities been generated but material supplies for the urban and rural areas as well as farmers' incomes have increased. Initial success has been achieved in readjustment. Over the past 5 years, the production of grains, cotton and oil-bearing crops in our country has registered remarkable progress. We have now basically solved the problem of providing food and clothing for our one billion people. At the same time, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupations (including rural enterprises) and fishery have been advancing at a faster speed. Their share in the total agricultural output value has gone up from 32.2 percent in 1978 to 41 percent in 1984.

This year, we have continued the structural readjustment in agriculture. The area for grain crops and cotton has been reduced in varying degrees, as against last year. Moreover natural calamities, such as drought in the south and floods in the north, will contribute to the fact that the output of grain and cotton will be less than last year. But this will be compensated by the increased production of oil- and sugar-bearing crops, meat, milk and aquatic products.

We have a large rural population and limited cultivated land. Ninety percent of the country's population lives on the arable land which accounts for only ten percent of the total land area. Agricultural development has been uneven in different regions and the potential for farm production in the mountainous and remote areas needs to be further explored. There are still a small number of regions which do not have sufficient food and clothing. The agricultural achievement already obtained still contrasts with the long term needs for our national economic development and the production and consumption level of the countries with advanced agriculture. There still exist considerable gaps. With arduous tasks of development lying before us, we are confident that we shall gradually attain the envisaged objectives.

J.S. NIELSEN (Denmark) : Mr Chairman, you have asked us to go straight to the matter and avoid technicalities, so I will start with a question. What can we learn from this excellent survey? I would like to cite the optimistic statement on page 2 of the Report, according to which, and I quote, pragmatic, flexible and consistent policies are the keys to success, unquote. It is success in the meaning of enhancing implementation of national development strategies of agriculture in order to achieve equitable worldwide growth. In Commission II we have already been expressing our views on how the UN System and FAO in particular should contribute to this process in the future. With pragmatism, flexibility and consistency, we can cope with the still more frequent and sudden changes in the future.

Although the weather has given us some relief in the food situation this year, in particular in Africa, the volatility of markets and the economic environment in the first half of the eighties, as very well described in the Report, would hardly be an isolated phenomenon. Therefore, in the future we will be witnessing still sharper exposures of vulnerable parts of national economies. How do we turn such vulnerabilities to strengths? Let me give a couple of examples. Growth in population and in urbanization puts pressure on agricultural markets and requires more sophistication in market management and price policies. But such developments may also provide the basis for more well-structured markets, and there may be benefits from economies of scale in distribution and storage.

Another example is that local skills and crops haven't been given the representation that they deserve. Sometimes they have been subject to neglect. If one emphasizes research, extension and market management for these local products, though not rewarding in the short-run, absorption of foreign crops, techniques and skills should, as a supplementary source, contribute to the robustness of local economies rather than undermining them.

This leads me to the following point: in formulating agricultural strategies, we have undoubtedly relied too much on experiences from the industrialized world. FAO is a service organization, and we should all put in focus the experience, skills and cultural traditions of the customers; i.e., the member countries concerned. This means further local involvement in project formation, implementation and evaluation. It also means reallocation of UN and FAO resources from pure project administration to the task of monitoring the integration of projects in the general development strategy for a given region or country.

It is not an easy task to combine pragmatism, flexibility and consistency with general and coordinated development strategies. It is, however, a challenge we have to cope with if we are to achieve in the future the self-sustained growth and conditions accepted by those who are supposed to benefit from the government assistance. This requires rethinking from all of us.

I. KABA (Guinée): La pertinence de l'analyse faite dans le document C 85/2 est incontestable. En particulier, nous le verrons en page 7 en ce qui concerne les effets sur l'agriculture, paragraphe qui nous intéresse particulièrement parce que concernant la production, donc le problème de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

En effet, les facteurs de l'offre et de la demande, la situation de la conjoncture mondiale en ce qui concerne l'économie et les finances, ces facteurs ont une grande influence sur le système de production. En effet, la part de l'influence économique mondiale sur le ralentissement de la production agricole dans nos pays est fondamentale. Certes, les catastrophes naturelles ont beaucoup pesé sur notre agriculture; mais les obstacles que sont le bas prix de nos produits à l'exportation, le protectionnisme impitoyable des nantis, le prix élevé des intrants agricoles, tels que les engrais et les outils, qui sont volontairement orchestrés par les pays développés, ces facteurs ont un grand impact négatif, particulièrement en tout cas dans mon pays, malgré les changements de stratégies qui sont intervenus.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons que la communauté internationale devra se pencher avec plus de détermination sur les questions de l'endettement et du rétablissement des termes de l'échange qui doivent favoriser la coopération nord-sud, condition essentielle de l'équilibre économique mondial et de la garantie de la paix.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie également surtout pour la qualité de la brièveté de votre intervention; je crois que c'est un bon exemple que vous avez donné. Merci beaucoup, cher collègue et ami.

KYO EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): According to document 85/2, the world food problem in recent years has been the result of not the lack of the world total food supply, but the increased regional imbalances between production and consumption growth. It is disheartening for us all to note that developing countries, especially in Africa are now battling against famine, while developed countries in some other parts of the world are struggling against the surpluses of agricultural products. At the same time, it is also our shame that the food crisis in Africa has been aggravated by, not only the drought itself, but also the lack of South-North cooperation, that is, the insufficient flow of investment and of advanced technology and the rising tide of protectionism of developed countries.

It is however an encouraging fact that since 1979 food production in the Asian centrally planned economies has recorded a high annual growth rate of 7.9 percent, primarily due to policy changes. I fully agree with the view that policy changes such as the introduction of the contracted responsibility system, decentralization of planning, and the increased transfer of resources by the government in support of agriculture may be the core element in the remarkable success of agricultural development in China. One of the most important factors for the success of Saemaul-Undong in the Republic of Korea is also decentralization of planning, which gives farmers the strong will to work hard and to cooperate more for their better living.

In this respect, my Government welcomes and supports the African countries' efforts to change their agricultural policies by democratizing the development process by having farmers adopt new development models instead of Western ones, namely development of small holder agriculture suited to the African conditions, and also improving and expanding their transportation and marketing system, etc.

In this context, I would now like to mention briefly the policy changes of my government in relation to the food and agricultural situation in Korea. Prior to the 1980s, the main objective of the agricultural policy on my Government had been focused on increasing food production and achieving self-sufficiency in staple food grains - rice and barley. Since the very beginning of the 1980s however, the main objective and direction of agricultural policy has been gradually shifted from increasing food production to improving farmers' living conditions because of the rapid change in food and agricultural situation in Korea.

Since 1982 self-sufficiency in rice has been achieved, and, furthermore barley, vegetable and fruits have entered into the stage of continued over-production. On the other hand, we have faced new problems such as a vicious circle of price fluctuations in agricultural products, an ever-widening income disparity between rural and urban sectors, a growing sense of relative deprivation for farmers, and a continued flow of rural youth from rural to urban sector, and so on. This unfavourable development in the food and agricultural situation has forced us to change the direction of agricultural policy. In order to improve the quality of farmers' lives and to expand their life expectancy, my Government has implemented in recent years a series of income support-oriented policies such as the future farmers' support programme, increases in the replenishment of the agricultural price stabilization fund, development of new income sources for farmers and diversification of the rural economy, introduction of a property formation savings system in rural areas, etc.

However, the effects of those policy measures have been greatly limited because of the smallness of farmland area, which is approximately one hectare per farm-household on an average. Added to that, the increase demand of the developed countries for more access of their agricultural products to the market in Korea is now creating further difficulties in solving the structural problems of Korean agriculture.

For this reason, I strongly support the following view contained in the concluding part of the document.

Developed countries' efforts to promote agricultural free trade will make their exports of surplus products more accessible to importing countries in the short run. However, abundant import of cheap food will distort market and consumption patterns and eventually discourage domestic farming in importing countries, unless their farmers are strongly protected.

In closing, I would like to emphasize two things. First, if each Member Nation insists on protecting its own vested interest by reinforcing protectionism barriers or creating inordinate demands on free and fair trade, we all will be the losers and self-defeaters. Second, if we cooperate in a spirit of interdependence and mutuality, solutions to the world food agricultural crisis are not beyond our grasp.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente.

siguiendo su clara orientación, nuestra delegación obviará las felicitaciones, que usted sabe por demás las tiene de nuestra delegación.

Sr. Presidente, mi delegación ha estudiado con sumo interés el documento C 85/2 y su suplemento I, que nos ha preparado la Secretaría y que el Profesor Islam nos ha presentado de manera excelente en la mañana de hoy.

Consideramos que es un documento muy valioso por su contenido, tan completo y tan actual, ya que contempla de manera precisa los elementos más importantes en la situación actual de la 'economía mundial y de la agricultura y lá alimentación en particular y a los cuales también se refirió de manera muy clara y sincera el Director General en su alocución a la Conferencia cuando nos afirmó que "el estado de la economía mundial no es muy reconfortante y que la recuperación de la gran depresión de los primeros años 80 parece estar perdiendo impulso.

Sr. Presidente, usted bien conoce que la llamada crisis alimentaria no es un fenómeno correspondiente a los últimos años, aunque la profunda crisis económica actual contribuya a acentuarla. Para las mayorías del mundo subdesarrollado la crisis alimentaria debe entenderse como una condición secular y permanente de sus precarias vidas.

Para ellos no tiene apenas sentido la hipotética recuperación de las economías capitalistas desarrolladas, pues ni siquiera los más vigorosos auges económicos del sistema han sido capaces de evitar la presencia del hambre y la subalimentación en el tercer mundo. Para los centenares de millones de hambrientos que habitan en este mundo la crisis alimentaria no es una simple referencia conceptual, sino una presencia diaria y una afrontosa realidad para toda la humanidad.

Esta dolorosa situación se mantendrá por mucho tiempo. Según datos de la FAO, los precios mundiales de casi toda la gama de productos agrícolas han experimentado una tendencia a la baja, lo cual no sería tan grave, si se pudiera prever una recuperación de los mercados en un futuro próximo. Sin embargo, el estancamiento económico mundial continúa, ya que no se prevé un cese en la inflación, en el desempleo, en la inestabilidad monetaria, en las altísimas tasas de interés en la injusta relación de los intercambios, incluyendo el proteccionismo, y en general en las injustas relaciones económicas internacionales, que están muy lejos de modificarse.

Actualmente, Sr. Presidente, las estructuras económicas de nuestros países se ven más azotadas por los problemas derivados de la deuda externa. Este aspecto se encuentra bastante bien ilustrado en el documento que analizamos. Para nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe se expresa muy claramente que los factores principales que dieron lugar a la crisis económica fueron la gran deuda externa y el aumento rápido de los tipos reales de interés.

Si el mundo subdesarrollado en su conjunto acumula una deuda externa de novecientos mil millones de dólares, la región de América Latina y el Caribe acumuló de esa deuda trescientos sesenta mil millones hasta 1984, y se estima que se ha elevado en seis mil quinientos millones más durante los primeros ocho meses de este año.

Sin embargo, las organizaciones financieras, como el Fondo Monetario Internacional, lejos de buscar la solución apropiada se niegan a discutir los problemas esenciales que afectan a los países deudores.

Toda esta situación ha tenido profundas repercusiones negativas en la producción, consumo y comercio de productos alimenticios y agrícolas, así como en el nivel de vida de las poblaciones más pobres.

Los productores agrícolas padecieron también una reducción del margen entre precio y costo. Los precios agrícolas reales disminuyeron para una serie de productos, especialmente cultivos de exportación, y hubo un constante aumento de los precios de insumo. En nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe el uso de fertilizantes por hectárea de tierra de labor se redujo aproximadamente al 20% entre 1980 y 1983, debido en gran medida a su costo más elevado. Asimismo se incrementaron los precios de la maquinaria agrícola, lo cual ocasionó que el empleo de tractores en la región en su conjunto fuera considerablemente menor entre 1980 y 1983 que el registrado en los cinco años anteriores.

Todos estos aspectos, que no son ejemplo sólo de nuestra región, sino de todo el mundo subdesarrollado, nos lleva a reiterar que los problemas alimentarios no pueden independizarse de los restantes elementos que conforman las relaciones económicas internacionales y que, por consiguiente, son parte integrante e indisoluble de todos los problemas que afectan económicamente a los países subdesarrollados.

En tal sentido sin los imprescindibles cambios estructurales y todas las medidas necesarias para cambiar el actual orden económico internacional por un nuevo orden justo y equitativo, no será posible resolver de manera plena los problemas del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Quisiera referirme finalmente al aspecto positivo señalado por el Director General con relación a la ayuda alimentaria; si bien mi delegación se congratula porque se haya logrado y superado la meta de diez millones de toneladas de cereales fijada en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Debemos recalcar en la necesidad de modificar la misma, ya que actualmente resulta obsoleta ante las acuciantes necesidades del mundo subdesarrollado, que se incrementa constantemente.

El papel de la FAO en este sentido por tratar de solucionar estos problemas es digno de elogio. Su cuadragésimo aniversario, que conmemoramos este año, nos obliga a todos a una meditación profunda sobre lo hecho y la demanda de los países subdesarrollados por la instauración del nuevo orden económico internacional y en particular el acceso a los alimentos como derecho fundamental de la comunidad.

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA (Sri Lanka): Reading through document C 85/2, it is clearly evident that in the world community there has been a growing economic and financial interdependence, and that agriculture has become more integrated with the world economy. As a result, people dependent on agriculture have been seriously affected by world economic events. In this struggle, some countries have fared badly, while others have shown that progress is possible despite the hostile world of the economic environment. The successful countries have been able to achieve this by consistently following pragmatic and flexible policies.

In Sri Lanka we have been able to achieve a great degree of success through a package of policies introduced in 1979. Some of the policies which have enabled us to realize these achievements are the following: development of an integrated cropping system with supporting managerial services and provision of inputs at prices affordable to farmers to ensure higher productivity from a given unit of land; development of an appropriate agricultural pricing policy with compensatory flow price schemes to ensure marketing of produce; establishment of suitable parastate organizations to implement flow price schemes; systematic land development and land appropriation with fully-developed infrastructures; rehabilitation of irrigation base for harnessing rivers; improvement and repair of major and minor irrigation schemes; development of a system of efficient water management through farming institutions; establishment of an institutional base to create wider and well-informed peoples' organizations that can be harnessed for nation-building; decentralization of the administrative power structure to the lowest possible level and the harmonious planning of political leadership with the administrative power cells to enable the peoples' representatives to enter the arena of resources allocation, decision-making and actual implementation of those policies.

These policies have contributed in a big way to the overall economic development of Sri Lanka, resulting in an average growth rate in constant prices over the last five years of 5 percent. The growth contribution from the agricultural sector has been very significant, so much so that after about two hundred years, for the first time in 1984 we did not have to import rice, our staple food, to meet our needs.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation welcomes the presentation of this year's report on the situation of food and agriculture. Document C 85/2 and document C 85/2-Sup.1 contain in clear form a wealth of data and facts. In its structure, document C 85/2 differs from the reports on the situation of food and agriculture in previous years. The authors have started their report this year with an examination of the world economic situation in paragraph 4 to 24 and then they have considered the effects on agriculture of the world economic situation in paragraphs 25 to 75.

In connection with the situation of food and agriculture, it is undoubtedly correct to examine also the general economic data and to represent their interconnection with the agricultural sector. However, we should not forget that food and agriculture, with such forward linked and interrelated economic sectors as fisheries and forestry, are not just a function of the other economic and financial environments of the global economy. Food and agriculture are rather independent sectors of the overall economy and like any other sector, they are interconnected with the global economy. The structure chosen for this year gives, however, the impression that food and agriculture in fact are adjuncts, so to speak, of the overall economy, exposed to the effects of industrial and financial sectors, This does not take sufficient account of the independent and dynamic role of the food and agricultural sectors within the global economy and it does not meet above all the key role which agriculture plays in developing countries.

We welcome the presentation in Table 1 of document C 85/2 which shows an 8 percent increase in the export volume of developing countries. As compared with past years since 1980 this represents an enormous progress which indicates a certain recovery in the world economy. This applies more specifically to Asia which shows an increase of 14 percent with reference to its exports, a more than proportionate value which in fact exceeds the average of the industrialized countries. What is also gratifying is the increase in the import volume of industrialized countries of 12.2 percent, which also indicates a certain recovery of the world economy. As regards the terms of trade in world trade, the result is now more balanced than a year ago. In the industrialized countries they have worsened slightly, but there has been a slight improvement in the developing countries as a whole.

It is also gratifying to note the increase in the export volume of the African countries which amounts to 6.2 percent.

The documents stress to a large extent the problem of indebtedness of developing countries. The Federal Republic of Germany is making efforts to ease the difficulties which developing countries have arising out of their very high debt servicing. Recently, my country in fact has written off a total of DM 4.1 billion in debts from official development cooperation loans to a number of developing countries with a low gross national product. This, of course, is a very high amount in view of a still unfavourable economic development within the Federal Republic of Germany with which we are really at the very peak of the developed countries.

In paragraphs 47 and following document C 85/2 my delegation would have been grateful if one would have mentioned not only the average figures regarding development from 1980 to 1984, but also those figures which show the changes between 1983 and 1984. But we welcome the fact that this presentation gives us a longer term over-view regarding the development of past years. We agree with the statements in paragraph 49 of the document, whereby the declining growth rate of the agricultural production in Africa does give rise to great concern. That is why we welcome the fact that the African countries in the Harare Declaration, adopted by the Thirteenth Regional Conference of FAO for Africa in July 1984, agreed on a list of measures designed to give highest priority to food and agriculture in all development plans and budgets of the African countries.

We also welcome the fact that in the future 25 percent of public investments in Africa will benefit food and agriculture, as this has been decided by the African Heads of State and Government at this year's meeting of the OAU. An important role will, of course, be played by the price policies. We shall come back to this item under agenda item 7.3, Study of Agricultural Price Policies.

Paragraphs 67, following document C 85/2, and paragraphs 71 following document C 85/2 Sup.1 show a decline of the official development aid and ODA pledges to the agricultural sector. This does not apply to the Federal Republic of Germany. Both the net overall contributions of my country in cooperation with the developing countries, and the share for rural development within the framework of official development aid in 1984 have increased again compared to previous years. The volume of the development cooperation of my country in 1984 amounted to DM 18.5 billion, representing 1.06 percent of the GNP. It has, therefore, as compared with last year, increased by DM 612 million. The share of the field of rural development rose from 22.8 percent of the ODA in the year 1983 to 26 percent in 1984.

My delegation very much welcomes the improvements which one can gather from Table 10 of document C 85/2 as regards the daily calorie intake in developing countries. As compared to the average years 1969-1971 the daily calorie intake in developing countries had, in fact, improved

by about 10 percent from 2 140 calories per day to 2 400 calories per day. We share the view expressed in paragraph 77. according to which this global improvement can vary from region and from time period. We also share the statements set out in paragraphs 84 following of the document. My country in 1984, in fact, contributed a very high amount, DM 709 million, for food aid.

We are aware of the problems linked to the granting of food aid, but we consider that it is a necessary instrument in order to meet immediate and acute emergency situations. We welcome the successes achieved in increasing the fishery yields in 1984 as set out in paragraphs 86 following document C 85/2 and para. 44 of C 85/2-Sup.1. As part of the ensuring measures after the World Fisheries Conference, it will be necessary to ensure that the fish population of the world will be used in an optimum way on a scientific basis. We share the views set out in paragraphs 97 and following document C 85/2 as regards Forestry. The World Forestry Congress which took place this year in Mexico City, had, in fact, given important orientation as to how to protect forests, and how to increase their contribution to rural development.

In the regional consideration, paras. 111 and following C 85/2, Africa gives rise to concern. We share the views expressed in the document in particular regarding ,the statement on centralized planning and management as well as price policies, as set out in paragraph 120 of the document. We also believe that the decision-making process should be less centralized within the framework of development. It is obvious that the price policy in various African countries has established stronger incentives for increased production. Success has been achieved in particular where it was possible to harmonize the growth rates of food production and population.

What is encouraging is the favourable development in the Far East (paragraph 145) and China (paragraph 182 and following). However, the statements in paragraph 205 of document C 85/2 regarding food and agriculture in the developed market economies are in our opinion, not correct. The import statistics of my country, and of the European Community, contradict the statement that the pressure is increasing to take protectionist measures.

Under item 8 of our agenda we shall go into the matter more closely.

We welcome that document C 85/2-Sup.1 which was submitted only in November and also shows the progress meanwhile achieved. In particular, this applies to the growth rate estimated for 1985 of 2.2 percent of the world food and agricultural production. In our opinion also, this progress consolidates the achieved significant production increase in 1984. As an encouraging sign we also recognize the indication set out in Table 1 of the document that the growth rates of developing countries, both as regards food and agricultural production in 1985, will be higher than those of developed countries.

We welcome the forecast increase, set out in paragraph 33 of document C 85/2-Sup.1, of world cereal stocks in 1985/86, to 21 percent of the presumable world consumption. World food security is thus enhanced. The increase of the export earning of Africa, the Far East, Latin America and of Asian centrally planned economies, as set out in paragraphs 57 and following, are an encouraging development. We believe that the world economic conditions could, in fact, develop in such a way as to maintain such a development and to enhance it.

We also welcome the improvement of the terms of trade which have improved favourably in particular for Africa as set out in para. 66 of the document before us.

In the opinion of my delegation, the world economic difficulties have not yet been eliminated. Many world economic indicators, however, meanwhile show a vigorous upward trend in particular in favour of developing countries. We welcome this and we feel that the international community can tackle now with greater confidence the tasks than it could two years ago.

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): It is gratifying to note from the report the dramatic increase in world food production, especially with respect to cereals which are expected to reach a record level of 1 844 million tons this year. This would represent an increase of 39 million tons over the last year. Though most of the increase is expected from the US bumper crops of coarse grains and the improved USSR harvest, we are especially glad that developing countries like India, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Kenya have made remarkable progress in registering export surpluses.



The report would seem to indicate a trend where developing countries which used to be net exporters of agricultural produce, with a surplus of US\$15 billion, became net importers for the first time in 1981, whereas developed countries which used to be net importers, with a deficit of US\$6 billion in the 1970s, increased their production tremendously to churn in a surplus of US\$25 billion.

This remarkable turn around achieved by developed countries augurs well for world food security. However, the means by which this surplus has been achieved is questionable in view of the negative effects on the Third World in terms of trade, depressed prices and dwindling export earnings. Protectionism through various means such as taxes on imports from developing countries, export subsidies or refunds and other policy inventions, has resulted in depressed prices in developing countries. Developing countries which were traditional producers of certain commodities have been edged out of the market and in some cases have ceased to produce these commodities altogether. This alarming shift has greatly affected many Third World countries whose incomes depend greatly on export earnings from their agricultural produce. This is further exacerbated by the strengthening of the dollar and heavy debt burdens. Essential inputs for agriculture such as fertilizers, seeds, machinery, pesticides, etc. became less affordable, thereby resulting in further lowered production.

Due to our country's dependency on agricultural exports such as rubber and palm oil, we are most vulnerable to changes in international markets. Now it looks like this particular earning is further threatened in view of the proposal by the EEC to levy taxes on oilseeds, oils and fats. We learn that this proposal, although not actively being pursued, is still very much alive. We have no recourse but to strongly urge the EEC to refrain from implementing such measures as proposed and to work towards a more liberalized trade.

We also urge this Conference to make a concerted appeal to all parties concerned to remove all restrictions in agricultural trade, and to allow for the free play of market forces.

N. MUMBA (Zambia): I should be extremely brief since you have told us to do so. The documents before us C 85/2 and C 85/2-Sup.1 are very clear. They give the reasons why growth in food production has been slowing down. In Zambia the situation is now different and it is therefore not necessary to enumerate the reasons. However there are a number of reasons why food production has not picked up at the anticipated rate. Some of these reasons are given in paragraphs 1.18 to 1.24 of the document. It is important that we recognize the need to improve the services to small-scale farmers and rural women if production is going to be sustained. It is necessary to initiate specific programmes and projects for these groups of farmers.

Many programmes and projects that have been developed in the past have not always been successful. This is because we have not always consulted the local beneficiaries as to what type of assistance they really need. We have usually relied on discussions with high government officials in the capital cities of the various countries. I wish to submit that these officers do not always represent the true situation at the local level.

In designing the future programmes and projects the involvement of the local beneficiaries should be an integral part of that programme. There should be local involvement in the setting of priorities in monitoring, and in evaluation I am sure that if we do this we would achieve greater success in accelerating food production.

Nguen SRISURAK(Thailand): My delegation has attached great importance to the documents C 85/2 and C 85/2-Sup.1. This is a particularly appropriate time to review the world food situation from FAO developments during 1980 to 1984. Major changes have occurred during this development. I will emphasize five changes that have taken place yet there is still some uncertainty about how to deal with them.

Firstly, there is the swing from Asia to Africa as the area in which food production and shortages has caused the greatest concern.

Secondly, there is the extraordinary growth in food exports of the developed world.

Thirdly, there is continuing massive malnutrition and poverty, particularly in Asia, despite major improvements in food production growth rates.

Fourthly, the swing from the freer food trade flows to food trade restrictions is depressing international trade prices and creating a trade deficit, especially in the developing States that are exporting primarily agricultural products.

Fifthly, the swing from Latin America to Asia in net external borrowing and debt service payments caused is weakening the purchasing power for food.

All five changes drive home the extraordinary complexity of the present food, economic and social problems, and offer major challenges for FAO's strategy, priority and programme of work in dealing with them.

Table 13 of page 28, document C 85/2 indicates clearly the development experience of the early 1980s in the four regional reviews. The problems facing the region as well as the country clearly are under consideration in order to find ways and means of tackling them. Taking food production into account is the first task of this Organization, as well as the other agencies. Technology, in our opinion, is the key to successful development. Therefore, improved technology is essential to meet the region's immense problems. Technology used in any one region, or any one country, may not be suitable in another for many reasons.

My delegation, in this connection, strongly believes that exchange of technology among the regions and between countries is the first step in increasing food production.

My delegation also believes that it is a particularly appropriate time to announce "the year of technology" coinciding with FAO's 40th Anniversary.

Food policy is also important in sorting out the guidelines and in implementing food programmes and projects, that will feed the population and increase the income level of the poor. The problem which arises here is that of effectively and economically adopting the food policy to a workable programme/project so that funds from various donors will be forthcoming to implement the programme/ projects at the right time, at the right place, and for the right group of people. The policy implication reflects the needs of the regions as well as the country. In this connection, my delegation strongly believes that agricultural data in various fields is needed, and that strong political support should be directly and indirectly involved. Moreover, we should realize that the full participation of people, especially farmers, is very essential. The programmes, technicians and producers funded through FAO and other donors in the developing world are extremely useful. We should bear in mind, however, that no one can help us all the time, therefore, firstly, we must help ourselves.

L. POZO-MALO (Ecuador): Nos complace, Sr. Presidente, verle dirigiendo nuestros debates y en atención a su llamada seremos breves y concisos.

Felicitamos a la FAO por el interesante estudio sobre el presente tema contenido en el documento C 85/2 y su suplemento tan inteligentemente presentado hoy por el Doctor Islam.

La delegación del Ecuador considera que la acción internacional destinada al incremento de la producción agrícola en las regiones deficitarias y deprimidas debe crecer sustancialmente y tomar el carácter de urgente para permitir que esas tierras, en el transcurso de plazos cortos, se conviertan en autosuficientes. Sólo así se garantizará, efectiva y permanentemente, la seguridad alimentaria de las poblaciones en ellas asentadas. Esta meta no podrá ser conseguida, sin embargo, si no convergen dos requisitos: una eficiente mecanización de los cultivos y un indispensable financiamiento internacional junto a que se prevea la transferencia de tecnología, base elemental para cualquier desarrollo agrícola.

Por otra parte, el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas debe ser considerado dentro de las necesidades de abastecimiento y guiado por unos términos equitativos en cuanto a los precios. El comercio debe, asimismo, estar libre de medidas restrictivas direccionales y del limitante proteccionismo que hoy pone enormes trabas a las relaciones comerciales. Con la aplicación pragmática de esos beneficiosos principios, podría lograrse la recuperación económica de los países en desarrollo.

Apoyamos decididamente el fortalecimiento de los mecanismos de financiamiento agrícola internacional. Respaldamos en este contexto el Fondo Internacional del Desarrollo Agrícola y a otros entes similares. El acceso a las fuentes de financiación para la producción agrícola requiere de condiciones blandas y suficientes. Igualmente, la prestación de ayuda para el sector agrícola alimentario deberá considerar, necesariamente, el índice de crecimiento poblacional del país solicitado.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Al analizar el tema relativo al estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, contenido en el documento C 85/2 y C 85/2 Sup. 1, excelente trabajo presentado por la Secretaría, observamos que la producción de alimentos a niveles globales, se señala como satisfactoria, resaltándose muy especialmente que la misma sobrepasa ligeramente el aumento de la población, particularmente en las regiones del Lejano Oriente.

Sin embargo, también pone en evidencia que el ritmo de aumento de productos alimenticios y agrícolas ha disminuido y que el exceso de oferta ha contraído los precios del comercio internacional; al punto que hoy día, cada vez pagamos más caro por lo que importamos y nuestras exportaciones siguen en continuo descenso, producto de las injustas condiciones de intercambio imperantes, uniéndose a éstos proteccionismo creciente y asfixiante.

Esta situación se caracteriza por el ya conocido endeudamiento de nuestros países que trae consigo que un alto porcentaje de sus exportaciones, bienes y servicios estén dedicados al servicio de la deuda externa; debido en parte al aumento de las tasas de intereses reales que efectúa la comunidad financiera internacional para resolver problemas que confrontan economías desarrolladas consistentes en mantener altos déficits públicos dado el incremento en sus gastos militares.

De allí que el endeudamiento, las deformaciones de las modalidades del comercio, y el proceso inflacionario han provocado en los países en desarrollo una creciente escasez de recursos que les impide sufragar su desarrollo.

La transferencia neta de recursos de los países en desarrollo a los países desarrollados, como ya hemos señalado en oportunidades anteriores, es realmente dramática para mi región: América Latina y el Caribe. En efecto, el impacto de la crisis económica, según lo indican las cifras contenidas en los párrafos 130 y 133 del documento que nos ocupa, ha traído como consecuencia estancamientos de su crecimiento, no sólo en los campos de la producción y del comercio, sino que incluye también las repercusiones sociales derivadas de tal contracción.

Para Panamá, el aumento sólo de un punto porcentual en los intereses de su deuda externa, significa el pago de 16 millones de dólares más, y la transferencia anual neta de recursos viene a significar actualmente unos 250 millones de dólares. En Africa la situación es quizá más grave, a pesar de las políticas de desarrollo que varios países han adoptado para mejorar su rendimiento.

Es por ello, Sr. Presidente, que nuestra delegación considera que la crisis actual exige de la Comunidad Internacional respuestas que tiendan a proyectar el desarrollo permanente en búsqueda de la autosuficiencia alimentaria de cada pueblo efectuando una repartición más equitativa de los recursos disponibles, conforme a lo que prevé en un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional

En su declaración el Director General señaló la necesidad de aplicar algunas medidas correctivas para solucionar los problemas del comercio, en especial de los países en desarrollo, aspectos que a juicio de nuestra delegación son positivos y constituyen propuestas concretas que podrían llevarnos a realizaciones adecuadas.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, consideramos pertinente que este Comité se pronuncie de manera positiva para salvar el FIDA, tal como fue concebido, quizá mediante consultas al más alto nivel, con miras a garantizar la continuidad del funcionamiento de este fondo, que con tanta esperanza fue creado.

H. da SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): My delegation wishes first to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of such a complete and deep study on the state of food and agriculture in the 1980's which has shown us the persisting of the negative effect of the world recession in the developing countries' economies and particularly in their agricultural sectors. The apparent economic recovery has not reached the developing countries. For the second half of the eighties, a difficult economic situation similar to the one the Third World faced in the last four years is likely to continue.

The world economic recession has forced developing countries to adopt strict adjustment measures of their economies against the hostile international economic environment. These policies had negative implications and high costs of all natures. Political instability and social tension are just two of the most serious ones. In Latin America, for instance, the overall economic crisis has severely affected the region as can be verified by the leading economic indicators mentioned in the document. The large external debt and the rapid increase in real interest rates became a heavy burden and led to the adoption of austerity measure with high developmental costs. The agricultural sector was certainly one of the most affected. Production, consumption and trade of agricultural products fell, directly influencing the standards of living of the rural population and especially the availability of food to the most needy people.

Moreover, natural calamities systematically hit the continent, destroying crops and rural infrastructure and hampering national efforts to overcome difficulties by investing in the agricultural sector.

Recovery became a more difficult and distant task to achieve as commodities prices experienced a sharp decline in the period 1980-84. Declining commodities prices, coupled with the debt service pressure and shortages in agricultural inputs, present a dim agricultural outlook for Latin America in the foreseeable future.

In the face of this evidence, the Brazilian delegation could not avoid expressing its deep concern for the situation of food and agriculture in the developing world, especially by considering those factors that are beyond the developing countries' control, and those that depend particularly upon the developed countries' goodwill to take the necessary measures to correct such an uneven situation.

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): The document we have before us C 85/2, C 85/2-Sup.1, which reviews the world state of food and agriculture, is very important indeed. The document reports shortfalls in agricultural production for numerous reasons which I shall not repeat here. We would like to call for concerted efforts so as to counter these shortfalls in production, particularly in developing countries, through the formulation of agricultural policies conducive to raising the level of agricultural production. We call for the provision of assistance and aid to African countries so as to enable them to develop their economies and solve the problem of declining production. There is a fact which lies before us i.e. that each country has first of all to rely upon its own resources in the development of its economy, especially in the agricultural sector. As the President of the Republic of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, said: "He who is not able to stand on his own feet, cannot stand on borrowed feet".

Iraq, relying on its own resources, has progressed considerably in agriculture over the last few years and has increased plant production, particularly in food grain, vegetables and livestock production. Legislation has been enacted to promote agricultural production, including allocation of lands to graduates of agricultural and veterinary faculties ; and colleges to utilize their acquired knowledge in developing the agricultural sector in Iraq. Good results have been achieved in this respect.

Another law was promulgated where unpopulated and unarable areas are rented out to those who are willing to attempt to develop them agriculturally.

Furthermore, the investment capital of the Cooperative and Agricultural Bank was raised from 10 million dinars to 300 dinars (approximately 1 000 million US dollars), in order to lend to cooperatives and farmers at nominal interest rates in purchasing the necessary agricultural inputs to increase agricultural production.

As a result of these measures, farmers' incomes have increased, and the phenomenon has led to a retroexodus from the cities to the countryside in view of increasing returns. Further, all the institutions and structures which are necessary for the rural areas, namely schools, clinics, roads, drinking water, telephones, etc. ... have been developed and strengthened. Now land rent is an attractive venture due to the increase in the farmers' income.

This was a very brief statement on the agricultural situation in Iraq which I have made merely so that other countries would benefit from our experience.

Sra. O.C. FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, los delegados de Colombia se sienten muy complacidos de trabajar para su Presidencia en esta importante Comisión.

Sr. Presidente, este análisis, que corresponde a los años 80/84, se efectúa a mediados del tercer decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, que, como los dos anteriores, han sido un fracaso y coincide con la evaluación que por fin se ha llevado a cabo en las Naciones Unidas con la estrategia internacional para el desarrollo y que demostró que no se alcanzó ninguno de los reales objetivos de la estrategia. Como dice el documento C 85/2, en la primera mitad de este decenio la agricultura quedó gravemente afectada por el ritmo de la economía global y por las dificultades de la deuda, de la inmensa deuda externa que soportan los países en desarrollo, particularmente los de África, América Latina y el Caribe. Sigue constituyendo el obstáculo más grave para nuestros países y agravado todo ello por la disminución de los recursos financieros de la agricultura. Además la crisis económica ha obligado a restringir nuestras importaciones, incluyendo los alimentos, como dice el párrafo 41.

Por todo ello, los Estados del tercer mundo se están viendo afectados, como se desprende de la lectura del documento 85/2 - Supl. 1, y esta situación es menos favorable en la actualidad que cuando se preparó el documento inicial. En efecto, las últimas estimaciones indican una mayor reducción en 1985, respecto al alimento logrado en 1984. El cuadro 4 del documento C 85/2 indica que en la región de América Latina y el Caribe el índice de las importaciones de alimentos pasó, de más del 8 por ciento en la década del 70 al 80, a menos del 7,3 por ciento en la del 80 al 83. Esa disminución en el aumento de la producción agrícola en nuestros países desgraciadamente se debe a los factores anteriormente señalados que tantos males vienen causando a los países de América Latina y el Caribe.

El párrafo 130 del documento señala la gravedad de la crisis económica, que durante los 80-84 arrojó los datos que se describen en este párrafo. Aumento de la deuda, disminución de las importaciones, aumento también de los precios al consumo, y para completar este cuadro tan desfavorable, se registró también un incremento del desempleo, así como la disminución de las importaciones particularmente.

La delegación de Colombia opina que la región de América Latina y el Caribe dispone de un gran potencial que estamos dispuestos a utilizar por todos los medios posibles. Los Gobiernos de nuestra región estamos dedicando recursos para la agricultura en gran medida y en nuestro plan de desarrollo estas actividades están recibiendo alta prioridad, como lo acaba de puntualizar el Viceministro de Agricultura en la Comisión Plenaria, quien, por voluntad del Presidente de la República ha venido a declarar en esta Conferencia la inquietud, la inquebrantable voluntad del Gobierno y de su pueblo de Colombia para aportar los mayores esfuerzos para el desarrollo de la agricultura.

No puede nuestra delegación pasar por alto el contenido de los párrafos III y siguientes sobre la situación de África. Desafortunadamente ese Continente sigue siendo víctima del estancamiento económico, del aumento de la deuda externa, la sequía y el hambre. La delegación de Colombia piensa que en el informe sobre este tema nuestra Comisión debe destacar los más sobresalientes objetivos negativos de la situación de la agricultura y de la alimentación en África, América Latina y el Caribe, Asia, Lejano Oriente y Medio Oriente; con la esperanza de que el próximo informe sobre la situación de las regiones del tercer mundo no sea tan lamentable y desafortunado como éste que se presenta en el documento.

M.I. MAHDI. (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): On behalf of Allah the merciful and compassionate, allow me to express the satisfaction of my country at seeing you in the Chair of this Commission. We trust your capacity and your usual wisdom. We shall endeavour to be as brief as possible in order to take into account your appeal. First of all we should like to thank the Secretariat for the contents of the document before us. This analysis is a very comprehensive one, and there is no doubt that the trend is towards the growth of world food production. This growth will even succeed the increase of the population. However, this growth is quite marginal in relation to all the developing countries. Production will show an increase in certain countries, but in certain other countries the situation will deteriorate.

There is no doubt that countries of the Third World must first of all, and above all, rely upon themselves by giving absolute priority to agricultural production and by increasing, in particular, food production, which should exceed the present rate of three percent.

In spite of the economic crisis which exists throughout the world, and especially in the developing countries, there is a will to grant priority to agricultural production.

However, national efforts alone for a very large number of developing countries, especially in the present economic situation, are not sufficient. The situation demands additional efforts at an international level, since it is possible for developed countries to contribute to the improvement of the agricultural situation of developing countries by stabilizing the market and by ensuring additional guarantees for agricultural supplies, as well as by providing access by developing countries to the markets of developed countries.

E. PARDO (Argentina): Esta es mi primera experiencia en esta Organización, y hasta ahora era todo tan perfecto que no me parecía muy humano. Ahora he comprendido que la FAO, además de ser una Organización, tiene también características humanas como las fallas técnicas.

Señor Presidente: Quisiera agradecerle a la Secretaría los excelentes documentos que tenemos hoy en análisis. En el documento C 85/2, el enfoque acerca de la recuperación desigual de los países industrializados respecto a los países en desarrollo, y el tratamiento del tema de la deuda externa para el crecimiento de los países en desarrollo, nos parece de suma corrección.

Una vez más, deseamos destacar que el tema de la deuda externa afecta y condiciona el tratamiento de problemas prioritarios en materia de desarrollo económico.

De esta manera, la brecha entre los países desarrollados y los países en desarrollo continúa ampliándose y se agrava por la masiva transferencia de recursos hacia el Norte.

Para los países en desarrollo, la disminución de la corriente de capital externo, las altas tasas de interés, la reducción en el comercio y el deterioro de la relación real del intercambio, están llevándolos a la imposibilidad de atender los servicios de la deuda externa.

Como el señor Presidente lo sabrá, nuestra posición, la posición de la Argentina, se inserta en el Consenso Regional de Cartagena y en la posición del Grupo de los 24, destacando a este respecto los siguientes parámetros: existe una estrecha vinculación entre la deuda, el financiamiento y el comercio; el carácter básico central que asume la elevación de las tasas de interés; y por otra parte, el tratamiento político que debe darse al tema de la deuda externa.

Es sabido, señor Presidente, que la deuda externa de los países en desarrollo condiciona severamente su política exterior, pero con un peso específico irregular dependiente de las regiones. En el caso concreto de América Latina este peso es de suma gravedad.

Quisiéramos destacar, especialmente al respecto que en este documento, ya pasando al tema del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas, quisiéramos destacar la gravedad, tal vez no suficientemente explicitada en el mencionado documento, del tema del comercio y los subsidios a las exportaciones.

Al respecto, señor Presidente, nosotros estamos muy preocupados por la generalización de las exportaciones subvencionadas y las prácticas especiales de precios en materia de productos básicos, así como también la institucionalización de la asistencia crediticia derivada de las agresivas políticas comerciales de los principales países exportadores desarrollados. El uso habitual de estas prácticas ha traído como consecuencia, importantes desplazamientos en las corrientes comerciales obligando a los países con limitada capacidad de financiamiento, a colocar sus cosechas con fuerte reducción de precios.

En una importante reunión que tuvo lugar en la capital de mi país, en los días 12 y 13 de setiembre del corriente año, me refiero a la Novena Reunión de Países Productores de Carnes del Hemisferio Sur, se llegaron a una serie de conclusiones que creemos merecen un detenido y profundo análisis porque los países intervinientes, me estoy refiriendo a Australia, Nueva Zelandia, Uruguay, Brasil y la Argentina, se caracterizan por haber demostrado que han alcanzado la mayor eficiencia en la producción de carnes vacunas y ovinas.

En las Conclusiones de esa Reunión se expresa, y cito: "El análisis de la situación actual y las perspectivas de la producción, el consumo y el comercio de carnes vacunas, pone de manifiesto que luego de la caída experimentada hasta 1984, la producción conjunta de carne vacuna en los cinco países permite esperar un leve crecimiento de alrededor del 2 por ciento en 1985, sin ningún crecimiento adicional significativo previsto para 1986. La producción, el consumo, la exportación de carne vacuna se estima que se incrementará ligeramente también en un 2 por ciento en 1985 respecto a 1984, con un mayor crecimiento de las exportaciones de Australia y Nueva Zelandia, un descenso en las exportaciones del Uruguay y Brasil, y sin cambios significativos en las de Argentina". Fin de la cita.

En otro párrafo del mencionado documento se destaca lo siguiente: "El aumento en las disponibilidades exportables combinado con el impacto de crecientes exportaciones de carne vacuna subsidiadas por la Comunidad Económica Europea, han causado condiciones extremadamente dificultosas para la comercialización de las carnes bovina y ovina". Fin de la cita.

El deterioro de los precios internacionales se debe a la política de apoyo y subsidio a las exportaciones de carne instrumentadas por algunos países desarrollados, e impiden a los países eficientes llegar a los mercados, lo que constituye el factor principal de perturbación del mercado internacional, afectando principalmente los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Para facilitar el intercambio comercial, se estima imprescindible que el mercado mundial, tanto en carnes como en granos, adquiera una correcta y sana transparencia con medidas de estímulo para los países productores y eficientes que estarán en condiciones de abastecer una mayor demanda con precios asequibles, y por supuesto, a precios más bajos que los que podrían alcanzarse en países que, por condiciones ecológicas desfavorables, provocan que sus precios internos superen notoriamente a los del mercado mundial.

Por ello, quisiera culminar esta exposición expresando nuestra expectativa ante la nueva Ronda de negociaciones comerciales multilaterales del GATT, donde esperamos una vez más que pueda concretarse además, la remoción de ciertas barreras no tarifarias como reglamentaciones sanitarias, concesión de licencias y procedimientos aduaneros. Muchas gracias.

U. TIN HLAING (Burma): The document on The State of Food and Agriculture gives us clear information about global agriculture in the different regions of the world, and reflects that while there were increases in food production during the past biennium, millions of people are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Burma as a developing agricultural country is mainly dependent in its national economy on agricultural production and exports. Accordingly, my government gives high priority to the agricultural sector and has laid down positive guidelines to boost production, both in quality and quantity.

During 1984 and 1985, an annual growth rate of 4 percent in the agricultural sector was achieved in Burma in spite of unfavourable weather conditions. Of the many crops grown in Burma rice is the most important for both domestic consumption and export. Efforts are being made in all respects to increase rice production. A special programme called the "Special High-yielding Paddy Programme" was launched in 1977/78. The main features of this programme are the use of high-yielding paddy varieties, the use of large doses of fertilizers and the correct cropping system practices which are conducive to the agroecological parameter of each region. Significantly successful results were achieved with the introduction of this programme. Our Ministry of Agriculture and Forests has accordingly expanded the programme to many towns and to other important crops.

In effectively implementing the crop production programme with the new extension strategy, the main constraints are the availability of chemical fertilizers and other important materials. While the Government of Burma has put much effort into supplying chemical fertilizers from all available sources, the major problem is the spiralling prices of these essential input materials. The disparity between the price of agricultural commodities and input materials is not in favour of the developing agricultural countries. We feel that this should be remedied immediately by concerted action so that the situation is not further worsened. In this respect, we are most grateful to FAO and the other multilateral agencies for their cooperation in our various crop production projects. I am also happy to express our sincere thanks to friendly agencies for their support and generous assistance in chemical fertilizers and special high-yielding crop production programmes. Burma has spared no effort in the direction of increased food production. Given the necessary import materials, we are still capable of producing more food.

M.A. SHEIKH (Somalia): I am grateful for the opportunity of commenting on document C 85/2-Sup.1 in front of us, which has been well prepared by the Secretariat. We are happy to note that the year 1985 to some extent witnessed further expansion in food and agricultural output even though the result is somewhat less than for the year 1984. My country experienced very severe drought in 1983 and during the early part of 1984, which has necessitated the importation of large quantities of grain. This was a burden on our balance of payments. The grain harvest for the first half of 1985 is encouraging even though we are far from being self-sufficient in food commodities. If we are to achieve progress in production, like other developing countries especially in Africa, we require investment, mainly in agricultural inputs.

At this juncture I would like to thank FAO and the other donor countries. We would also like to point out that the Government of Somalia has embarked on a programme of agricultural activities. Some of the changes we have made so far are price liberalization in farm commodities, elimination of the grain marketing monopoly, providing encouragement for farmers to vigorously participate in food production by giving them credit facilities and providing inputs, land distribution of the former estate farms into smallholdings for tenants, rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructures, and construction of gravelled feeder roads to facilitate the marketing of products by farmers. It is not easy for developing countries to achieve their targetted goal of increasing agricultural output unless outside assistance is provided to cope with the different problems they face in achieving self-sufficiency.

M. BRZOSKA (Poland): Poland shares the general appraisals of the situation of world agriculture, contained in the document under discussion. The evaluation of changes in agriculture, against the background of the comprehensive economic situation of the world in the first half of the eighties is of particular importance. It provides more thorough estimates and primarily offers a chance to find effective ways of solving the world food problem in all its aspects.

The situation in world agriculture does not fill one with optimism, though recently there is to be noted some relief for world recession and drought in Africa. Three spheres in this image arouse particular concern, i.e. Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.



The evaluation does not fully show the extremeness of the course of phenomena, the limitation of agricultural production in the developed countries, and the insufficient growth of agriculture in the major part of developing countries. But, primarily, it does not show the dilemma arising from the above - how the world community should act in the future so that it does not spend more money for limiting production than for development.

The general appraisals of the agricultural situation deserve appreciation. However, the part devoted to socialist countries is plainly poorer. It has become a tradition to analyse the situation in those countries not thoroughly enough. We are raising the matter since the evaluations concerning Polish agriculture are markedly casual. Meanwhile, Polish agriculture is undergoing thorough changes in economic and pricing systems, in land turnover, in supplying agriculture, in the functioning, of the self-management, and in social questions, according to the recommendations of WCARRD and Agricultural Adjustment. Information about this progress and the situation of Polish agriculture was sent to the Director-General. Those changes brought a well-marked activation of production. The final net output of agriculture and the GNP contained in it exceeded the pre-crisis level in the past year. In spite of restrictions, food consumption in Poland reached again the satisfactory European level, and the food market has been restored.

The Polish delegation moves that the document first under discussion be approved only after the completion of analyses of the changes in agricultural situation in the chapter "Regional Review", especially pages 46 and 47. The authors presumably expected such remarks, and that was why they left pages 47, 48 and 49 blank. This seems symbolical, but will allow for the improvement of the elaboration without increasing its volume.

E.B. SAMUEL (United States of America): We will try to be brief. Our delegation considers that the Secretariat has presented a useful and generally well balanced review of the state of food and agriculture. We think it particularly commendable, that the Secretariat from time to time, as it has here, place short-term developments in a longer-term perspective. The review of regional agricultural developments is notable for its strong emphasis on the importance of appropriate agricultural policies, and its even-handed treatment of the shortcomings of domestic agricultural policies in both developed and developing countries.

As an aside, let me update the Secretariat's description of recent agricultural developments in the United States. US wheat stocks at the beginning of this July 1985 - June 1986 marketing year were up very slightly over 1984/85 levels, and were the second largest since at least 1970/71. US stocks comprised about one third of world wheat stocks, and matched the volume of US wheat exports in 1984/85. The 1985/86 crop just harvested is estimated to be about 7 percent below last season's harvest, reflecting a drop in both area harvested and yield.

US coarse grains production in the 1985/86 marketing year is about 10 to 15 percent larger than last season's harvest, and is the largest since 1970/71. Both yield and area harvested are up. Beginning stocks in the 1985/86 season are up almost 55 percent over last season and compromise more than half of world coarse grain stocks. We wish to note with special interest in the Secretariat's paper and in the statements of many delegates here, the report of the policy reforms instituted in many countries. Without appropriate agricultural policies, external assistance to agriculture may be ineffective. We are impressed by the Secretariat's statement that progress made by Far Eastern countries was "not the result of favourable weather conditions alone", and by the pursuit or exploration of agricultural policy reform in some Latin American and Near Eastern countries. We are also heartened that several countries are finding less centralized policies to be effective.

We certainly share the report's concern with the dangers inherent in the rise of protectionism in agricultural trade. The US Administration is doing everything it can to resist rising domestic pressures for trade restrictions, but its success in doing so will depend upon perceptions that progress is being made to ensure a freer and fairer trading environment.

In our view, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is the appropriate forum for negotiating trade liberalization and it offers the best means of strengthening and improving the multilateral trading system and for expanding trade opportunities for developing countries.

As you know, the United States is in the process of developing legislation which will guide US agriculture over the next several years. While the House of Representatives has passed a Farm Bill, the Senate is still considering another Bill adopted by its Committee on Agriculture. When the Senate adopts its Bill, the House and Senate will reconcile differences in their versions and send an agreed-upon Farm Bill to the President for his signature.

The main objectives of the US Administration with respect to new farm legislation continue to be those contained in the bill the Administration introduced earlier this year: to move the US agricultural sector toward a "free market" environment while maintaining a safety net for US farmers during the transition phase; and to re-establish US competitiveness in world markets by allowing US loan rates to decline to market levels.

If I may briefly address some financial matters, we are encouraged by the generally positive reaction to Treasury Secretary Baker's address in Seoul. He proposed a bold and innovative Programme for Sustained Growth. The Programme encompasses three essential and mutually reinforcing elements: first, comprehensive growth-oriented reforms in the debtor countries; second, continued IMF support coupled with more effective and increased structural adjustment lending by the Multilateral Development Banks; and third, increased commercial bank lending in support of these comprehensive reforms.

In other areas of financial interest, the Administration has continued its attempt to reduce the budget deficit and has taken efforts to other nations to correct the level of the US dollar.

LE PRESIDENT : Ainsi donc, chers collègues je vous donne rendez-vous cet après-midi à 14 h 30 et je lève la séance.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/2

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

**SECOND MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE  
SEGUNDA SESION  
(13 November 1985)**

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.50 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.1. State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

7.1. Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

7.1. El estado de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

H. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Nous avons demandé la parole en tant qu'Etat Membre assumant la présidence des Communautés économiques européennes devant cette Conférence. Nous vous serions reconnaissants de bien vouloir accorder la parole à l'observateur de la CEE afin qu'il puisse intervenir au sujet des documents qui nous sont soumis et qui concernent la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, 1985.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): La Communauté économique européenne n'avait pas l'intention d'intervenir sur ce sujet concernant la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1985, car cette question a déjà fait l'objet de nombreuses discussions dans les différentes enceintes de la FAO au cours de cette année, ainsi que dans le cadre du débat général de notre Conférence.

Toutefois, ce matin, le document C 85/2-Sup.1 a été distribué pour les travaux de notre Commission. Une lecture rapide de ce document nécessite l'intervention de la CEE sur le paragraphe 41. En effet, les affirmations de ce paragraphe manquent à notre avis de discernement. Il est faux de dire que la réforme en cours de la politique agricole commune résulte de problèmes budgétaires. A cet égard, s'il est vrai que le coût de la politique agricole commune a dépassé de 11 pour cent son budget initial en 1984, je rappellerai qu'un budget n'a qu'une valeur indicative et que toute institution publique a des budgets modificatifs pour prendre en compte les évolutions économiques.

J'aimerais aussi rappeler que la part de l'agriculture dans le budget européen était de 80 pour cent il y a dix ans, alors qu'en 1985, cette part n'était plus que de 66 pour cent.

En ce qui concerne la narration que l'affaiblissement récent du coût du dollar des Etats-Unis aggravera encore la situation budgétaire et en ce qui concerne les restitutions de la CEE, il me semble que le Secrétariat devrait faire preuve de prudence car, s'il est vrai qu'un récent accord est intervenu pour faire baisser le dollar, on doit se garder de tout pronostic sur l'évolution à moyen et à long terme de cette monnaie.

Pour terminer, je voudrais insister sur le fait que la Commission des Communautés européennes n'a pas fait de proposition, comme il est dit dans le document, au Conseil des Ministres et que, dans ces conditions, parler de réaction des Etats Membres en ce qui concerne les mesures directes de soutien des revenus est inconcevable.

Je suppose que le Secrétariat veut parler du Livre vert de la Commission des Communautés européennes. Ce Livre vert est tout simplement une analyse des perspectives de la politique agricole commune; document qui sert de base à un dialogue entre les institutions communautaires et les organisations professionnelles. La population agricole dont les emplois et le style de vie sont directement concernés par la politique agricole commune a besoin d'une vue plus précise des perspectives à moyen et à long terme pour elle-même et la génération suivante.

Des consultations sont donc en cours et des conclusions opérationnelles par voie de propositions formelles de la Commission au Conseil des Ministres seront faites à la fin de cette année.

Je peux vous dire que ce ne seront pas des raisons essentiellement budgétaires qui conduiront la Communauté, mais aussi tous les pays concernés par des excédents de plus en plus structurels, à des ajustements de la politique agricole. Ces ajustements des politiques nationales de tous les pays en cause devront se faire avec le souci d'un partage équitable des conséquences de tels ajustements.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): C'est précisément parce que nous sommes amis que je me permets de me réjouir de vous voir présider notre Commission. Je suis certain que, vous connaissant parfaitement, nos travaux aboutiront à des conclusions positives.

La délégation congolaise a examiné avec attention le document C 85/2. Il s'agit pour nous d'un document objectif qui analyse les principaux phénomènes économiques et monétaires qui ont conduit à l'actuelle situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la qualité de ces deux documents et l'excellente présentation qu'en a faite ce matin le Professeur Islam.

La situation alimentaire globale, on le voit, est satisfaisante, mais la répartition de la production et des stocks alimentaires n'est guère, à nos yeux, équitable puisque l'abondance du Nord contraste avec la pénurie de grand nombre de pays du Sud. A cet égard, l'Afrique reste la région la plus préoccupante.

La récession économique mondiale est venue maintenant mettre en lumière une situation économique déjà fragile due à l'absence de structures viables de production soutenue. Le phénomène de l'exode rural, avec toutes les conséquences que cela entraîne, notamment les difficultés d'approvisionnement de centres urbains, agit négativement sur la production agricole globale.

La baisse des exportations des produits de base, dont il est fait mention dans le document, est consécutive aux disponibilités alimentaires de plus en plus faibles en raison non seulement de la baisse des actifs agricoles, mais surtout en raison de la faiblesse de l'utilisation des intrants agricoles.

Nous notons avec préoccupation, et ce n'est pas une surprise car les résultats qui sont dans les documents le montrent assez bien, que l'Afrique reste la région qui utilise le moins d'intrants agricoles. Rien d'étonnant que depuis déjà près de dix ans la production par habitant de cette région diminue. Cette situation, conjuguée à une insuffisance manifeste de devises, a contribué à exacerber la situation alimentaire de cette région. L'aide alimentaire, quoique substantielle, n'a pas permis de redresser sensiblement cette situation qui exige pour cela des mesures plus vigoureuses et soutenues.

Voilà, pensons-nous, une situation qui demande que la communauté internationale accroisse son aide publique au développement agricole pour permettre des investissements appropriés dans ce secteur. Nous pensons qu'il faut oeuvrer pour accroître la capacité de production vivrière nationale dans les pays en développement en accordant davantage de ressources sous forme d'aide publique à des conditions de faveur.

Nous voudrions exprimer ici nos inquiétudes sur ce qui est dit au paragraphe 67 du document C 85/2 qui montre que les conditions d'octroi d'aide sont devenues nettement plus rigides depuis les années 80. Ceci confirme la situation dans laquelle se trouve le FIDA dont les activités, on le sait, ont contribué à redonner confiance aux petits exploitants. L'évaluation récemment faite le démontre amplement.

Nous réitérons notre appel pour que les négociations sur la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA aboutissent avant le prochain Conseil des gouverneurs. En effet, nul n'ignore que l'introduction des technologies appropriées pour avoir l'impact voulu et durable sur la productivité des exploitations agricoles des paysans pauvres doit être épaulée par un besoin de financement qui répond à un équipement minimum. Cela est essentiel lorsque l'on sait que les petits exploitants ruraux restent les principaux producteurs dans les pays en développement.

La délégation congolaise se réjouit de l'intérêt croissant qui se dégage du rapport et nous espérons que la FAO mettra tout en oeuvre pour analyser avec détails l'évolution des cultures à racines, à tubercules, et le plaitain ainsi que les mesures à prendre pour accroître la production des racines, tubercules, légumineuses et autres cultures dites secondaires.

Bref, la crise alimentaire africaine étant structurelle, seuls des investissements productifs dans l'agriculture, la pêche et la forêt pourront venir à bout de ce fléau et le poids que représente le service de la dette extérieure ne laisse pas beaucoup de possibilités intérieures d'investissements et nécessite en conséquence une solidarité accrue liée à l'interdépendance des économies de tous les pays, ce qui appelle l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international plus juste et plus équitable.

Car tant que le marché mondial sera réglé par la politique de quelques pays qui accélèrent et décelèrent à volonté la production et par conséquent fixent les prix que les faibles doivent subir, cela accroît l'incertitude qui pèse sur les gouvernements de nos pays qui doivent à la fois assurer les importations alimentaires pour couvrir tant soit peu les besoins des populations et accroître la capacité de production pour l'achat d'équipements appropriés. C'est de cette façon que nous avons l'espoir de vaincre la faim et la malnutrition qui continuent à faire des victimes dans un monde d'excédent agricole et surtout disposant de potentialités évidentes pour nourrir correctement toutes les populations de notre planète. Mais, bien entendu, cela n'est possible qu'avec une volonté politique sans faille de tous les pays.

M. YOSHII (Japan): Japan, as the world's largest importer of agricultural products, has a special interest in the agricultural situation of the world. Its policy is therefore to make continuous efforts to secure stability in the world food situation, which is characterized by so much fragility.

With such a view in mind, we would like to commend the comprehensive analysis made by the Secretariat. We appreciate the regional review especially depicting the grave situation in Africa. These continued works by FAO would certainly form the basis of national policy decisions and international cooperation.

World food production is indeed reaching the highest record, but there exist serious food problems in many African countries. Although the crisis has somewhat eased up, mainly due to the favourable climate this year, underlying problems do exist.

Agriculture is truly a very complex industry, much determined by national economic and social conditions. It is essential that countries which suffer from food shortages place the highest priority on agricultural development and solve the problems through self-help efforts. Cooperation by the international community should be strengthened to assist such efforts.

If I may mention Japanese cooperation, my Government has been enlarging ODA, setting up expansion targets twice so far, and successfully achieving them. The ODA budget for the present fiscal year has also increased by 10 percent as compared with the previous year, despite the fact that the total national budget has hardly increased. Furthermore, the Government has just set up the third ODA expansion target which is a new seven-year plan. Japan pledges its utmost endeavours in achieving it. In expanding its ODA, my Government places the highest priority on agriculture and rural development because of their importance in the national economies of developing countries and because of the importance of securing food in those countries and agricultural stability in the world.

A. JEAN-LOUIS (Haïti): Ma délégation vous adresse ses félicitations pour votre élection comme modérateur à cette importante commission. Le document C 85/2 et supplément présente l'avantage de situer le problème de l'agriculture à travers le monde dans ses dimensions réelles.

Mon pays n'échappe pas à l'analyse. Dans le drame de la crise économique mondiale, l'agriculture haïtienne affronte une période difficile, influencée par la dégradation des sols cultivables due à l'érosion, au manque d'utilisation rationnelle des eaux, à l'insuffisance du crédit, à la faiblesse des structures de commercialisation, de vulgarisation et de formation.

Parallèlement, la population s'accroît. Nos denrées d'exportation n'arrivent pas à contribuer valablement à fournir les devises nécessaires pour financer le développement.

Face aux contraintes, nous déployons des efforts inouïs pour limiter les dégâts; nous essayons d'étendre le système d'irrigation; nous avons lancé un vaste programme d'aménagement de bassins versants; nous avons pris des mesures pour mettre à la disposition des agriculteurs des semences améliorées, du crédit et des services de vulgarisation; l'appui de la FAO en particulier se manifeste dans toutes ces démarches à travers ses divers programmes de coopération.

Il est réconfortant de constater la haute qualité de ce diagnostic; il va sans dire que les causes du mal étant connues, en poussant la réflexion et en investissant une somme de volontés, les instances nationales et internationales pourront déboucher sur des solutions heureuses. Mais je voudrais insister sur le fait que quels que soient les efforts des gouvernements des pays d'Amérique latine et du tiers monde pour garantir une alimentation à leur peuple, ils n'y parviendront que dans la mesure où la coopération internationale devient plus agissante et plus humaine. Il est incontestable que si la situation des rapports entre le Nord et le Sud persiste à évoluer de façon défavorable, il serait illusoire de penser pouvoir rompre le cercle vicieux du sous-développement et de l'agriculture dans les années à venir.

V. DOBES (Czechoslovakia): The document we have before us C 85/2 has been prepared in a qualified manner and provides a good review of the development of the situation.

My delegation has had the chance of expressing its position on the Secretariat's report already during the last session of the Council, and therefore I would like to limit my remarks today to our comments on only that part of the report which has been supplemented by new data since the last session of the Council.

First of all, let me say that we cannot agree with some comments in the world press suggesting that after the first appearance of rain in East Africa and the Sahel countries in late August and early September this year there was a substantial turn in development in that part of the world. On the contrary, I believe that it is exactly this situation that should mark the beginning of serious considerations by FAO and the other cooperating organizations of programmes and projects which would lead to the rehabilitation and stabilization of agricultural production not only in the drought-affected part of the continent of Africa, but also in developing countries in general.

Analyzing the situation for nutrition and agriculture in the period from 1980 to 1984, the document under consideration points out certain, no doubt, positive results. But it also reveals some serious aspects primarily concerning the economies of developing countries.

The protracted crisis of the world economy, characteristic of the late 1970s and early 1980s, has had its far-reaching consequences also for the sphere of agriculture and nutrition.

Although current world food production exceeds demand by 10 percent, it has to be said again that food production is in harmony with food distribution. The insufficient dynamism of agricultural production, together with outdated agricultural structures in developing countries, usually of a one-sided orientation inherited from the colonial era, and other socio-economic problems connected to ruthless exploitation by multinational monopolies and the attendant rising debt of developing countries have had an adverse effect on their overall economic development. We believe that the way out of this situation lies in a profound democratic transformation of international economic relations which may be brought about only on the assumption that an international economic order will be established and that it will have corresponding consequences in the sphere of nutrition and agriculture.

It follows from statistical data that in 1984 world food production rose by over 4 percent compared to the previous year. The production of cereals in 1985 is forecast at about 1 803 million tons, which represents an approximate 10 percent increase over last year. Global cereal stocks are estimated to rise to 302 million tons, which is 37 million tons more than the figure for 1984. Such stocks are sufficient for the recommended minimum, originally set at 10 percent of world consumption.

Later, it was recommended to raise this figure to 17 or 18 percent. Global stocks in the main producing countries will be such as to meet demands in cases of emergency and natural disasters, and basically to prevent the threat of hunger in some regions of the world. Also linked to it is the expected turn in foreign trade and a further development of prices for agricultural products which have been highly unfavourable to developing countries.

The data available to us indicates that about half of the population of the developing world is exposed to the risk of crop failure, hunger and malnutrition. The food aid programme in cereals is estimated to provide 10.8 million tons this year, while in 1984 the volume of such aid amounted to 12 million tons. Over 50 percent of that amount is destined for the continent of Africa. The situation, however, cannot be solved merely through food aid deliveries. It may be solved by means of programmes conceived on scientific grounds that may lead to a substantial returns. However, this cannot be achieved without rational use of materials and human resources. It should be pointed out that the decline in forests and in land for cultivation, the slow rate of expansion for irrigation schemes, the shortage of man-made fertilizers in a number of regions of the developing world and the insufficient number of agricultural experts in those countries are facts which should act as a warning. Solutions to the above problems require enormous financial and material resources. Such resources represent only a negligible fraction of the investments made by imperialists in senseless, armaments which they also impose on developing countries. It is clear that the fundamental prerequisites, substantial in nature, for improving world agriculture and the nutrition of the people on our planet are the safeguarding of world peace and international détente through gradual disarmament.

We regard the current situation in nutrition and agriculture as a highly complicated problem, the dimensions of which grew into a global problem long ago. Its solution, therefore, must be our common task. The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is interested in taking an active part in its solution and for this purpose offers its experience in the construction of agricultural cooperatives, its knowledge gained in research and in the application of progressive agricultural technology and, last but not least, the cooperation of its agricultural experts.

F. PIOTET (France): Les documents qui nous ont été présentés, de part leur clarté et leur précision, facilitent beaucoup nos travaux. Les interventions des délégués qui m'ont précédé et que j'ai entendus avec beaucoup d'attention enrichissent aussi ce débat et permettent de parfaire une information qui en elle-même était déjà excellente. Tout ceci nous amène à une prise de conscience des problèmes actuels mais doit nous mener aussi et surtout à une meilleure prise de conscience des évolutions et des tendances de la situation alimentaire mondiale: c'est là le point essentiel si l'on veut, comme c'est notre souci ici, mieux maîtriser l'avenir.

A la fin de 1985, la situation alimentaire mondiale présente en fait un tableau relativement complexe, et les documents montrent bien toutes ces difficultés. Si l'on considère uniquement le niveau mondial, contrairement aux prévisions alarmistes des experts d'il y a dix ans, on constate que la production alimentaire a progressé de façon soutenue sur une longue période, même si dans un certain nombre de cas cette progression a été entrecoupée de crises conjoncturelles. Ces crises ne doivent pas cacher cette tendance ou cette progression.

En effet, dans les pays en développement considérés globalement, le taux d'augmentation de la production vivrière dépasse depuis 1970 le taux d'accroissement démographique, et cette augmentation s'est même accélérée au cours de la période la plus récente. En Afrique, nous le savons, l'aggravation de la sécheresse en 1984 dans une grande partie du continent, avait rendu la situation particulièrement dramatique; celle-ci a maintenant tendance à s'améliorer, mais de nombreux délégués l'ont dit avant moi, ce rétablissement, dont il est difficile de mesurer l'ampleur exacte, demeure fragile et cache des tendances lourdes qui sont toujours présentes.

En effet, nous sommes là, face à des causes structurelles; certaines sont d'ordre interne, j'en citerai quelques-unes. Il s'agit de la modification des habitudes alimentaires liées à l'urbanisation, de la désorganisation des circuits commerciaux, de la dégradation de l'environnement dans de nombreuses régions en raison de techniques inadaptées, de la faible priorité accordée à l'agriculture et au développement rural dans les politiques nationales et dans les choix en matière d'utilisation des ressources.



Il y a aussi des causes externes et nous en avons déjà évoqué certaines au cours de nos débats. Je citerai le faible cours de produits de base, le poids de la dette que de nombreux pays ont relevé, l'insuffisance des flux d'aide publique au développement.

Pour enrayer ces tendances une action en profondeur portant à la fois sur tous ces éléments est à l'évidence nécessaire. Certes, face à la crise que vient de traverser le continent africain, la réaction de la communauté internationale a été massive et rapide. L'aide alimentaire a atteint le record historique de 12 millions de tonnes dont plus de 7 millions pour le continent africain. Toutefois je devrais dire hélas - l'aide, dans de trop nombreux cas, a été en retard et les problèmes logistiques n'ont pas toujours été surmontés. Le système des Nations Unies dans cette lutte s'est largement mobilisé. A l'initiative de M. Perez de Cuellar, un Bureau des opérations d'urgence en Afrique, chargé de coordonner les interventions de tous les organismes des Nations Unies, a été créé et oeuvre avec efficacité. Une conférence sur la situation d'urgence en Afrique, réunissant donateurs et pays affectés s'est réunie à Genève en mars 1985. En liaison avec le Programme alimentaire mondial de la FAO, dans le cadre de son mandat, des opérations importantes ont été engagées: surveillance de la situation dans les pays à déficit vivrier par le système d'information et d'alerte rapide, évaluations des besoins par des missions organisées dans les pays les plus touchés, conjointement avec le PAM et les donateurs, mobilisation des aides d'urgence multilatérales, mobilisation d'autres types d'aides toutes aussi utiles, très importantes même, comme les intrants et les matériels, en particulier par le Bureau des opérations spéciales de soutien. Notre pays a appuyé les efforts engagés par le système des Nations Unies; il approuve la création du Bureau spécial d'opérations d'urgence pour l'Afrique et soutient son action, notamment en y affectant un expert de haut niveau. Il participe activement aux conférences organisées par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et par notre Organisation. Notre contribution à la réserve agricole internationale d'urgence du PAM a été augmentée, passant de 20 000 tonnes en 1984 à 25 000 tonnes en 1985. Enfin, nous avons mis à la disposition de cet organisme des experts en logistique.

La France a également participé pour son propre compte et avec la CEE à cet effort; avec ses partenaires de l'Europe, elle a décidé en décembre 1984 au sommet de Dublin, de fournir 700 000 tonnes de céréales, supplémentaires aux pays africains, portant ainsi à 1 450 000 tonnes l'aide de la CEE pour la campagne de 1984-1985 aux 20 pays les plus touchés.

Sur le plan bilatéral, notre aide a atteint en 1984 pour l'ensemble des destinations 245 000 tonnes, dont 125 000 tonnes pour les pays d'Afrique au sud du Sahara. Enfin, l'urgence c'est aussile long terme, c'est même avant tout le long terme et dans cette perspective, permettez-moi de rappeler ici un certain nombre d'initiatives qui nous sont chères.

Nous avons, avec d'autres pays, décidé de contribuer de façon significat'ive au Fonds spécial pour l'Afrique, créé à Paris au début de cette année sous l'égide de la Banque mondiale. Nous nous engageons, avec d'autres pays aussi, à participer de manière active et importante au nouveau Fonds pour l'Afrique du FIDA. Enfin, je rappellerai que le Président Mitterrand a proposé à ses partenaires des pays les plus industrialisés, à l'occasion du sommet de Bonn en juillet dernier, un plan spécial pour l'Afrique prévoyant notamment la relance du développement agricole ainsi qu'un programme coordonné de lutte pour la désertification. Enfin, je terminerai sur ce thème de la désertification qui, je crois, est bien significatif d'une action à long terme car c'est aujourd'hui qu'il faut nous préoccuper des forêts, de notre environnement de demain.

A cet égard, la décision prise de réunir à Paris en février 1986 une conférence internationale sur l'arbre et la forêt devrait contribuer à l'effort que ressentent de nombreux pays. Cette conférence sera consacrée en particulier aux problèmes des forêts européennes qui, elles aussi, connaissent des difficultés, mais surtout au problème de la deforestation des pays d'Afrique qui constitue un thème prioritaire si l'on veut construire pour demain les bases d'un environnement plus favorable au développement de notre agriculture et de l'agriculture des pays africains.

H. HRISTOMANOV (Yugoslavia): The document which you have presented to us is excellent. In addition to giving us a clear picture of the situation in particular fields, it also provokes thoughts and gives rise to the exchange of views on the experiences gained in various countries.

Allow me to present some of our experiences in the development of agriculture.

As a direct contribution to the increase in world food and agricultural production, Yugoslavia has in the post-war period increased its overall physical volume of agricultural production almost threefold while the agricultural population has decreased from 75 percent to 20 percent of the total population. Fitting itself into the overall development of the country's economy, agriculture has become an important factor in industrial development and is playing an ever important role in maintaining the stability of the overall economy of the country.

Five major industries in the agricultural sector, are being developed (food industry, textile industry, leather industry, tobacco industry and the livestock feed industry) which generate 27 percent of the gross national product. The agricultural sector, in turn, contributes to the industrial sector because the farmers are consumers of industrial products primarily from the indigenous metal processing and chemical industries that produce 12 percent of the gross national product. Therefore, it can be said that almost one third of the social, product of industry as a whole is formed thanks to marketing in agriculture, which is a kind of proof of the industrialization of agriculture.

All these facts indicate a close interdependence between the development of agriculture and non-agricultural activities, and the increased influence of agriculture on maintaining overall economic stability. According to some assessments, the impact of agriculture on the stability of the economy at large amounts to about 60 percent.

In the past three years, we were able to cover the needs of the domestic markets, to establish the necessary reserves, as well as to provide for exports amounting to US\$ 1.3 billion per annum. The implementation of our programme calling for a significant increase in the agricultural exports will depend both on our competitiveness and on the conditions and circumstances of the world market.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, I wish to emphasize that Yugoslavia, although itself a developing country, has been rendering material assistance, available resources, as well as technical know-how through numerous forms of bilateral cooperation in agriculture with almost 50 developing countries.

In addition to intensifying our own agriculture, we would be most happy to cooperate with FAO in similar efforts in the developing countries.

Y. MINTCHEV (Bulgaria): I shall abide by your appeal and I shall be brief. Just let me make several observations.

In our judgement, document C 85/2 introduced by Professor Islam is a very important and professionally worked out one. The survey shows the critical situation in food production and agriculture, and the problems resulting from the world's economic crisis.

The problem of development of agriculture as a basis of production of food is an extremely important one for FAO's activity as well as for the future of humanity. The statistical data and analysis contained in the document show that agricultural production in the world as a whole increases, and this year is expected to be about, 1,800 million tons of grain. These results are encouraging but, as is well known, the distribution of that amount is extremely unproportional. When one takes into consideration the long-standing shortage of food for most developing countries due to economic, political, climatic or demographical causes, the discrepancies between the production and the needs of those countries can easily be seen.

The main question which has preoccupied our attention in the last decade is what to do in the future, how the problem of feeding should be solved. We are fully aware that FAO, even with its active and comprehensive activities, cannot alone resolve the problem of hunger. There

is a necessity for full mobilization of the efforts of the world community in order to find sufficient resources for investments, training of local experts, supplying of seeds, agricultural machinery, fertilizers, and technologies for modernization and intensification of agriculture.

The international assistance to those countries in need is quite impressive, but still there is no resolution. There is a need for increased resources, part of which can be found in those very countries. The other part should come from external assistance.

I should like to state once again that real disarmament should free additional resources, part of which can be used for the development of agriculture all over the world. There is a clear inter-relation between international economic relations and food supply. My delegation cannot justify the use of food aid as a means of political pressure. A serious obstacle to international trade is protectionism. There is a need to further develop prices of agricultural products which at present are very unfavourable for the developing countries. In our opinion, the development of production, the modernization of agriculture and the improvement of the social status of people living in the rural areas represent ways of solving the food problem.

Mr Chairman, allow me, before concluding my remarks, to state once again that my country, according to its abilities, is ready to work together with FAO for the solution of the food problem. We are going to support all the constructive proposals which can bring improvement and well-being to all people and eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

Ms N. MORAD (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I should like to thank you for giving me the floor for the second time. Although we commend the Secretariat's efforts in the preparation of document C 85/2 on the situation of food and agriculture in 1985, we have reservations concerning the sentence which describes agricultural production in Egypt as stagnant. In this respect, we would like to say that the Government has granted the agricultural sector great importance which has led to considerable progress in certain areas. We shall present the Secretariat with a detailed report on this issue.

We agree that the international economic situation cannot be divided from the food problem and that the present economic crisis, although it has started to recede in certain countries, is related to the agricultural and food situation in the world. In fact the developing countries are most affected by the crisis. The low priced commodities and the protectionist policies applied by the developed countries, in addition to unfair economic relations at the international level, have particularly affected the developing countries. Moreover, the economies of these countries face a real challenge because of the increasing debt burden, the service of this debt, the high rates of interest, the fluctuations in exchange rates and the deterioration of the terms of trade. These constitute real obstacles for farm producers and oblige them to change their activities as they suffer from low prices of their products. The developing countries will continue to suffer the most in our world if we do not find solutions to these problems, and if we do not achieve a new and just economic order.

1.11 of the Report describes the deteriorating economic situation in Africa after the disasters that hit the continent, particularly drought, which has extended to affect 25 countries directly or indirectly. We are pleased to know that it is now possible to consider the emergency situation in Africa south of the desert over in 16 countries. This leads us to hope with optimism that we will overcome the crisis which has affected millions of people in Africa.

However, the suffering of these people should be borne in mind all the time and we should not forget this suffering. We should, in fact, mobilize all our efforts in order to work so that these do not recur, particularly by helping the African countries to implement long-term and medium-term projects that will enable them to achieve food self-sufficiency and combat similar crises.

We would like to commend the efforts made by the Director-General in the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa and we would like to thank the countries who have hastened to participate in this project. I would like to emphasize the importance of the Early Warning System and the General Information System and their implementation in the developing countries in order to avoid future disasters and their after effects.

M. AGIAG (Libya) (Original language Arabic): I will comply with your wish and the brief and start directly with the comments we have. You have asked us not to raise political issues. However, you know that this is related to the wish of the countries who have the monopoly of food commodities-not to link food to political issues, yet use it to exert pressure on poor countries that cannot produce the food to meet their needs. The amount of food aid has never been a source of satisfaction at any time in the past and it cannot be considered anything more than a sort of tranquillizer. The real aid which should be provided by the international community is the transfer of technology and scientific methods that would enable the people in the developing countries to increase and intensify their production and to establish a new international economic order that would free them from economic dependence and monopoly.

It is obvious that although the rate of food aid has increased, it has not satisfied the essential needs, especially of those who suffer from hunger and poverty. The Jamahiriya has had a unique experience in developing its domestic product by reclaiming large areas of the great desert land to produce food. This has led to our meeting 60 percent of the country's cereals needs and has enabled us to attain self-sufficiency in the production of vegetables, fruit, poultry and white meat. Moreover, other complementary activities have received their appropriate shares of investment capital through the different development programmes which I cannot mention here due to time constraints.

Mr Chairman, finding solutions to remedy the present situation of food commodities is impossible as long as monopolistic policies continue to prevail in the world. Therefore we, as an international community, have to adopt the principle of liberating food commodities and agricultural development in the developing countries. This includes, *inter alia*, the balancing of supply and demand which serves the interests of rich producing countries rather than those of the countries of the Third World. It also includes liberating the trade in production inputs, the most important of which is mentioned in the paper concerning the use of fertilizers. According to us, however, these cannot be considered development indicators, as real development means helping developing countries to acquire scientific methods and technologies to increase production and reduce yield-losses, as well as establishing constructive co-operation for the well-being of mankind and its liberation from the want of food.

H. ÖGÜT (Turkey): We wish to congratulate the Secretariat for the comprehensive documents it has prepared on the state of food and agriculture. We agree in general with its analyses.

The present state of food and agriculture in the world indicates that long-term measures, in addition to those short-term ones, need to be taken urgently. Huge debt problems, erratic exchange rates and high interest rates, increasing protectionism and the insufficient flows of resources still hamper the efforts of the developing countries to redress their economies.

As indicated in the Secretariat document, there is an increase in the world production of food. However, the fact that the world has been faced with the tragic situation in Africa at the same time, and the fact that there is a decrease in the production of some of the other developing countries, cannot be ignored. The state of trade in agricultural commodities in the world indicates that increase in production is not sufficient by itself to correct the situation unless measures in the trade of agricultural commodities are taken. This is especially important since it would not be realistic to expect all countries to be self-sufficient in food production, given the fact that many countries will continue to depend on imports of at least some of their needed foodstuffs to meet their domestic requirements.

The substantial growth in the output of agricultural commodities in the past years, although most desirable, has led to depressed prices and to the disarray of the commodity market. This situation already points to the structural imbalances in the world's agricultural output and supply system, but it is still the low-income, commodity-exporting countries that suffer the most, in particular as regards their food security. Unless serious efforts are made for the creation of stable conditions in commodity markets through the concerted action of both the producers and consumers to their mutual benefit, complaints about the present situation are bound to continue.

In this context, the concerted efforts of all nations to solve world trade problems, exacerbated in particular by the evil of protectionism, are absolutely necessary.

Turkey has made significant progress in stepping up agricultural production and has attained self-sufficiency in most agricultural commodities. This result has been achieved through sustained self-help efforts and sound policies emphasizing education, research and extension systems. We are ready to share our experience with other developing countries and to contribute to all international efforts aimed at improving the present food situation in the world.

A. MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Nous aimerions féliciter le Secrétariat pour les documents C 85/2 et C 85/2-Sup. 1 qui nous donnent une excellente perspective de la situation mondiale et de l'agriculture avec leurs impacts positifs et négatifs.

Ces documents font ressortir la situation des pays développés qui sont excédentaires en aliments par rapport aux pays en développement où les aliments sont insuffisants pour nous et la population existante, particulièrement en Afrique où la production des aliments n'est pas encore accompagnée d'une croissance démographique.

Mon pays s'inscrit normalement dans le Groupe des pays développés par rapport à ses caractéristiques écologiques, ses difficultés structurelles, ses problèmes techniques, d'appui, ou de manque d'appui financier et même par une politique suivie qui consiste à ne pas considérer l'agriculture comme une priorité. Il importe à peu près 60 pour cent des aliments dont il a besoin. A peu près un quart seulement du territoire portugais a des aptitudes agricoles et en raison des besoins d'approvisionnement interne, nous sommes obligés d'explorer des sols marginaux pour l'agriculture et, en conséquence, nous avons des rendements unitaires très bas et des cueillettes qui dépendent de la fréquence des pluies durant l'année.

Nous sommes d'assez grands importateurs de céréales: pour la panification nous produisons seulement un tiers de notre nécessité interne. Nous sommes aussi de grands importateurs d'huile et de semences d'oléagineux.

Les importations de maïs, soja et tourteaux d'oléagineux qui produisent des aliments concentrés destinés à l'élevage provoquent d'énormes difficultés au niveau de notre balance commerciale.

Notre grande valeur d'exportation c'est le concentré de tomates que tous nos distingués acheteurs considèrent comme étant d'excellente qualité.

Au niveau du secteur forestier, les pâtes à papier, les bois, le liège et quelques essences sont pour nous d'une très grande importance et constituent des produits d'exportation et d'approvisionnement du marché interne.

Au niveau des aliments, il faut souligner l'importance des conserves de poisson et la grande richesse de mon pays en poisson: l'une des plus élevées du monde.

Nous avons quelques difficultés avec l'actuelle structure de l'entreprise agricole dont plus de 84 pour cent sont représentés par des exploitations possédant moins de 5 hectares, ce qui oblige les agriculteurs à adopter un système de pluriactivités.

La réforme agraire qui avait été amorcée au sud du pays est en ce moment en révision parce que sa définition a rencontré des aspects politiques que nous considérons exagérés.

Notre intégration prochaine au marché commun élargi exigera de notre part des profondes modifications structurelles de production, de commercialisation et d'industrialisation des produits agricoles ainsi qu'une nouvelle orientation de la production visant le développement des cultures; secteur où nous pouvons être compétitifs.

L'année dernière, nous avons terriblement souffert des incendies forestiers qui ont détruit la forêt. Nous avons dû faire face à une tâche supérieure à celle qui nous était possible d'affronter en ce qui concerne la reforestation.

Cette situation crée un climat psychologique grave vis-à-vis de la population qui n'est pas vraiment convaincue de l'intérêt qu'il y a de replanter si demain la forêt doit de nouveau brûler.

Nous devons prendre des mesures pour minimiser les effets des incendies forestiers parce que la forêt au Portugal représente à peu près 35 pour cent des valeurs de nos exportations.

A.K.M. KAMALUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): Mr Chairman, I would like to compliment Dr Islam for his excellent presentation of the document on the world food and agricultural situation. Looking at the world food situation, both production and consumption, we take some satisfaction that food production has increased on an overall basis in the world. However, we must not forget also that vast numbers of people are still afflicted with hunger and malnutrition in various countries of Asia and Africa. There is still a serious shortage of food in many African countries, although the situation has eased somewhat in the recent months.

I would like to turn briefly to the experience of Bangladesh in the field of agriculture. For us, the 40th Anniversary of the FAO has a special significance as it coincides with the launching of our Third Five-Year Plan which will cover the period between 1985 and 1990. The main focus of the Third Plan in Bangladesh is poverty alleviation. As an agrarian country, food and agriculture remain the cornerstone of our national development priorities.

The forces underlying our poverty are low technology, low investment and low productivity. The Third Plan lays emphasis on a generation of employment and income, development of technology and skill formation, so as to improve the productivity of our two main resources, land and water.

Primary efforts are directed in the Third Plan to the attainment of food self-sufficiency while at the same time trying to reduce the rate of population growth. During the Second Plan we had achieved an average ground growth rate of 3.6 percent in food grains production against the annual population growth rate of 2.4 percent. We have projected food grain production growth rate at 12 percent per annum in the Third Plan period through expansion of high-yielding variety technology which is expected to significantly improve food availability and the status of nutrition in the country.

Recognizing the problems of scarce ground water availability in the dry season, special emphasis is being attached to efficient management and use of surface water irrigation. Our aim is to promote agricultural research for improving yields in dry land and rain-fed crops. Another major priority has been given to undertaking crop diversification programmes to improve the nutrition status.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary and other constraints, we have been forced to withdraw subsidies on agricultural imports. We are afraid that this subsidiary action may produce a negative impact on the productivity of the small and marginal farmers who are preponderant in Bangladesh. Low levels of income and lack of adequate demand are the chief constraints inhibiting agricultural productivity in our land, and the focus of development should be on income generation and distribution improvement. It is in this context that the value of appropriate pricing policies in agricultural products is assuming vital importance for desirable resource allocation and balanced growth.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the FAO for the TCP project which has greatly helped us in formulating our policies.

W.L.R. CLARK (Canada): As you all know, global trends in food and agriculture are of great interest to Canada for a number of reasons. First of all, Canada is a major participant in international cereals trade. It is the largest exporter of fish products as well as being a major provider of food aid and agricultural development assistance - to name but a few.

As Mr Islam pointed out in his introduction to this agenda item, the first half of the 1980s has indeed witnessed major shifts in global food trends: spectacular progress in many Asian countries (particularly in China), structural surpluses in Western Europe and the United States, reduced imports by some Eastern European countries and the African crisis which has so preoccupied all of us.

This decade so far shows signs of improvements in several areas: production is increasing, global food stocks are plentiful and of most importance, nutritional levels continue to rise overall. The major exception, of course, has been the critical situation in several African countries, but even there we are encouraged by the latest reports which indicate plentiful crops this year for many African nations.

This being said, we agree with the FAO Secretariat and the vast majority of the membership that there is no room for complacency. Africa's road to rehabilitation will be a long and difficult one. Asia and Latin America, despite some considerable progress, still contain vast pockets of hunger and malnutrition, and, as many other speakers have warned, we may be on the brink of a very serious agricultural trade war.

Canada's position is very clear. On the one hand, food and agriculture will continue to be the top priority of our growing development assistance programmes. On the other hand, we will continue to work towards a more open and freer trading system. Not only is protectionism economically wrong because it distorts international markets to the detriment of the most efficient producers (of which I think Canada is one), but protectionism is also wrong in human terms because it prevents the benefits of the most efficient production systems from being passed on to the consumers, and ultimately protectionism works against the interests of the hungry and the malnourished. In this respect, we are very sensitive to the concerns of Third World countries which, like us, depend largely on agricultural commodity exports.

As Chairman of our House of Commons Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, I wish to say a few words about recent trends in Canadian agriculture. Compounding our concerns over international protectionism, my Government has had to deal with serious domestic problems in this sector.

Soil degradation, drought and other unfavourable climatic factors have combined to reduce our wheat crops by as much as 20 percent these past two years. Our wheat exports have declined over the past four years. In fact, our wheat stocks are now the lowest in 33 years. After good catches in 1981, fish landings have declined every year since ... and I could go on. Meanwhile production costs have increased, and the financial environment has deteriorated.

The net effect has been a drop in income for our farmers and fishermen who, as in many developing countries, are in many ways the backbone of our economy, and they represent a large share of our foreign exchange earning capacity. In fact, approximately 20 percent of our farmers are now in financial difficulty, and unfortunately, many of them are among our youngest and most efficient producers.

Our Minister of Agriculture has been very seriously preoccupied by these problems and has made it a top priority to try to address the financial plight of our food producers while at the same time attempting to reinforce Canada's competitive position on international markets.

With respect to the review of the global state of food and agriculture which is before us, I wish to commend the FAO staff for the work they have done in preparing the documents. This kind of analytical work is clearly in the spirit of the mandate given to FAO by its founders some 40 years ago in Quebec City.

We encourage the Secretariat to pursue its efforts in this area and, if I may, I might suggest a few avenues for future work. Even though this document is already a response to earlier requests by my delegation and others for more disaggregation of production and consumption data, a further step in this direction would be to include more comparative analysis on the basis of levels of income "per caput". In a similar vein, it would be useful to include more case studies, for example, regarding the impact on production levels and productivity of various investment strategies or policy approaches.

In the interest of saving time, I will not give here any further detailed list of our suggestions, but I would like to emphasize one more theme for further FAO analysis. It is fitting, only a few months after the Nairobi Conference, to underline the role of women in food and agriculture. We know that FAO is active in this area and that we, as the governments involved, need to do more to translate our commitments into action. But we see the FAO playing a useful role in providing more hard facts, more case studies and finally bringing out this theme more visibly in further reports. In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm my Government's support for FAO's analytical work as exemplified by documents such as these.

Sra. R. FERNANDEZ LEON (España): Seré muy breve, Sr. Presidente, atendiendo a su petición de esta mañana para decir, en principio, que la delegación española manifiesta su agradecimiento por los valiosos documentos aportados, ambos de gran profundidad, excelentes aportaciones técnicas al que ya han sido incorporadas interesantes reflexiones por otros países que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra en este debate, y que entendemos no procede reiterar.

No obstante, la delegación española sí quiere manifestar, de acuerdo con las declaraciones de nuestro Gobierno en diversos foros internacionales, que la reciente firma del Tratado de Adhesión de España a la Comunidad Económica Europea coloca a nuestro país en una doble situación: por una parte, la necesidad de adopción por nuestro país de la política agraria comunitaria y, por otra, destacar que nuestros lazos culturales tradicionales nos ligan a las naciones hermanas de América y a los países ribereños del Mediterráneo situados en el Norte de África, por lo que vivimos con particular sensibilidad la recesión de las economías agrícolas de África y América Latina en el quinquenio 1980-84.

Por ello, nuestro país se brinda como interlocutor, como puente que conduzca al entendimiento y colaboración que debe presidir las decisiones de la Comunidad Económica Europea en la búsqueda de una abierta cooperación que asegure, por una parte, la transferencia de tecnología, la información y la formación de los beneficiarios y, por otra, la planificación y ejecución de programas que apoyados en la aplicación de políticas pragmáticas, flexibles y consecuentes, que se citan en la página 2 del documento aportado, conduzcan al desarrollo y bienestar, concediendo particular atención a las necesidades, conveniencias, aspiraciones y derechos de los países en desarrollo.

H.K. QUARTEY-PAPAFIO (Ghana): I must first add my voice to that of other delegates who have already spoken to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the useful and well balanced review of the State of Food and Agriculture covering the past four years as contained in document C 82/2 and its supplement. This document is commendable both in its scope and the relevant statistical analysis which it contains. It clearly spells out the difficult situation which the world's agriculture has gone through.

This state of affairs, as indicated during the first three years from 1980 to 1983, reflects the conditions through which my country has passed. It was a period of very difficult economic situations, with widespread bush fires which critically affected food production and disrupted electricity generation, on which most agro-based industries depend. Inflation during this period increased, averaging as high as 75 percent, which was further aggravated by the drought. In addition, per capita income during this period decreased and there was a decline in export earnings. However, with the assistance of donor countries and international agencies, aided by favourable weather conditions, this trend has been reversed and substantial achievements have been recorded in the production of maize, starchy foods and vegetables over the past two years. But despite this achievement, there are still various factors, both internal and external, which should be given urgent attention if the improved trends in production are to be sustained and increased.

At the national level, the costs of inputs, such as fertilizers, pesticides, machines and agricultural services, have been increasing to an extent that there has been a reduction in their demand, which indirectly has led to a reduction in yields and, therefore, the total output of crops. This is bound to happen in the long run if producers' prices are not increased. The high costs of agricultural inputs, in my mind, have been the result of their high prices, because they are manufactured by the developed countries. Export products, which have been introduced at high costs, cannot find favourable prices because of the protectionist policies pursued by some industrialized countries. This is only one example of paradoxical situations which I believe most developing countries are facing now. It is therefore gratifying that the Director-General has made concrete proposals by which some of these unfair economic relationships between developed countries and developing nations can be resolved.

In addition to these measures proposed by the Director-General, I wish to suggest that: (i) capital investment in agriculture be increased for developing countries; (ii) the World Food Security Compact be adopted by all countries to offset hunger which might result from natural disasters; (iii) technical assistance also be increased to ensure rapid utilization of untapped resources in agriculture in developing countries; (iv) outstanding commodity agreements be reactivated.



On the national level, my Government is trying to encourage increased food production by farmers by adopting the following additional strategies; (i) developing small irrigation schemes; (ii) making special trade arrangements for small peasant farmers; (iii) creating more stable and appropriate incentive policies; (iv) improving the transport services infrastructure to preserve distributing and marketing facilities; (v) encouraging agro-forestry participation to ensure maximum utilization of farm land and reduce land degradation; (vi) providing for maize storage facilities and driers for farmers; and (vii) controlling post-harvest losses at the field level.

In conclusion, I wish to affirm my Government's support for all the measures being taken by FAO to promote agriculture and food production in the world.

I. OUMAROU (Niger): Comme les autres orateurs qui m'ont devancé, je dirai que les deux documents C 85/2 et son supplément sont très clairs et démontrent la complexité des problèmes, notamment en Afrique, continent dont la situation agricole alimentaire est source de préoccupations. Deux millions d'Africains sont dans une situation de survie et menacés dans leur existence même. Leur sort dépend de la volonté de leurs gouvernements mais également des forces économiques mondiales. Beaucoup de gouvernements font d'ores et déjà des efforts importants pour mettre leur population à l'abri du besoin, mais force est de constater que la situation demeure critique. Comment alors l'expliquer? Je note pour ma part les conditions naturelles défavorables, notamment la sécheresse; c'est en tous cas le cas au Niger, en plein coeur du Sahel, où l'essentiel de la production vient encore des cultures pluviales, faute de ressources hydrauliques, de surfaces suffisantes pour penser à des cultures irriguées. L'amélioration de la production enregistrée en 1985 par suite du retour des pluies montre l'importance de ce facteur dans l'accroissement de la production.

En second lieu, la modernisation de la production appelle, entre autres, la consommation d'intrants agricoles que nos pays ne produisent pas. Là intervient la dépendance puisque, faute de devises suffisantes, les pays sont dans l'incapacité d'importer des intrants nécessaires à l'amélioration de la production agricole qui, de ce fait, diminue inévitablement du fait de l'appauvrissement du sol et de la baisse du potentiel du matériel végétal.

Le service de vulgarisation demeure souvent embryonnaire du fait de l'insuffisance du personnel en quantité et en qualité.

Si l'on ajoute à cela la dégradation des termes de l'échange, le taux d'intérêts élevé, engendrant un endettement propre à hypothéquer des ressources à consacrer aux investissements, on comprend dès lors pourquoi les pays se débattent dans une situation critique. L'aide au développement, pour relancer l'agriculture, nous paraît seule de nature à assurer une solution durable. C'est de cette aide-là que l'Afrique a besoin, sans contraintes, en respectant la priorité que les Etats ont librement définie.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Vamos a tratar, Sr. Presidente, de ser breves en la exposición.

El desarrollo de la agricultura en la economía mundial se convierte cada día en un factor determinante de estabilidad política y social, principalmente en los países en vías de desarrollo.

El desequilibrio entre la producción y el consumo de alimentos, acentuado por una relación injusta de intercambio en el mercado internacional, que incide fuertemente en las economías de los países pobres, hace que la esperanza de éstos se frustre y el marginamiento y el hambre afloran con gravedad. La deuda crece en estos países y el flujo de capital para trabajo e inversiones cae en forma alarmante. De esta manera se observa un futuro incierto y prolongado.

Es necesario entonces, apoyar esfuerzos múltiples de conjunto para crear condiciones económicas favorables para los países pobres. Una situación de este tipo posibilitaría una introducción al desarrollo agrícola y, por consiguiente, la senda para alcanzar una armonía y bienestar de las fuerzas productivas y sociales.

La recesión económica mundial en el período 1980-84, ha producido efectos graves en los países en desarrollo. La recuperación sigue siendo crítica en estos países, quienes enfrentan a su vez un endeudamiento galopante y relaciones de intercambio injustas en el mercado internacional.

El deterioro de la economía mundial, las relaciones de intercambio y las políticas agrícolas de los grandes países exportadores favorecen condiciones desestimulantes para el desarrollo de la producción agroalimentaria mundial.

En todo caso, las buenas intenciones de los países en desarrollo han sido obstaculizadas por el clima económico negativo mundial. A la vez que se pone de manifiesto una política de fuerza, de intervencionismo, cuyo efecto obliga a reducir considerablemente las subvenciones a sus programas de desarrollo agrícola y de distribución de alimentos.

En el contexto mundial, es urgente asumir posiciones firmes para luchar contra el hambre y la miseria. También se hace necesario a lo interno de los países, adoptar medidas y políticas prácticas, amplias, e identificadas con la realidad y la problemática de desarrollo, para impulsar de forma efectiva la producción de alimentos. Es viable y se tiene la oportunidad de hacerlo en muchos países de la tierra. Así se señala en el contenido analítico del documento C 85/2 de esta Conferencia.

En el marco de la situación alimentaria mundial se observa que la ubicación geográfica de algunos países y pueblos es determinante para lograr objetivos de seguridad alimentaria. Esta situación es crítica en países africanos que sufren sequías año con año y requieren por ello el apoyo internacional. También otros países del mundo padecen efectos negativos de la naturaleza, periódicamente sequías e inundaciones. Estos últimos son también países en vías de desarrollo que requieren del apoyo internacional para afrontar problemas de déficit alimentario.

Es importante entonces pensar seriamente en desarrollar mecanismos que favorezcan soluciones viables a estos problemas. Por un lado, garantizar aportaciones mínimas de alimentos para enfrentar brechas de consumo y, por otro, desarrollar opciones de producción para garantizarlos. Estos mecanismos pueden manejarse complementariamente y sería el punto crítico para fortalecer la investigación agrícola muy incipiente en los países en vías de desarrollo.

La atención mundial a la producción de alimentos parte del desarrollo mismo de las tecnologías agrícolas en función a las condiciones agroecológicas y socioeconómicas de los productores y de los países. Fortalecer el marco de ayuda internacional y regional a la investigación y transferencia tecnológica es de vital importancia para crear condiciones favorables y propias de desarrollo productivo y económico.

Nicaragua, Sr. Presidente, ante la perspectiva difícil de la economía mundial, ante la agresión y bloqueo económico impuesto por el país más rico del planeta, ante los desastres naturales sufridos entre 1983 y 1985 clama ante este foro una atención más determinante para afrontar una agricultura mundial en crisis, que incide sobremanera en el desarrollo económico y social de los países pobres, que desean vivir en paz y prosperidad.

En Nicaragua la agresión y bloqueo imperialista ha sido el factor obstaculizador para lograr los objetivos nacionales de desarrollo agrícola, económico y social. Además, las pérdidas humanas causadas por las agresiones militares son cuantiosas. El país ha sufrido daños de infraestructura por más de trescientos noventa millones de dólares. Asimismo pérdidas por trescientos cincuenta y un millones de dólares en lo relativo al comercio y préstamos, en sólo 1983 y mil ciento veinticinco millones de dólares en ayuda multilateral. Seguido de estas agresiones hemos enfrentado también problemas por sequía e inundaciones, cuyos efectos físicos reflejan pérdidas de doscientas sesenta mil toneladas métricas aproximadamente de los principales granos alimenticios.

La situación de guerra y bloqueo impuesta por el imperialismo reduce drásticamente nuestras posibilidades de un desarrollo agrícola estable y en consecuencia se nos hace más difícil aún el logro de la seguridad alimentaria. Acompañado de esto enfrentamos igualmente el problema de la deuda externa y las políticas de precios y de intercambio injusto en el mercado internacional.

Sr. Presidente: para encontrar salidas justas al subdesarrollo, es necesario buscar el apoyo solidario de los pueblos, fortalecer la cooperación internacional para las inversiones y el desarrollo tecnológico en la agricultura, solucionar la deuda externa e incidir en el mejoramiento de una política de precios y de intercambio mundial. Sólo así se abriría un horizonte más claro para todos los países del mundo.

H.BAR-SHAI (Israel): In compliance with your request, Mr Chairman, I will not express my congratulations on your being elected as Chairman of this Commission in this Fortieth Year of FAO.

The excellently prepared reports of the Secretariat indicate a rather optimistic picture. Production quantities have increased, and that is good because there will be some release from hunger, although it may cause price and income problems, though this is the lesser evil. Nevertheless, there is the problem indicated in paragraphs 12 and 14 of document C 85/2-Sup.1. Increasing the external debt creates unbearable problems for the debtor countries and has an effect which is cumulatively damaging both politically and economically. There are nations where an increased external debt means less food for the people, so as well as being recommended, action should be taken by this forum to alleviate this problem. Protectionism in world trade of agricultural products also limits the recovery possibilities of these countries.

Lessons should be learned from the recent drought - those three bad years - the effect of which is still not over. Lessons should be drawn in order to prepare for another bad cycle which may recur if the situation is not dealt with in due time. In the next few years we should be concentrating on the expansion of agricultural production and income.

Mr Chairman, you will remember in June 1984 at the Addis Ababa World Food Council, an opinion was expressed that developing countries should be assisted more to create and develop their own means of production. Various international bodies are making big efforts in this respect. We should make sure that more is done, because this may be the one solution, the one way of making sure that this damage shall not occur. I expect FAO and related bodies to allocate more funds for research and development in the various categories of agriculture which are so important for the benefit of countries in need.

I think there is something to be said contrary to the famous saying that something should be done about the weather. More funds should be directed from governments as well as international bodies for research into climate, and how it can be influenced or, rather, improved. We have gained experience in the area of the production of more rain from small clouds by special techniques. This shows that there is much to be done in these areas. Countries should be encouraged to set up national policies for agricultural production and prices, as indicated by the papers issued by the FAO Secretariat, to ensure that the efforts of the individual farmer should not be in vain, and to encourage him to produce more. A sound national agricultural policy enables everyone to know where they stand, and encourages them to produce what is best for them and for his country. There is the old saying that if there is no flour, there is no knowledge. Israel is ready to extend all assistance to FAO and the developing countries from her wide experience in achieving these goals of increased food production and liberation from hunger.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): Mr Chairman, although you asked us to be brief, all the same I shall congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. I would also like to thank Member Nations for approving the nomination of my country as a Vice-Chairman.

Being given the opportunity to speak at this late hour leaves my delegation with little to say. The document presented by the Secretariat is very clear and to the point, and the interventions by other delegates have also highlighted what was said by the Secretariat in the document. However, we can all express what we have learned from the review about the food situation in the world.

On the one hand, food production globally in the past year or two has been very good, good in the sense that a growing number of developing countries are joining the developed countries in achieving food self-sufficiency. We have been given the example of two countries from the developing region with the largest populations - China and India - joining the ranks of countries that are self-sufficient in food. To us - the developing countries - this is an encouraging sign, that food production may be attained at the level necessary to sustain the population by adopting the right type of technology and policies.

However, from all the interventions we have heard, other concerns are expressed relative to the food issue, namely, that those countries in Africa which had the unfortunate situation of having drought over a long period of time cannot feed themselves. One could argue that even those who cannot feed themselves from food crops can produce other agricultural commodities. These agricultural commodities, however, often cannot be sold in the international market to earn enough foreign exchange to buy the food they need from outside. Hence they have to rely heavily on food aid. Not only those countries in Africa, but also others in the world, complain about the growing tendency of protectionism. We have the evil of protectionism about which everyone complains, even those countries who practice it because it is only of temporary advantage to them. In the long run it will prove to be more damaging than what they are hoping to achieve in the short term.

Then there is the question of the growing debt burden which many countries, particularly in the developing region, are trying to put forward to countries who are in a position to do something about it, but unfortunately up to now, there has been no solution to the problem. There are other undesirable effects resulting from this in that countries are not only succumbing to the burden of debt, but are in danger of social collapse. All this points to two things. The first is that there is a need for a new international economic order. Above all, we also want to have a new international political will. Without this new international political will, we will not be able to solve the problem before us. If we have a new international political will countries will be in a position to assist those who are most needy, and will be able to respond faster to emergencies stop. If there is a new political will, the question of protectionism can be resolved easily. If there is a new political will, the question of debt burden can be taken more seriously. What the developing countries are saying is that they do not have to take it into their own hands and say "Look, we cannot pay for our debt. Therefore, since we appeal to you either to reschedule this burden or to write it off, now we will tell you frankly we can not pay and let us wait and see." We do not have to allow these developing countries to make this decision immediately. With a new international political will the problem of debt burden can be addressed in a more balanced way, suitable both to the debtors and to the countries that are lenders as well. If there is anything we can contribute to promote future action in this regard by international communities which are represented in FAO, 158 countries representing all shades of political opinion, all shades of economic orders, we would be more than happy to do so.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): I should like to commend the Secretariat for the excellent document before us. We all know that the rules in agriculture are different from those in other sectors, and above all we know that food security is best served on the basis of local production.

A better distinction or disaggregation in the analysis between food and other agricultural commodities may give us a clearer picture in the rather complex field of the situation of the state of food and agriculture. We all know, for example, that an increase in food self-sufficiency will reflect itself in a relative decrease in food imports. Some figures, in fact, are not indicators of development alone, but also of structural change. To give another example, an increase in fertilizer imports can be an indicator of a development in agriculture. In the absence of production growth, however, it would only hide a structural change which would, in such a case, result in a decrease of the value added.

A.M. OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I should like at the beginning to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Committee and I should like to approve and support everything included in document C 85/2, which has included a comprehensive analysis of the situation.

As you know, Mr Chairman, the Sudan is one of the countries which has been affected to a large extent by drought and desertification. From this forum we should like to extend our gratitude to the international community for the aid which was extended to the Sudan during the drought period and particularly for the aid from FAO.

I should also like to mention here that the most important measures to be taken in the area of food security and the protection of the society from famine, should not only include the increase of agricultural inputs, but also consumption and the use of land at the country, the continent and the world levels.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should like to reiterate the gratitude of the Sudan - and say that we have in the Sudan large areas of land which wait to be exploited and which need the capital or investment from the region or from the Arab world or from the world at large. If we exploit and cultivate the land in this fertile country, it will become the breadbasket that will contribute to ensure food security in the world.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I shall be brief because New Zealand concurs very much with what many of the earlier delegations have said on this agenda item. However, we particularly want to associate ourselves with the concern for Africa. Clearly we must continue our efforts to meet short-term food shortages, but perhaps more importantly we must find permanent solutions through assistance to improve agricultural production in Africa. No doubt we shall dwell at length on this under the next agenda item.

The effects of the international recession on demands for agricultural products and rapidly growing surpluses are having a disastrous impact on the ability of developing countries to develop their own agriculture. This paper clearly spells out that problem. Our Minister of Agriculture highlighted these problems in some detail yesterday when he addressed the Plenary Session. He warned about the impending disaster if effective action is not taken to liberalize international trade. Thus, we really must take this opportunity to join with the large number of delegations that have expressed their deep concern about this trade protection problem.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je serai très bref, d'autant plus que le document qui est présenté à notre appréciation trouve l'accord de notre délégation. Toutefois, nous voulons souligner certains paragraphes qui nous paraissent importants en ce qui concerne l'Afrique.

Nous voulons d'emblée dire qu'au paragraphe 124 la question des réserves agronomiques est fondamentale. Nous sommes très heureux de lire attentivement le contenu de ce paragraphe mais nous demandons à la FAO d'oeuvrer dans ce sens, car la formation des cadres en Afrique et la recherche agronomique constituent des bases fondamentales au développement harmonieux du potentiel agricole africain. Je suis d'accord pour dire que, de façon générale, l'Afrique a été négligée. Il faut souvent recourir au petit périmètre. Il faut des moyens, des intrants pour pouvoir mettre en valeur ces moyens. Voilà pour le moment ce que le Cap-Vert tient à souligner. Ma délégation tient à vous féliciter de votre présidence.

P. GUERIN (OCDE): Au paragraphe 69 du document C 85/2 - Sup.1. il est fait mention de certains destravaux entrepris actuellement au sein de l'OCDE. Je remercie le Secrétariat d'avoir ainsi souligné l'importance que pourrait avoir, dans le domaine des échanges agricoles, l'étude que nous menons sur les modalités et les essais d'une réduction éventuelle progressive et équilibrée du soutien apporté par les pays de l'OCDE à leur agriculture. Il s'agit d'une étude particulièrement difficile et délicate. Tous les délégués ici présents qui connaissent la complexité du problème le comprendront aisément.

Notre objectif qui nous a été fixé par les Gouvernements des pays membres de l'OCDE est de parvenir à une réelle transparence quant aux conséquences qu'auraient des ajustements coordonnés des aspects de leur politique affectant directement ou indirectement l'agriculture. J'insiste sur les deux mots "ajustements" et "coordonnés" car c'est la seule voie possible (tous les pays de l'OCDE en sont conscients) pour éviter que les conséquences de tels ajustements soient trop lourdes pour l'un ou l'autre des pays pris individuellement. Ces ajustements sont inévitables car la situation excédentaire des principales productions agricoles des pays de l'OCDE a non seulement persisté mais s'est aggravée pour certaines d'entre elles. Les facteurs politiques et technologiques qui conduisent à l'accroissement continu de la production persistent dans la plupart des pays de l'OCDE, d'autant plus que le souci de protéger les revenus des producteurs agricoles, et le niveau élevé du chômage qui freine l'introduction de politiques orientées davantage par les perspectives réelles des marchés du côté de la demande, les perspectives de son développement à moyen terme sont telles dans la zone OCDE, comme en dehors de la zone de l'OCDE, qu'on ne peut raisonnablement attendre une contribution significative au rétablissement de l'équilibre des marchés. Devant le redressement

des débouchés extérieurs, lié en grande partie à la situation économique générale qui affecte plus particulièrement les pays en développement, notamment les pays les plus endettés, et dû également au caractère erratique et déclinant de la demande des pays en économie planifiée, les conditions de la concurrence entre les principaux pays exportateurs ne cessent de se dégrader. Une solution durable à cet ensemble de problèmes ne peut provenir donc que de l'ajustement des politiques nationales qui soutiennent la production et les exportations dans le cadre d'une approche concertée au plan international pour en partager équitablement les conséquences. Notre étude permettra, nous l'espérons, de progresser dans une telle voie. Nous en soumettrons les conclusions préliminaires à la prochaine réunion de niveau ministériel du Conseil de l'OCDE, c'est-à-dire en avril 1986. 11 appartiendra alors aux gouvernements concernés de juger des suites à donner à nos travaux et de l'usage éventuel qu'ils pourraient en faire dans d'autres enceintes.

Un dernier mot qui me permet de profiter de l'occasion qui m'est donnée de nous féliciter, devant l'ensemble des délégués, des bons rapports de travail qui existent entre les deux secrétariats: celui de la FAO et celui de l'OCDE et de la complémentarité de nos travaux, même si les contraintes que nous connaissons tous les deux ne nous permettent pas de nous rencontrer aussi souvent que nous le voudrions.

H. LAUBE (Austria) (Original language German): First of all I would like to thank Professor Islam for his clear introduction. The problems of food have been a concern to the FAO since its creation on 16th October 1945 and have constantly been on our agenda. In 1974, eleven years ago, the World Food Conference of the United Nations identified the target of eliminating hunger from the world within the decade. At the beginning of 1985 we had to note that that very ambitious target, in fact, could not be achieved. But indeed, the figure of the starving and the undernourished has not gone up since 1974. This is on the basis of FAO figures. Now this remains between 435 million and 450 million people. Farmers and peasants around the world are today, compared to 1974, producing food for nearly 900 million more people. The huge effort that is concealed by these figures will only properly be appreciated if we look at world population figures. Today, the period within which the world population doubles is 41 years, and it would appear on the basis of the most recent information that the number of the starving will increase in absolute terms, but in percentage terms, it will decrease in relation to the increase in total world population.

In the past eleven years we have not managed to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. Despite this, the number of starving people has not gone up substantially during this decade. As I said before, there are now some 900 million more people inhabiting our planet. I think this clearly shows that the world community has really taken up the challenge of the past ten years and has partially achieved its objective. The worldwide trend of increasing famine in the developing countries has been broken. However, it is going to be necessary for all States to continue to make considerable efforts to maintain the status quo and to build upon the successes of the last ten years in eradicating hunger and malnutrition by the turn of the century.

The problem of hunger in the Third World countries has multiple causes - regional causes, sometimes domestic causes, causes which may be directly related to agriculture, or may be outside agriculture. Problems of economic growth, of high defense expenditures, of insufficient training and education programmes, of job shortages, of inadequate infrastructures, of major harvest losses, of diminishing purchasing power and decreasing returns on foodstuffs production are just some of the ills affecting these nations.

In Africa, south of the Sahara, it is not possible to explain food shortages solely in terms of the drought of the past three years, which certainly is relevant to the shortages. It appears urgent to include, or pay great attention to, national agricultural policies so that more incentives are provided to farmers to produce more. In order to do this infrastructure must be improved, returns must be improved and also, I think it is useful to mention, that employment problems represent a significant factor in this situation. In the short term it is a matter of taking all measures necessary for the rehabilitation of agriculture, particularly in African countries. These include, of course, first and foremost providing the African farmer with sufficient incentives to produce more food to motivate the farmer to produce more food, and indeed, in Africa there are examples that show that this is a successful strategy. A farmer will only be so motivated if agricultural and food policies are not adopted in a vacuum, but if they are embedded in an overall development context and policy.

In tackling these very different problems the FAO has a very important and special role to play. In this connection the technical assistance that can be afforded in practical terms to farmers and to agriculture make a very considerable contribution. More than 3 000 projects were implemented in 1985. These served to strengthen research and development, and to demonstrate new techniques and new technology.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pouvons demander à M. Islam s'il veut bien faire quelques commentaires.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We in the Secretariat are very grateful to the distinguished delegates for the various comments and suggestions which I am sure will go a long way in our efforts to improve the quality and coverage of the final version of the State of Food and Agriculture.

As distinguished delegates have noted, the overall view of the different regions as given in the document is rather brief and in very summary form, and we have not expanded and gone into details of countries performances. We are very grateful, indeed, for the additional information supplied by various delegates regarding their own country's situation. In this context I thank the distinguished delegate from Egypt for providing in writing additional information on Egypt's agricultural performance.

In the same spirit, we appreciate the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate from Poland, that we should expand the section on Eastern European countries giving more country details. We will endeavour to do so in the final version of the document, the State of Food and Agriculture 1985.

One delegate mentioned that the document has not dealt adequately with trade policy issues including such subjects as export subsidies. I would like to remind the distinguished delegate that these issues are indeed dealt with in greater detail in the documents and the various agenda items which will be discussed by this Commission later on in the week.

Also, it was mentioned that agriculture had been dealt with in a way in the earlier part of the document, that made it appear as though it was an adjunct to the whole economy. Indeed, the reverse was our intention, that is, to demonstrate the inter-linkages between the non-agricultural sector of the world economy and the agricultural sector by analyzing the impact of developments in the non-agricultural sector on the agricultural sector. We have taken careful note of the comments of the EEC on the supplementary document to the main document. We noted that the Commission has not yet submitted formal and official proposals for reforms or changes in the common agricultural policy, and that reference in the document really should be made to the analysis of the various options rather than to formal proposals.

As for the impact of the weakening of the US dollar on the future amounts of burden of export institutions, as far as this is concerned, we do not intend to make any forecasts. Maybe the French version of the document was not clear enough. We are making a statement on situation at the present time, not a projection for the future.

A number of suggestions have been made for inclusion in future analytical work in connection with the State of Food and Agriculture. One was the need for study of women in development. I would like to point out to the distinguished delegates that this was indeed a subject covered in the 1983 State of Food and Agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed, Professor Islam, for these elements you have been exposing to us.

(Continued in French). Encore une fois chers collègues je voudrais vous remercier de m'avoir choisi pour Président mais également, et comme je l'avais suggéré, d'avoir fait votre possible pour que vos interventions soient brèves. J'espère bien que ce sera de bon augure pour le reste de nos travaux. (Suite en anglais).

The Secretary tells me that the Drafting Committee members are nearly all known, but the procedure is not completely finished, but on Friday you will hear all the names. So with that announcement, I would like to close this session and thank you very much indeed.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas



## **conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## **conférence**

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

## **conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/3

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

**THIRD MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE  
TERCERA SESION  
(15 November 1985)**

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.40 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 h 40  
Sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 10.40 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT: Madame et Messieurs les délégués, je voudrais d'abord vous dire que le retard sérieux d'une heure et plus vient du fait qu'il y a eu une réunion des pays africains et nous avons estimé essentiel qu'ils soient présents vu le sujet dont nous traitons aujourd'hui et qui est la situation critique en Afrique.

Avant d'accorder la parole à M. le Directeur général, je voudrais dire un mot de la terrible catastrophe qui a frappé la Colombie et présenter à ce pays les condoléances de tous les délégués ici présents et lui dire que tous ces pays présents ici feront tout ce qui est en leur pouvoir pour aider la Colombie dans ces moments extrêmement dramatiques. Encore une fois, Madame la déléguée, toutes nos condoléances.

Je voudrais ensuite faire une petite annonce d'ordre administratif; nous connaissons maintenant la composition du Comité de rédaction dont je vais vous donner la liste des membres par liste alphabétique: Argentine, Bhoutan, Congo, Espagne, Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Iraq, Japon, Libye, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Nouvelle-Zélande, Royaume-Uni, Sri Lanka. La première réunion aura lieu cet après-midi à 18 heures à la salle des Philippines. Je demande donc aux représentants de ces pays d'être présents sous la présidence de l'Ambassadeur du Congo, Joseph Tchicaya.

Cela étant, et pour votre information, je serai obligé de quitter la séance vers 11 h 30 parce que c'est la Journée de la Dynastie belge et je dois m'absenter malheureusement pour plusieurs manifestations qui ont trait à cette journée nationale. Je m'en excuse vraiment auprès de vous et auprès des représentants des pays africains présents ici, mais je pense qu'ils comprendront cette situation.

Après ces quelques paroles, je voudrais maintenant remercier le Directeur général d'avoir bien voulu être présent ici à cette session tellement importante; je crois que c'est une des plus importantes de la Conférence. Je remercie aussi tous ses collaborateurs qui sont venus ici si nombreux, démontrant ici l'importance que nous attachons tous à cette situation tellement critique en Afrique. Cela étant, j'invite le Directeur général à prendre la parole.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Je voudrais m'associer aux paroles et aux sentiments que vous avez exprimés sur le drame cruel qui vient de frapper la Colombie. Je viens de recevoir une communication de la Colombie qui demande une aide alimentaire. Je me suis mis aussitôt en contact avec notre collègue M. Ingram et l'aide alimentaire du PAM va être disponible à partir de stocks dont le PAM dispose déjà en Colombie.

Nous allons aussi vite que possible fournir, si nécessaire, une aide pour la réhabilitation de l'agriculture. Il y aurait 25 000 morts d'après les agences de presse; ce serait peut-être une des plus grandes catastrophes du siècle si ce chiffre de 25 000 morts est confirmé, peut-être même va-t-il augmenter.

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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.2. Critical Situation in Africa

7.2. Situation critique de l'Afrique

7.2. Situación crítica en Africa

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL: Ceci étant dit, sur le sujet de ce matin, comme le Président a bien voulu l'indiquer, j'ai avec moi deux Sous-Directeurs généraux, le Dr Islam et M. Lignon, ainsi que

notre représentant régional pour l'Afrique, M. Davies. Après avoir introduit le sujet, je devrai partir pour rencontrer dans mon bureau de nombreux chefs de délégation qui ont souhaité me rencontrer.

C'est avec la conviction profonde de la gravité et de l'urgence du sujet que je présente à la Commission le document C 85/20 sur la situation critique en Afrique. Celui-ci décrit brièvement la situation alimentaire du continent. Il contient des informations détaillées sur notre programme de relèvement de l'agriculture dans les pays victimes de la sécheresse et fait état de l'initiative importante prise récemment au Sommet de l'OUA.

De tous les problèmes du tiers monde, c'est certainement la crise économique, et surtout alimentaire et agricole, en Afrique qui a le plus retenu l'attention des organisations, des gouvernements, des médias et du grand public ces deux dernières années.

Depuis maintenant plus d'une décennie, la FAO dénonce la dégradation progressive de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle de cette partie du monde. Dès le début de 1983, notre Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide nous avait mis sur le qui-vive. Une crise alimentaire majeure, de proportion calamiteuse pointait à l'horizon. Nous n'avons plus cessé d'alerter la communauté internationale, de saisir les organes directeurs de la FAO, d'intercéder en faveur de ce continent. La FAO peut, je crois, tirer quelques légitimes satisfactions d'avoir contribué à rassembler les bonnes volontés.

Je remercie le Président Mitterrand des paroles aimables qu'il a bien voulu prononcer hier à cet égard.

Je voudrais ici remercier la communauté des donateurs pour leur générosité et les exhorter à redoubler de solidarité dans la phase de redressement que le continent africain doit maintenant affronter avec énergie et persévérance.

De leur côté, les efforts de la FAO ont visé non seulement à assurer les secours alimentaires immédiats pour cette région et à faciliter la relance de son agriculture, mais aussi à étudier plus à fond les causes profondes de la crise et à mobiliser les appuis nécessaires pour y remédier.

L'Afrique se débat dans des difficultés économiques et financières graves et d'une complexité redoutable. En sept ans, le PIB n'a augmenté qu'une fois à un rythme supérieur à celui de la population. Selon les dernières informations disponibles, sa croissance devrait être de 2,2 pour cent cette année contre 2,6 en 1984. L'inflation reste forte et même s'accélère. L'expansion du commerce s'est à nouveau ralentie. Cette contraction, jointe à la baisse des prix des produits primaires au début de 1985, a sérieusement réduit les recettes d'exportation. La dette extérieure continue à augmenter et son service engloutit une part croissante des recettes d'exportation: près de 32 pour cent cette année contre 15 pour cent en 1981. Sans un allègement de la dette et une augmentation des financements à des conditions de faveur, on ne peut guère espérer une expansion satisfaisante de la production et du commerce.

Dans les pays industrialisés, la croissance du PIB, cette année, s'est ralentie plus qu'on ne le prévoyait, ce qui freine l'expansion du commerce mondial. En outre, des pressions protectionnistes ne cessent de s'accroître; le climat ne semble donc guère propice à l'accélération de la croissance économique de l'Afrique.

Heureusement, les pluies cette année ont été plus abondantes et mieux réparties sur l'ensemble du continent. D'après nos premières estimations, la production vivrière et agricole a augmenté d'environ 4 pour cent en 1985, c'est-à-dire bien plus que la population. La production céréalière, inférieure à la normale en 1983 et 1984, s'est accrue de quelque 29 pour cent. Certains pays comme le Zimbabwe, le Malawi et le Kenya disposent d'excédents exportables. J'ai déjà écrit à plusieurs pays donateurs et j'ai demandé également au Programme alimentaire mondial de tout faire pour permettre au Zimbabwe, au Malawi et au Kenya d'écouler leurs excédents de maïs blanc. Je

sais que le PAM va faire de son mieux, ils ont des ressources en espèces qui ne sont pas importantes. Je suis heureux à cette occasion de dire que j'ai reçu une réponse très positive du Premier Ministre de Nouvelle-Zélande M. Lange, qui a envoyé un télégramme dans lequel il me dit que la Nouvelle-Zélande est intéressée à faire cette opération triangulaire et qu'il me donnera de plus amples renseignements à ce sujet. Je suis également heureux que le Président Mitterrand, hier dans son discours, a.it aussi insisté sur l'importance de ces opérations triangulaires.

J'ai voulu faire cette parenthèse parce qu'elle était d'actualité et que, quand j'ai écrit ce discours, je ne savais pas ce que le Président Mitterrand allait dire et je n'avais pas connaissance du télégramme du Premier Ministre Lange. Par conséquent, je dis que pour le Malawi, le Zimbabwe et le Kenya, nous pourrions peut-être les aider à écouler leurs excédents et les encourager à produire plus.

Des hausses moins prononcées mais importantes sont signalées pour la plupart des autres cultures, dont le café et le thé. Les revenus des agriculteurs devraient augmenter si les prix à la production demeurent stables. Malheureusement quand la production augmente, les prix baissent. Un accroissement de la production animale est également annoncé pour 1985; malheureusement il est dû en grande partie à l'abattage forcé du bétail pendant la sécheresse.

Dans l'ensemble, les récoltes ont été bonnes dans les pays touchés par la sécheresse, les disponibilités alimentaires de la plupart des 21 pays qui avaient le plus souffert en 1984/85 se sont donc maintenant améliorées dans l'ensemble. Dans beaucoup d'entre eux, elles sont désormais normales, ainsi que diverses missions d'évaluation des récoltes, envoyées récemment par la FAO dans les pays concernés, ont pu le confirmer.

La situation alimentaire de l'Afrique devrait donc être bien meilleure en 1985/86 qu'en 1984/85. Il n'empêche que le volume total des importations de vivres restera supérieur à la normale et que l'Afrique aura toujours besoin d'une aide alimentaire élevée. Certains pays n'ont pas eu de bonnes récoltes cette année. Je ne dirai pas que la situation est partout excellente, et certains pays ont encore besoin d'une aide d'urgence.

Il est réconfortant de constater que les besoins d'aide alimentaire des 21 pays les plus touchés en 1984/85 étaient de 7 millions de tonnes et qu'ils ont été totalement couverts. Toutefois, sur le total de l'aide promise, seuls 5,8 millions de tonnes étaient arrivés dans les ports au début de novembre et 800 000 autres tonnes reçues n'avaient pas encore été distribuées.

Pourtant, bien des efforts avaient été faits pour accélérer les livraisons et surmonter les obstacles logistiques. Puisse cela nous servir de leçon et inciter la communauté internationale à mieux se préparer en vue d'affronter les crises alimentaires.

Les problèmes logistiques sont particulièrement difficiles à résoudre, aussi ne faut-il pas attendre qu'il y ait une crise pour les surmonter. Il faut les résoudre avant la crise, pendant la crise, après la crise. Il faut que nous ayons les moyens de transport et de communication nécessaires avant que la crise ne soit là. Je sais que c'est une question de financement et que ce n'est pas la bonne volonté qui manque. La mobilisation de l'aide et sa distribution dans les pays bénéficiaires prennent du temps. L'acheminement des secours s'apparente souvent à une course d'obstacles, et il est trop tard pour remédier aux carences des infrastructures lorsque l'urgence éclate.

C'est pourquoi la FAO s'efforce de promouvoir et de renforcer les systèmes d'alerte rapides de prévention et d'intervention immédiate, y compris la mise en place anticipée de stocks de secours dans les régions vulnérables. Nous espérons tous que le cauchemar vécu récemment par l'Afrique ne se répétera pas. J'espère aussi que ce ne sera pas le cas en Colombie. On ne saurait donc trop insister sur l'importance des dispositifs que je viens d'évoquer.

Les gouvernements intéressés devront planifier avec soin l'arrivée en 1985/86 du solde de l'aide alimentaire qui avait été promise pour 1984/85 afin d'éviter de perturber gravement les marchés locaux. De même, les gouvernements et les donateurs potentiels devront étudier ensemble des mesures à prendre pour utiliser au mieux les excédents exportables de certains pays de la région, et reconstituer rapidement les réserves nécessaires.

Actuellement, les besoins à l'importation pour 1985/86 sont estimés entre 6,2 et 6,6 millions de tonnes de céréales dont la moitié environ serait couverte par des importations commerciales. Donc les besoins d'aide alimentaire sont évalués à quelque 3 à 3,3 millions de tonnes. Seize des 21 pays sinistrés ont désormais surmonté le plus rude de la crise, même si certains d'entre eux devront encore recevoir une aide alimentaire importante pour combler leur déficit structurel.

Comme je l'ai déjà mentionné dans mon intervention en séance plénière, seuls cinq pays - l'Angola, le Botswana, l'Ethiopie, le Mozambique et le Soudan - auraient toujours besoin d'une aide alimentaire d'urgence exceptionnelle en 1985/86 à cause des séquelles de la sécheresse des années précédentes.

Il y a un an, à un moment où la priorité absolue était donnée à l'aide alimentaire d'urgence, j'ai insisté devant le Conseil sur la nécessité d'assister sans délai les pays sinistrés à relancer leur agriculture vivrière et aussi leur élevage. Je soulignais que la solution résidait essentiellement dans une intensification de l'agriculture et le recours aux facteurs modernes de production (engrais, semences améliorées, vaccins, etc.). Sans quoi, disais-je, l'Afrique s'enfoncerait de plus en plus dans une dépendance irréversible à l'égard de l'aide alimentaire.

J'informais également le Conseil de notre intention de préparer un programme de réhabilitation agricole et de réorienter une partie des activités de notre Programme Ordinaire, à concurrence de 5 millions de dollars, pour appuyer les pays où les besoins de relance étaient les plus urgents.

Le Conseil marqua son accord sur ces propositions. En outre, la résolution 1/86 adoptée par consensus exhorta les pays donateurs et les organisations internationales à accorder le maximum d'assistance technique et financière à cette relance de l'agriculture vivrière, condition jugée primordiale de la rénovation économique, sociale et humaine de ces pays.

C'est dans cet esprit, que j'ai présenté à Rome en janvier et en mars derniers des programmes de relèvement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture des pays africains concernés et que la FAO a activement participé à la Conférence des contributions pour l'Afrique convoquée par l'Organisation des Nations Unies à Genève en mars dernier.

Ces programmes se composent de projets concrets élaborés avec les pays eux-mêmes et susceptibles d'être exécutés immédiatement en tout ou en partie. Je suis persuadé que la plupart d'entre vous sont déjà bien informés de cette initiative de la FAO. Laissez-moi cependant rappeler que ces programmes, de portée limitée mais devant servir de catalyseur à un effort bien plus vaste, sont axés sur la fourniture d'un paquet d'intrants agricoles suffisant pour avoir un impact notable sur la production à bref délai: semences améliorées, engrais, pesticides, petit équipement agricole et hydraulique, vaccins, etc., assortis des services et de la vulgarisation nécessaires à leur utilisation.

A l'origine il y avait 229 projets. Par la suite, la liste des pays victimes de la sécheresse s'est allongée. De nouvelles propositions ont été formulées tandis que d'autres étaient abandonnées. Aujourd'hui notre programme de relèvement de l'agriculture africaine se compose de 269 projets dans 25 pays, leur coût estimé est de l'ordre de 246 millions de dollars.

Le dialogue qui s'est ouvert il y a quelques mois avec les donateurs et les pays sinistrés se poursuit. Les projets sont financés à la fois par le gouvernement et par d'autres sources; vingt-cinq donateurs ont déjà engagé des fonds pour financer des projets en totalité ou en partie. A ce jour le financement de 146 projets d'un coût d'environ de 109 millions de dollars est complètement assuré. Je me félicite que plusieurs pays en développement figurent parmi les donateurs.

Avec les économies réalisées sur son budget ordinaire, la FAO a approuvé 75 projets d'une valeur de 12,6 millions de dollars à ce jour. Comme vous le savez, j'avais demandé au Comité financier et au Conseil de m'autoriser à utiliser 15 millions de dollars prélevés sur les budgets ordinaires et réalisés à partir des économies. Pour financer ces projets, le Conseil et le Comité financier avaient donné leur accord et jusqu'à ce jour 75 projets ont maintenant été approuvés. En outre, 49 autres projets qui satisfont également aux critères établis sont à l'étude.

Avant de terminer, permettez-moi de faire quelques réflexions en ce qui concerne les décisions prises par le 21<sup>ème</sup> sommet de l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine et à leur suite durant la présente session de l'Assemblée générale.

Plusieurs initiatives importantes ont en effet été lancées dans le secteur agricole par les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'OUA.

Le Sommet d'Addis Abeba en juillet dernier a en particulier approuvé un programme d'action prioritaire, à réaliser au cours des cinq prochaines années, pour le redressement économique de l'Afrique, l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire et le relèvement de l'agriculture. Il a également adopté les statuts du Fonds spécial d'assistance d'urgence aux victimes de la sécheresse et de la famine en Afrique. Il va sans dire que la FAO appuie avec force ces deux initiatives. Elle n'est pas en mesure de contribuer financièrement au Fonds spécial, mais nous avons offert notre collaboration pour faciliter la mobilisation des contributions, et faciliter leur utilisation quand on nous le demande.

L'étude approfondie des problèmes agricoles et alimentaires de l'Afrique que j'ai entreprise avec l'appui de ministres de l'agriculture réunis à Harare pour la 13<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale de la FAO, s'inscrit dans ce contexte. Sur la base d'une analyse détaillée des problèmes et du potentiel vivrier dans les différentes zones agro-écologiques de l'Afrique, l'étude proposera des mesures concrètes aux gouvernements pour l'intensification de la production alimentaire, grâce notamment à une utilisation accrue d'intrants agricoles modernes. J'ai invité, à titre personnel, un certain nombre d'experts africains à une consultation qui aura lieu le mois prochain ici à Rome, pour me conseiller sur les constatations préliminaires de cette étude. Les résultats définitifs en seront présentés à la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique qui aura lieu en septembre 1986 au Congo, à Brazzaville. J'espère qu'il y aura une participation massive de tous les Ministres du développement rural et des Ministres de l'agriculture, pour ce qui est du continent africain et j'espère aussi que les représentants de la Communauté internationale et plus particulièrement des pays qui offrent une aide généreuse à l'Afrique seront représentés aussi à un niveau adéquat, car je pense que cette étude devrait les intéresser. J'espère que vous serez aussi avec nous, Monsieur le Président, à Brazzaville.

Le Sommet de l'OUA avait également lancé un appel pour la tenue d'une conférence internationale sur la dette extérieure de l'Afrique. Il ne semble pas qu'on s'oriente vers une telle décision. Par contre, une autre proposition du Sommet, dont je me suis fait personnellement l'avocat depuis plus de deux ans déjà, paraît appelée à un sort meilleur. Je me réfère à ma demande de convocation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale consacrée aux conditions à long terme du développement de l'Afrique.

Un projet de résolution dans ce sens a été introduit par le groupe africain à l'Assemblée générale et semble rencontrer l'adhésion de l'ensemble des Etats Membres. Il pourrait être adopté dans les jours qui viennent.

La session spéciale serait prévue pour fin avril. D'après le projet de résolution il serait prévu de commencer le 28 avril. Je ne sais pas quelle sera la durée prévue. Nous nous attendons à ce que le Secrétaire général s'adresse à la FAO et aux autres organisations pour les aider à préparer la documentation pour la Conférence.

J'ai déjà été invité par le Secrétaire général de l'organisation de l'Unité africaine et le Sous-secrétaire général des Nations Unies, secrétaire exécutif de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique, à assister à une réunion à Addis-Abeba le 6 janvier. C'est une réunion pour discuter de cette session spéciale et de la préparation des documents. J'ai eu l'occasion, (je m'adresse ici à mes amis les délégués africains) de voir le Secrétaire général de l'OUA quand il est venu à Rome à la FAO et je l'ai assuré que la FAO se ferait plaisir de participer à la rédaction des documents et de répondre aux demandes d'assistance technique pour leur préparation.

La Commission I sera sans doute intéressée de noter qu'au cours de mon intervention devant l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies le 28 octobre dernier, j'ai offert toute la collaboration de la FAO pour préparer les volets agricole et alimentaire d'une telle session spéciale.

Quoi qu'il en soit on peut se réjouir de ce que l'approche globale des problèmes africains soit maintenant envisagée. Nous savons en effet qu'on ne vaincra pas la faim et la malnutrition en Afrique en agissant sur le seul secteur agricole et dans le seul cadre national. Comme je le disais à New York, c'est dans le contexte de l'économie tout entière que les pays concernés devront réévaluer les politiques et donner à l'agriculture la place qui lui revient. Mais en même temps, l'Afrique aura besoin d'une aide massive pour financer son développement et par-dessus tout de conditions commerciales plus justes et d'un allègement concerté du poids de sa dette.

M. le Président, permettez-moi de conclure. L'amélioration cette année des conditions météorologiques dans une grande partie de l'Afrique nous accorde, je dirais, un répit. Nous devons en profiter pour relancer sans tarder l'agriculture de ce continent. Dans beaucoup de pays le personnel, les moyens financiers et l'équipement jusqu'ici mobilisés par les besoins d'aide d'urgence peuvent désormais être utilisés pour reconstruire le secteur alimentaire et agricole sur des fondations plus solides.

Les donateurs ont réagi avec grande générosité à la crise et je dois leur rendre hommage. Maintenant que les besoins d'urgence ont diminué, ils peuvent consacrer davantage de ressources au développement de l'agriculture. Cette possibilité doit être saisie. L'agriculture africaine a amorcé la reprise cette année. Il faut à tout prix en entretenir l'élan.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Merci, M. le Directeur général pour cette introduction intéressante et claire comme toujours. Je voudrais maintenant donner la liste des pays qui se sont déjà inscrits pour le débat et je voudrais m'excuser auprès de certains qui s'étaient déjà inscrits parce qu'il y a deux ou trois pays qui devront quitter tôt cette Commission et qui m'ont demandé d'être inscrits à l'avance sur la liste. Je crois que nous devons dire oui à cela.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): Thank you Mr President. I have Nigeria, Lebanon, Mexico, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Madagascar, Norway, Kenya, Congo, Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Panama, Canada, Cameroon, Denmark, Burkina Faso, Australia, Cuba, India, United Kingdom, Israel, France, Portugal, Argentina, Bangladesh, Japan, Thailand, Federal Republic of Germany, Colombia, Benin, El Salvador, New Zealand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Trinidad and Tobago, China, Turkey, United States of America, Tunisia, Egypt, Zambia, Algeria, Ivory Coast, Kuwait and Tanzania.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme je vous l'ai dit, je vais maintenant vous quitter. Je reviens lundi bien entendu et je voudrais vous dire que j'ai remarqué qu'un très grand nombre de pays heureusement se sont inscrits sur ce débat vraiment central, et étant donné le retard que nous avons pris, je pense qu'il serait amical et collégial d'avoir, si possible, des déclarations, complètes bien entendu mais brèves, sinon il est évident que nous aurons des difficultés avec l'horaire. Vous savez que nous devrions terminer ce point aujourd'hui. Je crois donc que dans ce débat tout le monde doit un peu compter sur tout le monde pour être complet et bref à la fois, si c'est possible. Si vous voulez bien, ce sera pour moi le petit mot de la fin pour aujourd'hui et je voudrais demander au Vice-Président de bien vouloir reprendre ma fonction. Je donne la parole à mon collègue Ladan du Nigeria.

Jaafaru Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the chair

Jaafaru Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Jaafaru Ladan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

CHAIRMAN: We have all listened to the opening statement by the Director-General on this very important agenda item on the Critical Situation in Africa. The floor will therefore be open for discussion. First on the list is Nigeria, so for a while I am going to set aside my Chairmanship and speak on behalf of Nigeria, with your permission.

Jaafarn LADAN (Nigeria): It is indeed an honour for my delegation, and for the delegations from the regions of Africa to have the Director-General present in Commission I to introduce the subject so dear to his heart. We are therefore very grateful for the kind expression on his part to come and address us despite his heavy schedule.

Before speaking on the agenda item may I also join the Director-General and the Chairman in expressing our deep condolences to the delegate of Colombia on the sad news of the recent catastrophe in their country. We support all the initiatives that the Director-General may wish to take to send emergency aid to the people of Colombia and also appeal to the international community to respond to this emergency.

Now, turning to the agenda item my delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for presenting us with the document C 85/20 for our discussion. Indeed, my delegation wishes to express its sincere thanks to the Director-General of FAO for his untiring efforts, not only in bringing the African food crisis into focus, but also for his drive in mobilizing resources for the African agricultural rehabilitation and also in allocating almost 50 percent of the FAO resources to Africa. Africa continues to face economic and financial difficulties so complex that their solutions will rely, to a large extent, on massive outside assistance. The inability of most African economies to adjust to adverse conditions has rendered them vulnerable to external economic forces. Depressed prices for export crops which most of the countries rely on for exchanges, high interest rates and stagnation of concessional financial flows have contributed to the full extent of the problem. Thus, when the drought condition prevailed on the continent between 1982 and 1984, it created catastrophic effects. Thousands of people died, and millions remained under-nourished. There was a massive movement of people and animals which resulted in considerable social problems for the governments of the countries affected. The intervention by the international community, thanks to the appeal by the Director-General of FAO, and the favourable response by the international donors and communities, spared Africa further catastrophies. We thank them sincerely for responding to the emergencies.

There have been good harvests in 1985 in most of the African countries. There is, therefore, cause for rejoicing. However, from our past experience, it is expected that the tragic conditions will occur again unless an everlasting solution is found to enable the African countries to achieve self-sufficiency in food. The best way to tackle the problem is therefore to coordinate an integrated approach to redress economic and agricultural problems together. The African burden should receive better understanding from the lenders and a solution should be found to relieve the countries affected by this burden. The African countries are doing something about it themselves. At the Twenty-first Assembly of Heads of State and Governments, the OAU adopted a special programme of action for the improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture, which was a reaffirmation of the latest plan of action. We call on all traditional donors, friends, brothers, and well wishers to come forward and assist us in achieving these goals.

The steps taken by FAO in mobilizing resources for African agricultural rehabilitation are commendable ones. The level of allocation for the 1986-87 biennium of the FAO budget is also a very encouraging one. We hope other multilateral organizations such as the World Food Programme, IFAD, World Bank, etc., will commit the same percentage allocated by the FAO to assist Africa.

My delegation looks forward to the FAO's in-depth study of the agricultural and food problems in Africa and hopes that it will come forward with concrete measures to intensify food production.

If the goodwill expressed by the international community towards Africa could be translated into action, the critical problems of Africa would be resolved in the shortest period of time. We therefore call for a special conference of the United Nations not only to discuss the problems, but also to translate the goodwill so far expressed into action.

With this address as the delegate of Nigeria, I now resume my position as Chairman and call on the Lebanon to take the floor, and then Mexico. The delegate of Lebanon has the floor.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation libanaise voudrait tout d'abord exprimer ses remerciements au Directeur général pour nous avoir présenté personnellement la situation critique en Afrique, telle que mentionnée dans le document C 85/20 sous étude.



La FAO avait déjà mis en garde depuis 1976 contre la gravité de la situation agricole en Afrique et s'était employée depuis cette date à aider les pays africains à surmonter les obstacles. Par ailleurs, le système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO, en janvier 1983, a confirmé la situation critique traversée par certains de ces pays et dont on avait déjà mis en garde. En avril 1983, la FAO avait déjà constitué un groupe d'action spéciale FAO/PAM pour combattre la peste bovine qui s'était répandue dans certains pays africains. Cette maladie risquait de détruire un grand nombre de têtes de bétail produisant la viande, le lait et ses dérivés constituant un élément fondamental de nutrition pour l'être humain. Le Directeur général a saisi toutes les occasions pour attirer l'attention de la communauté internationale et de l'opinion publique mondiale sur les dangers économiques et financiers graves qui menaçaient l'Afrique. L'amélioration et la légère reprise de la production enregistrées en 1984 et l'augmentation des exportations ont allégé la situation mais tout cela n'est pas suffisant pour répondre aux besoins nutritionnels de ces pays. Nous espérons que cette situation continuera à s'améliorer jusqu'à l'atteinte de l'objectif visé, à savoir: que ces pays africains puissent sortir de cette crise définitivement.

Beaucoup de PVD souffrent de la dette extérieure et des intérêts qui alourdissent leur joug. D'autre part, certains de ces pays ne peuvent pas payer les intérêts de leur dette après la vente de toute la production agricole. Le Président de la République du Pérou, au cours de la Conférence McDougall, a longuement parlé de la dette des PVD et de leurs intérêts. Par ailleurs, le Président Mitterrand a confirmé hier dans son discours les difficultés rencontrées par les PVD à ce sujet. La délégation libanaise estime qu'il serait nécessaire de présenter la proposition nécessaire à la Conférence afin que celle-ci recommande aux pays créanciers de répondre à l'appel en réduisant les intérêts et de reprogrammer le paiement de ces dettes.

La FAO a fourni l'assistance technique au Secrétariat de l'OUA, qui a approuvé, en exécution des résolutions de la 21<sup>ème</sup> Conférence au sommet, le programme de travail pour l'amélioration de la situation agricole et alimentaire et la réhabilitation du secteur agricole en Afrique. Le Conseil, au cours de sa 86<sup>ème</sup> session, a appuyé les mesures prises par le Directeur général en vue de faire face à la situation alimentaire critique en Afrique et pour réhabiliter le secteur agricole. Certaines unités techniques de la FAO ont commencé effectivement à mettre à exécution les directives du Conseil et du Directeur général à ce sujet. Par ailleurs, le Conseil, au cours de sa 87<sup>ème</sup> session en juin 1985, a appuyé les propositions du Directeur général pour affecter les 15 millions de dollars qui ont pu être épargnés sur le budget 1984-85 au financement de certains projets agricoles en Afrique, dans le but d'arrêter la dégradation actuelle de la production alimentaire dans ces pays.

Nous avons appris maintenant avec joie de la bouche du Directeur général que 75 projets ont été mis à exécution grâce à ces montants depuis le mois de juin. Nous ne pouvons que remercier le Directeur général et le Secrétariat de la FAO pour les services rendus aux pays africains en particulier, et aux pays en voie de développement en général.

Par ailleurs, la délégation libanaise voudrait exprimer ses sincères condoléances à la Colombie, notre pays ami, pour la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur elle et nous espérons que les autorités responsables, et surtout le Directeur général, pourront fournir l'assistance nécessaire à ce pays pour alléger ses souffrances.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En primer lugar, deseo expresar nuestro profundo pesar por la catástrofe que ha sufrido el hermano país de Colombia, como expresé en la Comisión 11 hace un momento, en nombre del Grupo de los 77. Sentimos mucho que, después de estar agobiados por tremendas dificultades de carácter económico, después de que los niveles de vida de nuestros países se han reducido todavía más, se ciernan sobre nosotros cataclismos que deterioren aún más nuestra economía, Pero como en México recientemente, sabemos que el pueblo de Colombia continúa en pie y sabemos también que la comunidad internacional responderá igualmente con eficacia y con decisión a los llamados de ayuda del hermano pueblo y Gobierno de Colombia.

Desde ahora, damos nuestra plena solidaridad y apoyo al gobierno de Colombia y agradecemos al Director General sus indicaciones en el sentido de haber desatado ya acciones, junto con y a petición de éste, para contribuir, a través de la asistencia y la ayuda alimentaria, a superar esta calamidad.

Deseamos, Sr. Presidente, por otra parte, felicitar a la Secretaría por la producción del Documento C 85/20 y agradecer al Director General su constante preocupación por llamar la atención al mundo entero sobre la crisis que enfrenta el Continente africano y asimismo para apoyar la superación de tal crisis a través de los programas de rehabilitación de la agricultura en Africa.

Es, Sr. Presidente, con gran énfasis, que me dirijo, en nombre de la delegación de México, a esta Comisión para expresar, en nombre de mi Gobierno, la incuestionable prioridad que nos merece la región africana. La crisis económica que enfrenta la comunidad internacional y que recae en los países en desarrollo afecta todavía con mayor rigor a Africa Subsahariana. Hace que la totalidad de sus signos vitales se deterioren, que el agua se retire, que la flora se sobreexplota y se reduzca, que la fauna se extinga o enferme, que los lagos, ríos y atmósfera de las ciudades se contaminen. La relación económica es difícilmente salvable y encuentra en el orden internacional injusto las debidas condiciones para ser crónica. El desempleo aumenta, se reducen los ingresos familiares y la demanda efectiva, que se achican; las exportaciones no encuentran mercados suficientes y cuando lo hacen es en términos de intercambio negativo. El proteccionismo y los apoyos a políticas de exportación por parte de muchos países industrializados, así como los productos sintéticos y otro tipo de acciones, deterioran dramáticamente en estos momentos las posibilidades de exportación del Continente africano. Así, los ingresos por exportaciones se han estancado o reducido. La grave carga externa de Africa y las escasas exportaciones, no permiten elevar los recursos financieros para el desarrollo. En efecto, Sr. Presidente, difícilmente las divisas disponibles se pueden aplicar a actividades productivas, porque tienen que destinarse a importar alimentos, es decir, a sobrevivir, así como pagar los pesados compromisos financieros y también para el armamento, con el fin de hacer frente a la lucha que se deriva de todo ello. Las altas tasas de interés afectan al capital y la inestabilidad monetaria deteriora aún más la financiación para el desarrollo en el continente de las distintas regiones, hasta que alcancen la solidaridad alimentaria. Así, en condiciones de gravísima crisis económica y de reducción de la producción, otro elemento importante es el incremento demográfico, pues el mero mantenimiento del nivel de población resulta bastante difícil. Esto, a pesar de la densidad de población que tiene Africa, si se compara con la de Europa y con la de otras regiones.

Con este marco de referencia, los que sí encuentran importantes beneficios y significativas tasas de ganancias son las multiinversoras extranjeras y las corporaciones transnacionales. En ellas los signos vitales son alentadores. También, Sr. Presidente, se ha perpetrado el racismo y el apartheid más odioso. Los problemas de Africa son pues fundamentalmente estructurales y obedecen a procesos coloniales, que van desde el avasallamiento de la agricultura hasta la dependencia tecnológica y el cambio en la estructura de cultivos en función de objetivos comerciales. La agricultura y el consumo tradicionales se han relegado y con ello la población rural se empobrece y emigra a las grandes ciudades.

Ciertamente que, ante el drama de Africa, la comunidad internacional no ha permamecido indiferente. La voz de la FAO desde hace más de diez años viene gritando la tragedia y a través de muchos medios de comunicación ha llevado las imágenes de hambre y de muerte a todo el mundo. Sin embargo, decenas de millones de seres siguen padeciendo hambre y cientos de millones de toneladas de alimentos no siempre pudieron encontrarse oportunamente. La falta de infraestructura y otras condiciones fallaron, debido a razones por las que de alguna manera se puede responsabilizar a los gobiernos de algunos países. Por lo tanto, todos debemos insistir en que la ayuda se dirija para el desarrollo y no sólo para la emergencia, y en todo caso que sea coordinada con los Gobiernos africanos que deben ser quienes establezcan los programas y prioridades. Por eso apoyamos los esfuerzos del Director General de la FAO en este sentido y en particular el programa de rehabilitación de la agricultura africana. La comunidad internacional debe redoblar sus esfuerzos de apoyo y ayuda efectiva en este sentido. Esa es nuestra responsabilidad. Debemos también generar todas las condiciones necesarias para que la FAO y otras organizaciones internacionales, en coordinación con ella, presenten y promuevan proyectos viables, que no solo se orienten a resolver una crisis, sino que permitan a los propios países africanos reivindicar su derecho de lograr su propia autosuficiencia alimentaria. En este sentido, el nuevo orden económico internacional imperante genera quizá más problemas de los que la propia ayuda internacional puede resolver- Por eso también puntualizamos que no deben sentirse exentos de responsabilidad aquellos que teniendo en su mano la debida capacidad, obstaculizan sus actos caritativos de ayuda. A los esfuerzos de las naciones africanas ya se está sumando la responsabilidad de la p y de otras organizaciones más.

En nombre del Grupo de los 77, Sr. Presidente, y como una sola voz, damos nuestro pleno apoyo a tal declaración y pedimos el apoyo de todas las naciones para hacerlo efectivo. Las buenas lluvias y cosechas que se dieron este año, si bien dan una esperanza, no pueden desligar nuestra responsabilidad.

Con base a todo ello, el Grupo de los 77 avala el proyecto de resolución que sobre Africa se presentará como un instrumento que formalice la consolidación de la voluntad común para ayudar a los pueblos de Africa.

Vaclav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of Mr Macko, I would first of all like to support the measures taken by our Director-General, Mr Saouma, regarding the provision of assistance to Colombia.

Special attention has been paid in recent years, and quite rightly, not only by FAO, but by many other bodies, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations System and by organizations outside the framework of the United Nations, to a solution for the critical economic situation in Africa. A space for considering and seeking a solution to the problem is accorded also in the United Nations General Assembly for the second year in succession.

This year, the year of the 40th Anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations, we commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. There is no doubt that the birth of politically independent State formations was the most important achievement of national liberation movements in former colonies. It is, however, the necessity of their economic decolonization as well that stands up to the fore with acute urgency. I deem it necessary to point out that solutions to all global problems, and therefore also the problem of hunger and malnutrition and the establishment of a just international economic order, are possible only in conditions of peace, mutual confidence, cessation of feverish armaments race and a gradual process of disarmament. That applies also fully to the question of a further development of the continent of Africa.

As concerns the present situation in the African economy, I would like, Mr Chairman, with your permission, to express here the position of our country on its most important aspects. The unfavourable climatic conditions marked by periodically appearing droughts in many areas, and floods in others, together with the population explosion, are factors that certainly cannot be underestimated. They only aggravate the critical economic situation in Africa connected with the backward material and technological basis. Illustrating this point with utmost clarity, in our opinion, is the fact that despite several months of rain, the problem of hunger in most African countries persists. New complications arise, the most serious being the shortage of seed and the lack of sufficient infrastructure.

For these reasons we see the real, essential causes of the critical situation in Africa as the consequence of hundreds of years of colonialist pillage in the African continent and, most of all, of the ever more perfect and more refined neocolonialist practices on the part of advanced capitalist countries.

As is generally known, the agrarian character of economy prevails in a large part of the African developing countries and predetermines their position in the existing system of international division of labour. This division is, in practice, deformed by the profit-seeking interests of multinational companies that permanently ensure the return of capital, and whose volume greatly exceeds the volume of the original foreign investments made into selected sectors of the economies in the developing countries. This brings about a further prolongation of the colonial heritage of the monocultured character of developing countries because of the growing dependence of their national economies on advanced capitalist countries. In this way, developing countries are subject to the often disastrous effects of private and public capital penetration into their economies and of world market fluctuations. To a greater or smaller extent they depend on imports of basic foodstuffs and are directly exposed to the negative impact of a broad range of discriminatory measures, such as difficulties in gaining access to the world market because of protectionist

measures, interventions in price policies, instability of exchange rates or high interest rates, and artificial raising of the actual value of the US dollar with inflationary side-effects. These are the reasons why we cannot regard the alarming situation in the economies of African countries and especially in the dominating agricultural sector in isolation. This is why we feel that they must be regarded exclusively within the overall context of world economy.

Young African countries face an uneasy task of solving the problems of existing unsatisfactory ownership relations and labour organizations. This task can hardly be tackled without international assistance, while, of course, simultaneously ensuring the national sovereignty of the countries concerned.

United Nations data reveal that the lives of 30 million people are directly endangered as a result of hunger and malnutrition, and the volume of necessary assistance for saving them represents the amount of 1.5 billion US dollars. That is why the need for an accelerated solution of the present problems arising from the critical economic situation in Africa has been brought to the fore and why the greatest attention is paid now to humanitarian aid. The importance of humanitarian aid for temporarily overcoming the most acute problems, those of hunger and malnutrition of dozens of millions of people living in Africa, has never been underestimated by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. We take a share in providing such aid, in both bilateral and multilateral circles. We deem it necessary, however, to point out on every occasion that such aid, be it in the form of bilateral deliveries of short-time assistance or in the form of different donations

or assistance by international governmental and non-governmental organizations, cannot eliminate the negative impact of neocolonialist relations and therefore cannot solve the critical situation in Africa in principle. A truly effective solution to the economic problems of Africa lies in a long-term process, the success of which will depend on a substantial transformation of the prevailing structures in the national economies of the developing countries of that continent.

The International Development Strategy, para 39, for the Third Development Decade calls for a procedure by which the social and political intentions of the countries that are members of the International Monetary Fund, and the economic priorities set by them, should be taken into account in specifying conditions for use of IMF resources. We deem it necessary that a similar requirement should also be applied in the practice of international economic organizations. Recent developments in Africa indicate the importance of orienting the economic development of countries to meet the needs of all groups in the population, and not the needs of privileged strata only.

Our country is a traditional partner of African countries in economic cooperation. It provides African countries with economic assistance, especially of a long-term character. This assistance includes deliveries of large capital investment projects, the sending of specialists to developing countries and also the preparation of national cadres from developing countries in our country. United Nations Member States were informed in 1983-1984 on the volume of the economic assistance provided by our country and on its portion in the national income. There will be no change in the period ahead.

To the best of our economic possibilities we also give the necessary aid of a humanitarian nature at the government level as well as the trade union, women's youth and other socialist organizations levels. We shall strive to underline the aspect of its long-term character in the future. However, we cannot but express doubts on the sincerity and selflessness of the aid provided by several countries or organizations. There are a number of cases where not only the granting of long-term assistance, but also that of humanitarian aid is misused for intervention in the internal affairs of countries and for exerting political pressure on sovereign states. And it should be admitted in the open that in some capitalist countries at present time, when millions of people suffer from hunger on a worldwide scale, stocks of agricultural products, the "surplus" stocks whose price levels are completely beyond the reach of the low purchasing power of the developing countries, are liquidated. Moreover, the costs involved in the liquidation of several million tons of food amount to several hundreds of millions of US dollars, which we regard as a paradoxical situation.

In conclusion, I should like to say that Czechoslovakia, as a member country of the Council of Mutual and Economic Assistance, has been standing up against all forms of exploitation and has supported the normalization of international economic relations and the mutual, peaceful economic cooperation among all countries. This normalization with peaceful cooperation we regard as a principal basis for the effective solution of the African problem.

Jacques THINSY (Belgique): En tant que membre représentant la présidence du Conseil de la Communauté européenne, je voudrais donner la parole à l'observateur de la Commission de la CEE qui voudrait faire une intervention sur ce point important de l'ordre du jour.

Gilles DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Au nom de la CEE, je tiens tout d'abord à m'associer au message du Président de notre commission et à exprimer ma profonde sympathie à la Colombie et à son peuple qui viennent d'être très gravement touchés par cette catastrophe. Je puis d'ores et déjà vous dire que la CEE est prête à participer aux actions d'urgence qui seront décidées par le Gouvernement colombien.

J'en viens maintenant à ma déclaration sur notre ordre du jour.

Si la Communauté économique européenne n'est pas intervenue quant au fond sur le point 7.1 en ce qui concerne la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, c'est parce qu'elle considère que cette question, quant au fond, a été analysée dans le cadre du débat général.

Le raisonnement pourrait être identique pour la situation en Afrique, mais la crise de ce continent est telle qu'il me paraît utile de rappeler ce que la CEE a réalisé pour atténuer cette situation.

Ce fléau, qui met en péril la survie de dizaines de millions d'êtres humains exige une mobilisation de l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale.

La CEE et ses Etats Membres ont, quant à eux, très rapidement pris un ensemble de mesures pour faire face aux situations de famines. C'est ainsi qu'en fournissant une aide alimentaire totale d'environ 2,3 millions de tonnes de céréales en 1984-85, ils ont contribué à la solidarité internationale qui s'est manifestée.

En outre, en ce qui concerne les huit pays africains les plus touchés par la sécheresse et la famine, suite au Plan de Dublin, la CEE a fourni en aide alimentaire 1,2 million de tonnes d'équivalent en céréales soit 430 millions d'Ecus. Ce Plan a été exécuté, et il faut maintenant penser à la relance de l'agriculture dans les pays sinistrés, comme vient de le souligner le Secrétaire général de la FAO.

C'est pourquoi, la CEE vient de marquer son accord, le 4 novembre dernier, sur les orientations d'un plan dont l'objectif est de 200 millions d'Ecus, soit environ 180 millions de dollars E.-U., pour la réhabilitation et la relance des pays africains les plus affectés par la sécheresse.

A long terme, ce sont notamment des politiques de prix rémunérateurs qui permettront de tendre vers la sécurité alimentaire. Dans cette perspective, la CEE encourage les stratégies alimentaires qu'elle mène actuellement avec certains pays, Afrique-Caraïbes, Pacifique (ACP).

Massimo CURCIO (Italie): Quelques mots sur les aides d'urgence en Afrique avec les disponibilités financières italiennes. Je chercherai à réduire un peu le texte original qui avait été préparé pour répondre au désir de la Présidence d'accélérer les travaux, dans le cadre de la réflexion concrète à laquelle très justement la FAO nous conduit. Pour voir de quelle manière les efforts des pays donateurs peuvent être rationnellement acheminés pour contribuer à l'alimentation et au développement de l'agriculture dans les zones déprimées et pour proposer une exposition précise que l'action italienne peut offrir à part ce qui est nécessaire; le manque d'information est le point de départ de quelques réflexions.

Je vais donner quelques chiffres de base; en 1985 on a envoyé aux pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne plus de 185 000 tonnes de céréales standard pour une somme de 60 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, à peu près 35 millions de dollars E.-U. Mais il faut aussi ajouter l'envoi de produits transformés, en plus grande partie lyophilisés et poisson en boîtes, que l'Italie a envoyés en 1985 pour une valeur d'à peu près 25 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, 14 millions de dollars E.-U.

En ce qui concerne ces produits, je parle des produits transformés, je voudrais préciser que l'envoi a été toujours précédé par des ententes avec les pays bénéficiaires afin d'établir toutes les questions nécessaires à l'emploi de produits, parmi lesquels essentiellement l'acceptation de ces produits par les populations locales.

Les chiffres indiqués doivent être intégrés avec les contributions volontaires extraordinaires que l'Italie a données en 1985 à différents organismes internationaux pour des opérations d'urgence à effectuer à brève échéance. Dans ce sens là, il est important de citer les contributions au PAM qui s'élèvent à 20 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, 11 millions de dollars E.-U., et la contribution pour des envois d'aliments au HCR pour une somme de 11 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, six millions de dollars E.-U.

Mais l'Italie ne s'est pas seulement limitée à l'envoi des aliments transformés et de céréales; en 1985, elle a également envoyé l'équivalent d'à peu près 150 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, 80 millions de dollars E.-U., destinés à l'achat de semences, des engrais, des pesticides et outils pour l'agriculture et la mise en place des moyens de transport pour la distribution des denrées. En outre, on a mis en oeuvre, en partant de l'Ethiopie, l'expérience concrète de construire des dépôts de stockage pour tout matériel de secours (ceux de Assab sont presque achevés).

On voudrait aussi citer le fait que soit en Ethiopie, soit au Mali, le problème d'une alimentation adéquate et correcte a été souvent lié à celui de la prévention sanitaire. Les équipes sanitaires italiennes dans les deux pays aux fins d'action d'urgence ont eu la possibilité d'être dotées de produits alimentaires de prompt intervention; de cette manière, l'administration du médicament a été dans beaucoup de cas avantageusement remplacée par la fourniture d'un aliment. En 1985, afin de donner une aide, surtout aux populations de l'Afrique, une loi est entrée en vigueur en juin, qui a permis de mettre à la disposition des populations qui se trouvent dans un état grave de nécessité la somme de 1 900 milliards de liras pour une période de 18 mois, c'est-à-dire, 1 100 millions de dollars E.-U. A valoir sur cette somme, le Gouvernement italien a mis en Afrique, soit sur le plan bilatéral, soit sur le plan multilatéral ou multibilatéral, une série d'initiatives qui sont en pleine exécution.

L'Italie individualise les pays, choisit les projets, en fait une évaluation et utilise successivement pour cela le service administratif d'un organisme international spécialisé.

Il n'est pas de ma tâche de souligner les tendances des nouvelles orientations et de dire comment il vaut mieux procéder dans la lutte au sous-développement; mais il est intéressant d'indiquer très schématiquement une analyse des actions faites dans trois pays qui sont pour nous prioritaires et qui appartiennent à la Corne de l'Afrique: Ethiopie, Somalie et Soudan. L'Ethiopie en 1985 a vu, entre autres, l'attribution d'aliments pour 10 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, six millions de dollars des Etats-Unis, et chose plus importante, l'envoi de 200 moyens de transport pour une valeur d'à peu près 30 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, sept millions de dollars des Etats-Unis. En outre, une série d'initiatives parmi lesquelles un projet pour le développement rural intégré sur le lac Tana avec un engagement approximatif de 300 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, plus de 150 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis.

Au Soudan les actions d'urgence ont été concentrées sur la distribution de secours au moyen d'avions et de camions. Notre engagement dans le secteur peut être approximativement estimé à 20 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, 11 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis auxquels il faut ajouter la somme qu'on a destinée à d'autres aides d'urgence, au moins 40 milliards de lire, c'est-à-dire, 21-22 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis pour un total de 70 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, 36-37 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis.

En Somalie enfin, à part 35 milliards de liras pour l'aide alimentaire d'urgence, c'est-à-dire, à peu près 18 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis, on est en train de mettre au point un vaste programme d'initiatives de caractère multilatéral et bilatéral qui se trouve dans une phase avancée d'évaluation permettant les décisions nécessaires et se montant à près de 400 milliards de liras, c'est-à-dire, à peu près 220 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis.

Je voudrais à la fin de ce bref exposé rappeler la contribution de la CEE au Programme d'urgence en Afrique pour 2,3 millions de tonnes de produits, et je voudrais encore rappeler que le Conseil des ministres de la CEE a approuvé récemment une dernière contribution pour 1 800 000 tonnes de produits.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voudrais tout d'abord vous exprimer, au nom de la délégation congolaise, toute notre satisfaction de vous voir présider cette séance qui est d'une importance exceptionnelle. Le Congo, pays ami de la Colombie, voudrait s'associer aux sentiments de sympathie exprimés par le Président de notre Commission et par le Directeur général à propos de la catastrophe que vient de connaître ce pays. Le chef de la délégation congolaise me charge de dire à la délégation colombienne combien nous partageons le deuil qui frappe ce peuple et nous l'assurons de nouveau de notre soutien. Nous appuyons également toutes les initiatives que le Directeur général et le Directeur exécutif du PAM seraient amenés à prendre pour venir en aide aux vaillantes populations sinistrées de ce pays.

En prenant acte de ce rapport sur la situation critique en Afrique, nous voudrions rendre hommage à la FAO et à son Directeur général pour l'intérêt constant qu'ils ont témoigné à l'Afrique et les remercier pour la vigoureuse campagne menée en vue de mobiliser l'aide internationale en faveur de notre région.

Certes, nous sommes les premiers à nous réjouir des nouvelles encourageantes qui nous arrivent de cette région du globe. Cependant, nous voudrions mettre en garde la communauté internationale contre tout excès d'optimisme démesuré qui n'aurait pour conséquence que de perpétuer la situation que nous venons de vivre. Encore, faut-il souligner que certains pays de la ligne de front continuent à souffrir non seulement des séquelles des conditions météorologiques défavorables mais aussi et surtout des troubles que continue à foment et entretenir la République sud-africaine et par conséquent tous les pays qui coopèrent et renforcent la puissance militaire et économique de ce régime d'apartheid. Nous espérons que cet aspect de la question ne sera pas négligé dans notre rapport.

Nous pensons que l'ampleur de la crise alimentaire que nous venons de connaître rapprochée de celle du début des années soixante-dix doit faire prendre conscience à tous de la nécessité d'extirper définitivement le spectre de la faim dans cette région en s'attaquant aux causes autant qu'à ses effets. Nous nous sommes toujours félicités de la réponse que la communauté internationale a réservée aux appels incessants et aux images poignantes que la FAO, l'ONU et les médias ont lancés et présentés à l'opinion publique mondiale. L'aide alimentaire massive et généreuse octroyée à l'Afrique a ému les peuples de cette région et nous sommes reconnaissants de cette solidarité agissante qui s'est manifestée partout. Cependant, avec l'amélioration des conditions météorologiques et les nouvelles encourageantes sur les bonnes récoltes attendues, nous craignons qu'on soit tenté de croire que l'Afrique est définitivement sauvée. Au contraire, nous pensons que nous devrions profiter de cette trêve que nous offre la nature pour non seulement maintenir et renforcer ce niveau d'aide, mais la diversité pour permettre à l'Afrique de s'attaquer aux problèmes de mise en place de structures viables de production alimentaire qui ferait moins dépendre sa production vivrière des aléas liés aux conditions atmosphériques.

En effet, ni les méthodes culturales arriérées, ni les infrastructures dérisoires actuelles ne pourront définitivement éloigner des masses africaines le spectre de la faim. L'Afrique, on le sait, est la région qui utilise le moins d'intrants agricoles, où les services de vulgarisation sont le moins efficaces, car les moins dotés, qui a été le moins concernée par le transfert de technologies appropriées et qui en plus dispose le moins d'infrastructures, de stockage, de conservation et d'approvisionnement.

L'éradication de la faim dans cette région commande que l'on s'attaque simultanément à toutes ces faiblesses et nous pensons que non seulement la conjoncture économique internationale s'y prête, mais les nouvelles améliorations de la situation alimentaire dans cette région sont favorables à l'introduction de technologies appropriées et à la mise en place d'une infrastructure qui réponde à ces préoccupations.

L'Afrique, comme on le voit, malgré toute sa volonté politique maintes fois exprimée, ne peut rien seule et compte beaucoup sur l'appui extérieur, un appui qui ne devra pas être trop contraignant. Et c'est pourquoi elle est inquiète devant le piétinement que connaissent les négociations sur la deuxième reconstitution des ressources du FIDA sur laquelle nous aimerions avoir de plus amples informations.

Le FIDA a été conçu et mis en place pour aider les petits exploitants pauvres pour qu'ils améliorent leurs conditions de vie par le biais de prêts aux conditions de faveur du Fonds.

Les difficultés que connaît le Fonds nous préoccupent au plus haut point et je crois que la Conférence devra lancer un dernier appel aux pays qui bloquent la négociation afin que le prochain Conseil des gouverneurs en termine avec ce dossier.

Comme vous le voyez, sans être contre l'aide alimentaire dont nous reconnaissons les bienfaits, nous pensons qu'il faut aller de l'avant pour enrayer les causes des famines prolongées que connaît notre région. Voilà pourquoi les projets de relèvement de l'agriculture ont reçu tout notre appui comme les initiatives intermédiaires entre la situation d'hier et même celle d'aujourd'hui ainsi que celle de demain qui nécessite plus de ressources que ces. projets à moyen terme.

Le Congo, vous le savez, a été à l'origine de la Résolution 1/86 du Conseil de la FAO sur l'Afrique avec l'appui d'autres pays et notamment ceux d'Afrique et d'Amérique latine.

Nous nous félicitons de ce que cette résolution ait permis au Directeur général de prendre des initiatives hardies que toutes les instances de la FAO ont appréciées et que nous appuyons de toutes nos forces. Mais la situation africaine reste fragile et c'est pourquoi nous croyons nécessaire la prise, par la plus haute instance de notre Organisation, d'une résolution qui tiendrait compte de l'évolution sur le terrain et qui permettrait la mise en oeuvre d'actions plus hardies et soutenues pour venir à bout de la situation critique que vit l'Afrique.

C'est une résolution que le Groupe africain tout entier vient de faire sienne et que nous savons être appuyée par tout le Groupe des 77. C'est donc une résolution que le Groupe africain a mis au point et sur laquelle nous mettons, en ce moment même, la dernière main. Bien entendu elle suivra les voies habituelles et sera soumise aux discussions. Nous espérons que notre Commission pourra l'enrichir pour la rendre plus percutante. Dans tous les cas, nous disons que nous avons tenu compte de la situation décrite dans les documents actuellement soumis à notre attention.

Nous comptons beaucoup sur l'aide promise par le Directeur général à la treizième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, étude qui devra proposer des mesures concrètes pour accroître la production vivrière et nous voudrions nous associer à l'appel lancé ici par le Directeur général ce matin pour une participation très massive, non seulement des décideurs de politiques agricoles africains, mais aussi des pays et organisations susceptibles de nous aider à atteindre les objectifs de cette étude.

Nous appuyons l'idée d'une conférence spéciale des Nations Unies sur l'Afrique et nous exprimons le voeu que la FAO qui réalise en ce moment l'étude sur la production vivrière africaine y jouera un grand rôle.

Bref, pour sortir l'Afrique de son marasme actuel il faut certes s'attaquer aux structures car la crise actuelle est avant tout structurelle. Cependant, il ne faut pas négliger le fait que tant qu'existera dans le Sud de notre continent un empire puissant de l'apartheid les pays de cette sous-région ne pourront durablement apporter une solution aux problèmes de la faim qui accablent la sous-région d'Afrique australe.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the Congo for their intervention and also for introducing the proposed resolution which will come before this Commission through the normal channels, after going to the Resolutions Committee. I am sure other delegates will agree with me that we look forward to this resolution.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar); Notre délégation voudrait déplorer la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur le peuple colombien. Le Gouvernement malgache apprécie la réaction immédiate de la FAO et de la Communauté économique européenne à cette situation. Elle assure le peuple colombien de sa sympathie et de son soutien et souhaite que ce peuple puisse surmonter cette rude épreuve.



Nous rendons hommage au Directeur général et à toute l'équipe du Secrétariat pour la qualité du document soumis à notre examen et pour la présentation magistrale qui en a été faite par le Directeur général. La situation qui prévaut en Afrique est tellement bien décrite dans le document que nous n'allons plus y revenir. Nous voudrions seulement mettre l'accent sur les mesures de redressement qui, à notre sens, pourraient apporter une amélioration sensible et définitive de la situation. Nous voudrions pour ce faire reprendre certaines des déclarations faites par notre ministre à la séance plénière. Il faudrait accroître le volume et l'efficacité des flux d'aide d'origine multilatérale et bilatérale, donner aux institutions de financement, à des conditions de faveur comme le FIDA et l'IDA, la possibilité d'intensifier leur action en reconstituant au plus vite les ressources. En réduisant la course aux armements, on pourrait à notre sens affecter les fonds requis au développement et à l'amélioration des conditions de vie et de l'environnement des plus démunis. Pour permettre aux Etats africains de réaliser les principes fondamentaux énoncés dans la Déclaration de Harare et confirmés par le dernier sommet de l'OUA, il est indispensable que l'effort pour les investissements prioritaires soit accru très sérieusement. Il faudrait par conséquent lever tout obstacle à l'accroissement des recettes d'exportation et consentir un réajustement des dettes extérieures. Il devrait être exclu que les pays consacrent plus de 10 pour cent de leurs recettes d'exportation au remboursement de leurs dettes. Les Etats présents à Harare se sont engagés à donner la priorité absolue à la relance de la production alimentaire en assurant aux petits agriculteurs un environnement favorable.

Nous voudrions ici réitérer notre conviction que le désenclavement des zones rurales, la maîtrise de l'eau et la résolution des principaux problèmes logistiques doivent être pris en considération lors du prochain biennium. La délégation malgache souhaite voir se familiariser les dispositions utiles qui permettraient de résoudre ces problèmes aigus. Bien entendu, nous appuyons fermement toutes actions qui conduisent à l'amélioration du rendement et à la garantie d'une sécurité alimentaire durable. Tous ceux qui sont avec nous pour un redressement réel de la situation, qui prévaut dans les pays en voie de développement et tout particulièrement en Afrique, doivent s'accorder à reconnaître que les engagements internationaux pour marquer la volonté des pays d'aider l'Afrique et qui sont stipulés dans le Pacte mondial de la sécurité alimentaire et dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides stipulent que ces pays doivent se joindre à l'ensemble de tous les pays pour approuver unanimement les dispositions de ces textes.

Nous sommes convaincus que ces engagements obtiendront, lors de notre séance, l'approbation unanime des Etats.

Enfin, nous tenons à rendre hommage aux efforts inlassables que le Directeur général a déployés pour appuyer les gouvernements et les aider dans leur lutte pour sensibiliser l'opinion internationale sur la situation de crise et surtout pour mobiliser toutes les bonnes volontés.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): Let me first thank the FAO Secretariat for the documents prepared for this agenda item. My delegation will underline the importance of the indepth analysis on the critical food and agricultural situation in Africa. The Norwegian Government has proposed to the Parliament a budgetary allocation corresponding to 1.18 percent of our GNP for development coopération in 1986.

A major part of our budgetary allocation is used in Africa. Our aim is to increase the relative share of the allocations used in the agricultural sector in the coming years. The Norwegian Government has proposed to increase its development assistance to the Sudan or Sahelian Region with KR. 1 billion or approximately US\$ 125 million, over the next four to five years, in addition to our present assistance to this area. This programme will concentrate on two main areas, mainly environmental rehabilitation and increased food production.

The important elements in such a strategy will be soil conservation, protection and rehabilitation of forests, water management and proper land use. Support for extension services is considered particularly important. At least half of these additional resources will be channelled through the multilateral system. As has been the case in the past, research within agriculture, forestry and fisheries will also in the future be of great importance for the long-term solution to the problems confronting us in Africa. It is, therefore, very important to expand the research capacity and facilities for development in Africa, based on existing research cooperation.

In our development assistance it is a major concern to coordinate our bilateral and our multilateral assistance in an efficient way. It is also imperative to assert priorities in a world of scarce resources and it is necessary to improve efficiency both in bilateral and multilateral development assistance in the coming years.

Against this background I have some more critical remarks and comments. Firstly, the analysis on the critical situation in Africa should be the basis of the Programme of Work and Budget in FAO.

It is difficult to see how the document before us corresponds with the Programme of Work and Budget. Furthermore, as my delegation has said in Commission II, it is difficult to understand policy direction of this budget.

Secondly, the critical situation in Africa calls for cooperation. It calls for cooperation between FAO and other UN bodies. It calls for cooperation between FAO and the bilateral assistance organizations. This important question is, in my view, not really analyzed in the documents. It is not analyzed in such a way that it is possible to discuss how to develop an efficient division of labour between FAO, other UN bodies, and bilateral organizations.

My delegation will propose the questions I have mentioned to be included in the future work in FAO.

Vincent MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to express our condolences to the Colombian Delegation with respect to the catastrophe which took place in that country, and we would like to state how much we appreciate the rapid response which has been received through the Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme.

Trinidad and Tobago is very concerned about the African food situation. We have examined the Document C 85/20 and have observed the serious economic problems which, in part, have led to some of the agricultural problems facing the African countries. This, together with drought, has been a serious problem and we appreciate the work which FAO has done in assisting these countries to rally towards self-sufficiency and increase agricultural production.

We think that the prospects for economic growth and agricultural development in Africa are on the increase or are improving. We feel that it is imperative for all developing countries in Africa and countries like ours, to introduce and promote policies and programmes directed towards self-sufficiency and the strengthening of our domestic food production. We think that a strong domestic market is sacrosanct to the development of self-sufficiency. It must be structured to provide an institutional framework for infrastructural services from production to the pinnacles of consumption. We think that with the injection of food aid this must be followed by the injection of projects, technology, and research that will lay the foundation for the improvement of agriculture in these countries.

We would like to take this opportunity to give our support to the recent initiative by the OAU and FAO to adopt special programmes for the rehabilitation of food in Africa.

Turning to the export agriculture, we think that we have seen the paralyzing effect of external economic forces on the economies of Africa which have led to serious dislocations in the economy and have resulted in decreases in their export agricultural trade. We think what is needed at this time is an agricultural pricing policy which would revise present world market prices and provide these countries with better market prices to assist them in promoting external agricultural trade.

We also think that there is a need to reduce protectionism by way of trade liberalization through the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade. Further, we think that it is important for further capital to be injected into these economies to fuel economic recovery and to increase their agricultural production.

Peter M. AMUKOA (Kenya): May I also express our deep felt sympathy for the people of Colombia in the disaster which has caused the loss of thousands of lives and property. It is our hope that the rest of the international community will respond as fast as FAO and WFP has done.

The analysis of the African food and economic situation is very clear, and I shall not repeat it because of lack of time. Even for those countries that are said to be in a food surplus position today, there seems to be no assurance that they will continue to enjoy this status. It will be remembered that many external and domestic resources have been poured into the agricultural sector in Africa and into food production. The outcome of this has been a deterioration of the food situation even in those countries which have the environmental conditions for rapid agricultural development.

Something must be wrong somewhere. It looks as though we have not fully appreciated the causes, tenacity and dimensions of their problems because the solutions all of us have attempted so far should have borne some fruits, those of long-lasting food security. Africa needs a sound strategy with concrete and direct action. Because of appeals for short statements, I will mention only three elements of such a strategy that are required for African agricultural development, with emphasis only on the food security aspect.

It must earmark increased assistance for food production. There has to be increased purchasing power both at the country and individual levels to insure importation of shortfalls and to create consumer accessibility to supplies. Any sound strategy for Africa has to include the development of appropriate farming systems that work in harmony with the natural and human environment so that adequate food is produced, incomes are generated, and employment is created as more young and educated people become attracted to farm work and rural life.

For such systems to be developed, there needs to be multi-disciplinary problem-solving research based on local experience and local manpower development. This will lead to a process of developing local solutions to local problems. It will also lead to an increase in local project-implementation capacity that will equip farmers with the tools to understand their circumstances so that they can exploit them to the maximum. It is therefore fitting for me to congratulate those who help Africa in training programmes at high and low levels, in the development of systems, and in the building of institutions because this is helping to strengthen the framework in which investment in agriculture and production can be made and sustained.

In my country attention is being directed to appropriate technology, effective extension, broadening of productive base, prompt payment for farm produce deliveries, adequate storage and good prices for the producers, among others. My Government welcomes the Director-General's additional efforts in helping us purchase surplus produce from farmers so that we can pay them in time and maintain their motivation. The food strategy will also have to take trade into account. African nations should be given free access to international markets in order to earn foreign exchange to finance their own programmes. In Africa itself there is tremendous potential for marketing local agricultural and industrial products. These countries should exploit that potential that exists among themselves, including possibilities for better trade. African countries also substantially consume and import products from developed countries. They hold, therefore, the lives, well-being and prosperity of millions of workers in the developed countries in their hands. The materials that they produce are of strategic importance to the developed countries, so when African trade focuses on the developed world, fair prices should be paid for its commodities. Yet this is not usually the case.

This brings me to my last point, the commonly talked about population growth rates. Something must be done to manage the runaway population growth rates. It must be managed in Africa not because it is the most populous continent. Population growth rates must be managed now because if the demographic explosion gets out of control, we will be forced to use measure which will cause social discontent in our Nations. We should not be misled by the vast expanses of unexploited and unexplored land in Africa. We in Africa have to accept that with improved medical care and nutrition, many children and old people will survive. Population objectives must therefore be incorporated in rural development programmes in inculcating the importance of managing population growth rates. As the leading agency in food and agricultural production, FAO, with other organizations, should find ways of incorporating population objectives in its rural development programmes. In Kenya we are trying our best to slow that growth rate, but it is not an easy task as the energies of our people are really abundant.

In conclusion, if we want to find solutions to the hunger problem the international community should more than double its action regarding the food problem. More political will and more sacrifices are therefore required, nationally and internationally, for those who will create the right atmosphere and climate for our good farmers to engage more seriously in the farm business, to produce food and eliminate hunger in their families and in our nation. We thank FAO for the contribution to our development, and also all others.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate from Kenya. That brings us to the last speaker for the morning, but before we adjourn I would like just to review the list of speakers for the afternoon and give the Secretary a few minutes to make an announcement. The next speakers immediately after lunch will be Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Panama, Canada, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Australia, Cuba, India, United Kingdom, Israel, France, Portugal, Argentina, Bangladesh, Japan, Thailand, Sudan, Colombia, Federal Republic of Germany, Benin, El Salvador, New Zealand, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, China, Turkey, United States of America, Tunisia, Egypt, Zambia, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Tanzania, Costa Rica, Sweden, the Observer from OECD, Austria, Ghana, Denmark and Angola. I think that is all for the time being. Before we adjourn, I would like to give the Secretary a chance to make an announcement.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I have been asked to announce that RAI, the Italian Radio Television, has generously arranged a concert in honour of delegates attending this Twenty-third Session of the Conference. The concert will take place on Saturday, 16 November. That is tomorrow night at 20.45 hours in the RAI Auditorium at the Foro Italico, which is located near the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Lungotevere near the Ponte Milvio Bridge. The programme will be one of symphonic music by well-known composers Respighi, Debussy and Beethoven, and directed by one of the world's top orchestral directors, Georges Prêtre. Invitations to the concert will be distributed in the course of the day to all delegations. Attendance by Ministers and whether they are to be accompanied by wives or family members is requested so that special seating may be arranged. Two invitations will be distributed to each delegation. If additional tickets are desired, they may be requested from Mrs Aliara who is in room A-145. That is the first floor of this building, extension 4512. It is pointed out that each ticket allows entrance for one person. Those attending the concert will need to provide their own transportation.

CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn, may I appeal to you to come back on time at 2.30. We have started late in the morning, and we have a long list of speakers, so please come back at 2.30 sharp.

The meeting rose at 12.55 hours

La séance est levée 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

C

C 85/I/PV/4

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

FOURTH MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE  
CUARTA SESION  
(15 November 1985)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15.05 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 h 05  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15.05 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión

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 ALIMENTACION  
(continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.2. Critical Situation in Africa (continued)

7.2. situation critique de l'Afrique (suite)

7.2. Situación crítica en Africa (continuación)

KASSAYE DERESEH (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian Delegation has gone through the document "The Critical Situation in Africa", which is very well documented and clearly outlined by the Secretariat on the current African food and agriculture situation. I, therefore, would like to indicate our due regards to the Secretariat and its staff for their contributions in preparing such an informative document.

In general I do not have much to say in elaboration of the document, as it was clearly indicated that Africa continues to be faced with economic and financial difficulties of major proportion and complexity. The devastating effects of the drought have underlined the limited resource base. However, I should like to give an account of the Ethiopian situation in brief.

Ethiopia is one of the two countries hardest hit by the drought in Africa. The prospects for some of these countries are favourable and are indicated as being normal, or even surplus in a few countries. However, some still need exceptional massive assistance, one of which is Ethiopia.

In the last three years drought was most disastrous. It was during these years that hundreds of thousands of people failed to harvest even a single crop; much livestock perished, causing death and displacement of people.

As has been indicated in paragraph 24 of the document, this year the weather has been favourable in most parts of the country. However, the agricultural activities were hampered by several adverse factors in many regions, including the famine-struck areas. There was a critical shortage of improved seeds, oxen, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, in some areas, even if everything was quite all right for the growth and development of crops, the problem of pest outbreaks and hailstorm damage appeared to be serious.

The food prospect in the pastoral areas is as bad as in the cropping areas, especially in the pastoral areas of the northern regions because of lack of rain. Since the pastoralists have lost their cattle, it will take a long time to recover fully and to become self-sufficient in food.

As everyone knows, rain alone does not determine production. The land must be prepared ahead of time, and there must be adequate seed, drought animals, implements, fertilizer, pesticides, etc. in the country. These were the major bottlenecks when this year's main season started, particularly in those regions affected by famine. As a result of this situation, production prospects did not improve much and the market situation did not change. The country is still not expected to produce enough. Existing food shortages will continue for the remainder of 1985 and 1986. Hence the crisis will continue. Emergency assistance for the remaining part of 1985 and 1986 is required and this could be a short-term programme alleviating some problems.. We would like to indicate our commitment to and determination in the development of agriculture and food self-sufficiency as a measure for a long-term solution.

For Ethiopia to break out successfully from its recurrent cycles of drought and their appalling effects on the people concerned, massive investment is needed in programmes of rehabilitation and development, such as agricultural input of packages, soil and water conservation,

afforestation, irrigation, water supply, resettlement and restocking, etc. Although it is expected that the number of people who will be affected may increase this year, first reports of our early warning system have indicated that 5.8 million people will need emergency assistance in 1986. This number may change if any abnormalities occur in the country.

It is in this context that we should like to see the coordinated efforts of the international community for the agricultural rehabilitation programme of Ethiopia which was prepared with the assistance of FAO and was presented to donors on January 30, 1985, and which will have a role in achieving some of our aspired objectives.

Our due regards to those international organizations and countries who responded favourably to this request and we should like to indicate our interest in seeing more responses to those projects which are not yet covered. At the same time, we should also like to see some adjustments made by Member countries which are faced with projects that are responded to by other countries in considering the other agricultural rehabilitation projects.

I am sure that the problems of agriculture and food production are not beyond the means and knowhow of the international community if a joint and coordinated effort is directed towards solving these problems to liquidate hunger and starvation from the face of the earth.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation est très heureuse, Monsieur le Président, que vous présidiez la session de travail de cette très importante Commission et nous affrontons maintenant le document très important sur la situation critique en Afrique. D'emblée, permettez-moi de remercier vivement le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Saouma, de la présentation magistrale qu'il a faite ce matin et de son intervention très claire.

L'Afrique a besoin d'une aide qui guérit le mal et non celle que marque la douleur sans agir sur les causes ayant engendré ce mal. Je soutiens, j'appuie la déclaration du Ministre du Congo à la plénière. Comme l'a dit le Directeur général l'aide alimentaire est certes très importante mais le redressement de notre économie particulièrement l'économie agricole en est la base; c'est le futur de la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique.

D'emblée, je me permets de dire que notre délégation est tout à fait d'accord avec les propositions de ce document C 85/20 car elles reflètent les préoccupations majeures de la dernière réunion ministérielle des pays africains à Harare, la fameuse Déclaration de Harare, et elle a répondu également aux préoccupations des chefs d'Etat lors du dernier sommet de l'OUA à Addis-Abeba. Par conséquent, nous constatons avec beaucoup de plaisir que la FAO et son Directeur général suivent comme toujours les problèmes africains de très près et tiennent compte des préoccupations des dirigeants et responsables africains.

A notre avis, c'est un point extrêmement important. J'ai très bien dit que les initiatives de l'OUA ont été prises en considération par le Directeur général de la FAO. Nous voulons aussi soulever un point très important, c'est l'étude de la situation agricole et alimentaire du continent africain menée par la FAO qui a tenu compte des préoccupations de nos pays et de nos dirigeants.

La délégation de mon pays attache beaucoup d'importance au sommet de l'OUA. Elle pense que ce sommet, unique en son genre, a démontré à l'opinion publique internationale la conscience politique de nos dirigeants africains, des responsables africains, mais aussi exhorte sans doute l'opinion internationale par les voies multilatérale et bilatérale à apporter une juste aide, pas simplement l'aide alimentaire mais l'aide agricole en moyens de production, en formation et c'est là où nous pensons que la FAO, qui a toujours joué un rôle important, doit continuer à étendre l'aide de l'Organisation.

Vous savez qu'il y a eu un projet de résolution qui a été présenté à New York à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies par le Groupe africain. La résolution demande que l'Assemblée générale organise une session spéciale sur la situation économique alimentaire en Afrique à moyen et long terme. Ma délégation tient à affirmer que, tenant compte de l'expérience unique de la FAO en ce qui concerne l'alimentation et l'agriculture, que notre Organisation doit non seulement être associée, mais doit jouer un rôle décisif pendant la préparation et l'exécution des objectifs prévus sur l'Afrique.

Nous tenons aussi à dire, comme l'a dit mon collègue du Congo, que le Groupe africain a présenté à cette auguste assemblée une résolution sur la situation critique de l'alimentation en Afrique. Nous demandons à tous nos amis d'appuyer cette résolution.

Permettez-moi de dire quelques mots sur la situation dans mon pays. Dans ce document on a cité le Cap-Vert comme l'un des pays qui déjà aura besoin d'une aide alimentaire d'urgence.

Je tiens à affirmer que notre pays, le Cap-Vert, est frappé par une sécheresse malheureusement sans précédent dans son histoire, et que nous avons demandé au Directeur général de la FAO d'envoyer dans les meilleurs délais une mission de professionnels agricoles. Nous sommes très heureux et remercions d'une réponse prompte la FAO. Cette mission est un acheminement vers le Cap-Vert et donnera un rapport détaillé de la situation de la production agricole en général et fournira les éléments nécessaires à la FAO et aux pays amis, pour faire face à la situation où le Cap-Vert se trouve. Avant de terminer, j'aimerais bien appuyer ce qu'a dit mon collègue du Congo en ce qui concerne la situation en Afrique australe, particulièrement dans les pays voisins de l'Afrique du Sud qui malgré leurs efforts et leur volonté politique sont attaqués, dont les frontières sont continuellement violées par le régime de l'apartheid. Nous voulons que cette Commission prenne note que lorsqu'un pays est constamment attaqué et violé, il doit protéger ses frontières et ne peut pas se consacrer uniquement à son agriculture. J'aimerais bien attirer l'attention de cette assemblée sur ce point important et appuyer sans réserve ce qu'a dit l'honorable délégué du Congo.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Permítame manifestarle que a nuestra delegación le complace verle presidir nuestros debates. De igual manera, señor Presidente, felicitamos a la Secretaría por la elaboración del documento sometido a nuestra consideración así como al Director General por la presentación del tema y por la movilización que realiza en la búsqueda de soluciones a la crisis africana.

La delegación de Panamá, al revisar el documento C 85/20 relativo a la evolución de la situación de la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa, desea manifestar su complacencia con los señalamientos favorables en cuanto al estado de emergencia en los países afectados al Sur del Sahara.

Diversos párrafos del mismo, indican que el abastecimiento de alimentos ha mejorado considerablemente y que en muchos de los 21 países se ha vuelto a la normalidad.

A la vez que felicitamos a los gobiernos y pueblos de Africa por el esfuerzo realizado, debemos hacer un aparte para la Organización que con tanto esmero y dedicación ha contribuido a este mejoramiento, así como a los países donantes por su buena voluntad y pronta respuesta.

En diversas ocasiones, al analizar este tema, hemos considerado necesaria y urgente la ayuda alimentaria de emergencia, y como una fórmula para mejorar y aliviar la situación. Sin embargo, deseamos reiterar nuestra posición de que, paralelamente a la misma, es indispensable que la crisis se enfrente con medidas a largo plazo, y tendientes a solucionar de raíz los problemas estructurales que aquejan a esa región del continente africano.

En tal sentido, deseamos resaltar los aspectos recogidos en el punto sexto del documento C 85/20, titulado: "Iniciativas recientes de la Organización de la Unidad Africana y la FAO", en especial los párrafos 50, 51 y 52 que plantean los esfuerzos que se realizan, tanto a nivel de la Organización Regional como en el de la FAO, a fin de lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria del continente; esfuerzos que también deben encaminarse, como se sugiere en el párrafo 119 en el documento C 85/2, a prestar asistencia para que el Africa vecina adopte modelos propios de desarrollo, basados en las culturas e historia africanas y ajustados a las condiciones del Continente.

Observamos también que el análisis que nos presenta la Secretaría, tanto en el documento C 85/20 como en el C 85/2, existen otros factores que afectan y que han hecho más difícil la situación interna del Africa. Los bajos precios de las exportaciones tradicionales, los elevados tipos de interés para el pago de la deuda, y el estancamiento de la afluencia de recursos financieros en condiciones de favor, han traído como consecuencia, un deterioro del rendimiento agrícola de la Región y han también contribuido a su disminución.



Cierto, es, señor Presidente, que la Declaración de Harare de 1984, reconoce que los gobiernos africanos son los responsables del desarrollo agrícola de sus pueblos, y por lo tanto, toca a los propios países africanos prever las medidas tendientes al mejoramiento de este sector. Sin embargo, igualmente la Comunidad Internacional tiene su parte de responsabilidad y se hace imperativo que la enfrente mediante la aplicación de medidas que permitan la realización de un cambio en las relaciones Norte/Sur, así como un deseo manifiesto y conjunto en el que predomine el espíritu de la cooperación, la justicia y la equidad, que facilite un progreso coordinado de la producción y la recuperación económica.

J. STONE (Canada): The economic figures presented by the Director-General do not give a promising picture for the future of Africa, in spite of the turnaround of the food harvests in most African countries this year. As has been pointed out by the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa and other bodies, if the present trends continue, per capita income in Africa will continue to decline well into the next century. Though the emergency in Africa is not over, better harvests this year have given some room to manoeuvre. Now is the time to prepare for long-term recovery.

There are good signs for hope in that African governments have drawn up several regional plans for action which recognize the linkage of many elements which have to be combined to reverse the present situation. In particular, the recent OAU Summit made several very positive recommendations to be taken by African governments themselves, including increased investment in agriculture. Similarly, developed countries have responded generously, both bilaterally and multilaterally. Overall, in 1985/86, Canada's total ODA to Africa will reach \$850 million, and Canada has contributed \$100 million to the World Bank's Special Facility. Total ODA to Sub-Saharan Africa has reached 5 percent of the GNP of that region in recent years.

I will keep my intervention short. Africa still is in a dangerous situation, both on a human and an economic level. As much as Africa's agony has been a consequence of climatic and ecological phenomena, as much as the response must include heavy flows of investment and other measures of a national and international character. We understand both the problems and the ultimate solutions to be preeminently structural. Climatic downturns will come and go, and flows of international assistance may well remain uneven, but unless we build effective policies and institutions focussed on the medium- to long-term, we may have to resign ourselves to endless ad hoc emergency responses.

In the interests of brevity, I would like to concentrate on two aspects of this structural problem, that of coordination, and that of national policy leadership.

Already there exist many plans of action for African development formulated by many organizations.' Many of these plans have substantial funds. I reinforce the calls of many interventions in the plenary by calling for closer and improved coordination among all these different plans and funds which are, after all, geared to tackling essentially the same problem. Such a coordination would have the triple benefits of reducing duplication, encouraging a synergistic and mutually reinforcing cooperation, and providing a necessary focus of action. In particular the FAO should work more closely with other agencies under the aegis of the UNDP round tables, and the World Bank Consultative Group, as well as with bilateral donors. Similarly, at a time of scarce resources throughout the world, this type of approach will result in a substantial improvement of aid delivery, which could be effectively coupled with African nations. Needless to say, aid and assistance must complement national policy and be integrated into country development plans.

Canada has already put its money where its mouth is. We have contributed to better coordination through support of the UNDP round tables, the World Bank Consultative Groups and contributions to the Office of Emergency Operations for Africa. These organisms serve as the good example of better coordination, but more remains to be done either through strengthening these units or reinforcing established UN agencies to better handle the coordinating role for African long-term development.

The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, is featured in the current FAO publication "CERES". This focus is on the development of a coherent domestic policy framework within developing countries which would reinforce and maximize existing resources and provide a rational framework for development. Whether these policy developments are in agricultural price policies, or in

re-thinking national subsidy programmes, this is not a new approach, but one which is gaining currency. The FAO could well play a substantial role in providing such advice on this policy matter. Of course, such policy development is ultimately the responsibility of African governments, as they have well recognized.

These two themes, long-term better aid coordination and improved and coherent national policy are important, and if conscientiously followed would do much to help Africa help itself in the difficult years ahead.

I am pleased to report that the Canadian Minister for External Relations has just announced that we will contribute an additional \$250 000 to the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa. This is in addition to over \$1 million in contributions to the United Nations coordination effort in Africa since the beginning of the crisis.

D. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun se joint à son tour à tous les orateurs qui l'ont précédée et exprime sa profonde compassion à la délégation colombienne pour la catastrophe qui vient de frapper cruellement son peuple. Nous espérons que devant cette dure épreuve la communauté internationale ne tardera pas à réagir de façon prompte pour venir en aide aux populations sinistrées.

M. le Président, je serai bref. Puisque la délégation camerounaise prend la parole pour la première fois au sein de cette commission, je me fais un devoir de vous adresser nos vives félicitations pour votre élection.

Nous nous félicitons de l'excellente présentation du sujet soumis au débat par le Directeur général qui, par une analyse concise mais très fouillée, donne une image claire du drame alimentaire dans ses différentes composantes que vit l'Afrique.

L'étude du document dégage le haut niveau des responsabilités et la dimension des initiatives que la FAO a prises depuis près de dix ans pour sensibiliser à la fois la communauté internationale et les gouvernements africains sur les imminentes menaces de la dégradation du processus de la production alimentaire et agricole qui pesait sur la région et qui devait évoluer ces dernières années en une situation de crise qui nous préoccupe.

Beaucoup de délégués l'ont déjà souligné, la crise alimentaire que connaît actuellement notre région résulte certes de la sécheresse, mais procède surtout de la non-performance du secteur agricole, dont le poids sur nos économies est considérable.

La constante régression alimentaire enregistrée dans la plupart des cas est liée à une série de contraintes sociales, techniques et économiques qui, entre autres, apparaissent dans les systèmes de la gestion des terres et des eaux, dans l'inorganisation des structures de production et dans l'impact encore limité de la recherche agronomique sur l'appareil national de production alimentaire.

Il est établi que le secteur agricole occupe, en l'état actuel des choses, près de 80 pour cent' de la population active de la région, sinon plus, et, pour l'ensemble des pays concernés, 60 pour cent de la population totale vivent au-dessous du seuil de la pauvreté absolue.

Ces deux données simples dégagent l'image réelle de l'état de misère désolante et de la sous-alimentation qui reste le lot des masses.

Il est évident que cette année, du fait des conditions météorologiques favorables, les récoltes s'annoncent globalement bonnes; mais cette tendance de la reprise de la croissance de la production alimentaire se maintiendra-t-elle à plus long terme?

C'est pour cette raison que la délégation camerounaise appuie sans réserve le Programme de redressement de la culture en Afrique que la FAO a lancé. Nous nous félicitons des efforts louables déployés par le Directeur général en direction de la réalisation de ce programme qui a déjà bénéficié, comme on le sait, et dans des délais records, du support financier à partir de

ressources provenant des économies réalisées dans le budget ordinaire de l'Organisation, d'une part, et d'autre part, des concours des pays donateurs, des agences de financement, du système des Nations Unies, des organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales, à qui nous tenons à exprimer nos sentiments de sincère gratitude pour cette prompte sollicitude.

Notre souhait est que cet élan se maintienne et s'amplifie davantage car tout en reconnaissant la pertinence de l'aide alimentaire dans la situation difficile qui prévaut dans notre région, nous estimons que par cette approche la FAO et les donateurs ont confirmé l'idée que nous nous faisons de la sécurité alimentaire et qui consiste à considérer la réhabilitation des capacités productives au niveau des pays comme un préalable.

A ce sujet, notre délégation souhaite vivement que dans cette lancée la création, au niveau des pays, de stocks nationaux ou de stocks à vocation régionale de sécurité alimentaire, retienne l'attention de notre Conférence.

Mme L. OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): Permettez-moi d'abord, M. le Président, de féliciter le Secrétariat pour ce document bien présenté et de remercier le Directeur général pour tous les efforts qu'il fournit au profit de l'Afrique, notamment pour ses appels répétés depuis 1983 pour attirer l'attention de la communauté internationale sur la situation critique en Afrique.

La délégation va essayer d'être assez brève.

Nous sommes d'accord sur ce qui est dit dans le document, mais quelques remarques s'imposent; notamment, j'aurais deux petites remarques à faire: '

En ce qui concerne la page 8, paragraphe 26, ma délégation est d'accord pour ce qui est développé en ce qui concerne l'aide d'urgence, voire les problèmes hélas malheureux que l'on rencontre souvent dans la distribution de l'aide d'urgence dans les pays sinistrés, à telle enseigne que l'urgence de l'aide perd son sens. Et nous en arrivons souvent à des situations très fâcheuses.

Je voudrais donner l'exemple du Burkina Faso où, cette année, l'aide d'urgence a tellement traîné qu'elle est arrivée au moment même où les premières pluies tombaient, compliquant davantage l'acheminement des vivres vers les zones sinistrées du pays; et nous nous retrouvons en début de récolte (je précise que cette année par bonheur nous jouissons aussi de la bonne récolte) avec à la fois des vivres de l'aide d'urgence et des récoltes. Ce problème est assez important, surtout quand on sait aussi que se pose à nous un problème de stockage.

Le second point concerne la page 10 sur le programme même de redressement de l'Afrique ou plutôt le redressement de l'agriculture en Afrique. La délégation du Burkina Faso approuve et appuie ce programme de redressement dont son pays est bénéficiaire. Au Burkina, le gouvernement avait déjà lancé un programme populaire de développement conçu à la fois dans le contexte d'une urgence découlant de la sécheresse, et dans le cadre d'une stratégie de développement planifiée à long terme, indispensable pour aboutir à une économie indépendante et autosuffisante. Ce programme populaire, basé sur la participation active de populations à travers l'expression de leurs besoins et de leur propre mobilisation, est l'amorce d'une oeuvre de reconstruction et de développement dont l'agriculture est le modèle.

Aussi la délégation du Burkina Faso pense-t-elle que les efforts de réflexion pour la conception du programme de redressement de l'agriculture pour les 20 pays sinistrés de l'Afrique sont louables. Mais il faut maintenant que tout soit mis en oeuvre pour permettre l'exécution réelle et rapide de ces programmes. La réalisation, nous l'espérons, de ces programmes devrait permettre d'apporter un début de solution aux préoccupations premières des masses rurales, en particulier des produits agricoles.

Nous allons nous arrêter là en soutenant les idées développées par les délégations du Congo et du Cap-Vert, ainsi que ce qui concerne les pays de l'Afrique australe face à l'apartheid.

M.A. COMMINS (Australia): We would like to join with others expressing to the Colombian Delegation our sorrow and deep regret over the calamity caused by the earthquake in their country.

The document before us today describes in graphic detail the gravity of the food and agricultural situation in Africa. It is a very real concern to all of us that in a little less than a decade Sub-Saharan African has moved from being an exporter of food to a significant net importer. Along with other related documents being discussed during the Conference, the paper outlines the main reasons for the crisis and generally prescribes what needs to be done to work towards overcoming it. In this regard, we are unable to associate ourselves with the general scenario advocated by the delegate from Czechoslovakia. Bearing in mind your request, time won't allow us to make a detailed rejoinder.

There are, of course, no easy solutions to the root causes of Africa's problems. We accept that they require a whole array of complex and often interrelated actions, both at national and international levels. As emphasized in the Lagos Plan of Action and the Harare Declaration, many of the agreed solutions to the crisis require special efforts and policy decisions by African countries themselves without recourse to external assistance, if the very worrying long-term declines in per capita food and agricultural production and per capita food consumption are to be arrested. Favourable weather conditions will, of course, continue to be a major determinant in influencing the future level of agricultural production in Africa. This is strikingly illustrated by the substantial and very welcome recovery of food production in most of the 21 adversely affected countries.

As noted this morning by the Director-General in his excellent review, provisional FAO estimates indicate that these countries' food aid needs will be half of their 1984-85 level. Australia will exchange wheat for white maize in Zimbabwe to meet food aid needs in neighbouring countries. We are also investigating similar exchange arrangements with other food-surplus African countries, WFP is playing a major role in facilitating these transactions.

Australia is the only developed country with extensive areas of subtropical land and shares with Africa many environmental features, including low rainfall, soil erosion, low fertility and water storage. In responding to Africa's needs, there are, of course, practical limits to what we can do. While Australia will continue to respond to the immediate needs through emergency assistance, we see our best opportunity for bringing about change to long-term development through strengthened multilateral agencies and better coordination among the international donor community, notably the World Bank, IDA and the World Food Programme. In 1985-86, Australia's bilateral assistance programme to Africa will be directed to those sectors, particularly in the area of food security in which Australia has a particular capacity to contribute. In this way, we hope to maximize the impact of our assistance in improving the food situation by rehabilitating agriculture in Africa.

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiera en primer lugar, Sr. Presidente a nombre de la delegación de Cuba, aunque ya lo hemos hecho personalmente al gobierno, expresar nuestra condolencia al pueblo de Colombia por la catástrofe natural que lo azota.

Mi delegación ha analizado con gran interés el documento C 85/20 que nos ha preparado la Secretaría a fin de actualizarnos en lo que se refiere a la presente situación alimentaria en Africa y que el Director General nos presentara en la mañana de hoy con suma claridad.

Según se expresa en el Capítulo II del documento, los países en desarrollo de Africa siguen afrontando dificultades económicas y financieras de grandes proporciones y complejidad, calificándose de modesta y de escaso relieve la recuperación del crecimiento de la producción y los ingresos derivados de las exportaciones conseguidos en 1984, si se compara con la grave situación sufrida desde 1981 hasta 1983.

Asimismo la falta de divisas y lo elevado de la deuda externa que a corto plazo en los países africanos en desarrollo ha aumentado de unos 10.400 millones de dólares en 1980 a 18.300 millones en 1984, unido a la imposición de las restricciones a las importaciones, han afectado a los programas de inversión y a las subvenciones de bienes de consumo y los medios de producción.

Mi delegación apoya todas las acciones que se tomen en favor de solucionar la situación económica y alimentaria del continente africano, lo cual incluye, como es lógico, la rehabilitación de su agricultura, y a lo cual Cuba ha contribuido de acuerdo con sus modestas posibilidades, pero con un alto espíritu solidario. La responsabilidad de la humanidad con el continente africano es total, específicamente aquellos que tienen una gran responsabilidad histórica en el atraso de ese continente al que han sometido a siglos de explotación y saqueo de sus valiosos recursos naturales, y a prácticas de colonialismo, racismo y apartheid.

Quisiera expresar la complacencia de mi delegación por la forma en que se está llevando a cabo la labor de la FAO en la rehabilitación de la agricultura africana en estrecha coordinación con los gobiernos de los países necesitados. Consideramos que el reconocimiento que África le da a la FAO por el liderazgo que tiene para implementar sus proyectos de rehabilitación de la agricultura y para coordinar los programas de esta materia, en los cuales no existe otra experiencia organizada y acumulada en un cuerpo especializado de funcionarios como tiene la FAO para paliar una situación crítica como la de África, es muy acertado.

Mi delegación expresa su apoyo a los cuatro aspectos prioritarios que se señalan en el párrafo 30 del documento y que han sido identificados por la FAO y por los gobiernos africanos. Estamos convencidos de que como expresara el Director General en la reunión sobre la Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en África además de semillas y herramientas, los hombres y mujeres debilitados que producen los alimentos prefieren los incentivos derivados de una política de equidad.

K.N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): At the outset, we should like to associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed in this Commission with the tragedy in Colombia. We should like to express our most sincere sympathies to the Colombian delegation in their hour of distress.

I should like to congratulate the Director-General on his lucid introduction this morning. He has given a graphic account of the situation in Africa and also of the steps taken by FAO to relieve distress and to rehabilitate the agricultural system in the African continent.

African countries are faced with a number of structural problems. There are also infrastructure problems. Problems of debt and terms of trade are before them. Their export earnings are stagnant. Their exports are affected by the protectionism practiced by a number of countries. In this context, it is necessary to have a massive investment programme in African agriculture. They require not only international assistance, but also international understanding. Their exports will have to be given special treatment. They will have to be given preferential treatment so that they can improve their export earnings. The structural problems faced by the African countries should be sorted out before any meaningful scheme for rehabilitation of agriculture in the African continent is worked out.

There are short-term and long-term approaches to this problem. In the short-term, the approach should be to relieve distress and also to avoid starvation. It is necessary to see that the immediate distress is taken care of and that there is no starvation. In the long run, it is necessary to rehabilitate agriculture. The rehabilitation planned should concentrate more on food production through small and marginal farmers. They are vulnerable sections and they should be given necessary assistance to improve their production and productivity. It is also necessary to take action to improve and conserve resources in the form of soil and water. Infrastructure facilities have to be built.

It is also necessary to build up institutions in the African countries which can take up work relating to the distribution of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Agricultural research institutions also should be developed. There is a need for active research, because the information available in the research stations should be suitably modified, should be suitably adapted, so that it becomes relevant to the African situation. It is also necessary to provide proper training of experts and also managers in the agricultural field. Without proper training, it would not be possible to take up any meaningful programme for rehabilitation of agriculture in the African continent.

I would also suggest that we should take proper price support measures and procurement operations. Unless the producer is assured of a remunerative price, he will not have the incentive to improve agricultural production or productivity.

We are confident that food aid can play a crucial role in improving the agricultural situation in the African continent. My delegation would urge that food aid should be used judiciously. If it is not used properly, food aid has the potential of destroying the agricultural system there. It can also destroy the institutions. Therefore we would urge that food aid should be used more judiciously for development purposes and also for building up infrastructure facilities and institutions.

I should like briefly to mention the assistance provided by the government of India to the African countries. We have a long history of close collaboration with the African countries. In the past five years, we have trained 139 African experts in various disciplines in agriculture. Out of these 139, 95 were trained to FAO programmes. We have deputed 76 experts in different agricultural fields to develop institutions to develop infrastructure facilities in the African countries. Our Prime Minister has already announced a gift of 100 000 tons of wheat to the five worst affected African countries. In July 1985, at the time of the OAU Summit, our Prime Minister announced an additional gift of wheat to the value of 120 million rupees. In the agricultural rehabilitation programme prepared by the FAO, we have chosen to depute 67 experts in 12 fields of agricultural development. These programmes are being finalized and we hope that our experts will reach the African countries in the near future.

My Minister, in his statement before the Plenary, gave an assurance that all our facilities in the training institutions, in agricultural universities, would be available to the experts and also managers from the African countries. They can make use of the facilities, and we would

welcome their involvement in our training programmes and facilities. We are also planning to set up a national institute for disaster management. We feel that we have sufficient experience in managing drought and floods and other natural calamities. We feel that our experience in disaster management will be relevant to the African countries. We have also attempted a drought-proofing of our agriculture, and our experience in this field is at the disposal of the African countries. We would welcome their sending their experts or their people concerned with drought management to our national institutes so that they can study our experience and profit from it.

We would once again like to congratulate the Director-General on his active interest in the rehabilitation of agriculture. We would fully endorse the document C 85/20 and in particular Section 5 and Section 6, dealing with the agricultural rehabilitation programme in Africa and the recent initiatives by OAU and FAO.

J.R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): First of all, the delegation of the United Kingdom wishes to be associated with the Chairman's expression of sympathy to the government and people of Colombia.

The welcome return to more normal climatic conditions over much of Africa in 1985 must not be allowed to divert attention from the problems of food production that lie ahead. While population growth over the last 10-15 years in Africa has frequently been in excess of 3 percent per annum, per capita food production has been increasing only at a rate of between 1-2 percent per annum. World Bank projections suggest that the population in Sub-Saharan Africa will eventually stabilize at a level between five and eight times the current size; clearly even the lower of these estimates or indeed even half the lower estimate presents an alarming prospect for those responsible for ensuring food supply.

It is important that the international community is fully aware of the implications of this. Current studies undertaken by FAO on the relationship between land capability and population suggest that by the turn of the century a number of countries, including some unlikely to have any export earning potential, will go into permanent food deficit. Clearly, we have to start work now if we are to avert a further series of human catastrophes. The remarkable success of the green revolution in Asia and the Sub-Continent depends not only on fertilizer and improved varieties, but the availability of water. Apart from a few highly favoured areas, exploitable water resources in Africa are simply not sufficient to enable us to replicate the green revolution on that continent.

For the revival of fortunes in Africa, and in the longer-term in parts of Asia, we must therefore look to rainfed agriculture. At present our collective knowledge of the means of development of the semi-arid zones is inadequate. Research over the past 20 years has not come up with proven packages which will enable these areas to provide a sustainable and adequate living for their population and it is questionable whether they can carry greatly increased populations. There is a pressing need to support and revitalize basic and adaptive research in these areas and we consider that FAO should use its data base to help identify those sectors in which research might yield rewards. Meanwhile, we consider that effort should be concentrated on increasing production in the areas of higher potential. Provided incentives are maintained, this should lead to an increase in food production, but to be effective and provide a measure of food security, storage and distribution problems have to be tackled at the same time.

Africa's diversity makes generalizations on priorities difficult, whether in terms of priorities for countries or ecological zones. Comparative advantage has to be exploited and this generally lies with tree crops in humid zones, annual food and non-food crops in sub-humid zones, adapted cropping in the more favoured semi-arid areas, and livestock in less favoured semi-arid and arid zones. Understandably, at present the emphasis is on food crops, but it would be unwise to neglect the value or importance of the role that cash crops can play in national economies and in providing foreign exchange to purchase additional food.

Development of the fragile ecologies of the arid and semi-arid zones has to be a cautious and sensitive process. Plans to increase food production in the short-term should not be made at the expense of long-term environmental stability. Multi-purpose forestry is likely to play an important role in the long-term development of these areas. We believe that FAO has the knowledge and expertise to help countries develop these zones in an appropriate manner and we hope such work will be given high priority in the programme.

We all await with interest FAO's in-depth study of the agricultural and food problems in Africa proposed by the Director-General at the Thirteenth FAO Regional Conference for Africa held at Harare in 1984 and referred to by the Director-General in his address this morning. We believe that the problems in Africa have been caused by a number of complicated social, climatic, economic and technical problems. We firmly believe that development aid and technical assistance can help lessen some of these problems, but in common with many African countries themselves, we recognize that the first step down the road to improved productivity is the adoption of sensible economic policies which provide incentives for the agricultural sector. Without these policies increased resources for agriculture will not resolve the present problems.

H. BAR-SHAI (Israel): First of all, I would like to express the sympathy and condolences of myself and the people of Israel to our Colombian colleagues, and to the people of Colombia on the terrible catastrophe that has befallen them. May this be the last of all disasters! Our Government will no doubt extend all possible help, as has always been our tradition.

And now to the matter in hand. The Director-General should be praised for his relentless efforts and initiatives in this respect. As we all know, and without entering into too many details, help from Israel was extended to the hungry people of Africa during the last drought. More help could have been given, but for reasons beyond the control of Israel. As has been mentioned the world should try to rebuild, and to prepare for another cycle of drought in order to reduce, if not prevent, its harsh effects. Again, the Secretariat should be commended for their excellent suggestions and plans as mentioned in document C 85/20.

Israel has dedicated some thought and research recently concerning this problem. We have been researching, for example, into the utilization of camel's milk. This research is being carried out in the Negev University in Beersheva. It turns out that camel's milk is a concentrated food rich in vitamins, and durable; it may have several curative characteristics, and may be produced under quite difficult conditions. Also in Israel there is a project for integrated development assistance for sub-Saharan districts which are suffering from famine distress. The main objectives of the project devised by the Centre for Agricultural Development and Cooperation in Israel are to design and manage an integrated programme for an improved food aid delivery system linked to land and water resource development, and the provision of basic health and community services.

The strategy is to reduce bulk food aid by manufacturing a food concentrate that can provide a food supplement of 1500 to 18,00 calories and 400 grammes intake per capita per day in the sub-region designated for development; secondly, to create a multipurpose service centre to provide for primary health and basic nutrition training; thirdly to develop surface and groundwater resources in order to provide safe drinking water and the possibility of growing crop grains for eventual inclusion and utilization in this food concentrate; fourthly material by undertaking adaptive research and to establish a seed multiplication farm; fifthly, to embark on a reforestation programme and establish a grass-roots extension programme linked to the supply of critical inputs for improved crop production. The required investment for the setting up of production and other facilities within this plan, as well as planning of technical assistance, is estimated at a cost of about \$11 million per programme, about half of which is for the setting up and supply of the food concentrate for 20,000 people over a two-year period. It is estimated that a period of three to four years is required for the execution of such a project.

Recipient governments are required, broadly speaking, to have joint identification and endorsement of the sub-region for the proposed action programme, full participation of technical and popular levels, land allocation for the proposed projects, the sale of concentrate food packs at fixed cost prices, support of community participatory reforestation and conservation programmes. The expected benefits are the provision of acceptable nutritional intakes for at least 10,000 families, the creation of an international market demand for about 10,000 tons of grain equivalent of indigenous crop production, a successful food aid delivery system which may open new approaches to the problem of assisting famine stricken sub-regions, the introduction of partially irrigated areas totalling about 1,000 hectares of rain-fed crops. Over a three or four year period, 5,000 to 7,000 hectares of degraded land can be revegetated and ameliorated; and the improvement of basic services, particularly and primarily health care, will make the sub-region self-sustaining with less dependence on emergency famine aid. We have already some proposals for manufacturing concentrated food, and there have been favourable comments on the quality of it.

As will be known, we now have first-class knowhow to execute plans of this kind. Being a small nation, to make a project materialize we need the cooperation of international bodies. We hope to get the cooperation of FAO as well as certain other countries to help us in making these plans materialize. Maybe the greatest reward for our modest contribution will be when we see that people in drought stricken areas are themselves able to get out of their misery through international cooperation.

Mlle L. AVON (France): La France s'associe aux sentiments de sympathie exprimés à la délégation de la Colombie. Elle fera tout ce qui est dans ses moyens pour aider la Colombie dans cette circonstance dramatique. Comme vous l'avez demandé, mon intervention sera brève, d'autant plus que la France, par la voix du Président de la République, a exprimé son analyse de la situation, ses convictions et ses propres actions pour contribuer à la résolution de difficultés auxquelles sont confrontés les pays africains. Je mentionnerai seulement, à titre de rappel et comme principale de ces difficultés, les contraintes extérieures qui pèsent sur les économies des pays en développement et particulièrement sur ceux de l'Afrique. Le niveau trop élevé des taux d'intérêts, l'anarchie des échanges internationaux et la montée du protectionnisme, l'effondrement des cours des matières premières. Prenant bien la mesure de telles contraintes pour des pays qui, accablés par le poids de leur dette, voient s'effriter leurs recettes d'exportation, je citerai seulement pour illustrer la gravité de cette évolution l'exemple du coton fibre dont le prix au kilo est passé de 14 fr. à moins de 8 fr. En cette période où le fonctionnement des accords internationaux de produits est durement éprouvé, il serait bien nécessaire que tous ceux qui en ont été les artisans ou les défenseurs redoublent d'efforts pour que l'équité et la solidarité l'emportent sur l'égoïsme et le repliement sur soi. L'Afrique est concernée au premier chef par les difficultés que je viens de mentionner, mais à celles-ci s'ajoutent les séquelles de la situation dramatique dont la communauté internationale a pris conscience avec encore plus d'acuité l'année dernière. Nous ne devons pas nous y tromper. La famine qu'ont connue les pays sahéliens et l'Afrique australe n'était pas seulement un phénomène conjoncturel. Elle a été un révélateur des difficultés structurelles que connaissent des systèmes agricoles de ces pays. Aussi devons-nous nous réjouir de ce que l'année 1985-86 s'annonce plus favorable pour les récoltes dans la plupart des pays touchés. Nous ne devons en aucun cas considérer que les problèmes sont résolus.



Monsieur le Directeur général l'a fortement rappelé ce matin en ouvrant les travaux de cette Commission. Le répit de cette année doit être mis à profit pour relancer réellement les agricultures. Bien entendu, de nombreuses preuves d'action sont déjà en cours. Les pays africains eux-mêmes prennent en charge ce problème en donnant complètement la priorité au développement agricole par la définition de politiques souvent orientées vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Les pays donateurs aussi appuient ces politiques par des aides appropriées, même si l'on peut regretter que le niveau de ces aides soit encore insuffisant.

Il y a quelques jours, le Conseil des ministres du développement des Communautés européennes a approuvé les orientations d'un plan de réhabilitation et de relance de l'agriculture pour l'Afrique qui devrait mobiliser 200 millions d'écus de la Communauté et de ses Etats Membres. Par ailleurs, je rappelle que plus des trois quarts du dixième du Fonds de développement depuis la troisième Conférence de Lomé seront consacrés aussi au développement rural.

La France, comme l'a rappelé le Président de la République, accorde et continuera à le faire, une priorité dans son aide au développement, aux actions de développement rural, à la recherche appliquée, à l'agriculture et à la formation. L'ensemble de ces actions constitue l'essentiel de l'aide de la France à l'Afrique qui s'élève à plus de 10 milliards de francs.

Pour l'avenir, il nous paraît essentiel que notre action, celle des donateurs bilatéraux comme celle des organisations multilatérales, se renforcent en étant guidées me semble-t-il par trois impératifs: tout d'abord, et d'autres orateurs l'ont mentionné, une coordination non seulement entre les donateurs, mais aussi, et je dirai surtout, avec les pays africains qui seuls sont responsables des politiques qu'ils définissent et qu'ils mettent en oeuvre.

Deuxièmement une augmentation des flux d'aide, qu'il s'agisse de l'aide bilatérale ou de l'aide multilatérale, une augmentation qui corresponde réellement pour chacun de nos pays à un effort en fonction de nos propres richesses.

Troisièmement, la recherche incessante d'une adéquation aussi parfaite que possible entre les besoins aux moments et aux lieux où ils se révèlent et la réponse de l'aide internationale.

A cet égard, je voudrais insister, comme l'a fait ce matin le Directeur général, sur l'importance qui s'attache aujourd'hui à aider les pays africains excédentaires à écouler leur production dans de bonnes conditions, à gérer leurs stocks. Sans cela nous serions conduits à accepter ce cycle infernal de la famine ou de l'aide d'urgence qui, pour résoudre des problèmes immédiats, ne ferait qu'aggraver la situation des populations. L'Afrique a de grandes capacités. Il est de notre responsabilité et même de notre intérêt d'être auprès d'elle, avec elle pour que toutes ces possibilités puissent pleinement se développer.

J.E. MENDES FERRÃO (Portugal) : M. le Président, ma délégation et moi-même nous associons à votre expression de sentiments pour la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur le peuple colombien.

D'autre part, je vous félicite pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission et je me réjouis de vous voir diriger nos travaux en connaisseur profond des problèmes de l'Afrique en souffrance.

Il y a longtemps que nous suivons avec une vive préoccupation la grave situation de carence alimentaire où l'Afrique a vécu depuis quelques années. Nous-mêmes, lors des contacts professionnels que nous avons avec quelques pays de ce continent, nous avons été témoins de situations véritablement dramatiques que des personnes vivant dans les pays développés, ayant à leur disposition tous les aliments nécessaires et tout l'argent pour les acquérir, peuvent difficilement imaginer.

Mais le continent africain traverse actuellement une période de profonde transformation, dans les domaines les plus divers, et ces modifications provoquent des désajustements, des crises alimentaires, des perturbations dans la circulation des produits, l'instabilité politique et sociale, préjudiciable à la fixation des populations et au développement du secteur productif.

Cette situation a été encore aggravée par des sécheresses anormalement prolongées, ou par des inondations catastrophiques qui entravent le développement des cultures, ou les détruisent. L'absence de moyens pour l'utilisation de pesticides se traduit par d'énormes dégâts provoqués par les maladies et les insectes; la conservation inexistante ou insuffisante de produits alimentaires, ne permet pas, dans les périodes d'abondance, de constituer des réserves pour les périodes de pénurie, où l'on en vient à manger les semences, ce qui affecte les superficies ensemencées dans les années suivantes.

La famine sévit un peu partout en Afrique et, pour divers motifs, seuls quelques pays ont accès ou droit aux moyens d'information, sans lesquels les ressources alimentaires de l'extérieur, ou bien ne leur parviennent pas, ou bien sont purement accidentelles.

Le document à l'étude C85/20 nous permet d'avoir une vision globale de la situation.

Nous ne pouvons manquer d'appuyer avec enthousiasme l'action réalisée par la FAO, par d'autres organisations internationales et par les divers pays développés dans le sens de sauver de la famine des millions d'êtres humains, un peu partout en Afrique, et spécialement là où les carences sont mieux connues.

Nous regrettons tous que les résultats positifs que l'on souhaiterait obtenir ne soient pas entièrement atteints, du fait que, dans la situation actuelle, il ne suffit pas de fournir les aliments mais qu'il faut encore les stocker et les distribuer, et tous ceux qui ont l'expérience de l'Afrique savent que ces dernières tâches sont peut-être plus difficiles que la première.

Mon pays est d'avis que ces actions doivent être encore renforcées et accompagnées de mesures complémentaires pour leur garantir le maximum d'efficacité. Et, à cet effet, doivent participer aussi bien les pays donateurs que les pays bénéficiaires.

Il est impressionnant de constater que les aliments attendent, au large de la côte, durant de longues périodes, faute de structures pour assurer leur débarquement, ou bien pourrissent au soleil ou à la pluie, faute d'installations de stockage, ou bien ne sont pas acheminés vers l'intérieur, faute de moyens de transport, et finissent par faire l'objet de tractations commerciales. Et tout ceci alors que la famine continue à sévir et que les agriculteurs se voient obligés d'abandonner leurs terres, à la recherche d'aliments en provenance de l'extérieur, aggravant ainsi la macro-céphalie des villes africaines, déjà, dans certains cas, impressionnante, alors que les champs sont abandonnés par ceux qui devraient les cultiver dans les années suivantes.

Les longues périodes de sécheresse et les inondations ont de tous temps sévi en Afrique, et ces phénomènes ne sont pas spécifiques du continent africain. Seulement, ici, et dans les circonstances actuelles, leurs effets sont plus catastrophiques, parce que les moyens pour les corriger sont en général inexistantes, embryonnaires, ou même inconnus.

Dans un esprit de solidarité, qu'il importe non seulement de préserver mais encore de renforcer, laissant de côté les différences de races, de religion, ou d'idéologies politiques, nous devons unir nos efforts pour sauver l'Afrique, et chacun de nous doit contribuer à cette oeuvre de salut, dans toutes la mesure de ses ressources, et jusqu'au sacrifice, si nécessaire.

Cependant, nous le savons tous, le problème de la famine en Afrique, dans ses racines les plus profondes, est un problème de développement. La dévastation des forêts, conséquence des feux et de l'agriculture itinérante, d'un faible rendement unitaire, est préoccupante. L'érosion, au dire de certains spécialistes, est un des plus graves problèmes de l'Afrique. La forêt a cessé de régulariser le cycle de l'eau. Les pentes sont dénudées, les vallées des fleuves ensablées.

Nous devons aider les Africains à tirer profit de leurs propres ressources, à les valoriser, à les conserver; nous devons leur fournir les aliments pour leur permettre de surmonter la crise qu'ils traversent, sans doute, mais aussi, et peut-être principalement, des machines, des semences améliorées, des engrais et des pesticides, des capitaux, et surtout des spécialistes des pays tropicaux, connaissant les conditions locales, et qui ne se limitent pas à transplanter sous les tropiques les systèmes de culture de leurs pays d'origine, qui conduisent parfois à des résultats désastreux.

Dans la majeure partie des pays africains, les terres ne sont pas encore rigoureusement délimitées, et, bien que dans la plupart des cas les terrains soient pauvres, ils sont potentiellement très productifs, grâce à d'autres caractéristiques écologiques, s'ils sont dûment fertilisés et irrigués et si les cultures sont protégées contre l'invasion des mauvaises herbes et les attaques des insectes et des maladies dont le développement est favorisé par les conditions du climat tropical.

Il suffirait de doubler la production unitaire des superficies actuellement cultivées en Afrique pour disposer sur place d'aliments en quantité plus que suffisante. Et les techniciens savent parfaitement que cela est possible, et même, dans quelques cas, relativement facile, étant donné les rendements unitaires actuels, extrêmement faibles, de la plupart des cultures.

L'Afrique a beaucoup plus besoin que l'on aide effectivement ses habitants que de mouvements paternalistes. Les Africains eux-mêmes l'ont déclaré par la voix de leurs dirigeants à la Conférence de Harare dont nous devons avoir les conclusions toujours présentes à l'esprit quand nous définissons nos programmes d'aide à l'Afrique. Les Africains veulent prendre en main leurs propres destins, et les pays développés doivent mettre à leur disposition des "maîtres et des volontaires capables de collaborer à leur développement", comme disait Bruno Keisky à la Conférence de la FAO en 1983.

Notre pays appuie toutes les initiatives de développement en Afrique qui s'intègrent dans la courageuse déclaration de Harare et met à la disposition des promoteurs de plans ou de projets de ce type quelques dizaines de techniciens dotés de longues années d'expérience professionnelle et humaine des tropiques, comme nous le faisons déjà, sur le plan bilatéral et en priorité, naturellement, en faveur des pays de langue portugaise. Mais il va sans dire que nous sommes prêts à répondre à des sollicitations que d'autres pays du vaste monde tropical entendront devoir nous adresser.

Dans son discours prononcé à l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, le Président de la République Portugaise a souligné les grandes lignes de notre action, qui avait, entre autres, pour objectif "l'élimination des crises alimentaires... dont nous avons un dramatique et vivant exemple dans les pays du Continent africain, auquel notre pays est toujours étroitement lié par de profonds et solides liens historiques et culturels". Ces paroles traduisent bien la sensibilité du peuple portugais aux problèmes qui affectent l'Afrique tourmentée d'aujourd'hui.

E. PARDO (Argentina): Deseo expresar, en primer lugar, nuestra simpatía y total solidaridad con el fraterno país de Colombia ante las consecuencias de la reciente catástrofe que tan dolorosamente lo afectara.

Señor Presidente: hemos escuchado con gran interés la declaración del señor Director General sobre la situación crítica en Africa circulada en el documento C 85/INF/20. También lo hemos hecho con las declaraciones de los señores delegados que me precedieron en el uso de la palabra, pero con especial atención, cuando lo han hecho los principales países afectados por la crisis alimentaria. Y vemos con satisfacción una acción aprobatoria general en cuanto a lo que se ha hecho.

Además hemos analizado con sumo cuidado el documento C 85/20, el que nos parece muy pertinente y se lo agradecemos efusivamente a la Secretaría.

Señor Presidente: vamos a referirnos ahora precisamente a ese documento. Resulta particularmente grato y alentador, comprobar primero cómo una gravísima situación que ha significado cuantiosos daños en valiosas vidas y recursos materiales, está siendo superada por los intensos esfuerzos y la acción coordinada de los gobiernos y los pueblos africanos. Segundo, cómo ha podido concretarse una considerable corriente de asistencia alimentaria proveniente de numerosos Estados, Organismos Intergubernamentales y Organizaciones no gubernamentales. Tercero, la creciente eficiencia medida en términos de rapidez, en acudir al pedido de asistencia, y en cuantía de esa asistencia canalizada a través de la FAO. Cuarto, la presencia cada vez más perceptible de la cooperación económica y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

La situación en Africa se ha constituido, al respecto, en una verdadera demostración práctica de cómo se va concretando esta aspiración en una realidad permanente. Pero también tenemos que destacar, lamentablemente, aspectos negativos descritos en el documento en análisis. Nos referimos

primero aquí a que el crecimiento de la producción en 1985 será menor que en 1984, e inferior al crecimiento demográfico, y que se prevé un decrecimiento de los ingresos derivados de las exportaciones.

Segundo, el haberse puesto de manifiesto cuán precaria es la base de recursos de que disponen muchos países de la región africana. Tercero, la elevada inflación de los precios y la atribución, como principales causas de esa inflación, a los déficits de la producción alimentaria y las dificultades para mantener los niveles de importación. Cuarto, el fuerte crecimiento de las exportaciones y el correcto pronóstico de que la disminución de los precios internacionales ocasionará caídas considerables de la relación del intercambio.

Asimismo, es desalentador que las importaciones vuelvan a limitarse en 1985 a una reducción del déficit comercial en base a la capacidad de importar por falta de aptitud de compra o financiación; no es recomendable, sobre todo, en cuanto ellas contribuyeron en gran parte a que se frenara el crecimiento del producto internacional bruto.

Más grave aún, es el creciente endeudamiento externo en los países de Africa; las previsiones de constituirse en un 40 por ciento el producto bruto interno y de absorber el 32 por ciento de los ingresos de exportación, aproximarán la situación africana a la de América Latina y constituye un nuevo llamamiento al tratamiento a nivel intergubernamental de esta situación, sobre todo si se tiene en cuenta las necesidades de inversión de los países de Africa que el propio Informe de la FAO pone de manifiesto cuando se señalan las dificultades de acceso de la ayuda alimentaria a causas de limitaciones de puerto y transporte.

También llama particularmente la atención algo que no por obvio es menos preocupante, nos referimos al reconocimiento de que el crecimiento de la producción de Africa depende en gran parte del crecimiento económico de los países industrializados.

Deseamos ahora, Sr. Presidente, mirando hacia el futuro y en esta dirección, destacar nuestro pleno apoyo al Programa para la Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en Africa y su intención de que la ayuda en caso de urgencia no impida ni sustituya, sino que refuerce el desarrollo a más largo plazo que aún se necesita para alcanzar un crecimiento sostenido del sector agrícola en los países interesados. Interpretamos este propósito en la necesidad de favorecer cambios permanentes en las estructuras productivas y comerciales de los países de Africa destinados a expandir sus agriculturas de subsistencia y exportación.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, deseo expresarle que mi país está participando con mucho interés en el Banco Agrícola de Desarrollo. Estamos, igualmente, en el marco de la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo, actuando con mucho entusiasmo en materia de capacitación para el desarrollo agrícola y el fomento de la ganadería con fondos nacionales del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo.

Nos permitimos, Sr. Presidente, ofrecer asimismo capacitación por medio de nuestro Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y también la exportación de semillas para aquellos países de Africa que pudieran necesitar de ella.

A.K.M. KAMALUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation would like to join the other delegations to convey their deep and heartfelt sympathies on behalf of the Government, and the people of Bangladesh, to our bretheren in Colombia who have suffered such a colossal loss. We believe that the international community would join not only with the sympathy to the suffering of the people, but would also provide material help, in providing succor to the suffering people in that country. It is only appropriate, and most reassuring, to learn from the Director-General of FAO that he has already taken steps, and has been in touch with the Colombian Government and is taking the necessary steps in this regard. This will be in keeping with the humanitarian spirit and traditions of FAO.

Turning to the subject of the critical situation in Africa, the Bangladesh delegation has a few observations to make. First, we would like to compliment the Director-General for an excellent document and statement presented to the Commission on the current situation in Africa. We are

very relieved to hear about the good harvest that has taken place in some of the African countries. However, we feel that we must not relax our efforts so that the situation and tragedy may not recur. It is gratifying to note that through a series of action programmes directly aimed at rehabilitating agriculture in affected countries, FAO is planning to make African States self-sufficient in food so that the spectre of famine and hunger can never again pose a threat to the people as before.

African agriculture, to our mind, is primarily rain-fed agriculture. We feel it is very necessary that greater efforts be made in field research to solve the problem of rain-fed agriculture in African countries.

Another important lesson is that food aid must be efficiently used in the affected countries, and needs to be integrated with the development process, particularly the agricultural development process for increased production of food grains. FAO will have to take up the challenge to boost our food production in the low-income countries, the food-deficient countries, and particularly in the African countries.

The African crisis also reminds us of the imperative need to increase food production in all the Third World countries. It is the common responsibility of mankind because some of these countries do not have the technical capabilities and funding to undertake agricultural development programmes. The weakening of the spirit of multilateralism, adverse exchange rates vis-a vis the dollar, hard currencies, the imposition of the tariff wall by some of the developed and prosperous countries, and high interest rates have all contributed in accentuating the problem of the Third World, food-deficient countries. A subsidy to agricultural production in the developed countries works as a detrimental force in relation to the productivity and marketing of agricultural products in the Third World countries. The problems become almost insurmountable.

Therefore, the international community must learn to accommodate, and only in that spirit is it possible to provide a guarantee of at least some sort of assurance that the food shortage and the famine situation, like the one we have seen in African countries, may not be repeated in the future.

M. YOSHII (Japan): Taking this opportunity, I, on behalf of the Government of Japan, wish to extend sympathy to the Colombian people who are hit by the tragic calamity.

Now, I would like to commend the excellent report of the Secretariat on the situation in Africa. Throughout the recent African food crisis FAO has done good work, grasping the situation and analyzing the crisis. Thanks to it, the international community could indeed react. The importance of such activities cannot be over-emphasized. In this context, I particularly emphasize the importance of the FAO Early Warning System which worked so remarkably. The establishment of this system was in fact proposed by Japan during the World Food Conference in 1974. Japan would like to stress the necessity of improving the system, utilizing, for example, a remote sensing technology. In the follow-up report of the last Bonn Summit this was, in fact, already proposed to improve the FAO Early Warning System. As I mentioned in the last intervention, underlying programmes of food shortage, especially in Africa, are persisting. It is essential for those countries which are suffering from these problems to make the utmost efforts to rehabilitate agriculture and for the international community to strengthen their cooperation. In doing so, I would like to stress that much more importance should be attached to smallholders, who bear a great part in food production. In order to assist these farmers and to promote their production, a much more comprehensive approach is needed including the establishment of adequate pricing policies, the improvement of proper infrastructure, and the enforcement of extension and training. In the connection we believe the protection of the forests and development of forestry would be of great significance. The so-called social forestry would be a valuable approach, and my Government intends to extend cooperation in Africa to promote such kind of forestry.

During the present fiscal year Japan's grant directed to Africa will be around US\$ 240 million, the major portion being directed to food and agriculture.

Furthermore, in coordination with the World Bank, Yen loans will also be increased to the amount of US\$ 100 million. My country plans to increase its contribution to international

organizations such as FAO, UNDP and WFP to strengthen the assistance to Africa. My Government is earnestly considering further expanding this assistance to Africa for rural development and improvement of transportation and storage facilities, reinforcement of research activities and also forestation activities as I mentioned previously.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): At the outset, I would like to associate ourselves to express our sympathy for the Colombian people facing disaster.

Turning to the subject, my delegation appreciates very much the Secretariat's paper to highlight the state of food and agriculture as well as the programme being carried out in Africa which is a fruitful and valuable one. My delegation would like to make a few remarks. This document coincides with others, like the Fifth World Food Survey. The statement made by the Director-General of the FAO to the Second Committee of the 40th Session of the General Assembly indicates clearly the crisis in Africa, taking into account the problems of food shortages, malnutrition, lack of funds in financing its own development, and others. We are all aware of the underlying structural causes of the present crisis. Under the present situation, we believe that African people in various countries are not staying alone. We also believe that their national resources, which are a brake on progress, are still sufficient like the other regions. If this is so, my delegation supports the Programmes carried out in this document. It is necessary, in our opinion, for the governments to revise their policies so as to favour the small farmers, rather than the large scale cash crop plantations. Therefore, they should have to take a second look at their priorities. More funds should be invested in agriculture, keeping the need of food for the people in the first priority.

At this juncture, permit me to say a few words about our agricultural development and policy concerning rural development and the poor. We, as policy analysts, have spent a lot of time and money to determine what the rural people and the poor are facing and needing, in particular the small farmers in the remote areas and in rainfed agriculture. After having these facts, rural people are trained to implement those projects and programmes that are needed. The Government should take their proposals into account seriously and keep in mind that the projects must be productive and that food production for their family consumption is their primary concern. To formulate the appropriate project and the right target, we believe that the poor should be eliminated sooner or later. For the programmes to be successful, we believe, they should be backed by the goodwill of government.

Turning to Africa again, my delegation strongly believes that most governments in Africa are going to do the same as we are doing. If this is so, more funds and aid are forthcoming to assist them, as we have seen in the various documents.

Before closing my remarks, we would like to also see the reports dealing with the monitoring and evaluation of the projects which have been implemented in more depth. This, in our opinion, would help us to assess the projects and programmes effectively and sufficiently and to strengthen the food production in a proper and timely manner.

Little attention has been paid to the problem of population growth being higher than food production growth. This, in our view, is one of the key problems we should take into serious consideration. In this context, my delegation strongly believes that family planning should be in the national economic and social plan of African countries. The balance of economic growth and population growth should be recognized.

A.M. OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic): At the outset I should like to thank the Director-General for the personal interest he has shown in document C 85/20 which we fully endorse. The major problem being faced by Africa today is that of desertification. I believe that desertification is the main reason behind the imbalances in our infrastructures. Desertification is also the main reason that caused drought as well as the deterioration of the vegetation cover

which, in turn, led to the animals' hunger, diseases and death. Desertification is the real cause of migration of large numbers of farmers from rural areas to urban areas, leaving behind all their properties, lands, farms and animals. Desertification is the cause of current famine and refugees' influxes from one area to another.

In the Sudan, the desert, is widening at the rate of 6 to 7 km. a year. This rate might be higher in some neighbouring 'countries. Since this desertification phenomenon has been continuing for quite a long period of time, it has adversely affected all production aspects; that is to say plants, animals and human beings. The desertification problem needs serious action to be undertaken by all governments concerned, as well as the international community, if we are to restore the fertility and the productivity of the land and if we are to hold the desertification phenomenon.

I believe that the desertification problem should have first priority within the framework of African problems with the exception, of course, of emergency situations and relief operations. I believe that African States and international organizations should coordinate their efforts to confront this dangerous phenomenon.

Srta. H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): En primer lugar, queremos agradecer de todo corazón, a nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo colombiano las amables palabras pronunciadas por todas las delegaciones, con ocasión de la catástrofe que nos asola.

Sr. Presidente, Colombia reitera su posición, basada en los ideales de humanidad y justicia que ha venido sosteniendo en ocasiones anteriores sobre este tema de tan trágica actualidad. Su gravedad misma ha sido puesta en evidencia por las emocionadas palabras del Director General, que ha querido él mismo presentar este documento.

En el 86° período de sesiones del Consejo, nuestro país fue uno de los primeros en redactar la resolución 1/86, en la cual se ha venido basando la asistencia de la FAO en Africa, sobre todo en cuanto al programa de rehabilitación de la agricultura africana que a juicio de Colombia, es esencial.

Es evidente que la FAO ha estado consciente de estos problemas, como consta en los numerosos documentos, excelentes por cierto, de que disponemos en esta Conferencia. Además de utilizar todos los mecanismos de información y alerta para tener al corriente de la situación a la comunidad internacional y al público en general, ha enviado misiones especiales a Africa, ha creado un grupo especial de acción, FAO/PMA, que tiene como mandato no sólo organizar misiones de evaluación de los problemas, sino llevar a cabo planes de acción inmediata.

Pero, Sr. Presidente, esto no basta. Si bien las condiciones generales de la agricultura y la alimentación en Africa para 1985/86 ofrecen perspectivas ligeramente mejores, se prevén aún graves problemas en algunos países; como también ha indicado esta mañana nuestro Director General.

Sigue siendo preocupante que el aumento de la producción, de un 2,2 por ciento sea menor que el crecimiento demográfico, que es del 3 por ciento. Parece ser que además disminuirán los ingresos derivados de las exportaciones.

Todos estos factores, sumados a la escasez de las divisas indispensables para hacer frente al servicio de la cuantiosa deuda externa, que estrangula la frágil economía de estos países hacen casi imposible la adopción y puesta en práctica en ellos de planes y programas de inversión y desarrollo. Estos programas, Sr. Presidente, solamente son posibles con una generosa y bien dirigida ayuda internacional, que, como también nos recordó el Director General, requiere un enfoque global.

Las cifras del Cuadro 1 del documento C 85/20 que nos ocupa, son sobrecogedoras y nos llenan de preocupación.

Por todas las razones anteriormente expuestas, queremos manifestar nuestro apoyo a los programas especiales previstos por el Director General dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986/87, para el Programa de Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en Africa. Nos complace que el Director General nos haya dicho esta mañana que ya hay ciento veintiún millones de dólares de asistencia para este Programa.

Finalmente, la delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente todas las iniciativas de la FAO en Africa, así como la cooperación con la Organización de la Unidad Africana, que representa muy bien a los gobiernos y pueblos de Africa.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): I should like to start by joining my voice with that of many previous speakers who have expressed their condolences to the Colombian delegation.

I should now like to make a few comments on the situation in Africa. Since its inception, we have highly appreciated FAO's Global Information and Early Warning Systems for Food and Agriculture, since it represents a special contribution to enhanced food security. It was for that reason that we drew attention specifically to it in Bonn in our special exhibition "Forty Years of FAO - Thirty-five Years of membership of the Federal Republic of Germany", on World Food Day this year. In our view, the Early Warning System has proved to be of very considerable value, especially when it reacted early to signal the looming crisis in Africa. My country has not shrunk from the ethical duty to do its best to help fellow human beings in adversity. In 1984 we contributed a total of DM184 million of food aid to the most seriously affected African countries. This year the Federal Republic of Germany is, in addition, participating in the World Bank's Action Programme for Africa with a contribution of DM100 million. Finally, on a single day this year, Africa Day, January 23, the people of my country contributed more than DM120 million. This money is used by non-governmental organizations in my country to fund projects in Africa. Then there is also the very considerable percentage - 50 percent - coming from the European Community to help drought-affected countries with food shortages in Africa. Moreover, let me point out that EEC-ACP Lomé III funds mainly go to sub-Saharan Africa.

We agree with the statements in the document that the slight detour of the situation in Africa is not enough to bring about a far reaching medium-term and long-term improvement of the situation. However, we can see some promising signs of improvement, as indicated by Table 1 in the document: GDP up 2.6 percent; agricultural production up 3.1 percent; volume of exports up 6.2 percent; agricultural exports up 14.2 percent.

Like the overwhelming majority of previous speakers, I, too, take the view that agricultural production in Africa must be increased, as indeed the African governments themselves recognized in the Harare Declaration of 1984. Like the Chairman of our Conference, Mr Yonke, the Minister from the Cameroon, we take the view that it is possible for the vast, untapped agricultural potential of Africa to be exploited. We are very glad to say that harvest prospects in the majority of the 21 worst-hit African countries are much better than they were at the start of 1985.

The Federal Republic of Germany will continue its development cooperation with Africa. In so doing, we will attach special importance to rural development, as we have done since the inception of our cooperation efforts 35 years ago.

The particularly difficult situation of Africa was also a topic discussed at the meeting of Heads of State and Government of the seven major industrialized countries and the President of the Commission of the European Communities held in Bonn between 2 and 4 May of this year. Follow-up measures are presently being prepared.

I should like to recall that Federal Minister Kiechle, in addressing the Plenary Session of our Conference, welcomed African countries' efforts in the food and agricultural field. Beyond that he shares the view that the present situation of Africa must be a focus of external aid. The remission of debts totalling DM4.1 billion, as stated by Mr Kiechle, represents a useful measure, we think, which is aimed at alleviating the situation of the least developed countries.

J. NAPPORN (Bénin): La délégation béninoise s'associe aux autres délégations qui l'ont précédée pour exprimer sa sympathie au peuple colombien qui vient d'être frappé par une grave catastrophe. Nous présentons à toute la délégation colombienne nos vives condoléances.



Nous apprécions la netteté et la clarté du document C 85/20 présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO ce matin.

Comme vous le savez, l'Afrique subit depuis plusieurs années une sécheresse sans précédent débouchant sur toute une série de calamités naturelles et ces effets sont ressentis gravement par tous les pays d'Afrique dont certains ont vu leur économie complètement effondrée; c'est pendant ce temps que plusieurs Etats doivent payer les échanges des dettes avec des intérêts très élevés, sans oublier que les contreparties de certains projets restent difficiles à rassembler. Cette année heureusement, les pluies sont redevenues normales et permettent une production qui pourra couvrir les besoins dans certains pays. Mais par contre, certains autres pays ne pourront pas boucler leur déficit et il faudrait que la Communauté internationale intervienne encore pour couvrir leurs besoins. Il ne faut pas se réjouir de cette petite amélioration. C'est pourquoi dans les pays où des surplus peuvent se dégager, il faudrait que la Communauté internationale puisse permettre à ces pays de commercialiser ces surplus à un prix convenable pour éviter de décourager la population. Sans un effort dans ces pays, où l'intervention de la CEE serait très appréciée, les surplus ne peuvent plus être dégagés des années à venir; une perturbation quelconque à l'avenir peut être encore catastrophique pour nos pays.

La délégation béninoise tient à remercier le Directeur général de la FAO pour tous les efforts qu'il déploie avec tous ceux qui l'aident dans cette mission pour donner aux pays africains le "filet" au lieu de leur donner le "poisson" et que ce poisson ne peut être fourni que lorsque nécessaire.

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): Nos complace verlo en la Presidencia por sus cualidades personalesy diplomáticas que admiramos, así como por la feliz coincidencia de que dirija un debate que atañe a su Continente. Creemos que la mejor manera de mostrarle nuestra estima, será ser breves como usted lo ha pedido.

Queremos empezar por unirnos a quienes han expresado su pésame al hermano pueblo de Colombia por la nueva tragedia que ha venido a enlutarlo.

Señor Presidente: Nuestro país ha mantenido invariablemente su más profunda solidaridad con el continente africano. En esta ocasión queremos solamente de la manera más sintética posible, reafirmar nuestros puntos de vista en relación con el documento C 85/20 que estamos considerando.

Se empieza ahí por decir, y cito: "El Director General ha aprovechado todas las oportunidades paraseñalar la crisis de Africa a la atención de la Comunidad Internacional y de la opinión pública engeneral". Somos testigos de, y ensalzamos, la incansable labor del Director General y de la FAO, a las cuales se debe en gran medida que el mundo entero haya advertido, y en su mayor parte acudido a socorrer a los países africanos.

Vemos con alegría que algunos síntomas de alivio se presentan en las condiciones climatológicas y en algunos indicadores económicos, aunque falta muchísimo para que la situación general sea satisfactoria.

En efecto, advertimos que la producción en este año será menor que en 1984, y descenderá todavía en el año próximo; que la inflación crece a una velocidad inferior sólo a la de nuestro desafortunado continente; la deuda exterior con todo y ser menor también que la nuestra, es igualmente pesada y gravosa.

Y citamos a los 22 donantes del Programa de Rehabilitación de la Agricultura. Apoyamos las medidas que tomara la FAO en beneficio de Africa. Nos complace la idea de celebrar un períodoespecial de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en el cual se profundice la forma en que la Comunidad Internacional emprenderá la reconstrucción del Africa, y ojalá tome las medidas para que una símil catástrofe no se repita en el futuro.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): New Zealand joins with other delegations in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to the Colombian people.

Document C 85/20, which sets out the Critical Situation in Africa, makes it very clear that while to some extent the immediate crisis is past the real challenge is just beginning. There is no doubt that people throughout the world responded admirably once the extent of the crisis was clear. Like others, the New Zealand people also responded generously both in cash aid and through our own special community effort, Operation Hope, by sending a shipload of grain and other emergency supplies to Port Sudan.

Clearly, FAO has also played a significant role, from warning of the problem to soliciting for, and coordinating, support, to monitoring the food aid requirements themselves. However, it would be wrong to judge our success in terms of our response to this crisis. Indeed, when our most effective action so far has been addressing the famine, we at least are left with a sense of failure. That the crisis arose at all when FAO raised the alert at least as far back as 1976, is reason enough to pause and reflect. I make this comment not to detract in any way from the noble work of FAO during the crisis, but rather because this is the Conference, and the Conference is a time to reflect on both success and failure, a time to look back so we may go forward with sharper priorities to even greater and more lasting success in the future.

As the stark reminders of the famine disappear from television screens, as charity performers step down from the stage, and as African farmers start again to look towards tomorrow, we must strengthen our resolve. We must use these horrible memories to focus our minds on long-term solutions to ensure that this tragedy is never again repeated. In our view, this long-term action should be focused in four areas.

Firstly, we must develop sustainable production systems which local farmers can make work, systems which take into account all the vagaries of the weather. Secondly, we must ensure a competitive international trading environment, one which allows developing countries to convert their comparative advantage into foreign currencies and trade which is free from subsidized surpluses. Thirdly, we must organize international finance in an appropriate manner, and fourthly, we must encourage the development of national policies which in turn encourage farmers to produce and to make the most efficient use of their natural resources.

FAO has forty years experience on which to attack this challenge. We hope it will continue its important role of stimulating and coordinating this long-term development with clear long-term priorities. In this respect, we are encouraged to see the initiatives already taken described in the paper before us. We are encouraged, too, by the fact that priorities are being re-ordered to reflect the importance of the work in Africa. We also support other delegations who have highlighted the need for close cooperation with other agencies.

For our part, we are placing increased importance on assisting Africa with long-term solutions to its food problems. Our Prime Minister earlier this year set up several African relief and rehabilitation programmes. Funds are being used for emergency relief and long-term development assistance. Simultaneously, we are establishing a new mission in Harare and once this is operational, we shall initiate bilateral technical assistance with partner countries. We hope to make available agricultural experts to help African farmers to help themselves.

With these initiatives in mind, we have arranged for a team of farmers to visit Kenya, Malawi, the Sudan and other places in Africa to explore mutual bilateral opportunities and to identify areas of cooperation under our development assistance programme.

Finally, as the Director-General mentioned this morning, the New Zealand Government has given active consideration to the possibility of contributing to the proposed triangular transaction to enable the export of surpluses from Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe to neighbouring food-deficit countries.

M. 1. MAHDI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): Might I express, through you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia our most sincere condolences to the people of Colombia after the disaster which has befallen their country. We hope that God will give the relatives of the victims patience and courage in this awful trial. We support the proposals of the Director-General for speeding up the emergency aid to Colombia.

May I now go on to say how delighted my delegation is to see you occupying the Chair in this Commission, Mr Chairman. At the same time, we would like to voice our satisfaction and gratitude to the Secretariat for the study which provides a full and analytical review of the situation in Africa. We are grateful to the Director-General for his increased attention to the emergency in Africa. He was in the front line in alerting the world community to this emergency. The food deficit was closely linked to the drought in that area, with a consequential reduction in ground water which, in turn, had a devastating effect on human beings and on that vital resource, livestock.

The food imports of low-income African countries continued to grow. They represent an increasing burden on the resources of those countries. Today, those countries are in a desperate situation and, of course, there is also the problem of debt, and the problem of protectionism which were broached this morning by the Director-General. These countries have witnessed the spectre of death throughout their region. Rich countries have a moral duty towards the poor countries, particularly those in Africa with low incomes.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is deeply concerned by the emergency in Africa and is willing to do what it can to shoulder its responsibility towards African countries and the international community. His Majesty King Fahd Ibn Abdelaziz of Saudi Arabia has therefore granted aid to the countries concerned through international organizations, technical agencies, local and international specialized agencies, including Arabic and Islamic ones, not to mention the bilateral aid which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia grants directly to a number of countries - for example, the grants in cash or kind to the people concerned. A veritable air lift has been set up between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the countries concerned to palliate the effects of the crisis. The Saudi Arabian Red Crescent organization has set up five relief centres in Mali, Sudan and Niger. The amount of aid granted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - that is, public aid - channelled towards the solution of the drought problem, including bilateral and multilateral aid, has reached a level of \$700 million, to which must be added development aid granted to 34 non-Arab developing countries in Africa which, over the last decade, has amounted to \$3.5 billion. The total aid from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exceeded 7 percent of its GNP over the last year.

The Director-General stated that the present food situation has improved. We agree, but feel that international effort must be carried on. We are grateful to the Director-General for all he has done, and all he is continuing to do, to help Africa, and we are grateful to him for treating Africa with such a high level of priority.

Apart from the adverse meteorological conditions affecting that area, the countries concerned have other burdens to bear, such as problems with production systems, infrastructures, drops in the use of technology, fertilizers and improved seeds. Then there is the debt problem, and the problem of protectionism. It is our contention that we must be prepared to act swiftly to emergency needs. We welcome such readiness, and are glad to see there is this swift reaction system. We welcome the plan of the Director-General for the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa. We are also glad to see that the projects have been meticulously prepared. The African agricultural rehabilitation programme is in addition to, and not a replacement of, emergency aid.

L. FAABORG-ANDERSEN (Denmark): Denmark continues to regard the critical food and economic situation in Africa as one of the greatest and most urgent challenges for the international community.

The UN-system has over the last years been a major catalyst in mobilizing international awareness and assistance to alleviate the plight of the Africans. We consider it to be imperative that the UN-system continues to pay the highest attention to this issue.

The fight for the survival of millions of human lives in the drought-stricken regions has been the first and most urgent priority. Governments, the UN-system and a large number of voluntary organizations have responded in a commendable manner to the calls for increased emergency aid. Food aid and other relief efforts have helped millions of people to survive and immediate suffering has been considerably alleviated.

In this connection! will in particular like to express our appreciation for the very important work done by the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture. We believe that this system through its continuous monitoring and reporting has played a vital role in mobilizing a timely and coordinated donor-response to the African emergency.

Late rains, particularly in the Sahel-region, have improved the food situation in a number of African countries, thus giving some breathing space to people in these areas.

Yet, it is well to remember that the fight against famine is far from being won and there is a risk that in certain regions the nutritional situation might again deteriorate. Sub-Saharan Africa will continuously need large amounts of emergency assistance, food aid, agricultural inputs, transportation, equipment and medicine. The international community must not slacken its efforts in this regard.

The magnitude of human suffering in Africa has to an unprecedented degree captured the attention of the entire world. The donor community should seize this opportunity to consider how the increased public awareness of the plight of African countries could be turned into a more permanent understanding and support for longer-term development assistance. It is now the proper time to convey to the public that only long-term development can redress the underlying structural causes of the present crisis and, in so doing, avoid a perpetuation of such crisis.

Dependance on disaster relief must not become a permanent feature in Africa. Strenuous action should therefore be taken especially for the rehabilitation of agricultural production and the creation of a sound basis for future rural development.

The FAO's Programme for the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa covering the continents most drought-affected countries constitutes in our view an important step in this direction.

In this connection I would, however, in line with the views expressed by previous speakers, like to stress the need for improved coordination among donor agencies, as well as for the establishment of a coherent national policy framework in the recipient countries.

My country is deeply concerned over the gravity, persistency and deep-rooted nature of the African economic crisis.

We remain, however, convinced that the African countries themselves together with the rest of the international community have ways and means to revert this negative trend. We also believe that there already exists a broad consensus on the commitment to necessary action for Africa's development.

In this regard my government has been encouraged by the determination and commitment of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of the African Unity in their declaration of last July to cope more effectively with current and future emergencies and also to get to the root of Africa's food and agricultural crisis. This approach is, indeed, indispensable in order to redress the long-term outlook of Africa's overall development. The OAU Declaration is an important policy statement by the African leaders, who also reaffirmed that the development of their Continent is the primary responsibility of their own Governments and peoples. The Declaration and its priority programme deserve attention and support on the part of the international community as a whole.

We commend the efforts by the African Governments to restore the internal balances in their economies through often painful but necessary adjustment measures at high social and political costs.

The responsibility for taking the appropriate domestic policy measures rests with the African countries themselves, but these efforts must be supported by the international community. In this connection I would like to stress that the restoration and expansion of external financial resources is a matter of urgency for the affected countries. This calls for positive measures in a number of interlinked issues such as net transfer of resources, debt relief and export earnings.

The donor community should accept the long-term challenge of relaunching the development in the same commendable manner as they have done in meeting the most immediate needs of emergency aid.

Denmark, who already now strongly supports the development efforts in Africa is prepared to meet its share of this challenge.

J. THINSY (Belgique): Comme d'autres délégations qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais m'associer aux marques de sympathie qui ont été présentées à la délégation de la Colombie suite à la catastrophe qui vient d'arriver dans ce pays.

Pour en revenir maintenant au sujet qui nous occupe, je voudrais dire ce qui suit:

La famine qui a frappé de nombreux pays africains et qui a atteint son point le plus aigu en 1984 restera dans nos mémoires et dans l'histoire de la fin de ce siècle comme une tragédie humaine, mais également comme un échec douloureux. Si je parle d'échec, c'est parce que, contrairement au passé, nous avons actuellement les moyens d'empêcher de semblables catastrophes. On a déjà souligné qu'au moment où la famine s'étendait sur une partie importante de l'Afrique, les récoltes mondiales de céréales battaient tous les records. De plus, la crise avait été annoncée par les experts, et en particulier par le système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO, qui a montré son efficacité à cette occasion.

Et pourtant, l'évitable n'a pas pu être évité. Et pour beaucoup d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants, l'aide internationale est arrivée trop tard.

Je ne pense pas nécessaire de reprendre dans cette intervention brève l'analyse des causes profondes de la crise. Depuis deux ans ces questions ont été suffisamment analysées; je me permettrai cependant de noter que l'accent mis dans le document de la FAO sur les aspects internationaux des problèmes risque de masquer l'essentiel. C'est vrai, la crise économique, la baisse de la valeur des exportations, l'endettement, le manque de devises, et la diminution forcée des importations qui en a été la conséquence ont sans doute pesé dans la balance. On doit cependant reconnaître que la cause principale de la catastrophe a été l'insuffisance et -souvent la chute de la production globale.

En me référant au discours de M. le Président de la République française, comme lui je ne crois pas que la solution au problème de la faim dépende essentiellement, par exemple, de la lutte contre le protectionnisme. Cette lutte est sans doute nécessaire dans l'intérêt du commerce en général; mais ce ne sont pas les pays qui souffrent le plus de la faim qui sont affectés par le protectionnisme, ni d'ailleurs par la baisse des recettes d'exportation.

Enfin, suite à l'intervention du représentant de la Tchécoslovaquie, je voudrais souligner, comme l'a fait avant moi le représentant de l'Australie, que de telles déclarations politiques manichéennes se situent fort loin de la réalité et ne font pas progresser vers des solutions au problème de la faim. Je clos ici cette parenthèse.

Le document C.85/20 souligne l'évolution favorable des récoltes dans la plupart des pays d'Afrique qui ont été touchés par la sécheresse et la famine; il semble donc que l'on sorte peu à peu de la situation de crise aiguë, même si l'aide d'urgence continue et continuera à être nécessaire dans les pays les plus gravement touchés. Nous devons saluer cette évolution positive; mais elle ne doit pas nous empêcher d'une part de veiller à ce que la communauté internationale soit mieux préparée à affronter une crise semblable, qui sera toujours possible, - nous devons donc trouver des solutions aux retards des livraisons des aides alimentaires, pallier l'encombrement des ports et les difficultés de distribution à l'intérieur des pays, en particulier dans les zones isolées -d'autre part, comme l'a déclaré M. le Directeur général dans son introduction à ce débat, le répit que nous donne la nature doit être employé pour reconstruire au plus tôt l'agriculture africaine affectée par la sécheresse.

La priorité doit être accordée au secteur agricole, au développement de la production, et à la mise en place de l'infrastructure nécessaire, par exemple pour conserver la production après la récolte.

Cette priorité accordée à l'agriculture relève essentiellement des gouvernements africains eux-mêmes, comme l'a reconnu la Déclaration de Harare, et comme l'a écrit le Directeur général de notre Organisation dans son introduction au document sur le Programme de travail dont la cote est C 85/3.

J'ajouterai que des efforts doivent également être faits pour que la croissance de la production agricole et la croissance démographique soient plus adaptées l'une à l'autre.

En dehors de l'aide d'urgence, la plupart des projets financés par la Belgique concernent le développement agricole; c'est d'ailleurs l'objet du fonds de survie belge qui mobilise approximativement 200 millions de dollars, dont la moitié a déjà été affectée à des projets. Conformément à cette priorité accordée à l'agriculture, la Belgique a été l'un des premiers pays à s'engager à financer pour 2,2 millions de dollars des projets dans le cadre de programmes de relèvement de l'agriculture en Afrique présentés par la FAO en mars dernier.

A propos de financement de programmes, je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour marquer l'appréciation de mon pays pour l'effort fait par la FAO qui a consacré 15 millions de dollars d'économie sur le budget ordinaire à ce programme concret sur le terrain.

Enfin, je voudrais souligner que la Belgique comme membre de la Communauté économique européenne participe à cette nouvelle initiative de l'Europe qu'est le plan de réhabilitation et de relance des pays africains les plus affectés par la sécheresse, plan qui devrait mobiliser quelque 160 millions de dollars en faveur de huit pays.

Pour conclure, je répéterai que si la phase aiguë de la crise alimentaire semble passée, ce serait une grave erreur que de diminuer nos efforts alors que tant reste à faire pour garantir une certaine autonomie alimentaire des pays africains qui ont souffert de la faim. La Belgique en est pleinement consciente et pour sa part continuera la tâche entreprise.

WU TIANXI (China) (Original language Chinese): At the outset we would like to express our deep concern and sympathy to the people of Colombia who have suffered a great deal from the catastrophe.

The food problem in Africa has been discussed time and again at relevant international fora. Today I have listened to the introduction made by the Director-General, and the interventions made by many delegates. More and more facts have indicated that the current critical situation in Africa is by no means just a problem of food shortage. The food problem, which is interwoven with adverse socio-economic factors, prolonged economic recession, increasingly heavy debt burdens, and declining prices on international markets for agricultural products, have aggravated the sufferings of the African people.

To make things worse, recent years have witnessed serious natural disasters in the African Continent, in certain areas. Threatened by hunger, tens of thousands of people have had to leave their homes to seek a living. Here, I would like to express our deep concern and sympathy for this situation.

We have noted that the Twenty-first Summit Conference of the OAU held several months ago, identified a solution to the African food crisis as the primary task of the African people and their countries.

Efforts should then be directed towards creating conditions for the rehabilitation of agriculture and prevention of the recurrence of a situation similar to that of today, with appropriate structural reforms. This is, no doubt, a realistic and far-sighted policy, which indicates the right way for the African people to follow in addressing the current critical situation.

We are very pleased to learn that a number of African countries have succeeded in recent years in reducing the consequences caused by natural calamities and drought, especially by building water conservation projects, by strengthening agricultural research, and services like extension, by replacing mono-type structure in agricultural production, by diversified management. Moreover, some of the countries have attained self-sufficiency in food. This gives testimony to the unremitting efforts with which African countries and people combat natural disasters and their aspirations in building up their countries. At the same time, this proves that the African people cherish lofty ideals, and are capable of tackling their food and agricultural problems according to their own will.

The African economy is an integral part of the world economy. The African people made indelible contributions with their labour and raw materials to the development and prosperity of certain countries when they were under colonial rule. Now Africa is contributing to the promotion of the social and economic development of the world through their trade and cultural exchange with other countries. The international community should therefore actively provide its moral and material assistance to the African countries and people to help them solve their temporary difficulties, especially those developed countries which have had close ties with African countries, and should provide vigorous support in terms of capital, food and technology, to help them overcome present difficulties and to rehabilitate and develop their food and agricultural production in a speedy way.

Africa has abundant farmland resources, as well as solar energy and water resources. Great potential lies in its food and agricultural development. We are convinced that having achieved national independence, the African people will finally achieve economic independency by bringing into full play their initiative in developing food production to attain food self-sufficiency in the spirit of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Harare Declaration.

Since the 1970s, the Chinese Government has been engaged in fruitful cooperation efforts with many African countries in the field of agricultural technology and economy. At the critical moment when Africa was hit by serious famine, we provided, within our means, many African countries with food and other assistance, contributing to South-South cooperation. In this spirit of cooperation, we in the future shall, as ever, continue to join efforts with African countries and people in an effort to seek common development.

G. ANCKARBERG (Sweden): The critical food and agricultural situation in Africa requires sustained and priority attention by FAO and the whole international community. Even if the food situation in many African countries has improved this year, the food crisis is far from over. Special food assistance will continue to be needed to alleviate the crisis until the emergency is ended. But, food relief must not become a permanent feature in Africa. While the drought obviously has had a severe impact on the food situation, it is important, however, to stress that the general downturn trend in per capita food production witnessed over several years is not just caused by short-term sociological factors and national calamities. It is also rooted in economic and institutional structures which need to be altered and improved. It is incumbent on all of us to analyze carefully the underlying causes for past trends and to ensure that remedial action is taken, otherwise famines are likely to occur in the future more often and on a more devastating scale. Agriculture is the principal economic sector in most African countries and an important provider of employment, therefore long-term solutions to restore agriculture are not only needed to improve and sustain its food security, but also to redress the overall development of Africa. In this respect, I would like to underline the important decision this year, taken by the Heads of State and government of the Organization for African Unity in their adoption of a special programme of action for the improvement of the food situation, and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa. This document, constitutes an important and encouraging commitment. However, the international community has a responsibility to assist, and to give technical and financial assistance to the rehabilitation of Africa's agriculture. Much more financial support, and more flexible terms need to be provided urgently. Sweden for its part, is committed to help in the development process of Africa. The major part of the Swedish Aid Programme is already directed to this Continent, to a number of so-called "programme countries". Earlier this year FAO prepared a programme for rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa, the most drought-affected countries. Some of the projects presented are of direct value for the implementation of Swedish Aid programmes in this Continent. Against the background of growing food deficits in Africa, the consultations between Sweden and the programme countries are increasingly stressing the importance of giving priority to agriculture and to rural development. Strong emphasis is placed on the role of the small farmers and the need for adequate production incentives.

As women often constitute the main part of the labour force, the role of women in the development efforts should be fully recognized. Up to now the women have been under-valued in their crucial task of improving Africa's long-term food security.

To care for the environment is another important aspect in the Swedish Aid programme. Sweden regards soil degradation as the most serious man-induced environmental threat facing agriculture.

Soil and water conservation, together with efforts to slow down the rapid increase in population, are essential elements in the solution of Africa's long-term food crisis. The present rate of population growth in Africa contributes in making the structured crisis so intractable, firstly by increasing food deficits, secondly by increasing the pressure on vulnerable soils, thirdly by contributing to rapid urbanization, fourthly, by latterly eating into the investable surplus. When we raise this issue we are not only interested in propagating family planning services. A number of other measures are equally important from a democratic point of view, such as child nutrition, health education and training, in particular for women.

Mr Chairman, the crisis of Africa will not go away by itself. The crisis is a joint responsibility for us all. Africa needs not only more financial resources, but also easier terms. To this end, systematic efforts are required by the donor community as a whole. The capacity to absorb increasing foreign aid for agriculture and rural development in an appropriate and efficient way must also be enhanced. A number of policy factors are here involved. In conclusion, I would like to underline that Sweden will continue to give the highest priority to the support of the development process in Africa.

M. BALKAN (Turkey): I would like to join the previous speakers in their expressions of sympathy and support to the Colombian people and Government with regard to the catastrophe in their country.

I would like to convey our deep appreciation to the Director-General for his valuable contributions in the mobilization of the international community to the critical economic situation in Africa and the role played by FAO in this respect. With this in mind, we strongly support and appreciate the Director-General's focus on the rehabilitation of African agriculture and the projects already launched and those that will be launched by FAO to this end. Although the worst of the crisis in Africa has been overcome, the course that had to be endured attained tragic proportions. We still have a long way to go before we will be able to look at the future with confidence. Therefore, the question of the situation in Africa will remain on our agenda for some time to come. It is, of course, above all up to the African countries to take the necessary measures to overcome the gigantic problems before them. However, the responsibility of the international community is equally obvious. We believe there are four fundamental aspects of this debate that should be underlined. First is the recognition of the need for coordinated and continued action in achieving the relief measures in Africa. The second aspect is the acknowledgement of the useful role played by multilateral cooperations under the UN system which has proved to be effective in coping with the immediate problems of the emergency situation.

The third general aspect, which we welcome, is the fact that it brings out the importance of establishing a linkage between emergency operations and medium- and long-term difficulties of the African economy. Finally, I wish to underline the fact that the existing African problems cannot be thought of as a separate process from the current question of the external economic environment.

In looking ahead, we have to face up to the structural issues which presently beset the African continent. As we see it, the failure of the food and agricultural sector is very much central to the persistent situation in Africa. Certainly the African countries alone cannot be expected to create a stimulating environment for the revitalization of self-sufficiency in food without substantial external assistance. The rehabilitation process has to be complemented by support action in the areas such as transport, communication and industry to which the Addis Ababa Declaration recently accorded priority attention.

The present difficulties of the African countries, exacerbated by intense strain in world trading and financial systems, are deepening. The fact expressed by many speakers during this Conference that there is no additional flow of resources to Africa which could revitalize the development process deserves more serious attention. The unprecedented economic and social crisis has been a major source of concern for the Turkish nation. My country wholeheartedly supports the international programmes in response to the appalling situation in Africa. In line with this approach, Turkey, as a developing country, makes every effort within its limited resources to contribute to the aid programmes in relation to Sub-Saharan Africa.



M. WARD (United States of America): I should like to express the deep sympathy of the people of the United States for the people of Colombia on the occasion of yesterday's volcano disaster.

About one hour ago, at 11 a.m. Colombia time, 5 o'clock this afternoon Rome time, twelve search and rescue helicopters with accompanying specialists arrived in Colombia from Panama as part of a United States disaster relief assistance operation to work with Colombian authorities. At the same time, the United States is sending two C 130 aircrafts with tents, 500 tents per'load, and one C 130 aircraft with 4,500 blankets together with a vulcanologist to work with Colombian authorities on the emergency.

I should like to turn to the FAO Report C 85/20 on the critical situation in Africa, which is a very helpful signpost on the road to recovery in Africa. It gives a clear reading of current conditions to use in setting a course for future action.

The situation in Africa is much different from what it was a year ago. Rains have brought prospects of good harvests. Pastures are starting to grow, rivers are filling up and over time, water tables should start to rise. This is good news, and it provides water for livestock, food production and general recovery.

It would seem that for many in Africa, particularly in Sahel, the nightmare may be ending. For a while. Because without question, drought will come again. When it does, if we have learned our lessons well, the affected countries will be better prepared than they were this time.

There has indeed been remarkable teamwork during the past year and a half, among Africans, international organizations such as FAO, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, donor governments and private organizations. There have been quite unexpected and spontaneous gestures such as Band Aid and Live Aid. We have seen a unique coming together from many countries of a variety of disparate interests and groups, united by a common bond of wanting to help others in need. Private citizens, schools and universities, businesses, the media, religious groups, state, local and national Governments - all have worked together to develop programmes, gather assistance and deliver relief aid to people at risk.

These achievements are real and they give grounds for hope. And yet, emergency aid is the easy part. Because the nature of the problems has changed, different responses are required. The FAO Report before us is one of a number of increasingly consistent voices which include the World Food Council, UNICEF, the World Bank, and perceptive observers within donor and African governments -voices which remind us that more basic underlying problems than drought must be addressed, problems of economic structure, development policies, population growth, desertification and all the difficulties they cause.

A number of honourable delegates who have preceded me today have underlined these and other problems which must be confronted. There are encouraging signs of renewed urgency. Adoption by the Organization of African Unity of the Special Programme of Action for improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa which called for a significant increase of government expenditure in agriculture. In spite of the tremendous economic strain caused by the drought, many African governments have begun to give agriculture greater priority. Some have made difficult reforms in agricultural policy, higher prices for farmers, decontrol in consumer food prices, more attention to regional trade and encouragement for private enterprise. We congratulate these governments for their bold actions under trying circumstances.

The FAO will, I am sure, continue to play an important role in shaping the response to the longer-term African challenge. FAO's project assistance directed at improving the lot of small-scale farmers has been particularly useful. The FAO's indepth study of the agricultural and food problems in Africa noted in paragraph 52 of the document before us to be completed in 1986 can help provide sound analysis for further action. The United States supports the suggestion made this morning by the honourable delegate of Norway that this study should address and recognize the division of labour and the roles of the different international organizations responding to the critical situation in Africa. I think particularly of the programmes of IFAD directed at small producers. The United States also supports the remarks made by the distinguished delegates of Denmark, the United Kingdom, Canada and a number of other delegates, pointing out the importance of more effective coordination of resources and the importance of approved policies affecting agricultural production.

The forthcoming special session of the United Nations General Assembly on Development in Africa will offer another opportunity to focus the world's attention on the need for more enduring solutions. Getting African countries on their feet will not be easy. It will require a concerted effort, as a number of the honourable delegates have repeated today, concerted efforts on the part of Africans and the international community. All donors together are now providing US\$12 billion in assistance a year to Africa. Africans are contributing far more. Effective use of these resources can result in time in major development gains. How well we use these resources will show how well we are able to learn from our experience.

M. BOUJBEL (Tunisie): La delegation tunisienne voudrait se joindre aux délégations qui l'ont précédée pour présenter ses vifs sentiments à l'égard de la Colombie et du peuple colombien.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Secrétariat pour la clarté et la consistance du document présenté sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique. Telle qu'elle est indiquée, la situation alimentaire en Afrique s'est améliorée de façon sensible et la population agricole a augmenté de quatre pour cent en 1984-85. Mais le problème du redressement de l'agriculture africaine reste entier; l'effort de la communauté internationale devra s'intensifier et s'amplifier pour aider l'Afrique à faire face à la situation. A cet effet, le programme de redressement élaboré par notre Organisation devra recevoir le plus grand soutien de la-part des pays donateurs. L'ensemble des projets retenus permettra certainement de jeter les bases d'un système de production alimentaire moins précaire.

La délégation tunisienne appuie les initiatives qu'entreprend le Directeur général pour mobiliser le financement des projets de redressement de l'agriculture africaine. Notre délégation souscrit aux propositions présentées par le Directeur général dans le cadre du budget et tendant à renforcer le courant d'échange d'expertises entre pays en développement et exprime son soutien pour favoriser ces échanges auprès des pays africains les plus touchés par la sécheresse.

La Tunisie est prête à y'participer en mettant à disposition sa modeste expérience en matière de développement agricole.

Ms N. MOURAD (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My country's delegation would, first and foremost, like to say to the Colombian delegation how extremely sorry it is, given the catastrophe which has just affected that country, and we would like to join all those who have said that they would like all the necessary help to be given to the Colombian people.

We should like to congratulate the Secretariat for their effort in preparing the important document which reviews the situation of food and agriculture in Africa and for the measures taken by the Organization under the personal impulse of the Director-General in order to follow the crisis, to try to overcome it, by sending missions to determine on the spot what the situation is, by making reports and also by allocating more than half of the sum available to Africa from the Early Warning System.

We should like to say that the Director-General is to be commended for having made these appeals in order to call the attention of world opinion to the crisis in Africa and to the need to set up a global food programme for Africa. We should also like to recognize the economic and financial difficulties which many African countries still face, especially because there is to be a reduction in output in 1985 in comparison with 1984. We should also like to point out the fall in export earnings, the shortage in foreign exchange, the heavy debts and the weight of servicing the debts, also because of high interest rates, and their effects on the crisis.

It appears from the document that the prospects for crops in most African countries for 1985 are definitely better than before, although there are still four regions which need rapid intervention on the part of the world community and the governments of the affected countries.

We wish to pay a tribute to the rehabilitation programme in Africa, which is the outcome of an initiative of the Director-General, activities of which cover 24 of the most seriously affected

countries. We are happy to note that 85 percent of the funds needed for the programme have already been covered by firm pledges or by definite interest shown by certain donor countries. We know also that US\$53 million have not yet been covered, and we urge the international community to step up contributions to this very important programme.

This programme is fully in line with the Lagos Plan of Action with regard to the importance of structural measures in the medium and longer-term. We also have to pay tribute to the OAU Emergency Fund which is a symbol of cooperation between African countries. We all look forward to the study of FAO on agricultural problems in Africa in the light of which we will make specific proposals designed to increase agricultural production. We also expect results from the special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which is to be held to discuss the serious crisis in African countries.

To conclude, I wish to tell you about Egypt's contribution to brother African countries through the Technical Assistance Fund dedicated to technical cooperation in research and training.

N. MUMBA (Zambia): The Zambian delegate wishes to join the other delegates in offering Colombia deep-felt condolences on the disaster that has befallen their country. We wish to pay tribute to the Director-General of FAO and to the United States of America for the humanitarian steps they have already taken to assist Colombia.

We also wish to contribute to the debate on Item 7.2, document C 85/20. The Zambian delegation is extremely pleased to hear the message of the Director-General on the subject of the critical situation in Africa. We are touched by the efforts which the Director-General has made to reduce the suffering of the people in Africa. We are happy that the Director-General's initiative will continue in future. We hope that these initiatives will help strengthen the food supply situation of most African countries.

We are particularly pleased that the Director-General has taken steps to secure buyers for those countries like Malawi, Zimbabwe and Kenya who have surplus food. With this assistance, these countries will continue to produce more food. For Zambia, this is most welcome news, because it means that, if we need to import maize, we shall not have to go far. Furthermore, these countries produce white maize, which is our favourite type.

Document C 85/20 has explained the African situation clearly. Africa is in trouble, and something must be done. There is a need to review the situation and map out remedial measures. We in Africa will try our best, but we hope that others will also assist. We therefore urge all interested donors to work hand in hand with FAO to ensure that the rehabilitation programme for Africa is successful. No effort should be spared in trying to solve the African food situation. In this regard, the Zambian delegation would support a special resolution on Africa at this Conference.

Mlle F. BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Permettez-moi tout -d'abord d'exprimer à notre collègue de Colombie notre affliction face au drame qui s'est abattu sur son peuple et nous le prions d'accepter notre sincère amitié.

Le travail clair et concis effectué par le Secrétariat nous permet aujourd'hui de consulter un document édifiant sur l'ampleur du désastre qui affecte le continent africain où des millions de personnes affrontent de manière inégale l'un des maux les plus insoutenables pour l'être humain: la faim.

Les discours les plus éloquents n'apportent certainement pas une solution définitive aux handicaps qui barrent la route au développement du continent africain.

La crise alimentaire qui sévit en Afrique avec toutes les conséquences sociales, économiques et dramatiques nous exhorte maintenant à tenter d'apporter des solutions suffisamment objectives pour permettre aux populations les plus éprouvées d'appréhender l'avenir avec un peu plus d'espoir.

Par solutions objectives, nous entendons la mise en oeuvre d'actions concrètes projetées vers le futur. Il est vrai que des gestes généreux ont permis de répondre à des besoins urgents, mais c'est tous les jours que l'homme lutte pour sa sécurité alimentaire.

L'aide alimentaire est certainement nécessaire et même urgente pour apaiser le spectre de la faim qui tend malheureusement à s'élargir malgré la trêve que nous offrent les conditions climatiques actuelles. Nous estimons que le règlement définitif de la famine dépend nécessairement du développement de l'agriculture et non seulement du retour de pluies conjoncturelles que nous ne pouvons, hélas, garantir pour les saisons prochaines.

Aussi, il nous semble souhaitable que la communauté internationale réponde favorablement à l'appel lancé par les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement africains lors du 21ème Sommet de l'OUA en juillet dernier, en particulier par la réunion d'une conférence internationale sur la dette extérieure de l'Afrique. De même nous espérons que les résultats de la session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies qui doit examiner la situation critique en Afrique répondra à notre attente.

D'autres honorables délégués ont souligné la nécessité d'examiner la situation de manière globale. Notre délégation partage totalement ce point de vue d'autant que mon pays milite depuis de nombreuses années déjà en faveur de négociations globales, tant il est vrai que le problème de l'agriculture en Afrique et dans les pays en développement d'une manière générale se heurte au fonctionnement actuel du système économique mondial.

En effet, aux conditions météorologiques défavorables s'ajoutent surtout les effets pervers d'une économie mondiale inadaptée. Le cercle vicieux dans lequel se meuvent nombre de pays en développement, et plus particulièrement les pays les moins avancés, dont, faut-il le rappeler, plus de la moitié sont africains, ne permet pas de résoudre la situation actuelle.

De manière schématique, car nous sommes malheureusement limités par le temps qui nous est imparti, nous pouvons dire que pour se développer les pays en développement ont besoin de financement pour mettre en oeuvre les mesures nécessaires. Or, ces pays sont écrasés par le poids de la dette extérieure qui leur impose des coupes drastiques dans leur budget et deviennent asservis au service de cette dette. De plus, comme le montrent clairement le document C 85/20 et en particulier les paragraphes 16, 18 et 19, le montant de la dette extérieure s'est amplifié ces dernières années et est passé de 1980 à 1984 de 30 à 40 pour cent du PIB des pays africains en développement, absorbant ainsi les quelques recettes d'exportations enregistrées; ceci, tant il est vrai qu'en général les délais de remboursement sont relativement courts car les emprunts s'effectuent sur des capitaux de banques privées et, de plus, sont contractés à des taux d'intérêts commerciaux acceptés quand même par les pays en développement, car indispensables.

Un autre aspect semble tout aussi important, c'est celui de la situation du marché international qui a du mal à accorder aux exportations des pays en développement les prix et la place appropriés qui leur permettent non seulement le remboursement de leurs dettes mais aussi, et surtout, de mettre en oeuvre une stratégie de développement national.

La conviction de mon pays est que la solution pour le réajustement de l'économie mondiale pourrait se trouver dans des négociations globales.

Lors du 21ème Sommet de l'OUA, en juillet dernier, les chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement africains ont entériné l'initiative algérienne de création d'un fonds spécial d'urgence pour les pays touchés par la sécheresse. Mais, pour permettre à ce fonds d'entamer des actions constructives, la contribution initiale des 10 millions de dollars de mon pays et d'autres contributions de pays africains ne suffisent pas à elles seules. Des contributions de grands pays donateurs sont espérées.

Avant de conclure, nous nous associons aux délégués africains pour inviter les délégués et représentants à cette vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO à approuver unanimement la résolution que le Groupe africain, appuyé par le Groupe des 77, doit présenter à leur intention.

D.K. YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Ma délégation voudrait, à l'instar de celles qui l'ont précédée, présenter ses condoléances émues au peuple colombien dans la dure épreuve qu'il traverse actuellement.

En donnant la parole à la Côte d'Ivoire en fin de séance, et quelques moments, je l'espère, avant la clôture des débats sur la question relative à l'angoissante situation alimentaire de l'Afrique, vous pensez bien que je ne vous infligerai pas un long discours. Je ne vous infligerai pas un long discours parce que beaucoup de mes collègues, délégués africains, ont, à juste titre, et dans un langage clair, responsable et sans détours, décrit la situation que vivent nos populations et cela depuis plusieurs années.

Point n'est besoin pour nous de vous décrire une situation que le monde entier connaît maintenant; tant les médias que les responsables politiques des différents Etats se sont apesantis sur cette réalité: la sécheresse, la pauvreté, la maladie et j'en passe...

L'Afrique toutefois, sachez-le, ne se présente pas à la communauté internationale pour mendier. Elle souhaite tout simplement pouvoir se passer de l'aide grâce à votre aide. Sur ces graves problèmes dont la communauté internationale tout entière doit se sentir responsable et concernée, elle souhaite que les pays développés lui apportent le soutien financier et l'assistance technique et logistique dont ils sont capables, pour permettre à nos braves populations de vaincre ce cycle infernal que constitue la faim. Il n'y a pas que nos discours, nos paroles pour vous édifier sur l'urgente nécessité de nous apporter cette contrepartie, je dis bien contrepartie de l'aide dont finalement nous bénéficions tous grâce aux effets induits qu'elle entraîne.

Il y a ici dans les tiroirs de la FAO, dans d'autres organisations internationales du système onusien, par exemple au FIDA, il y a sur les bureaux de nos propres fonctionnaires nationaux, il y a à l'OUA, des solutions qui existent, des projets viables, élaborés avec votre collaboration, qui ne demandent qu'à être mis à exécution. Aidez-nous à les rendre opérationnels avec votre concours. Aidez-nous pour éviter ce que le Président Mitterrand de la France évoquait dans son allocution à la Conférence, à savoir que si les pays africains sombrent, tous les pays sombreront avec eux.

Ma délégation pense qu'il s'agit maintenant de passer aux actes. L'intelligence humaine et l'aide du Tout-Puissant qui semble nous ramener la pluie feront le reste.

Le chef de notre Etat, le Président Houphouët, disait le mois dernier s'adressant à des journalistes du monde entier, réunis dans mon pays à l'occasion de notre huitième Congrès politique, qu'il est écoeurant de voir qu'on creuse à plusieurs kilomètres de profondeur pour chercher du pétrole alors qu'au Sahel, l'eau se trouve à 1 000 ou 2 000 mètres et que l'on refuse de la faire jaillir pour rendre le désert vert. Tel est le vrai problème.

Nous attendons de tous les délégués ici présents un appui ferme et unanime au projet de résolution sur l'Afrique qui résume nos idées-force brillamment évoquées ce matin par l'Ambassadeur du Congo et qui sera présenté à cette 23ème Conférence.

En formant l'espoir que notre Conférence se penchera cette fois sur la situation de l'Afrique avec toute la lucidité et la foi que requiert son état de santé, je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir permis à la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire de faire entendre sa petite voix.

A.R.M. BAHMAN (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): On behalf of the delegation of Kuwait I would like to thank the FAO for the efforts it has made in taking real action with regard to the crisis in Africa. We support the measures taken by the Director-General in order to draw up a programme to rehabilitate agriculture in Africa, which is intended to increase production there.

Following the FAO appeal, the Government of Kuwait has granted great food importance to security, in particular in Africa. The Government has urged all national institutions to make themselves aware of the needs, and there is a national committee to help the victims in Africa. All these institutions, companies and individuals are contributing to a fund which sends gifts in all shapes and forms, including teams of engineers and doctors who go out on a voluntary basis. Many are in different villages in African countries. Programmes are being carried out in relation

to the digging of wells, storage of grain and food, and the distribution of fertilizers in order to rehabilitate agriculture in the disaster areas. A committee will monitor these programmes and will involve the inhabitants of the village in order to safeguard what has been done and to make agriculture flourish.

We have contributed at all levels, in particular to world food aid. We try to inform all individuals and to make them aware of the importance of this enterprise. In the Council of Ministers we have asked all individuals to contribute a symbolic amount to be paid to a fund which would then be made available to the victims. We are making every effort to overcome famine in the world by means of our national institutions and by means of individual gifts.

E.G. MOYO (Tanzania): My delegation would like to express its deep sympathy to the people of Colombia where a disaster has just taken place. On behalf of my delegation I welcome the immediate response by the Director-General of FAO. Of course, we will support the measures which will be taken in this regard.

The document prepared by the Secretariat on The Critical Situation in Africa, supplemented by the introductory speech of the Director-General, clearly gives an analysis of the real current economic situation of the continent. Of course, Tanzania is included in that continent and therefore we greatly support and endorse the contents of document C 85/20.

Tanzania has a population of about 21 million people. Its economy is predominantly agricultural. Most of the population is directly dependent upon agriculture. During the 1980s, a major feature of our economy has been the critical shortage of foreign exchange. By far the major component of exports has been agricultural products, while the major component of our imports has been petroleum products. Over the past eight years, petroleum imports have taken up a rapidly escalating proportion of foreign exchange. In 1977/78 they accounted for only 22 percent of the total value of imports, while by 1984/85 they had risen to over 60 percent.

Agricultural products provide over two-thirds of our export income and account for 90 percent of employment. Therefore, agriculture is one of the major sectors of the economy and has an important role to play in our economic recovery.

However, the economy has not performed well for a decade or more. The fall in the volume of exports of agricultural products has led to a fall in real purchasing power. The agricultural sector has been adversely affected through the waste of imported inputs and the acute shortage of consumer goods in the country. Food production has tended to stagnate and import requirements have rapidly risen. The fall in agricultural exports and related foreign exchange earnings, together with heavy debt servicing requirements, have led to unprecedented balance of payment problems and large food aid requirements. In fact, food aid currently covers the bulk of the nation's food imports.

The poor performance of agriculture in Tanzania has been attributed to adverse weather conditions, the unstable and frequent institutional changes affecting the economy and agriculture, the neglect of subsistence agriculture, poor marketing systems and transport, the low level of fertilizer use and resort to high quality imports such as certified seeds and pesticides. The lack of proper price policies are also important contributing factors.

In an effort to turn the tide, the Government of Tanzania has embarked on a Structural Adjustment Programme which aims at stabilizing the internal and external accounts of the country, eliminating food shortages and increasing productivity. By recognizing the central role of agriculture in our economic recovery, and after identifying a number of constraints which have helped to explain the cause of the decline of agricultural products during the previous decade, the Structural Adjustment Programme set out a programme consisting of short-term crisis management, mainly concerned with macro-economic policies and a longer-term adjustment programme. After all these have been implemented we hope the crisis might be diverted or at least reduced. On that note, I will stop.

Sra. Y. GAGO (Costa Rica): Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, felicita a la Secretaría por el excelente documento que estamos considerando y se une a las deliberaciones de las demás delegaciones apoyando toda ayuda a Africa para erradicar el hambre y la miseria. Deseamos que esta ayuda se prolongue a un largo plazo hasta alcanzar el desarrollo y la autosuficiencia agrícola y alimentaria. Apoyamos, por tanto, el proyecto de resolución presentado por el Embajador del Congo esta mañana.

D. KINZEL (Austria) (Original language German): Firstly, I would like to say to the delegation of Colombia how very sorry we are to hear of the terrible disaster which has struck that country.

I would like to say to the Director-General how grateful we are for his excellent introduction to this important item. Given its thorough knowledge of the situation in Africa, FAO pointed out the approaching dangers in good time. Thanks to the appeals for aid made by the Director-General and the measures so promptly taken in 1984 and 1985 in Africa, the worst was avoided.

The sufficient rainfall this year has meant that some countries, such as Malawi, Kenya and Zimbabwe, for example, have been able to produce surpluses which must find a proper outlet. Here I should like to join a number of previous speakers and refer to the importance of triangular transactions. The success which has been made should not be a cause for a reduction in help for Africa, but rather this opportunity should be taken in order to look towards longer-term development aid, in particular in terms of storage and so forth.

Allow me to refer to an area which deserves assistance from us all. We pay particular heed to the activities of FAO in the area of seed and seed provision. We think that the supply to farmers of quality seeds, together with pesticides and fertilizers, is a prior condition for the improvement agriculture.

These initiatives in this area by FAO will receive our full support. In this connection I should like to say that my country, in conjunction with FAO and local institutions, will undertake a training programme for East Africa. In the future we shall continue to support this very important activity in this vital area undertaken by FAO. Furthermore, we would like to mention that our contributions in the emergency reserve and the food aid agreement in particular in 1983, 1984 and 1985, will be used for the benefit of the African countries in distress.

Table 1 on page 4 of the document shows that the GDP in 1984 grew by 2.6 percent, but the per capita level is falling, and average earning in those countries of the Sahel zone is lower than it was 15 years ago. Therefore, measures must be taken in order to rehabilitate the economies of these countries, without which there can be no food security there. Here the south cooperation will particularly significant. The Austrian Delegation welcomes the Action Programme decided upon at the 21st Conference of the OAU and the recognition of the governments and heads of state that the responsibility for overcoming the severe economic crisis lies with them.

Africa will continue to need food aid, but food security is nearer over the horizon.

H.K. QUARTEY-PAPAFIO (Ghana): The crisis in Africa, as aptly described in Document C 85/20, has been highlighted by various ministers of agriculture and underlined in the addresses given at the Plenary by the Director-General and the President of Peru, Indonesia and France.

The Ghana delegation wishes to re-emphasize its deep concern about this downward trend in the economies of a number of African states listed in the document under consideration.

Our concern stems from the fact that instead of tackling systematically their planned national development programmes, most countries, including Ghana, have been compelled to devote their limited material and financial resources to solving problems caused by drought, bush' fires, spread of rinderpest disease and influx of displaced communities, while the external economic factors relating to the heavy debt burden, foreign exchange readjustment, depressed prices for export products, high prices of imported agricultural inputs - to mention a few - continued to assume a necessary preoccupation and a top priority over other national development plans and strategies.

It is, therefore, not surprising that these conflicting domestic and external factors which continue to affect our national goals and aspirations have contributed over the years to an unbearable and very dangerous situation, in which our food production has lagged behind demand, particularly in the face of increasing population growth, leading to ad hoc solutions such as recourse to food aid.

On the other hand, our inability to generate enough foreign exchange earnings through exports has led to frequent borrowing, increasing debt burden and a slow or stagnating economic growth. This is the paradox in which we find ourselves today.

In the light of this situation, Ghana wishes to express her appreciation and gratitude to FAO, which has been very much alive in its responsibilities by striving, over the past years, to find lasting solutions to some of the problems facing the African continent. The fact that the Organization has discharged its obligation to each and every country without any preconditions is an eloquent testimony to the ideals for which the Organization was founded in 1945.

Ghana's agriculture, which accounts for a high percentage of the gross domestic product - estimated at 53 percent in 1983, accounting for 80 percent of exports and employing 60 percent of the labour force - was adversely affected by the severe drought and widespread bush fires in 1982 and 1983, resulting in serious food shortages, reduced exports and a high inflation rate, which averaged as high as 75 percent.

However, thanks to FAO and various bilateral and multilateral assistance programmes, the country over the past two years has achieved substantial increases in the production of maize and other food crops, following the return of favourable weather conditions. The Ghana delegation, therefore, considers it appropriate to use this forum to thank all the international agencies and donor countries who have been of help to Ghana in providing technical material and financial assistance in the country's genuine efforts at rehabilitating her economy.

In particular, my delegation would like to thank the Organization for the provision of farm inputs to resettle Ghanaians returning from neighbouring countries, for training technical personnel to handle efficiently the storage and distribution of excess production of maize and other cereals, for strengthening our capability to control post-harvest losses and for various other assistance given to Ghana. All these measures are designed to overcome some of our problems and above all to establish a firm basis for sustained growth in agriculture and food production.

Despite the strenuous efforts being made by the Organization to solve the crisis facing the African continent, it is abundantly clear from the document under review that Africa cannot come out of the woods in the foreseeable future unless massive assistance is made available, especially to countries which are adversely affected by natural disasters and militating economic factors. The present fragility and uncertainty of our economy demand that every assistance given should be adequate enough to propel us beyond the danger line, beyond the distress, hunger and starvation facing the continent, while we pledge to relentlessly continue to pursue our national programmes so that, in the long term, we can establish ourselves not only as economically independent countries, but also as countries capable of contributing to the international cooperative effort on an equal basis in establishing a world free of disease, hunger and misery.

In conclusion, the Ghana delegation would like to reaffirm its continued confidence in the work of FAO, and to urge the Organization to pursue its initiatives towards the implementation of the world food security compact, the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Africa, food aid for seriously affected countries as a short term measure, increased technical assistance programmes, and measures to control desertification in Africa.

The Ghana delegation suggests, in addition, expanding the application of FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System to cover other fields of agriculture, in addition to alerting countries on the vagaries of the weather and the effects of food production.

Finally, the Ghana delegation wishes to express its sympathy to the Government and people of Colombia for the unfortunate tragedy which has caused death, pain and suffering to many. We do commend the Director-General for his gesture in promising prompt assistance to the people affected by this disaster.



I congratulate the FAO Secretariat for this informative and valuable document and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to make this statement.

Mme J. COELHO DA CRUZ (Angola): C'est avec émotion et consternation que nous avons appris la nouvelle de la catastrophe qui a frappé la Colombie. Ma délégation profite donc de cette occasion pour présenter à son tour ses condoléances les plus émues à la délégation colombienne. Nous appuyons toutes les mesures qui seront prises par la Communauté internationale en général, par la FAO et le PAM pour venir en aide aux sinistrés.

Je voudrais donc en venir au point de notre ordre du jour pour apprécier la façon claire dont le document C. 85/20 a présenté la situation de notre continent. Nous tenons à remercier le Directeur général pour les efforts inlassables et l'intérêt constant qu'il accorde à la résolution des problèmes de l'Afrique.

Aujourd'hui, parler de l'Afrique c'est parler de la sécheresse et de la désertification; parler de l'Afrique c'est parler de l'apartheid. Voilà deux des éléments indissociables dont il faut faire mention dans le débat, car si ces deux fléaux ne sont pas combattus par les Africains et la Communauté internationale, toutes les projections économiques couvrant les zones africaines n'auront jamais de succès. En effet, la sécheresse, la désertification et l'apartheid n'ont qu'un dénominateur commun: destruction et ravages.

A part les mauvaises conditions écologiques qui secouent mon pays, il y a des agressions constantes des troupes racistes sud-africaines qui détruisent tout sur leur passage et infiltrent des bandits armés dans nos zones agricoles pour décourager notre lutte pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire. Cela étant, nous donnons pleinement notre accord à la proposition faite par le délégué du Congo pour que ce point soit inclus dans notre rapport et nous souhaitons que nos débats reflètent la véritable situation de l'Afrique.

La délégation angolaise exprime sa préoccupation quant à la lourde dette extérieure qui pèse sur nos économies. Si les recettes africaines des exportations ne servent pas à payer le service de la dette, nous nous demandons quel sera l'avenir du continent. Nous ne voulons pas que notre souveraineté africaine soit hypothéquée et nous appuyons la résolution de l'Assemblée générale aux Nations Unies portant sur l'organisation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale sur la situation en Afrique et son développement à long terme. En ce qui concerne les problèmes de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous souhaitons la présence de la FAO.

Avant de terminer, nous aimerions féliciter les initiatives du Directeur général dont nous sommes saisis, notamment la préparation du Plan du relèvement de l'Afrique et le transfert de 15 millions de dollars des Etats-Unis en faveur des pays africains gravement frappés par la sécheresse. Nous remercions la CEE de bien vouloir continuer à entreprendre des efforts avant d'éliminer les souffrances en Afrique. Nous appuyons le document présenté ce matin en faveur de l'Afrique par le Congo.

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA "(Sri Lanka): Allow me to join the-other colleagues in expressing our deepest sympathies to the Colombian delegation in the calamity that has befallen them.

Coming back to this question of the critical situation in Africa, at the very outset the Sri Lankan delegation wishes to express its deep concern about the critical situation in Africa which is very clearly highlighted in document C 85/20 prepared by the FAO Secretariat.

Africa's real GDP, which increased only 2.6 percent in 1984, and even less in Sub-Saharan Africa, is forecast to rise only by 2.2 percent in 1985. Agriculture rose by only 1.6 percent in 1984 in Sub-Saharan Africa, and in some countries the decline in per capita food production was more than 10 percent.

The inability of most African economies to adjust to adverse conditions has rendered them particularly vulnerable to external economic forces. Drought and adverse weather conditions is only one factor

in this critical situation. Depressed prices for exports and high interest rates have also been contributing factors. Total external debts of developing Africa rose from US\$ 102.8 billion in 1980 to an estimated US\$ 126.8 billion in 1984, and now account for almost 63 percent of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Sri Lankan delegation commends the FAO for the programme prepared by them for the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa. Projects in this programme are small to medium in size, and designed to arrest, directly or indirectly, the present decline in food production.

The Sri Lankan delegation is also happy to note the initiative taken by the Organization for African Unity in adopting a special programme of Action for Improvement of the Food Situation and Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa at its Twenty-first Assembly of the Heads of State and Governments.

Food aid that has been provided by the developed countries in the crisis situation is only a very short-term measure to get over the immediate problem. What is required is a dedicated, consistent, long-term programme of agricultural development to resolve this crisis.

It needs a two-pronged attack.

Firstly, a full commitment by individual countries to develop their agricultural resources base to meet the food required by the people.

Secondly, an undertaking or understanding and willingness on the part of the developed countries, as indicated in their recent contributions, to provide all the support and facilities individual countries require, in their development efforts to become self-reliant. The Sri Lankan delegation feels that there are many lessons that the African countries can learn from other developing countries, especially from those in the Asian Region, that have managed to change the tide in their dependence and are now self-reliant in their food requirements. It is in this context that research, and more particularly adapted research, assumes priority importance in identifying what is more relevant to the individual country needs.

Finally, the Sri Lankan delegation takes this opportunity to commit its full support to provide all assistance to help in solving the African crisis. This has already been demonstrated by its small contribution to the World Food Programme in the year 1984.

J. GORECKI (Poland): First let me also join the other speakers and express our deep condolences and regrets to Colombia.

Turning to the document which we examined during this long Session, the Polish delegation wants to congratulate the Secretariat of FAO for preparing this document which gives us a very deep study on agriculture and food problems in Africa. Particularly, I would like to stress that the most important features of this document are that it puts forward concrete measures for the consideration of African governments to intensify food production, particularly through the wider use of modern production inputs, and changing socio-economic policy in agriculture. On behalf of the Polish delegation, I would like to say that the Polish government and the Polish people

will continue their assistance given to the most needed African countries, particularly with regard to quantity in food aids and technical assistance in the distribution of food, and through the work of Polish volunteers.

In addition, Poland would be also ready to join the efforts of other donor country members of FAO Trust Funds, with the aim of setting up and developing projects for the benefit of less developed African countries. In this area, assistance could be in kind and in technical work, as well as in local currency. Impressed by Dr Edouard Saouma's deep personal involvement to mobilize public opinion towards the African disaster and having in mind the competence of FAO staff, as well as the efficiency of FAO's food aid programmes, my government recently decided to present a group of fully qualified experts in animal health and animal production for the Director-General's disposal. Paid by my government, they will serve as volunteers within the framework of FAO activities in the most affected African countries.

H. de SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation would like to join previous speakers and express its deep sympathy and condolences to the delegation of Colombia for the great catastrophe which struck their sister nation yesterday.

My delegation followed with great concern the dramatic food crisis that hit the African continent in the last few years, motivated by the combination of a number of structural problems with severe and prolonged drought.

My delegation strongly supported, during this period, the tremendous efforts the Director-General of FAO made to alert the world to the deterioration of the food situation in Africa, and consequently, to mobilize the international aid to face the problem and to provide the necessary relief to the suffering populations. It is now rewarding to see that much has been done, although the greatest task of rehabilitating the African agriculture has still a long and difficult way to go. In this regard, my delegation is pleased to verify that once again FAO has taken the lead to promote measures to support the rehabilitation efforts of the affected countries in Africa, by preparing an adequate programme for it. We feel that the agricultural rehabilitation programme in Africa has already received general support from developed countries, but we also believe additional efforts must be made to help launch the basis for Africa to find its own way in the improvement of its food and agricultural production and for it to achieve the full economic and social development of its people.

P. SKALIERIS (Greece): The situation in Africa calls for special concern, though not out of pessimism, as to development capacities of this continent. Natural factors, namely natural disasters and adverse climatic conditions, come as an addition to the already extremely negative consequences of what is considered to be the longest recession the continent has known in the post-war period.

The prolonged drought, the weakening of the soil due to excessive cultivation, the distortion in the ecological balance, the diminution of rural populations and, eventually, domestic policy deficiencies are additional factors which cause the severe decrease of agriculture and food production in Africa. To name but one example, grain per capita production now stands only as two thirds of the 1976 level.

The Greek Government tried to intensify its efforts to help in this critical situation. In addition to our contribution in the multilateral framework, our efforts have recently concentrated on emergency aid.

As regards this form of assistance, my Government, based on recent experiences, considers that there is yet room for improvement of practices and procedures for a more effective response to emergency food aid problems. The cause may best be served if the evaluation of the real dimensions of potential food shortages is timely, the coordination of external and domestic efforts closer, and the access of aid in the stricken areas easier, etc. The ultimate goal remains, of course, to avoid food crises altogether in the future. MY delegation believes that, despite today's difficulties, African countries facing food problems are not to be considered as perpetually condemned to food aid dependence. By properly using their production potential, they will be in a position to face their growing needs.

E. BONEV (UNDP): I would like to give a very brief account on the UNDP's response to the African food crisis and its modest contribution to alleviating the multiple problems facing the countries gravely affected in this continent. Accounts of African hunger and starvation capture world headlines less frequently these days, but the continent has yet to recover from its grave food crisis. An estimated 150 million people are still not getting enough to eat, and over 30 million remain severely at risk. Many more still struggle to recover from disease and other debilitating effects of starvation and chronic malnutrition. The 1985 rains were better than in many seasons past, but one favourable harvest will not end Africa's food shortage. With population growing faster than agricultural development in most countries, hunger and malnutrition are prevalent among the poor majority, even in good years. The continent's aggregate food production grew about 1.8 percent

a year between 1960 and 1980, before the most devastating drought years of 1983 and 1984. In Sub-Saharan Africa food output has fallen 20 percent over the past twenty years. African countries have made up the deficit by increasing cereal imports nearly sixfold since 1970. In 1984 almost one of four Africans were dependent on imported grains. Declining food production combined with population growth and reduced per capita income are key factors in the crisis. Many other factors, however, both human and environmental, have been cited as contributing to Africa's food deficit. Inadequate land use, land degradation, drought, outmoded agricultural techniques, insufficiency or lack of research, unfavourable pricing policies, neglecting of small and women farmers, lack of rural investments, poverty as focus of all. Twenty-six of the thirty-six LDCs are in Africa and have a per capita GNP of US\$ 110.

UNDP made and will continue to make all possible efforts in the mobilization and delivery of immediate food and other emergency aid generously provided by the world community. You may recall that at the request of the UN Secretary General, the UNDP Administrator, Bradford Morse, has become Director of the new office of Emergency Operations in Africa, whose tireless efforts are well known to everyone here.

UNDP Resident Representatives, who in most African countries are also Resident Coordinators of the UN assistance received, have been intimately involved in defining needs, communicating them to donors, and ensuring the timely delivery of relief supplies. But it is through assistance to the short, medium and long-term efforts of African countries to recover from the present crisis and set their systems of food production on a sound permanent footing that UNDP, together with its affiliated funds and programmes, and its close partners, the executing agencies, FAO among the major ones, is playing its primary role.

Of UNDP's total expenditure of US\$548.7 million in 1984, US\$156.1 million, or 28.5 percent were for national programmes in Africa south of the Sahara. In addition, African countries benefit substantially from regional, global, and inter-regional projects, for which total 1984. expenditures were US\$105.3 million.

As of 1 September 1985, UNDP had a total of 1 655 ongoing projects in Africa south of the Sahara, for which a total of US\$1,739 million had been allocated. Of these, 516 projects costing US\$ 385.2 million were in the agricultural sector. Substantial activities benefiting African agriculture are also underway with financing from UNDP's affiliated funds and programmes, notably the UN Sudano-Sahelian Office, the UN Development Fund, the UN Development Fund for Women, the UN Volunteers, and the UN Financing System for Science and Technology for Development. I should not forget the most recently established UNDP Fund to combat poverty and hunger in Africa which was established in 1984. I should here pay tribute to the first contributor to this Fund, the Government of Italy which offered over US\$120 million for the benefit of three of the most affected African countries by the drought, namely Ethiopia, Sudan and Chad for rehabilitation and development projects.

These activities are addressing many of the fundamental constraints to enhanced food production in Africa. Compared with the continent's vast needs results are thus far modest in scale, but the programmes do suggest promising avenues for further development which could offer great hope for the future.

Over the past,three years UNDP has taken several initiatives to ensure the availability of increased resources for projects with a bearing on food production in Africa. It has focussed existing regular and supplemental resources on projects which affect food supply, including agricultural development, crop production, processing and storage, forestry, meteorology, drought management and development planning and public administration. It has redirected input towards production-oriented activities involving grassroots communities and aimed at stimulating their income generating potential. United Nations volunteers are being deployed to particular effect in this area.

In June 1984 UNDP's Governing Council approved a special allocation of US\$ 1.5 million for additional UNVs to assist in meeting critical needs in Sub-Saharan African countries. UNDP has reinforced micro-economic policy formulation capabilities and the strengthening of government planning mechanisms. To effectively implement this programme UNDP has strengthened the capability of country offices in the most seriously affected countries through redeployment of existing staff and, in so far resources permit, including special funding mobilized, recruitment of additional personnel.

UNDP has reviewed UNDP-financed programmes in close consultation with Government and United Nations system agencies. Where feasible, they have been realigned to reflect highest priority requirements, focus on shorter term impact on affected populations, and provide technical assistance corresponding more directly to rehabilitation and the provision of basic human needs. I should emphasize here that we have never forgotten that the ultimate goal of the developing countries and the technical assistance cooperation activities is the self-reliance of the developing countries. UNDP has proposed to Governments a joint systematic assessment of human resources, constraints and institution building requirements as a prerequisite for the design of priority programmes and policies for the most effective use of national resources and technical assistance. UNDP has improved the round-table process of country consultations with donor governments based on experience gained so far. You may recall that UNDP has served as lead agency for roundtable meetings at the request of nearly all the African least developed countries.

Concluding, I should like to stress that the efficiency and impact of delivery are hardly less important in our work. In this connection, UNDP has listened to and acted on the views of governments which have focussed on various aspects concerning the quality and effectiveness of development assistance from the multilateral system. We strongly believe that a concerted effort is continuously needed from all elements of the system to demonstrate to donors and recipients alike that their continued and increased confidence on material support are warranted. Improved coordination at the country level and better programme and project design have been recognized as important cornerstones of such efforts. UNDP will continue its efforts in this direction. The importance of coordination, as you may recall, was stressed by several delegations, and I would like to assure those delegations that I took very careful note of this. UNDP has enjoyed close cooperation and ties with FAO for many years in this respect, and we are fully confident that our joint and mutual efforts will continue to result in even more efficient and effective programme delivery. This is especially important in a continent like Africa where the needs are far beyond the limits of the aid flow.

P.A.L. de RIJK (Netherlands): First of all, we should like to transmit our condolences to the delegation and people of Colombia in regard to the disaster that has struck that country.

The document we are dealing with indicates that the food crisis in Africa has been reduced to more manageable proportions. This provides the possibility for a rehabilitation of agriculture in those countries affected and gives a better opportunity for preparation for the drought that is likely to come. In the meantime, substantial food aid remains necessary to maintain per caput food aid intake in Africa. My country hopes to contribute to the required rehabilitation project, as well as to provide part of the required food aid.

In the Table concerning the funding situation of FAO's Programme for the Rehabilitation of Agriculture in Africa, we are mentioned as an interested donor. Also in relation to this programme, we should like to come back at a later agenda point on the cooperation of FAO and other specialized agencies.

G. VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économique): Je voudrais vous dire pour commencer que dans ma brève intervention je mettrai tout mon coeur.

Permettez-moi d'abord d'exprimer à la délégation de la Colombie, si tristement touchée, les sentiments de ma vive solidarité et de mon émotion.

Dans ce concert de voix si noble et solidaire il n'est pas possible de rester muet sur tous ces problèmes si graves et d'importance vitale comme ceux de l'Afrique. La solidarité démontrée par tous les pays, sans regarder à leur importance ou à leurs possibilités a été unanime. Ce qui démontre que les hommes, mime ceux qui sont considérés comme les plus durs, ont une conscience et surtout un coeur.

Je me souviens avec émotion de l'élan avec lequel dans les années 60, au sein de l'OCDE, le groupe des amis du Sahel travaillait en attirant l'attention et l'admiration des pays développés.

L'oeuvre du DAC, au sein duquel j'ai eu la chance et l'honneur de connaître M. Lignon - dont je connais depuis toujours la haute compétence et son dévouement total à ces problèmes - démontre tout cela.

Le nombre des projets en cours de réalisation et les initiatives innombrables de ces dernières années attirent finalement l'attention du monde entier, et les recommandations des différents ministres, en particulier des ministres de l'agriculture qui se réunissent même au sein de l'OCDE, dénotent cette majeure prise de conscience pour les problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition qui, nous pouvons le dire, restent depuis longtemps les problèmes les plus importants et les plus graves de la vie.

L'homme finalement, cet individu comme quelqu'un aime l'appeler, a compris que chaque homme sans distinction de couleur, de religion et de race, est notre frère.

L'OCDE, comme du reste l'a confirmé mon collègue M. Guérin hier soir, est et sera heureuse de pouvoir collaborer avec la FAO et de consacrer tout effort non seulement sur le plan théorique avec ses études, mais aussi avec l'exemple donné par les pays qu'elle représente, afin que l'on puisse finalement mettre fin à ce fléau de carence alimentaire, de la famine et de la mort.

Respecter nos frères comme nous-mêmes, signifie entre autres appliquer un des commandements le plus important dicté par le Bon Dieu Tout Puissant.

Je termine avec l'espoir que tous les programmes concernant l'Afrique, y compris celui de la relance, si important, surtout pour le long terme, puissent être entièrement approuvés et réalisés pour la sérénité et la vie des pays intéressés et pour la paix de nos consciences.

CHAIRMAN: Indonesia has submitted a written statement and requested the Secretariat to include it in the official verbatim report.

I. HASAN (Indonesia): Although the overall economic situation in Africa still remains difficult - high inflation rates, foreign exchange shortage, heavy indebtedness, the decline of primary product prices - the food outlook for 1985/86 in Africa is much brighter than the situation in 1984/85 due to better climate and rain. However, the total food requirement will remain much higher than normal, and therefore a large amount of food assistance will still be needed (at least 3 to 3.3 million tons).

Food aid should be considered as temporary to cover structural deficits. However, what Africa immediately needs is the restructuring of agricultural rehabilitation and livestock, in order to eliminate food shortages and malnutrition.

The Indonesian delegation supports this rehabilitation programme; and the conclusions of the special memorandum of the Economic Mission for Africa which states that if the enormity and complexity of the situation is to be effectively addressed, a concerted approach should be taken at short, medium and long-term levels. 1/

CHAIRMAN: That concludes our list of speakers on this item.

The meeting rose at 19.40 hours.

La `séance est levée à 19 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.40 horas.

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/5

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

FIFTH MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE  
QUINTA SESION

(18 November 1985)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 10.05 hours  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 10 h 05  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 10.05 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)
- 7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)
- 7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)
- 7.2. Critical Situation in Africa (continued)
- 7.2. Situation critique de l'Afrique (suite)
- 7.2. Situación crítica en Africa (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is called to order. This morning we are still continuing with the agenda item 7.2 on the Critical Situation in Africa. We had exhausted the list of speakers on Friday, and this morning the Secretariat will respond to some of the points the delegates raised on Friday on this agenda item. I wish to give the floor to Professor Nurul Islam.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Thank you. In fact, Mr Chairman, I have no questions or comments to respond to on the basis of the debate on Friday. Of course, we in the Secretariat do appreciate and are grateful for the general and broad agreement of the distinguished delegates on the analysis contained in the FAO Secretariat document on the Critical Situation in Africa regarding both short-term food emergency and prospects for next year, its rehabilitation efforts, as well as the long-term problems of accelerating food and agricultural production in Africa. We are also grateful that the members have appreciated the efforts of the Director-General and FAO in all those three areas. Of course, the Secretariat has taken note of the details provided by the distinguished delegates in the course of their interventions, and of the efforts they have been themselves making in assisting African member countries in meeting their food problems. We also agree in general, and have also taken due note of the additional comments made by the distinguished delegates on the constraints, as they see them, on such long-term development aspects of the African food and agriculture sector as the high rate of population growth, problems of environmental degradation, the need for appropriate technology suited to African agro-ecological circumstances, appropriate national policy frameworks, a liberal trading environment, the debt problem, etc.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Professor Islam for his short comments on the points raised by the delegates. Now I will just attempt to make a short summary of the interventions on this agenda item. There was an extensive debate with interventions from 56 delegates from member countries and two observers from international organizations. One delegate who did not participate in the discussion asked that his written statement be incorporated into the Verbatim report, and the Chairman requested those who intended to make a statement on the Critical Situation in Africa but were too late, to submit their written statements to the Secretariat and they will be recorded as official interventions in the Verbatim reports.

The two full sessions lasted in total more than 7 hours on this agenda item. The meeting greatly appreciated the introductory statement by the Director-General which gave a concise yet broad summary of the situation in Africa, the scope of the problem, its origin, action taken to date and guidelines for future action; appreciation of the well-prepared and informative background documents prepared by the Secretariat; wide-ranging debate in which many African delegates described the situation in their countries and plans for the future, including assistance requirements; intervention by delegates from other regions supporting priority to African drought-affected countries and referring to assistance given by both developed and developing countries to Africa.



All delegates expressed their appreciation and full support for the untiring efforts by the Director-General and FAO in (a) first alerting the world to the extent of the emerging crisis through timely warnings by the Director-General and frequent reports by the Global Information and Early Warning System; (b) the refocusing of resources to permit the speedy introduction of rehabilitation projects; (c) the development of the much broader agricultural rehabilitation programme which received the full support of member countries.

The delegates expressed full support for all initiatives taken by FAO, OAU, UNDP and other international agencies, including formulation of a special programme for action of improvement of the food situation and rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa, the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for drought and famine in Africa and the OAU Special Emergency Fund. Delegates also expressed their appreciation for the in-depth study of agricultural and food problems in Africa and those by the FAO African Regional Conference.

Delegates stressed the important role FAO had to play in all the initiatives in preparation for the forthcoming UN General Assembly Special Session to consider Africa's critical economic situation. Many delegates expressed gratification for improvements in the situation in the affected countries in 1985 due to favourable weather conditions, and for the beneficial results of efforts made by African countries, the international community, governments, international organizations, NGOs, etc.

At the same time, delegates also strongly expressed that the problem was far from being solved. The crisis would recur, and it was necessary to remain alert and be prepared. Delegates agreed that it was necessary to develop and implement an effective plan of action to solve the long-term problems through appropriate structural measures.

Many delegates from African countries described specific structural, climatic and other problems preventing adequate progress in increasing food production and in their ability to feed their peoples, including increasing indebtedness, restrictions on access to markets for their exports and fair trade practices. A number of affected countries referred to the specific and serious problem existing in southern Africa.

Many delegates strongly stressed the urgent need to focus the highest attention on development and implementation of a longer term solution to the critical situation in Africa, which required maximum efforts by the African countries themselves and strong support from external sources, including governments and international government organizations, especially FAO.

The delegate of Congo, supported by many African delegates, informed the Commission that a resolution had been submitted to the Resolution Committee for formal clearance and would come to this Commission for consideration. The Committee is awaiting this resolution, which will be discussed at a later meeting.

Finally, most delegations expressed their sympathy and condolences to the delegate of Colombia for the tragedy that had struck that country.

I believe this is a summary of the main points discussed, but it will not determine what the Drafting Committee will decide to put in their report. It is just a guideline.

I give the floor to the delegate of Honduras.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): En realidad, Sr. Presidente, Honduras pidió el uso de la palabra, no pidió que le incorporaran su intervención en las actas. No sé si tiene usted a bien, Sr. Presidente, concederme la palabra.

CHAIRMAN: We have appealed to the delegates as we are running behind time. If it is an intervention on the Critical Situation in Africa, would the delegate of Honduras submit a written statement to the Secretariat? If we open the debate other delegates will also ask for the floor. There are others who have not submitted a written statement to the Secretariat.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): En tal caso, Sr. Presidente, creo que debería modificarse el párrafo en que se dice que una delegación pidió que se incorporara su intervención. Se podría decir que por razones de tiempo se le solicitó que entregara su intervención.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Honduras. That will be included in the final record of this agenda item. Honduras will be included as having requested the statement to be included in the verbatim report. Is that all right with Honduras?

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): Es por ganar tiempo, Sr. Presidente, que acepto esto en principio, pero no me agradaría que apareciera que no intervine porque no quise, sino porque no se me concedió la palabra.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Mrs HOANG THI CU (Viet Nam): First of all, on behalf of our delegation I wish to express our condolences to the people of Colombia on the recent catastrophe and deeply hope that with their utmost efforts and the help of the international community, the Colombian people can soon overcome this most difficult situation.

The delegation of Viet Nam would like to express its thanks to the Director-General for coming to this Commission to introduce the subject himself, despite his very heavy schedule.

The situation in Africa has been of grave concern to us for a long time now. Document C 85/20 is the overall economic picture of the African countries. " I need not say any more. As a low-income and food-deficit country, from our own experience we understand the difficulties of our African brothers and sisters. As many delegates in this room have pointed out, the present critical economic situation is a consequence of hundreds of years of colonial rule in the past and of the unfair international economic order at present.

We have witnessed the flow of food aid to Africa in the past years in response to the most serious famines, but it has not been enough. These countries need a big financial resource to rehabilitate their agriculture. Only a new international economic order can help them to improve trade and relieve debt burdens. We very much appreciate, and endorse, all the initiatives and actions taken by FAO, chiefly by the Director-General. The Director-General has seized every opportunity to draw the attention of the international community and the public to the crisis in Africa. He has made many appeals for increased aid to the African countries. We strongly support the Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme in Africa put forward by the Director-General. Goodwill is proved by action and we urge all countries, within their own capacity, to respond effectively to the proposals of action under this programme.<sup>1/</sup>

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): En primer lugar, Honduras, desea reiterar a la delegación de Colombia, nuestra solidaridad ante la tragedia que actualmente vive este país.

Permítame también, Señor Presidente, felicitarle por presidir esta importante Comisión, al igual que, a la Secretaría, por la presentación de este documento.

Mi delegación, Señor Presidente, desea expresar su apoyo a todas las medidas adoptadas dentro del Sistema de Naciones Unidas encaminadas a ayudar a los países africanos a superar la crisis económica y alimentaria actualmente existente.

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<sup>1/</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Creemos que nuestro apoyo no debe limitarse a expresar nuestra solidaridad a este Continente actualmente asolado por la sequía y el espectro de la miseria y el hambre; porque el problema de Africa nos atañe a todos: es problema nuestro, de todos los países miembros de la Comunidad Humana.

Quiero aclarar por qué me refiero a la "Comunidad Humana":

Lo hago, por ser ésta la que se preocupa y se compadece de las desgracias de los seres humanos, mientras que la Comunidad Internacional es conceptualmente eminentemente política.

Nosotros reconocemos la importancia de las organizaciones políticas, y lo que simplemente advocamos, es un nivel más profundo hacia la concepción de los problemas humanos por parte de las organizaciones políticas internacionales.

En el caso de Africa: No se trata sólo de analizar las causas o los problemas existentes. Se trata de la solidaridad de hermanos - del apoyo pleno a todas las medidas que se adopten:

Rehabilitando su agricultura;

Transfiriendo tecnología;

Adoptando medidas efectivas para aliviar el peso de su deuda externa, y Capacitando al pueblo africano, al igual que a los pueblos de las otras Regiones del Mundo subdesarrollado, para que puedan ser "dueños de su propio destino."

Mi delegación, Señor Presidente, apoya al Director General de esta Organización, a las Agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, y a los delegados de otros países que se han expresado en favor del Continente Africano en todos los esfuerzos encaminados para ayudar a que estas naciones, recuperen su dignidad humana 1/.

M. G. KHADIKANE (Lesotho): Africa has been clouded by famine and hunger in the last few years because of a number of factors. The most prominent one has been drought which has affected some countries for the last three to four years. My delegation thanks FAO for its efforts in seeking assistance in food aid and rehabilitation projects from the donor community on behalf of the afflicted countries. Specifically, Lesotho's delegation sincerely thanks the Director-General and his staff for the speedy response to the requests which were submitted by the Kingdom of Lesotho. We also appreciate the high standard of studies which were undertaken to depict the critical food situation in Africa.

Mr Chairman, Africa has to take the 40th Anniversary of FAO as the beginning of a new era for improving its agricultural development. The Lagos Plan of Action, the Harare Declaration, the Resolution of Africa at this Conference (in the pipeline) on agricultural development all have to be synchronized in the development of a comprehensive "Plan of Action" for agricultural development in Africa. Each African State should then establish clear policies and strategies for the implementation of the relevant parts of the "Plan of Action", within the context of its natural resources and indigenous conditions affecting agricultural development.

Mr Chairman, the collective efforts in implementing the portions of the "Plan of Action" will hopefully enable Africa to reach self-sufficiency in some agricultural outputs.. These can, in turn be exchanged between producing and receiving countries, and serve to establish organized trading links between African countries.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, my delegation supports the plans of FAO and the United Nations for the proposed meeting, which will enable Africa to prepare the "Plan of Action" for the next few years. Let us hope that Africa will be able to liberate itself from the current situation in the next decade. Instead of asking for Food Aid, Africa should be determined to have as one of its objectives a desire to one day be a donor of food aid to other parts of the world not fortunate enough to have the fertile land resources which Africa possesses. 2/

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

2/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Milan KARIC (Yugoslavia): Many African countries, especially those south of the Sahara, are deeply concerned about the crisis caused by the low level of economic development, the dependence on developed countries, and internal economic controversies. Overall agricultural production in Africa has remained static during the last decade, while increased consumption of food has kept pace with increases in population.

In addition to the problems existing in the field of economic development, Africa has been affected by very severe drought and hunger, particularly during the last three years. Some 24 African countries with a total population of 197 million inhabitants have been severely affected.

During the years 1984 and 1985 this drought resulted in tremendous losses of human life.

Recently the international community has devoted considerable attention to solving the problems of agricultural development in Africa through special activities established within different organizations, and among these FAO has played a very outstanding role. The Yugoslav delegation offers its full support to the FAO Programme on rehabilitation in African countries aimed at removing the obstacles to economic development in these countries.

However, we feel confident that in the long term famine cannot be alleviated by palliative measures such as food aid and a more equitable distribution of resources. We are convinced that famine can only be eradicated on a permanent basis through economic aid and especially through agricultural development programmes. In view of the fact that the critical economic situation in Africa continues, and that its origins are structural in nature, we consider it important for priority attention to be given to this problem in international gatherings of this nature. National efforts towards development cannot provide adequate solutions given the present situation of depressed prices for raw materials, the decrease in assistance from abroad and the lower level of capital in-flow. In addition countries are faced with an increasing out-flow of financial resources coupled with the intolerable burden of foreign indebtedness and adjustment. All of these have had a severely negative impact on the economic development of these countries.

Emergency measures have received the lion's share of attention, and such assistance will doubtless continue to be required during the years to come. However, a lasting solution to this problematic situation can only be found in long-term economic assistance on an international scale designed to greatly accelerate development in African countries.

Within the measure of its possibilities, Yugoslavia has given assistance to African countries. Economic and other aid during the last five years amounted to approximately \$ 40 million, and consisted mainly of food, agricultural machinery and capital equipment. In addition, Yugoslavia has granted credits to African countries under very favourable conditions.

In September 1985, the Yugoslav Government decided to provide approximately 290 million dinars through the Fund of Solidarity with Non-Aligned and Developing Countries to enable the delivery of Yugoslav commodities to take place as part of its contribution to the Special OAU Emergency Assistance for countries affected by drought and famine. 1/

SAUD AL-ZUIIEER (Jordan) (original language Arabic): On behalf of the Jordanian delegation, I congratulate you on your election as chairman of this Commission. I would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the preparation of these important and informative reviews of the world agricultural situation and the acute situation in Africa.

In view of the importance of the agricultural sector in providing food for man, there must be international cooperation between the developed and developing countries to ensure the minimum food requirements through sound programmes.

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

However, priority should be given to self-reliance. In this respect, my Government places great emphasis in its development plans for the agricultural sector to ensure food availability and to enable farmers to continue their activities. To this end, the Jordanian Government has undertaken evaluation studies of the agricultural situation in cooperation with the concerned international organizations.

These studies revealed a surplus in certain products and a corresponding shortage in others as well. Accordingly, a new agricultural pattern was adopted to encourage farmers to grow those crops in which this country faces a shortage, while reducing the amount of arable land dedicated to surplus crops. Furthermore, to ensure the implementation of the new planting pattern, adequate incentives were provided in the form of promotional prices for the harvest, improvements in the marketing facilities and agro-industries, and promotion of increased exports. However, it is not in the power of every country to shoulder its problems unaided. Fruitful cooperation is needed between the concerned countries and international organizations for the improvement of the food and agriculture situation.

We take the occasion to commend the Director-General and staff members of FAO for their relentless efforts in the service of the agricultural sector world-wide, and in particular, in the African countries now facing a multitude of problems because of acute food shortages, requiring concerted international cooperation. Thank you, Mr Chairman. 1/

J.TCHICAYA (Congo): Ce n'est pas du tout pour intervenir puisque nous l'avons fait au cours du débat général. C'est après votre résumé que nous voudrions tout simplement attirer l'attention du Secrétariat pour qu'aucune omission ne soit faite lorsque le rapport sera préparé par le Secrétariat, afin que les causes de la crise africaine et notamment le fait que certains pays de l'Afrique australe n'aient pas pu justement atteindre leur autosuffisance ou assurer leur sécurité alimentaire certaines ne soient pas omises et nous avons mentionné l'Afrique du Sud. J'ai suivi votre résumé et je ne sais pas si vous avez fait mention de cela, mais en tout état de cause, je pense que le Secrétariat nous a écouté et a écouté de nombreuses délégations qui se sont exprimées ici sur ce sujet.

CHAIRMAN: I did mention that many countries referred to the specific and serious problem existing in southern Africa, but my whole summary will not be the final guideline for the Drafting Committee. What has been said will appear in the Drafting Committee's report.

If there is no further comment on either my summary or on this agenda item, I will now close the discussion on this agenda item.

Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, took the chair

Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

The meeting was suspended from 10.26 to 10.28 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 heures à 10 h 28

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.26 a 10.28 horas

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1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

10. Adoption of the World Food Security Compact  
10. Adoption du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire  
10. Aprobación del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais d'abord accueillir le Directeur général qui nous a rejoint et je voudrais donc vous rappeler que maintenant nous en sommes arrivés au point 10: "Adoption du pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire", donc le document C 85/23. Je voudrais maintenant inviter le Directeur général à prendre la parole.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL: Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, the last two years have witnessed, as seldom before, the tragic paradox of hunger in the midst of plenty. Famine has stalked the Continent of Africa and hundreds of millions remain malnourished in all parts of the developing world, while the affluent nations struggle with burdensome food surpluses. The African crisis in particular underlines the urgency of establishing a truly effective system of world food security.

This is not an unattainable mirage. Food security is almost within our grasp.

Through a series of sustained efforts, we can reach the ultimate objective of ensuring that all people at all times have both physical and economic access to the basic foods they need.

The World Food Security Compact which is before the Conference, and whose adoption has been recommended by the FAO Council, is designed to foster a moral commitment to make such an effort. The Compact, Mr Chairman, crystallizes a set of feelings which I believe are widely held throughout the world. This has been amply shown by the magnificent response of the man in the street to the crying needs of Africa. Such feelings should be channelled towards constructive action to strengthen the basis of food security and not only towards providing emergency relief in the face of a major crisis.

The Compact is a reaffirmation of the principles for which we strive, not FAO alone, but all people of goodwill. It is the culmination of efforts by FAO over the past decade. It started with the International Undertaking on World Food Security, adopted by the Conference in 1974. When in 1979 it proved impossible to incorporate some of the most important aims of the Undertaking in a new International Grains Agreement, I launched the Five-Point Plan of Action on World Food Security. This was unanimously approved by the Conference and endorsed by the World Food Council and the United Nations General Assembly.

In 1983 we undertook a reappraisal of concepts and approaches which led to the adoption by the Conference of the broader definition of world food security. The Compact is based on those broader concepts, and deals with three inter-related aspects - expanding production, increasing stability in the level of supplies, and ensuring access to food by the poor. The Compact does not involve any new commitments, financial or legal, and remains strictly voluntary in nature and in its adoption. It calls for action by governments, organizations and individuals. All have roles to play in the process leading to the establishment of an effective food security system. The contributions they can make are briefly suggested in the text.

Let no one underestimate the importance of action by individuals. Just last week, President Soeharto brought news of a gift of 100 000 tonnes of handmilled rice, the result of a remarkable initiative by Indonesian farmers. What could we not achieve if parallel action were taken on a wider scale by individual farmers in the richer lands of the world?

The famine in Ethiopia has also inspired initiatives of extraordinary generosity and great impact. I am thinking in particular of how an individual musician, Bob Geldof, was able to promote the Live Aid concert. This not only raised a great deal of money, but was also a spectacular and moving display of solidarity with the victims of hunger.

There have been a number of authoritative expressions of support for the idea of a Compact. I shall mention only two which have been made in the course of the present Conference.

During his homily in the Mass celebrated in Saint Peter's just two Sundays ago to mark the 40th Anniversary of FAO and the United Nations, His Holiness Pope John Paul II expressed himself strongly in favour of the proposal.

Last Thursday we heard His Excellency François Mitterrand of France give the idea his whole support.

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of FAO, as we renew our dedication to the cause of freeing the world from hunger and malnutrition, it is surely appropriate for the international community to make a moral commitment to strive for world food security.

I urge the Conference to adopt the World Food Security Compact unanimously.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie le Directeur général pour son introduction, (suite en anglais)

It is no wonder, because the work we have to do is important, that we have an important group of representatives who wish to speak. Considering the very high number, and considering the time, may I again, dear colleagues, ask you, if you so wish - because, of course, you have the right of free speech - to be brief if you can. If you agree on the principle of the Compact it is not necessary to say very much about it. It is just enough to say that you agree with it, and why.

Those who do not completely agree can express their opinion in a very few words. It is not necessary to speak very long about this important problem because we have been discussing this problem often in different surroundings.

C.A. HARTMAN (Finland): I am afraid I cannot be as brief as you requested Mr Chairman, partly because I am speaking on behalf of the five Nordic countries present at this Conference.

I should like to thank the Director-General for his introductory statement giving us the background to the draft World Food Security Compact.

Our representatives have been present at each one of the earlier stages of elaboration of the text now before us. We have been able to note improvements of the text after every round of discussion. Whereas earlier drafts have seemed, on the whole, fairly acceptable to the Nordic countries, we have still seen room for improvement of the various paragraphs, and we have stated this clearly. We now see the text as much more balanced and, consequently, more useful as a tool for mobilizing support from governments, non-governmental organizations, and individuals for the concept of world food security, than it appeared at the first stages of drafting.

Having said this, I should want to underline, and with emphasis, that none of the general principles contained in the draft Compact are new to the Nordic countries. With or without this Compact, the basic themes that it sets out are already, generally speaking, part and parcel of the thinking of the Nordic governments, non-governmental organizations, and of public opinion in the Nordic countries. From that point of view, the draft Food Security Compact serves merely to codify, as it were, principles that are already widely held in the Nordic countries. We therefore view it, as has also been stressed by the Director-General and by the FAO Council, as a moral commitment to work towards strengthening world food security, containing no legal or financial commitments that we have not already taken upon ourselves.

I should now like to turn to a closer examination of the draft Compact itself, chapter by chapter. As regards the wording of various paragraphs, the Nordic countries do not want to enter into a redrafting exercise, because that stage is already behind us. Nevertheless, we have a general feeling that in drafting a text of this solemn character, more attention ought to have been given throughout to questions of wording and style.

Be that as it may, we should like to endorse, in turning to Chapter III, Actions by Governments, the principle contained in the draft Compact that, and I quote "Governments carry the primary responsibility for ensuring the food security of their peoples" and that "they should give this

objective an overriding priority." This is indeed a crucial point. The Nordic countries stay committed to assist, to the full extent of their capabilities, the developing countries in the shouldering of this responsibility. The aim of all development assistance should always be kept clearly in mind: to help the developing countries move away from present dependencies, otherwise there is a very concrete risk of just perpetuating them. We therefore wholeheartedly support the call addressed to governments of developing countries, to give overriding priority to ensuring the food security of their peoples.

The chapter on non-governmental organizations is very brief and, in our view, more could have been said about their very important role in the development process, which is receiving growing recognition by the Nordic governments. We cannot, of course, make commitments on their behalf, but we trust that they will continue their valuable work.

We also want fully to endorse the very last words of the draft text: "the enemy is indifference." That statement holds equally true for governments, organizations and individuals. Patient and unslackening work must continue in order not to allow indifference to grow. Television and mass media have brought starvation and misery in the developing countries to the daily attention of people in the developed countries. Every-day exposure to this continuous flow of information tends to create, first a feeling of helplessness, then one of indifference. It is the duty of FAO as well as of the whole international community, and of individuals, to resist the tendency to indifference so that we do not lose faith in a better future where hunger and poverty shall have been overcome at last. In this context, the proposed Compact on World Food Security has a distinct function to fulfil.

Unfortunately, the draft Compact has so far not attracted unanimous support, as a few important member countries have dissociated themselves from it. But the Nordic countries remain convinced that it is not the fundamental principles included in the Compact as such that have obstructed full agreement. We rather wish to believe that the main principles that constitute the backbone of the draft Compact are the same, in essence, as those that govern the attitude of those countries who have chosen not to join in endorsement of the draft Compact.

The Nordic countries, therefore, give their support to the draft Compact and recommend its approval by the Conference.

**A.K.M. KAMALUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Bangladesh):** I should like sincerely to compliment the Director-General for his statement presenting the improved draft of the World Security Compact as approved by the Eighty-seventh Council Session held in June 1985. We feel strongly that the statement of the Director-General will set the tone and direction of our discussion on this important subject, and will lead to its unanimous adoption by the Conference.

As the twentieth century is drawing to a close, the problem of food insecurity is becoming more acute, directly affecting nearly 750 million people, in Asia, Africa and Latin America. However, world farmers are producing more than ever. Food insecurity does not result from an over-all insufficiency of food, but it exists, nevertheless, because many people throughout the world have neither the ability to grow adequate foodstuffs, nor sufficient funds to purchase or import their urgent food requirements. Thus the fact remains that increased food production, however necessary, will not by itself solve the food insecurity problem faced by a large number of countries in the Third World.

We find that there has been considerable progress with regard to food aid. The target of 10 million tons of cereals and 650 metric tons of international emergency food reserves has been achieved. The world food situation in 1984 was marked by a record level of stocks. There have been record surpluses, particularly in industrialized developed countries of the north. In some of the low-income food-deficit countries, however, we find that the bulk of people are unable to feed themselves.

The world food situation continues to show the paradox of widespread food scarcities in a large number of food-deficit countries amidst considerable surplus in the few industrialized countries.

The Bangladesh delegation welcomes and fully endorses the revised text of the World Food Security Compact as prepared by the Director-General. The draft has been discussed in the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council held in June.



Bangladesh has played an active role in this Council and has strongly supported the World Food Security Compact draft. We believe that a viable institutional arrangement for World Food Security still eludes us, and that there is a need to establish a world food security system. A re-affirmation of the moral commitment towards realization of this goal is of utmost importance.

As has been clearly stated by the Director-General in his statement, the idea of this Compact is not to create new obligations, whether legal or financial or even operational. It is merely a re-affirmation of the anxiety and goodwill of mankind for the vast masses of humanity who are suffering from deprivation, hunger and malnutrition in the three Continents, particularly in the least-developed countries. The Compact, as already stated, is strictly a voluntary moral declaration in the best humanitarian tradition.

Adoption of such a voluntary Compact would serve as a moral declaration to proclaim forcefully that food security is indeed the collective responsibility of mankind. The Bangladesh delegation would urge the distinguished delegates to lend their unequivocal support to the adoption of this World Food Security Compact as presented by the Director-General. There is perhaps no better opportunity than in this 40th Anniversary Year of FAO to arrive at a consensus on such an important matter, and we should like to express our solidarity, goodwill and international cooperation in eradicating hunger and malnutrition from the face of the earth.

CHONG UN HYONG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman, I express thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak at this Commission where the World Food Security Compact, such an important item, is discussed. It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Director-General for his excellent introduction of the subject under discussion.

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I highly appreciate the enormous efforts made by the Director-General of FAO in drawing up the excellent World Food Security Compact and making it acceptable to all members.

The World Food Security Compact presented by the Director-General gives a clear definition of the concept and purpose of world food security.

The Compact also defines the moral obligations as well as the basic orientation of action of the governments, organizations and individuals for achieving world food security.

This compact has practical significance in that it appeals for active participation and is ensured by the consciousness of our obligation in the sacred struggle to free mankind from hunger and malnutrition.

Proceeding from this point of view, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reconfirms its full support for the World Food Security consensus, presented by the Director-General.

Forty years have passed since the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Over the past forty years, FAO has scored proud and great achievements in freeing mankind from hunger with the active support and solidarity of the governments of the Member Nations which have different social and political systems.

In fact, it is not too much to say that the goal of the World Food Security Compact was already established with the birth of FAO and we have done our best to realize it. In spite of this effort, 800 million people in the world are threatened by hunger, either temporarily or in the long term. This harsh reality makes us again feel our obligation to free mankind from hunger.

In the belief that our efforts to bring about world food security could be supported and encouraged by the World Food Security Compact, my delegation appeals to all delegates to facilitate its adoption with full consensus.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea will make every possible effort to realize world food security and cooperate closely with developing countries as well as developed countries in this field.

MA GENG'OU (China) (original language Chinese): Food security is a matter of great concern to millions of people. It is an arduous task which every one of us working in the field of agriculture has endeavoured to accomplish. Since FAO advanced the concept of world food security in the early seventies, it has made sustained efforts and achieved great results in this regard. Now, though many countries have improved their food security, quite a number of countries are still suffering from food shortages and are overshadowed by hunger and malnutrition. In some countries the per capita food consumption has even dropped, and therefore, food security as a whole remains a cause of concern.

It is against this background that FAO submitted to the present session of the Conference the draft World Food Security Compact for consideration and adoption. This is an event of great significance. The draft Compact embodies three basic concepts of world food security and sets forth its "ultimate objective as ensuring that all people at all times are in a position to produce, or procure, the basic food they need". This reflects the common desire of the people the world over and the determination of mankind to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

The Compact also contains the general principles according to which governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals should take action, as well as a proposal of action for them. This will surely give a fresh impetus to the endeavours for world food security.

The Chinese delegation wishes to express its active support to the thrust of the Compact and hopes that it will be smoothly adopted by the Conference so as to create an atmosphere of cooperation for world food security. It is obvious that the adoption of the document only marks the beginning of our actions, while the eradication of all poverty and hunger in the world requires our persistent and painstaking efforts. At the present time it is all the more important to intensify our efforts in making known the major ideas of the Compact and progress achieved in world food security and let more persons understand the significance of food security so as to involve people from all walks of life in its work.

IBRAHIM HASAN (Indonesia): First of all I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing a fairly defined concept of the World Food Security Compact and also thank the Director-General for his excellent introduction to the subject under discussion.

The Director-General stressed at the outset that the Compact would not be an instrument involving commitments of a legal or financial nature but rather a moral obligation towards strengthening food security.

There has been a lot of improvement in various technologies - technological breakthroughs in the field of food and agriculture in the past 40 years. These achievements have contributed significantly to the production increase on a global level. However, it is unfortunate that in various parts of the developing countries, food production and distribution continues to remain unbalanced.

Some developed countries are troubled with their excessive surplus of agricultural products, while many developing countries are suffering from hunger, malnutrition, poverty, inequality and instability of food supplies. Some developing countries do not even have food security reserve stock policies. All nations, individually or collectively, are committed to having a moral responsibility to work towards the solution of the problem of food and agricultural development.

Almost all international as well as regional and national fora attribute their interest in increasing food production and accelerating agricultural, as well as food security, activities. It is quite apparent that significant progress has been made in food production instability but there has been little improvement in ensuring that food supplies reach the poor. There was a widespread expression made by distinguished delegations to improve world food security, and to ensure that all people at all times be in a position to produce or procure the basic food they need. The World Food Security Compact set out the moral values and guidelines which should be pursued by governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals in improving world food security.

Since Indonesia has always been supporting efforts to overcome the problem of hunger and malnutrition, poverty, refugees and other related problems, the Indonesian delegation has no objection to and fully supports the adoption of the World Food Security Compact. In fact, Indonesian farmers with heartfelt solidarity and sympathy have contributed 100,000 tons of paddy rice to be donated to their suffering brothers. This has proved that Indonesian farmers, individually and collectively, fully participate and support the realization of the World Food Security Compact.

**J. LADAN (Nigeria):** Allow me first to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for his introduction of this agenda item and also the Secretariat for providing us with a complete text of the document under discussion.

The World Food Security Compact is another milestone in an attempt to solve one of humanity's major problems, that is, the problem of hunger and malnutrition. Among the cherished and basic human rights, the right to food is only second to the right to life. The World Food Security Compact, as rightly emphasized by the Director-General, is the affirmation of already accepted principles, i.e. the food security compact, the broader definition of food security etc.

The Compact before us does not impose any commitment, financial, legal or otherwise. Its main tool here is a moral appeal to the international community to man's most cherished right, that is, the right to food.

We live in a complex world. Despite man's advancement he is not able to control the forces of nature such as drought, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc. Whenever these strike they leave in their wake not only the dead but also a dispossessed and a deprived population which become the responsibility of the states and the international community.

In addition to living in a complex world, we are also living in a paradoxical one, in the sense that many are living, in the midst of plenty. There are many countries, as we have mentioned, that are affected by the drought and their sufferings cannot be properly documented for future posterity to understand, without going into the horrors which they feel themselves. It is this latter aspect which makes the World Food Security Compact relevant, and my delegation fully supports the Compact for its adoption by the Conference. We call on other delegates to give their unanimous support.

As has been said by the Director-General, this Compact was passed through the Council and it was reviewed by countries. Its revision received full attention, not only in Rome, but in other capitals. Therefore, there is no need to further delay its adoption and we hope that all the delegations will give it their full support during FAO's 40th Anniversary so that posterity may remember it as one of the achievements of the international community.

**DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia):** My delegation is pleased to support this improved text of the Food Security Compact for adoption by the Conference. We view this Compact as a moral obligation for all governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals to reaffirm their solidarity in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

The recent calamities in Africa have made the adoption of this Compact imperative.

Since the birth of FAO forty years ago, the world has experienced traumatic times in terms of food supplies. Right after World War II up to the early fifties there was an acute shortage of food supplies worldwide. In the early seventies there were world food crises and famines became a common feature in the Third World, such as the great Bengal famine which afflicted millions of people. Now, for the last few years we have been witnessing suffering on the most massive scale ever. All this need not have happened, or at least could have been reduced, if all countries, organizations and individuals played their respective roles towards achieving food self-sufficiency.

Section 3 of the Compact calls on governments, especially those of developing countries, to give high priority to food production and to re-examine their policies so as to stimulate this. We view this call as most appropriate since we have seen that populous countries such as China, India and Indonesia have shown the way in how to be self-sufficient and even in how to generate enough surplus for export.

My delegation supports paragraph 6 of Section 3 in particular, which calls for ECDC in the production of seeds, fertilizers and other essential agricultural imports. Developing countries should make use of the combined advantages between partners to produce these agricultural imports. The Asian Fertilizer Project is an example of such ECDC which benefits all partners in the grouping through the pooling of financial and manpower resources, savings in imports and increased market potential.

We recognize that comparative advantage is a very important factor in food production. Very few countries can boast total food security for all commodities. They have to resort to trade in other crops in order to buy food. They may also have to balance self-sufficiency in certain commodities with imports. Therefore, my delegation strongly supports the call in paragraphs 8 and 11 of Section 3 for developed countries to consider the interest of the world as a whole when making their policy decisions on food production, stocks and imports. A healthier trade scenario would allow the most efficient utilization of resources and is an absolute imperative for the provision of food sufficiency in developing countries.

With respect to Sections 4 and 5, we believe that greater awareness by the public of the need for food security would generate further impetus towards greater efforts in the development of the agricultural sector. The individuals involved, the farmers, the fishermen, the extension workers, too, should be given due cognizance of the noble task of ensuring global food security.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Me es especialmente grato, Sr. Presidente, tomar la palabra en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y de la delegación de México para expresar el apoyo unánime y total que los miembros del Grupo conceden al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Señor Presidente, mucho podrá argumentarse a favor del Pacto y su contenido, pero por ahora quisiera sólo referirme a su valor como medio para concienciar a todos los sectores involucrados en la solución del problema del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo y para movilizar a todos a trabajar en una dirección que haga posible el establecimiento de la seguridad alimentaria. No debemos nunca perder de vista que esa es la tarea principal de la Organización y de nosotros, como representantes de nuestros países ante ella.

En ese sentido el Grupo de los 77 considera que la proclamación del Pacto por esta Comisión y por la Conferencia en el año en que celebramos el 40º Aniversario de la FAO, no puede ser más oportuno. El Grupo de los 77, Sr. Presidente, no considera que estamos cerca de una solución positiva o : siquiera favorable de los problemas que afectan a la agricultura y a la alimentación. Tampoco vemos que exista un clima que permita vislumbrar que los problemas estructurales de la economía internacional serán analizados con miras a solucionarlos. Muchos de nosotros podremos constatar o prever la disposición basada en una voluntad política, real y efectiva de establecer una cooperación internacional e integral para el desarrollo. Pensamos que si fuéramos consecuentes con lo que declaramos estaríamos ahora considerando un instrumento jurídico bien definido con deberes y obligaciones concretas. No es el caso. Desafortunadamente las condiciones actuales no lo permiten; por tanto, el Pacto que está a nuestra consideración y el cual consagra una serie de principios ya adoptados previamente, o bien de carácter moral, adquiere toda su relevancia. Es el resultado de un delicado proceso de negociación que ha durado más de un año y que ha permitido que el instrumento se perfeccionase al paso por los diversos filtros de los órganos que lo han examinado.

Reitero por tanto, Sr. Presidente, una vez más el apoyo que damos al Pacto y nuestro deseo de que una vez proclamado podamos trabajar activamente para poner en práctica las recomendaciones y compromisos contenidos en él.

Finalmente, queremos agradecer al Director General por su vehemente y entusiasta presentación.

Mrs HOANGTHI CU (Viet Nam): May I recall that at the Eighth Session of the Committee on World Food Security, our delegation welcomed the Director-General's proposal to have a Compact on World Food Security. Since then, we actively took part in and followed with great interest the deliberations at the sessions of the Committee on World Food Security and the Council. The Compact is strictly voluntary in nature and does not involve any new commitments, whether financial or legal. It only represents a general reaffirmation of the commitment of the international community to achieve desirable levels of food production, increasing the stability of supply and ensuring access to food supplies.

We think the adoption of the Compact will illustrate our solidarity in marking the 40th Anniversary of FAO. The delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam fully endorses the present revised text of the compact and calls for its adoption by the Conference.

Sra. M. FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Venezuela quiere, Sr. Presidente, expresar en este momento su apoyo al proyecto que estamos discutiendo. Consideramos que este proyecto responde cabalmente a las premisas fundamentales de la FAO, es decir, de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, a través de la cual se debe atender en preferencia a la agricultura y a los problemas de la alimentación. No debemos olvidar que la FAO fue creada en momentos en que el mundo confrontaba una situación de emergencia total saliendo de la terrible experiencia de la guerra mundial, cuando todos los pueblos miraban a las Naciones Unidas como una esperanza para superar los temores de la guerra, del hambre y del atraso. Eran unos momentos, si se quiere, de optimismo, pero al mismo tiempo de desesperanza. En aquel momento, el nunca olvidado Presidente Roosevelt lanzó su idea de la liberación de las cuatro libertades entre las cuales figuraba, en primer lugar, la libertad del hombre. Responde la FAO, precisamente, a ese concepto de liberar a los pueblos de la necesidad de alimentación, de la malnutrición y de todos los problemas que lleva consigo una situación de atraso, de falta de producir alimentos, de dependencia para su alimentación y de otros medios.

Yo debo recordar que en aquel tiempo tuve una experiencia muy interesante que quisiera compartir con ustedes. En ese momento, estaba yo en una comunidad experimental en Pensilvania comúnmente conocida por la sociedad de Los Cuáqueros. Esta organización pacifista en momentos en que China experimentó su última hambruna, cuando el desbordamiento del río Yantzse', estuvo necesitando la ayuda de los países, y allí puedo dar testimonio de que se puso en efecto lo que este Pacto está preconizando como acción de las personas. El Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria explica en el Capítulo referente a la acción de los individuos, cómo cualquier individuo puede ser efectivo para colaborar, tomar iniciativas y promover una acción de los pueblos en favor de la ayuda a los otros pueblos. Quiero decir que en ese momento la acción individual de miles de personas que se concentraron, enviaron una carta al Presidente de ese país con un mínimo sobre, como un grano de arroz, diciendo en una tarjeta una leyenda con la frase bíblica: Darás de comer a todo enemigo. Se fueron juntando en la Casa Blanca más de cuatro millones de estos sobres, testimonio de la acción individual de aquel país. De esa manera se realizaba lo que este Pacto hoy está estableciendo, una ayuda alimentaria para la seguridad alimentaria de aquel país en gran necesidad. Esa acción fue la que determinó la ayuda que ese país envió entonces a China materializada en varias toneladas de arroz para enfrentar tal situación.

Yo creo, Sr. Presidente, que esto nos debe llevar a nosotros a pensar que este Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, tal como lo ha presentado el Director General para su consideración a la Asamblea y aprobado por el Consejo y por la propia Comisión, puede ser perfectamente una manera de llevar a cabo acciones como ésta, acciones como la que este Pacto establece para poder erradicar el flagelo del hambre de la superficie de la tierra. Nosotros sabemos, y lo está demostrando el ejemplo que hoy dolorosamente nos ha presentado Africa, cómo los países por más que tengan cualquier otra necesidad, es solamente la dependencia de su alimentación lo que puede hacerlos sucumbir. Por eso, el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, tal como está presentado en este proyecto, es una medida eficiente por su poder moral, por el ejemplo que puede determinar y por el estímulo que puede desarrollar en los individuos, en las organizaciones, en los gobiernos y en los Jefes de Estado, y en todos aquellos que tienen bajo su capacidad la responsabilidad de atender a la supervivencia de sus pueblos.

Venezuela, Sr. Presidente, cuyo actual Gobierno está empeñado en realizar los principios de la seguridad alimentaria, ha creado una comisión especial para ocuparse de esos problemas, no puede más que apoyar este proyecto de Pacto que, ojalá, logre la unanimidad en la Asamblea para poder atender

no solamente sus necesidades como país que actualmente todavía depende para su satisfacción de las necesidades internas, de la importación de alimentos, sino también para poder ayudar a los países hermanos que se encuentren en dificultades. Esa ha sido la conducta de Venezuela que como miembro de esta Organización desde su fundación ha tratado de cumplir con los principios que ella preconiza. Por esa razón, apoyamos el Pacto tal como lo ha presentado la Secretaría para consideración en la próxima reunión.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): Uganda has followed the development of the concept of the Compact at all the previous stages. As a country which is categorized as an LSD/MSA, which has in recent years experienced food shortages, and since this Compact is only an expression of commitment which, in the case of my country, is already there in principle and in practice, my delegation has no difficulty whatsoever in supporting the World Food Security Compact as presented by the Director-General. We sincerely hope that the Conference will give it its unanimous support so that we can live up to the aspirations for which this body was established.

J. GAZZO F.D. (Perú): Sr. Presidente, en nombre del Gobierno del Perú quiero ratificar el apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, que ha sido mencionado por nuestro Presidente en su disertación y mi delegación por el Sr. Ministro de Agricultura del Perú en un Plenario.

Nos interesa mucho el Pacto de seguridad Alimentaria, que ya el Director General, en la sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, en abril del año 1984, lo bosquejó. Sin embargo - y esto debo aclararlo muy precisamente - hubieron unos cuantos países que pensaron que el Pacto era innecesario, porque en realidad decían que todos apoyaban la seguridad alimentaria y que sería una declaración lírica más. Yo no estoy de acuerdo con esta posición, Sr. Presidente, porque ya hace casi diez años, en el año 1974, en la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación, en Washington, se hizo una promesa formal: "que a los diez años, o sea en 1984, ningún niño se iría a dormir sin haber comido". Desgraciadamente no había entonces un pacto, sino sencillamente un acuerdo. Ese acuerdo no se ha cumplido, Sr. Presidente, porque muchos niños - como ya lo mencionó en una oportunidad el distinguido Embajador de Colombia - no se han ido a dormir sin haber comido, porque se han muerto de hambre, Sr. Presidente.

Por consiguiente, apoyamos el Pacto de la Seguridad Alimentaria, por lo que significa en sí, y entonces debemos analizar a qué se debe la inseguridad alimentaria. La inseguridad alimentaria se debe normalmente a patrones alimentarios que no corresponden a los ecosistemas de los países, o bien se debe a algunas medidas de los países desarrollados, verbigracia, proteccionismo, que hace que nuestros esfuerzos para producir productos alimenticios se vean soslayados, se vean agredidos, porque algunos países tienen en nuestros mercados productos alimentarios subsidiados que compiten con la producción nacional. Sin embargo, pienso y creo en la buena fe de estos países que viven una paradoja muy grande y es la siguiente: nunca los depósitos y los almacenes de los países desarrollados han estado tan llenos de alimentos. Y cual triste paradoja: nunca los estómagos de los habitantes del tercer mundo han estado tan vacíos.

Entonces, Sr. Presidente, hay algo que no camina bien en este aspecto, relación de ricos y pobres y este Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, si bien no compromete ni económicamente ni jurídicamente a ninguno de los firmantes, sí compromete en la cosa más importante, que es la cosa moral, la cosa ética y estamos seguros de que, después de las clarísimas explicaciones que nos ha dado el Sr. Director General, este acuerdo debe ser aprobado por consenso porque objetarlo sería poner en duda quizá la buena fe de quien lo objeta; porque, ¿quién puede objetar un pacto que no compromete ni obliga económicamente ni jurídicamente?.

Por consiguiente, Sr. Presidente, yo invoco a esas pocas naciones que en esa reunión pensaron que era innecesario, a que mediten un poco más, y me retraigo para esto a nuestra infancia, cuando nosotros jugábamos entre niños y tomábamos acuerdos que a veces no cumplíamos; pero cuando hacíamos un pacto, se nos despertaba en nuestras conciencias el derecho de la obligación moral, y ojalá los hombres ahora pongan en sus actos las ideas que ponen los niños en sus juegos.

Por consiguiente, mi Gobierno apoya el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria y espera que sea obtenido por consenso.

I. MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord remercier le Directeur général pour son introduction à ce point de l'ordre du jour. Mon pays soutient le Pacte, comme l'a déjà annoncé notre chef de délégation dans la déclaration générale. Ses objectifs sont largement soutenus par mon pays. Le texte que nous avons devant nous a été considérablement amélioré par rapport à la première version présentée au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire au printemps dernier et nous nous en félicitons. Mais avant tout, nous sommes heureux qu'un dialogue ait pu avoir lieu sur ce projet et nous sommes contents d'avoir pu y contribuer. Lundi dernier, notre conférence a remis le Prix Boerma 1984-1985 à deux journalistes: Mr Mohammed Amin du Kenya et Mme Claire Brisset de France. Le Prix a été attribué à M. Amin pour son travail inlassable d'information sur la crise alimentaire en Afrique. M. Amin a notamment su appeler l'attention de l'opinion mondiale sur la famine en Ethiopie, avec un reportage télévisé qui montre toutes les tragédies humaines de la famine. La solidarité entre riches et pauvres ne peut que se développer sur la base de l'information. Il me semblerait alors utile d'en parler également dans le Pacte. Si les autres déclarations peuvent l'accepter, je propose donc d'ajouter le paragraphe suivant: "Les médias peuvent puissamment contribuer à sensibiliser le public pour les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire. Les gouvernements doivent faciliter le travail des journalistes dans ce domaine, notamment les reportages sur le terrain".

Ce paragraphe pourrait, s'il trouve un appui, figurer comme point 13 de la section III: "Action des gouvernements".

De plus, il me semble opportun de faire précéder les deux sections IV: "Action des organisations non gouvernementales" et section V "Action des Instituts" par le texte suivant qui pourrait figurer à la fin de la section III "Action gouvernement". Je cite "Par ailleurs, les gouvernements doivent faciliter les actions des organisations non gouvernementales et des individus, décrites dans les paragraphes ci-dessous".

E. G. MOYO (Tanzania): Mr Chairman, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General of FAO and the Secretariat for their comprehensive review and practicable suggestions for action by governments, organizations and individuals to ensure food security as presented in the draft text of the World Food Security Compact, which my country strongly endorses and supports.

I would briefly comment on the draft of the document presented by delivering to you in summary form what action my country is taking in the context of the World Food Security Compact.

Until 1970/71, Tanzania had been relatively self-sufficient in the production of preferred staples, mainly maize, rice and wheat. In most years the country was able to export small quantities of maize, up to about 30 000 tons, but had to supplement wheat production with imports of some 35 000 -45 000 tons per year. From 1971/72, however, my country has become increasingly dependent upon imports, mainly as a result of food grain production, marketing and distribution problems.

As a result of the worsening food security position and the country's inability to continue importing cereal on a commercial basis, my Government requested FAO to mount a Food Security mission to advise on the establishment of a strategic grain reserve and on related food security measures. In addition to FAO's mission, wider food security issues were also being investigated by a World Bank team. Several projects were recommended in the food security report of 1976. These included the establishment of 100 000 tonnes of strategic grain reserve, which has now been utilized, the building of 27 000 tonnes additional storage capacity to accommodate the strategic grain reserve, road improvements, the acquisition of spare parts for vehicles involved in transportation of food crops, technical assistance for the strategic grain reserve and the strengthening of crop forecasting and marketing intelligence.

A favourable donor response from Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the World Food Programme provided 77 000 tonnes of grains for the strategic grain reserve, and an additional storage capacity of a total of 70 000 tonnes to house the reserve. Technical assistance was provided by FAO with respect to the management of the reserve and the strengthening of the renamed Crop Monitoring and Early Warning System. A cash donation of US\$171 000 was also received to assist the management of the reserve.

Other projects not directly specified in the 1976 Report which have food security implications have also been implemented during the period. These include the FAO Fertilizer Project which assisted my Government to implement its strategy with respect to fertilizer use; the Food Strategy Coordination Cell Project funded by FAO and the EEC which provided technical assistance to the Government for the development of the national food strategy, and assisted the Government with the implementation of the strategy. Then there is the Village Storage and Training Project, funded by FAO, which provided services to construct additional storage capacity of 200 to 400 tonnes, at least, at the village level. A total of 44 stores are to be completed by the end of this year. A similar Federal Republic of Germany bilateral project to construct village storage using counterpart funds generated by seed sales is being implemented.

The FAO and the multidonor project for the control of the larger grain borer – prostephanus truncatus - at the farm and village levels has also been implemented. This project is a combination of several programmes financed by various donors, including the Netherlands, Australia, Sweden and Canada. These projects have the joint objective of controlling the larger grain borer. This insect pest, only recently introduced, is already causing serious damage and loss to stored maize and cassava in several regions of my country. The project to control it is working successfully in these regions, and the expansion of these activities to other parts of the country is also envisaged.

Following the difficulties experienced in improving the production and marketing of basic foods during the mid- to late 1970s my Government, with the assistance of an FAO and DANIDA financed project, initiated a comprehensive review of its policies pertaining to food production. This was in response to suggestions for action by Governments, organizations and individuals in the Draft Text of the World Food Security Compact presented here.

The review led to the publication of the National Food Strategy in 1962, which I mentioned earlier. The recommendations contained in the National Food Strategy are complementary to the national agricultural policy prepared by a special task force in my country and submitted to the Government in April 1983. These documents recommended fundamental changes in Government policy to stimulate production and improve the efficiency of the marketing system. The main objective and specific recommendations of this new policy include an increased emphasis on potentially high production areas ; the raising of outputs through the increased use of extensive and intensive farming technique; improvement of availability and distribution of inputs, and provision of realistic producer prices for food crops which would reflect comparative advantages on a regional basis. It also recommends the re-establishment of the cooperative unions for the provision of inputs and the marketing of farm surpluses, as well-as encouragement to own storage facilities. Others which are included are the strengthening of land tenure systems, agricultural extension and credits, and the modernization of traditional storage at the household level. High priority is also given to the construction and maintenance of road infrastructures to improve the distribution of marketed products, inputs and consumer goods. Last but not least, my Government is currently intending to re-establish the strategic grain reserve from the surplus food within our country.

If successfully implemented, the policy and structural changes formulated by my Government should have a positive impact on food production, and thereby on the food security position of the nation overall. This would indicate a positive reaction in favour of one of the fundamental calls for action made by the Director-General of the FAO in his address on the occasion of the commemoration by FAO of its 40th Anniversary. That call for action states, "... we must strive to attain food security for the whole earth."

H. de SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): My delegation considers that much has to be done to ensure food security in the developing countries. In this connection we wish to reiterate our deep concern with the critical food situation in Africa and also with the contrast between large food surplus concentrated in developed countries and the acute food shortage in many parts of the developing world. This reflects only a few of the many aspects of our concern with regard to the current situation in world food security.

My delegation also believes that the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of FAO is an excellent occasion to approve a document reaffirming the principles for which this Organization has been striving since its founding. The Brazilian Delegation is so very pleased to give its support to the World Food Security Compact proposed by the Director-General of FAO in the hope that it will effectively contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the broadened concept of world security.



I. KABA (Guinée): Ma délégation, considérant le caractère de ce document, prenant en compte les soucis exprimés par le Directeur général qui précise: "le Pacte en question ne s'assortirait d'aucune obligation juridique ou financière nouvelle et représenterait simplement un engagement moral d'oeuvrer en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire". Ma délégation apprécie hautement la mobilisation spontanée de la communauté internationale pour écarter la grave menace qui planait et continue à planer sur la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. La délégation guinéenne croit nécessaire de marquer et de symboliser par un document officiel, tel que celui qui nous est proposé, cette grande solidarité qui a caractérisé cette époque de l'évolution de l'histoire de notre Organisation, à l'occasion de son quarantième anniversaire.

Le Plan Marshall, en son temps, a été une sorte de pacte d'assistance économique. Evidemment les raisons diffèrent mais les objectifs rejoignent ceux du Pacte de sécurité alimentaire; aussi, considérons-nous le Pacte comme un repère qui rappellera aux générations futures l'acte de foi auquel le nord et le sud ont volontairement souscrit.

Le Pacte, à notre avis, engage particulièrement les gouvernements des pays en voie de développement qui doivent, tel que prescrit par le Pacte, s'appliquer à s'acquitter de leur devoir impérieux d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire de leurs populations. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons particulièrement les paragraphes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 et 7 du Chapitre III de la page 4 du Pacte.

Quant aux pays développés, le Pacte, en fait, ne fait que codifier les actes de solidarité déjà manifestés par eux à l'endroit des pays en développement, à preuve la récente crise africaine. C'est pourquoi nous regrettons sincèrement l'existence des notes de bas de page qui figurent à la page 3 de notre document. Nous estimons qu'elles ne reflètent pas du tout la réalité; nous savons tous ici que les pays énumérés par ces réserves sont précisément ceux qui se sont fait remarquer par l'importance de leurs contributions pour préserver la sécurité alimentaire. Je suis sûr que les populations de ces pays ne comprendraient pas le sens de ces réserves, car en réalité la répétition et la régularité de leurs actes de solidarité sont à l'origine de l'élaboration de ce Pacte.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation invite les pays intéressés à reconsidérer leurs positions paradoxales pour que l'acte soit adopté à l'unanimité par notre Conférence.

Pour terminer, je dirais que nous appuyons la pertinente suggestion de la délégation suisse concernant le rôle des médias dans la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): No habíamos tenido la oportunidad de hablar, hacer uso de la palabra en esta Comisión, presidiéndola usted. Por lo tanto, quiero que me permita expresarle nuestra satisfacción por tenerle presidiendo nuestro trabajo. Hemos estado por imperativos de la división del trabajo de nuestra delegación, atendiendo fundamentalmente la Plenaria en la cual hemos tenido también oportunidad de escuchar las intervenciones de muchos Ministros asistentes a esta Conferencia.

Señor Presidente: la delegación de Cuba considera que la aprobación del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria que estamos discutiendo y analizando desde el Octavo período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria en abril de 1983 ya no admite más dilaciones. Se nos presentó una versión en aquella ocasión; se analizó posteriormente por el Consejo una nueva revisión donde se tenía en cuenta, se tuvieron en cuenta las opiniones que habían sido recogidas por el Comité, las cuales ya definían algunas posiciones del Pacto, y fueron revisadas. Si bien mi delegación previa la presentación original no vaciló en función de lograr el consenso, en aprobar también esta última versión aunque consideramos, tenemos la opinión, que es una versión más débil que las anteriores.

Se puede dar una explicación de debilidad. No es un problema de que quisiéramos que tuviese mucha fuerza para convertirlo en un boxeador, ni en un luchador, ni en un tanque de guerra, sino debilidad en la concepción y en la responsabilidad que había que asignar a este tema que es muy importante en las discusiones del mundo actual, y en el cual nosotros sí creemos que hay responsabilidad.

Sin embargo, a estas alturas, la delegación cubana quiere expresar una vez más, su apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria teniendo en cuenta, entre otras cosas, que el propio Consejo señaló que el Pacto representa una reafirmación moral, que es lo que no entendemos.' ¿Porqué no se entiende qué

quiere decir reafirmación moral del Compromiso de 'lograr los objetivos de amplio concepto de Seguridad Alimentaria, el cual por su propio carácter es estrictamente voluntario y no entraña compromiso financiero alguno?

Estas son cuestiones que no sé cómo se pueden rebatir. Nuestra posible inferioridad nos hará no tener en cuenta las posibilidades sofisticadas de quienes quieren hacer ver lo blanco negro, y lo negro blanco.

Estas consideraciones las hace mi delegación y lo reiteramos una vez más, una vez más en función de lograr un acuerdo. Consideramos que hay aspectos que deberían ser más fuertes. Sin embargo, hacemos caso omiso de eso. Por lo tanto, esperamos que los países que expresaron opiniones y reservas, retiren las mismas y que este Pacto pueda finalmente aprobarse por la Conferencia, como fue la decisión de la inmensa mayoría de los miembros del Consejo, y como los drafts de esta Conferencia nos podrán también demostrar que es la inmensa mayoría de los Ministros que en Plenaria están hablando, en este momento, de la necesidad de este Compromiso moral de la humanidad.

Mi delegación también considera que el Pacto cristaliza una serie de sentimientos que son compartidos por todo el mundo, como expresara hace algunos segundos el distinguido colega de Finlandia en nombre de los países nórdicos.

Esos sentimientos deben materializarse en acciones productivas por todas las partes. En realidad, tenemos que decir que el mismo, como afirmó el Director General en la presentación del tema, es la culminación de años de trabajo de la FAO en materia de seguridad alimentaria, sin que ello represente compromiso de ninguna índole que no sea de carácter moral, repetimos, y ético.

Finalmente, ratificamos nuestro apoyo al Grupo de los 77 que discutió con bastante profundidad, y no en una sola reunión sino en varias ocasiones, la declaración que ha hecho su Presidente, el distinguido representante de México.

Señor Presidente: Hemos oído dos proposiciones nuevas del Pacto. Primero, nos parece un poco, en estos momentos, vamos a no decir peligroso pero sí se puede decir de dilación, que tendrán estas proposiciones que habría que analizar con un poco de cuidado.

Primero, los medios de comunicación son útiles pero este Pacto es muy sencillo. Tan sencillo que hay situaciones de definición que no se incluyen para buscar el consenso de la sencillez. Y nosotros tenemos experiencia de medios de comunicación muy óptimos, muy buenos, pero también conocemos que hay medios de comunicación en manos de algunos intereses que se dedican nada más que a la violencia, a la pornografía y a una serie de cuestiones que no creo vayan a ayudar en nada a potenciar 'la sensibilidad, como se propone.

Creo que los medios de comunicación gubernamentales son medios útiles para que expresen criterios, pero los que nos presentan intereses que no sabemos de dónde vienen, no nos parecen útiles por el momento.

Y referente a los organismos no gubernamentales, su aporte a la FAO ha sido muy útil, están trabajando, muy útil a la seguridad alimentaria. Pero sí quiero recordar que para que institucionalmente existan dentro de un organismo o dentro de una Resolución de un Organismo de Naciones Unidas, los organismo's no gubernamentales tienen que haber sido aprobados por el Comité Especial de Naciones Unidas que aprueba a estos organismos en su carácter de consultivos de los organismos internacionales. Eso quisiera recordarlo; que existe un Comité Especial de Naciones Unidas que aprueba el carácter consultivo de los organismos no gubernamentales, que pueden participar pero, dentro de una Resolución de FAO, tienen que ser aquellos que están aprobados por un Comité Especial de Naciones Unidas.

KASSAYE DERESEH (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation has gone through the document very carefully and has made the basis of its decision even more solid. We, therefore, should like to indicate our due regards to the Director-General and to the Secretariat for their initiative in presenting to the international community the crystalization of feelings which were widely held without creating new obligations.

We agree totally with the statements indicated in paragraph 3 in which the general message of the Compact, as stated, is a reaffirmation of the principle for which FAO and all men of goodwill are striving.

The four general principles laid down in Part II of the draft text of the document clearly indicate that the goal of world food security, that of guaranteeing fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, will require the collective efforts of governments, non-governmental organizations and individual members of our globe. Efforts and contributions to be made by each of these groups are clearly outlined in parts III, IV and V of the document.

Ensuring food security for our respective countries is a priority objective of agriculture and food production in the developing world, but lack of resources have always been a hindering block in achieving these objectives. The role of developed countries in promoting domestic food production as a major goal will reduce the dependence on food inputs through aid or purchase. We believe that the development of an Early Warning System, the establishment of an emergency reserve and readiness to distribute relief supplies are an integral part of the overall food security scheme. Rudimentary structures and organizations have already been set up. They have been in existence in Ethiopia for the last three years. However, the achievement and development of the plans have always been faced by inadequate resources. Our limited available resources have had to be diverted towards solving the emergency problems with which we have been faced in the last three or four years. .

With this brief statement the Ethiopian delegation indicates its full support for the adoption of the World Food Security Compact as per document C 85/23.

Finally, we also forward our kind request to those member countries who have dissociated themselves from adopting the Compact, to reconsider their views with the objective of strengthening FAO and international cooperation.

Srta. H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea agradecer de manera especial al Director General por la presentación que ha hecho de este documento. Esto sin duda le da especial significación y destaca la importancia que este tema representa.

Colombia quisiera, señor Presidente, ser muy breve en esta declaración, pero precisamente por esto, nos vamos a tener que ver obligados a hacer algunas puntualizaciones del mismo.

En primer lugar, Colombia apoya el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria e invita a todos los países Miembros a que se adhieran a él, como una prueba de solidaridad internacional, especialmente en esta ocasión del 40° aniversario de nuestra Organización. Esta Organización fue fundada con los principios de solidaridad y paz, que recordó Su Santidad el Papa en el Introito de la conmovedora ceremonia a la que acudimos este domingo antepasado, y como también lo recordara el Director General, al exhortarnos a compartir todos los bienes de la tierra con los principios de justicia e igualdad para todos los seres humanos, evitando así divisiones para poder construir una sociedad humana basada en el amor y la paz. Debo decir además, y todos lo oímos, que Su Santidad sugirió inclusive que el Pacto contenga obligaciones no sólo morales, sino también jurídicas. No es esa la intención de la delegación de Colombia puesto que en el 87° período de sesiones del Consejo, en junio pasado, nos abstuvimos de hacer propuestas para reforzar este Pacto, precisamente para no asustar a aquellas delegaciones que tenían miedo de que ese Pacto pudiera entrañar ese tipo de obligaciones. Debemos recordar que solamente se trata, en realidad, de observaciones de carácter moral y que nada obliga ni compromete a los países.

Estos principios nos fueron recordados en esta misma ceremonia que se evoca en el Evangelio de San Marcos al decir Jesús que la pobre viuda con sus denarios había contribuido proporcionalmente mucho más que los escribas, ya que éstos daban lo que les sobraba y ella se había privado del mínimo indispensable para subsistir para poder así compartirlo con sus semejantes.

En la Plenaria la jefa de la delegación de Colombia dijo al brindar el apoyo de nuestro Gobierno a este Pacto, que el poder y la necesidad son con frecuencia vecinos que se ignoran como también lo son, por lo demás, el hambre y la abundancia.

Consideramos que este importante Pacto constituye una herramienta muy útil para la Organización y permite a los países disponer de un código de principios morales y de orientación de políticas indispensables para una acción coordinada. Repetimos que esto no constituye un vínculo ni una obligación para nadie.

Nos ha complacido muchísimo hoy la declaración del delegado de Finlandia, en nombre de los países nórdicos, de que aceptan el Pacto a pesar de que le hacen algunas observaciones de menor importancia. Nos preocupa un poco, sin embargo, la actitud de la delegación de Suiza que propone alguna enmienda al Capítulo IV del mismo.

La delegación de Colombia desea reiterar su apoyo al texto tal como está ya que no deseamos debilitarlo, puesto que es para nosotros de primordial importancia que esto se apruebe ahora como está. Queremos además, como lo dijo el delegado de México en nombre del Grupo de los 77, presentar el apoyo de nuestra delegación al ferviente llamado del Director General, según las directrices del Consejo y de reuniones anteriores que aprobaron unánimemente este Pacto.

Nuevamente Colombia le brinda su pleno apoyo.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): La delegación de Panamá estima que con el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria se pretende señalar algunas directrices de carácter general destinadas a orientar y sobre todo a crear conciencia pública de los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo. Comprendemos que no existe una fórmula universal única para resolver los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria, ya que cada región, cada país y aun áreas dentro de un mismo país, confrontan problemas y necesidades específicas; sin embargo, somos de la opinión de que las medidas para garantizar o elevar la seguridad alimentaria deben proyectarse, ejecutarse en el ámbito de sus respectivas esferas de responsabilidad, ya sea nacional, regional o internacional.

Consideramos que el Pacto en forma conceptual contiene una serie de propuestas de acción ya adoptadas previamente y que forman parte de la concepción humanitaria que une a la comunidad internacional. Dicho texto, a nuestro juicio, no crea obligaciones jurídicas, financieras u operacionales para los Estados que se suscriban al mismo, muy por el contrario el espíritu que les anima es de índole moral y ético.

La delegación de Panamá por estas razones, y en nombre de su Gobierno, reitera su apoyo al Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria y hace un llamado para que el mismo sea aprobado en forma unánime por esta Conferencia, como un homenaje a los 40 años de la FAO y una reafirmación de los principios eideales que motivaron su creación.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, en cuanto a las propuestas sugeridas por el representante de Suiza, propuestas que consideramos positivas, sí nos preocupa que la consideración de la misma reabra un debate en el que todas las delegaciones, porque todas seguramente tenemos algo que sugerir, deseen ver reflejados sus planteamientos en el mismo. De ahí que nos atrevamos a pedir a la delegación de Suiza que retire su propuesta en beneficio del objetivo fundamental del Pacto, que es el de concebir una serie de principios para erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición de los pueblos.

M. I. MAHDI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): My delegation has considered this document C 85/23 on World Food Security Compact and we have listened with great attention to the thorough explanations given to us by the Director-General of FAO. We should like to express our satisfaction and solidarity with the statement made by the representative of the Group of 77.

My delegation would like to thank the Director-General for the attention he has given in preparing this Compact. We believe that this Compact is extremely important, especially coming at a time when humanity is in dire need of this sort of statement, and when the agricultural and food situation is deteriorating in many developing countries.

There are thousands of people who suffer and who go to bed with their bellies empty. They even face the danger of death because of hunger. We believe, and we agree, with all those who said that local measures should be the basis for food security. There is an enhanced understanding on the part of developing countries of the importance of food security. The developing countries have shouldered this grave responsibility and some of them have achieved self-reliance as far as basic cereals are concerned. We hope that the efforts of the other countries belonging to the developing world will also be crowned with success and they will achieve self-reliance. However, we should like to make it clear that despite all local and national efforts in this sphere and although we do consider that these are the basis for agricultural development, these efforts are insufficient in achieving the desired result, that is, food security. Therefore, they should be supplemented by further efforts internationally. This Compact provides the bases for food security in the world and we are fully aware and sure that it provides the general framework for sharing all responsibility between the developing and the developed countries, and among individuals as well as organizations. We believe that this Compact is a balanced and moderate one.

In conclusion I would like to say that this Compact has been discussed thoroughly in the Committee on World Food Security in the preceding sessions. It was also discussed exhaustively in the Council in the preceding sessions, and it does not involve any financial or legal obligations. Some believe that the Compact should be reinforced, other delegations believe that it should be amended and this is why the Director-General has responded to all these opinions and has given us this revised text of World Food Security Compact, which we have before us today. We believe that the Compact in its present format is the response to our needs, and we believe that it should be supported by the Conference. The deteriorating situation in many developing countries, in particular, many African countries requires this. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to join all those who have supported the World Food Security Compact. We hope that the Compact will be adopted unanimously on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of our Organization.

The meeting rose at 12.15 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.15 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/6

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION ISIXTH MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE  
SEXTA SESION

(18 November 1985)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 15 heures  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 15.00 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)  
10. Adoption of the World Food Security Compact (continued)  
10. Adoption du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire (suite)  
10. Aprobación del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (continuación)

I.P. ALVARENGA (El Salvador): La primera vez que nuestra delegación tuvo conocimiento del propuesto Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria fue, como ya se ha, recordado en varias oportunidades, durante la reunión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria que tuvo lugar en abril de 1983. En ese momento, la propuesta estaba subsumida en un documento, el CFS 83/4 denominado: "Informe del Director General sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial; Reconsideración de los conceptos y métodos".

Como en esta ocasión se señaló repetidas veces, ése ha sido uno de los mejores documentos elaborados por la FAO. Su enfoque del problema de la seguridad alimentaria era novedoso e integral, y entre las múltiples acertadas propuestas que formulaba, se encontraba la de un posible Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria.

Desde ese momento, nuestra delegación dio su apoyo a la idea y se encuentra sumamente satisfecha de ver que en estos momentos, la propuesta se ha cristalizado en un documento concreto de magníficos alcances.

Nosotros damos nuestro apoyo a todo el proyecto, tal como se encuentra. Si algo pudiéramos lamentar, es que no adquiera de una sola vez una fuerza jurídica vinculante.

Como usted sabe, señor Presidente, no sé cómo se traduzca en otros idiomas, pero en español existe un refrán que dice: "Ser más papista que el Papa", referido naturalmente a alguien que en una cuestión determinada, tiene una opinión más radical que la de aquéllos a quienes interesa directamente.

La FAO, con un criterio sensato de transacción con todas las posibles opiniones que pueden existir a propósito de este proyecto de Pacto, ha señalado que no desea que el mismo adquiera carácter jurídico. Sin embargo, hemos oído la afirmación de Su Santidad Juan Pablo II quien curiosamente, siendo en este caso más papista que el Papa, ha propuesto que nuestro Pacto tenga carácter jurídico. Nosotros estaríamos totalmente de acuerdo con esa opinión.

Lamentamos, señor Presidente, que en el proyecto que se nos presenta, aparezca una reserva de parte de dos países que son, a nuestro juicio, algunos de los que más se distinguen por sus contribuciones efectivas a la ayuda alimentaria en el mundo. Nos preocupa que nuestro Pacto pueda salir a circulación con esa reserva. Nos preocupa, en primer lugar, aunque naturalmente no es a nosotros a quienes corresponde hacer esas consideraciones, por lo que se refiere a esos dos países, ya que si bien es verdad como repito, son sustanciales contribuyentes a los programas de ayuda alimentaria, con esa reserva parecerían como si fuesen adversarios o como si no estuviesen de acuerdo con la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Como nosotros pensamos que no basta con ser sino también hay que parecer, nos alegraríamos muchísimo que estos países retiraran sus reservas, que apareciera el Código tal como está planteado en su integridad, sin aclaraciones o subaclaraciones para que su fuerza moral sea mucho más potente.

En cuanto a la propuesta de modificación que se ha planteado en esta reunión, creemos que es muy acertada. Son muy racionales las observaciones que formula la distinguida delegación de Suiza, tanto en cuanto al papel de la prensa como al papel que juegan las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Sin embargo, lamentamos disentir en cuanto a la oportunidad de introducir en este momento, reformas que nos podrían hacer caer en debates inútiles, probablemente ya superados, y que nos hacen correr el riesgo de entrar a discutir, en detalle, cosas que han sido largamente analizadas durante varios meses. Por ello, no por la substancia de los argumentos que nos parece, repito, muy razonable, no nos adherimos a la propuesta formulada.

En conclusión, señor Presidente, nuestra delegación ratifica el apoyo que ha, ya en numerosas oportunidades, manifestando al propuesto Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, señores delegados: la seguridad alimentaria es uno de los objetivos más nobles sobre el cual todos los países de la tierra deben trabajar para combatir el hambre y la miseria. Es el principio más humano porque es el que nos lleva a cristalizar los anhelos de paz y de progreso económico y social.

El Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria se propone como un compromiso de carácter moral, el cual no implica una obligación jurídica. Este y otros conceptos han sido discutidos plenamente en diferentes reuniones del Consejo y de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Señor Presidente: La Delegación Nicaragüense apoya y está de acuerdo íntegramente con los principios expresados en el texto de Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria. Reconoce la noble labor desarrollada por la FAO, especialmente del honorable señor Director General Edouard Saouma, quien en todo momento ha promovido este noble principio y objetivo en beneficio de la humanidad. Confiamos en la voluntad de los pueblos y gobiernos del mundo para cumplir con los propósitos de la seguridad alimentaria.

E. PARDO (Argentina): El texto contenido en el documento C 85/23, corresponde a una iniciativa de la Dirección General de la FAO inspirada en los nobles objetivos que no pueden sino compartirse, de llevar a la práctica el derecho fundamental de toda persona a estar protegida contra el hambre.

Por ello es que deseamos señalar, expresamente, el apoyo de mi país al documento. Reconocemos las limitaciones que implica la aplicación estrictamente voluntaria de sus contenidos. Querríamos que se hubieran hecho referencias más explícitas a las implicaciones y consecuencias de las políticas sobre producción, existencias e importaciones de alimentos de los países desarrollados, y la organización de integración de algunos de esos países desarrollados. Muy especialmente" querríamos que hubieran habido compromisos concretos respecto a superar las consecuencias profundamente negativas de subsidios, restricciones no arancelarias, y otras medidas que generan excedentes cuantiosos, cuya colocación distorsiona y agrava la situación en los mercados internacionales, y que resultan en ineficiencias en la utilización de recursos, y un costo de oportunidad que cada vez resulta más gravoso por sus caracteres distorsionantes, y en abierta contradicción con cuanto enseña la teoría económica, el sentido común, y lo que el documento llama: "la dimensión moral de las relaciones comerciales".

Esperamos que las propuestas de cooperación que propone el documento, puedan derivar a la mayor brevedad, en acciones concretas que permitan incrementar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Finalmente, creemos que el Pacto implica un nivel mínimo de compromiso en torno a principios y orientaciones. Tal vez, propuestas bien intencionadas de modificación sumarían imprecisiones derivadas de la negociación que convendría evitar por, precisamente, el carácter no obligante del Pacto.

P.A. KANGA (Angola): Comme nous sommes un pays de déficit alimentaire, notre gouvernement a examiné ce document de manière exhaustive. Nous serons très brefs à ce sujet car le Directeur général nous a tracé ce matin l'importance de ce Pacte. Ma délégation voudrait tout simplement honorer les efforts du Directeur général pour l'aide qu'il veut donner aux pays en développement afin de leur permettre de se sortir de la situation qu'ils vivent actuellement. De ce fait, comme l'a souligné mon Ministre à la plénière, nous réitérons l'appui inconditionnel au Pacte et nous lançons un vibrant appel à tous les pays Membres afin qu'ils approuvent le texte définitif du Pacte.

R. NGBONGUE (République centrafricaine) : Le point 10 du calendrier de la vingt-troisième session de la Conférence de la FAO qui a trait à l'adoption du pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondiale appelle de la part de la délégation de la République centrafricaine quelques commentaires. En effet, dans sa stratégie de développement définissant les grandes orientations pour la Décennie 1981-90 le Gouvernement de la République centrafricaine a accordé une priorité absolue au développement rural en vue d'assurer l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaires. En dépit des



conditions agro-écologiques favorables de la République centrafricaine, celle-ci n'est pas épargnée par les problèmes courants et communs aux pays en développement, et entre autres les calamités naturelles. C'est ainsi que de 1980 à 1983 elle a été successivement menacée par l'invasion des criquets migrateurs dans la région septentrionale, la peste bovine et la sécheresse. A l'heure actuelle, elle est encore menacée par -la pneumonie contagieuse bovine dans le nord-est et le nord. Le ministre du développement rural a eu à faire une déclaration à la Conférence de l'Elevage de l'Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale qui s'est tenue à Port-Gentil au Gabon du 20 au 25 octobre 1985.

Face à ce fléau qui crée une insécurité alimentaire dans la région, le gouvernement a pris des mesures qui stimulent la production et éliminent les maladies. Le pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, qui est un engagement moral d'oeuvrer en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de rétablir les principes pour lesquels se battent non seulement la FAO mais tous les hommes de bonne volonté, traduit la volonté du Gouvernement de la République centrafricaine. Son mérite est de fixer les devoirs et les responsabilités des gouvernements, organisations internationales, non gouvernementales et des personnes privées dans la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition et il est approuvé par le Gouvernement de la République centrafricaine.

Pour terminer la délégation de la République centrafricaine veut affirmer qu'elle appuie sans réserve les objectifs financiers dans la nouvelle définition de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

D. KINZEL: (Austria) (Original language German): I shall be brief, as was requested. I am indeed pleased to commend the Director-General for the excellent introduction to this item on our agenda.

At the beginning of 1985, we noted the target for eradicating hunger within a decade unfortunately could not be achieved and the number of hungry and seriously malnourished people was still 435 million to 450 million. The figure of insufficiently-fed people is approximately 1 000 million still. Among the many endeavours enacted by the Director-General of FAO to combat hunger in the world, we must highlight the World Food Security Compact, which was submitted to the Committee on World Food Security, and which was subsequently broadly welcomed at the June 1985 Council session.

Thanks are due here above all to Dr Saouma and to all those who, by their efforts and perseverance, have helped to produce the present text now before us. In this connection we must add that due to divergent opinions in the Committee on World Food Security, Dr Saouma proceeded to revise the text, and this new text then was broadly accepted. The text now before us appears a most useful and well-balanced document.

Although the World Food Security Compact contains no legally-binding pledges or demands, and basically only reaffirms the original commitment, we believe that this moral declaration of principle will be of great significance for both developing and developed countries.

The Austrian delegation is convinced that this Compact which - and let us repeat this again - is not legally binding, perhaps does not give the hungry any actual food at this point in time, but in the medium-term it can be one of the most important contributions in the struggle against hunger. Aware, as we are, that the eradication of hunger is a top priority for us all, and realizing also that any possibility to come closer to this target should be grasped, the Austrian delegation is hoping for a complete consensus in the acceptance of this World Food Security Compact. We hope that this Compact will help strengthen the moral obligation towards world food security.

The Austrian delegation, therefore, strongly endorses the text before us on the World Food Security Compact.

Ms N. MORAD (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of Egypt would like to thank the Director-General for his excellent presentation of the subject under discussion, namely, the World Food Security Compact. The Compact constitutes, in our view, a voluntary declaration and a moral commitment to international cooperation and solidarity for the eradication of hunger. This in itself is an important human objective and constitutes one of the basic objectives of FAO.

We all know that a number of countries still suffer from shortages of basic foodstuffs, and the Compact has set as its major objective to enable all peoples to meet their food requirements. Therefore, my delegation would like to express its full support for the document under discussion, which includes the World Food Security Compact, and we hope it will be endorsed by our Commission. We also think that the adoption of the Compact by FAO on its Fortieth Anniversary will be most appropriate.

M.G. KHADIKANE (Lesotho): First of all, I should like to thank the Director-General of FAO for his introduction to this important subject. He has indeed summarized the main features of the Compact, and there is no need for me to elaborate.

Secondly, I wish to thank the Council for having worked tirelessly on this text to get it to its present form, which is totally acceptable to the Lesotho delegation. We only hope that those who did not support it initially, will now reconsider their position after a close study of the current draft, because, in our opinion, most of their concerns have been covered.

Food insecurity affects mostly the developing world, to which my country belongs. This is certainly true of the rest of Africa today, where millions of people have died, despite the goodwill of donors who supplied food aid to Ethiopia and other African countries, because of logistic problems such as transportation and distribution.

The Compact solicits participation by all levels of society. It clearly appeals for support to expand food production, to increase stability of food supply and accessibility to food at all times, rich as well as poor. All three levels of society, namely governments, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals, should adopt policies and strategies which will enhance the achievement of the above-mentioned three principal objectives of the World Food Security Compact.

In conclusion, since my delegation did not have the opportunity of speaking on the food situation document, may I take this opportunity of conveying the Lesotho delegation's condolences to the Colombian delegation on the bad news of the disaster which befell their country recently. We sympathize with the Colombian citizens and solicit support on their behalf from the donor countries and agencies with goodwill to provide it.

J.E. MENDES FERRAO (Portugal) : Mon pays considère comme du plus haut intérêt le Projet du "Pacte de la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale" proposé à cette Conférence par le Directeur général, après avoir été étudié au niveau du Comité de la Sécurité Mondiale et du Conseil.

Nous pensons que ce document exprime des préoccupations profondément humaines et nous sommes certains qu'aucun de nous ne pourra manquer de l'appuyer, dans ses principes généraux.

Nous sommes donc convaincus que ce projet de résolution sera approuvé par la Conférence et constituera un instrument digne de marquer le quarantième anniversaire de la FAO que nous commémorons cette année.

En effet, il vise, d'un côté, la satisfaction d'un des droits fondamentaux de la personne humaine -qui est le droit à l'alimentation -, et, d'un autre côté, attire l'attention sur la responsabilité qui incombe aux gouvernements et aux individus dans ce domaine, tout en sensibilisant les organisations non-gouvernementales sur l'importance du rôle qu'elles ont à assumer dans la poursuite de cet objectif.

Le projet de résolution pose le problème de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en des termes précis, quand il estime que le droit à l'alimentation n'a pas en lui-même une valeur absolue, parce qu'il dépend de l'effort que chaque individu et chaque pays doivent mettre en oeuvre pour atteindre cet objectif, moyennant l'utilisation et la mise en valeur de leurs propres ressources et des moyens nécessaires à la survivance des populations ; parce qu'il présuppose l'appui technique et financier des pays développés, et le recours à l'aide alimentaire, toutes les fois qu'elle se révèle nécessaire pour résoudre des problèmes ponctuels et structurels, tant que les insuffisances structurelles n'auront pas été corrigées.

Il n'est pas admissible que les pays qui se heurtent à des difficultés alimentaires, mais qui disposent de conditions de base pour y remédier, continuent à compter exclusivement, ou presque exclusivement, sur l'aide extérieure en matière d'aliments. Mais il ne nous semble pas correct non plus que l'on procède à des réductions des superficies cultivées dans les pays en développement, au point de réduire leur capacité à mettre à la disposition des pays nécessiteux les produits alimentaires de base, comme l'a déclaré le Pape Jean-Paul II dans son allocution aux participants à la 22e Conférence de la FAO, en 1983.

C'est pour cela que nous considérons comme très correcte et particulièrement heureuse la rédaction du paragraphe 1. des Principes Généraux du projet: "La Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale est la responsabilité commune de l'Humanité. Son objectif ultime est de faire en sorte que tous les hommes soient en tout temps capables de produire ou de se procurer les aliments essentiels dont ils ont besoin".

Il nous semble que le texte serait encore enrichi si, à côté de toutes les mesures préconisées pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, figurait également l'éducation alimentaire des populations, de manière à obtenir une alimentation plus équilibrée et une meilleure utilisation des produits nationaux.

Le pacte de la Sécurité Alimentaire Mondiale doit sanctionner la responsabilité qui incombe aux individus, aux pays et aux organisations internationales, comme le signale justement le projet à l'étude.

Nous pensons que si le pacte est important pour les pays qui disposent d'excédents d'aliments, car ils ont besoin de connaître la destination à donner à ces excédents, il est encore plus important pour les pays qui ne produisent pas les aliments suffisants et nécessaires à leur subsistance. Ici, il sera indispensable de dynamiser la production d'aliments et surtout de programmer, en temps voulu, l'approvisionnement de la population afin de savoir ce qui doit être acquis sur le marché international et aussi comment conserver, stocker et transformer les produits alimentaires.

Mon pays importe, en moyenne, 60 pour cent des aliments qu'il consomme. Ceci représente une énorme dépense en devises qui pourraient être canalisées vers l'acquisition de biens d'équipement. A côté d'un effort considérable dans le sens de la production interne d'aliments, nous essayons, moyennant l'éducation alimentaire, de corriger les erreurs alimentaires de la population et d'utiliser plus rationnellement les ressources nationales. A partir des données fournies par la "balance alimentaire", nous avons élaboré une prévision des besoins alimentaires des différents groupes, pour les prochaines années. Ainsi, les autorités sont en possession d'informations importantes qui doivent leur permettre de déterminer en temps voulu les aliments qu'il sera nécessaire d'importer et ceux qui pourront être produits sur l'espace national.

H. AL-AHMAD (Syria) (original language Arabic): The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic endorses the draft World Food Security Compact in its revised text since it provides a moral commitment and gives a concrete expression to some noble and lofty sentiments. Responsibilities have been assigned in the draft compact and they are now clearly defined. What remains to be done is for governments, organizations and individuals to declare their commitment to the Compact. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic endorses the provisions of the Compact and urges everyone to commit themselves to respect its contents, and demonstrate their solidarity with the the rest of humanity through its practical and effective implementation.

A. ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban remercie le Directeur général qui a exposé lui-même ce matin devant cette commission le thème du pacte de la sécurité alimentaire contenu dans le document C 85/23.

Dès l'aube de l'Histoire et jusqu'à ce jour, le monde souffre de la précarité des approvisionnements alimentaires. L'Humanité continue de souffrir comme par le passé de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Fort heureusement, le monde a réalisé de nos jours certains progrès qui lui ont permis de maîtriser la nature et d'atténuer les effets de la faim grâce aux activités conjointes entreprises par les gouvernements, l'OAA et les individus. Ces activités permettent d'augmenter les produits alimentaires et d'atténuer les pénuries alimentaires qui affectent dans chaque pays tous les citoyens et à tous les niveaux.

Le Pacte de la sécurité alimentaire qui nous est soumis dans le document C 85/23 et qui a été adopté par le Conseil à sa 87<sup>ème</sup> session après l'avoir amendé, a un caractère de volontariat et ne comporte pour les pays membres aucune obligation juridique, financière ou pratique. Ce pacte est plutôt un instrument en guise d'un engagement moral d'assurer et de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire.

Les objectifs mentionnés dans le texte révisé du pacte de la sécurité alimentaire doivent être fortement appuyés par les gouvernements, l'opinion publique et les individus. Les gouvernements doivent assurer les aliments à leurs peuples et abolir la faim sinon abolir les cas de malnutrition chronique.

Le Pacte demande aux gouvernements d'encourager les peuples à augmenter la production vivrière, de fournir aux agriculteurs des semences améliorées, des engrais, de les former aux nouvelles techniques agricoles pour leur permettre d'augmenter leur production agricole.

Les gouvernements se doivent d'améliorer les conditions économiques de leurs peuples notamment ceux qui souffrent de la privation et de promouvoir le développement rural par la création de coopératives. Ils doivent assurer de manière générale et plus particulièrement à la femme une formation qui lui permette de travailler dans les régions rurales et contribuer ainsi à l'augmentation de la production alimentaire.

Les individus ont un rôle important à jouer dans la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans les pays nantis, il ne faut pas uniquement compter sur les gouvernements car l'individu dans ces pays doit sensibiliser l'opinion publique à la nécessité de la coopération internationale pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire qui se trouve assez souvent éclipsée par les problèmes intérieurs. L'individu peut contribuer à créer un climat favorable à la solution des problèmes de l'alimentation. Il peut aussi susciter au sein de l'opinion publique une réaction favorable à l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Les agriculteurs sont le pilier de la sécurité alimentaire. Leur rôle ne se limite pas à produire les aliments mais s'étend à la préservation du sol et à sa protection de l'érosion et de la dégradation afin de lui assurer une productivité constante.

La délégation libanaise a déjà exprimé son appui au projet du Pacte de la sécurité alimentaire lors de la 87<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil en juin 1985. Nous tenons à réaffirmer cet appui et formulons l'espoir que ce pacte que nous approuvons sera adopté par la Conférence à sa présente session. Je vous remercie.

H. OGUT (Turkey). I will follow your advice and be very brief indeed. Yes, we agree with the principle of having the World Food Security Compact. In fact, we have supported from the outset the Director-General's initiative to have this Compact.

Yes, we fully endorse the revised draft text of the Compact as presented to us now, and in any case the text has been thoroughly discussed and refined. We endorse this text because we believe it will serve the useful purpose of mobilizing the support of governments, individuals, as well as public opinion for the objectives already set forth in the revised concept of the World Food Security Compact.

IL HO JO (Republic of Korea): As our principal delegate has already expressed, the Government of the Republic of Korea is in a position to support the adoption of the World Food Security Compact. As mentioned, this Compact is no more than a reaffirmation of commitments to achieve the objectives

encompassed in the broad concept of world food security. Therefore, it does not involve any legal obligation. However, it is my delegation's view that the Compact is of utmost importance in clarifying our understanding of human responsibility for freedom from hunger and poverty, which is obligatory for us all.

We believe that this Compact will help to create a more favourable atmosphere for positive actions to be taken in improving world food security. In this context I would like to give emphasis particularly to the importance of two points in the proposed Compact.

Firstly, my delegation finds no difficulty with the proposed principle that the governments of the developing countries avoid the risks involved in excessively depending on food imports, and in particular, they should ensure that the city dwellers not acquire a preference for imported food that cannot be produced domestically. We hope that the importance of this is taken into account by governments in their development policy formulation processes. According to our past experience, an excessive dependence on food imports may generate some negative effects for domestic food production and may hinder its increase. It also may bring about an eventual excessive migration of the farming population, which, in turn, may give rise to an increase in food instability.

Secondly, my delegation highly recognizes the principle that governments of developed countries, whether they be exporters or importers, should consider the interests of the world as a whole, when making policy decisions on food production, stocks and imports. This is an essential fact in fully guaranteeing world food market stability and thus, world food security. It may also result in an important contribution to the South-North cooperation in solving chronic hunger and poverty in the world.

My delegation hopes that the adoption of the Compact will give us an occasion to evaluate, and at the same time appreciate again, the indispensable role of agriculture in our human life.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): To save time, my delegation would like to make a short statement regarding document C 85/23, the draft World Food Security Compact. Food security involves not only the objectives of eliminating food shortages, malnutrition, and poverty, but in many circumstances is also an instrument for increasing food production and saving time in the distribution of food. No one likes to see starvation in any part of the world, and particularly today, we are deeply concerned with the food crisis in Africa. Taking into serious account the many facts involved, therefore, my delegation fully supports the World Food Security Compact as it stands in the document before us.

J. THINSY (Belgique): En tant que pays représentant la présidence du Conseil de la CEE, je voudrais permettre à l'observateur de la CEE d'intervenir sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. J'ajouterai que la délégation belge peut prendre totalement à son compte cette déclaration de la CEE. Pour tenir de votre appel à être bref, ma délégation n'a rien à ajouter.

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Comme nous l'avons indiqué lors du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale en avril 1985, et lors de la 87ème session du Conseil de la FAO en juillet dernier, la CEE et ses Etats Membres auraient souhaité que le Pacte soumis à notre réflexion porte davantage d'attention à différentes questions, notamment en ce qui concerne les problèmes démographiques et l'organisation des marchés agricoles. Mais nous devons retenir l'essentiel, à savoir la finalité du Pacte qui établit un engagement moral pour ce qui est de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La CEE considère maintenant le Pacte non seulement comme une volonté morale mais aussi comme un moyen d'aller vers la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

C'est pourquoi elle soutient le Pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondiale et qu'elle espère d'une part, que ce Pacte mobilisera toutes les énergies, et d'autre part, qu'un consensus sera atteint.

P. PIOTET (France): La délégation française avait accueilli avec sympathie, lors de la réunion précédente, l'initiative prise par le Directeur général de présenter à l'approbation de cette Conférence un projet de Pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondiale, texte exprimant de manière solennelle sur le plan moral la volonté de l'ensemble de la CEE internationale de poursuivre et de renforcer les efforts dans la lutte pour la disparition de la faim et de la malnutrition et pour le développement de la production alimentaire dans tous les pays et plus spécialement dans les pays en développement qui disposent du potentiel.

Le document qui nous est présenté traduit cette volonté de manière particulièrement convaincante, même si comme vient de le rappeler notre collègue de la Commission de la CEE, une amélioration aurait pu, à mon point de vue, lui être apportée.

Ma délégation approuve les principes et les lignes d'action qui nous sont proposés; en particulier l'objectif qui consiste à ce que tous les hommes soient en tout temps capables de produire ou de se procurer les aliments essentiels dont ils ont besoin, la reconnaissance du fait que c'est sur les paysans que repose fondamentalement la sécurité alimentaire, la priorité qui doit être donnée au développement des productions vivrières locales, la responsabilité des gouvernements dans ce domaine et la nécessité d'adopter des politiques adéquates sur les plans national et international pour y parvenir. L'objectif général de l'établissement d'un système alimentaire mondial et caractérisé par l'équité, recueille bien sûr notre soutien. Qu'il nous soit permis d'insister, de ce point de vue, sur l'intérêt qui s'attache à une meilleure organisation des marchés, sur la nécessité d'améliorer le cadre économique et monétaire dans lequel il s'inscrit.

Comme l'a souligné M. François Mitterrand, Président de la République française dans l'allocution qu'il a prononcée devant cette Conférence à l'occasion de la célébration du 40ème Anniversaire de l'Organisation, le projet de pacte sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale a le mérite de fixer les devoirs et les responsabilités de chacun: gouvernements, organisations internationales, organisations non gouvernementales, personnes privées. Il ne manquera pas de contribuer de façon particulièrement positive et utile à la sensibilisation et à la prise de conscience de tous les acteurs concernés. Nous espérons que tous les pays représentés au sein de cette Conférence seront en mesure de lui apporter leur plein appui.

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful and the Benevolent, the delegation of Iraq firmly hopes that the Compact will fulfill the ambitions and aims of Third World countries and that the proposals contained therein will be translated into precise programmes offering new hopes for attenuating the instability of the world food situation and for tackling the problems of economics and development facing most countries, especially developing ones. We also hope that developed and food-producing countries will contribute by reviewing their positions within the context of the Compact and its intrinsic implications regarding the need to restructure relationships between themselves and developing countries, thereby decreasing the differences dividing the two, and that they will cooperate in giving a new push to agricultural development in developing countries in order to fulfil their aspirations for agricultural balance. The interests of both developed and developing countries lie in narrowing the gap between the two, since the prerequisite for a flourishing future is the concomitant evolution of both developing and developed agricultural countries.

The present phase is marked by the deterioration of growth rates and the worsening of agricultural and other problems in most developing countries. It is, therefore, essential for the Compact to concentrate, within its various disciplines, on developing human resources. There is a need for programmes to regulate the exchange of experience and information between the peoples of developing and developed countries, as well as a need for a reemphasis on training in project contracts to enhance the competence of beneficiaries of such programmes. This should encompass an objective transfer of technological experience and the enhancement of autcapabilities that would ensure a vertical expansion of human resource development.

There is a necessity to reiterate the importance of formulating suitable technical policies in order to form and develop technical autcapabilities. This requires that the developed countries remove obstacles and constraints which negatively affect the process of technology transfer to developing countries and that they give an absolute priority to shaping modern programmes with the Third World in mind so that such programmes will act as a vehicle for development, modernity and freedom from hunger and want.

We sincerely hope that the Compact will be implemented by all countries with no exception and we, the delegation of Iraq, would like to say once again that we fully support it.

E. PASCARELLI (Italie): Je ne me soustrairai pas à votre invitation d'être bref. La délégation italienne appuie dans sa totalité et sans réserve le texte du pacte pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale qui nous a été proposé. En faisant état des déclarations qui ont déjà été données devant le Conseil, je voudrais mentionner ce qu'a dit le représentant de la Communauté. Nous aurions aussi souhaité attirer l'attention notamment sur la question du problème démographique et de l'organisation du marché agricole dans le texte qui nous est soumis; mais nous devons retenir l'essentiel, c'est-à-dire la finalité du Pacte qui établit un engagement moral de se battre pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (je cite exactement ce qu'a dit le représentant de la Communauté).

Nous avons toujours réaffirmé notre conviction que la signature d'un tel pacte était une démarche décisive sur la voie du développement des rapports avec les pays bénéficiaires de notre aide et surtout vers les populations qui se trouvent en état de nécessité du fait d'un manque d'alimentation appropriée. Il y a naturellement une difficulté à passer de l'énonciation de principes à l'application pratique de ces engagements, mais dans l'intention d'arriver vite et bien au but, nous approuvons ce Pacte et, comme sa sainteté le Pape lui-même l'a proposé, nous sommes prêts à considérer dans l'avenir des ententes plus engageantes à discuter selon la modalité et la nature des ententes que nous avons envisagées. Il est tout à fait conforme à notre politique bilatérale et multilatérale que les pays donateurs puissent considérer dans leur ensemble les besoins globaux des populations qui souffrent; je terminerai en félicitant ceux qui ont préparé ce texte.

P. SKALIERIS (Greece): My delegation, although it would like to see our attention drawn to certain issues such as the rapid population growth which developing countries are facing, retains the essential. The aim of the World Food Security Compact is not to create new obligations, whether legal, financial or operational, but to strengthen the position of all those in government, in non-governmental organizations or in private life, who wish to bring about a better future for mankind.

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the FAO, and considering the non-satisfaction of nutritional and other needs in a great number of countries in the world, we hope that the Compact will serve to mobilize all energies, and accelerate the work to be done. My Government supports the adoption of the World Food Security Compact which embodies the principles put forward by the new concept of the World Food Security in its revised form.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation welcomes the presentation of document C 85/23. Already at the Eighty-seventh FAO Council session, we stated that we have a positive attitude with respect to this World Food Security Compact. We were also satisfied to listen to the reiterated statement by the Director-General of FAO, according to which this Compact is intended as a reconfirmation of the principle to which we all agree - that of fighting hunger and poverty. It is reassuring that the Compact creates no new legal, financial or other obligations.

We regretted that at the Eighty-seventh FAO Council meeting a number of delegations had to refuse their approval to the draft Compact because they felt they were not able to introduce their arguments during the discussions in an appropriate manner. We approved the draft of the Compact at the Eighty-seventh FAO Council meeting with the understanding that further opportunity would be given to discuss amendments. We ourselves submitted three amendments. In the first place, chapter II, paragraph 1, we asked that the word "responsability" be replaced by the word "challenge".

Second, in paragraph 2 of the same chapter, we would prefer to have the word "fundamental" be replaced by "moral". Thirdly, we would have liked more stress on demography.

If these suggestions could be taken into account, it would make it easier for my delegation to identify with the text of the Compact. Other delegations will be in a similar position.

As we pointed out already at the June Council session, we would have preferred a shorter text together with a reference to what has already been achieved in improving food security. If we, as the international community, want to make further progress in reaching the goal of eliminating hunger and malnutrition, then we should be able to achieve a comprehensive consensus.

H. HRISTOMANOV (Yugoslavia): I should like to make a brief statement. The Director-General of FAO had the idea of preparing and adopting a document which would comprise the proposed activities of developing countries, developed countries, non-governmental organizations and individuals who could contribute to the struggle in overcoming hunger and malnutrition in the world. The Director-General's idea appeared twice on the agenda of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, and both times the opinions of the different delegations regarding its contents were varied.

Our delegation supports the idea of adopting such a document and agrees with the opinion that this document will mobilize the will in the world for the realization of a programme of food security.

The shortage of food is present in many countries. From time to time there is hunger, with catastrophic results. This cannot be prevented without the establishment of a proper food security system. Food security means, first of all, increased production of food in all the territories of the world possible. Then, it means storage and distribution of food to the regions where it is needed. To make it operational, the draft document clearly defines the tasks of the developing countries, developed countries, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

Once more, in the name of the delegation of Yugoslavia, I fully support the idea of having such a document written in the draft.

M. AGIAG (Libya) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of my country believes that this Compact is of particular importance because it expresses the will of mankind shared by the international community, to solve the problems of hunger. In drawing up this Compact, the Director-General has once again adopted a necessary and timely initiative. We congratulate him and thank him. This initiative was adopted at a time when the food crisis in Africa when the extent of the weaknesses and shortcomings in the present food security, arrangements became obvious.

It is also a very necessary initiative because the international community should make a new political commitment to strengthen world food security in the light of the bitter experience of the present food crisis. We are convinced that the international community will come up against the same famine problems if we fail to commit ourselves firmly and adopt the principles of international solidarity in order to achieve food security.

More than once, it has been pointed out that the World Food Security Compact is of a fundamental moral significance in tackling the challenge of famine in Africa. It is this moral aspect of the World Food Security Compact that is being highlighted in this draft. This assertion deserves our special attention, because it justifies the fundamental issue before us both as individuals and as members of a developed society. In other words we need to put our faith in moral norms.

In our view, the document is balanced and has been drafted in a way that takes into account the views and interests of all parties concerned. We trust that it will be approved and adopted, since it represents a minimum level of the necessary commitment. Our ambition is to be able to serve the interests of mankind and guarantee a feeling of security which can only come from a common awareness of the problems of others. We are convinced that the members of this Commission are aware of the nature of their responsibilities and the hope placed in them when millions of human beings run the risk of dying of hunger.



The Compact will enable this Commission to go beyond the conventional limits of a debate on the problem, because it expresses humanitarian principles of solidarity with those who suffer from malnutrition. What is more, this Compact will enable us to pave the way towards a better future. It will enable us to adopt strategies which should enable us also to overcome the obstacles and make mankind happy and ready to tackle its responsibilities.

G.R. SAINI (India): Mr Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to reiterate India's firm commitment to world food security. India is in complete agreement with the World Food Security Compact and fully endorses it. My country lays great stress on action for food security at global, regional and sub-regional levels. India has made considerable progress in not only producing enough food for its own requirements, but has also simultaneously developed an efficient public distribution system to provide food to the consumers, especially the vulnerable sections of society, at reasonable prices. We are implementing public policy packages which stimulate both production and consumption, particularly by small and marginal farmers, on the one hand, and urban and rural consumers living below the poverty line on the other.

Recognizing the importance of entitlement and access to food, India is implementing massive programmes to generate employment and increase the purchasing power of the rural poor so as to increase their access to food and better nutrition. Increasing food production, providing for efficient distribution, and increasing the purchasing power of the rural poor to give them access to food are the key elements in India's food policy.

I would also like to emphasize that, through concerted efforts, India has achieved a good measure of success in minimizing the adverse impact of drought. Development of an early warning system and contingency plans to fight drought are the key elements of our drought management. India will be quite happy to extend her full cooperation and assistance and to share her experience with other countries in these fields.

A proposal has been mooted that the World Food Security Compact should be amended to incorporate the role of the media and a few other things. My country's delegation, while recognizing the role that will be played by the media, and the usefulness of other suggestions, strongly feels that any proposal for amendment at this stage would only delay the adoption of the Compact by this Conference. We would strongly urge that the Compact as presented be adopted by the Conference.

P.A.L. de RIJK (Netherlands): The idea for a World Food Security Compact first appeared in a report presented during the Eighth session of the Committee on World Food Security in 1983. It was stated that it was intended to further the aim of world food security of governments and of public opinion. It would contain a long-term strategy for the creation of an effective world food security system with a clearly defined number of aims. It would only concern moral obligations, and would provide the possibility of participation not only by governments but also by non-governmental organizations and prominent individuals.

In the CFS session of 1984, this idea was elaborated a bit further. The Compact would be a codification of what had already been agreed upon and would especially be based on the consensus in the International Undertaking on World Food Security, the Plan of Action for World Food Security and the recommendations of the International Development Strategy for the Third Development Decade. The first part would be a reconfirmation of final aims of world food security during the last ten years with the recognition of the whole international community in relation to these aims. The second part would contain a declaration of general principles and guidelines for action on the national, regional and global basis. The third part would be a reconfirmation of the accepted long-term commitment to ban hunger and malnutrition before the end of the twentieth century.

The World Food Security Compact, as it now is before us, brings together general principles in relation to world food security and suggestions for action by governments, organizations and individuals. The governments, organizations and individuals subscribing to this Compact agree to work together in their respective spheres towards bringing about a higher degree of food security at all levels throughout the world.

During the Ninth session of the CFS in 1983, our delegation stated that we were not particularly enthusiastic about the proposals for a World Food Security Compact. We explained that we believed that the efforts to be put into that exercise, and the possible controversies it might provoke, would not compare in a positive way with the concrete effects such a Compact would have. We also stated that we would join in a consensus on this issue if the Committee felt that the effort was worthwhile. During the last session of the CFS we repeated that point of view. Unfortunately, controversies did arise. In an effort to limit them, we suggested that the Secretariat should indicate for different paragraphs of the Compact the differences from the agreed text in the other document I mentioned earlier, but, as with other suggestions for improvement of the text, we did not receive any action from the Secretariat and neither did several other countries. In fact, the contents of the Compact were not changed at all during that session. We sincerely hope that such an unfortunate event can be prevented in the future.

In the meantime, we appreciate that the text of the Compact had been adjusted in a positive way for the Council Session in June. We doubt, however, whether the deletion of the last part of the original Point 4 of the General Principles is an improvement. The original Point 4 read: "Food should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure, either within countries or internationally". What has not been included in the Compact is an acknowledgement that world food security and population growth appeared to have a negative correlation. This was expressed in different terms by several countries but was opposed by some others. In pleading for such an acknowledgement, we refer to the Report on the Symposium on World Food Security that was organized by the Director-General in September 1983 in order to be advised on new approaches for world food security. These renowned experts stressed: "World food security stands apart from global factors external to the food and agriculture sector: that is, money, energy and population". We should like to point out that the FAO Study, "Land, Food and People", arrives at a conclusion that many developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia will, in spite of all efforts, most likely not be able to feed themselves in the year two thousand. While several countries in the various continents indeed possess large areas with untapped agricultural land, feeding the increasing population of all countries would require, among other things, a massive movement of people across borders to those untapped areas. That fact alone would undoubtedly imply a major obstacle.

On previous occasions we have also declared that we have limited expectations as to the results that could be reached with the Compact. We still have hesitations as to the practical use to be made of it. On the other hand, we admit that in principle it can be useful to bring together in a coherent way elements of conclusions and recommendations that governments agreed upon over a longer period of time. Moreover, we certainly do not underestimate the potential influence of public opinion in relation to matters relating to world food security. After all, it was public opinion that gave the huge impetus for action on a much larger scale during the food crisis in Africa after images of that disaster had reached the television screens.

Finally, during the course of the past two sessions of the CFA we stated that we would join a consensus on the Compact. That is still the case.

J.J. GARCIA DEL CASTILLO (España): Deseo primeramente agradecer al Sr. Director General por su presentación del tema de forma tan clara y concisa.

Mi país apoya el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, ya que es perfectamente acorde con el concepto sobre solidaridad internacional que tiene mi Gobierno. Este documento es un primer paso, una simple declaración que esperamos que en un futuro sea algo más y que se signifique como una de las bases de la cooperación y de la solidaridad internacional.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): La délégation congolaise souhaite exprimer avant tout sa satisfaction pour l'excellente manière dont le Directeur général a introduit le document C 85/23 relatif au pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Le Congo a participé à tous les stades de discussion du projet actuel du pacte dont l'importance a été soulignée par ceux qui sont intervenus avant moi. Aucun gouvernement attaché aux droits de l'homme et a fortiori au plus fondamental d'entre eux, je veux parler du droit de se nourrir, oeuvrant pour la coopération internationale et agissant en faveur de la solidarité humaine ne peut pas ne pas adhérer au pacte qui récapitule les principes généraux sur lesquels du reste la communauté internationale s'est déjà mise d'accord car chacun convient que ce pacte codifie des principes déjà acceptés par tous. Nous voudrions une nouvelle fois rendre hommage au Directeur général d'avoir su dans un texte fort clair et concis rassembler des éléments qui renforcent la conviction de tous pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Dans sa nouvelle dimension qui découle de l'acceptation du nouveau contexte de cette sécurité alimentaire le gouvernement de mon pays est sensible au fait que ce poste ne crée pas de nouvelles obligations juridiques, financières et autres, et qu'il est d'une portée morale évidente. Il ne peut lui être reproché de traduire concrètement des sentiments largement partagés par tous les gouvernements et sur lesquels nous ne ménageons aucun effort à la FAO et ailleurs pour les faire aboutir.

Nous sommes convaincus de la nécessité pour les Etats membres de notre Organisation d'adopter un tel pacte qui, nous le pensons, à défaut d'une volonté politique affirmée des gouvernements, peut compter sur la force morale qu'il imprimera à tous ceux qui sont visés et notamment aux opinions publiques afin qu'elles oeuvrent pour atteindre les buts énoncés dans la définition élargie de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale telle qu'elle a été adoptée il y a deux ans.

Nous espérons à cet égard que les médias contribueront à sa large diffusion. En effet, nous pensons que par ce biais les opinions publiques exerceront la pression nécessaire pour accélérer l'abolition de la pauvreté et permettre ainsi à chacun l'exercice de son droit fondamental d'être libéré de la faim grâce à l'accès de tous aux-disponibilités alimentaires.

Nous nous réjouissons de voir que le principe maintes fois réaffirmé par notre Conférence, qui consiste à éviter que les aliments ne soient jamais utilisés comme moyens de pression politique, y figure en bonne place. Nous regrettons simplement qu'à coté des aliments on n'ait pas parlé des intrants agricoles. Nous n'osons pour autant pas en suggérer l'inclusion dans le Pacte dans sa version actuelle. Il nous semble un compromis acceptable et c'est pourquoi toute tentative d'y ajouter des éléments ou des termes compliquerait son adoption. Nous pensons donc aussi que des améliorations sont possibles et notamment nous l'aurions souhaité plus engageant comme l'a si bien dit à ce sujet le délégué de l'Italie.

En effet, nous ne perdons pas de vue qu'il s'agit d'une oeuvre humaine perfectible, mais nous voulons nous en tenir à l'essentiel qui requiert déjà un large appui. Il s'agit d'un texte qui encourage la coopération et la solidarité internationales en vue de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire et empêcher l'éclatement et le retour des crises comme celle que connaît l'Afrique et qui a été amplement débattue dans cette salle.

Bref, la dimension humaine de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ne doit pas être négligée et ici le rôle des organisations non gouvernementales pour soutenir et compléter les initiatives des gouvernements est bien présenté dans le chapitre 4 du pacte que notre gouvernement appuie sans réserve et il en recommande l'adoption par la Conférence comme l'a fort bien indiqué le chef de notre délégation dans sa déclaration générale, car nous estimons qu'il s'agit là d'un excellent stimulant pour tous les gouvernements en ce quarantième anniversaire de notre Organisation.

CHAIRMAN: May I say a few words about what is going to happen tomorrow, because it has some relation to what is happening today. A Draft Resolution on the Critical Situation of Food and Agriculture in Africa, item 7.2 of the agenda, has been found acceptable by the Resolutions Committee and will be issued in its Fifth Report to this Commission under document C 85/LIM/27. This version will be available tomorrow during the morning. At the moment, we still have 17 or 18 delegations on the list of speakers for today. I do not know whether it will be possible to hear them all, so, dear friends and colleagues, I ask you to keep your speeches very short. It is clear that tomorrow we shall have this other point which we must deal with. If the document is ready tomorrow after we have finished what we are discussing now, we can go on to the new point on the critical situation of food and agriculture in Africa. For this reason, I ask everybody to try and help by being as short as possible.

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): The concept of the World Food Security Compact has been supported by my delegation ever since the subject first came up for discussion in FAO. The points we raised in our earlier interventions have been faithfully reflected in the final text of the Compact. We continue on the same path, and we support the Compact. We call upon Governments, including donors, donor organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals to more than double their efforts in order to remove constraints in achieving a sustained increase in food and agricultural production, particularly in low-income food-deficit countries.

In this endeavour, the strengthening of the framework in which investment in agriculture and food production can be made must be given special emphasis. Therefore, let the Compact be seen as something which helps in the reinforcement of those actions in the poor countries which the international community and ourselves are currently undertaking in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, poverty and under-development. Let it be seen as providing the stimulus for further action by all of us to increase food security now and in the future.

Mme L. OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): La délégation du Burkina Faso sera assez brève sur ce point de l'ordre du jour pour une raison très simple, c'est que le Burkina Faso a toujours appuyé de façon claire et sans équivoque l'idée du Pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, que ce soit lors des réunions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire, que ce soit lors du Conseil ou enfin encore lors de la déclaration de notre Ministre en séance plénière.

Il s'agit d'un engagement à caractère moral traduisant d'une part un certain nombre d'idées déjà exprimées à plusieurs occasions et visant d'autre part à traduire une volonté, tant au niveau des gouvernements, de l'opinion publique que des peuples à oeuvrer pour atteindre la sécurité alimentaire. Aussi, la délégation du Burkina Faso réitère-t-elle son soutien au Pacte et elle exhorte tous les Etats Membres à appuyer ce Pacte, s'il est vrai qu'ils sont animés, comme nous le sommes (nous, pays sinistrés ou en développement) de la volonté réelle et du désir de faire disparaître de notre planète le fléau de la famine et de la malnutrition.

Nous lançons donc un vibrant appel aux Etats Membres pour qu'ils adoptent ce Pacte à l'occasion du quarantième Anniversaire de notre Organisation.

V. DOBES (Czechoslovakia): The problem of the world food security has been discussed by the World Food Conference in 1979. Since then we have returned to it at a number of sessions of different FAO authorities, including regional conferences.

With the exception of three FAO Council members, a consensus was almost reached on the text of the World Food Security Compact, providing that "the Compact was strictly voluntary in nature and that its acceptance did not involve any financial or legally binding obligations or commitments".

The problem is very complex. We expect the text of the Compact to be further amended as the situation develops during the Conference. The council recommended it as a summary of the general principles extracted from the declarations and resolutions of conferences and sessions of FAO Council and other UN authorities. My delegation is ready to support the acceptance of the Compact by the Conference.

Nevertheless, I would like to say that, in addition to the general principles, action by government, action by non-governmental organizations and action by individuals, the Compact should also clearly express the role of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization as such, especially if the text is to be published. It would not perhaps be necessary to quote all the basic FAO programmes. The principles for the organization's activity in relation to the Compact might suffice.

We believe that in the future revisions of the text it will be possible to express some principles more accurately. For instance, we are not fully satisfied with the formulation "Food should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure". We think that our organization should take a more categorical attitude towards the use of food as a weapon - hence the formulation of this key point should read "shall not", if not "must not".

We fully support the theses contained in paragraph 5, particularly where it concerns the still active Programme of Action adopted by the World Food Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

The title of Article V should also bring out the activity of agricultural cooperatives and various cooperative associations. Paragraph 4 seems not to take into account the cooperation of small farmers, though this is one of the most important ways towards food security and progress.

The negative role of multinational companies is also not fully shown in the Compact, though FAO has eliminated its cooperation efforts with them some time ago.

Nevertheless, for the sake of consensus, we hope that it will be possible in the near future to improve the text of the Compact and give it more precision. We shall support the acceptance of the Compact by the Conference.

L. POZO-MALO (Ecuador): Apreciamos enormemente la manera cómo ha sido presentado este tema por el Sr. Director General y felicitamos a la FAO por apoyar asuntos como el que nos ocupa, al que consideramos de importancia vital.

Uno de los puntos considerado por los países en busca de su desarrollo de vital importancia es el relativo a la alimentación. La relación causa-efecto entre la alimentación y la producción, y entre el trabajo y el desarrollo, es evidente. No es posible concebir una sociedad apta para el progreso si el elemento básico, una alimentación suficiente y variada, escasea o falta por completo.

Y son en estas circunstancias que se encuentran muchos países llamados "en desarrollo." El hambre y la enfermedad están presentes en no pocos países del mundo.

El problema, como se ha demostrado en este propio organismo, existe y se agrava. Las perspectivas de la alimentación para los próximos decenios son tremendamente preocupantes.

Está en la comunidad internacional buscar los medios que sean necesarios para eliminar este mal, incompatible con los más elementales derechos del ser humano en el presente siglo.

Non se trata de solicitar una cada vez mayor ayuda alimentaria. Se trata de buscar la manera de permitir a las regiones deficitarias y deprimidas de llegar a plazos aceptables en la autosuficiencia alimentaria. Para lograr obtener ese efecto, conviene ir creando una conciencia general que los alimentos son un derecho de los hombres y que todos deseamos actuar en función de permitir su materialización. Este es el espíritu del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial. Así lo concibió el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de la FAO y así lo aprobó el Consejo.

Conviene destacar que el Pacto no entraña obligaciones financieras ni jurídicas, sino solo morales y de conciencia.

El Ecuador apoya el Pacto en la manera en que se nos ha presentado en el documento C/85/23 y confía en que la Conferencia, haciendo honor al 40° Aniversario de la FAO, lo adopte de manera unánime y sin reserva alguna.

M.A. SHEIKH (Somalia): The Somali delegation pays tribute to, and congratulates, the Director-General, Dr Saouma, for the excellent way in which he has presented the World Food Security Compact statement. The Somali Government is committed to doing all at its disposal to combat hunger and malnutrition in our country, and is trying hard to increase domestic food production to overcome our foreign food aid dependence. Our delegation urges all the delegates participating in the Conference to endorse the document which does not require financial or material pledges, but simply appeals for moral commitment, to ensure that people the world over secure basic food necessities so as to live decently and free from hunger. In most of the developing countries where successive droughts have persisted for the last several years, people still suffer from acute shortages of food commodity supplies, and if they are to recover and to achieve food self-sufficiency in the near foreseeable future, they definitely need the support and understanding of those countries which initially disassociated themselves from approving the Compact. The Somali delegation fully supports the ideas contained in the Compact and would urge the Conference to adopt it unanimously and with acclamation.

C. GOODING (Barbados): Inasmuch as this is my first interjection in this Commission, may I take the opportunity to express my appreciation for the very able way in which you Mr Chairman are presiding over these deliberations.

It is now over two and a half years since the Director-General first spoke of a World Food Security Compact, when he addressed the Eighth session of the Committee on World Food Security. His was a bold call for the mobilization of support from governments and the public at large for the objectives of a new concept of world food security. It was, in effect, an appeal to the international community at all levels.

Food production in the world today is more than adequate to feed the world's population. In spite of this, however, there are several pockets where hunger and malnutrition prevail. Indeed, there are too many countries where millions of people go to sleep hungry because of the inequalities in food production and the distribution system. The food crisis which engulfed parts of the African continent recently provided a lesson for us all. It is not without some measure of shame that we have to admit that it required the death of millions and the unnecessary suffering of millions of others to shock the world at large into action. The eventual response of the international community, nevertheless, demonstrated in a very clear way what can be achieved when a true spirit of international cooperation is allowed to prevail.

When one examines the draft text of the World Food Security Compact, one is at once impressed by its consistency with the goals and objectives which our several countries set for the development of the agricultural sector. The desire to satisfy the basic food needs of the population, to provide incentives to encourage farmers to increase food output, to develop agricultural export trade, and to raise the living standards of the lower strata of society, provide but a few examples of the objectives which, for so many countries, form the basis on which agricultural development plans are formulated. These objectives are all enshrined in one form or another in the Compact.

Perhaps we need to remember that the draft World Food Security Compact now before us is not . in any way seeking to create new obligations. This shows clearly the deep appreciation of the Director-General for the fact that much of the world is still striving to free itself from the clutches of the economic recession.

However, we are living in a world where there are many distractions. We are living in a world where each individual, each institution, each nation, indeed each region, tends to have a different perspective on the most urgent problems facing mankind. Consequently, there is always the need to facilitate a proper crystallization of these problems. The initiative on the part of the Director-General can help to facilitate that crystallization. History has shown that the fight against hunger and malnutrition must never be relaxed. The international community must therefore, be prepared to keep the problem of food security high on its agenda.

The Barbados delegation, therefore, has no hesitation in giving its full support to the proposals for a World Food Security Compact, as outlined in document C 85/23, and urges all countries which are truly concerned with the welfare of mankind to demonstrate that concern by lending support to the proposals now before us. Let us delay no more.

A. ANDRIATSIAFAJATO (Madagascar): Au cours de son intervention en séance plénière, la délégation malgache a déclaré l'appui total et sans réserve que le Gouvernement apporte au Pacte mondial de la sécurité alimentaire.

Nous réitérons ce soutien au sein de ce Comité, car nous sommes convaincus que le texte tel qu'il nous est présenté traduit correctement et fidèlement des sentiments très nobles de toutes les parties composant la communauté internationale à savoir, oeuvrer pour la paix et l'équité, lutter ensemble, main dans la main pour que la sécurité alimentaire s'établisse définitivement, dans toutes les régions sans exception. Le texte est bien équilibré car toutes les parties prenantes et imbues de bonne volonté y figurent: gouvernements, organisations non gouvernementales, individus en général et agriculteurs en particulier.

Etant donné que le Pacte est une déclaration solennelle, un engagement moral de la communauté internationale envers l'homme dans la garantie de son bien-être et compte tenu du fait qu'il ne crée aucune obligation juridique ni financière ni opérationnelle, il doit recueillir sans difficulté l'adhésion unanime de tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation. Par l'adoption du Pacte ils réaffirment leurs engagements en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Certaines délégations auraient encore voulu apporter quelques amendements au projet. Nous pensons pour notre part qu'il n'est pas opportun de rouvrir la discussion sur ce sujet qui a déjà été largement débattu dans tous les organes directeurs de l'Organisation.

La version actuelle représente déjà un compromis. Elle risque de perdre tout son intérêt et serait vidée de sa signification profonde si on lui apportait encore des modifications.

A la veille donc d'une décision définitive de la Conférence à ce sujet, nous lançons un appel aux pays représentés ici pour que soit approuvé sans délai le Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire qui répond à l'objectif de sauver à l'avenir plusieurs millions de vie là où la faim et la misère produisent des effets néfastes au développement harmonieux et durable du monde. Il serait extrêmement grave de laisser se perdre la grande poussée morale et politique actuelle et ne pas la traduire par une action extraordinaire de vie et de paix.

Sra. R. ZUNIGA (Honduras): Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Mi Gobierno considera que la adopción del Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, propuesto y elaborado por el Director General en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, dará relevancia a la celebración de este 40° Aniversario de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y Alimentación.

Nosotros, Sr. Presidente, apoyamos este Pacto, porque es una expresión de la solidaridad de todos los países, pues el problema del hambre nos atañe a todos los miembros de la comunidad humana, y aclaro que me refiero a la comunidad humana porque es ésta la que se preocupa de los seres humanos.

El párrafo 2 de los Principios Generales del Pacto indica que "la realización del derecho fundamental de cada persona a estar protegida contra el hambre depende en definitiva de la eliminación de la pobreza". La eliminación del hambre es el principio de la paz.

Nosotros, Sr. Presidente, apoyamos plenamente el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, al igual que todos los esfuerzos y medidas que vayan encaminados a ayudar a todos los países a recuperar su dignidad humana.

Mlle F. BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Nous remercions le Secrétariat pour les efforts qu'il ne cesse de fournir pour nous présenter des documents clairs et concis. Le document C 85/23 est la dernière mouture d'une longue série de discussions aussi bien à la 8ème session du CSA qu'à la 87ème session du Conseil de la FAO. Sans risque d'être contredits, nous pouvons affirmer que le présent texte est d'une telle généralité qu'il s'agit maintenant d'adopter un code d'honneur.

En effet, le présent projet de texte est tout simplement une transcription claire des nombreuses déclarations de bonnes intentions entendues depuis le début de la 23ème session de la Conférence de la part des délégations représentant des gouvernements sur la volonté de chacun d'agir selon sa formule contre l'inacceptable situation de famine qui règne dans certaines régions du monde à l'aube du XXIème siècle. Il s'agit également de consigner l'assurance que l'arme alimentaire ne sera pas utilisée comme moyen de pression. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons ce Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire tel qu'il se présente aujourd'hui, car nous considérons aujourd'hui que ce texte a été tellement élagué pour tenir compte des diverses opinions déjà exprimées, que l'ouverture de discussions supplémentaires risquerait de prolonger inutilement un débat qui dure depuis quelques années et de vider de sa substance un texte qui n'a déjà aucune sorte d'incidence financière, juridique ou autre, sinon l'obligation morale d'examiner chacun à sa façon les possibilités de vaincre la faim.

Nous regrettons que diverses délégations aient exprimé des réserves; nous sommes d'autant plus étonnés que ces délégations refusent d'associer leurs gouvernements à un serment moral mondial exprimant nettement la volonté d'agir contre la faim et que ces mêmes gouvernements n'hésitent pas à proclamer leur volonté d'aider les populations en détresse ni à prêter assistance à l'occasion. Nous souhaitons que les réserves émises soient reconsidérées par les délégations concernées et nous les invitons à accorder leurs écrits par leurs paroles car il serait regrettable que quelques peuples seulement soient dissociés de ce Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire par le fait de ces réserves et soient mis ainsi aux bans de l'humanité. Il est certainement souhaitable qu'à l'occasion du 40ème Anniversaire de la FAO les délégations présentes à cette Conférence puissent, à leur retour dans leur pays respectif, offrir le merveilleux cadeau d'un Pacte de sécurité alimentaire adopté à l'unanimité, ce qui signifierait qu'en cette fin de siècle le serment moral fait encore partie du patrimoine culturel commun à l'humanité.

M GOLDMAN (United States of America): In beginning my remarks I would like to stress that my Government has no problem with the principles underlying the call for World Food Security Compact. The record of the United States demonstrates the priority we accord, and the resources we dedicate to the elimination of hunger, to the development of global food production capacity, to the support of natural agricultural development programmes, and to the fight against the suffering of people in times of emergency, regardless of the politics of their governments.

Delegates have spoken of the World Food Security Compact as a moral commitment to food security. My Government is committed morally and financially to the search for world food security. Nevertheless, we have problems. We have a serious problem with the legal standing of the Compact itself. If - it is purely voluntary, non-binding statement implying no commitments either financial or legal, it should say so. If it is to be meaningful as a statement of agreed views it would be negotiated. We have found that the Compact is neither fish nor fowl. We did not negotiate a text and we are being asked to sign on to one which leaves unclear the implications of the document and its adoption.

We recognize the difficulty, indeed the impossibility, of negotiating a document of this nature. When we made efforts quietly, as well as publicly, to seek the changes needed for our support, we were told quite understandably, that such changes would be unattainable, that they would only prompt others to rightfully seek changes which we would find even less acceptable, and so on. In such a situation, when the Secretariat puts forward a document and we can accept it, we are delighted. When we cannot accept it, we are simply forced to reject it.

There is much substance in the Compact which we can support. There are also some problems and we have discussed them in detail in earlier sessions. Some of our problems have been dealt with, others have not. Thus, our reservations must stand, we must continue to disassociate ourselves from the text of the World Food Security Compact as presented, to have our reservations stand as is, and to indicate that unanimity or consensus will not be possible on this issue given the strength of our views.



J STONE (Canada): The World Food Security Compact presents many positive aspects and principles for increasing world food security. The three principles of attaining desirable levels of food production, increasing the stability of food supplies and ensuring access to food supplies on the part of those in need are admirable and no one can argue with them. In particular, much has been done already in their pursuit in terms of increased investments in agriculture both by developed and developing countries and in the provision of much emergency food relief. Canada subscribes to all these principles and has incorporated them into our aid programme.

The World Food Security Compact does have many very positive aspects which we fully support through our international assistance programme. First, it acknowledges that governments have a primary responsibility for ensuring domestic food security. Second, it urges governments to change policies to encourage food production. These policies do not just include agricultural policies but also demographic ones. Third, it urges developed countries to continue relief aid and to promote measures to increase agricultural production. Fourth, it notes the extremely valuable roles to be played by NGO's and individuals, in increasing public awareness and in increasing food production.

Canada also has six points to raise for consideration. Firstly, is the Compact necessary? At the national policy level in developing countries many of the recommended actions are obvious and should occur without the stimulus of a Compact, in particular the need to adopt appropriate national policies to stimulate agricultural production and to ameliorate the economic situation of the poor. For developed countries the continuing contributions of emergency programme food aid have increased without the benefit of the Compact. On trade stabilization issues, real changes will take place as a result of trade negotiations rather than a consequence of the Compact.

Our second point derives from the section entitled "Action by Governments". Developing countries' governments are asked to consider domestic policies in general with the view of increasing domestic food security. No one can disagree with this principle and Canada fully supports it. However, developed countries are asked to examine their national food-policies only in the light of their effects on the stability of the international market. This is a one-sided approach which puts the onus for international food trade stability on developed countries only. Is this sufficient when the production, stocking and import policies of developing countries also affect the stability of world trade? As well, consumers in many developing countries are sheltered from changes in world prices, from artificially high exchange rates and price subsidies. This should be reflected in the document.

The third point we would like to make concerns the provision which calls for developing countries to avoid the risks of excessive dependence on basic non-local food stocks, particularly for the urban sector. This implies that trade in non-local foods is to be discouraged because it is politically risky and undesirable. Canada feels that these "risks" have less to do with food imports and more to do with deficiencies in domestic production, pricing and exchange rate policies. Canada also believes in the principle of comparative advantage on world trade questions. We would rather see the wording and the thrust of this provision changed to note instead the advantages of promoting national food self-reliance as a method of increasing local consumption of domestically produced basic foodstuffs, particularly among urban populations.

Our fourth point is to commend the role of the Compact in urging non-governmental organizations to play an active part in forming public opinion. Many non-governmental organizations do spur developed countries' governments into more action and non-governmental organizations are becoming more involved overseas themselves. In the Compact non-governmental organizations are called upon to provide information on the impact on poorer nations of the actions taken by the richer nations in the fields of trade, protectionism and economic adjustment. In order to promote their effectiveness, non-governmental organizations should also be called upon to provide similar information on the impact of domestic policies of poor nations upon themselves, such as information on the effects of agricultural price policies, inflexible government control and insufficient agricultural investment.

Our fifth point is similar to our last point and calls upon the Compact to note that individuals of all countries should play a role in keeping public opinion in all countries aware of the need for global cooperation in achieving world food security, and how it can be pursued by discussion of domestic policies in all countries.

Our final point, and perhaps the major one, is that this morally non-binding Compact becomes for my country a morally binding commitment, should we subscribe to it. Unfortunately, and contrary to the statements made by some countries today, this document has been the subject of little direct negotiation by Member States, although some revision has been performed by the Secretariat. We are concerned over this lack of formal consultations and the difficulties of incorporating differing views. And even now, the wording changes proposed by Switzerland were asked to be withdrawn. This lack of direct negotiations goes against Canada's philosophy of negotiating international agreements, binding or otherwise.

On balance, therefore, the Compact has not been refined to the point where we can subscribe to it as a morally binding document. We therefore maintain our reservation on the Compact as a whole.

H.S. JASIM (Bahrain) (original language Arabic): The item under discussion, the World Food Security Compact, is of great importance to my country's delegation and other delegations participating at this session. The Director-General's statement was significant in reiterating the importance of world food security for each and every one living on this earth and similarly each individual must contribute in combatting hunger. What distinguishes this compact is that it requires no legal or material commitment from any country, organization or individual in our community but has left the doors fully open for everyone to contribute to the provision of food free from political pressure on governments or organizations. There is a need for this Compact to be adopted by everyone since the provision of food is first and foremost a humanitarian act.

Mr Chairman, my delegation like other delegations, supports the document under discussion, C 85/23, and asks members to fully endorse it and find the means of achieving more propitious results for our Conference.

M. BRZOSKA (Poland): Poland declares its approval of the Resolution submitted to the Conference. In the present version, it eloquently develops the right to food, that is, that world food security is a common cause of mankind. It offers proper recommendations to governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals concerning the necessity of undertakings, works, and the sense of social responsibility for food security.

Poland, which is experiencing discrimination, particularly approves the content of point 1.4. Food should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): When this document was last considered at the Eighty-seventh Session of the FAO Council in June this year, Australia expressed a number of reservations both on the need for a Compact and the language employed in the text. Before I specifically address these matters, perhaps I should take this opportunity to briefly summarize Australia's contributions in the UN multilateral system. Australia is a member of all the UN Specialized Agencies. I believe Australia is the eleventh largest contributor to the UN budget. We are also a major contributor to the budgets of the Specialized Agencies and the various funds maintained throughout the UN System. We are, on a per capita basis, one of the largest donors of food aid for emergency and developmental purposes, more than one-half of which is delivered multilaterally.

Therefore, we believe our credentials to intervene constructively on this item are impeccable. Thus, I would like my following comments to be considered in the light of our strong support of the multilateral system as outlined above. As I have said, Australia's concerns on the Compact have not dissipated. We are being asked to endorse an international Compact, albeit not legally binding, which we have not negotiated. It is presented to us by the Secretariat. As I said, Australia's views on this question have not altered. We are still concerned with what we believe to be the ineffectual nature of the instrument, which the Director-General points out creates no new obligations, whether legal, financial or operational.

In our view, the adoption of this document will not advance in any meaningful way the cause of world food security. We are concerned that in the final analysis it will sit as a set of pious statements which will be seen to have little or no relevance to the real world. We are also concerned that the work on the Compact has involved a significant diversion of the resources of this Organization and, if I might say so, of its members' resources which we believe would be much better employed on higher priority activities. I have referred to the amount of time spent on this document to date, and presumably we can expect references to the Compact continuing to surface in these and other world forums in the years ahead.

It is our view that FAO resources are being diluted by being spread too thinly because of such initiatives as the Compact, rather than on activities which have practical and concrete results. Furthermore, the text of the Compact as it stands also gives a cause for concern. The language is broad and sweeping and it is open to a considerably wide span of interpretation for both avoidance and specific denouncement. This has the potential, in our view, to exacerbate rather than facilitate positive exchange between countries in achieving concerted action for practical food security initiatives. At best, the document as it stands pulls together a series of very general principles to which we ourselves already subscribe and to which we have subscribed for many years. As I have indicated, at worst it runs the risk of promoting debilitating and damaging exchanges arising from misunderstandings and differing interpretations.

For example, can I draw your attention to one or two areas? In relation to the actions by governments in section III, paragraphs 2 and 3, Australia is one of the low cost efficient producers of agricultural commodities which has continually stressed the contributions that countries such as ours and others similar in this respect, such as New Zealand, Argentina and perhaps more recently India, Pakistan and even China, have to play through international trade in contributing to world food security. We have stressed the importance of all countries pursuing self reliance as a basis for food security by using their resources efficiently and concentrating on what they do best. Acceptance by the Australian Government of these paragraphs as we interpret them appears diametrically opposed to the arguments we have continued to advance in international forums. Paragraph 6 also seems to contain a denial of the principles outlined above, and its general adoption could lead to an implied support for a preferential trading system which could well be counterproductive to the interests of developing countries themselves.

Perhaps as a last example, and there are others which appear at odds with Australia's consistent adopted national position on international issues which are important to us, I include paragraph 8. Can I remind members of what it says? "Governments of developed countries, whether they be exporters or importers, should consider the interests of the world as a whole when making their policy decisions on food production, stocks and imports. Similarly, arrangements which insulate domestic consumers from price savings in international markets should not result in increased hardship for the weakest and most vulnerable countries. The overall objective should be the development of a world food system characterized by stability and equity. How will this paragraph be interpreted by different parties, particularly agricultural commodity exporters, whether developed or developing, in any negotiations leading to a new round of of multilateral trade negotiations which includes agricultural commodities? Since the paragraph only applies to developed countries, does acceptance of the Compact automatically provide for a developing country preference scheme in any such negotiations? Will our colleagues and friends from the EEC interpret paragraph 8 in the same way as this Conference appears to be doing?

We note again that in the introduction to this document we are told the Compact does not create any new obligations, whether legal, financial or operational. I hope these examples indicate at least in part the sorts of problems its adoption in its present terms could provide for Australia. The Director-General, in saying at the Eighty-Seventh Council that Australia simply did not like the Compact, perhaps fairly stated our position. We continue to have reservations about the value or usefulness of the Compact. Accordingly, we support the position put forward by the delegates of the USA and Canada.

A. KHALED (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) (original language Arabic): First and foremost, I should like to express my country's appreciation for the efforts made by the Director-General, and especially for his statement yesterday. He has worked tirelessly together with the Secretariat in order to prepare and revise the document under discussion, which is the World Food Security Compact.

Democratic Yemen's position at all previous sessions was always in favour of the World Food Security Compact. We should like to see it adopted and agreed to. We have noted with regret the reservations of some countries to its unanimous adoption. We do not understand those reservations since these same countries claim that they agree to most of the points contained in the Compact. The Compact is only a means to mobilize efforts and ensure World Food Security. Once again we request countries with reservations to reconsider their position and adopt the compact unanimously.

U.L. MOUFFAK (Tunisie): Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, réaffirmer notre appui au pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et féliciter par là-même le Directeur général de la FAO pour cette louable initiative.

A nos yeux ce pacte représente essentiellement un engagement moral et est un élément de sensibilisation de la communauté internationale susceptible d'éveiller les consciences pour oeuvrer dans le cadre de la solidarité humaine à enrayer le mal de la famine et de la malnutrition que tout un chacun, par devers soi, ne saurait tolérer.

La Tunisie réitère donc son appui au pacte dans son ensemble en ayant la conviction de son apport bénéfique au renforcement de la coopération internationale.

Mme M.A. BARBOZA ANDRADE (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord ma délégation félicite le Directeur général et le Secrétariat pour les efforts tendant à améliorer le texte du pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondiale depuis la huitième session du Comité de sécurité alimentaire mondiale. De la même façon, comme l'a exprimé à la dixième session du CSA, à la quatre-vingtième session du Conseil et ce matin au débat général à la plénière, la délégation du Cap-Vert réaffirme devant cette assemblée son plein appui au pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale tel qu'il est dans le document C85/23 et fait un appel pour qu'il soit approuvé.

Ms. L. STEWART (Observer for International Confederation of Free Trade Unions): The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions fully supports the principles underlying the World Food Security Compact. We especially appreciate the recognition accorded to the role of NGOs in mobilizing and securing peoples' participation at different levels of economic development. Representatives of international NGOs were consulted on the draft text of the Compact last April and also during this Conference. The international NGOs made certain suggestions to improve the texts. Some of these suggestions are as follows: that priority attention should be paid to small farmers; that special attention should be addressed to women, who produce more than 50 percent of the world food supply; that stability in the international cereal market is essential for a regulated world food system; that no development project can be a success unless carried out in collaboration with, and active participation of, people at grass roots level; that there should be closer cooperation between governments and representative organizations, including trade unions, at international and national levels, and between FAO and the international NGOs at project, level.

It is with some disappointment, then, that I have to report that only one of these proposals has found its way into the draft World Food Security Compact. I would have liked to have seen something on the role of women as food producers and also on the role of representative and collective organizations in organizing farmers to undertake rural development.

This leads me to ask in what way this document will be used. If international NGOs are going to be asked to campaign to popularize the provisions of this Compact, we should prefer the consultation process to be a two-way one and for our views to be taken into consideration. It may be inevitable, however, given the complexity of drawing up such a document, that not all points could be brought into the document.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions represents 82 million workers worldwide, in both developed and developing countries. The aims of the ICFTU include the eradication of hunger and poverty worldwide. We campaign actively on these issues. Through membership in representative

organizations like trade unions, individuals can have much more impact on government policies than if they remain isolated. Therefore I should also like, somewhere in the document, to draw attention to the role of collective and representative organizations as distinct from voluntary or charitable organizations.

Equally, trade unions are an important channel through which workers can be informed and educated on food security and problems of development in general. I would just remind you here that development aid money is paid by workers through taxes, and it is no coincidence that those countries that have reached the UN target of 0.7 percent of GNP for aid are countries where trade unions play a very strong role in their society.

The ICFTU is ready and willing to play a role through our affiliated organizations in popularizing the World Food Security Compact, but we would like to insist on a real dialogue on these important issues. As far as the ICFTU is concerned, food security is not a question of charity. It is a question of international cooperation and solidarity to eradicate the underlying causes of poverty and hunger.

This leads me to another important point. Some very crucial actors in world food production and supply have been left out. I am referring, of course, to economic operators, especially transnational corporations. In the Compact the burden is being put on individuals, asking them to make commitments, but what about TNCs who are so much more powerful? TNCs dominate the food sector, from plantations, through processing, distribution and marketing. As pointed out by the Group of 77 in their statement, the developing countries hardly participate at all in these activities. TNCs also dominate world food commodity markets, with devastating results which are well known. TNCs bear much more responsibility for the unbalanced world food situation than individuals, yet there are no provisions in the Compact relating to TNCs.

I do not know at this stage what modifications could be made to this draft, given the complications of including everybody's point of view, but I would like these issues to be taken into consideration.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): The Chairman has asked me to announce on his behalf the names of those countries which have not been able to participate in a number of the debates but who can, as we said this morning, if they inform the Chairman, have their statements appended to the verbatim record. On this item 10 on the Compact we have received statements from Suriname, Sudan, Liberia, Jordan and Burma. Those statements will not be delivered but they have been provided and the Chairman has agreed that they should go into the verbatim record.

There are also two more on item 7.2, the Critical Situation in Africa, one from Lesotho and one from Yugoslavia. Tanzania, was not here to participate in the SOFA, debate on item 7.1, and has requested that its statement be included in the revised verbatim record. Ethiopia also requested to do the same, but has not yet provided a statement.

H. LIANARONS (Suriname): The Surinamese delegation agrees with the principle of the World Food Security Compact and wishes to thank the Director-General for the excellent presentation of the document now under discussion. The eradication of hunger in the present world should be regarded as the most important priority. A considerable some countries still suffer and we see the Compact as an adequate machinery in our efforts to ban hunger and poverty. The document is most useful and balanced. My delegation has trouble in understanding the reasons that prevent a unanimous adoption of the proposal.

The Surinamese delegation fully supports the document before us, and we hope it will be endorsed by the whole of our Commission.<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> Statement inserted in verbatim records on request.

A. OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Concerted efforts exerted for eliminating hunger and poverty at the levels of governments and organizations, as mentioned in document C 85/23, constitute a great measure for which we ought to thank the Secretariat and the Director-General.

The Sudan can but support the document as it is and laud the efforts being exerted. On its part, the Sudan will do its utmost to implement the arrangements called for by the document. 1/

Ms. M. DENNIS (Liberia): On behalf of the Government of Liberia, the Liberian delegation would like to register its support for the World Food Security Compact. 1/

S. AL-ZUHEER (Jordan) (original language Arabic): I ought to thank Mr Edouard Saouma, the Director-General of FAO, for reviewing the Compact on World Food Security, which is considered a great achievement by FAO on its 40th anniversary.

The delegation of my country fully supports the objectives of the Compact, which is viewed as a great hope for all people who are suffering from food shortages. This Compact is essential for cooperation between developed and developing countries, and for the development of the agricultural sector which is considered to be the basis of food production.

We hope this Compact would receive the support of all countries with no exception. 1/

U. TIN HLAING (Burma): The Burmese delegation fully realizes that the importance of the document of the World Food Security Compact as presented by the Director-General is strengthening the effort of member countries to avoid hunger and malnutrition. This document is clear and concise for all the necessary action programmes. We hope that active participation of the member countries according to the parameters outlined in the draft proposal will surely lead to a more favourable situation for the world food security. The Burmese delegation therefore fully endorses the proposal for adoption, 1/

Sra. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Ante todo pido disculpas a usted Sr. Presidente, y a los delegados de esta Comisión, por hacer uso de la palabra por segunda vez en este tema; pero Cuba quiere reiterar y deplorar las reservas que se han manifestado a la aprobación del Pacto Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria por seguir considerando que se trata de una actitud negativa frente a la cooperación internacional y solicita que conste en las actas de esta discusión.

G. BODMER (Suisse): J'aimerais rappeler que notre proposition visait à assurer un meilleur rôle de l'information concernant le pacte de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Cette proposition visait à trouver un avis favorable dans la presse à notre projet de pacte. Cependant, comme je l'avais déjà dit au début de notre intervention, notre proposition d'amendement ne change rien aux principes de notre soutien au pacte dans la forme dans laquelle il nous a été présenté aujourd'hui.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci pour cette clarification. Ainsi nous sommes arrivés à la fin de nos débats, et c'est le moment d'accorder la parole au Secrétariat qui devra répondre à certaines questions et exprimer certaines opinions. Je demande donc au Dr Islam de prendre la parole.

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1/ Statement inserted in verbatim record on request

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): In fact, I have no questions or queries directed to the Secretariat to answer. If I am mistaken, of course, I will be delighted to answer any specific questions. To the best of my impression, these questions are asked by other delegates, not by the Secretariat.

As far as the Secretariat is concerned, the process of preparation of the Compact, starting with the Committee on World Food Security, through the Council, to the present stage, is as stated in the introduction to the document containing the Compact, so I need not repeat and re-draw the attention of distinguished delegates to this process, to which many of you have already referred in your interventions. I should like to add, however, that we have taken note of the various views expressed by the distinguished delegates, and in the report submitted to the Drafting Committee by the Secretariat all the points of view will be duly represented.

CHAIRMAN: We now come to the end of the debate on this point. I thank you all for having been so clear and short. You have been very cooperative.

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 85/I/PV/7

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION ISEVENTH MEETING  
SEPTIEME SÉANCE  
SEPTIMA SESION

(19 November 1985)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.20 hours  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 h 20  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10.20 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, 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  
ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

7.2 Critical Situation in Africa (continued)

7.2 Situation critique de l'Afrique (suite)

7.2 Situación crítica en Africa (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Il est tard, et vous avez fait ce que j'avais demandé, c'est-à-dire étudier le texte C 85/LIM/27, la résolution sur l'Afrique. Cela a demandé un certain temps pour vous rendre compte du contenu de ce texte que je vous propose maintenant. Plusieurs pays m'ont fait savoir que ce texte étant relativement long et comportant un assez grand nombre d'articles, il devra être examiné plus en détail. Vous vous souvenez (et j'ai fait un effort louable dans ce sens je crois) que l'on pourra rapidement discuter de ce texte ce matin et qu'après l'on prendra l'autre texte ou bien j'ai dit que s'il y a des difficultés on prendra le point suivant sur notre programme, en premier, et ensuite on discutera de ce texte de résolution.

Je crois que c'est maintenant ce second aspect qui se présente parce qu'il y a plusieurs pays qui veulent encore étudier ce texte. Ce que je voudrais donc vous proposer c'est que vous continuiez à étudier ce texte puisqu'il y a des pays qui ont pour le moment encore des questions à poser, et qu'il serait utile qu'on réunisse un petit groupe informel qui discuterait avec moi des possibilités d'aboutir à un texte qui pourrait vous être proposé demain. J'espère que cela se passera ainsi et que l'on pourra en discuter au sein de notre Comité et que l'on pourra, je l'espère, se mettre d'accord.

Donc, si vous êtes d'accord sur cette procédure qui consiste à continuer et à étudier ce texte, dans le même temps on ferait le nécessaire avec le Secrétariat pour réunir des représentants de plusieurs groupes ou régions et au sein de ce petit groupe tout à fait informel, non officiel on essaierait de se mettre d'accord et d'arriver à un texte qui vous serait soumis en principe demain pour discussion. Si cette idée n'est pas une idée lumineuse, elle n'en est pas moins correcte, et si elle peut vous convenir, je vous la propose plus ou moins formellement et dans ce cas on passerait donc maintenant au point suivant de l'ordre du jour.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme vous le savez, nous avons eu à proposer à notre Commission un projet de texte. Nous avons dit pendant les débats que nous ferions une proposition le moment venu et qu'elle suivrait les voies habituelles. Nous croyons que nous avons devant nous un texte, qui nous a été distribué seulement ce matin et que toutes les délégations n'ont pas eu le temps de l'examiner afin de donner leur avis.

Je souscris donc au fait que nous renvoyions l'examen de ce texte à plus tard. Mais je ne sais pas quelle sera la procédure que nous allons adopter; vous venez de proposer de constituer un sous-groupe officieux qui pourrait examiner le projet. Je signale que de toute façon, le projet qui est adopté ici, devra être soumis au Comité de rédaction qui aura donc à en négocier les termes. Donc, je ne sais pas si nous ne ferions pas double emploi en proposant à nouveau que le texte soit examiné par un sous-groupe. Je crois que s'il y a des propositions à faire elles pourraient être faites au niveau du Comité de rédaction pour qu'il puisse, à ce niveau, examiner ce texte et le peaufiner pour l'ensemble de notre Commission. Voilà ce que je voulais dire, mais je souscris à votre proposition de le renvoyer à plus tard pour permettre à tous les délégués d'avoir le temps d'en prendre connaissance.

LE PRESIDENT: Y a-t-il encore des délégations qui désirent prendre la parole? Si ce n'est pas le cas, je crois qu'il n'est pas nécessaire de s'étendre plus longuement car ainsi que l'a fait remarquer l'Ambassadeur du Congo, nous avons maintenant une période de répit et nous déciderons, pendant cette période de répit, comment nous allons procéder. Cela dépendra de vos réactions, de la façon dont nous allons procéder et de la procédure à suivre. On pourra toujours l'adapter selon vos vœux puisque le Président est toujours entre vos mains, chers Collègues. Je voudrais maintenant vous proposer de passer à l'examen du point 8 "Rapport sur l'état de l'ajustement agricole international, y compris le protectionnisme agricole."

Chers Collègues, voilà encore un point important. Il faut constater que nous avons quand même encore quelques points importants à traiter dans cette Commission. Je voudrais maintenant demander au Dr Islam de faire son introduction sur ce point 8.

8. Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment including Agricultural Protectionism

8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international, y compris le protectionnisme agricole

8. Informe sobre la situación de Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, incluido el proteccionismo agrícola

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Document C 85/21 is the Fifth biennial report of progress in international agricultural adjustment. However, it is the first report prepared on the basis of the Guidelines as revised in 1983 by the 22nd Session of the FAO Conference. Let me first recall that the Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment are intended to assist and facilitate agricultural policy harmonization at the local level. The policy guidelines adopted by the Conference in 1975 and revised in 1983 represent a statement of goals and policy approaches at the national and international level. FAO member governments have agreed to take into account these goals and policy approaches in formulating their own policies.

You had the occasion of reviewing agricultural production performance and overall policy environment during the discussion just concluded on the world food and agricultural situation, so I make only a fleeting reference to those aspects of international agricultural adjustment.

The period to 1984 has seen agricultural production growth in developing countries as a whole accelerate to 3.9 per cent per annum, and thus come close to fulfilling the 4 per cent target advocated in Guideline 1.

However, I wish to underline the failure of the low-income countries as a group, with the exception of India and China, to participate in the acceleration of agricultural production growth and to benefit materially from the resulting increase in global food supply. I wish also to highlight some developments in policy reform in recent years. Many developing countries are re-examining their food and agricultural policies, including pricing policies, in enhancing their effectiveness as incentives to increase production.

Guideline 2 calls for increased resource allocation to the agricultural sector in developing countries. Here, the record is mixed. The small decline in fertilizer use which occurred in 1981/82 was reversed in the subsequent two years which, however, registered growth rates well below the longer term rate of over 11 per cent per annum.

Foreign assistance in fertilizers continues to represent a small proportion of total fertilizer consumption in the developing countries. In the last two years it has tended to decline below the levels reached in the second half of the 1970s. The expansion of total land under cultivation, and extension of irrigation, was slower in the early 1980s than in the preceding decade. The agricultural sector continues to receive financial resources, approximately 10 per cent of total investment allocations on average. This is still quite inadequate considering the weight of the sector in the national economy and labour force in the majority of developing countries. The same picture of inadequate allocations is also present in the case of public expenditure, of which agriculture received only 7.2 per cent of the total in 1982.

In both these cases, however, the data are admittedly incomplete, and these estimates of allocation need to be interpreted with caution.

Guidelines 3 and 4 are concerned in some detail with policy issues which are covered by the worker programme of action. These policy objectives continue to be pursued by the developing countries with varying degrees of success and intensity. In general, greater attention is being paid to the position of small farmers and landless peasants than to the need to enhance the participation in the development process of rural people, including women and youth.

Guidelines 5 and 6 deal with nutritional policies, food consumption and food self-sufficiency. Greater emphasis is now being given by governments to food policies, and there is increased awareness of the need to integrate the nutritional goals in the agricultural development programmes and strategies. Some countries have set up in their government structures special units for food and nutrition policy and planning. The use of food subsidies and income supplements as a means of promoting the nutritional standards of the poor came increasingly under pressure in the context of economic adjustment programmes which many countries had to adopt.

The policy orientation is to make existing subsidies more efficient and less costly, to improve targeting intervention. Concerning per capita food availability, it is to be noted that rapid improvements by the second half of the 1970s of the developing countries as a whole outside China were not repeated in the early 1980s. Indeed, several countries experienced drastic declines in per capita food availability, particularly in Africa. Food self-sufficiency has tended to stabilize in most country groups at the levels reached in the late 1970s. However, this reflected little gains in food production, foreign exchange scarcity faced by many countries and its impact on slowing down food imports.

This year in the context of Guideline 7 somewhat more space and emphasis has been given to the question of agricultural protectionism in accordance with the Eighty-fourth Council recommendation. That progress in this area should be examined by the Conference. Unfortunately we do not have to report any significant achievements towards reducing protectionism, which has continued to be persistent, wider spread and stronger in recent years. The only encouraging sign is the fact that there is a willingness to critically scrutinize in a multilateral context all measures affecting agricultural trade, and to seek ways and means of bringing them under more operationally effective rules of discipline under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

However, the ways and means for achieving this still remain to be agreed upon, and this means that activities have also focussed on clarifying attitudes for a possible new round of multilateral trade negotiations. At a special session of the contracting parties held from 30 September to 2 October a consensus decision on the preparatory process was reached, but the modalities and scope for the new round still remained to be defined.

The same lack of progress is also evident in efforts to improve international market stability, as stated in Guideline 8. It is significant that no new international commodity agreements with market stabilization have been negotiated successfully in the past few years. Guideline 9 advocates greater ECDC and TCDC in food and agriculture. There has been some progress in agricultural trade expansion among the developing countries. In 1980/82 this trade accounted for 31 per cent of their total exports, compared with 21 per cent ten years earlier. However, there are very serious obstacles to further expansion of such trade, including availability of supplies, access to markets, and competition from subsidized exports from developed countries.

In the food security and food aid areas the combination of plentiful global supplies and the occurrence of severe emergencies in Africa have resulted in over-fulfillment of food aid targets. At the same time there has been an increasing concern with assuring access to food supplies by needy countries and needy population groups. In the area of external assistance to agriculture, defined in this narrow definition, the targets set by Guideline 12 of 8.3 billion, with 6.5 on concessional terms at 1975 prices have not been achieved. Total official commitments were approximately 5.5 billion in 1975 prices, in both 1982 and 1983. However, in those related activities not covered under the narrow definition of agriculture - that is, forestry, input industries, regional development, etc. - total commitments were about 8.5 to 8.7 billion in 1982/83 at 1975 prices.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that we have attempted to strike a balance in this document between length and comprehensiveness which is not very easy in view of the wide range of subjects covered in the guidelines. We trust that the document provides sufficient information for your discussions. We look forward to your comments and suggestions for improvements.

CHAIRMAN: You said "sufficient information". I am sure there will be more sufficient information in this absolutely remarkable and very fat document. I thank you for your introduction, which was objectively quite remarkable, because you succeeded in putting in a few phrases more than 50 pages of this document. You have condensed that into a few minutes. I just hope that this example of being brief will be followed by all of you, dear colleagues and friends. Of course we have here a very important document again. It is very well done. I hope that we can succeed again in being as brief and concise as possible. I always say "as possible". . That would be a good thing, because afterwards we still have a lot to do, as you know. Stressing the importance of this document, we cannot forget that we still have a few other things to do afterwards. Therefore, it would be positive if you could be as short as possible. (Continues in French.)

Je voudrais maintenant continuer en français et vous inviter à prendre la parole et à faire vos commentaires pour le document C 85/21, Rapport sur l'état de l'ajustement agricole international, y compris le protectionnisme agricole.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): At the outset let me compliment the Secretariat and Dr Islam on what you very rightly referred to as a comprehensive, and at the same time, a very relevant and useful document.

I think the basic issue before this Commission is to review whether in following the guidelines which were listed at the 17th Session of the FAO Conference, and subsequently on international adjustment, the Member Countries have adequately taken into account the problems of the developing countries with regard to their growth rates in agriculture, the access, particularly of their rural poor, to food and nutrition, and whether international trade has been so regulated as to provide an opportunity for the developing economies to make the necessary financial adjustments in their own growth process.

I am somewhat amused to find that, as has been mentioned in the Report paragraph 28, page 10, there has been some concern expressed in the developing countries for the United States and the European Economic Community to reduce their subsidies. I wish this concern had arisen as a result of their loyalty to No. 1 of the Guidelines which have been formulated. As this paragraph would show in the Report, they have initiated changes which will lead to curtailment of production, not because of their concern for unfair competition against producers in the developing world, but rather out of concern for their own budgets, out of concern for their own inflation rates, or out of concern for their own monetary reform. It seems to me that we should look at these policies in the context of what FAO has urged, to look at the subsidy reduction in the budgets of all countries in terms of promoting development. I would like to mention that in India, in the formulation of the agricultural development strategies of the 7th Development Plan of India, we have decided that we would use these subsidies as promoters, or initiators, of development. We would use subsidies only in those areas where new crops are being promoted or new technologies are being initiated and that these subsidies would be used to make farmers adjust to new development strategies in agriculture. They could not be used as measures to distort price structures or cost structures in agricultural commodities.

I think India, which is still a developing country, has had the courage to support the guidelines followed in this Conference and to readjust its economic policy. I think there is no reason why developing economies should not think in terms of looking at subsidies as growth promoters rather than adjusters for the budget balance. We are also convinced that subsidies, particularly in the developing economies, will have to continue to help to support target groups, such as small farmers, dry land area projects, and various other programmes where new strategies for agricultural and technological development will not be able to be adopted without some initial support.

It seems to me that commodities themselves could be used in trade as promoters of development. India is, indeed, grateful to the European Economic Community, to the World Bank, and the USA and various other friendly nations of the world present here, for commodity aid which we have used for the purposes of promoting development. We have not looked at commodity aid as only a temporary resort, as something to prevent famine. We are not looking at commodity aid as a means of balancing

our commodity budget. We are looking at commodity aid as an investment. In the case of dairy development, as you are well aware, India used the sole proceeds of its commodity aid for investment in this sector. We are trying to do the same for fertilizers and edible oils which a number of friendly European nations, the United States and Canada have provided to us. We are using commodity aid to promote development in rural areas. Therefore, I would urge this Conference to recognize the need for a policy shift from provision of subsidies for agricultural commodities which might distort international trade, to one of commodity aid surpluses in the developing countries. While such surpluses are needed in the short term by other countries, whether they are developing or developed, they could be transferred with the available resources from the economically sound nations to promote long-term agricultural investment in the right direction, which is, in fact, one of the guidelines presented here. I think it is very important for us to ensure that the growth rates which need to be attained are supported by investments through commodity aid.

I do not see any other way of promoting this growth rate, except by way of adhering to two minimum requirements. One is minimum investment in agriculture, without which the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product cannot be ensured, and the other is the need for higher productivity per hectare.

I would call upon this Conference not only to concentrate on total food production and surpluses available from various countries, but to identify those countries which should grow more per hectare than they are doing. In so doing, I think FAO would be able to take up its Forestry Programmes with more success. I see no way that a greater amount of land can be used for afforestation and protection of the environment, unless productivity per hectare of crops is increased, reducing the size of cultivated areas. India is one country which would like to increase its productivity per hectare. In comparison to China and to Indonesia, our productivity of paddy per hectare is lower. There is no reason why a country like India should not think in terms of adjustments which not only consider the need for a certain commodity balance, but also what I would call a balance in the use of crop area. This would require technological changes, and as our Prime Minister has pointed out, the need for technological improvement is there in all developing countries, and much more so in the area of agriculture. This is where FAO plays a very important role through its various Technical Cooperation Programmes.

I believe FAO should recognize the need to bring improved technology to various nations in the developing world. These technologies have to be those which are relevant to the soil and water management problems of that country, and which will promote mixed farming systems. Appropriate post-harvest technology will ensure that losses in terms of food and nutrition, which are occurring because of poor storage and handling, are considerably reduced. Even a country like India, which has large surpluses, needs to go far in ensuring that the post-harvest technologies are updated, and that our losses are not of the kind occurring at the present time.

I would call upon this Conference to draw the attention of the delegates to the need for a greater flow of financial aid, both bilateral, as well as multilateral, for these purposes to promote technology transfers for farmers, and to create better handling and storage facilities for the post-harvest period.

In terms of services to the farmers, I fully support the call given in these Guidelines to ensure that the services in credit, input, marketing, and water irrigation are made available to the sections of the community often deprived such as small or marginal farmers, or others who may be generally considered the weaker participants of the community. We in India are aware of the need for a development plan which not only focusses attention on growth, but also focusses attention on equity. Our Ministry of Agriculture has a Department of Rural Development which tries to see that the administrative structure is oriented to give adequate access to the rural poor to all the goods and services which are provided. We have in fact a package of programmes which are especially designed to ensure that the rural poor have access to services, as well as access to food, and I would ask this Conference to positively support in all developing nations what we have called in India "The Food for Work Programme". I do not find any specific reference to the need for this

type of programme in the document. I would urge the Conference to carefully consider the experience of India in the Food for Work Programme where public works are undertaken to promote employment generation in the rural sector. The additional income so created is used to enable the rural poor to purchase the grain they need to maintain and upgrade their nutrition levels. It is in fact a package comprising agricultural production, employment, income generation and equitable distribution.

In fact, Mr Chairman, I am glad to say that our Prime Minister, to whom the problem of large wheat surpluses because of bumper crops was posed, has decided not to export these surpluses. He believes it would be better to provide subsidized food to the rural poor rather than subsidize the exports to countries abroad. I think it is necessary that we support the suggestion made by the Director-General and his colleagues that food subsidies not be eliminated, but that they be used to bring better nutrition to the rural poor rather than have market prices depressed, to the detriment of any adjustment policy which might be attempted.

Finally, I believe that in the case of agricultural trade flows one must recognize that the dependency of the developing countries on imports of specific commodities will have to diminish over a period of time. The self-sufficiency concept, to the extent that it is consistent with the capability of the soil of the country concerned to produce effectively the quantities required, should be supported. I will end by referring to an area where we have given specific attention in our Seventh Development Plan. We used to import substantial quantities of edible oil to bridge the gap between demand and production. But we have decided that with the large area in our country which is suitable for the production of edible oils, we would progressively try to become self-sufficient. I would reiterate here that we are not doing it because we have an inefficient production programme or make inefficient use of our resources. I support the document's thrust that nothing should be done which would involve an inefficient use of resources just for the sake of self-sufficiency. We in India believe that self-sufficiency should go along with the most productive use of inputs for maximizing productivity per hectare.

Here I would like to finally call on this Conference to pay adequate attention not only to the two areas, the fertilizer area as well as the pesticide area, (FAO has set up a Fertilizer Commission, and it is discussing very shortly the Compact on Pesticides), but also to the need of supplying good quality seed to farmers. This is one important area to which I think we have not given adequate attention. Unless improved varieties of seed are made available to people in the developing countries, the use of fertilizer and pesticides may not really give them the increased production they want. I would request the FAO to investigate whether it is true that, in addition to inadequate attention to land and water use, there is inadequate attention being given to the development of new seed varieties and the replacement of old varieties in the various research programmes. Unless the genetic resources are improved, I am afraid that the growth rates which we have contemplated will not be achieved by a large number of those countries. I would ask this Conference to recognize the need for provision and supply of improved seed varieties, both at the national as well as the international level, and to request the Director-General to initiate appropriate measures to review the availability of improved seed for various important crops in the participating nations, and assist them in the development of appropriate seed strategies for fulfilling the needs of their farmers.

In conclusion, I would recommend this document for acceptance with particular emphasis on the need for the developing economies to recognize the role of commodity assistance, not so much as a means of balancing international trade, but as a means of promoting agricultural development in the areas where growth is feasible and necessary for the developing economies of the world.

P.A.L. de RIJK (Netherlands): Our delegation considers the evaluation of the progress made during the last four years of the items dealt with under the Twelve Guidelines and Targets for International Agriculture Adjustment to be a useful document. It especially provides an overview of the evolution of major factors that influence the agricultural sector, the economic situation of the farmers, the general nutrition situation, as well as the export earnings of the developing countries. We noticed that the results of the evaluation are mixed. While the total growth of the food and agricultural production in the review periods practically reached its target of four percent, this was mainly the result of the substantial progress made in China and India. In fact, the per capita growth rate in the other developing countries turned from positive to negative. On the positive side we find that progress is being made in relation to the attention that is paid to the small farmer and the partici-

pation of rural people. Positive results are also seen in the global world food security situation, -the food aid level and the economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. On balance, a negative judgement is made on the level of agricultural investment allocated by developing countries themselves, as well as the level of external assistance to the agricultural sector they receive from other donor countries. The progress made on improved income distribution in developing countries, on diminishing of protectionism in developed countries, and in the field of commodity agreements has also been insufficient.

The excellent analysis of the development of the food and agriculture situation under Guideline 1 supplements in a useful way the reports under agenda items 1 and 11. The structural and more recent problems in Africa can be clearly retrieved. The long-term decline in per capita food and agriculture production in that continent has accelerated in the review periods, and the self-sufficiency ratio for cereals has declined from 92 percent in the period 1969-71 to less than 75 percent in 1983. To complicate recovery, the debt service ratio has almost doubled in only four years, while exports are declining. The tables providing the distribution of countries for a given parameter are particularly useful. They allow, among other things, quantification of the number of countries where the situation deteriorates. Table 1.3, for example, indicates that in the review periods 29 developing countries had a lower per capita food production as compared with the period 1970 to 1980. Remarkably, these countries are equally spread over sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East and the Northern African Region, and also Latin America. While we realize the technical difficulties involved, we suggest to the Secretariat that it find some way of comparing food supplies per capita in Table 1.5 with the calorie needs for the different groupings.

Our delegation is in agreement with the aim of limiting protection in agriculture in order to arrive at the most rational use of resources. Under the agenda item dealing with agriculture price policies, we will elaborate on the complexity of the relating item, Protection in Agriculture. Here we only want to illustrate these complexities by pointing out that in Guideline 1 itself an element is provided that adjusts a certain degree of protection for at least certain agricultural products. The fourth sentence reads, and I quote, "Developed countries, while aiming in their agriculture policies for the most rational use of resources, should endeavour to take into account the special needs and interests of developing countries and the need to ensure world food security". This implies that protection of food crops in developed countries seems not only allowed, but may be even required in case world food security is threatened by world food shortages.

As to the producer subsidy equivalents presented in Table 1.7 as the criterion for the degree in which irrational use of resources prevails, we have some problems. First of all, we regret that on so sensitive an item, no explanation has been given of the methods of calculation used, nor has the underlying data base been provided. This has not been the case in other FAO documents where this Table has been presented. Such information could have eliminated our doubts as to the validity of the producer-subsidy equivalents now presented. Secondly, we assume that what is defined as government support in paragraph 26 is limited to the more direct measures, like domestic support programmes and trade measures. While in principle this could be a useful indicator, it does not provide a balanced picture. Using a broad definition of government support, the study that is being done in OECD arrives at estimates of producer-subsidy equivalents that are very different from those presented here. We therefore suggest that not one, but several indicators be used to describe the irrational use of resources. The value of proper indicators of producer-subsidy equivalents can measure the degree of protection for various products in certain developed countries or economic groupings, but, the effects of protection are rather complicated. A proper evaluation of Guideline 1 would therefore have to include, in our opinion, an analysis of the evolution of trade flows in agricultural products between the developing countries and their developed trade partners.

Our delegation especially appreciated the progress made in the wider and more equitable access of the small farmers to means of production as described under Guideline III, as well as the progress made on effective participation of those farmers, including women, in decision-making for the rural development as described under Guideline IV.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): To begin with, I would like to commend the efforts of the Secretariat for having analyzed and compiled the comprehensive progress report on the International Agricultural Adjustment. However, I would like to point out some inadequate descriptions in the document. With

regard to Table 1.7, which is referred to in paragraph 26 of the document, we feel that this Table is not appropriate. In a comparative analysis of the agricultural problems of each country with different natural, economic and social conditions, the uniform producer-subsidy equivalent method is used. We think such a method has real limitations, thereby misleading people.

Specifically, my delegation thinks that the quotation in table 1.7 referring to the international comparison of subsidies given to commodities is not fitting. I would like to reiterate the limitations of the PSE method. Firstly, PSE is based on many assumptions, and therefore it is not proper to use it as an indicator for international comparisons. Secondly, PSE does not clearly reflect the particularity of agriculture in each country, such as the self-sufficiency level of agricultural products.

In paragraph 98 of the document, reference is made to Japan's quota for beef. This rather brief sentence seems to indicate that Japan's quota for beef is allocated to specific countries, while, on the contrary, the quota is allocated on a global basis. In this regard, I should like to ask the Secretariat to make an adjustment in that sentence.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to touch upon the question of protectionism in agricultural trade, which is referred to in paragraphs 91 through to 113 in regard to Guideline 7. My Government has always recognized the extreme importance of the steady development of world agricultural trade. In this regard, we believe it important to review the constraints on trade such as protectionism and to find effective and realistic measures for solving the problem. Each country's agriculture is closely interconnected with the economics of that country, and accordingly each country's agriculture has its own characteristics which have to be taken fully into account.

If I may further explain our recent measures, my Government has been periodically taking measures to open up our market to facilitate access by foreign countries. Just last July we formulated the outline of a new action programme for trade liberalization, including the abolition of taxing for 1 850 items, and we are now making our best efforts to implement it.

As GATT has started working on the formulation of new rules for all measures which might affect agricultural trade, such as import restrictions, import levies and export subsidies, my Government is ready to participate positively in that work and contribute to its progress.

J.R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): The U.K. accepts the report as a well presented factual analysis of the progress made on the 12 Guidelines which were revised and extended in 1983. We would like, however, to comment on a few aspects of some of the Guidelines.

Under Guideline 1 the target of an average annual growth rate of food and agricultural production in developing countries of 4 percent has been nearly achieved, but only if India and China are included. When they are excluded, the other developing countries' performance drops to 2.3 percent annual growth, a decline over the previous decade's average of 3.1 percent. Growth in per capita production also becomes negative if China and India are excluded. Despite the fact that one half of the population of, developing countries is contained within the borders of the best performing countries, India and China, the sad fact is that the vast majority of most needy countries are falling behind.

In Guideline 2 there is a welcome acknowledgement of the need for agriculture in developing countries to obtain a greater proportion of investment resources. Its share in national investment and public expenditure totals of these countries is encouraging, although its absolute level is low and does not match the importance that agriculture has in GDP figures. Of course, it is important that any expansion of the resources devoted to agriculture is used effectively and that all sectors of the economy have balanced investment programmes. The emphasis on the importance of agricultural research should be supported. Policies to improve the organization of research, the dissemination of results, and the availability of trained personnel should be considered.



Under Guideline 3 we support the emphasis on the role of the small farmer in agricultural development and the provision of incentives to them. The variety of institutions and methods reported here to be used and to be successful suggest that future schemes should be devised with special reference to national institutional and social characteristics.

In Guideline 5 no figures are given on the nutritional status of the population of developing countries, although they have been given in previous reports. Past evidence indicates that the overall nutritional situation in developing countries is unsatisfactory. Although there are many pitfalls in the implementation and evaluation of integrated nutritional policies, it is something which should be pursued with the aid of the developed world.

In Guideline 6 we support the importance given to targeting vulnerable groups to improve nutritional standards and the realization of the difficulties involved in effective targeting. The processing of cheaper foodstuffs and the simple mechanization of that processing would be an important step towards significant welfare and nutritional improvements.

Guideline 8. International commodity agreements become increasingly difficult to establish and sustain as the markets they are intended to govern become more unstable. Since 1980 most commodity markets have reached new depths in price levels and new heights in volatility. The result can be severe fluctuations in the income levels of domestic producers and the foreign exchange levels of governments. It is essential that every effort is made to re-establish international stabilizing agreements, but adjustment on the individual domestic fronts is also necessary in order to encourage production and consumption adjustment to changing market conditions.

Guideline 9. The current African food crisis, led forth unprecedented response from the world community in terms of food aid supplies, but has also highlighted the importance of timely action. Many developing countries have a growing interest in regional food reserves, and the Committee on Food Security has proposed a discussion on pre-positioning of stock. While emergency action should, of course, be improved, attention should not be drawn away from the longer-term solutions to food security problems.

Finally, under Guideline 10, we support the proposition that food aid is a transitional development tool. It is a more effective tool, too, if more triangular transactions are used to draw those developing countries with food surpluses into the supply process. FAO has a role in this by disseminating information on the location of suitable surpluses. Attempts to find ways of integrating financial and food aid should also be supported.

C. CHARANVATTANAKIT (Thailand): First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for the able and lucid introduction of this agenda item on the progress report on International Agricultural Adjustment. The document is comprehensive and well prepared.

It is exactly two years ago that the guidelines and targets for International Agricultural Adjustment were revised, but my delegation notes with regret that no significant progress in their implementation has been made since then. At the present state when the world economy is still beset with uncertainties, the uneven and fragile recovery in some developed countries fails to stimulate the world economy as a whole. In particular, the economies of developing countries continue to stagnate and their growth rates continue to decline. This situation has been made worse by the increasing indebtedness of the developing countries, their shortfalls in domestic food production especially of those in Africa, their falling export earnings caused by the continued fluctuation in the prices of primary commodities, which in real terms have remained at an all time low. The plight of the developing countries is further compounded by growing protectionism in the developed world which restricts market access and free and fair trade.

As a food-exporting developing country which depends heavily on exports of agricultural commodities for its foreign exchange earnings, Thailand is deeply concerned about the present world economic situation particularly in agricultural and commodities trade. Thailand is of the view that, although efforts have been made by international and specialized agencies such as FAO, GATT and individual governments to stabilize world agricultural production and trade, there is nevertheless an increasing trend towards growing disregard for international rules and guidelines through unilateral actions, to the detriment

of developing producer countries. At this juncture, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to lend its voice in support of the appeal to all countries and international agencies to be more resolute and committed in the joint determination to rectify the situation we are all grimly facing today. Thailand urges that together we further harness our efforts, individually and collectively, towards achieving a freer, more open and more stable trading system for the common benefit of all countries, both producers and consumers.

Turning to the performance with respect to the guidelines, my delegation admits that the objective of an internationally coordinated policy adjustment to regulate instability and enhance the capacity of the agriculture system to adapt to change is difficult to achieve. However, since the concept of International Agricultural Adjustment is based on the interdependence of the developed and developing countries in the field of food and agriculture, progress in the application of the guidelines and the achievement of its target would represent an essential element in the establishment of a new international economic order. My delegation would like to stress that it is necessary that constant review be carried out so that necessary adjustments can be made to reflect the latest changes in the situation.

At our last Conference in 1983, the Thai delegation fully supported the revised and updating of guidelines and targets for the International Agricultural Adjustment and emphasized its concern with Guideline No.7 which rightly states that all countries, particularly developed countries, should display the necessary political will to refrain from imposing new tariff and non-tariff barriers on the imports of agricultural and agro-based products, especially those from developing countries. In this regard, my delegation notes with regret that too little attention is being given to this specific issue. On the contrary, the developed countries have taken new measures leading to increased barriers against agricultural products from the developing countries, such as tariff escalation, export subsidies, "grey area" measures, waivers from GATT rules etc., which, in turn, have created serious adverse and distorting effects on world trade, and particularly on the export performance and the economic development of the developing countries.

There is also a need for renewed commitment to improve the situation regarding world hunger and malnutrition. In this connection, my delegation would like to urge the developed countries to remain committed to the ideal of free trade and encourage them to pursue policies that would promote economic dynamism, thereby enabling greater market access for agricultural goods from developing countries. I would like to take this opportunity to submit the following suggestions to minimize the agricultural trade problems before us.

Firstly, the developed countries, especially the high cost producing countries, should be called upon to reduce their commodity surpluses through the reduction of planting acreage or through stock-piling arrangements that would lessen the pressure on commodity prices in international markets.

Secondly, the developed countries should be called upon to abolish or reduce their trade barriers, whether tariffs or non-tariffs, for imports of agricultural commodities so that the natural increases in demand for agricultural commodities will not be unduly impeded.

Thirdly, the developed countries should be called upon to reduce or restrain export subsidies for agricultural commodities in order to allow the more efficient producing countries to compete in international markets.

Mr Chairman, the three points of recommendation which I have just outlined are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. It is my firm conviction that these recommendations cannot fail but contribute to price stability, increased market access, and increased investment in agriculture.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would like to reiterate that general economic recovery in itself will not be enough to resolve the agricultural trade issues. The international community must be called upon to exert a coordinated effort in harmonizing agricultural policy measures and in resolving the long-standing issues of commodity trade, particularly in stimulating adequate growth of the agricultural export trade in developing countries.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Un análisis del Informe sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional permitió a mi delegación establecer algunos planteamientos que trataré de exponer brevemente en esta oportunidad.

Señor Presidente: la crisis económica internacional de los últimos años ha golpeado seriamente las posibilidades de crecimiento agrícola y de oferta alimentaria en los países en desarrollo. La recuperación es difícil y será más crítica si no se adecúan las políticas, mecanismo y relaciones del mercado internacional.

El proteccionismo agrícola y el dumping limitan el acceso al progreso y el bienestar social a los países pobres. Estas medidas crean tensiones y dificultan la armonía entre los gobiernos.

Es importante corregir estas restricciones y buscar soluciones a corto y mediano plazo a la problemática de los países en desarrollo. Caso contrario, el problema se agudiza, la deuda crece, y por consiguiente, el mundo subdesarrollado tendrá un horizonte incierto. Es necesario que los países desarrollados den muestras contundentes de voluntad política para eliminar barreras arancelarias o no arancelarias a las importaciones de los productos agrícolas, y en particular de los productos provenientes de los países en desarrollo y de la actitud para mejorar el acceso a los mercados internacionales. Es necesario señalar que medidas tales como el empleo indiscriminado de subsidios a la exportación y medidas análogas, crean serios problemas y dificultan el comercio y el acceso a los mercados.

Las posibilidades de llevar a la práctica políticas agrícolas efectivas al interno de los países en desarrollo son limitadas mientras no se cuente con un ordenamiento y equilibrio más justo de mercado, y no se respeten los acuerdos de comercio internacional o se sigan imponiendo sanciones económicas y políticas en perjuicio del desarrollo de estos países. La posibilidad podría existir en la medida que se establezcan políticas y mecanismos adecuados de participación en la división internacional del trabajo y de relaciones de respeto mutuo entre los gobiernos, sin interferencia en su soberanía e independencia.

La autosuficiencia alimentaria ha sido un objetivo difícil de alcanzar en los países en desarrollo. Cumplir con este objetivo llevaría a inducir una política financiera e inversionista dirigida y sostenida en la agricultura.

En estos países, los alimentos en su mayoría son producidos por pequeños agricultores que trabajan bajo grandes restricciones de ecología, tierra y capital. Necesariamente habría que tomar políticas y medidas graduales de transformación que lleven a estos productores hacia condiciones tecnológicas y de recursos para mejorar la productividad y la producción de alimentos, y para promoverles en su bienestar social y económico.

Es importante entonces, enfocar programas integrales de atención tecnológica a la producción campesina. La investigación y transferencia de tecnología, la capacitación, la divulgación, el suministro de insumos, el acceso a la tierra, al crédito, a la asistencia técnica y a otros servicios de apoyo vistos integralmente permitirían desarrollar una acción positiva para este sector. Un esfuerzo de este tipo reclamaría el apoyo internacional en lo que se refiere al desarrollo tecnológico y al suministro de insumos básicos, como semillas mejoradas y fertilizantes.

Otro elemento para lograr objetivos de mejoramiento en la productividad y producción, está relacionado con las inversiones. Es importante el desarrollo del riego, el ordenamiento agroecológico, y la adecuación de tierras aptas para la producción. Este esfuerzo también reclamaría el apoyo solidario de los gobiernos y organismos internacionales.

La reforma agraria, en su contexto integral, es una línea apropiada para ordenar y fortalecer la infraestructura productiva de los diferentes sectores sociales de producción.

Señor Presidente: la estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario nicaragüense contempla como uno de sus objetivos fundamentales, el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional para nuestro pueblo. En este sentido, tomando como eje fundamental la reforma agraria, se impulsan las líneas siguientes:

Ampliación y fortalecimiento de la infraestructura productiva bajo riego y secano. El desarrollo inversionista por la ejecución de proyectos alimentarios y de agroexportación. Tecnificación de la producción campesina, donde se enfoca integralmente la investigación, la asistencia técnica, los servicios de apoyo a la producción como el crédito, el acopio y el abastecimiento de insumos. Expansión y fomento de áreas agroecológicas aptas para la producción agrícola y alimentaria. El desarrollo semillista como línea estratégica para asegurar los planes de producción. La investigación y transferencia de tecnología a diferentes sectores de producción. Y la divulgación agrícola como herramienta para masificar conocimientos técnicos en el manejo de la producción.

Estas líneas han sido iniciadas y las estamos desarrollando con grandes sacrificios. La FAO, gobiernos y otros organismos internacionales apoyan estos esfuerzos, y el pueblo nicaragüense está dispuesto a responder.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): Document C 85/21 and the presentation we have just heard from Professor Islam help us to review once again the general situation of world agricultural development during the past biennium from the point of view of the policy perspective, and have deepened our understanding of the current situation. We are glad to see that the Guidelines for the International Agricultural Adjustment have resulted in some progress on several aspects.

World food and agricultural production over the past two years has been developing at the expected rate. Economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries in the sphere of agriculture is forging ahead smoothly. The shipment of food aid has reached and surpassed the target of ten million tons for the first time in the past ten years. All this is an indication that so long as we have reached a common understanding and are determined to pursue set policies, we shall obtain positive results.

We have also read with great interest the section in the Progress Report on indicators for the monitoring of agrarian reform and rural development. These new Guidelines, supplemented in the light of the proposals put forward at the previous Conference, are an indispensable link in ensuring the realization of the objectives of the International Agricultural Adjustment. The experience of many countries in this connection has proved that agrarian reform and rural development have close links and therefore cannot be separated, because the former is an important prerequisite of the latter. As long as the landless farmers and those with little land acquire the necessary means of production in the reform and participate in the process of development, they will generate immense spiritual and material power, thereby propelling agricultural development in a sound direction.

As conditions become ripe, agricultural reform is inevitable. Positive results can be achieved in the reform in diversified ways so long as they reflect the interest of the farmers, and are acceptable to them. We hope to see more progress in these spheres.

We noted that our discussion concentrated also on the subject of protectionism in trade. This is indeed a matter of urgency at present, and a matter which requires proper solutions. Protectionism has hindered the development of international trade, and exerted an extremely negative influence on agricultural production, which is moving fast towards commodity production. At the same time, protectionism affects the interests of both the developed and the developing countries, and of the importing and exporting countries. Therefore, any extemporaneous solution cannot solve the problem. We believe that when talking about trade protectionism we should not only look into the consequences brought about by it, but should objectively analyse its origin so as to identify the proper solutions

In order to protect their agricultural development, and ensure survival, some of the low-income developing countries have been forced to adopt certain protective measures in trade. We should not intervene in this. However, certain countries with a secure and superior economic position are intensifying tariff barriers while encouraging dumping of their products and providing subsidies. Such a practice is by its very nature a reflection of the strong bullying of the weak, and disregards the interests of other countries. Therefore, it should be opposed. Even for those countries themselves, it is just an expedient they adopt in their own immediate interests to the detriment of

their long-term interests. As a consequence, this can only lead to more intense trade rivalry and the adoption of retaliatory measures by both sides, and it is more than likely that it will end with mutual losses. We wonder what benefit they can gain from such a practice. China has been consistent in its position of opposing such trade protectionism practicing the law of the strong bullying the weak. We consider that protectionist measures directed against developing countries should be reduced and eventually abolished, that the agro-products and manufactured goods from developing countries should be given more opportunities to enter the world market, and that a rational international price level should be safeguarded to ensure a steady income for farm products from the developing countries so that international trade on agricultural products can be conducted on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and equity.

We hope that our deliberations will result in useful recommendations for the upcoming international consultations on these issues, and in promoting international trade development and progress in the International Agricultural Adjustment.

Mme L. OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): La délégation du Burkina Faso remercie le Secrétariat de nous avoir présenté un document assez complet quant aux informations qui s'en dégagent. Notre délégation appuie fortement ce document.

Néanmoins, nous aimerions faire une petite remarque en ce qui concerne la page 17, paragraphe 43, où il est dit: "Le Burkina Faso a adopté une nouvelle législation (1984), en vue d'améliorer les droits fonciers." Nous pensons que ce n'est pas une nouvelle législation simple, parce qu'il y a toujours eu de nouvelles législations les années antérieures. Il serait souhaitable de parler d'une nouvelle politique agricole ayant plutôt à son actif la réforme agraire et foncière dans laquelle se situe maintenant la nouvelle législation dont il est question là. Des stratégies sont mises en place pour améliorer et garantir les droits fonciers.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation is grateful to the FAO Secretariat for the presentation of document C 85/21, the Fifth Progress Report on international Agricultural Adjustment. To a very considerable extent we can endorse what it says. I should like to start by making a few comments of a general nature.

First, the document is based on the general economic development since 1983. It states that the economic recovery achieved to date has still not been strong enough. That also tallies with our analysis of the situation. Second, we agree with the statements made in paragraph 3 of the document, to the effect that in the first four years of this decade agriculture has developed remarkably well. We are glad that the 4 percent growth target for agricultural production every year has been achieved by developing countries as a whole.

Third, my delegation regards the drop in the growth rate of fertilizer consumption, as referred to in paragraph 5 of the document, as being unfavourable.

Fourth, we are glad to see that the situation of landless peasants and small farmers, and the participation of the agricultural population, particularly women, in decision-making, is now the subject of enhanced attention. We agree with the document's statement in paragraph 7 to the effect that in some countries reforms in policy are necessary.

Fifth, we welcome the fact that world cereal stocks account for 18 percent of estimated world consumption, which are deemed necessary for maintaining world food security. We strongly support the idea of regional cooperation in this field.

Sixth, in regard to what is stated in paragraph 9 of the document, we regard this as evidence that in the field of food aid the international community is able to respond quickly and effectively to acute emergencies

Seventh, we are glad to see that economic and technical cooperation between developing countries is developing to an increased extent. This strengthens us in our view that a liberalized world trade is a necessary prerequisite both for a global economic recovery within the framework of the world economy, and also for the creation of stable economies in developing countries.

Eighth, paragraph 11 of the document states that external assistance to agriculture in the developing countries is inadequate. I cannot accept this for my country. I have already drawn attention to that under Agenda Item 7.1.

Ninth, I cannot agree to what paragraph 13 of the document states on protectionism as far as the Federal Republic of Germany is concerned. In 1984, the imports of my country from developing countries were 11 percent higher than in the previous year, and increased to DM 70 billion. From 1980 to 1984, inclusive, they even increased by 29 percent. In 1984, 16 percent of my country's total imports were from developing countries. Our trade balance in goods from developing countries now shows a considerable deficit to the benefit of developing countries. The Federal Republic of Germany has thus strengthened the foreign exchange position of developing countries. In 1984, our imports from Africa even went up more than proportionally by 15 percent to DM 23.6 billion. My country's imports from developing countries increased in a way which particularly benefitted non-OPEC countries. Imports from these countries also went up proportionally by 19 percent.

It is often stated that developed countries import almost only or mostly primary commodities from developing countries. For a long time that has not been true of the Federal Republic of Germany. Imports of processed and semi-processed products from developing countries increased by 20 percent in 1984, whereas the increase of imports of primary commodities was only 3 percent. Over the previous 5-year period our imports of processed products from developing countries went up by as much as 60 percent. More than a third of the goods - in fact 36 percent of the goods we buy from developing countries - are processed and semi-processed products, which shows that for the Federal Republic of Germany developing countries have become major suppliers of processed and semi-processed products. In the imports statistics of the Federal Republic of Germany, food commodity imports from developing countries are gaining momentum. They increased last year by 19 percent. Their share in total imports from developing countries now accounts for about 20 percent; that is, a value of DM 14.2 billion. A considerable percentage of these were imported under the favourable conditions of the GSP under the Lomé Agreement between the ACP countries and the EEC. Their share in total imports also increased by 14 percent last year. This indeed applies both to industrial and to agricultural products. DM 7.2 billion is the value of these imports for which favourable tariffs are granted. This accounts for about 10 percent of total imports from developing countries.

This means that the Federal Republic of Germany pursues a liberal, and certainly not a protectionist import policy vis-à-vis the developing countries as a whole. What I have said applies even more strikingly to the imports statistics of the European Community as a whole. The Representative of the Commission of the European Communities will be able to give you more detailed information on that.

With regard to the data in Table 1.7, the Producer Subsidy Equivalents for Major Commodities in Selected Developed Countries, we feel that a considerable measure of reticence is called for in approaching this table. The document does not explain what the basis for the calculations is. According to our analysis, there are differences between the results submitted here, and the results so far achieved in the on-going discussion of these issues in OECD. I think that what we need first of all is to have a consensus on the basis of calculation before starting a detailed discussion on the figures.

There are a number of other comments which my delegation would like to make on the 12 guidelines. To save time I shall not submit these in detail now. With your agreement, Mr. Chairman, I shall simply give them to the Secretariat so that they can be included with my speech today in the verbatim record

(a) Guideline 1 requests at least a 4 percent growth of agricultural production in developing countries and, moreover, adequate economic adjustment of developed countries in favour of developing countries to facilitate the former's access to the latter's markets. The strong position of the Federal Republic of Germany as a demander on world markets has already led to far-reaching processes of adjustment in the past in our domestic economy which were regulated by market conditions themselves. The domestic market of my country thus meets to the largest extent the adjustment to changes in world economic structures, as requested in Guideline 1, without requiring specific government measures

(b) We concur with the statements in paragraph 30 of the document before us, which note that it is an encouraging sign that the share of agricultural investment in total investment has been maintained, compared with 1975-76.

(c) We concur with the statements concerning Guideline 3, according to which some progress has been made to give small farmers and landless peasants greater access to the means of production, in particular land. We agree with the statements in paragraphs 42 to 54 that this progress must be further enhanced.

(d) This also applies to the statements in paragraphs 55 to 66 of Guideline 4. As it has been recognized that more than 60 percent of all food producers throughout the world are women, it seems important for us to appreciate the role of women in agriculture in an adequate way and in accordance with their great importance, and to draw the necessary conclusions therefrom for a greater participation of women in the decision-making process.

(e) We concur with the statements in paragraphs 67 to 74 and 75 to 80 of Guidelines 5 and 6. We welcome the fact that increased attention is being given by governments to integrated agricultural and food policies and also welcome the efforts towards a higher domestic production, in particular of locally available traditional crops. We attach great importance to regional cooperation, as stated in paragraph 88.

(f) As regards the discussion about the question of trade obstacles and protectionism, as reflected in paragraphs 91 to 113 of Guideline 7, I have already stated our position. We share the view that the work towards further trade liberalization must take place within the framework of GATT, as stated in paragraphs 105 to 113. We consider the statements in Guideline 8 regarding market stabilization a valuable contribution to discussion. We must put up with the fact that it will not be possible before long to negotiate a new International Wheat Agreement containing economic provisions. The on-going negotiations, however, allow us to recognize already now an improvement in the status quo regarding market transparency and consultation mechanisms. This can also make, in connection with a newly negotiated Food Aid Convention, a contribution to market stabilization and thus to world food security - in the interests of importing, developing countries. Both agreements under the purview of the International Wheat Agreement seem therefore very important to us.

(g) We welcome the success achieved in economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, as outlined in paragraphs 126 to 142 of Guideline 9.

(h) We also welcome the successes achieved in the field of world food security, as stated in paragraphs 143 to 158 of Guideline 10. My government took an active share in the improvements within the framework of the STABEX system.

(i) We concur with the statements concerning Guideline 11 to the effect that food aid should be a transitional development tool. However, we do not agree with the statements in paragraph 159 regarding the assumption that the higher levels of food aid will not continue to be supplied in the future. In our opinion, the community of donors has clearly shown in the last few years that it is prepared and in a position to respond quickly to emergency situations and thus overfulfill its commitments.

(j) I have already stated our position on Guideline 12. Traditionally, my country attaches a particularly great importance to "rural development" in development cooperation efforts. Our contributions did not decline but were consistently increased in the last few years.

M. GARIJO HIERRO (España): En cuanto al proteccionismo, Sr. Presidente, quisiera comentar que puede ser compatible coyunturalmente la coexistencia de una reducción de las medidas tradicionales de proteccionismo a sectores productivos agrarios que han llegado a ser excedentarios, con un aumento de los subsidios a la exportación y con una mayor incidencia en los mercados internacionales de esos mismos productos y esto por dos motivos principalmente: primero, debido a que cuando se constata que unos excedentes que parecían ser coyunturales llegan a ser estructurales, se toman por una parte medidas de ajuste de la producción combinadas con reformas estructurales del sector en cuestión y, por otra parte, se acude a los mercados internacionales para deshacerse de unos excedentes que se han acumulado en varias campañas y ya no parece que vayan a poder tener salida en el mercado interior.

La segunda causa a la que me quiero referir es la inercia en la producción del sector en cuestión, por lo que esta producción puede seguir creciendo durante un cierto tiempo hasta que van entrando en funcionamiento y se van consolidando las medidas adoptadas para el ajuste estructural.

Con tales consideraciones creo que puede justificarse la coincidencia coyuntural en el tiempo y dentro de un mismo sector productivo agrícola de una reducción del proteccionismo y una mayor incidencia en los mercados internacionales y una mayor utilización de subsidios a la exportación durante un tiempo.

Por otra parte quisiera decir que cuando se ha constatado en España una situación excedentaria en ciertos sectores productivos agrarios, se han adoptado medidas de reestructuración de estos sectores, así como incluso reducciones de ciertos precios de garantía en términos reales, a fin de ajustar la producción.

Por último hemos de tener presente que los resultados de las políticas de ajuste se obtienen a medio y largo plazo al tener que compaginarse las medidas coyunturales con medidas estructurales que resuelvan los problemas de fondo de los sectores productivos agrícolas.

C. PINHIÉRO SILVA (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert attache la plus grande importance à ce point de l'ordre du jour appuyant sans réserve les douze lignes d'orientation du plan d'ajustement agricole international.

C'est avec une profonde préoccupation que mon pays constate la progressive dégradation de la production agricole de l'Afrique subsaharienne durant les quinze dernières années.

Le Cap-Vert est un pays très vulnérable, frappé par une persistante sécheresse depuis une quinzaine d'années. La faiblesse des ressources naturelles associée à des conditions climatiques difficiles constitue l'une des plus grandes limitations au développement du secteur agricole, entraînant des déficits structurels permanents en ce qui concerne la production des aliments de base, particulièrement la céréale maïs.

Malgré ces contraintes le Cap-Vert s'honore de constater que quelques-unes des préoccupations majeures émanant des lignes d'orientation et objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international sont déjà en exécution ou en cours d'exécution dans le pays. J'aimerais très rapidement énumérer quelques-unes de ces actions:

L'importance accordée dans le cadre du plan national de développement au secteur agricole; l'augmentation progressive des ressources financières allouées les dernières années à la production en général et à la recherche agricole en particulier; la définition d'une politique d'utilisation des terres privilégiant les petits exploitants sans ressources; la promotion du coopérativisme; l'établissement d'une politique des prix devenant accessibles aux couches les plus démunies des denrées de base comme le maïs et les haricots; l'utilisation judicieuse de l'aide alimentaire comme un outil important donnant une impulsion aux programmes nationaux de développement.

Dans la concrétisation de ces objectifs l'aide internationale bilatérale et multilatérale, particulièrement à travers la FAO, a joué un rôle irremplaçable. Son intensification les prochaines années s'avère indispensable dans le sens de l'accomplissement des projets de programme assignés dans le cadre du deuxième plan national de développement.

Pays pauvre et petit dans la modestie de ses ressources, le Cap-Vert accorde tout son soutien à l'ajustement agricole international.

Sra. O.C. FERNANDEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia limitará sus observaciones a las cuestiones del proteccionismo agrícola, que es uno de los hechos que más gravemente afectan el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.



Tradicionalmente los países en desarrollo eran productores de materias primas y los Estados desarrollados producían los bienes industriales. Esos eran los dos canales de intercambio correccionados, que si bien con dificultades para los países en vías de desarrollo garantizaban al menos teóricamente una cierta independencia. Ahora no solamente se ha agudizado nuestra independencia de los países industrializados de insumos, maquinarias y granos, sino que también esos Estados se han dedicado a producir materias primas y alimentos en una competencia desleal.

Estos hechos sumados a las desafortunadas prácticas de subsidios y otras formas de asistencia a la producción y exportación que aplican muchos países desarrollados, han desatado una verdadera guerra comercial de la cual son víctimas impotentes los Estados del tercer mundo. Estos métodos, que todos debemos condenar, vienen causando una gran depresión de precios de los principales productos agrícolas de exportación del mundo en desarrollo con daños inmensos a nuestras economías y también con perjuicios notables a las sociedades de esos propios Estados industrializados. Además, todo esfuerzo por aumentar las exportaciones resultará vano ante el creciente proteccionismo que practican algunos países del mundo desarrollado. Se requieren mejores términos de intercambio y más amplios accesos de nuestros productos a los importantes mercados de los países avanzados. No obstante, que en todas las instancias se viene clamando contra el proteccionismo y hasta se logran promesas de los países industrializados a muy alto nivel, debemos lamentar que haya sido muy lánguido el resultado de ese proceso.

Excepcionalmente en materia de comercio los Estados desarrollados suelen dividirse coyunturalmente cuando se enfrentan sus propios intereses, pero siempre se unen para oponerse a las justas reivindicaciones del mundo en desarrollo. Como consecuencia de estas actitudes nuestros países están atravesando una profunda crisis caracterizada, sobre todo, por la necesidad de importar grandes cantidades de alimentos, y reducir las áreas sembradas, por los bajos niveles tecnológicos, por la carencia de insuficiente flujo de recursos económicos y por otros aspectos que determinan las precarias condiciones de vida de las poblaciones rurales.

Ante esta situación que no se modifica, sino que se agrava, corresponde a los países en desarrollo aumentar su oferta agrícola interna y buscar a su vez cierto grado de especializaciones que permitan incrementar el comercio entre nuestros Estados.

No podemos continuar siendo importadores netos de productos básicos provenientes del mundo desarrollado. Debemos buscar un mayor autoabastecimiento regional en nuestras áreas respectivas.

Por todas estas consideraciones, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia reitera su condena al proteccionismo y pide que esta Comisión así lo exprese en nuestro informe.

E. PARDO (Argentina): Agradecemos a la Dirección General de la FAO el exhaustivo documento CL 85/21, sobre Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, quinto informe sobre la situación.

Por lo que se refiere a la orientación 1, nos alegramos de que dos de los países en desarrollo, que tienen algunas de las mayores concentraciones poblacionales del mundo (me refiero a China y a la India) se hayan caracterizado por un impresionante crecimiento de la producción agrícola. Pero también subsiste la preocupación, porque el resto de los países en desarrollo, como un grupo, hayan sufrido una importante contracción de su ritmo de crecimiento. También es preocupante que los países de ingresos bajos sólo tuvieran crecimientos insignificantes en la disponibilidad de alimentos per capita. Coincidimos plenamente con el informe, respecto a que una gran protección y el pago de subsidios deforman las iniciativas del productor y tienden a conservar los recursos en actividades de baja productividad, comparándolos con otros usos y estimulando un empleo de ellos que no es racional

No podemos sino reiterar nuestra preocupación frente a la tendencia a la clausura de mercados ante la competencia extranjera en los países desarrollados por los crecimientos de sus costos internos, y su repercusión en una producción muy cara se agrava pesadamente en consumidores y contribuyentes de los propios países desarrollados, sumándolos así a los costos que los países en desarrollo, productores y exportadores eficientes, sufren en torno al cierre de accesos a terceros mercados

Respecto a la orientación 2, constatamos con preocupación la caída de la ayuda en fertilizantes a los países en desarrollo. Constatamos también que la investigación en los mismos continúa muy retrasada con respecto a los países desarrollados.

En cuanto a la orientación 3, nos hemos notificado de la existencia de retrasos en materia de reforma agraria, crédito agrícola, comercialización tecnológica nueva y mejorada y en enseñanza de capacitación agrícola.

En lo que respecta a la orientación 4, me permitiría destacar que en nuestro país, en lo referente a organizaciones en las que participa plena y efectivamente la población rural, se pueden citar las cooperativas, que se consideran en América Latina como de primer nivel. Se las puede clasificar en dos regiones. Las primeras son pampeanas, que se encuentran administradas por campesinos a nivel de ingresos medios, en su mayoría propietarios y cuyas actividades son múltiples, que van desde la comercialización, exportación y distribución de carnes, etc., hasta la financiación e industrialización, frigoríficos, aceites y lácteos, servicios sociales, adecuación de transportes en puertos propios. Tienen además una actividad de participación institucional a través de los municipios y en el gobierno nacional, en decisiones políticas relacionadas con la economía del país.

En cuanto a las no pampeanas, en este momento se encuentran experimentando un reordenamiento. No obstante, algunas, a nivel regional, en algunas provincias realizan la actividad agropecuaria a través de este tipo de organizaciones. Cabe destacar el caso de provincias especializadas en viticultura y en horticultura.

Respecto a la orientación 5, nos alegra constatar que los gobiernos den cada vez mayor importancia a la política alimentaria y a los problemas de la planificación. Pero lamentamos que ello sea consecuencia de una agudización de la falta de divisas para pagar los alimentos importados. Volvemos así, una vez más, a la asimetría, que caracteriza las relaciones comerciales entre países subdesarrollados y países en desarrollo. Estos últimos no consiguen las indispensables divisas, por una irracional configuración del intercambio, que desconoce cuanto aconseja la ciencia clásica y moderna y la más elemental previsión satisfactoria que permita superar la presente situación crítica de la economía internacional.

En cuanto a la orientación 7, constatamos, una vez más, repito, la irracionalidad de la existencia de más barreras proteccionistas, más desorganización arbitraria del comercio internacional y un plan amplio de subsidios a las exportaciones y medidas análogas, que dificultan el comercio internacional.

Notamos una vez más que recae en la mayoría de los países de economía de mercados y especialmente en las organizaciones de integración económica de algunos de ellos, la responsabilidad de una situación que por su permanencia e intensificación impide el buen funcionamiento de los mercados internacionales, agrava los problemas de las economías de los países en desarrollo, contribuye a intensificar su endeudamiento externo y además incide con peso notable sobre los contribuyentes y consumidores de los propios países desarrollados con el costo de oportunidades adicionales, y desvía recursos que podrían dedicarse a implementar su propia productividad y competitividad internacional.

Me permito destacarle ahora, Sr. Presidente, el efecto del proteccionismo de los países desarrollados sobre los ingresos por exportaciones de la Argentina. Informarle que la caída de los precios de cereales y de oleaginosas en 1985 y la caída para 1986 implica una reducción en el ingreso por exportaciones del 8,4 por ciento en 1985 y del 11,9 por ciento en 1986, mientras que el volumen ha crecido en un 17,4 por ciento entre 1984 y 1985 y crecerá entre 1985 y 1986 todavía un 1 por ciento más. Partiendo de 1984 como base, en 1985 la pérdida de ingresos por exportaciones, debido a la caída de precios, se puede estimar en 822 millones de dólares y 879 millones de dólares para 1986. En el caso de las carnes vacunas, se han reducido tanto el volumen como los precios de exportación, debido a superofertas de carnes protegidas por la CEE. Las cifras son de por sí elocuentes. El ingreso en dólares por este concepto se redujo un 6,7 por ciento entre 1981 y 1985. En 1984 la pérdida de ingresos fue de 200 millones de dólares y de otros 200 millones de dólares que se calcula para 1986. Las perspectivas futuras no se presentan muy halagüeñas.

Sr. Presidente, quisiera pasar ahora a las negociaciones del GATT. Al respecto, cuánto derroche de talento, audacia, sutileza y argumentación, para tan pocos avances en materia de multilateralismo y liberalización.

Con estos precedentes, Sr. Presidente, con qué pocas expectativas enfrentamos la nueva rueda de conversaciones en el campo de los productos agrícolas, y sin embargo, cuán indispensable sería que se alcanzase algún éxito con la misma.

Al respecto, el endeudamiento externo, que liga a los países a las economías de mercado, como deudores y acreedores, no podrá tener una solución satisfactoria sino en la medida en que se encuentre una solución satisfactoria para acrecentar las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, especialmente las de los exportadores de productos agropecuarios.

En cuanto a la orientación 9, contemplamos con satisfacción los progresos de los aspectos comerciales de la agricultura, de la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo, pero notamos con asombro el progreso también de los países desarrollados por adaptarse a los cambios y condiciones económicas sociales y técnicas, a través de la presencia y agravamiento de los subsidios a la exportación, dados por los países desarrollados, para colocar excedentes en trigo, arroz, carnes, aceites vegetales, grasas y azúcar.

En relación a las orientaciones 10 y 11, quisiera destacar nuestro apoyo al Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional, que en una reunión llevada a cabo en la capital de mi país del 27 al 29 de agosto de 1985 aprobó un plan de trabajo para los próximos dos años. Ese plan centra su actividad en tres áreas específicas: el apoyo a los planes alimentarios nacionales de emergencia para paliar el hambre y la desnutrición, la profundización de las actividades referidas al comercio interregional y el establecimiento de un programa regional de asistencia igual que un organismo permanente en ese campo para graves emergencias agropecuarias.

Por otra parte, quisiera destacar también que en nuestro país, para paliar el déficit alimentario y para construir una sociedad más justa y solidaria, nuestro Gobierno incrementó a mediados de 1984 el Programa Alimentario Nacional. Hasta la fecha ya se han entregado canastas, o paquetes, de complementación alimentaria que contienen alrededor de quince kilogramos de alimentos, representando cada uno de ellos un tercio de las calorías que una familia tipo necesita para alimentarse satisfactoriamente al cabo de un mes.

Asimismo, se pretende revalorizar el papel de la madre como principal agente de salud y como administradora del hogar. Para lograr estos fines, se desarrollan reuniones mensuales, durante las cuales se reciben conocimientos sobre alimentación óptima de la familia y el aprovechamiento al máximo de los valores nutritivos de los alimentos que reciben, constituyendo además estas reuniones mensuales un marco de educación social y de participación comunitaria.

La acción para solucionar el problema alimenticio no se limita a la distribución gratuita o subsidiaria de alimentos, sino que también permite el desarrollo individual, comunitario y familiar.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, deseo reiterar el agradecimiento de mi delegación por el excelente documento C 85/21 y las conclusiones que de él pueden inferirse.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous sommes à peu près arrivés à la fin de la matinée et nous allons donc donner la parole, cet après-midi, aux autres orateurs déjà inscrits.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/8

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION IEIGHTH MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE  
OCTAVA SESION

(19 November 1985)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 15 h 10  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 15.10 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, 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 ALIMENTACION(continuación)

8. Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment including Agricultural Protectionism (continued)

8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international, y compris le protectionnisme agricole (suite)

8. Informe sobre la situación de Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, incluido el proteccionismo agrícola (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Chers Collègues, je vous annonce dès à présent que vers quatre heures le Vice-Président Ladan me remplacera car nous allons nous réunir avec quelques collègues amis du Président pour examiner le texte sur l'Afrique. Maintenant je donne la parole à la France.

P. PIOTET (France): Le document C 85/21, établi par le Secrétariat au titre de ce point 8 de notre ordre du jour, appelle de la part de la délégation française deux séries d'observations. La première série concerne les six premières lignes d'orientation de l'ajustement agricole international. Dans cette partie du rapport les grandes lignes de l'évolution de la production agricole et alimentaire dans le monde sont clairement mises en évidence. J'y relève en particulier que le taux de progression moyen annuel de la production agricole et alimentaire dans les pays en développement pour la période 1980-84 s'est élevé à 3,9 pour cent, chiffre très proche de l'objectif de quatre pour cent qui avait été retenu pour la période de la troisième décennie des Nations Unies. Ce chiffre moyen de 3,9 pour cent pourrait être considéré comme satisfaisant s'il traduisait un progrès dans tous les pays. Or, nous savons bien, et le rapport le démontre clairement, que ce taux moyen est le résultat d'une très forte croissance en Asie et d'un fléchissement de la production par habitant en Afrique.

Les causes de cette situation sont connues, multiples, souvent interdépendantes. Je n'y reviendrai pas ici. Je retiendrai seulement que nous avons là, s'il en était besoin, une justification incontestable de la priorité accordée à l'Afrique.

La seconde série d'observations de la délégation française concerne le thème du protectionnisme. Ce thème sera certainement abordé très longuement à l'occasion de l'examen d'autres points de l'ordre du jour. Le Président de la République française, Monsieur François Mitterrand, a lui-même développé de façon détaillée la position de la France dans le discours qu'il a prononcé dans cette enceinte même le 14 novembre dernier à l'occasion du quarantième anniversaire de la FAO.

La seconde série d'observations de la délégation française concerne le thème du protectionnisme. Ce thème sera très certainement abordé très longuement à l'occasion d'autres points de l'ordre du jour. M. François Mitterrand, Président de la République française a lui-même développé de façon détaillée la position de la France dans le discours qu'il a prononcé dans cette enceinte même le 14 novembre dernier à l'occasion du 40ème anniversaire de la FAO. Je me contenterai de rappeler que si mon pays est contre le protectionnisme, il est en même temps convaincu qu'une libération totale des échanges, si elle devait voir le jour, tournerait inévitablement au profit des économies et des agricultures les plus puissantes. La voie la plus raisonnable et la plus juste passe dans ce domaine, par l'organisation des marchés. C'est aussi, nous en sommes persuadés, la voie la plus favorable dans l'intérêt des pays en développement.

Pour ne pas allonger les débats, je ne me livrerai pas ici à un examen détaillé du document C 85/21. Je ne puis toutefois passer sous silence le désaccord de ma délégation avec les chiffres qui figurent dans le tableau 1.7 concernant les équivalents de la subvention à la production pour les principaux produits dans quelques pays développés. Il s'agit là d'un sujet difficile qui nécessite des analyses complètes, des politiques de soutien en agriculture dans les pays concernés en tenant compte aussi bien des mesures prises aux frontières que des aides accordées par les gouvernements à leurs producteurs agricoles. Une telle étude est en cours au sein de l'OCDE et mon pays y participe activement. La complexité de ce problème est toutefois telle qu'il n'a pas encore été possible de

tirer de ses travaux des conclusions incontestables. Je ne doute pas que les bonnes relations de travail entre la FAO et l'OCDE, déjà soulignées au sein de notre Commission, aboutissent dans ces domaines à un progrès significatif.

Sur un plan général, il est clair que le travail des agriculteurs s'accommode des variations souvent spéculatives des prix sur les marchés mondiaux qui reflètent non seulement des aléas climatiques mais aussi les fluctuations monétaires et les orientations économiques des différents pays. La Communauté européenne s'attache ainsi à prendre des mesures pour compenser les effets néfastes de telles variations. Elle n'en demeure pas moins le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles et alimentaires.

En conclusion, tous nos pays ont intérêt au développement harmonieux des échanges internationaux. Ceux qui restent encore largement éloignés du seuil d'autosuffisance sont tributaires pour leur approvisionnement, ceux qui ont rejoint ou dépassé ce seuil n'en sont pas pour autant en dehors des circuits d'échanges: ils importent certains produits et en exportent d'autres. En définitive, tous ont intérêt à ce que des règles internationales organisent les échanges dans des conditions favorables au développement agricole.

P. SKALIERIS (Greece): Although agriculture held up remarkably well over the first four years of the 1980s, we are sorry to note, that outside China and, to a lesser extent, India, growth rates in agricultural production were below those of the preceding decade and, indeed, negative in per capita terms. Especially the less Least Developed Countries continued to experience declining per capita production.

The adjustment efforts of many developing countries have undoubtedly had a negative impact on the longer term perspectives of agricultural development, since they seem to have led in many cases to cuts in public expenditure, in education, health and other activities, which support production development.

The figures contained in the Fifth Progress Report on international adjustment reveal the dimensions of the problems, which cannot be obscured by the relative good performance in terms of big aggregates.

Indeed, the number of countries in which food production per capita has declined, increased to sixty-three in 1980-84 compared with forty-seven in 1970-80. Moreover, there is a large hardcore group of countries, thirty-four out of ninety-four, for which the declining per capita food production cannot be considered to be a temporary phenomenon but rather has persisted over time.

In fact, in this dramatic situation, the efforts to renew developmental methods and, especially the means of promoting growth of agricultural production should be continued.

Development strategies seem to put increasing emphasis on agriculture, but more has to be done if the share of agriculture in total investment is to be increased, and if already elaborated reform ideas are to be effectively realized.

More than before are valid today. The guidelines and targets of agricultural adjustment revised in 1983. To refer but to a few of them, it is still necessary to increase the total flow of financial, and other resources to the agriculture and food sector for expansion and diversification of production, just as the second guideline states. It is equally necessary to give full expression to the third and sixth guidelines, adapt institutional frameworks and farming structures and combine all these with a fair distribution of income, thus creating the conditions for improved economic performance.

M. BRZOSKA (Poland): The Polish delegation shares the appraisal of progress in international agricultural adjustment. The difficulties in world economy, particularly in developing countries, and the drought in Africa both clearly identify the ever growing significance of agricultural adjustment recommendations.

The countries which took advantage of the recommendations and acted in the spirit of agricultural adjustment, by making changes in their agricultural policy all emphasizing the role of agriculture in their national economies, achieved evident advances in production. This is the unquestionable success of FAO's recommendation in this field. Simultaneously, there are two facts which arouse consternation, the under-estimation on the part of countries of the importance of internal changes in their agricultural policy, and slower progress in the implementation of the agricultural adjustment recommendations which concern international agreements, protectionist terms of exchange and prices, international credit and financial help. In the future, our Organization will have to devote more attention to those matters. A more critical analysis of those matters is needed, as well as a bolder presentation of proposals to the international community.

In the years 1981-85, Poland, acting in line with the recommendation for agricultural adjustment, made essential, changes in its economic policy, prices, credit and taxes, and increased the ability of its farmers to finance development.

There has been a change in the law dealing with agricultural self-management and cooperatives which provided considerable rights for agricultural organizations. After the lifting of sanctions, the net output of Polish agriculture exceeded the pre-crisis level, facilitating the marketing of our products once again in Europe.

The Polish delegation believes that growing protectionist policies call for bolder discussions and we, therefore, suggest that FAO organize a socio-political roundtable seminar which would try to analyze the rationale for protectionism and find new ways of counteracting it.

I. KABA (Guinée): Le document soumis à l'examen de notre Commission aborde des questions de fond dont dépendent considérablement le développement économique des pays à faible revenu et une meilleure reprise dans les pays développés. En effet, la juste application de la ligne d'orientation N° 1 devrait permettre un progrès rapide du développement économique général, car on a beau produire, il faut vendre, et si la vente est défavorable, la production s'en ressent.

Or, les informations détaillées portées à notre connaissance dans cet excellent document nous éclairent de manière irréfutable sur les obstacles édifés sur la voie de l'accroissement des résultats économiques des pays en développement. Cependant, l'interdépendance économique qui est une réalité, à maintes reprises clamée dans les instances internationales ne parvient pas à s'imposer aux termes de l'échange injuste et au protectionnisme déloyal auxquels sont soumis nos pays. C'est là une constatation amère que la communauté internationale se doit de réajuster.

Ma délégation apprécie hautement les conclusions des analyses faites des différentes situations. Cependant, permettez-moi d'attirer l'attention en insistant particulièrement sur la ligne d'orientation 2 à la page 13 qui stigmatise, je cite: "Un renforcement important de la recherche agricole aux niveaux national, régional et international devrait s'accompagner d'efforts spéciaux pour utiliser plus efficacement les ressources et améliorer les technologies existantes".

En effet, seuls les progrès réalisés dans la recherche agricole garantissent les meilleurs résultats de production. C'est bien ce qui justifie la création en 1969, par 16 pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest de l'ADRAO ou WARDA, en anglais l'association pour le développement de la riziculture dans la sous-région. Malheureusement, en raison des difficultés économiques que connaissent depuis un certain temps ses pays membres, cette précieuse institution de recherche en matière de riziculture, (céréale dont l'importance alimentaire se passe de commentaires, dans la sous-région) connaît une sérieuse prise financière qui risque d'arrêter ses activités.

Compte tenu de l'importance de son rôle, et de l'intérêt considérable que lui accordent ses pays membres, je saisis l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour lancer un appel pressant aux donateurs pour soutenir l'ADRAO dont le Conseil d'administration se réunira en décembre prochain à Dakar. Je pense que dans le cadre de l'application d'un des points de la ligne d'orientation 2 une assistance financière serait souhaitable.

M. RYAN (Australia): I thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive and useful document they have presented to us.

I would like to confine my comments to two of the Guidelines, Guideline 7 and Guideline 8, which are of particular interest to Australia. In relation to restraints and tariff and non-tariff barriers to imports and export subsidies, as well as the level of stability in world agricultural prices, Australia is in complete agreement with the Secretariat's comment that in the area of agricultural trade, protectionism has continued to be persistent, widespread, and strong in recent years. International agricultural commodity markets have been particularly unstable in recent years as a consequence. In this regard I would like to draw to the attention of this Commission some of the comments made by the leader of our delegation in the Plenary session yesterday morning. He referred to the study on the effects of subsidized production and exports by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The study has shown that the pursuit of subsidization policies both for production and exports have not only distorted world markets and caused a misallocation of resources, but they have directly affected the economic development of many poor nations where agriculture comprises a large proportion of their GNP.

This brings me to the point so often made by the European Economic Community. That is that the EEC countries are the world's largest importers of agricultural products. This assertion, which, of course, is true, is seemingly continually served up in gatherings such as this as a complete justification for the common agricultural policy. The GATT does not harm, as the EEC implies, because after all, they are the world's biggest importers of agricultural products. Nothing is further from the truth.

Let us analyze the facts. What are these imports? By and large, they are products the EEC cannot physically produce, products such as tropical commodities, cocoa, coffee, tea, bananas, pineapples, manioc, and cassava. This category of products which the EEC cannot produce also includes timber, fibres such as cotton and wool, oilseeds, palm oil, soya beans and the like. But what about those products that the EEC can physically produce? Regardless of comparative advantage, regardless of economics and regardless of market forces, it is in commodities such as sugar, cereals, dairy products, beef that we find a common agricultural policy exists. Here, through pricing policies, subsidies and support practices totally unrelated to world market forces, the EEC has stimulated production well beyond EEC demands and has flooded the world market with subsidized surpluses. This has been done to the detriment of efficient producers of these products, including many developing countries. The Australian delegation considers that self-sufficiency in food is one thing; indeed, a natural right. But the creation of surpluses through artificial levels of price support and their disposal through export subsidies or dumping practices strikes at the very heart of marketing principles and acts to the detriment of all efficient agricultural producers, developed or developing. Concomitantly with the persistence of the subsidization policies for production and exports, other industrialized countries have in recent years introduced policies which have been based on assumptions that world consumption would considerably increase. This has not occurred and these policies have become quickly outmoded. Consumption has become constrained by a number of factors, including the recession and the severe international debt problem. However, these policies which insulate producers from proper price signals have resulted in a continuing significant growth in surplus stocks of foodstuffs which overhang international markets and ensure that there will be continuing instability.

Finally, the document notes that there has been increasing activity in GATT to study ways and means of reducing protectionism. The proposed next MTN round is a chance to prevent the destruction of large sectors of the world's efficient agricultural producers. It is crucial that the next round of MTN squarely face the issue of agricultural trade and bring it fully within the frame-work of the GATT. For our part, we will be doing all in our power to have effective rules introduced for agricultural trade during the forthcoming MTN negotiations. I will also quickly point out that we did, of course, express Australia's views fully on these matters at the last meeting of the Committee on Commodity Problems, and we fully endorse the report of that meeting.

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA (Sri Lanka): At the very outset, the Sri Lanka delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive document number C 85/25 and Professor Islam for his very brief but lucid introduction of the document this morning. This is a statement of goals and policy which provides a global view of agricultural development and issues ranging from protectionism to world food security.

These Guidelines have been framed for the purpose of giving a direction to overall agricultural development in the developing countries in collaboration with the developed countries. The discussion in this Commission should serve as an opportunity to identify to what extent the



Guidelines have been helpful in achieving the broad objectives of agricultural development in the developing countries, and also to identify those Guidelines that need further elaboration or re-emphasis.

In Guideline 1, the last sentence states, and I quote, "All countries should aim to achieve a rational production pattern in light of their needs and production possibilities". In Sri Lanka the rational production pattern that we have been following has yielded good results with an average annual growth rate of five percent over the last five years. With regard to Guideline 2, Sri Lanka has placed high emphasis on research and also on irrigation and water management. We have undertaken a gigantic river barrier scheme to augment reservoirs for irrigation. This project, which was originally designed to be implemented over a period of 30 years, was telescoped to a shorter period of six years, and is now almost complete. The Sri Lanka delegation wishes to state with great appreciation that we were able to achieve this massive task because of the ready assistance from multilateral and bilateral donors.

Provision of imports and of assistance to small farmers has been given high priority in Sri Lanka. The "most needy target group requiring assistance to supplement nutritional needs is covered under a food stamp scheme that subsidizes certain food commodities necessary for human sustenance.

Another programme that Sri Lanka recently introduced to look after the farmers, especially the small farmers, is the Farmer Pension Scheme. The Sri Lanka Government felt that since employees from all organized sectors of the country, like the government service sector, were covered by some form of retirement benefits, farmers should also be covered. Farmers, an unorganized group of people who work long years in sun and rain feed the nation did not have an assured retirement benefit system to fall back on when they were feeble and unable to earn a living during their old age. It is to fill this gap that we in Sri Lanka introduced a farmer pension scheme to provide a monthly pension to farmers upon reaching the age of 60 years.

Finally, the Sri Lanka delegation wishes to express its concern on dwindling returns on its exports due to the inability to formulate satisfactory commodity agreements to look after Sri Lankan agricultural exports.

J. THINSY (Belgique): 'En tant que pays qui représente la présidence du Conseil de la CEE, je vous prie de bien vouloir permettre à l'Observateur de la CEE d'intervenir sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Au cours des débats, vous avez pu entendre déjà, certains Etats Membres de la Communauté exprimer leur point de vue national. Mon intervention sera le résumé du point de vue commun de la Communauté et de ses dix Etats Membres portant sur le document relatif à l'ajustement agricole international.

Tout d'abord je voudrais rappeler que la Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres ont participé pleinement à la révision et à l'acceptation des lignes d'orientation lors de la dernière Conférence de la FAO en 1983.

C'est pourquoi nous accueillons favorablement le document qui nous est présenté ainsi que la discussion sur l'examen et les résultats des lignes d'orientation.

Je voudrais limiter mes observations aux analyses et commentaires du Secrétariat qui nous posent quelques difficultés, ce qui signifie que le reste du document nous satisfait, et nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour cette évaluation.

Ces commentaires ont trait au soutien des politiques agricoles, aux évaluations budgétaires, et à la définition du protectionnisme. En premier lieu, il nous paraît que les conclusions en ce qui concerne le soutien se fondent sur des analyses et des méthodes agro-économiques parfois incertaines qui, de plus, sont également en contradiction avec d'autres analyses. Une appréciation plus équilibrée s'imposerait donc.

Comme nous l'avons déjà indiqué lors de la session du Comité des Produits, la Communauté ne peut accepter le tableau 1.7 figurant à la page 12, ainsi que les commentaires du paragraphe 26 relatifs à l'interprétation de ce tableau. En effet, d'une part des méthodes de calcul permettant les résultats ne sont pas indiquées; d'autre part, les résultats sont contradictoires avec ceux des travaux actuellement en cours à l'OCDE, basés sur le même principe de l'équivalent subvention à la production. A titre indicatif, je peux vous indiquer que, bien que les travaux ne soient pas terminés et entérinés, le soutien de la Communauté pour certains produits pour l'année 1984-85 est moins important.

En deuxième lieu, comme j'ai eu l'occasion de le préciser lors de l'examen du point 7.1 de notre Commission, ce ne sont pas essentiellement les problèmes budgétaires, comme on le laisse entendre aux paragraphes 28 et 95 du document, qui ont conduit et conduiront aux adaptations des politiques agricoles en général et de la politique agricole commune en particulier.

En effet, ce sont avant tout des excédents structurels de tous les pays concernés qui les obligent ou les obligeront à ajuster leur politique agricole, et ces ajustements devront se faire avec le souci d'un partage équitable des conséquences de tels ajustements.

En troisième lieu, j'aimerais aborder la question du protectionnisme, terme utilisé fréquemment dans le document sans qu'une définition y soit apportée.

Le protectionnisme, est-ce seulement les barrières à l'importation et les subventions à l'exportation? Ou aussi les pratiques similaires comme les crédits à l'exportation, les contingents à l'importation, le troc, les achats en retour, la politique de double prix, les politiques en matière de transport, en matière d'énergie, les aides conditionnelles, le drawback, les barrières sanitaires et toutes autres mesures d'effet équivalant qui sont actuellement examinées au GATT?

En ce qui concerne l'application du protectionnisme, nous considérons que les commentaires de la fin du paragraphe 96 devraient donc être atténués ou différenciés. A cet égard, le Secrétariat pourrait-il nous indiquer les mesures couvertes par la note de bas de page de la page 12 relative au Tableau 1.7?

Je disais que les commentaires devraient être atténués ou différenciés notamment en ce qui concerne la Communauté. En effet, le protectionnisme ne s'est pas renforcé ces dernières années mais au contraire les importations agricoles de la Communauté n'ont cessé de s'accroître, comme le soulignait d'ailleurs le représentant de l'Australie il y a quelques instants.

La Communauté, comme je l'ai déjà souligné à plusieurs reprises dans les enceintes de la FAO, est toujours, et de loin, le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles (20 pour cent du commerce mondial) et sa balance commerciale agricole est déficitaire de 27 milliards d'écus, soit environ 25 milliards de dollars. Les pays en développement sont les premiers fournisseurs de la Communauté; leur part a progressé de plus de 5 pour cent au cours de ces dernières années, et la Communauté absorbe près de 30 pour cent de leurs exportations agricoles.

Sans remettre en cause la lutte contre le protectionnisme, et, puisque le représentant de l'Australie a cité une étude, je voudrais en citer une autre. Il s'agit de l'étude de l'Institut international pour l'analyse appliquée des systèmes, organisation à laquelle le Secrétariat a fait référence dans le document relatif aux politiques de prix. C'est un centre de rencontres scientifiques et les conclusions d'un séminaire qui a eu lieu à Vienne du 3 au 5 juin 1985 stipulent qu'au niveau des analyses internationales une conclusion importante est que l'effet bénéfique d'une libéralisation du commerce agricole sur la situation alimentaire des pays en développement est relativement négligeable.

Je voudrais aussi rappeler que les importations agricoles de l'Australie représentent 0,6 pour cent du commerce mondial, tous produits confondus, que ce soit ceux qui sont en concurrence avec les produits en Australie ou ceux qui ne le sont pas. Par ailleurs, si nous importons dans la Communauté notamment des produits tropicaux, c'est bien la preuve que nous sommes ouverts à l'achat des productions en provenance des pays en développement, qui ont vocation à ce type de production. Je ne vois pas comment on peut y voir une marque de protectionnisme.

En conclusion, la Communauté économique européenne s'est toujours efforcée de mener, en matière agricole, une politique équilibrée entre les nécessités internes et externes. Elle restera fidèle

à cette approche, comme le suggère le livre vert de la Commission des Communautés européennes qui contient un certain nombre de réflexions pour les aménagements futurs de la politique agricole commune et je rappelle que la CEE est prête à oeuvrer à l'amélioration des règles et disciplines du GATT concernant tous les aspects du commerce des produits agricoles, en tenant compte des caractéristiques et de la spécificité de l'agriculture et des problèmes auxquels les pays en développement sont confrontés.

H. da SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): I wish to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this fifth report on International Agricultural Adjustment. The statistical information gives us a clear overview of the developments achieved since the revision of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment in 1983. The main points we can underline are, in short, as follows.

First, most of the recommendations contained in the International Agricultural Adjustment, such as searching for a balance in world food production, consumption and trade, were not implemented. Second, particular concern is due to the persistence and, in some regions, the increase of hunger and malnutrition.

Third, there has been an overall reduction of public expenditure for health, educational and nutritional programmes due particularly to budgetary constraints resulting from serious problems in balance of payments. Fourth, there has also been a virtual stagnation of initiatives favouring the establishment of international instruments to stabilize commodity prices. Fifth, there have been distortions in international markets provoked by agricultural protectionism.

This last item deserves a closer examination by this Commission. This year the protectionist situation in international agricultural markets has generally deteriorated, because of an unusually high rate of protection in developed countries, including domestic and export subsidies and non-tariff measures. Additional barriers have been introduced to restrict imports of a number of commodities, higher subsidies for cereals have been provided and other commodity sectors have remained extremely protected. According to the World Bank, for instance, nearly a third of the Agricultural exports from developing to industrialized countries are subject to quota restraints or other non-tariff barriers.

My delegation feels it is also important to remind the Commission that before entering into a new round of trade negotiations, we should demand urgent action for the implementation of the 1987 GATT Programme of Work adopted at the ministerial level by fulfilling all the commitments therein for individual and collective actions.

To conclude, my delegation urges FAO to continue monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment and to further report to the governing bodies of this Organization, on progress in this area, as well as in agricultural protectionism.

Jaafaru Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the chair.

Jaafaru Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Jaafaru Ladan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

J.S. NIELSEN (Denmark): Mr Chairman, what is the aim of agricultural adjustment? The aim must be to achieve worldwide food security, in the short run with optimal utilization of available resources and in the long run with optimal utilization of production potentials. In some countries and regions, optimal exploitation of production potentials means a net self-sufficiency degree of under 100 percent. In other areas it means production considerably above the 100 percent self-sufficiency. The key criterion should be world supply security of food, with a free flows in trading netting out the differences between areas with self-sufficiency degrees substantially different from the 100 percent figure. This has been for several decades, and remains, the basic philosophy of Denmark, where normally two-thirds of our agricultural production is exported.

While we congratulate some countries for triggering a process to achieve their production potential, others certainly still need substantial assistance in formulating appropriate agricultural strategies, and that is very well shown in the Report we have before us.

The EEC, of which Denmark is now a member, provides a combination of production incentives, admittedly including a certain shielding from world market price fluctuations, that contributes to the realization of production potential for temperate agricultural commodities. Vast regions of the EEC do possess a production potential or a comparative advantage for such temperate products, and we are, of course, determined to realize them in order to achieve a division of labour internally within the EEC as well as in relation to other countries. The momentum for research and experimentation triggered from this will undoubtedly enhance the EEC's competitiveness still further in future.

As a part of the current close scrutiny of protectionist tendencies in world trade, it is, of course, a natural task for the international community, including FAO, to critically analyze and evaluate whether the composition and level of the EEC producer incentives is correct in the short or in the long run, just as we may assume that the very complex subject of producer incentives for countries with maybe less emphasis on trade regulations but more on internal incentives will be subject to the same kind of scrutiny.

Developed countries thus exhibit a wide variety of different policy measures from which elements can be derived in formulating their agricultural strategies which do not exclude, of course, the fact that developing countries themselves can create new and brighter incentives than those already known and practiced. As far as the description of the EEC policy is concerned, I would just refer to the intervention made by the delegation of the Netherlands on the repetitiveness of the data and of the studies used, and the comments of the EEC Commission this afternoon.

Despite the few shortcomings mentioned, the FAO Secretariat has again produced a fine analysis which provides an example for the future work of FAO. However, in formulating tasks and mandates for the Secretariat we should in the future be careful not to invite duplication of work. The report on the State of Food and Agriculture, the Study on Price Policies, and the Report on International Agricultural Adjustment are fine pieces of analysis, but do they not deal to some extent with identical matters seen from different angles? Do these reports help us to elucidate strengths and weaknesses in the performances by FAO in order to help us with the definition of priorities in work programmes and thereby with the current selection of appropriate activities for FAO? In our opinion, the answer is no. We believe that both member countries and the Secretariat are responsible for this. While once more complimenting the Secretariat on this set of excellent reports and analyses, through Dr Islam, I ask the Secretariat to inform us how they envisage incorporating these analytical reports in dealing with the problems of updating and establishing priorities for the FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

CHAIRMAN: The question raised by the distinguished delegate of Denmark will be answered by the Secretariat at a later stage.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panama): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, expresar al Dr. N. Islam nuestra complacencia por su excelente introducción al tema y por el documento tan completo, objeto de nuestro análisis. De igual manera deseo señalar que mi delegación brinda su total apoyo a las dos orientaciones del reajuste agrícola internacional, sobre todo porque mi país desde la adopción de las mismas en la FAO ha venido luchando por la aplicación de la concepción de las mismas en el marco de las acciones de esta Organización.

Panamá dentro de sus planes y estrategias nacionales lucha por el establecimiento de un modelo de desarrollo intensivo del agro que incluya la introducción y empleo de nuevas tecnologías, mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria y de ingresos, procesos tecnológicos y operaciones de trabajo que promuevan una efectiva utilización de los recursos, comercialización de sus productos y, sobre todo, un incremento de la producción con miras a garantizar la autosuficiencia alimentaria y reducir la importación que hoy alcanza el 40 por ciento en el total agropecuario.

Otro objetivo está encauzado hacia el desarrollo rural integrado para combatir la pobreza, el desempleo y la desnutrición en las áreas más pobres del país. Esta política exige acciones tendientes a crear condiciones para incorporar a la población rural marginada, actividades económicas rentables y productivas. Sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, nuestro país es consciente de los obstáculos que enfrentamos los países en desarrollo para poner en práctica tales medidas. Para nuestra delegación,

a fin de lograr una mayor productividad, es necesario contar con los recursos adecuados, lo que en términos globales se derivan de nuestras exportaciones. Sin embargo, la crítica situación por la que atraviesa el comercio mundial con sus mercados inestables, inestabilidad monetaria, deformaciones en las condiciones de intercambio, y lo que es más importante, el desvío de los pocos recursos en nuestro poder para dedicarlo al pago del servicio de la deuda externa, debido en gran parte al aumento de las tasas de intereses reales que efectúa la comunidad financiera internacional para resolver problemas totalmente ajenos al desarrollo económico y social de nuestros pueblos, han impedido un desenvolvimiento favorable de nuestras economías. Los efectos perjudiciales del proteccionismo rebasan enormemente los aspectos económicos y su aplicabilidad ha producido disminución de ingresos, desempleo rural, así como inestabilidad e inseguridad sociales.

Por ello, Sr. Presidente, consideramos que el consorcio de países aquí reunidos, según su nivel de responsabilidad, debe realizar esfuerzos tendientes a permitir un mayor acceso a los mercados de los países en desarrollo, así como de eliminar, o como mínimo no crear nuevas barreras al comercio agrícola y no aplicar subsidios a las exportaciones u otras formas de ayuda.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación desea expresar su esperanza de que una nueva serie de negociaciones multilaterales en el GATT contribuyan al establecimiento más justo y racional en la producción y comercio mundial.

J.E. ROSS (United States of America): The delegation of the United States considers the Secretariat paper, on the whole, a balanced and worthwhile study. It is especially useful as a compendium of developing country activity in domestic agricultural adjustment. I must point out that the United States still considers the original 1975 version of the Guidelines adequate. At the November 1983 FAO Conference, the United States disassociated itself from the resolution adopting revised Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment. Having reserved its position, the United States is not bound in any way to follow or comply with the revised Guidelines. Our participation, therefore, in this discussion is without prejudice to the United States reservation on the revised IAA Guidelines.

Several delegates today have called for developed countries to reduce or eliminate trade barriers, both tariff and non-tariff barriers, for products exported by the developing countries. The United States believes 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, whenever possible.

In our view, the GATT is the appropriate forum for negotiating trade liberalization. It offers the best means for strengthening and improving the multilateral trading system, and for expanding trade opportunities in developing countries. We believe that all countries, both developed and developing, should take active roles in these efforts. Unilateral dismantling of barriers is not realistic.

The delegate of India commented that the concern of the United States with subsidies is not because of our concern with developing countries, but because of our concern with our budget. We are concerned with all of the negative aspects of subsidies, both for the economies of developing countries, and for our own budget. We believe that heavily subsidized exports of agricultural products are injurious to world food security. Subsidized exports depress world prices, create market instability, discourage needed production in developing countries and constitute a major impediment to the liberalization of trade in agricultural commodities. We recognize that reduction or elimination of such subsidies could result in maintaining or increasing market shares and export earnings for many countries, including developing countries. The United States and other third country exporters have been extensively damaged by countries which follow long-standing practices of limiting market access, and at the same time, use export subsidies.

The United States has used export subsidies in a very limited manner. We have only recently enacted an export enhancement programme largely in response to Congressional frustration over the unwillingness of some countries to address these concerns and work constructively in helping to resolve agricultural trade issues, especially the use of export subsidies.

The programme is carefully targeted to challenge the markets of subsidizing exports. We are not using the programme to compete against non-subsidizing suppliers in specific markets. As

a matter of principle, the United States considers an international trading regime with a minimum of market-distorting practices, such as export subsidies, in the best long-term interest of world agriculture.

Reform of domestic agricultural policies must focus on achieving better control of surplus production. It is also necessary to eliminate the current practice of subsidizing the surpluses into world markets, thus depressing prices, competing with commodities produced by unsubsidized exporters and rendering necessary a panoply of protectionist measures. We share the hope of other delegates for an international agricultural environment in which countries can compete in world markets without the need for subsidies. In reference to the Generalized System of Preferences, I have two points. First of all, we implement our GSP programme as a recognized aid in trade policy to assist beneficiary countries subject to our domestic safeguards. The primary intent of the GSP programme is to provide duty-free treatment in supporting economic development.

Secondly, contrary to the statement in the FAO paper on the United States GSP, paragraph 93, the renewed GSP programme remains non-reciprocal because benefits under the programme are provided on a unilateral basis. The decision of the President to reduce competitive need limits on certain products from certain beneficiaries will be based on the country's competitiveness with respect to a particular product, its level of development and an assessment of the discretionary factors in the statute.

Finally, I want to emphasize that the United States believes it is in the interests of all countries to promote trade among developing countries and support activities which increase developing country participation in the international trading system. Our effort to do this should be compatible with GATT.

H. M. CARANDANG (Philippines): Guideline 1 calls for "Food and agricultural production in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and developing countries in the other special categories" to grow at an "average annual rate of 4 percent". According to the study presented to us in document C 85/21 the developing countries as a whole have come close to fulfilling the 4 percent annual growth rate, but the study says, "as a whole". This is the problem with statistics. Mr Chairman, if I eat a chicken and you eat none, a statistician would say that both of us on the average ate half a chicken, but I am satisfied and you are hungry. The problem with statistics is that if you take away some countries like India and China, then you have a negative growth for many developing countries.

I think this Conference should point out clearly why the countries mentioned in Guideline 1, the LDCs and countries in other special categories, have not achieved this growth of 4 percent stipulated by the International Development Strategy.

The study before us has already pointed out several of the reasons. One is that, as pointed out in the study, the overall economic adjustment has caused developing countries to curtail the subsidy element both in production and consumption. But I think that over and above the curtailment of the subsidy element, particularly with regard to critical inputs such as fertilizer, -pesticides and irrigation, many developing countries - including my own - in fact have been obliged to curtail investment in agriculture because of the overall economic difficulties of the countries. Again the study tells us that, on the whole, the reduction is only 32.2 percent, but again this is a statistical figure. There are many countries that are curtailing their investments in agriculture more than 2 percent because of their economic difficulties. Therefore, their own investment in agricultural production is consequently suffering more than others.

The second reason that is also pointed out in this paper is that external assistance to agricultural countries remains inadequate and below the targets of these guidelines. You will see, for example, in Table 2.2, that indeed in real terms, and as a percentage of the total commitment of assistance in the broader definition, assistance to agriculture has been decreasing.

Then again if you go to page 50, Table 12.1, "Official Commitments of External Assistance to Agriculture: Total (Concessional and Non-Concessional)", you will find that the estimated figure of aid that is required for an adequate agricultural growth is 4 percent, but the percentage of concessionality has gone down. You will see, on page 50 in Table 12.1, agriculture in the narrow and the broad definition.

However, if you consider, as has been pointed out by the other delegations, that indeed the flow of resources into the developing countries has been reversed, more money is flowing from the developing countries as a result of their debt burdens than is flowing into the developing countries. Therefore, it takes no great imagination to see that even investment in agriculture has suffered, and consequently also productivity in the developing countries.

Likewise, fertilizer consumption, which is one of the critical inputs in this production, has been decreasing. The percentage increase in the consumption of fertilizer has been declining. It is enough to refer to the report of the Commission on Fertilizers to confirm this assertion.

The other point which I think deserves a comment is the question of protectionism. In this respect I hope you will allow me, Mr Chairman, to quote some of the words that have been spoken by the Head of the Philippine delegation in this connection. The Head of the Philippine delegation, said that while we allow them - that means the developed countries - to flood our domestic markets with industrial products, they slam the doors on our agricultural exports and worse, they use the riches to subsidize their inefficient producers in competing unfairly or with more efficient producers in the export market. Then he continues to cite paragraph 37 of the Agricultural Price Policies, and quotes the following paragraph: The general effect of developed country protectionism has been adverse to an orderly and stable expansion of world agricultural trade. Protectionism has led to lower world prices for a number of products, as well as a greater fluctuation and restrictive entry into developed country markets.

Then he cites the case of sugar. If a group of countries issues a regulation, producers of the product have been dislodged from the market. The Philippines alone have been forced to cut its sugar production by half. This year we lost some US\$600 to 700 millions worth of potential exports, exporting only US\$100 million worth to the United States through preferential arrangements.

This is a very complete case. Probably the case of sugar is a very classical one which has been subject to protectionist policies. While the most efficient producers produce sugar at, let us say, 10 cents a pound, the world market price now is way below half of the cost of the most efficient producers. As the Head of the Philippine delegation has stated, this has probably been caused by a group of countries that produce sugar at a very high cost, and dump or sell their surpluses on the world market, causing the price of sugar to go down. If we have GATT rules that regulate the dumping of agricultural products, we are wondering why these rules should not be applied.

In this connection, we should like to reiterate the recommendations made in the report of the Council of FAO, where on page 7, the Fifty-fifth session of the Committee on Commodity Problems is covered. I think that the recommendations of the Council should be highlighted in our report and that the accepted recommendations that have been made in that Committee should be recorded in our Commission's report. Among them is the recommendation that all efforts should be made by the international community to persuade countries to curb or eliminate export subsidies and other similar practices, as well as protectionist measures which restrict access to international markets. It should be agreed that these recommendations be endorsed during the next round of negotiations in GATT. The topic of international trade should be pursued in future sessions of the Committee on Commodity Problems. Other recommendations dealing with protectionism, such as the one suggesting that strong signals be sent to the appropriate forum for agricultural trade liberalization to receive high priority, should be implemented as soon as possible.

N. ROSSI (Italie): En ce qui concerne la question du protectionnisme agricole en Italie, il est particulièrement important pour notre pays d'avoir accès à la plus complète libéralisation des échanges internationaux. Ces échanges peuvent être plus aisément obtenus si l'on élimine les obstacles à ces échanges déterminés par des limitations quantitatives de restrictions nationales aux importations, de restrictions aux importations qui se cachent, parfois, derrière des exigences sanitaires et phytosanitaires et même sous forme de taxes très élevées non justifiées par l'exigence de défendre une production nationale sensible et considérable.

A ce propos, nous désirons exprimer notre confiance la plus entière, notamment pour ce qui est des travaux du Comité du GATT sur les échanges agricoles. En ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation N° 7 et en particulier le SPG, nous soulignons qu'au niveau communautaire on est actuellement en train d'examiner le nouveau schéma du SPG pour 1986. Une attention particulière est portée aux problèmes des pays les moins avancés au sein même de cette Organisation.

T. ISKIT (Turkey): We also commend the Secretariat for the excellent document, C 85/21, and we thank Professor Islam for his concise but very substantial introduction.

The report before us covers an extremely wide range of issues and we are in broad agreement with the analysis and conclusions set forth therein.

At this advanced stage of our debate, my delegation will confine its remarks to only a few points which we deem to merit emphasis.

Firstly, it is obvious that developing countries bear the heaviest burden of adjustment, and the success of their self-help efforts depends heavily on the improvement of the world economic situation.

This, in turn, can only be arrived at through the concerted will and action of the international community.

In this text ECDC and TCDC are important frameworks for developing countries to further their efforts in adjustment. We think that this kind of cooperation can also be very useful in ensuring the needed technology and Knowhow exchanges between countries with similar economic structures and requirements. It is observed in many cases that developing countries can sometimes absorb and effectively implement technologies in fellow developing countries which have cumulative experience in a given field, rather than technologies developed in a more developed economy. Turkey participates through various ECDC and TCDC activities in this way and strives to share its experiences with other countries which are willing to benefit from them.

Secondly, we believe that stability of agricultural commodities markets is crucial, especially for commodity exporting developing countries. Commodity agreements or arrangements with market stabilization provisions which strikes a right balance between the exchanges of both the producers and the importers are the principal, and almost the most efficient, means of achieving this aim. We deplore the negative development in this field in the early 1980s and urge the revival of negotiations to this effect, and the establishment of a common fund for commodities.

Finally, and thirdly, whatever the definition of protectionism, it jeopardizes the development efforts of developing countries especially in agricultural trade. To quote the Secretariat, protectionism is indeed "persistent, widespread and strong." I do not wish to elaborate on a subject which is only too well known, I only want to join our voice to all previous speakers who condemned protectionism and who pleaded for an open trading system. In this respect, we strongly hope that the new round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT will be launched soon, and that these negotiations will fully consider all the interests of developing countries whose economic welfare depend on agricultural trade.

M. TAPAVIČKI (Yugoslavia): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for presenting to us the very useful progress report based on the Guidelines and Targets for the International Agricultural Adjustment.

We have already had the opportunity to express our views and comments on the World Food and Agriculture situation and trends, particularly in Africa, under item 7. Therefore, the Yugoslav delegation will emphasize only a few points, with some unavoidable repetition, of interest to the entire international community.

The document states very clearly that the signs of recovery from the worst post-war recession, continued to be selective, uncertain and weak. The recovery failed to spread in many developing regions - where it was most needed. The developing countries as a whole have accelerated



agricultural production growth, but this is reflected mainly in the extraordinary production performance in China and few other countries. However, excluding China and India, the agricultural growth rate of the 1980s was below that of the preceding decade, and it shifts from positive to negative in per caput terms.

At the same time, many developing countries experienced stagnant or falling per caput food consumption levels. The pressure for external adjustment of the economies of the developing countries, with the heavy burden rising debt service payments, have affected the overall economic and social development and living standards of the population.

The developing countries lost their position as net food exporters in the present unjust world trade situation because of a deterioration in terms of trade. The protectionism in agricultural trade has continued to be persistent, widespread and strong in recent years, with heavy negative effects on the economies of the developing countries.

Protectionism, the absence of political will in some developed countries, and depressed conditions in the international markets for agricultural commodities have contributed to the fact that no new market stabilization agreements have been negotiated in recent years.

The economic and social situation in Africa is extremely critical. Although the immediate crisis in Africa is past, the real challenge is to attempt to solve its structural problems in the short, medium and long-term.

Unfortunately, the trend in the growth rate of official development assistance to agriculture in developing countries has been decreasing, and the target of the estimated annual requirements will not be fulfilled before 1988, as it was stated by FAO estimates for Guideline 12.

The above-mentioned factors cause great concern and offer major challenges for the entire international community and for FAO's strategy, priority and programme of work in dealing with them. The hostile economic and financial environment must be altered in the spirit of complete solidarity, interdependence and cooperation among all countries. Our Conference has to urge the international community, particularly the developed countries, to make a special effort to support the programmes of the developing countries to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

With this in mind, I deeply believe that the next report will have to show much more positive development and progress in international agricultural adjustment according to the revised Guidelines.

Ms N. MORAD (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation would first like to express our thanks to the Secretariat for their excellent work in having prepared this very useful document for us. We are very pleased to know that certain developing countries have been able to reach the targets for the annual production growth, a fact established in paragraph 3 of the document. We are also pleased to know that the food availability per caput in the same developing countries had also improved as stated in paragraph 4. We note the special interest accorded to the small and landless farmers. But we are concerned to see that the developing countries have had to reduce public spending in certain vital fields, creating negative effects.

My country's delegation has studied the second part of the document on the results achieved according to each of the Guidelines, and I would like to express the importance which my country feels attaches to these Guidelines and to the achievements which have been made in increasing food production and establishing food security. The basic Guidelines are in keeping with the objectives of the Egyptian agricultural policy. The basic tenets of this policy have been to provide a selection of the most appropriate technologies for our agriculture, to establish links between agriculture and research, to decrease the costs of agricultural production through mechanization, and to increase the role of women in agriculture, a role which is of special importance. Our agricultural policy has also wanted to guarantee credits on concessional terms for farmers, as well as to make inputs available to them at acceptable prices, and to increase prices for producers.

My country has been implementing settlement operations, as well as creating new settlements, as is stated in paragraph 46 of the document. The activities of the organizations working in this field and in the distribution of land have been adapted to agro-industries to increase the income level of

those working in these new areas. We would also like to mention the other efforts which have been made. In the field of agricultural incentives, our basic goal has been to make credits available to farmers. Special branches of the credit banks have been established throughout the country to work with the farmers as well as with the national development banks. I would also like to mention the efforts that have been made to rationalize dietary habits so as to raise the nutritional level of our population. We also hope that a new wheat agreement will be reached and that the agreement on the common fund on commodities will be implemented so as to stabilize international markets.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): Document C 85/21 is a useful summary of where we are with implementing the Guidelines, and perhaps more importantly, highlights how much we still need to do. A major effort is clearly needed for some of the Guidelines, and for particular developing countries. The report is comprehensive, but I want to comment on particular aspects of a few of the Guidelines.

With regard to Guideline 1, we agree with the argument set out in paragraph 25, that very high levels of protection and subsidization distort producer incentives and promote irrational resource use. Paragraphs 26 - 28 highlight the significance of protection and subsidies for a number of developed countries and it is a serious concern that producer subsidies remain high for a considerable number of commodities in these countries. The paper focuses on the undesirable effect of subsidies and protection in developed countries, but in general the same principles do apply for rational use of resources in developing countries, and any further reviews could usefully focus on this as well.

The tables set out under Guideline 1 show that there have been wide variations in growth rates in agricultural production. Because of these variations, there are good grounds for concentrating the development efforts and assistance covered by Guideline 2 on fewer countries with the greatest need. This further reinforces the need, which we highlighted in the discussion on the African situation, for FAO to focus its efforts on high priority areas.

The discussion under Guideline 3 highlights the real increase in resources required in developing countries for expanded production, particularly for long-term agricultural development. We applaud FAO's efforts to organize its programmes in reaching this long-term goal. Indeed, these aspects of development warrant greater emphasis in the documents.

Guidelines 7 and 9, which are largely concerned with trade and market access are, of course, of particular concern to us. As our Minister of Agriculture pointed out in his Plenary address New Zealand farmers have been seriously affected by growing protectionism in agricultural trade. Our firsthand experience indicates quite clearly that there is little hope for producers in developing countries if the protectionist policies of developed countries continue to frustrate their attempt to do what they do well. Furthermore, continuation down this protectionist path will leave the world with high cost food and serious misallocations of resources which must flow on to the other sectors. We simply cannot afford such waste.

We agree with paragraph 91 that protectionism continues to be "persistent, widespread and strong". The situation in the market place and deteriorated returns for our own farmers make this fact quite clear. The increased and heavy use of export subsidies also highlighted in paragraph 91 is a matter of great concern. On a more positive note, we are pleased to see efforts both by the EEC and the US to curb dairy surpluses. We are concerned, however, to note in paragraph 96 that levels of support on protectionism in the dairy sector have tended to revert to high levels in the past two years in the major developed country markets.

It remains a concern, for instance, that the EEC annual surplus is still almost twice the New Zealand total production. Clearly, even greater efforts are required. We agree with paragraph 97 under Guideline 7 that protectionism in the meat sector has remained high. In this sector, subsidized disposal of surpluses has had a serious flow-on effect for low-cost producer countries. There is indeed a risk that low rather than high-cost producing countries will be forced to reduce production as a result of these unfair trading practices.

The same problems clearly apply to other commodities such as sugar, commodities in which developing countries in general have a clear comparative advantage, paragraph 101 implies a disturbing tit-for-tat development as certain countries jostle to dispose of their surpluses on a limited

international market. It demonstrates an unwillingness on the part of those countries to grapple with the real problem and the serious flow-on effects that their trading policies have on low-cost exporters. We endorse the principle of comparative advantage discussed in paragraph 105, although we believe this paper should focus more on the critical importance of this principle for primary agricultural producers. I should note at this point that some of the figures have been used in rather a spurious way during the course of this debate, and I am referring particularly to the discussion on import and export figures. For example, we would expect the EEC to import a large proportion of their total food requirement and the total food imports of the world. They have a very large consuming population and there is much food that they cannot produce, and still much more that they cannot produce as cheaply as other countries. Thus, we need to interpret the figures on a product by product basis. If we look at sugar, for example, given the relatively high cost of production in the EEC and the United States as implied by the producer-subsidy equivalents in the table 1.7, we would expect both those countries to import all their sugar. But we know this is not the case, and many delegations have pointed to the disastrous situation they face: in this market, and developing countries in general they are. It is for these logical reasons also that New Zealand imports all its sugar. That we import virtually no meat, milk or wool is not because we prevent these from entering the country, but simply because others cannot profitably compete on our market. I raise these examples simply to demonstrate how easy it is to fool ourselves with figures. Let's not fall into that trap in this debate.

In conclusion, it is clear that exporters of agricultural products and raw materials, including developing countries, have gained little from successive moves to liberalize international trade. In our view, therefore, more attention should be paid to policy changes in major industrial countries which would, without much real disruption to them, accommodate the needs of agricultural exporters. If this point is pursued with conviction, we can look forward to much more positive progress on these particular guidelines when the Secretariat reports again in two years' time.

Sra.Dra. G.SOTO-CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiera, en primer lugar, expresar la satisfacción de la delegación de Cuba por el buen trabajo de evaluación que ha hecho la Secretaría sobre los resultados conseguidos con respecto a las Once Orientaciones y Objetivos del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, y en seguimiento a la reunión de 1983 y que completara muy claramente el Profesor Islam, en presentación del documento C 85/21.

Mi delegación se referirá brevemente a algunos aspectos de esta evaluación. Consideramos, señor Presidente, que muchos países en desarrollo han hecho grandes esfuerzos por cumplimentar, e incluso superar, la meta de una tasa anual del cuatro por ciento de crecimiento en la producción agrícola. Otros se han visto agobiados por catástrofes naturales y otros efectos adversos que han llevado a que los resultados sean negativos.

Se requiere, por consiguiente, un gran esfuerzo de todas las partes para garantizar que, en términos generales, esta Primera Orientación analizada pueda cumplirse. En lo que se refiere a la corriente de recursos financieros necesarios para el desarrollo, mi delegación considera que si no hacemos del financiamiento una cuestión capital y decisiva, y dejamos su proceso en manos de los mecanismos ban-carios internacionales y de la gran banca privada, si no nos sentamos a deliberar y discutir cómo hacer frente a la enormidad de recursos que demanda el desarrollo, no avanzaremos en la solución de estos problema's.

Como bien expresara nuestra Ministro en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, resolver de modo satisfactorio el grave problema del financiamiento será ya un avance en el programa del Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional que nos proponemos.

Un ejemplo concreto que ha afectado grandemente el incremento de la producción alimentaria es el reciente crecimiento del consumo de fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo, lo cual se debe, como se plantea en el párrafo 37 del documento que analizamos, al empeoramiento del clima económico general, y en particular, a los problemas relacionados con la deuda extranjera, relaciones de intercambio desfavorables, y la grave escasez consecuente de divisas en algunos grandes países consumidores.

En cuanto al acceso a la tierra, el agua y otros recursos naturales, la enseñanza, la extensión, la investigación, la capacitación, y al importante aspecto de la igualdad de la mujer especialmente en

su participación en el desarrollo agrícola, mi delegación considera que el programa de acción que fue aprobado en la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural contiene los aspectos fundamentales para llevar adelante estos conceptos.

Señor Presidente: mi delegación no puede dejar de condenar las medidas proteccionistas de todo tipo que imponen algunos países desarrollados a las importaciones de productos agrícolas provenientes de los países en desarrollo, las cuales impiden el acceso de los mismos a los mercados internacionales.

En realidad, como se expresa en el párrafo 91, el proteccionismo del comercio agrícola, comprendido el de productos basados en el agro, ha resultado persistente, amplio y vigoroso. Como bien se señala en el párrafo citado, entendemos que este proteccionismo debe cesar. A pesar de los análisis hechos por el GATT y que han sido mencionados por esta Sala, esas medidas nocivas se mantienen. Mi delegación, señor Presidente, apoya plenamente el análisis hecho sobre la Orientación Nueve referente a la cooperación entre países en desarrollo.

Referente a la Orientación sobre el establecimiento de una seguridad alimentaria mundial efectiva, consideramos que deben tenerse en cuenta los aspectos contenidos en el Pacto de Seguridad Alimentaria, que también han sido analizados por esta Comisión.

Finalmente, consideramos que si bien la meta referente a la ayuda alimentaria, ha sido sobrepasada este año, debe entrar en seria consideración la revisión de la cifra actual, a la luz del contenido de la Orientación Once. Esperamos que ésta no sea la última evaluación de los progresos de las Orientaciones del Reajuste Agrícola Internacional y se nos continúe presentando valiosos informes como el que hoy analizamos.

D. KINZEL (Austria) (original language German): I would like to start by thanking Professor Islam for his very lucid and full introduction to this very highly informative document, C 85/21. With your permission I will state my delegation's view on a number of guidelines. Guideline 1. According to Table 1.1 the growth rate for developing countries' agricultural production, excluding India and China, was 3.1 for the 1970s. It then dropped to 2.3 for 1980 to 1984. However, the growth rate then rose to 3.3. Moreover, the initial figures for harvests in 1985 justify optimism which suggests that one can assume that the 4 percent target of Guideline 1 has been met to a very considerable extent.

Guideline 2. The deceleration of fertilizer use growth in 1980 and the insufficient growth in 1981, 1982 and 1983 as shown by Table 2.1, indicates very clearly that in the future this is something which has got to be given increasing attention. Balanced investment programmes for increasing productivity which will also contribute to raising agricultural income are vitally necessary.

Guidelines 3 and 4. With regard to small farmers, landless peasants and especially participation of women and young people in the process of development, the Austrian delegation appreciates the efforts made in Asia, but at the same time we would point to the need for further reforms, particularly in Latin America and in Africa.

Guideline 6. Given prevailing circumstances, high foreign debt, budget restrictions, low economic growth and deteriorating terms of trade, it would appear to us that measures designed to achieve more equitable distribution of income would be particularly difficult. Nonetheless, such measures can create the necessary demand; and hence production incentive. They are also useful, indeed, and absolutely vital in reducing the abyss between rich and poor.

We shall address problems relating to protectionism under agenda item 7.3.

Guideline 8. Since international markets for farm products continue to be unstable, necessary pre-conditions for creating international commodity agreements have become less favourable. At the same time, such an agreement becomes all the more necessary.

Guideline 9. We are pleased to see the achievements in economic and technical cooperation between developing countries, which we hope will continue to expand. In this connection, I would point to the importance of the liberalization of world trade for developing countries as well as for industrialized nations.

Guidelines 10 and 11. As far as food security is concerned, the target of Guideline 10 of stocks of 18 percent of world consumption has been reached. However, increased cooperation at regional level is desirable.

The Austrian delegation is glad to see that food aid targets have been exceeded, with most of the food aid granted on emergency terms going to Africa.

I. MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord remercier le Prof. Nurul Islam pour son excellente introduction du document sur l'ajustement agricole international. Les lignes d'orientation qui ont été modifiées il y a deux ans, et en particulier rallongées, sont devenues un peu lourdes et nous nous retrouvons avec certaines répétitions dans le document. Tout de même les nouvelles lignes accordent une attention particulière aux besoins des petits exploitants, des femmes et autres groupes vulnérables et nous nous en félicitons.

Un premier commentaire concernant le paragraphe 9, je cite : "La famine en Afrique et les réactions généreuses qu'elle a suscitées auprès de donateurs ont permis pour la première fois de dépasser l'objectif de 10 millions de tonnes". J'aimerais plutôt dire "ont nécessité". Il n'y a aucune raison de se féliciter de ce triste record.

Concernant la ligne d'orientation, les pays en développement réalisent des résultats de plus en plus différents. Le paragraphe 24 met très bien le doigt sur un des points essentiels, je cite : "Dans certains pays (par exemple la Chine), l'accélération de la croissance de la production peut être facilement attribuée aux réformes de politique. A l'autre extrême, la tendance à la prolifération des plans et des stratégies alimentaires et des déclarations concernant la priorité de l'agriculture dans les décisions de politiques nationales ne s'est pas accompagnée de résultats visibles suffisants ."

L'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire nationale demande le maintien d'une certaine base de production alimentaire dans chaque pays. En Suisse, nous savons que la sécurité alimentaire a son prix. Pour assurer une production alimentaire minimale dans notre pays nous devons donc accorder à nos paysans des revenus comparables à ceux des autres secteurs, mais nous y mettons des limites. Mon pays ne produit que soixante pour cent de ses besoins alimentaires, le solde est importé. Nos importations agricoles par tête d'habitant dépassent le montant de 600 francs suisses, c'est le niveau le plus élevé de tous les pays de l'OCDE. Vu sous cet angle nous avons pratiquement le marché le plus ouvert.

Le paragraphe 55 ayant trait à la ligne d'orientation 4 nous rappelle que seulement douze pays en développement ont ratifié la Convention N° 141 du BIT relative à la liberté d'association; de même seulement 49 pays en développement ont ratifié la Convention N° 87 du BIT concernant le droit d'organiser des associations. Cependant, rappelons-nous que sans dialogue avec les populations directement concernées, leur potentiel de développement ne pourra pas être suffisamment mobilisé et le Directeur général l'a très bien dit à l'occasion du Comité de l'agriculture en mars dernier. Je cite: "Le gros de la production agricole est encore entre les mains du petit paysannat. C'est lui qui produira de quoi nourrir l'humanité". Il faudra alors l'encourager. Donc, M. le Président, quel gaspillage encore aujourd'hui! Tant de besoins, tant de travail productif disponible dans beaucoup de pays en développement et tellement d'hommes sans travail.

Le paragraphe 79 relatif à la ligne d'orientation 6 nous rappelle que c'est encore en premier lieu les produits céréaliers de base comme le blé, le riz et le maïs plutôt que le mil et le sorgho qui sont subventionnés dans de nombreux pays en développement. Alors, on peut se demander s'il ne serait pas plus avantageux pour ces pays de vendre l'aide alimentaire en blé à des prix de marché pour ensuite utiliser les recettes de ces ventes pour financer le subventionnement des aliments de base produits dans les pays pour soutenir la production locale.

Le paragraphe 86 nous rappelle l'importance des infrastructures de transport. C'est un point très essentiel car sans accès au marché les incitations à la production des meilleures politiques de prix restent vidées de leur sens.

Finalement, pour ce qui est des chiffres de l'aide extérieure à l'agriculture, davantage devrait être fait, c'est vrai. J'aimerais tout de même rappeler que les donateurs ne sont pas seuls à ne pas réaliser les objectifs ambitieux. Les pays en développement eux-mêmes n'accordent à l'agricul-

ture que 7,3 pour cent de leurs budgets et seulement 10 pour cent des investissements totaux de leur économie. C'est loin de la part de 20 à 25 pour cent du produit intérieur brut d'un bon nombre de ces pays et c'est loin également de l'objectif des pays africains de porter de 20 à 25 pour cent la part des investissements publics au secteur agricole.

R. PRINS (Canada): We should like to thank Professor Islam and his staff for the preparation of this very useful and informative document which covers in a concise manner a broad range of food-related matters. We are also appreciative of his lucid introduction. We would encourage the FAO to continue this type of reporting, to further sharpen its analyses and to continue to improve its data-base in selective areas through full cooperation by member countries.

Some of the analyses presented in this document should have drawn clearer conclusions, in our opinion. We are pleased with the wide selection of country groupings used in this report, such as in Table 1.1, with geographical and income categories, and we would encourage further developments in this regard.

The document before us underlines a series of positive and not so positive developments, as other interventions have already mentioned. We should like to just note a few of these developments, starting with the generous international response to Africa, the global and regional improvements in per capita food consumption, the overall inadequate levels of domestic investment in agriculture, the growth in protectionism, and world food security.

With regard to world food security, we believe too much emphasis in this document is being given to the global carry-over stocks of cereals at the expense of presenting other measures. The emphasis on international commodity agreements in this document distracts attention from a discussion on achieving world market stability through other means.

Broadly bringing together a number of suggestions made under the various Guidelines, as is, for example, done in another FAO publication, the Fifth World Food Survey, it is clear that coherence in a wide set of policies is required at the national level to assist and promote agricultural development and to adjust effectively to the ever-changing international situation.

To turn very briefly to some of these policies, as they are raised in the document, there is a useful discussion of the frequent ineffectiveness of national stocking policies. The document points out the areas where follow-up is required if such policies are to become an operational reality. With reference to rational production policies, we should like to see a greater use being made of the existing FAO studies on crop production potentials to address various aspects of rationally using the available natural resources at the national level. Other policies which need careful consideration would include, to name just a few, ways to increase domestic savings, export diversification, and a generally more efficient use of inputs.

We were pleased with the manner in which the results of the price policy study were drawn into the preparation of this document. We commend the Secretariat for this integrative approach. The document before us specifically raises two subjects - food subsidies and protectionism - which are also touched upon in the price policies document. We should therefore like to consolidate our comments on these subjects and refer to them now rather than on both occasions.

Some delegations have raised the questions of assumptions and methodology in the calculation of producer subsidy equivalents. We would suggest the document focus much more on the trade effects of the different policies involved. The protection subsidy equivalents while being one useful indicator, do not reflect the impact that the underlying policies have, or would have, on world prices. It is the form and not the magnitude of these PSEs that is important. The damage done to other trading countries, particularly efficient producers, might suggest that countries which are determined to maintain the protection should at least choose policies which minimize the trade impact. Canada has been concerned about this for some time, as we have sometimes experienced spillover effects of national policies on international markets. If we have been affected, we can imagine what the effects have been on other agricultural producers, particularly developing countries.

Turning briefly to the studies of trade liberalization, of which a number have been quoted, we believe the Secretariat could also have referred to studies with slightly different conclusions.

For example, the author R. Tyres, already quoted in the price policies paper, has also studied the liberalization of trade in rice and concluded that a decrease in world prices would follow from the liberalization of trade in this commodity. This conclusion is the opposite of what is suggested in the studies of other grains, and results from the combined effects of removal of positive protection in the industrialized countries and negative protection in the Asian rice-producing countries.

Canada places major importance on tackling the agricultural protection question through a new round of GATT negotiations. We have participated actively in the Committee on Trade in Agriculture of GATT. We see a new round focussing on (a) how to improve and secure access to markets; (b) how to bring subsidies affecting agricultural trade under effective international discipline and (c) how to improve the balance of rights and obligations so that agricultural trade rules may apply equally to large and small producers.

Canada's position on protectionism was clearly stated in an earlier intervention in this Commission, and I will not refer to it further.

The subject of food subsidies is a delicate one and one which has received considerable academic and operational attention. It is referred to in this document and in the study on Price Policies which will be on the agenda following our discussion of this document. On the one hand, we note the role of targetted food subsidies as a partial cushion for price increases for consumers. Hesitancy in raising prices is based in part on the effect of such price increases on poor consumers. We believe such effects have been over-stated.

To explain briefly, measured food production and consumption in developing countries typically includes only food marketed through official channels. If measured consumption occurs during a price increase, it may be erroneous to conclude that total consumption decreases by the same amount or the same percentage. The price change on the unofficial market and the consumer response to price changes can both be different from those observed on the official market.

In conclusion, the document before us is a good one and extremely informative. In looking back to the report of this agenda item of the 22nd Conference, we note in paragraph 106 of that report that the Secretariat was asked to follow up on three areas; first, the improvement of data on domestic resource flows in agriculture; second, the reduction of post-harvest losses and, thirdly, price indices. While we see evidence of these efforts in many of the reports before this Commission, we are under the impression that this work is not complete. Therefore, we suggest that the Conference report on this agenda item should contain a reference to the need to complete outstanding work.

On the subject of post-harvest losses we would like to lend support to the intervention made by the distinguished delegate of India earlier today, when he referred to the need for more work in this area as underlined in paragraph 4 of this report. Canada has provided considerable resources for work in this area through UNDP and bilateral channels.

MANIRUZZAMAN CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): Document C 85/21 prepared by the FAO Secretariat as the first monitoring report based on the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment, revised in 1983, is a commendable one. My delegation takes particular note of the excellent introduction by Dr Islam, which is very useful. As we have expressed our views on the various subjects covered by this report in appropriate fora already, our observations will agree.

This report frankly reveals that although some remarkable achievements were made by some developing countries, notably China and India, the overall position has not really been up to the level of expectations. International commodity agreements particularly with a view to safeguarding the interests of agriculturalists in the underdeveloped countries need to be rationalized vis-à-vis the present stagnating rather than deteriorating condition of the agricultural commodity prices of the underdeveloped countries.

As has been voiced quite rightly by other delegates, we find that protectionist practices by some developing countries, particularly regarding agricultural commodities, will have a negative

effect in the long run in attaining the desired growth in the agricultural sphere. This is already being felt by some developing countries whose economies are mainly dependent on this sector.

Once again, we appreciate the publication of such analytical reports by the FAO Secretariat. We hope that it will be possible to liberalize international trade and particularly to find a common point of agreement on agricultural commodity prices based on such reports. This will ensure that agricultural production in developing countries will grow significantly and in turn, will not only ensure the very survival of those countries but hopefully will allow them to improve their lot.

D. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec attention l'excellente présentation du document C 85/21 par le Professeur Islam. Dans son analyse concise et claire, le Professeur Islam nous a donné des précisions et des informations très utiles sur ce vaste sujet qui couvre les 12 lignes d'orientation et les objectifs de l'ajustement agricole international.

Il ressort de cette analyse que pour répondre aux besoins nutritionnels et à la demande alimentaire croissante des populations des pays en développement et jeter les bases d'une industrialisation et d'une diversification rapides de leurs structures économiques, les pays concernés se devaient d'accroître leur production agricole au taux annuel moyen de 4 pour cent au moins. Pour ce faire, ces pays devaient s'efforcer de rationaliser les systèmes de production en tenant compte de leurs besoins spécifiques.

Notre délégation approuve en conséquence cette étude dans son ensemble, ainsi que les 12 lignes d'orientation qui sont ses axes et qui en soi constituent autrement autant de recommandations en matière de politiques d'expansion du secteur de la production agricole dans les pays en développement.

Nous avons noté que le taux de croissance de la production alimentaire dans le monde pour l'année 1984 est globalement positif, mais aussi que pour l'Afrique et le Moyen-Orient cette croissance est négative.

C'est pour cette raison essentielle que nous pensons qu'afin de permettre aux gouvernements intéressés de mieux s'organiser en vue d'intégrer les stratégies proposées dans le contexte des plans nationaux de développement, il serait utile à l'avenir, dans la mesure du possible, de ramener les propositions d'ajustement agricole au niveau des régions, des sous-régions et même au niveau des pays.

Dans ces études, les problèmes de communications intrarégionales et de désenclavement doivent retenir notre attention.

KYO EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): First of all, my delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for its excellent work. Document C 85/21 is really useful for us. We also wish to express our thanks to Dr. Islam for his brief and concise introduction of the subject. With regard to the report, I will confine my remarks to only two points.

First of all, my delegation welcomes the fact that more attention is being paid to small farmers and to the participation in the development process of rural people, particularly women and rural youth. Furthermore, we wish to state strongly that the future activities of FAO in these matters should be strengthened with full recognition of their importance, as has been strongly suggested by other delegates in previous sessions, and with special emphasis on rural youth programmes. It is my firm belief that such focal group approaches will provide new energy sources to rural development.

Secondly, I would like to express once again my views on agricultural protectionism. First of all, within the category of usual commodity trade it may be more desirable for us to promote agricultural trade in a free and fair manner. However, it is also my firm belief that global benefit of comparative advantage in the agricultural sector cannot be fully exploited unless displaced resources are effectively transferred and utilized with greater efficiency and benefit. Therefore, I hope that the characteristics of small-farming agriculture, like that of Korea, will be fully understood by all Member Nations. As the delegate of China mentioned this morning,



small-farming agriculture needs a certain level of protectionism for its survival because of its complicated nature which has so much to do with social welfare, social stability, national food security and other associated economic concerns. For this reason, I strongly hope that wider and deeper considerations will be given to this when we look into ways and means of taking alternative action on this issue of agricultural trade.

V.M. del ANGEL GONZALES (México): Deseamos expresar, en primer lugar, nuestro agradecimiento al Dr. Islam por la presentación del tema. La delegación de Mexico apoya el documento de la Secretaría, y en relación con ello hacemos la siguiente declaración.

La crisis económica por la que atraviesan, tanto los países en desarrollo como los desarrollados, se caracteriza por presiones proteccionistas en aumento, y tensiones y conflictos en el campo de las relaciones comerciales internacionales cada vez más deterioradas.

Aun más, el crecimiento negativo y el creciente desempleo en muchos de los países se han traducido en un descenso de las exportaciones mundiales, y han dado lugar a la proliferación de barreras comerciales y técnicas que dificultan el comercio.

Por ello, la crisis del sistema comercial internacional amenaza no sólo con agravar la situación de las economías en general, sino también con continuar obstaculizando su recuperación.

Ante esta situación, señor Presidente, la evolución del comercio de los productos básicos en la esfera mundial y su perspectiva a corto plazo, se presentan desfavorables para la mayoría de los países desarrollados, principalmente por la baja creciente de los precios de exportación, reflejo a su vez de la abundante oferta de productos básicos y de materias primas agrícolas, y también debido a la retracción de la demanda generada por las fuertes presiones del servicio de la deuda exterior para dichos países.

La falta de una política racional del comercio resulta cada vez más urgente ante los actuales excesos de oferta vinculados a la falta de un crecimiento adecuado de la demanda. Por otra parte, a pesar de que América Latina en su conjunto ha aumentado sus productos de exportación agrícola, sus ingresos de divisas por ese concepto se han visto afectados por la inestabilidad de los precios prevalecientes en el mercado internacional.

Esta situación se ve agravada por el elevado proteccionismo de los mercados del mundo desarrollado, ya que impide la participación de los productos latinoamericanos, y por supuesto de los que provienen de otras regiones del mundo.

En los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea y en Estados Unidos se han adoptado políticas de subsidio interno a sus productos para mantener elevada su producción de alimentos. Esta política genera distorsiones en el orden internacional al anular las ventajas comparativas de los productos del mundo en desarrollo, y al propiciar la baja de los precios internacionales. Dichas políticas son, por tanto, perjudiciales para todos los países productores, y especialmente para los que no disponen de los medios económicos necesarios para enfrentar esa competencia.

Otro efecto provocado por la situación descrita es el de la transformación de las estructuras de producción agrícola tradicional, cuestión que no se ve adecuadamente reflejada en nuestro Informe.

Los países en desarrollo, y en aras de obtener mayores ingresos por concepto de exportaciones, han impulsado una agricultura de carácter comercial que, en la mayoría de los casos, deteriora su producción agrícola básica y aumenta el déficit alimentario.

En algunos países de Africa y de América Latina, por ejemplo, se puede advertir con toda claridad esta problemática. Ante esta situación, señor Presidente, esta Conferencia debería impulsar las medidas propuestas por los países en desarrollo en la UNCTAD, tendientes a disminuir los efectos negativos de las fluctuaciones de los precios de los productos básicos en general, y de los cereales en particular.

La delegación mexicana hace un exhorto a todos los países a que participen activamente en la aplicación de los objetivos señalados en las Resoluciones de la UNCTAD tendientes al establecimiento de convenios internacionales con cláusulas económicas que regulen el mercado internacional de los productos básicos.

Asimismo, destacamos la importancia de poner en marcha, lo más pronto posible, el Convenio Constitutivo del Fondo Común como un medio eficaz para alcanzar la estabilización de los precios de los productos básicos y la inclusión de medidas económicas.

En este sentido, exhortamos también al país que fundamentalmente se ha resistido a apoyar la constitución de este Fondo, a que rectifique su actitud en bien de la reactivación del comercio mundial, con ventajas compartidas por todos los que en él participan. Señalamos que ante la impostergable necesidad de atender los problemas de desarrollo interno y fortalecer al mismo tiempo la capacidad de los países en desarrollo para hacer frente a sus compromisos externos, resulta indispensable orientar las estrategias hacia el crecimiento económico interno. El crecimiento debe ser premisa fundamental en la superación de los problemas por los que atraviesan nuestras economías de desarrollo. En este contexto, señor Presidente, resulta vital que se respeten las normas del comercio internacional y que se fortalezcan los términos de intercambio de los países en desarrollo.

CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow morning the Secretariat will respond to some of the points raised by the delegates before we run off our discussion on this item.

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

C 85/I/PV/9

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

### NINTH MEETING NEUVIEME SEANCE NOVENA SESION

(20 November 1985)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est. ouverte à 10 heures  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 10.00 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais, si vous le permettez, commencer par une information de la part du Secrétariat qui m'a demandé: 1) de vous rappeler que ce matin en session plénière aura lieu le vote sur le budget; dans ces circonstances, il serait utile de vérifier si votre pays est représenté car il faut que le quorum soit atteint; et si vous êtes certains qu'il est représenté. Si vous n'êtes pas sûrs que votre pays soit représenté, il serait utile de vous y rendre vous-mêmes afin de le représenter; 2) la Commission III commencera ses travaux cet après-midi. Le Secrétariat m'a demandé de vous faire une annonce mais elle est en anglais, je vais donc la faire en anglais.

Statements not delivered can be inserted in the verbatim record at the request of the Chairman or of a delegation. The statement must be handed to the Chairman or the Secretary during or immediately after the meeting in which the item referred to in the statement is examined. The last item in such a statement must be indicated in a footnote in the same language.

Ce que je viens de dire en anglais c'est que si vous voulez faire, à propos d'un certain point de l'ordre du jour, une déclaration écrite, il vous faut la déposer ici au Secrétariat; vous êtes priés de le faire le jour même où ce point était sur l'ordre du jour, ou même encore pendant que ce point est encore à l'ordre du jour ou juste après. Donc, il ne faut pas attendre le jour après ou deux jours après pour remettre votre déclaration écrite.

En ce qui concerne nos travaux, je voudrais vous annoncer que le petit groupe officieux ou le groupe d'amis qui s'est réuni hier pour étudier la déclaration au sujet de l'Afrique, a pu étudier la moitié environ du texte proposé. Si vous êtes d'accord, je vous proposerai que les personnes qui se sont réunies continuent leurs travaux cet après-midi, après que le vote du budget aura eu lieu. Je vous demanderai à nouveau votre indulgence et de me permettre de m'éloigner avec eux. Je souhaite bien en avoir terminé avec le peaufinage de ce texte ce soir.

Si vous êtes d'accord avec cette procédure, nous pourrions demain entamer ici en session l'étude de ce texte et j'espère bien qu'à ce moment là il nous sera facile à tous d'avancer très vite avec l'adoption de cette importante résolution.

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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

8. Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment including Agricultural Protectionism (continued)

8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international, y compris le protectionnisme agricole (suite)

8. Informe sobre la situación de Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, incluido el Proteccionismo agrícola (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The delegations of Barbados and Iraq have requested that their written statements on this item be inserted in the verbatim record.

C. GOODING (Barbados): My delegation wishes to compliment the FAO Secretariat for the very useful and informative report, which it has prepared to facilitate discussion of this agenda item.

The report basically covers a very broad area so that there is a great deal that one can offer by way of comment. However, in view of the fact that so many delegations have already touched on the more important aspects of the report, I shall confine myself to making just a few brief remarks.

My delegation feels that the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment provide a sound basis for the development of world agriculture. However, we contend that such

development can only materialize if the developed and developing world are prepared to adopt a spirit of true mutual cooperation.

It is noted that for the Third UN Development Decade the average annual rate of increase in food and agricultural production for developing countries has been set at 4 percent. If this level of increase is to be realized, however, developing countries will have to increase investment in the agricultural sector substantially. Unfortunately, this will not be easy. This is so since many developing economies are under severe pressure and indeed have been for some time now. Many of these countries have in fact had to limit public sector expenditure in order to control a recurring current account deficit so as to avoid the collapse of their economies.

Consequently, it is most unlikely that these countries will be able to increase investment in the agricultural sector from domestic resources. External financing will therefore have to be made available to the developing countries in increasing amounts. That is why my delegation considers it a great disappointment that the growth rate of official commitments to agriculture has been trending downwards. It is our view that this is a most undesirable situation, which is likely to undermine all efforts of realizing true food security.

It is no secret that many developing countries are heavily dependent on a few traditional agricultural export commodities such as sugar and bananas for the generation of a major proportion of their foreign exchange earnings. I may add that the foreign exchange thus generated is crucial for the financing of imported goods and services to facilitate economic development. Recent years have seen much instability in international markets. Declining prices, currency exchange rate fluctuations, increasing competition and other factors have all combined to depress foreign exchange earnings from the traditional agricultural exports with disastrous effects on the balance of payments position of affected countries. In such situations, the implications for agricultural development and, by extension, world food security, are clear.

More positive steps should therefore be made by the international community to promote stability in world markets. Towards this end, greater understanding will have to be shown by both exporting and importing countries in future negotiations on International Commodity Agreements so as to facilitate arrival at effective trading arrangements. Nothing short of the most positive attitude by all parties involved will suffice.

In conclusion, may I say that the Barbados Delegation welcomes the fact that for the first time since its inception by the World Food Conference in 1974, food aid in cereals will surpass the minimum annual target of 10 million tons. We believe, however, that while such aid offers temporary relief to the hungry and suffering, and by so doing provides some kind of breathing space, it will not provide any lasting solution to the problem. We are satisfied that the real solution lies in the removal of the basic causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Indeed we, like many other delegations, are of the view that the development of agricultural sectors of developing countries, particularly low-income and food-deficit countries, through implementation of appropriate food production and distribution programmes and projects, offer the only lasting solution.

We therefore urge that the international community give priority to the Guidelines when addressing the question of resource allocation. 1/

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): The Iraqi delegation has presented its comments in the document regarding agricultural adjustment, with a request that they be added to the Conference documents.

Mr. Chairman, we are profoundly grateful to Dr Nuru Al Islam for reviewing the document on agricultural adjustment. We would like, however, to put forward a few comments regarding the methods therein indicated.

1. Small farmers in Iraq have access, both financially and technically, to modern technologies through state support. In this context, agricultural extension and training help small farmers and

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1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim Records on request.

peasants acquire more knowledge and greater ability in the use of various agricultural machinery and technologies, with the aim of ensuring their proper use in the lands allotted to them. The Government also rents modern agricultural equipment to farmers who do not own similar equipment.

2. There are in Iraq numerous outlets for advanced technologies and discoveries to reach farmers, mainly through training courses and extension services. Therefore the gap between research and extension has been narrowed and the farmer has been vastly benefited from the application of scientific research results.

3. There are special agricultural extension and training units in all governorates in Iraq. Their activities include the task of integrating rural women as active participants in agricultural production and in recognizing their important role. Women are active participants in most extension programmes and training courses.

4. There is also a popular organization - the General Federation of Iraqi Women - whose membership is open to all Iraqi and Arab women who may wish to participate in its activities. Iraqi women are also entitled to join farmers' cooperatives and to possess agricultural land. Female members in these cooperatives now total 25 254.

The concept of underprivileged women does not apply to Iraq because our laws ensure equality in rights and duties for all citizens and all segments of society, men and women alike. Similarly an employed rural woman is entitled, upon retirement, to agricultural land for the purpose of investment.

5. Iraq has a special experience in the field of rural youth programmes. The goal of these programmes is:

- (a) to ensure that school curricula are production-oriented and that special lessons on agricultural development are provided.
- (b) to establish a specialized center for farmers' children, to provide annual training and extension programmes for them, to prepare them for work in mechanized agriculture, and to direct agricultural activities in general.

Every rural school was given an area of 5 Donums (1 Donum = 2 500 m<sup>2</sup>) for extension and productive field to provide the students with necessary training and sustained involvement in agriculture.

A study has been undertaken to determine the possibility of the Agricultural Co-operative Bank granting loans to rural students who complete their courses in the Training Center of farmers' children. This is to enable them to establish maintenance workshops for agricultural machines and tools in the rural areas with the aim of assisting agricultural cooperatives and agricultural activities in general.

Finally, we believe that trade barriers in the face of exports of agricultural products from the developing countries should be eliminated and doors opened for them. Moreover assistance should be provided to improve storage and marketing procedures in developing countries to prevent losses of such products, since the loser here is not only the producing country, but the world at large.

We also support the guidelines in this document. 1/

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous propose, pour ne pas perdre de temps, que l'on en termine maintenant avec le point 8 en demandant au Secrétariat de donner ses conclusions et de répondre aux questions posées afin de pouvoir passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour qui est le 7.3 "Etude des politiques de prix agricoles" document C 85/19. Avant de passer à cela, je voudrais avoir confirmation de votre accord pour ce qui concerne cette idée. Y a-t-il quelqu'un qui ne soit pas d'accord? Si cela est le cas, qu'il me le signale. Ce n'est pas le cas? Je vous en remercie vraiment, car cela nous permettra d'avancer beaucoup plus vite avec nos points de l'ordre du jour. Je passe maintenant la parole au Professeur Islam.

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1/Statement inserted in the Verbatim Record on request.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I thank distinguished delegates for their wide-ranging comments yesterday on the progress report on Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustments. As distinguished delegates very correctly noted, the Guidelines are very comprehensive and broad in terms of their coverage, and the length of the document, being what it is - already it is quite big - does not permit the Secretariat to give the kind of detailed information including statistical tables to corroborate each of the statements made in the report. Nonetheless, I will take up some of the most important items and questions raised in the debate yesterday.

One issue which came up with repeated references and comments was the subject of producer subsidy equivalents. A number of distinguished delegates wanted to know the sources of data, the elements which are included in the estimation of the subsidy equivalent, and why the estimates presented by the FAO Secretariat are different from those, which are estimated by the OECD Secretariat.

In this connection, the distinguished delegate of the Netherlands was correct in supposing that the measures taken into account in estimating producer subsidy equivalents are limited to domestic support and trade measures specifically affecting the commodities listed in the table. They do include a number of specific measures mentioned by the Observer of the EEC, such as transport subsidies, tariffs, quotas, and export credits wherever applicable. They exclude certain general support measures which are not easily attributable to individual commodities; examples are, subsidized use of water and industrial taxation allowances. These may account for some of the differences in our own estimates and those of the OECD Secretariat. Although we do not have access to the OECD estimates as yet, we hope we will have in the course of time, and also the methodology and data used by them.

Also, if we understand them correctly, the OECD estimates cover only the period 1979 to 1981. Our own estimates are periodically updated and revised on a biennial basis for use in the various documents on International Agricultural Adjustments. The approach used was set out ten years ago in a great deal of detail, in fact in a 140-page document presented to the FAO Conference in 1975. A similar table to that presented in this document was presented to Conferences in the past, two monitoring reports in the past two Conferences.

The Committee on Commodity Problems also considered the estimates of producer subsidy equivalents at its last two sessions. In 1983 the Committee on Commodity Problems noted the work of FAO in identifying and quantifying the subsidy equivalent of agricultural support and productive measures affecting producers and consumers, and in assessing the impact of such measures on commodity trade. The Committee in general agreed that these targets should continue to be improved upon where feasible so as to provide more reliable indicators for monitoring the changing incidence of support levels. Of course, we shall be pursuing this matter in cooperation with the OECD Secretariat to take into account as far as possible the comments made by distinguished delegates yesterday, and also before in the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The data in fact summarized the extent to which producers would need to be compensated if the various specific support measures for the commodities concerned were to be removed. They had thus taken into account changes in policy measures, which occurred from time to time. We would be happy to discuss the detailed background material with distinguished delegates, and welcome any estimates, which they may have prepared for their own countries.

Questions have also been raised as to why the Secretariat document did not deal with the growth of imports of lesser-developed countries and the EEC from developing countries, since a measure of low-level protectionism as far as the developing countries are concerned is being practiced in these countries. In other words, it has been suggested that the growth itself is an indicator of absence of a low level of protectionism. While the intensity of import restrictions does affect import volume, we are not quite sure that volume of imports is an indicator of the level of import restrictions. Firstly, a growth in value of imports can take place even with increasing restrictionism. That increase in income from imports can be for all kinds of commodities, including agricultural commodities. Imports can stay the same or even increase with a given level of restrictionism. Moreover, one has to analyze not only the value of imports, but the volume of imports. Secondly, there is the question what kind of imports? Thirdly, from which source? - We cannot quite see how just the value of imports as such can be an indicator of the level of protectionism.

Questions have been raised that there has been a lot of duplication between the document on agricultural adjustment, the document presented earlier on the State of Food and Agriculture, and the document submitted for the next item on the agenda, Pricing Policies. Yes, to some extent the same issues have been covered this year especially. But I would like to remind delegates that this is so at every conference; there is overlapping of various documents. This was especially so this year because the pricing policy document discusses some of the issues discussed in the document on agricultural adjustment, as distinguished delegates will recall when this document was submitted to the Committee on Agriculture, which had a short statement and analysis of the problems of protectionism in developing countries. However, we were asked by the distinguished delegates to elaborate in great detail on this issue, distinguishing between developing countries, and various groups of developing countries. We shall discuss that in the next item. To that extent, the petition, as it appears, has been requested, in fact, by the members of the Committee on Agriculture, as far as the pricing policy document is concerned.

Secondly, even though, for example, one or two tables appear to have been repeated in both the documents, the analysis is not the same. The framework of analysis is different, and some of the consequences discussed in the two documents are not the same, because the context in which they are discussed is different. Of course, we do coordinate this duplication to some extent in these documents, and this time it could not be avoided. The state of food and agriculture takes only an annual view of the changes in the situation. This year we have taken a longer-term view because of the review of the international development strategy, which is under way.

Now questions are asked this year as to why the document has not produced figures on the nutritional situation in various developing countries, or groups of countries. For example, one question was, why was the distribution of countries by calories per capita not compared to the calory needs, as has been done in previous sessions of the Conference? Distinguished delegates may have already received the Fifth World Food Survey, which was distributed during this Conference. Those of you who have had the chance to look at it will have seen that the methods and the data, on the basis of which the new estimates have been made in the Fifth World Food Survey on the status of under-nutrition in developing countries, are different from the past ones. The estimation in the past of calory needs was made on the basis of the entire population of a nation, on the basis of a moderate level of activity. But according to the figures that we have presented in the Fifth World Survey, the estimates of calory requirements are based on an assumed minimum level of activity. Therefore, the calory requirements assume an estimate on the basis of a minimum level of required activity and could not have been the basis for comparing with calory supplies per capita. This will be highly misleading. In the past we used moderate levels of activity; in fact, actual levels of activity. In 1981, when the expert committee of FAO/WHO decided on the energy and protein requirements, the decision was to estimate requirements on the basis of an actual level of activity, but this actual level of activity has not been estimated. We are undertaking surveys and studies to gather data on the actual levels of activity of rural populations in developing countries. Until that time we shall not be able to compare the new estimates of energy requirements with energy supplies. That is why we have not undertaken this comparison.

However, I can inform you as to the new findings of the Fifth World Food Survey, which you may have seen already. There has been an increase in the number of under-nourished populations in the developing world, excluding China and other centrally-planned economies of Asia, from 325 million in 1969-71, to 335 million by one method, because we have produced two alternative estimates based upon two different methods. However, with the second method the number of under-nourished has gone up from 472 million in 1969-71, to 494 million in 1979-81. According to both the alternative estimates, there has been an increase in the number of the under-nourished population. That is the important fact to note. But as a percentage of total population, there has been a decline over the last decade, from 19 percent to 15 percent in one case, and 28 to 23 percent in another case.

Questions are asked as to what the Secretariat has done on three issues, which were raised in the last document: one, resource flows in agriculture; two, post-harvest losses; and three, price data.

On the first one, what improvement has been made in our work in resource flows into agriculture since the last Conference? On external resource flows to agriculture we have now a computer bank containing data on commitments of external resources for capital loans and grants. Since 1974 it has been expanded to include detailed information on disbursement, as against commitment. So we are now collecting data both on commitments as well as on disbursement.



Secondly, we have been trying to collect data from the non-OECD countries. Most of our resource data is basically the DAC in OECD. We are trying to improve coverage of our data by sending questionnaires to non-OECD countries which are not yet covered in our data bank. So as we collect this data we shall have a more universal coverage of external assistance to agriculture.

We are also engaged in preparations to include technical assistance loans and grants in this data bank as well.

As far as domestic resource flow to agriculture is concerned, our work is confined to public expenditure on agriculture, on which we have already published a preliminary study, and the data has been given in earlier reports. We have now prepared a handbook which hopefully will assist the member countries in setting up their own national data collection and analyses of public expenditure on agriculture.

In cooperation with the World Bank, we are also collecting data to monitor external private lending to agriculture. This year you may have noted in the document on the state of food and agriculture that we have provided some data on this subject.

With regard to price data, we may have to say more during the discussion on the next item on the agenda.

The most difficult subject we had to grapple with in the preparation of our document was the lack of adequate and reliable statistics on agricultural prices at a national level. Learning from our experience in dealing with this problem in the preparation of this document, we are now engaged in improving the way in which we can collect more reliable data on prices and analyze it more efficiently.

On post-harvest losses, we have given you some analysis and information on this subject. We shall continue to do more on this in the future. We are grateful to the distinguished delegates for some additional information or correction provided relating to their own respective countries. For example, we have taken note of Japan's suggestion that in our treatment of the quota system on beef we have not been quite accurate in not stating clearly that the quota is allocated on a global basis. In the case of the United States, we have taken note of their recent changes in GSP, that it is non-reciprocal, and the way in which it is treated even though it is non-reciprocal.

Thirdly, we have also taken note of the suggestion by the distinguished delegate of Burkina Faso and the clarification she has provided on the recent legislation regarding the improvement and the guarantee of land rights.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous pouvons remercier M. Islam pour la longue réponse qu'il nous a donnée; j'espère que nombreux parmi vous ont pu noter ce qu'il a dit. Il est évident que la bataille pour avoir des données statistiques valables est parfois une chose difficile et nous comprenons avec lui en ce domaine. Encore une fois merci M. Islam pour les informations complémentaires que vous nous avez données.

Je vous propose maintenant de passer à la discussion du point suivant à savoir le point 7.3: Etude des politiques de prix agricoles: document C 85/19.

Je demande maintenant à M. Islam de présenter l'introduction du Secrétariat sur ce point.

- 7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)
- 7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)
- 7. Situación alimentaria y, agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)
- 7.3 Study of Agricultural Price Policies
- 7.3 Etude des politiques de prix agricoles
- 7.3 Estudio sobre políticas de precios agrícolas

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The Secretariat paper for the item C 85/19, Agricultural Price Policies, deals with the subject which has come into

great prominence recently. The document draws substantially on the agricultural experiences of developing member countries, especially as reviewed by each of the four regional conferences in 1984. A provisional version of the paper was discussed by the 8th Session of COAG in March 1985 which made a number of suggestions for further improvement. The present document is an up-dated and expanded version of the COAG paper.

The Director-General, as you recall, decided to undertake this study first because agricultural prices are one of the key determinants of agricultural development and of the adequacy of food consumption; secondly because of the difficulties, which were - and still are - widely experienced by countries in establishing effective policies in this field.

The present paper endeavors to fulfill the last three objectives, particularly through the identification and analysis of key issues and options in price policy and by the presentation of data on the changing extent of price bias in agriculture.

The scope of the paper is chiefly that of the developing countries. But price policies are not made in a vacuum. The problems which they must tackle - combating price instability and uncertainty and adverse market trends, improving producer incentives, moderating impacts of high or rising food prices on the consumption of the very poor - all these are influenced by international trade conditions and not only by domestic circumstances. In accordance with the request of the Committee on Agriculture and Council, we have extended the scope of the paper to include, but somewhat more briefly, more attention to price policies in developed countries.

Our lengthy experience with price policies do point to some lessons of value in other countries. I must, of course, draw the attention of distinguished delegates to the fact that, in a necessarily summary treatment, as given in this document, important details tend to be obscured.

One practical problem met in the preparation of the paper is the inadequacy of price data. Our experience confirms that this is one of the areas of most acute statistical deficiencies. Therefore, a great deal of the time and resources in the whole study were devoted to compiling and checking, with the cooperation of numerous national and international institutions, comparable price and related statistics.

The paper before you is a substantial one and I will only point to some of its highlights.

In the first place, domestic and international prices for agricultural products, real prices, rose over most of the 1970s. Then, as we all know only too well, from the late seventies and in the early years of this decade, international prices fell heavily. Price changes varied considerably among countries and commodities but in 1981-83, despite those price falls, producer and international real price levels for cereals and export crops of developing countries were either above or equal to those at the start of the 1970s. Retail food prices were about 10 percent higher.

Secondly, African farmers fared worse than farmers elsewhere in the developing world as regards prices of both cereals and, especially, export crops.

Thirdly, there was widespread price bias against agriculture in developing countries. This downward price bias has been more pronounced for export crops than for basic foods and it was particularly marked in a number of African countries. In the early years of the 1980s there was widespread lessening of adverse price bias. While this to some extent simply reflected falls in international prices, in every region producer prices did rise relatively to falling international prices and almost half the countries studied in this document raised the absolute level of producer prices for cereals.

This change is indicative of the much greater attention, which began to be paid to agricultural prices in the first half of the 1980s and to the need for producer incentives.

National price policies had to cope with the impacts of a high degree of instability in commodity prices on international markets. Latin American and a number of African countries were confronted with particularly unstable export prices. This commodity price instability and uncertainty, coupled with depressed international markets in recent years, increases the need for national agricultural price policies and adds appreciably to the difficulties in applying them effectively.

Countries use a wide variety of measures in their price policies. In developing countries, government purchase and subsequent release of part of production is a frequent means of keeping prices within target levels. Trade in agricultural products is usually subject to controls, or is undertaken by parastatal bodies. Governments intervene widely not only in pricing and marketing of farmers' output but also in that of agricultural inputs and in retail consumer prices.

The paper identifies some nine major issues in formulating and implementing price policies in developing market economies. They are listed in Part II of the Table of Contents on its cover page.

One is the macro-economic links of agricultural prices. The interdependence of agricultural prices with the economy as a whole has been given too little attention. Adverse terms of trade in the agricultural sector often caused by over-valued exchange rates or administered lower prices for agriculture typify how the needs of agriculture have been widely overlooked in broader policy decisions.

Decisions on support or intervention price levels - and the criteria underlying these decisions - lie at the heart of agricultural price policy. We think that no single criteria by itself is adequate. There are strong arguments for giving more weight to international price trends as a criterion although this does not mean that domestic prices should be the full equivalent of international prices, particularly when they are seriously depressed because of widespread subsidies. While cost of production must always be an influence on decisions as to price support or intervention levels, undue reliance on this criterion can lead to prices falling badly out of line with basic supply/demand conditions. It is vitally important that policy should result in a price, which will really be an incentive to farmers, small as well as large.

Regarding the long-standing controversy in agricultural policy concerning the roles which can appropriately be given to input subsidies and output price support, there is no valid universal answer. When a more rapid adoption of an improved and available technology is desirable or when international prices suddenly and probably temporarily soar, subsidies may be justified. Input subsidies are, however, difficult to implement effectively and equitably, and experience points to the general superiority of output price incentives.

A fundamental issue is how to reconcile producer and consumer interests in food pricing. There are two principles which any policy action must respect. Firstly, in the long run, consumer food prices for the bulk of output must cover the costs, including an adequate return to the farmer. Secondly, some food subsidies are likely to be essential to safeguard the nutrition of the very poor. But they must be strictly targeted for that purpose.

Questions of equity within agriculture are another issue. An increase in producer prices will directly benefit large farmers to a greater extent, proportionately and absolutely, than smaller farmers. The same is likely to be true of subsidies on inputs. It is easy to say that price policies should take account of the circumstances of the poorer members of the agricultural population but the practical means of doing so are very limited. Some do exist and must be exploited to the fullest.

-Another issue, really a set of issues, which the paper draws attention to is the administration of price policies. The best formulated of policies are useless, indeed they may be actually damaging, if they cannot be carried out effectively.

We have tried to distill the essence of experience of the countries with formulating and applying agricultural price policies in the form of a number of practical suggestions, and they are given in a "box" in paragraph 329.

While the document before you is basically oriented to developing countries, we have also referred briefly to price policies in developed countries. They have a long history of intervention in agricultural prices. Although their policy instruments vary widely and are still in the course of evolution, a widespread result has been the protection national agricultures and the raising of domestic prices of several commodities or maintaining them at relatively high levels. A number of independent research studies point to reduced international prices and greater instability as consequences of developed country price policies, supported by import restrictions or export subsidies.

The general result of protection has been adverse to an orderly and stable expansion of world trade even though food availabilities at consequently lower prices and on concessional terms have benefited many developing and some developed importing countries, at least in the shorter run.

Although the public ownership of the means of production of much of the agricultural sector is a fundamental difference in comparison with market economies, price policies under the two systems do share a number of issues. One which has come into increasing prominence recently, is the need for prices to be flexible enough to reflect changing demand and supply conditions. Socialist countries, while still retaining the basic form of a managed economy, are making innovations in agricultural pricing and marketing in order to raise producer incentives and to increase efficiency,

There can be no general blueprint. Nevertheless, there is a good deal of common ground in the broad economic and social conditions of developing countries and in the nature of the issues bearing on price policy decisions.

Your discussion of the subject of price policies is most timely. This is undoubtedly a time of change as regards these policies in most countries, not only developing countries, to allow prices to reflect to a greater extent than before underlying trends in supply and demand, internationally and nationally, while at the same time taking safeguards against pricing food out of the reach of the very poor. We still have far to go before reaching this goal.

Finally, I should confirm that the Director-General intends to give whatever assistance he can to countries in their difficult but essential and rewarding task of improving their food and agricultural price policies. Examples of action envisaged by FAO are set out in the document before you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for this clear introduction. May I now ask the Member countries who want to take the floor on this point to give their names.

V.M. DEL ANGEL GONZALES (México): Con su permiso, Sr. Presidente, la delegación mexicana felicita al Dr. Islam por su brillante introducción al debate de las políticas de precios agrícolas. Tema difícil sin duda, pero apreciamos los importantes avances que se observan en el documento C 85/19, en relación con los propósitos que motivaron el estudio.

Las lecciones que se derivan de las experiencias analizadas son claras y concisas. Una de ellas, adecuadamente destacada, es la que se refiere al carácter particular que adoptan las políticas de precios en cada país, en atención a sus propios objetivos de desarrollo y a las circunstancias que enfrentan.

Es éste, a nuestro juicio, el aspecto más importante que no debemos perder de vista, pues nos obliga, en consecuencia, a realizar análisis detallados de nuestras realidades nacionales, para valorar los alcances y limitaciones de los precios, como instrumentos de política, y adecuar sus modalidades operativas. Este reconocimiento no invalida las orientaciones generales del estudio, ya que es incuestionable su utilidad analítica para la formulación y aplicación de las políticas de precios alimentarios y agrícolas.

Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, agradece el tratamiento que se le dio a algunas de las recomendaciones que hicimos en el período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura en marzo del presente año. No obstante, Sr. Presidente, deseamos reiterar nuestra llamada de atención sobre las distorsiones que genera la participación transnacional en el comercio y la transformación de productos agropecuarios; sobre la importancia de los sistemas de intercambio compensado de productos o de trueque entre países para superar la falta de divisas sobre la eliminación del proteccionismo contra nuestros productos de exportación y la necesidad de adoptar las medidas complementarias para orientar la investigación y el desarrollo tecnológico hacia los productos de consumo popular.

Adicionalmente, enfatizamos la importancia estratégica que tiene la productividad para los propósitos de estabilización de los precios y de desarrollo rural. Es bien sabido que en los períodos de inflación creciente, como los que viven la mayoría de nuestros países en desarrollo, el aumento

sostenido que sufren los costos de producción sólo pueden resolverse por dos vías: el incremento de los precios finales que, sin embargo, retroalimentaría el proceso inflacionario, o bien, el incremento de la productividad, sin duda que no son soluciones yuxtapuestas.

Son la productividad y el cambio tecnológico los factores relevantes, puesto que se asocian además, como se sabe, al aumento en el producto, el ingreso, y el bienestar social en general.

La política de precios debe hacer atractiva la adopción del cambio tecnológico entre los productores medianos y marginados; pero no debe generar ganancias extraordinarias para los productores modernos, ni tampoco solapar ineficiencias productivas. El costo económico y social de esos extremos no lo pueden seguir soportando nuestras debilitadas economías. Lograr el delicado equilibrio que eso significa debe ser una preocupación permanente de quienes toman las decisiones en materia de precios agrícolas.

El mejor camino es no pretender obtener demasiado del instrumento precios, sino ubicarlo en su potencialidad real y complementarlo con otros instrumentos de promoción y estímulo de la productividad y la producción.

Tengamos presente que en las estructuras productivas agrícolas de nuestros países prevalecen con mucho las producciones de tipo campesino y éstas son relativamente insensibles a los estímulos de los precios, porque no están insertos en los mecanismos del mercado. Su móvil no es la ganancia, sino la sobrevivencia. En consecuencia, su riesgo es mayor, aunque no se pueda medir en términos monetarios. Aún más, para estos pequeños productores los incrementos en los precios de sus productos pueden resultar contraproducentes, porque tendrán que comprar más caros los escasos bienes que adquieren, incluso su propio producto.

Sin embargo, son estas pequeñas unidades de producción y las medianas las que tienen mayor posibilidad de incrementar sus remanentes, con un costo relativamente menor. Para ello es necesario compartir los riesgos del cambio tecnológico y no permitir que el mercado asigne de manera autónoma los escasos medios productivos de que disponemos.

Bajo esta consideración, no puede admitirse a ultranza la supuesta influencia modernizadora de los precios. Por sí solos son un instrumento limitado y pueden inclusive reproducir tendencias perniciosas

Sr. Presidente, en el documento analizado queda claro que la política de precios es un instrumento útil de corto plazo, que no debe manejarse aislado, que su nivel debe tender a compatibilizar distintos objetivos de desarrollo; que los precios internos deben mantenerse en estrecha relación con los internacionales; que deben superarse las distorsiones del proceso de comercialización y que la administración de los precios regulados debe ser eficiente y ágil, entre otras recomendaciones igualmente útiles.

Estos aspectos, Sr. Presidente, que en muchas ocasiones se constituyen en severas restricciones, al socaire de la política de precios como instrumento de desarrollo rural integral, se agravan cuando los insertamos en la problemática financiera y de comercio internacional, que enfrentan los países en desarrollo.

En efecto, las dificultades para recuperarnos de la recesión, el problema de la balanza comercial, el peso de la deuda y su carga financiera, el deterioro de los valores monetarios y la creciente inflación y sobre todo la continua presión de los organismos financieros internacionales por imponer a nuestros países políticas contraccionistas y un sospechoso neoliberalismo económico, atenúan considerablemente la importancia de los precios en la promoción del desarrollo social.

Ante esas circunstancias, Sr. Presidente, consideramos que la intervención de los gobiernos en la normatividad del conjunto de instrumentos de política y en particular de los precios, principalmente de productos agrícolas básicos, es condición fundamental para las políticas de seguridad alimentaria y de desarrollo rural.

N. HINTIKKA (Finland): First of all, my delegation wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the Secretariat for this interesting study. Never before, perhaps, have agricultural price policies been examined in such a comprehensive manner from the point of view of developing countries.

We understand that the lack of information and insufficient data in many instances have created difficult problems. However, the Secretariat has overcome these defects and the study largely covers all major agricultural price policy measures and mechanisms. The impact of various systems are analyzed and several problems brought out. Also, the main results are presented in a concise way. This study is a notable attempt to give guidance on how to organize price and market conditions in favour of both food producers and consumers.

On many occasions Finland has stressed that the family farm is a cornerstone of the agricultural sector. More attention should be paid, especially in developing countries, to small family farms. This concerns agricultural policy in general and price policy in particular. A large part of agricultural output comes from small-scale and poor producers. Their interests should be taken into account in various actions directed to agriculture. Otherwise, all efforts in seeking long-lasting solutions to the food problem will fail. We are pleased to note that throughout the report discussed now this standpoint is an integral part of the analysis.

The main objective of price policies is to give incentives to producers. In spite of such a clear target, developing countries face several major obstacles in their path in creating necessary incentives. One of those obstacles is so-called urban bias, which certainly is a very sensitive issue because the interests of the politically strong minority of urban consumers and less influential rural population strike against each other. But somehow this problem must be solved. We feel that in order to increase food production and improve the terms of trade in favour of the rural areas, the needs of farmers have to be put ahead of the immediate needs of the distribution system and the consumers in pricing decisions.

Another unfortunately too often found obstacle is costly and inefficient marketing of farm inputs and outputs. Severe fluctuations in domestic production have led most governments to develop some form of stabilization arrangement. Public agencies are established with the intention that they should be commercially self-supporting. For several reasons, this has not been achieved, and these parastatals must cover their operating costs either by cutting prices paid to producers or by claiming support from the Treasury. These and many other obstacles to price policies are very well described in the report.

Taken altogether, several improvements are found in the study as compared to the version presented to the Committee of Agriculture last March. However, a better balance in dealing with various countries' influence on world markets would still be necessary in the report. In many connections throughout the study, the idea is given that developed countries are responsible for market instability, increased price fluctuations and low world market prices.

We agree that, generally speaking, the developed countries have an important role in determining the international environment for price policies. At the same time, it must be stressed that the developed countries differ considerably in economic power and national policies. Their influence on world markets is not uniform. Many developed countries do not want large world market shares for their agricultural products. As an example, my own country tries to limit her food production to meet only the needs of domestic consumption. Such production, comprising only an extremely small portion of the world total, cannot have detrimental effects on world markets. Hence, we hope that more analysis of these aspects will be incorporated in the final report.

G. NIELSEN (Denmark): In congratulating the Secretariat for an excellent report, I would take the opportunity to emphasize that these are exactly the kinds of studies that we should like to be given priority by the FAO Secretariat in the future. Through the formulation of such practical and down to earth advice as contained in this report, FAO can provide extremely valuable guidance not only to member countries in formulating their agricultural strategies, but also to the developing assistance community, inside or outside FAO, in creating the conceptual framework for agricultural development projects.

I should like to refer to the Joint Nordic Statement made by Sweden in COAG, the Committee on Agriculture, where reference was made to the Nordic dialogue with the SADCC countries. It was stated that prices were one among several other important elements in a very complex structure of incentives that can stimulate agricultural production in the developing countries.

I should like to make a few comments on the report itself. As already stated, we highly appreciate that the advice of the report is down to earth and that it emphatically warns against being over-ambitious, i.e. pursuing too many goals with too few means. Basically, reliance on free market forces will always be the most effective price policy. A price policy should issue clear

signals that are understandable to all farmers, not least to the small ones. In this context, I should like to stress the importance of the creation of, and participation by, powerful farmers' organizations in price and market policies with the aim of establishing balance with, but certainly not dominance over, consumer interests in urban areas.

Although the advice of the report is down to earth, it might be appropriate to issue a slight warning against interpreting it as encouragement to be rather regulatory in market management and thereby restrict the play of free market forces. Too much regulation normally entails problems with time lags and distortion of relative prices, as there is an imminent risk of creating unwieldy bureaucracies. A general preparedness in order to buffer excessive price fluctuations may, however, be appropriate in order to protect the weaker segments of the population, be it small farmers or poor consumers. Permissiveness in front of very wide price fluctuations may be of a speculative nature and may also undermine people's respect for the functions of free markets. It requires an administrative capacity to strike the right balance between laissez faire and interventionism. The international community might, in the shorter run, assist and supplement developing countries in administering their price policies, but, we fully support the report when it underlines that, in the longer run, it will be indispensable to create the necessary administrative capacity and structures to tackle national market and price policies. No one can claim to be a world champion in the field of price policies. The developed countries are also struggling to establish and update appropriate price policies. It is therefore useful to make these current policies subject to critical reviews, provided that this policy fosters open dialogues in the international communities. One-sided criticisms may, on the other hand, cut off such dialogue and push people back into the trenches.

In the EEC, of which Denmark is a member country, we may see some tendencies unilaterally to attack our price policies. We fully support the EEC Commission's proposal for re-establishment of a reasonable balance in the criticism of developed countries. After all, the EEC is and will probably remain, the world's greatest importer of agricultural products.

In conclusion, I would repeat our general support for these kinds of studies because we believe that this contributes fundamentally to the formulation and updating of national or regional agricultural strategies. We have noted that quite a few developing countries feel a bit saturated with UN agricultural analyses. We should not concentrate on implementation, they say. Indeed, Mr Chairman, but we all appreciate the danger of making analyses an excuse for the existence of bureaucracies. We maintain, however, that, without general background analysis and identification of issues, we shall more or less fail to have the necessary substantial exchange of views on issues which constitute the necessary, although not always sufficient, basis for implementation. The analyses have constantly to be updated and adjusted to new and foreseen developments. Therefore this kind of analysis must remain a hard core task of the FAO.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): My delegation welcomes this paper and congratulates Professor Nurul Islam for his lucid introduction to it. This agenda item was presented to the 13th African Regional Conference in Harare in 1984, and views were expressed in that meeting. We are happy to note that most of these views are reflected in the final text presented to us. My delegation wishes to stress some points, however.

Pricing policy should be viewed as not only one of the key determinants of agricultural production, but also as a key determinant of food consumption, both in developed and developing countries. The document presented before us reports on the experience of the developing countries. There is a need for FAO to carry out a further study on the pricing policy of the developed countries and come up with a useful correlation. It is only after this is done that the problems confronting the weaker nations regarding agricultural trade may be properly appraised.

Pricing policy varies from country to country. However, a common problem exists in the developing countries, namely the problem of drawing up appropriate and implementable price policies. The governments of developing countries are confronted with the problems of both the producer and the consumer. Producers in developing regions are producing only when they find that they can sell their products. At the same time, the consumers, mostly those living in urban areas, are looking for cheaper food items, which invariably, for those who are on salary, take a lot out of their take-home earnings.

The government, on behalf of the producer, is trying to find markets for the national products, but unfortunately, as we know today, the developing countries cannot sell their products in the international markets for the reasons stated in the document. Therefore the government has to make complex decisions affecting the producer and the consumer as to which one to subsidize if production is to continue for a long time.

In the case of producers, the government tries to do this in the form of input subsidies. For the consumer, the government tries to impose a ceiling price on food items. For cash crops, the government tries to maintain minimum guaranteed prices. The whole set of decisions is so complex that the pricing system hardly works in the developing countries.

As I stated earlier, the difficulties confronting developing countries in selling their agricultural raw materials are complicated by the debt burden, and now the conditions imposed by creditors, particularly the IMF, to force countries either to devalue their currencies or to remove food subsidies. These measures are certainly hurting the developing countries. These decisions at international levels have their long-term repercussions in the developing countries where we cannot guarantee high production levels in the future. Imagine if the developing countries were faced with the problem of the United States of America, where agricultural products, particularly food crops, were piled up and the government had to come with its programme of payment in kind to set aside agricultural land out of production. If this situation should occur in developing countries, governments cannot intervene to keep the farmers producing for the future, but the farmers would instead be forced out of a job. That would not only have repercussions on the respective national economies, but would create a lot of unemployment because people would have to desert agriculture. They cannot just produce and see their products thrown away.

Therefore, if the objectives of the pricing policies are to be achieved, then international agricultural trade should be adjusted. There is a need to develop international, regional and sub-regional marketing systems to make international agricultural trade more efficient. For the developing countries, particularly in Africa, there is a need to encourage triangular transactions to dispose of surpluses. We have been told that during this growing season Malawi, Kenya and Zimbabwe have a large stock of grains which they cannot sell unless some sort of triangular transaction can be adopted, particularly by the eight donor countries. Better prices for agricultural commodities should also be offered for the products of developing countries.

With these few comments, we wholeheartedly support all the suggestions contained in the document. We hope that they can be implemented at the country level as well as at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.

We welcome the offer for FAO to assist the developing countries in formulating and administering their agricultural price policy. Apart from the lack of capacity to formulate an appropriate pricing policy, developing countries lack the administrative capacity to implement it. If FAO can continue with its study and find a way to assist the developing countries, surely this is a step in the right direction.

E.G. MOYO (Tanzania): The study conducted by FAO to review the agricultural pricing policy in both developed and developing countries, at the same time to identify key issues in the policy, and the suggestions for the nature of policy action to be taken are all highly recommended and appreciated by my delegation. On behalf of my government, I congratulate the Secretariat for the work they have done so well in presenting this report. In the context of this report, I will briefly review the approach of my country in formulating and implementing its food and agricultural pricing policy.

Pricing policy is one of the most important and effective tools in influencing both total agricultural output and its composition in my country. My government sets producer prices for its major export and food crops. For export crops, the main constraints in setting produce prices are the market prices of the world, the cost of marketing and the exchange rate. For domestic crops, the main constraints are consumer prices and the cost of marketing. The real producer price index of all export products fell consistently from 1976/77 to 1982/83. There was a slight recovery in prices in 1983/84 and in 1984/85, but they have declined again in the crop season of 1985/86. In real terms, producer prices prevailing in the early 1970s were 50 percent higher than those set for 1985/86.



However, the response of the index to real price increases in 1983/84 and 1984/85 was not encouraging. A closer examination of individual crops indicates a significant response by some crops to change in real prices. Tea, cotton, arabica coffee and cocoa all showed positive responses to real price changes.

In evaluating the impact of recent policy changes in agricultural exports, it might be useful to recognize that there has been a secular trend towards lower real international prices for most commodities in the past two decades. This decline, which has been approximately one percent per annum, means that the quantity my country has had to export to bring in a fixed amount of imported seeds has been rising at least one percent per annum. Where the price of imported goods has risen in real terms, the quantity of exports has had to rise by more than one percent. In order to compensate for this decline in real prices, agricultural exports need to rise at more than one percent per annum so that farmers will be able to maintain their level of income and at the same time, so the country will be able to maintain its level of imports.

For some crops, notably robusta coffee and cashews, changes in the trend of real producer prices have not resulted in changes in production trends. Obviously other factors have overshadowed the response to change in real prices. Unfortunately the success in increasing the procurement of export crops has been accompanied by weak commodity prices and hence, the pressure on the balance of payments has not yet been relieved.

With regard to domestically consumed crops, the real producer price fell from 1977/78 to 1982/83 and recovered in 1983/84 and 1984/85. The 1984/85 price rise for maize was very significant, raising its real price to the fourth highest price in 12 years. Some slight erosion in real prices has followed in the crop season 1985/86.

In evaluating the effect of price policy in my country, and especially its impact of food costs, it must be realized that the scale of food crops outside their official market is an option for most farmers and therefore, prices must be considered relative to the open market prices.

On the question of the agricultural pricing policy, my government recognizes the importance of producer prices as a tool for stimulating agricultural production. The policy identifies weaknesses in past government pricing policies in particular because producer prices have been inadequate for incentive purposes, because they have not been used efficiently for guiding the composition of agricultural output in light of planned targets, because pan-territorial products and consumer prices have ignored the impact of transport costs. That result in high marketing costs, and lastly because increasing consumer price subsidies for preferred staples over a period of time have increased the burden on the national budget and have biased consumption patterns in favor preserved staples which do not have a national comparative advantage in production.

In view of these weaknesses, the following policies have been adopted with respect to foodgrain crops: regional pricing system, as opposed to a pan-territorial one, has been introduced to encourage the production of drought-resistant staples in drought-prone areas, and to encourage the production of preferred staples in those areas most suitable for their production. Under the system, producer prices are announced early enough before the planting season in order to help farmers plan properly. The announced prices are intended to boost the production of particular crops and as far as possible are coordinated with a supply of adequate inputs. The rate of inflation, the cost of efficient production are taken into account when prices are fixed by the Government. The Government also encourages the production and consumption of those food crops which make the least demand on foreign exchange such as cassava, potatoes and bananas, and which have other comparative production advantages in regions with marginal rainfall. As far as possible consumer prices are fixed to encourage the consumption of those foodstuffs in which my country has a production advantage and distribution and marketing arrangements for foodgrains have been altered as a result of the 1982 Cooperative Society Act. The cooperatives have resumed the role of procuring grain from their members and selling it to selected guaranteed outlets. Then we come to liberalization of trade in domestic food crops. In that regard, the open market is allowed to operate in all parts of the country as before, without too many restrictions.

With regard to consumer prices, price policies have changed significantly since 1984; subsidies on maize flour have been removed. Nevertheless government policies with

respect to consumer prices are highlighted in the national agricultural policy. Major recommendations include restriction of consumer prices in favour of food crops which can be grown cheaply and are more reliable in the country - cassava, millet and sorghum, and introduction of full cost prices for crops such as maize, wheat and rice. All major food staples were subject to price increases between 1984 and 1985. Despite this, official market prices were considerably lower than those in the unofficial markets and this reflected changes in the supply and demand situation.

With this brief outline of the agricultural policy of my country, I am grateful for having been given a chance to speak during this session.

M. BRZOSKA (Poland): My delegation is of the 'opinion that this study can be useful in shaping pricing policy in many countries and can provide a basis for FAO assistance. Agricultural prices have always been the main determinant of production and of the economic situation of agriculture. The fixing of those prices is always the most difficult part of agricultural policy. It is all the more difficult at a time when rapid price fluctuations in the world, not only prices for agricultural products but also for fuel and technical means, call for essential reorientation in agricultural prices, or even for a change in production policies. We have experienced such a situation in Poland.

Poland has its own unfavorable experiences of the late seventies, when delays in changing prices for agricultural products and food became a check for production increases and modernization of farms. Poland has also had favourable experiences in the past four years, when price levels for basic products were raised making their production profitable, when free markets and free prices for non-essential articles were introduced, and yearly price revisions, taking into consideration the agricultural self-management principle, were introduced. That provided a considerable, unexpected impulse for production growth.

The document encompasses not only price theory and experiences in shaping agricultural prices in different countries, but also the influence - which is essential - of agricultural prices in developed countries on world prices, particularly on export and import terms, of food from and to developing countries. Thinking along these lines is a prerequisite in overcoming unfavourable terms of trade for developing countries.

R. TREMINIO (Nicaragua): El Informe C 85/19 elaborado y presentado por la FAO a las diferentes delegaciones aquí presentes, es verdaderamente una labor muy acertada y de gran valor, que amerita un aporte sustancial y que orienta a la vez en experiencias y criterios para la formulación y puesta en práctica de políticas de precios agrícolas en nuestros países.

Es importante en este sentido plantear el sistema de intercambio internacional que establece precios notablemente desiguales entre los países en desarrollo y desarrollados. Los precios de los productos agrícolas bajan o se estancan y los precios de las manufacturas o de los insumos agrícolas se incrementan en forma desproporcionada y alarmante.

Esta relación de precios internacionales sigue acentuando en los países en desarrollo el incremento de la deuda externa, una balanza comercial muy deficiente, el déficit fiscal y limitaciones serias para vivir dignamente. Esta relación de intercambio injusta de mercado hace que el desarrollo y la producción agrícola de estos países se mantengan en niveles de estancamiento o en crisis. La economía sufre golpes constantes y mortales y las posibilidades de trabajo y desarrollo toman carácter de sobrevivencia.

Por otra parte, el proteccionismo agrícola establecido por los países desarrollados ha sido perjudicial para una expansión ordenada y estable del comercio mundial, provocando el descenso de los precios de una serie de productos y favoreciendo altas fluctuaciones de los mismos. Medidas como el establecimiento de barreras arancelarias y de subsidios indiscriminados han sido elementos determinantes.

El dumping es otra modalidad de política el cual es un factor decisivo que tiende a bajar los precios internacionales de los productos agrícolas en detrimento de la economía de los países pobres.

Una posible alternativa de solución a este problema podría ser la adopción de una división internacional del trabajo entre los países donde se establezca el qué producir, con qué prioridad y en qué magnitud. Un análisis serio de estas interrogantes podría dar luces y alternativas viables para combatir el intercambio desigual e injusto en el mercado internacional.

En el marco interno de los países, podríamos señalar, por otra parte, que el ejercicio de políticas de precios aunque fundamentales, por sí solas no producen efectos positivos o decisivos en la producción agrícola. Su impacto en la producción dependerá de las oportunidades reales de factores y servicios de apoyo como la oferta tecnológica, el crédito, el abastecimiento de insumos, la mecanización, inversiones de fomento para el riego, el acceso a la tierra de buen potencial agro-ecológico, la disposición de caminos y carreteras, la capacidad de almacenamiento y comercialización. Todo conjugado bajo un sistema único de políticas. Esta sería una senda viable para el aprovechamiento efectivo de la política de precios.

La agricultura campesina reviste gran complejidad en los países en desarrollo. Este sector en la mayoría de los países en desarrollo, soporta el mayor peso en la generación de alimentos, al mercado y su ambiente de operación se ubica principalmente en áreas marginales, baja disponibilidad de recursos y sistemas productivos con una base tecnológica tradicional y deficiente. Incentivar e impulsar la producción bajo estas condiciones implica también transformar esta estructura gradualmente con el manejo de políticas, incentivos e inversiones bien dirigidas.

Nuestra experiencia en Nicaragua, Sr. Presidente, con el desarrollo de un modelo de economía mixta nos ha llevado a plantear y poner en marcha políticas de precios agrícolas.

La política económica en el marco de la estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario establece como objetivo inmediato la instrumentalización de una política de precios para impulsar la producción tecnificada, la adopción y aprovechamiento de insumos agrícolas mejorados, un mayor acceso al crédito y la asistencia técnica. Esto incluye además medidas complementarias relacionadas con tasas diferenciales de financiamiento, según el desarrollo de la infraestructura productiva en los diferentes sectores sociales de la producción.

La estructura de precios manejada actualmente en Nicaragua está ligada fuertemente a la variación de los precios en el mercado mundial de productos agrícolas. En el transcurso de los últimos cuatro años se ha implementado una política de precios de garantía y un sistema de incentivos tanto para la producción de alimentos como para la de agroexportación.

Como incentivos directos, se adoptó últimamente la asignación proporcional de divisas a los productores en términos de la eficiencia productiva lograda en una cosecha.

Los elementos de políticas aplicadas en el sector agrícola se resumen así: Establecimiento de precios a los productos agropecuarios independientemente del nivel técnico y de la organización social de la producción, permitiendo mayores utilidades a productores con mayor eficiencia productiva. La forma adoptada por esta política de precios ha sido evitar en lo posible resultados negativos en la gestión de producción.

Otros elementos adoptados en la política de precios al productor, han sido el sistema de cambios múltiples, el sistema de precios de garantía y la liberación del crédito.

El sistema de cambios múltiples surge del creciente deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio y las presiones inflacionarias internas que afectaron la rentabilidad de los principales productos agropecuarios. Este sistema estableció un tipo de cambio diferencial para los principales productos de exportación consiguiendo a través de la devaluación selectiva implícita, la vinculación entre los precios internos y precios internacionales. Los tipos de cambio han sido ajustados por la presión inflacionaria cuando se producen aumentos en los costos de producción en los diferentes rubros o se producen bajas sensibles en los precios internacionales.

Los precios de garantía constituyen una medida en la cual el Estado absorbe el riesgo de producción. El principal criterio utilizado son los costos de producción, el precio internacional y distintas opciones de márgenes y de ganancias.

En lo que se refiere a liberación del crédito, el Gobierno tiende a suministrar el apoyo financiero necesario para producir en todos los sectores sociales. Esto con el fin de impulsar y fortalecer las estructuras productivas en desarrollo y motivar la confianza del productor.

Otra política que se implantó en los primeros cuatro años de revolución fue la de subsidio a los insumos y otros factores productivos. Esta medida fue eliminada dada la alta carga fiscal que representaba para el Estado. Esta política también fue válida para los productos agrícolas de consumo.

Esta experiencia nicaragüense en términos de políticas de precios, se ve menguada en su impacto a la producción por la agresión sistemática y el bloqueo económico y político que le toca vivir al pueblo de Sandino. No puede un país pobre desarrollar una política de impulso productivo y económico si a cada instante ve amenazada su independencia y soberanía territorial. Sobre esto nos toca vivir el gran peso de la deuda externa y los precios impuestos para nuestros productos en el mercado internacional, que hacen más difícil nuestras posibilidades de desarrollo.

Mi delegación, Sr. Presidente, expresa su satisfacción y apoyo por la iniciativa de la FAO de atender el problema de los precios agrícolas.

L.E. BIRGEGARD (Sweden): Firstly, the Swedish delegation wishes to join other speakers in complimenting the Secretariat for yet another good report. In particular, we find it commendable that the report is comprehensive in dealing with the many facets of agricultural pricing, and that the report hereby elaborates a broader and more relevant framework for discussion.

The subject we are facing is complex. I shall hardly do justice either to the subject, or to the report, when I confine myself to a few remarks of a rather general nature. Time constraints strongly suggest this approach, however. In line with the arguments in the report our delegation wants to remind us of the risk of making too simplistic analyses and subsequently too simplistic prescriptions. A onesided focus on producer prices in development dialogues is a case in point. Evidence in the report before us as well as analyses elsewhere suggest that producer prices as a determinant to the level of aggregate agricultural production have notable limitations. There are fairly conclusive indications that other factors like institutional arrangements for inputs supply and marketing at times are as important in explaining aggregate production levels. From this follows that a series of actions, among which adjustment of producer prices is often likely to be one, are necessary to increase production.

We also want to draw attention to the importance of relative producer prices in the composition of agricultural production. Farmers normally respond quickly and in a substantive manner to alterations in relative producer prices. In fixing agricultural prices this fact may lead to a conflict between the objective to expand staple food production and the objective to increase export crop production in order to alleviate a serious foreign exchange situation.

In line with Swedish development philosophy we would prefer to see a clearer stand on this issue than is taken in the report. We advocate that pricing policies should be designed in such a way so that priority is given to staple food production. One reason for this position is that we question the feasibility of the idea that developing countries with large foreign exchange deficits can escape the problem by increasing exports. For one thing our difficulties in solving such a problem with an export recipe under much more favourable conditions give good reason to assume a cautious attitude.

As a third point we would like to express concern that discussions of pricing policies, and agricultural policies in general, might tend to focus on aggregate production with decreasing regard to distributive considerations.

In situations of stagnating or falling per capita agricultural production, poor and marginalized sections of a population stand to lose most. This means that distributive aspects matter more, not less. Consequently, any strategy designed to rectify the situation should explicitly raise questions like production by whom, production to satisfy the need of whom? Poor people with low incomes and inadequate subsistence production will not necessarily find their food and nutritional situation improved if aggregate agricultural production increases. Pricing policies and other dimensions of agricultural policy should be formulated with this in mind.

Finally, we would like to outline briefly our view on the process of formulation and implementation of agricultural policy including pricing policy and FAO's role therein. As noted we think that a number of variables affect performance in agricultural development. These variables and their relative

importance are country specific, reflecting, among others, the objectives that are pursued. As a consequence, a series of country specific activities, among which adjustment of prices is one, will be required.

Given prevailing constraints in all countries, including political realities, policy change will have to be gradual and extend over a considerable period. A one time change, in one or a few variables, as sometimes pressed for by donor agencies, is likely to have limited lasting impact.

In our opinion a different approach is needed. We advocate the formulation of long-term national plans of gradual policy adjustment covering a range of factors like exchange rates, consumer and producer prices and subsidies, institutional arrangements for inputs supply and marketing of produce, etc., to mention some. The plan should outline the direction of change and the steps to be taken over time.

We think that it is preferable to institutionalize a mechanism for formulation and monitoring of such plans at the national, level. Without disputing the importance of workshops as proposed in the report as part of FAO's tasks ahead, we feel, maybe, that FAO could play an even more useful role by undertaking to promote the idea of planned gradual policy adjustment and to support Member governments in implementing such an approach. This suggestion is merely an elaboration of the role proposed for FAO in paragraph 103 of the report.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): Let me on behalf of my delegation first complement Dr Islam and the Secretariat for what I consider to be one of the most comprehensive analyses I have seen on the very intricate problem of price policy. We are of the view that the recommendation made in paragraph 317 on page 53 of this report is very well founded, namely that price policy cannot be set by the executive government without being advised by a competent set of economists who will take an overall view of the various implications of price policy, both in the short-term and in the long-term. We are happy that our effort in this direction has been to some extent recognized in the report by the reference in the "box" on page 19 of the report to the formal criteria and procedures which we are following for setting agricultural prices in India.

India relies on the expertise of what is now known as The Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, which is headed by a distinguished economist who is generally of the rank of secretary to the Government, for advice on the price policies to be followed. It is an expert body which has very comprehensive terms of reference. I am glad to say that the multiple criteria of price policy suggested by this report is to some extent reflected in the terms of reference which we have for this national Commission in India. The factors which the Commission takes into account while recommending agricultural price policy to the Government of India are: the cost of production, changes in input prices, input/output price parity, trends in market prices, demand and supply constraints, inter-crop price parity, the effect on industrial cost structures, the effect on the general price index, the effect on consumer cost of living, the international market price situation and the parity between the prices paid and the prices received by the farmers. We supply the Commission with comprehensive data on the cost of cultivation of the principal crops on which the Commission is required to give advice. As of now, the cost of cultivation data is being generated through a comprehensive scheme implemented by agricultural universities and research institutes, where a total of 9 000 samples are studied every year so as to generate the basic information on cost estimates relating to the principal agricultural crops and their production programmes. I believe this has enabled us to adopt long-term-strategies of pricing and price support operations.

I would like to refer to the concept of price parity, or price bias which has been mentioned in the report and also to the figures given on page 116 of the report. You would find that the figures relating to India might indicate that there has been a decline in the real farm prices realized by farmers. I would like to add that the price policy of any country cannot be judged on the basis of the long-term trend in the price parity between agricultural commodities and the industrially manufactured products. I believe that there are inherent limitations in the mechanics of applying the concept of terms of trade for the purposes of price policy in an agricultural economy susceptible to high degrees of variation in rainfall. Fluctuation in production is too frequent, and sometimes too large, to permit a stable link or parity between the prices of agricultural and non agricultural commodities. Stability of terms of trade is a medium-term concept which cannot be the subject of yearly adjustments. Therefore we, in India, try to correct in the long-term unfavourable trends which may affect the farmers of our country. I am glad to say that after the year 1980 when we included the terms of trade as a principal element of consideration for the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, our pricing strategies have been able to correct this trend. There has been no further deterioration, of a noticeable kind in price parity between agricultural prices

and non-agricultural prices. Therefore, it is only when terms of trade continue to grow unfavorably in the agricultural sector for a number of years in succession that any corrective action may be called for.

I would also like to bring to your notice the fact that we have not been able, very successfully, to take into consideration international prices for the purposes of regulating our agricultural pricing policies. I think the limitations of this approach are outlined in the report. I say with some emphasis that the belief expressed in the report that, with all these limitations it should still be possible for us to take international prices as some indication of national price policies, is to my mind a wish that may not be fulfilled in the coming years unless the recommendations of this Commission on international pricing strategies, and the removal of barriers to international trade are actually accepted, and acted upon, by the member countries of this august body.

I would like to emphasize that price bias, by itself, is not a very difficult issue to handle. What is more important is a policy, which tries to balance a number of considerations. We, in India, have tried to use a mixture of various policies such as input subsidies to the extent that they are relevant in promoting the growth of input use, particularly by marginal and small farmers, and to the extent that modern technologies may have to be adopted for unirrigated land and consumer subsidies may have to be adapted to enhance the access of the rural poor to food and other essential commodities. I would like to indicate to you that these subsidies are also relevant to the demand for food grains and other commodities. Please remember that at the market price the demands for these commodities may not be the same without the additional demand which may be generated when a part of the system is subsidized to support the rural poor and enhance their consumption and nutritional levels. It is therefore a complex policy of demand stimulation by pricing, nutrition and access to food for the rural poor, as well as stimulation of production by proper input subsidies. The Indian scene is one in which the policy is a mix of all these, and to that extent I believe we have been able to bring greater stability to the system over a long period. I personally believe that the role of technology in pricing is much more relevant than many other factors which are mentioned here. I would ask this august Conference to include in the factors affecting pricing policies the role of technology as a means of reducing costs and increasing output. This I find is not very specifically stated as a very relevant criterion, but I think it is an important criterion for developing economies.

We in India have been able to use technology as an important parameter, and I think that our growth, which was over 4 percent recently, was not merely on account of our ability to contain the price bias, but also of our ability to stimulate production through appropriate technological and extension support.

Another factor which I would like to bring to your notice is that we are not able to really identify the real international price. As has been mentioned in the report, it is really true that in many cases international prices are residual market prices. Truly all the prices you see for commodities in surplus are subsidized prices as in the case of sugar or wheat. I fully endorse the reference in paragraph 434, page 74 of the report, which refers to the fact that India's export potential for cereals is substantially hit by the price policies of other countries in the world. I think it is necessary that international pricing policies are better regulated before national policies are regulated on the basis of international prices.

Another aspect which I would like to cover is the importance of price parity between input costs and output costs. I would like to draw the attention of Professor Islam to the fact that in the two major countries, which were complimented for incremental production, China and India, the parity is very different. The amount of grain which you would require to purchase one kilo of fertilizer in China is much lower than the amount of grain which you would require in India for purchasing one kilo of fertilizer. But still there is a fertilizer subsidy in the Indian economy, so the reference to budgetary subsidies does not give you the answer. It is perhaps on account of this difference that the productivity levels in China and India are divergent. I would request of the Secretariat that in any further analysis that they make, they should also compare the input/output ratios, particularly in terms of fertilizer prices and commodity prices at the national level, and give us the benefit of the inter-country comparisons to first know to what extent these strategies are promoting agricultural production at the national and international levels, and to what extent they are not doing so. And therefore, I would say that the mere

comparison of output prices does not give you the answer. Comparison of input prices and the input/output relationship, not in absolute terms but in relative terms, is a very relevant issue as far as price policy is concerned.

Then I would turn to what the report has said about the coverage. I find in paragraph 151 on page 21 of the report that we are cautioned not to extend the coverage to too many commodities. I would respectfully differ from this recommendation. At the national level, unless you cover the large number of important commodities, you will not be able to really use price policy as a means of changing the cropping pattern in the desirable direction. We in India have included oilseeds and pulses and other grains in addition to rice and wheat. We have also included potatoes and onions. We intend to include the coconut palm in the pricing strategy. Now if we do not diversify our pricing strategy, we cannot diversify our cropping strategy, and therefore it is necessary that perishables, which are referred to in this paragraph, are not excluded. In fact, perishables are a very important part of the national economy, and their preservation and pricing must receive adequate attention from the national price commission.

I next refer to the very interesting references made in the report regarding the food stamps or the limited access policy pursued in a number of countries for subsidized food grains. I am afraid that a clear-cut indication of how targeting can be achieved satisfactorily does not emerge from the report. It is understandable, because we in India are still struggling with the problem of targeting, whether we should follow exclusion criteria, whether we should follow regional criteria, or whether we should follow income criteria. I find that each of these has its problems and its merits, but I do agree with the suggestion that food subsidies, if they are to be contained, have to be limited, and therefore targeting will have to be a major aspect of price policy. We would like FAO to help us in India; if possible, to determine what set of targeting policies would be suitable to a vast sub-continent like India, which certainly would like to limit its food subsidies without hurting the nutritional levels of the rural poor.

I would next turn to the need for a very important constraint to be recognized that of the impact of producer prices on the general economic situation and the price index. I believe there cannot be any price policy for agriculture which ignores the possibility of inflation on the basis of steep increases in producer prices. We have, therefore, come to the conclusion in India that price policies must be implemented in a longer perspective. Even desirable changes must be achieved without pain and without hurting the economy, which is possible only if they are gradual and violent fluctuations in prices in producer commodities or in consumables are to be avoided. We believe in India that price stability is a very important issue, and price stability really means containing the fluctuations in prices within a desirable range while recognizing the seasonality in prices in any agricultural economy. Now this has to be achieved through a policy which will assure a minimum support price to producers and also a policy which will ensure that through an adequate supply available in fair price shops, the maximum price paid by consumers will not exceed the limit which we have set. But in this market intervention we support the concept which has been mentioned here- that there should be a minimum intervention by the state, and it is the market mechanism that should really be regulated in order that price changes occur in the desirable direction. We in India have always tried to intervene through the public sector to correct aberrations in the market place, which may occur from time to time. At the same time, there is another area which I would like to refer to which is not mentioned in the report. The creative policy of the National Bank can be a very powerful instrument in regulating the distribution and pricing system in the private market. Our National Bank, the Reserve Bank of India, has a policy of selective credit controls evolved over a number of decades, where the credit policy, interest rate, and access to credit is so regulated that there is a credit squeeze when the prices go up and there is a credit liberalization when the prices go down. So apart from support price operations and efficient procurement a creative credit policy can play a very important role in containing violent price fluctuations.

As far as the effective marketing of surpluses is concerned, I believe that any large country which has marketable surpluses must have long-term access to export markets. I am afraid our efforts in the Conference have not been very successful in finalizing long-term international agreements by which access to export markets for surplus producing countries can be assured. Until then, certain price instabilities, stimulated not by national policies but by policies at the international level are unavoidable, and they cannot be corrected through national pricing strategies.

I would particularly refer to the need for pricing policies to be evolved on a continuous basis as a part of the national economic policy. I believe that price support operations are crucial to any pricing policy. In our country, the procurement of rice and wheat has been successfully carried out to the benefit of the farmers in a way that has resulted in a large surplus and we carry an inventory of no less than 29 million tons of food grain. We have decided that wherever necessary to support the producers of oilseeds, the producers of coarsegrains and the producers of other principal crops, our National Agricultural Marketing Federation will intervene and procure these commodities at minimum support prices. But we do recognize that procurement is not enough. The development of an effective marketing system by which surpluses can be transferred to the areas which require these commodities is very important. I therefore reiterate my suggestion to this Conference that FAO should increasingly look at the distribution system for transferring surpluses within the domestic market so that the countries which are represented at this Conference are able to more effectively transfer to their domestic market and to their rural poor, the surplus commodities which will be procured on the basis of any price support strategy. With these words, it is my privilege to commend to this Conference the adoption of the recommendations in this report with the addition of the suggestion, which we have thought fit to place before you based upon our long experience in administering what we consider a modestly successful effort in price support policies and procurement strategies.

A. SAGELUMO (Norway): Firstly, the Norwegian delegation would like to compliment the Secretariat on this very comprehensive and interesting study on agricultural price policies. We should also like to thank Professor Islam for his concise and learned introduction.

My delegation feels that implementing appropriate agricultural policy is one of the most difficult political tasks, both in developed and developing countries. Agricultural policy always has a number of goals, which should be achieved, both within the sector itself and in the economy as a whole. These goals cover, for example, needs for increased agricultural production, needs for increased incomes in the agricultural sector, needs for growth in the economy as a whole, and reasonable distribution of wealth derived from increased growth. In other words, the agricultural policy will always have to be integrated in a broader and complex political context, and the setting of agricultural prices is only one of the methods in the overall policy.

In my delegation's view, the future work of FAO should be directed towards ensuring that agriculture and agricultural policy are given sufficient priority in all countries, both developed and developing. In our view, agricultural pricing should be used as an economic instrument in the struggle for transition and development in rural areas. The most important method is to give farmers sufficient incentives to increase production for the market. The Norwegian delegation feels that the lack of attention to the incentive framework is the most important reason why marketed agricultural production has declined in some areas.

In order to increase food production and improve terms of trade in favour of rural areas, we feel that the needs of farmers have to be put ahead of the immediate wish of consumers for low food prices. My delegation is aware that such a policy may involve a considerable political risk. However, the risk of increasing price incentives has to be taken if agricultural productivity is to increase.

With regard to how these incentives should be determined, whether by increasing farm-gate prices or by subsidizing inputs, my delegation has found the discussion in the document very satisfactory. Nor do we have any further comments on the difficult matter regarding subsidization of food consumption.

The Norwegian delegation has some more specific comments on the document. Paragraph 57 sums up the criteria most commonly used for making decisions as to producer price interventions, such as production costs market prospects and international prices. As already stated, the Norwegian view is that decisions on agricultural pricing should start with identifying the goals of agricultural development. Decisions will then be less dependent upon criteria, but policy-makers have of course, to take into account the fact that some goals might be better accomplished by other means rather than pricing.

Paragraphs 59 and 60 deal with linking domestic prices to international price movements. My delegation thinks the study in these paragraphs gives a realistic review of the problems connected with the use of international prices as a basis for determining domestic prices. The fact is that many products are priced artificially low on world markets. For some products in some countries, international prices do not cover average costs of production.



A part of the study deals with the effects of price policies in developed countries on international trade in general, and the export possibilities of developing countries in particular. My delegation finds the assessments in the report on this issue somewhat unbalanced. An important goal of price policy in many developed countries, among them Norway, is to reduce the surplus of agricultural products. In Norway we have succeeded, through price policy, in reducing the over-production of agricultural products. In this way we avoid a surplus which otherwise would have depressed the price on the world market. In addition, it contributes to a higher degree of price stability in international trade. My delegation feels that these effects of price policy in developed countries have not been covered sufficiently in the report.

The international economic crisis makes it imperative to give priority to economic growth and development. In many developing countries increased agricultural production is the most important growth element. There are, of course, conflicts between increased farm earnings and increasingly important agricultural sectors on the one hand, and society as a whole on the other. More important, however, is the positive inter-relationship. It is important that FAO give higher priority to these inter-sectoral aspects of agricultural development. It is necessary for FAO to take up these questions in a broader context if it is to be in the forefront in solving the problems. We find the FAO study on agricultural price policies to be an important element in a developing strategy. We hope the study will be a basis for further work in a broader context and in cooperation with other UN Agencies.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/10

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

TENTH MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE  
DECIMA SESION  
(20 November 1985)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 15 h 10  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 15.10 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

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

- 7.3 Study of Agricultural Price Policies (continued)  
7.3 Etude des politiques de prix agricoles (suite)  
7.3 Estudio sobre políticas de precios agrícolas (continuación)

Srta. H. LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea felicitar al profesor Islam por la presentación del completo y detallado análisis que nos ofrece este documento. No deseamos entrar en el fondo de lo que el documento trata puesto que éste merece un profundo estudio por los expertos en la materia en nuestra capital.

Pero sí desea nuestra delegación presentar algunas consideraciones de índole general. Señor Presidente: el documento C 85/19 abre una fuente muy útil de información y nos felicitamos por ello. Nos ofrece también a los países en desarrollo, una posibilidad adicional de obtener asesoría técnica de la FAO en la formulación y aplicación de políticas de precios adecuadas a cada uno de los países.

Las políticas de precios pueden ser un instrumento válido, tanto para aumentar el consumo interno con precios que resulten justos para el productor y para el consumidor, así como para generar productos de exportación persiguiendo no sólo fines económicos sino políticos y sociales.

Este tema es difícil, y como ya lo dije antes, merece un profundo estudio por especialistas en la materia, ya que una política de precios puede convertirse en un arma de doble filo. A este respecto, quisiera subrayar lo que está expuesto ya en los párrafos 307, 317, 318 y 525 del documento que nos ocupa.

Las políticas de precios adoptadas sin las debidas y adecuadas bases, y en aislamiento de las fuerzas de los mercados internos e internacionales, pueden producir efectos nocivos. Por ello, la información que contiene este documento debe ser cuidadosamente analizada, sopesada y estudiada dentro del contexto de condiciones reales que resulten equitativas en el intercambio de comercio de los productos agrícolas, y que además resulten en beneficio para los países en desarrollo, suprimiendo desigualdades que ahora nos afectan pero sin producir, por ello, ninguna corriente desestabilizadora en el comercio internacional.

Queremos felicitar a la FAO por la preparación de estos estudios que deben ampliarse, y que merece además, con adecuado apoyo por parte de la información estadística que recibe la FAO, por parte de los gobiernos ser ampliada y reforzada.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): Mi delegación felicita por la presentación de este valioso documento que nos ha llamado a profunda reflexión. Honduras, señor Presidente, ha participado con gran entusiasmo en la celebración del 40° aniversario de la creación de la FAO y de las Naciones Unidas. Para Honduras esto es muy significativo por ser uno de los países signatarios en 1945 de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas en San Francisco, California, y de haber sido también uno de los fundadores de la FAO.

Sin embargo, todo este regocijo nos llama a la reflexión y a cuestionarnos a nosotros mismos de que cómo es posible que después de 40 años de existencia de un sistema creado y fundado por las naciones, precisamente para establecer la paz y que, como lo ha expresado en varias ocasiones Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II y varios Estadistas del mundo, la paz significa desarrollo. Profundizando más,

cuarenta años después nos encontramos con un cuadro que nos señala resultados patéticos y vergonzosos para la comunidad internacional. A la agricultura en el mundo en vías de desarrollo se le ha asignado un papel que la coloca en desventaja frente a los otros sectores de la economía, y que además frena los esfuerzos orientados a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los pobres rurales y el desarrollo rural en general.

Este papel desventajoso consiste en producir alimentos al más bajo precio posible para el consumo urbano; suministrar mano de obra barata para el desarrollo industrial y materias primas a las agroindustrias; proveer, en algunos casos, divisas para el desarrollo de la economía nacional; y eventualmente, constituir un mercado para la industria manufacturera. En síntesis, transferir recursos para otros sectores.

Las estadísticas demuestran que en los países eufemísticamente agrupados en el sur, el hambre y la miseria se han esparcido e intensificado. Nosotros somos de la opinión de que uno de los mecanismos más eficaces para la solución de los problemas de la miseria y el hambre, podría ser una justa y equitativa relación comercial entre los países industrializados y los países en vías de desarrollo. Es decir, los agrupados eufemísticamente en norte y sur.

Nosotros no queremos comprender la realidad que vivimos. Una realidad que nos hace pagar costos exorbitantes para importar los insumos y la tecnología necesaria para nuestra producción; y por otro lado, los bajos precios recibidos por nuestros productos agropecuarios, es decir, por la materia prima que nosotros vendemos a los países industrializados.

Se nos dice que son otros foros internacionales donde deben tratarse estos temas. Pero también sabemos que las reuniones de estos organismos responsables o especializados en estos temas, no avanzan en este sentido. Es decir, aquí también se aplica otra dimensión de la teoría del crecimiento cero. Como vía de ejemplo, citaré dos casos, el del banano y el azúcar.

En 1961, el precio deflacionado de la tonelada de banano era de 332,2 dólares US, y para 1984, el precio deflacionado de la tonelada había descendido a 285,5 dólares US. En el mismo año de 1961, el precio deflacionado de la tonelada de azúcar era de 163,6 dólares US, y para 1984, el precio deflacionado de la tonelada había descendido a 75,3 dólares US.

En cambio, los precios de los fertilizantes, insecticidas, pesticidas y maquinaria agrícola se había más que quintuplicado, e insumos que nuestros países importan de los países industrializados dado el nivel tecnológico adoptado.

Esta relación de intercambio comercial ha producido resultados que han llevádo al extremo de que el precio recibido en el mercado internacional por los productos, no cubre el costo de la recolección de las cosechas, y no digamos su costo total de producción.

Es por ello que nuestra delegación insiste y hace un llamado para la búsqueda de esa justa y equitativa relación comercial, y como dijo el Director General en su discurso inaugural, confiamos en que las decisiones tomadas sobre política agraria, actualmente en estudio por parte de los Estados Unidos y la Comunidad Económica Europea, se tomarán con amplitud de miras y teniendo debidamente en cuenta sus consecuencias para el comercio internacional, y en particular para los intereses de los países en desarrollo.

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): We would like to thank Prof. Islam for introducing the item on Agricultural Price Policies.

It is well known that determining agricultural price plays an important role in agricultural production as this has been clearly explained in the document under discussion.

Prices and their determination are largely dependent on cost production surveys and on world inflation, and this is particularly true for agricultural inputs where developing countries import from producer countries. We appreciate this document and hope that developing countries will use it for their own benefit since it provides a clear explanation of the pricing policies in centrally planned economies, market economies and even in developing countries themselves.

We would propose that each developing country should establish a mechanism whose competence would be agricultural prices and that it would keep in mind the content of this document as well as national production patterns and development in other countries, and should study in particular price increases in imported agricultural production.

It is also important to encourage production of high-profit crops whose production a state wishes to increase, especially commodities important for the country's economy, and in this way require price subsidies as an incentive to farmers for greater production.

Some countries adopted price reduction policies for certain products in order to limit their production and thus avoid any negative impact on the production of important crops. Such policies and their coordination in developing countries demand a competent mechanism to survey agricultural commodity prices. Most developing countries either abide by market economy or centrally planned economic priorities or even a combination of the two; hence the necessity of formulating a specific policy which takes into consideration national and international conditions.

Since the main purpose is to maintain agricultural commodity prices, especially those of surplus commodities in certain countries, we believe that it is worthwhile to examine the viability of establishing local industries to process the surplus and market it locally. I am sure this method would be suitable for many countries, and especially developing ones, since it would help producers by absorbing their surpluses and maintaining the prices of the crops.

J. THINSY (Belgique): En tant que pays qui représente la présidence du Conseil de la CEE, je vous prie de bien vouloir donner la parole à l'Observateur de la CEE qui aimerait faire une déclaration sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): Je voudrais tout d'abord commencer par féliciter le Secrétariat pour cette étude très complète qui compte parmi les plus réussies et les plus opérationnelles pour la mise en place des politiques de prix alimentaires appropriées dans les pays en développement et qui ont pour but d'encourager la production agricole.

La CEE a d'autant plus de raisons de s'en féliciter que les mécanismes décrits dans les trois premiers chapitres du document, relatifs à la vue d'ensemble, à la formulation et à l'exécution des politiques de prix, correspondent, dans une large mesure, aux principes sur lesquels est basée la politique agricole commune, qui a permis de passer de périodes répétées de pénuries à la sécurité alimentaire pour la plupart des productions agricoles.

Néanmoins, nous considérons que le chapitre IV et plus particulièrement la description des niveaux de prix et de la protection dans les pays développés à économie de marché sont fondés sur une analyse qui n'a pas été assez affinée.

En effet, les études et les tableaux et avis y afférents ont la faiblesse de s'arrêter quelquefois à l'année 1980. Le document devrait donc être actualisé et la Communauté économique européenne pourrait aider le Secrétariat en lui communiquant des données plus récentes.

Ce qui nous a en outre frappés, c'est la généralité des documents sur le soutien apporté à l'agriculture. Bien souvent on affirme que le soutien agricole dans la CEE est plus important que dans les autres parties du monde.

Nous considérons que l'analyse phraséologique devrait être faite produit par produit. En effet, je peux indiquer que dans la CEE, pour certains produits agricoles, le soutien en 1984/85 est moins important que dans les résultats du tableau IV. 1.2 de la page 72 de la version française: c'est pourquoi comme nous l'avons déjà dit à plusieurs reprises, nous ne pouvons accepter le tableau IV. 1.2 figurant à la page 72 de la version française ainsi que les commentaires qui s'y rattachent, aux paragraphes 380, 381, 382 et 385.

Dans le même ordre d'idées, la rédaction du paragraphe 37 devrait être adaptée. En effet, sans remettre en cause la lutte contre le protectionnisme et la spécificité des ajustements agricoles dans les pays où existent des excédents structurels, je voudrais rappeler qu'une récente étude de juin 1985 de l'Institut international pour l'analyse appliquée des systèmes IAS, organisation que le Secrétariat a citée comme source, arrive à la conclusion provisoire que l'effet bénéfique d'une libéralisation du commerce agricole sur la situation alimentaire des pays en développement serait relativement négligeable.

En ce qui concerne les problèmes budgétaires de la politique agricole commune et les commentaires des paragraphes 385, 391 et 400, je voudrais rappeler ce qui a déjà été dit lors de l'examen sur la situation alimentaire mondiale, c'est-à-dire que, si la part de l'agriculture dans le budget européen peut paraître néanmoins élevée, c'est tout simplement parce qu'à l'heure actuelle la politique agricole est pratiquement la seule politique intégrée de la Communauté européenne et qu'au fur et à mesure que d'autres politiques communes se développeront, cette part diminuera automatiquement. Les dépenses d'aide à l'agriculture dans la Communauté sont similaires à celles de bien d'autres pays et je rappelle que la part de l'agriculture dans le budget communautaire, qui était de 80 pour cent il y a dix ans, n'était plus que de 66 pour cent en 1985, compte tenu des ajustements permanents de l'agriculture européenne au fur et à mesure de l'évolution de la situation de l'agriculture européenne sur un plan interne et externe.

En ce qui concerne les paragraphes 86,87 et 88, j'indique que la Communauté économique européenne contribue aux besoins d'exportation des pays de la Convention de Lomé dans le cadre du système stabex dont les moyens ont augmenté de 66 pour cent dans la nouvelle convention.

De même, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur l'initiative de la Communauté européenne relative à un nouveau système de compensation des pertes et recettes d'exportation élargie en faveur des pays les moins avancés qui ne font pas partie des pays ACP. Dans le même esprit, la CEE vient de décider d'anticiper d'un an au 1er janvier 1986 la dernière étape des réductions tarifaires négociées lors du Tokyo round de 1979.

Je rappelle aussi une nouvelle fois que la CEE est de loin le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles, 20 pour cent du commerce mondial, ce qui démontre que la CEE et ses Etats Membres sont contre le protectionnisme. Si la Communauté dispose de certains instruments que certains critiquent à l'heure actuelle, je rappellerai que la Communauté a payé cette liberté d'agir par des concessions tarifaires portant sur d'autres secteurs. Il n'en demeure pas moins, comme nous l'avons déjà indiqué, que la CEE est prête à de nouvelles négociations commerciales dans le cadre du GATT en tenant compte de la spécificité de l'agriculture et des intérêts des pays en développement.

En effet, les relations commerciales que la CEE a établies sous des formes multiples et parfois originales avec divers groupes de pays témoignent de sa volonté de développer les échanges agricoles dans le respect des intérêts légitimes réciproques tout en accordant une attention particulière à ceux des pays en développement.

En conclusion, je tiens à souligner encore une fois que, globalement, cette étude a le mérite de poser le problème des prix agricoles de manière adéquate; que toutefois il nous semble nécessaire d'approfondir certains aspects de cette étude, notamment en prenant en considération les commentaires que nous venons de faire.

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): My delegation welcomes the study on agricultural price policies in document C 85/19 and wishes to congratulate the Secretariat on producing this report, which we consider as nothing short of excellent.

Malaysia, as a major exporter of cash crops, practices an open policy with regard to agricultural prices. Except for rice, which is a strategic crop, and grown only for domestic consumption, we feel that the development of other commodities should not be encouraged through direct price interventions. We follow the concept of market/production/market, whereby production of agricultural produce is

dictated by the market in terms of quantum, quality, timing and other market requirements. As such, marketing improvement programmes become the focal point for the stimulation of greater production, with the support of research, extension and credit facilities and services.

My delegation, therefore, is in agreement with the conclusion of the study that, while price incentives are a necessary condition for increased production; they are by themselves not sufficient. Other imperatives for greater production include development of infrastructure, improvement in technology, credit, irrigation, research and extension services, marketing, transport and storage facilities.

For the improvement of trading climate, and taking into account the socio-economic demands of developing countries, we cannot agree more with the observations in paragraphs 93 and 94 of the report which stress the need for developed countries to restrain the use of export subsidies and import levies. We also think that paragraph 95, which calls for greater assurance regarding the international framework for agricultural trade, is most timely, and we urge all Member Countries to work towards the establishment of such an effective international framework.

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA (Sri Lanka): As stated, price policy is a complex issue. However, the authors of this document in the FAO Secretariat should be congratulated on the comprehensive and informative manner in which the subject has been treated. It provides a good cross-section of information on key issues and options in price policies across the global canvas, ranging from developing countries to developed countries and countries of centrally planned economies.

I will now touch on a few issues on price policies in relation to Sri Lanka. We in Sri Lanka, when we talk of price policies, differentiate between those applicable to the tree crop sector - that is tea, rubber, etc. - and the food crop sector - that is, paddy and pulses, etc. This differentiation is necessary because of the difference in the type of holding patterns in these two sectors. As pointed out in this document, the main issue we have focused our attention on with regard to price policies is the need to maintain a reasonable balance between producer and consumer interests. In our price policies we have introduced input subsidies and ensured guaranteed prices for identified major products. Parastatal organizations have also been set up to ensure purchase of these products at the guaranteed prices. To look after consumer interests we have set up a small working group of top decision-makers that meets once a week to review the prices of key items in the consumer food basket. If the Committee observes any possibility of a rise in the price of any major items, the stocks retained by the parastatal organizations are released through the cooperative network to maintain a reasonable supply level and thereby reasonable prices. This arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

One of the problems we have encountered in giving correct signals to the producers through price policy is the difficulty in collecting information on quantities produced and also estimates on consumption demand patterns. This, I think, is an acute problem in countries with small farmers.

I think this is an area where FAO can be of assistance in improving information on yield estimates and extents under crops so that an accurate picture of quantities produced is available to the decision-maker and the farmers to make suitable adjustments in price policies and for the farmers to make adjustments in resource allocations. Similarly, estimates on consumption patterns, to have a fair idea of demand trends, are also necessary to formulate effective price policy.

Yet another problem we have encountered is the lack of adequate storage capacity, mainly for perishable food commodities. As a result, irrespective of price policies, during glut periods of production producers have been badly affected due to price depressions, and consumers have been affected during lean periods of supply.

We have also made use of price policies to attract local and foreign investment for certain crops, like sugar production. Here I must emphasize that we have really ignored the international market prices, because, as you know, they are very unrealistic in relation to cost of production. These prices are heavily subsidized. We have fixed an assured price for sugar produced with an undertaking to purchase by a parastatal organization. This price has been fixed to ensure a given rate

on investment. The price is higher than the imported price for this commodity, but the price to the consumer is subsidized on revenue derived by an import duty fixed on quantities imported to meet the difference between local produce and total demand.

D. KINZEL (Austria) (original language German): First of all, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of this comprehensive survey and Mr Islam for the precise and clear introduction.

It is the central task of agriculture to cover a rising demand in food and raw materials in an expanding economy. Beyond that, agriculture must help to fulfill general economic targets and objectives by obtaining foreign exchange, or save foreign exchange by creating incomes for those active in agriculture. It makes another contribution towards national income, although the size and distribution of the income produced in agriculture is a very basic agrarian policy aspect in both industrial countries and developing countries.

There are substantial differences in the way in which this task is carried out in practice. In developed countries, for example, in my own country, Austria, the primary aim of agrarian policy is to secure and maintain an adequate level of income for those active in agriculture, in particular as compared to what is earned by other branches of the economy.

In most developing countries, on the other hand, the stress lies in other spheres. Agriculture there must first of all contribute to capital formation, provide a labour force and manpower and - and this is not the least important task - open markets for agricultural products. The knowledge that in many developing countries a large part of the agricultural sector is still on a subsistence basis necessarily slows down the general pace of economic development. Paradoxical as it may sound, the greater the progress of agriculture as a whole, the more disparities and discrepancies, particularly in terms of income, are felt within agriculture. It is clear that inherent disadvantages cannot be compensated for by producer prices for agrarian products. The opposite is true.

Price policy as an instrument for creating agricultural income, important as it is, will in fact strengthen the gaps and discrepancies in most cases. Income transfers such as the Bergbauern-zuschuss, the mountain farmer allowance in Austria, form a greater promotion of investment in the mountain areas and are therefore decisive tools in decreasing existing disparities.

The question of leveling income differences within agriculture must be a national task. Circumstances are different in every country and prescriptions valid in one country cannot always be adopted by or transferred to another. It is also interesting that the Council of European Communities in the mid-1970s enacted directives for agriculture in mountain areas and other backward or disadvantaged areas which also provide for transfer payments similar to the Austrian mountain farmers basic allowances. The advance in production in agriculture in industrialized states, as we know, has produced considerable surplus. In terms of marketing policy we are facing a particularly difficult task in Europe. Willynilly, the price will ultimately have to be oriented by the world market price for that volume of production that cannot be accommodated in world markets. Therefore, the European Community introduced guaranteed thresholds.

This raised the question of price splitting. It would be conceivable that the price as established for bread grains consumed within a country which, as before, has a guaranteed price, is higher than the world market level for export, so the quoted price would come into play oriented by the world market.' Production policy would depend on the market political situation. In price policy, where a good income is secured, the papers of the OECD would be of great importance as I see it. It is therefore desirable in this important sector that the work of FAO should be continually coordinated with that of other international organizations. Duplication must be avoided at least, not only for economic but for other reasons.

Mme L. OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): La délégation du Burkina Faso remercie le Secrétariat pour son exposé introductif sur la politique de prix agricoles. Dans cet exposé on a soulevé à juste titre les difficultés que le Secrétariat a rencontrées pour l'obtention de simples statistiques dans nos pays en développement. Nous pensons que ceci traduit aussi la complexité de l'étude qui nous est soumise. Aussi, la délégation du Burkina Faso aimerait attirer votre attention sur ce



que dit le texte en français aux par. 302 à 308, de la page 55 à la 56 sur l'harmonisation des prix entre les pays voisins. Nous sommes d'accord sur ce qui est dit, mais il faut avancer prudemment afin de laisser le temps aux pays en développement, surtout nous, pays sahéliens, de nous relever de plusieurs années de déficit céréalier.

Si nous prenons l'exemple du tableau 2.3 page 55, dans le cas du pays cité, le petit paysan a un double statut de producteur et de consommateur; aussi à la récolte il est heureux de voir une politique de prix qui l'avantage et préfère le pays le plus offrant même si ce dernier est un pays voisin. Trois mois après les récoltes, il devient plus consommateur et il n'hésitera pas à aller là où il doit pour se procurer les céréales. Chez nous, en Afrique sahélienne, les frontières sont très perméables pour plusieurs raisons, donc pour nous Burkinabe (ce qui est dit à la page 56, paragraphe 306, 9ème ligne) à savoir la proposition de solution pour empêcher la contrebande (c'est-à-dire l'intervention de l'armée ou de la police) ne nous paraît pas la meilleure formule. L'abolition de la contrebande est souhaitable. Cependant, elle se fera dans un ensemble de résolution globale du problème agricole. Une stratégie d'actions qui inciterait le paysan à produire plus, à garantir un prix rémunérateur et revaloriser la fonction d'agriculteur serait déjà un départ pour la réduction de la contrebande.

Chez nous la politique des prix se pose sous plusieurs angles et l'harmonisation ne pourra être réelle entre pays voisins que lorsque nous aurons résolu notre propre politique agricole dans nos pays qui garantirait la sécurité des paysans.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): We have commented at some length on the first draft of the present document at the meeting of the Committee for Agriculture. We will try not to repeat our comments in this intervention, but set out further positive contributions to the analysis of this important topic. FAO is to be congratulated on the coverage of the document. It is comprehensive in its coverage of country experiences and brings original material forward for the attention of all relevant agencies. It is also useful because it brings together material not elsewhere available. The analysis of the data and policies of 37 developing countries contributes to the basic thrust of the document.

It is useful in its contrast of developing, developed and centrally-planned developing country experiences. The developed country section adds worthwhile information on the effects of protectionism through distorted price signals, aggravated price instability and market uncertainty. We have addressed these problems' elsewhere in this Conference.

Perhaps the main benefit from the study will be the discussion of many situations which economic planners in all countries can study in the light of their own situation. In this context we recommend the identification of a number of practical aspects concerning the formulation and implementation of price policies for developing countries set out on pages 55 and 56 of the English text.

We note the references in paragraph 15 to the changed situation in New Zealand. We have moved recently to remove import and credit subsidies for agricultural producers in an effort to more closely relate the returns in the market place to producer decisions on output. Our experience in this endeavor should yield further valuable evidence of the effects of a less interventionist policy in a developed country.

In our intervention at COAG we drew attention to the lack of a rational theoretical structure behind the discussion of the topics presented in the paper. Some of this material can be found in the Annex to the paper, but it is still not presented as a general framework followed logically through the presentation. What I would like to suggest is that further analysis could be developed from the earlier work carried out by FAO on nominal rates of protection referred to in paragraphs 521 to 524 in the Annex, and also in Table 4.1 of the text.

The sections on price policy objectives for developing countries at paragraphs 19 to 21 and for developed countries at paragraphs 91 to 98 could be drawn together for such an approach. Very briefly, the approach would involve identifying appropriate agricultural price policies in a sequential order following the changes which take place as developing countries move from food sufficiency objectives to food efficiency objectives associated with the full comparative

advantage of international trade. At each stage, the position with regard to effective protection could be clarified and the assistance effects and price distorting effects analyzed for their welfare implications. The path taken will identify price policy objectives as food sufficiency, food security and food adequacy are achieved, through the increasing specialization of crops in regions, then the introduction of export crops and finally, the emergence of a price system for crops and other projects consistent with international specialization. This is but a brief outline that such an approach could follow but it does appear to us to add to the basic framework of the present approach as in the body of the document.

In this context, we would be interested to know what plans there are for further study and analyses for presentation to future Committee meetings and the Conference.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Mi delegación desea en primer lugar agradecer a la Secretaría el valioso y equilibrado documento relativo a la política de precios agrícolas, objeto de nuestro estudio; dejando por nuestra parte su análisis detallado para los expertos de mi país.

Panamá confiere especial importancia a este tema, debido a la incidencia que tiene en el sector agrícola, especialmente en la producción y la seguridad alimentaria, que se ve afectada por el desplazamiento de las fuerzas de trabajo y el empeoramiento de los ingresos en el mismo. Dentro de la infraestructura panameña, funcionan ya desde hace muchos años: el Instituto de Mercado Agropecuario, la Oficina de Regulación de Precios y el Bando de Desarrollo Agropecuario, entidades que tratan de conciliar los intereses en el sector agrícola y cuyo fin es el de mejorar la economía nacional.

La crítica situación económica actual, que se ha venido recrudeciendo con el paso de los años, ha compelido a mi gobierno a adoptar una serie de medidas de regulación, tendientes a equilibrar los precios entre productores y consumidores, para evitar la explosión de problemas sociales y políticos.

Es por ello que concedemos especial importancia a las orientaciones contempladas en el presente estudio, tanto para los países desarrollados como para los países en desarrollo y para la FAO, las que a juicio de nuestra delegación constituyen elementos básicos que serán de gran utilidad para crear un marco general adecuado para el diálogo futuro en este aspecto.

Igualmente concedemos relevancia a las evoluciones en torno a las subvenciones de los insumos, acciones en las que Panamá tiene alguna experiencia.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, y dentro del marco internacional de la política de precios para los cultivos de exportación, estimaríamos oportuno que la Secretaría complementase este estudio con un análisis sobre la influencia de las empresas transnacionales, sobre la producción y comercio de productos básicos y la seguridad alimentaria.

M. GARIJO HIERRO (España): Deseo expresar la satisfacción que ha producido a esta delegación el examen del documento C 85/19, que nos ocupa, documento que nos parece ejemplar, tanto por su fino análisis como por la claridad de su exposición y que creemos puede suponer una gran ayuda para facilitar la evolución de las políticas de precios agrarios para los diferentes países.

Particular mérito encontramos en la identificación de los objetivos múltiples a los que sirven las políticas de precios y su caracterización, según el grado de desarrollo de los países que las aplican.

Precisamente en mi país puede constatarse la evolución habida en el tiempo, desde una época en que eran preponderantes los objetivos más propios de los países y economías rurales cuando nuestra economía era de fuerte componente rural, desde hace varias décadas, hasta el tiempo presente, en que los objetivos de nuestra política de precios son más acordes con una economía industrializada

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): China is now undertaking a price policy reform. Therefore, we are very interested in document C 85/19. We feel that the recommendations contained in the document are very useful to us. We think that a price policy is an important means for the development of commercial agriculture. When some developing countries were embarking on commercial development of agriculture, FAO promptly raised the issue of an agricultural price policy and subsequently carried out many studies and presented many valuable suggestions. We wish to commend the Secretariat for its efforts in this connection. I should now like to make a few comments on some of the issues contained in this document.

Firstly, in the process of developing an agricultural commodity economy, price plays an important role in stimulating the growth of production, regulating supply and demand and assessing the value of commodities. However, in view of the current needs of most developing countries, enhancement of production should still be the first and foremost aim of the adjustment of price policies. A rational agricultural price policy should be designed to encourage producers to expand production with modern inputs, enabling them to obtain better income from the development without gravely affecting the interest of the consumers.

Secondly, farm production is strongly influenced by seasonal factors. Many products are difficult to store. Besides, they are produced in scattered locations and vary in quality. Bearing in mind all these characteristics of farm production, we should implement such producers' prices as are flexible, differing with seasons, regions and qualities, to encourage the development of production within the context of specific local conditions and continually improving quality of products. At the same time, because of the change in production costs and supply and demand at the market, price fluctuations for agricultural commodities within certain limits are normal.

Thirdly, stability should be the most essential feature of consumer prices. Retail prices for food grains, which are a primary necessity of people's livelihood, especially should be kept stable to the greatest possible extent. The contradiction between the stimulation in the growth of production and the maintenance of relatively stable consumer prices can be solved through government intervention by providing the necessary subsidies to consumers, by providing input to producers at subsidized prices, or by selling the products at parity prices through state or Para-state marketing systems. Obviously, all these interventions must be practiced within the financial means of the state.

Fourthly, it is necessary to emphasize the important role of price management. A sound price policy can play its positive role only when it is coupled with a sound management system. For this reason, attention should be given to the establishment of a rational marketing system and to the improvement of mechanisms responsible for designing agricultural prices, monitoring, and analyzing prices and exchanging relevant information on prices, so as to address problems which crop up in the implementation of price policies promptly.

Fifthly, in theory domestic prices should harmonize with international prices. However, there are constraints in practice. Therefore, it is undesirable to over-emphasize uniformity at present. In case the price differences between neighboring countries should affect mutual production and trade, they could be settled through negotiations in accordance with the principles of equality, mutual benefit and the exchange of equal values.

Sixthly, in formulating and implementing price policies, stress should be laid on the needs and capabilities of individual countries. The relationship between the prices of agricultural products and those of other commodities should be handled in a proper way. We sincerely hope that FAO will play its unique role in this field and organize, where appropriate, exchanges of experience in the future.

We have noted that the document contained some information about China. With your indulgence, Mr Chairman, I should like to make a few additional remarks and explanations.

In the past the state followed the system of unified purchase at fixed prices for major agricultural products, and rationed supply and marketing at parity prices. In the days when self-contained agriculture could not provide abundant products, this practice did play a useful role in guaranteeing the supply of food and clothing for urban and rural people. Nevertheless, this system also had its defects. For instance, the most prominent was that price differentiation between the industrial product and the agricultural products was irrational, with the prices for the latter being relatively too low. The marketing prices for major agricultural and side-line products were lower than the state purchasing prices. As a result, the state had to bear the heavy financial burden of providing subsidies. Besides, there was no appropriate price differentiation among the same commodities with different qualities and of different seasons, which could not stimulate production. Now the supply of agricultural products is adequate, the rural economy is brisk and the shift towards commercial agriculture is fast. Such a situation propels us to readjust the existing agricultural price policy.

Beginning this year, the government introduced reforms in the price system under the guidance of the principle of "relaxing control in prices while readjusting them and advancing in small steps". The ultimate objective is to adjust the irrational price differentiation according to the principle of exchange of equal values and the changing relations between supply and demand, and to ensure that the real income of the urban and rural consumers will not be affected as a result of the price adjustment. At the same time, the financial means of the state as well as the capability of the consumers were taken into account. We followed the following approaches in the current agricultural price reform: (1) Rationally adjusting the purchasing price of grain and cotton, abolishing unified procurement and practicing the system of purchase on the basis of contracts. Farmers are allowed to sell grain and cotton at free markets after fulfilling their procurement quota under contract. (2) Assigned purchase of meat, aquatic products, timber and vegetables will be abolished in accordance with prevalent circumstances and all the products can be sold at markets. Prices can be regulated according to supply and demand, and differ with qualities. (3) Properly widening the price differentiation of agricultural commodities of different qualities, regions and seasons. (4) Protecting consumers' interests. For example, after decontrolling the selling prices of meat, the state provided a fixed amount of subsidies to urban consumers. (5) Developing multi-channel circulation by the state, collective and individual, and encouraging and helping farmers to enter circulation. (6) Strengthening the management of prices and markets.

The reform of rural circulation in China has just started and, therefore, we have not accumulated much experience in this regard. It is our sincere hope that through the deliberations of this Commission, we shall be able to exchange information with, and learn from, the experience of other delegations in a common endeavour to improve our work.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): To begin with I would like to appreciate the effort made by the Secretariat in carrying out a difficult study on agricultural price policies. My delegation recognizes the importance of the economic aspect of the prices policies as well as the technical aspects for agricultural and rural developments. It has been stressed that a proper price policy is indispensable for the programme of food deficit developing countries at various international fora, especially the World Food Council.

Given the difficult food situation in many developing countries, I think it is important to provide farmers with more incentives for increasing their food production, while supplying food with reasonable prices to consumers. From this viewpoint, it is very meaningful to examine the development of agricultural price policies in the world. The Secretariat analyzed various aspects concerning the formulation and implementation of agricultural price policy in developing countries and a quick check list for formulating and carrying out price policy was presented. I believe that this list is quite comprehensive and practical, and that it will be of great help as a useful guideline when developing-countries try to implement an adequate price policy. One of the problems which many developing countries may often encounter in improving their price policy is the shortage of financial resources. In this connection, my Government, providing bilateral food aid and farm-inputs to the developing countries, encourages them to reserve the cash accrued from sales of the food and farm-inputs for the purpose of agricultural development in their countries. Therefore, we hope that the recipient countries, consulting with my Government, effectively use the reserved fund for the implementation of their price policy.

I will next outline some of my views on price levels and protection of developed countries. Table IV 1.1 and Table IV 1.2 of the document refer to the indicators of support levels. I am convinced that the quantitative analysis based on producer support ratios, or producer subsidy equivalents has limitations as a tool of international comparison because it does not reflect the different agricultural situation in each country. Firstly, Table IV 1.1 and Table IV 1.2 were prepared by a calculation based upon a number of hypothetical assumptions.

Secondly, they do not properly reflect the agricultural characteristics of each country, such as the difference between food exporting countries and food importing countries with many small-scale farmers and with a low self-sufficiency ratio in food supplies.

Thirdly, there are other technical problems. International markets are influenced by the various measures such as export subsidies. Prices are greatly affected by the changing exchange rates and it is very difficult to take the difference of the quality into account.

In this regard, my delegation is of the opinion that this document should be restricted only for our use. Finally, I would like to make a brief comment on paragraph 394 on the protection measures provided to Japanese farmers. My Government so far has implemented a series of external economic measures to improve the market access for the foreign agricultural products. Due to the increase in the imports, Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio has been decreasing year by year, and is now down to one of the lowest levels in the world. We now depend upon imported foods for about half of our food supply on the calorie basis. It is, therefore, felt virtually necessary by our people to maintain the domestic agricultural production at least at the current level, considering the economic and social importance of agriculture and its significant role not only in supplying food but also in enriching the environment. The present support measures are limited to the minimum necessities for Japan's agricultural policy, regional development policy and food security.

V. MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): The Trinidad and Tobago delegation would like to congratulate Professor Islam on his lucid presentation of this important agenda item, which is particularly relevant to a small open island economy such as that of Trinidad and Tobago at a time when we are attempting to encourage national agricultural development within the framework of a regional common market, CARICOM. In our case, the problem is further aggravated by two elements: firstly, the substantial disparity in wage levels and the deteriorating terms of trade between agriculture and the rest of the economy within the national context, and secondly, the differences in wage and income levels between ourselves and our partners in CARICOM, and all open island economies much smaller even than ourselves.

In this situation, regional and pan-territorial pricing, as the FAO study points out, assumes great importance. We are, indeed, aware of the importance of working towards similar price structures within the region.

Similarly, we are aware of the importance of and the need for an integrated, coherent, overall pricing policy such that the price signal is not offset by over-valued exchange rates or disadvantageous interest rates and fiscal policies, inconsistent with agricultural development policy. The shortcomings of excessive recourse to input subsidization are also borne out by our own experiences in the recent past. We strongly endorse the finding that there has been some lack of appreciation of the role of adequate statistical data in the formulation and monitoring of price policies. We are well aware of the need for regional household surveys of income and consumption if we are to have a reasonably accurate estimate of income and price elasticities for the agricultural commodities, the production of which we wish to influence. This is why, at the last Council meeting in June this year, we requested FAO's advice and technical support in the elaboration of a price and marketing policy and strategy that would give a new impetus to our domestic food production and widen the productive base in our agriculture. We are therefore most interested to note the regional initiatives in this area in Asia and West Africa. We feel very strongly the need for, and usefulness of, such an undertaking in the Caribbean Region, and request that immediate and urgent consideration be given to the form, timing and modality of a regional workshop in this domain.

T. ISKIT (Turkey): I would like to start by expressing our thanks to the Director-General for his initiative of undertaking a study on agricultural price policies which are widely implemented by a large number of countries, and have great impact on the performance of agriculture in the world. We are happy to see the result of this initiative in the form of the excellent and comprehensive document provided to us. Let me also commend Professor Islam for his lucid introduction to this subject, which, indeed, helped us to grasp better the major issues related to agricultural price policies. We are grateful for the opportunity to discuss at the Conference the main findings of the study and believe that our deliberations will further increase the awareness among us regarding the importance of agricultural price policies.

Turkey has been implementing price policies in agriculture since the early 1930s with the primary objective of providing incentives to farmers to increase the productivity of arable land within a suitable production structure. The encouragement of farmers in this way has greatly contributed to the increased greater self-sufficiency that we have attained in most basic commodities. Let me stress, however, that these improvements and high level of productivity were not free of basic economic problems. Subsidies associated with implementing price and input policies in agriculture brought about heavy burdens to the economy. The losses incurred by the state economic enterprises administering support activities reached unbearable levels. Furthermore, prices higher than the world prices caused both inflationary pressure on the economy and inability of the surplus product to compete in the international market. Since 1980, however, Turkey has revised its subsidy programmes in the light of the improved domestic production levels and the state of the economy. The basic policy guiding support pricing is now export promotion rather than import substitution.

We have drawn some lessons from our experience in implementing price support programmes for agriculture. Now I would like to make some comments on the main issues touched upon by the paper in the light of our experience.

We agree to the view referred to in paragraph 19. Price policies always have multiple objectives. In fact, political and social variables play an important role in domestic price policies. There is at least one clear-cut conclusion that price policies are not and cannot be designed with pure economic variables. However, we believe that a compromise can be reached within economic, political and social objectives and constraints.

The coverage of commodities to be supported, the degree of support and the timing of price announcements are also major points to consider in agricultural policy implementations. It is certain that these commodities which have inelastic demand should be included in the commodity package of the support programme. Let me, however, emphasize that we should never waste our resources for the sake of self-sufficiency in too many crops. Whenever possible, the comparative advantages in production should be duly taken into account for better resource allocation through price policies.

The degree of support is also important, because there can be no downward adjustment, but almost always escalation of prices which may soon reach unbearable levels.

In the paper, attention is drawn to the desirability of announcing prices in good time to influence production decisions of farmers. As I mentioned before, we consider this aspect of support prices very important. In practice, however, it is rather difficult to announce prices prior to planting seasons in the absence of adequate information to determine the appropriate price level. In view of this fact, we are prepared to give our full support to the increased FAO assistance to developing countries in improving their data collection systems.

Mr Chairman, as the Director-General clearly points out in his foreword to the paper, there is no universal formula which can be adopted by all countries in the design and implementation of agricultural price policies. Having said this, I would once again emphasize our belief that sharing experiences among countries will greatly contribute to the implementation of better price policies in agriculture. With this view in mind, we think that some follow-up activities to this study, for example in the form of regional workshops, are needed in the years ahead. We also believe that some country-specific case studies will also help verify some of the generalizations made in the paper on this complex issue.

H. BAR-SHAI (Israel): Referring to the excellent review in Document C 85/19, I would like to note a few points from the Israeli angle. As mentioned before, the matter of price policy is connected with the item of agricultural adjustment which was discussed yesterday during the discussions on protectionism.

As a country develops, eventually its dependence on foreign trade grows. One of the main targets in the economic recovery programme of my country is to increase earnings from export trade, thus improving our balance of trade, as well as strengthening our own production facilities. Unfortunately, protectionism, through intervention, price and similar policies, continues to be a major obstacle in the international agricultural and agriculturally based products, as we know from our own experience as well as from the documents which have been presented before us by the FAO.

An example of this is that in some exporting countries prices for raw and semi-finished foods are determined through subsidies, refunds, export taxes, etc., so that they are more expensive than the finished product itself. I think that this situation of differential pricing should be changed so as to enable other countries to develop from their own stage of food processing according to their possibilities and specializations on an economic basis. This should be part of a general call from this Conference - and here I join my colleague from the EEC - to Member Nations and to the GATT framework to progress beyond preparatory activities towards a new, fruitful round of multilateral trade negotiations aiming at further liberalization, as well as on easing the present impediments to international trade in agricultural products.

I would like to add here with your permission that last year Israel had removed the requirements for import licenses for sugar and tea from most of supply sources. Imports of other products like rice, dried fruits, etc., were also liberalized a few years ago. All this was done within a long-term process of liberalization of Israel's foreign trade in agricultural products.

I do not delude myself that this extensive survey will solve all the problems involved in the vast - complex of internal and external agricultural areas of activity. I do not suppose that this is the final form of this survey, and I do not necessarily subscribe to all its conclusions and suggestions. But I believe, from our own experience, that an agricultural price policy, properly and justly applied, is a strong necessity for the development of a sound agricultural production system. We know it is difficult to achieve. We know all the problems, all the pressures. But the absolute price of a commodity as well as its relative price to substitute, may be a matter of to be or not to be to the farmer, with long-term implications for consumers and for nations. Agriculture means to us in Israel, and surely to everybody in the world, much more than an economical source of income. May I suggest, then, that this review become the basis for an updated handbook which may assist decision-makers in many countries in their agricultural price policy solutions. In accordance with our tradition in Israel, we are ready to help other nations in various ways in this respect to form their own policies and to arrive at a sounder agricultural policy.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): The question whether farmers in developing countries receive adequate prices for their products that also constitute an incentive for producing more has been of interest to us for a long time. We have expressed this interest in FAO in past years repeatedly, and we are satisfied to note that this complex subject has now been taken up in determining the impact on consumers and has already been discussed in 1984 at the Regional Conferences. For the preparation of the summary study now before us on the complicated agricultural price policies we can only thank the Secretariat. In preparing this document the Secretariat has met the acute need for a compilation of objective statistical data and for their evaluation as a factual basis for decisions in developing national and regional strategies for the formulation of agricultural price policies. We would have preferred, however, for this study to have covered more than just 34 countries. It would have substantially increased the representation of this study. We believe that the authors of this study rightly stress the immediate importance of agricultural price policies in the development of agricultural production and in the supply of consumers with food. To that extent the analysis in Section II on the importance of mutual relations in developing countries between various parameters of price policy and their influence on production and marketing of agricultural products seems particularly useful. Here and also in the technical in-depth considerations in the appendices it becomes clear, *inter alia*, how difficult it is to balance the optimum price relations for the producer of foodstuffs in domestic consumption and for the producer who provides goods for export. The proposals for price policy formulation contained in the Box

in paragraph 329 are particularly valuable in this context. The key characteristics of global agricultural price movements between 1969 and 1983, as shown in paragraph 515, constitute the statistical background for what is stated in paragraphs 523 and 527. They show that the productivity of agricultural production in developing countries is often penalized by "negative protection" rather than favored by "positive protection". The incomes of farmers, and thus the incentives to produce more of the urgently needed foodstuffs, are obviously determined rather by national agricultural policy decisions, and world market prices play only a minor role in that context. My delegation, on the other hand, believes that section 4 on the description of the price policy of developed countries, the level of prices and the protection level is too broad in this connection, and charged with as yet unrecognized theoretical parameters. They do not sufficiently take into account the fact that these countries, in formulating their agricultural price policy, are not only subject to the constraints of foreign trade policy, but also to societal, economic and social policy constraints. This of course also applies to the relevant paragraphs in the summary that precedes the study. These considerations, in the light of what is said in paragraphs 515 to 527, provide in our opinion no reliable basis for assessing their effects on agricultural price and production policies of the countries in the developing process.

Also, the conclusions from studies on trade liberalization in paragraphs 429 to 439 can only be seen in a very relative light because of their largely hypothetical nature. This does not in any way belittle the very scrupulous preparation, and we would endorse what is said in paragraph 442, that in multilateral trade relations, what helps developing countries most is to have as few barriers as possible. Our trade balance shows, as a result of this conduct and policy, rising benefits, particularly for developing countries.

Here I should like to refer to the relevant detailed statement of my delegation on topic 8.

Let me say in conclusion that, on the whole, the result of this study encourages us to welcome the principles formulated for this sector as outlined as the future scope of FAO at the end of part I, paras. 99 to 103. Here the offer of the Secretariat to make available to individual countries the experience and instrumentarium of the Organization in formulating their individual agricultural price policies is considered to be very positive indeed by my delegation. The prerequisite for getting increasingly reliable answers for the solution of problems is the continued and more detailed collection and processing of data as proposed by the Secretariat for the further improvement of its statistical area of work that we consider extremely valuable.

KYO-EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): Firstly, my delegation would like to express heartfelt thanks to the FAO Secretariat for the excellent study on agricultural price policies. In my delegation's opinion, this study report, even though it was focused mainly on policies of developing countries, will be of great help to all Member Nations in formulating and applying their price policies.

Prices by themselves, as mentioned in paragraph 49 on page 7 of document C 85/19, may still not be enough to bring about a sustained annual growth rate of approximately 4 percent in agricultural output which most developing countries need to achieve. However, price policies of the developed countries, in particular food exporting countries, strongly influence not only the agricultural performance and the consumers' well-being of their own countries but also those of other countries. Furthermore, they can also, in certain circumstances, distort international trade, marketing opportunities and agricultural development of the developing countries. In this regard, I fully agree with the views which are presented in paragraph 40 on page 5 of the above mentioned document, as follows. Global benefit of comparative advantage cannot be fully gained under all circumstances unless the displaced resources can be used efficiently elsewhere. If not, it would lead to social and political instability. This important fact must be taken into full account as we change or modify agricultural price policies.

In this connection, I should like to touch briefly upon my Government's agricultural price policy. The main objective of the present agricultural price policy in my country is to maintain agricultural prices at a reasonable level for the consumers' benefit and at the same time high enough to increase farm income. The emphasis, however, has been shifting gradually from farm income support to consumer price stabilization since the early 1980s. Such a policy modification was made in order to lessen the financial costs of agricultural price policies.



Since the beginning of the 1970s, my Government has given a high priority to the production incentive and income support function of price policy and has adopted a dual price scheme for basic foods, rice and barley. However, this scheme generated a huge burden of financial compensation. Therefore, policy readjustment has inevitably been made in order to alleviate the financial costs. At the same time, numerous other measures have been expanded or employed. Expansion of the buffer stocks scheme, amplification of operation and mobilization of price stabilization fund, future farmers' support programmes, farmers' new income source development projects, and production control/coordination programmes have been implemented with great emphasis.

Due to the small size of farming, however, the effects of those policy measures are very limited. Therefore, it is still a difficult task for my Government to decide the level of producer price supports. Price support levels have been so far decided on the basis of an integrated assessment of various criteria such as cost of production, parity prices, income disparity between farm and non-farm sectors, market prospects and international prices, etc.

The final decision, however, has been frequently influenced strongly by political considerations of social equity and stabilization. Choosing levels of support prices has become in recent years more of a political issue than one of economics due to consumers' demands for lower prices, as well as the reinforced demand of the developed countries for more liberalization of agricultural imports.

In this respect, I hope FAO would undertake an in-depth study on the net balance of socio-economic impacts of both agricultural free trade and protectionism on both importing and exporting countries of agricultural products.

M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Por ser la primera ocasión, Sr. Presidente, en que hago uso de la palabra en esta Comisión, le ruego me permita felicitarlo por su elección como Vicepresidente y, asimismo, le pido que transmita mi beneplácito al resto de la Mesa elegida para dirigir los debates que nos ocupan.

Al profesor Islam, quien magistralmente ha presentado el tema, le reitero nuestra felicitación por su claridad permanente a que nos tiene acostumbrados.

Señor Presidente, el tema de los precios agrícolas y las políticas que se siguen con respecto a los mismos se enmarca perfectamente dentro de la problemática general de los problemas de la agricultura en la generalidad de los países. Por constituir un asunto tan sensitivo, celebramos y respaldamos la decisión del Director General para que este tema fuera examinado en las Conferencias Regionales, en el Comité de Agricultura y finalmente en esta Conferencia. Creo, sin embargo, que los problemas planteados no quedaron suficientemente claros y resueltos dada la diversidad de matices y modalidades que adoptan las políticas de precios en los diferentes países y regiones. Por esta razón deseamos proponer que se otorgue por parte de la FAO el adecuado seguimiento sobre las conclusiones de esta Conferencia y se mantenga una asistencia sistemática de la Organización a los países en esta materia.

El problema de los precios agrícolas, Sr. Presidente, en nuestra opinión, debe examinarse en dos campos: en el comercio exterior y en el mercado interno.

En el comercio exterior de los productos agrícolas, lejos de observarse resultados y avances positivos, se incrementan las medidas proteccionistas de los países desarrollados de economía y de mercado. Estos agravan el intercambio desigual y hacendada vez más angustiosa la situación de nuestros países, cuyos ingresos por exportación disminuyen ostensiblemente, mientras crecen desmesuradamente los precios de los productos que importamos, entre ellos los insumos agrícolas, tales como maquinaria, fertilizantes, pesticidas y otros. Al mismo tiempo, aumenta en forma alarmante las importaciones de alimentos con destino a los países subdesarrollados.

En consecuencia, las actuales políticas de precios de los productos agrícolas en el comercio internacional tienen que ser examinadas como un producto del injusto orden económico internacional imperante y entendemos que para encontrar soluciones válidas es requisito indispensable el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional.

En lo relativo a las políticas de precios agrícolas al interior de los países éstas se formulan en ocasiones sin tener en cuenta que los precios constituyen un vehículo que interactúa entre el productor y el consumidor. Un examen técnico del problema pone de manifiesto que inadecuadas políticas de precios pueden frenar el efecto positivo de estímulo al consumo de productos locales y la movilización de los productores, sobre todo de los pequeños campesinos.

Es necesario revertir esta tendencia y hacer que nuestras economías en el marco interno se estimulen y recuperen.

La aplicación de adecuadas políticas de precios, Sr. Presidente, es un instrumento de mucha fuerza para actuar en favor del desarrollo de la economía agrícola, que es la principal fuente de ingresos para la mayoría de los países subdesarrollados que dependemos en lo fundamental de la agricultura.

En mi país los precios agrícolas se han convertido en un instrumento altamente valioso para estimular y planificar el desarrollo de la producción agrícola. Específicamente hemos tomado como base de formulación de precios, los costos de producción; de manera que los productores conozcan lo que les cuesta producir y cuántos serán sus ingresos, determinando así una orientación clara de los mismos hacia donde inclinarán sus esfuerzos.

Desde luego que no todos los países subdesarrollados tenemos iguales condiciones, pero reconocemos que el estudio de los costos es un elemento que técnicamente no debe dejarse de lado.

Mi delegación entiende que un de los principales problemas que afectan al adecuado funcionamiento de los precios en muchos países es la actuación de los intermediarios. Es la práctica común que los intermediarios entre los productores agrícolas y los consumidores resulten los principales beneficiarios de los esfuerzos de los productores. Por ello consideramos que este aspecto debe ser examinado con suma atención.

Para terminar, Sr. Presidente, debo señalar que el documento C 85/19 es un gran esfuerzo de la Secretaría, equilibradamente formulado y con una valiosa información y por ello merece nuestra felicitación, no sin antes exhortarle a continuar trabajando en esta dirección para hacer que cada día avancemos más en la aplicación de precios justos para nuestra agricultura.

Ms. P. WEST (United Kingdom): First of all we, too, would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the production of a most valuable report. We believe that a comparative study such as this is an entirely appropriate exercise for FAO to undertake, and hope that the Organization will continue to play an important role in the collection and exchange of information on price policies.

However, it is not clear what manpower and financial resources have been employed in the preparation of this report. We would welcome information on this point in the future so that cost-effectiveness can be judged.

We also wonder whether the country specific nature of price policies and the importance of political factors mean that the envisaged regional workshops may be limited in scope, and whether efforts might not be better spent in assessing individual countries as is, of course, proposed in paragraph 102, so that the political complexities can be fully considered and the policies formulated within these constraints.

But finally, we would like to pledge our support for the thoughts and suggestions set out in the section on future policy suggestions at paragraphs 52 to 89.

M. RYAN (Australia): I would like to make a few brief comments on the document, particularly in regard to that section dealing with developed market economy countries.

First of all, we agree wholly with the comment at paragraph 93 of the paper that: "It is unquestionably desirable to reduce developed country protection which, through distorting prices and aggravating price stability and uncertainty, has serious global consequences". The situation has arisen as a direct result of agricultural and trading policies which prevent farmers from receiving signals from the market place. In setting its own policies in place, Australia recognizes that producers require some safeguards against sudden short-term downturn: in international agricultural commodity prices. However, they are not insulated against longer-term trends in the market place, and are forced to make economic decisions in the light of market realities.

As we see it, this is only as it should be if we are to achieve a rational allocation of resources not only in the national agricultural sector, but in the general economy. Secondly, the question of protectionism and pricing policy are intimately linked. Domestic production reduces demand through higher domestic prices and retards economic growth, but its international consequences are even more severe in residual world markets. All efficient producing and exporting countries, both developed and developing, suffer alike. As a direct consequence, because of the policies adopted and pursued by a number of developed countries, many efficient producing developing countries are greatly inhibited in carrying through agricultural and trade policies which will ensure food security and sustained economic growth.

Finally, I would like to express our agreement with the comment by Dr Islam earlier today when he expressed doubts as to the validity of using the level of imports of agricultural commodities as a direct measure of the level of protectionism maintaining in a particular country or group of countries. It is our view that this is a particularly crude and unsophisticated and, might I say, completely misleading means of assessing the situation. The situation is much more complex and an analysis needs to be made on a commodity-by-commodity basis which includes the sources of specific products and the level at which price supports and other forms of assistance are set in comparison with world market levels.

J.E. ROSS (United States of America): The United States has been closely following the preparatory work leading to the price policy document before us today, the expert consultations and discussions at regional conferences, and the review of the interim report at COAG last March. In our view, the result is an outstanding document which has integrated numerous recommendations into a meaningful global study. Having thoroughly reviewed this study, the United States commends Dr Islam and his staff for preparing a comprehensive digest which, if proper steps are taken, will help developing countries to formulate more effective pricing policies.

No one here needs to be reminded that price policies are but one component of a frequently complex policy network designed to improve the performance of the agricultural sector. Both developed and developing countries need to ensure that price policies are consistent with the entire array of policies relating to agriculture. We believe that countries should adopt policies which minimize government intervention in the price formation and distribution system. This is a policy our own government is trying to follow, although we all know that complete reliance on market forces is sometimes difficult to achieve.

To reiterate, a point made by my delegation during deliberations on Agenda Item 8, the United States is committed to dismantling trade barriers so that developed and developing countries alike can trade in world markets without resorting to subsidies. We are also working to reduce artificially high domestic support prices on certain commodities in order to bring our agricultural market in line with market realities.

A policy of minimizing government intervention in pricing and distribution using market forces to establish realistic prices and allocations, and avoiding public sector displacement or pre-emption of private firms in the distribution of goods will not only reduce the strain of subsidies on developing country budgets, but will allocate resources more efficiently than under the various controls which have been instituted in many developing countries. This implies moving away from panterritorial pricing policies, whenever feasible, which discourage private sector involvement in the marketing system. Although pan-territorial pricing policies may be based on legitimate equity considerations, they generally impose too great a financial burden on developing countries

to absorb, given the distorting effects they have on the normal operations of commodity markets. Commodity markets should be allowed to function to reflect the real economic costs of transportation and storage, although the difficulties in administering regional prices are not to be taken lightly.

The United States generally supports policies which reflect the realities of the market place, including such factors as cost, supply, and demand. This is likely to have a salutary effect on agricultural production in those countries. The United States also recognizes that policies which result in higher food prices can create hardships for consumers operating near the margin of existence. In these cases, special programmes may need to be implemented to protect those consumers at risk. These programmes should be designed so that they are targetted more effectively to the truly needy, but the difficulty in doing this is not an easy task, as was stated by our colleague from India.

The United States supports the conclusions concerning the adverse effects of over-valuing exchange rates. Frequently, exchange rates are determined without due consideration to the implications for the agricultural sector. Over-valued exchange rates impose substantial disincentives on agricultural export production and strengthen price competition from imports. We also concur with the study, its recommendations, which have already been supported by the delegation of Norway and others, that domestic agricultural prices should not be linked too closely to international prices.

The United States commends the Secretariat for expanding the empirical evidence component of the study. By providing a unique blend of price policy theory supported by empirical evidence, it recognized the complex inter-relationships of many political and economic interests. The study appropriately concludes that despite numerous differences between economic and political philosophies, there are actions which developing countries can take, in terms of policy adjustments, to improve their agricultural performance. The study describes several country initiatives that have proved to be successful. While we fully acknowledge that developed country actions are important and can significantly influence what happens in developing countries, we reject any notion that developing countries are powerless to influence their own destiny.

In this regard, we strongly encourage FAO to proceed with the recommendations for follow-up actions, as described in paragraphs 99 to 103. The United States firmly believes that FAO's time and effort in preparing this very lengthy and complex document will only have a minimal impact unless FAO's expertise in this area is further utilized. We also question the value of the need to incorporate the suggestions, most of which are very useful, in order to prepare an even more voluminous study. We encourage FAO to work with individual countries to develop timely price commodity collection and processing systems, to examine existing price policies and make recommendations for improvements, and to conduct workshops to promote information exchange among neighbouring countries.

In this connection, the United States Agency for International Development is cooperating with FAO by co-sponsoring two workshops of African agricultural policy analysts and planners in late 1986, as a step towards building African policy analysis capacity.

Finally, the United State proposes that FAO keep us informed - perhaps through a report at the next COAG and/or next Conference - on what impact the study and follow-up actions have had in modifying "price policies. Such a report could prove useful in giving guidance for all of us as to what approaches work best and how future economic cooperation can be enhanced.

G. FRADIN (France): Je voudrais tout d'abord m'intéresser rapidement aux problèmes qui se posent plus spécifiquement au niveau national en matière de politique de prix agricoles et aborder ensuite les problèmes internationaux.

S'agissant des questions de formulation et d'exécution des politiques de prix agricoles, ma délégation est heureuse de renouveler ses félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité de l'étude qui nous est présentée, tant pour sa précision que pour la pertinence des nombreux points soulignés par M. Nurul Islam dans son introduction.

Je rappelle brièvement tout l'intérêt déjà exprimé lors de nos précédents débats que nous portons à des questions telles que l'organisation des marchés nationaux, la souplesse des mécanismes spéculateurs et des organismes de gestion, le lien et la nécessaire cohérence avec les autres secteurs économiques et bien entendu le soutien des prix à la production tant en ce qui concerne leur niveau que leur stabilité.

J'aimerais insister sur ce dernier point en attirant votre attention sur le paragraphe 47 du document qui signale que l'élasticité de la production par rapport au prix n'est que de 0,5 donc relativement faible; ce qui signifie que pour avoir un effet sensible et soutenu sur la production, le relèvement des prix risque d'être insupportable pour l'économie. Je crois qu'il faut noter ici que l'élasticité ainsi indiquée n'est bien entendu qu'une moyenne et qu'elle peut sensiblement varier, notamment en fonction du type d'exploitation considéré.

Pour certaines exploitations disposant de ressources monétaires, cette élasticité sera sensiblement supérieure. Les exploitations apporteront donc une réponse significative à une mesure de soutien des prix, laquelle aura pour conséquence une amélioration structurelle sensible même si l'effet sur la production reste globalement modéré.

Je pense par ailleurs qu'il convient de rappeler que le soutien des prix à la production est un moyen efficace d'accumuler du capital au niveau de l'exploitation et par conséquent de favoriser les investissements par les agriculteurs eux-mêmes.

J'ai souligné tout à l'heure, le lien nécessaire avec d'autres secteurs de l'économie. Il serait bon à cet égard que dans une telle étude soient au moins signalés les intérêts d'une politique des revenus des populations urbaines ce qui nous paraît un complément indispensable à la politique de développement agricole.

Enfin et pour en finir sur ce chapitre, je voudrais attirer votre attention sur le paradoxe qu'il y a à préconiser des aides alimentaires plus importantes pour permettre aux Etats de mettre en place un double système de prix à la consommation et à la production, paradoxe difficile à lever sans doute mais qui doit certainement prêter à réflexion plus ample.

En ce qui concerne l'aspect international des politiques de prix agricoles, le document a été sensiblement enrichi depuis notre précédent débat et ma délégation n'a malheureusement pas les mêmes motifs de satisfaction en ce qui concerne la façon dont est abordée cette question.

L'idée maîtresse que défend le document est que la majorité des problèmes auxquels se trouvent confrontés la communauté internationale et principalement les pays en développement résulte des distorsions apportées dans les échanges commerciaux, et fait de la correction de ces distorsions un instrument privilégié du rétablissement des équilibres économiques internes.

Cette approche ne nous paraît pas adaptée aux problèmes que nous avons à traiter, celui du développement agricole et celui de la sécurité alimentaire.

Elle ne nous paraît pas adaptée d'abord parce qu'elle omet d'autres éléments tout aussi essentiels et en particulier les aléas du système monétaire international et notamment les fluctuations du dollar. Elle ne nous paraît pas adaptée, ensuite, parce que ce discours purement commercial, qui fait des mécanismes internationaux l'élément central du maintien des équilibres économiques nationaux, vient s'opposer à la souveraineté des Etats et à la maîtrise effective des moyens à leur disposition pour assurer leur stabilité économique.

Je rappelle à cet égard les paroles fermes prononcées par le Président de la République du Pérou lors de la Conférence Mc Dougall qui a précédé nos travaux, affirmant son droit de fixer pour son pays un programme de transformation économique sans interventions extérieures, et en n'ouvrant pas le marché péruvien selon les diktats d'un libéralisme absolu.

Cette approche conduit les rédacteurs à dénoncer le protectionnisme au paragraphe 37, en particulier comme source principale de la distorsion des échanges. Quoique très souvent répétée dans cette enceinte, cette affirmation ne me paraît pas totalement pertinente.

En premier lieu, elle est globalement inexacte. Je note d'ailleurs que le sentiment du Secrétariat lui-même est partagé à son égard. Je n'en veux pour preuve que ce qui est décrit dans le document 85/13 relatif au protectionnisme, que nous avons examiné lors du dernier Comité des produits. Dans ce document, les paragraphes 3 à 6 rappellent qu'au cours des vingt dernières années le commerce mondial des produits agricoles a cru en moyenne de 3,9 pour cent par an, et en expliquent clairement les raisons.

Le paragraphe 6 conclut même que l'accroissement de l'entité commerciale ne correspond pas nécessairement à un recul du protectionnisme; pour une part, c'est même le contraire.

En second lieu, l'analyse qui sous-tend cette affirmation manque singulièrement de précision. Ma délégation aurait apprécié par exemple que le protectionnisme soit défini de façon plus exhaustive. Il aurait fallu notamment tenir compte des restrictions quantitatives et sanitaires ou des aides indirectes dont il n'est pas question. Cela aurait évité d'évaluer des niveaux de protection selon des critères dont les auteurs reconnaissent eux-mêmes qu'ils ne constituent pas des indicateurs satisfaisants; de produire des tableaux, notamment celui de la page 72 faisant état de données encore discutées et dont pour cette raison le retrait avait été obtenu déjà lors du dernier Comité des produits; d'éliminer enfin d'un trait de plume au paragraphe 430 les contradictions qui subsistent. Nous pensons que cette question est suffisamment importante pour justifier un minimum d'objectivité.

En disant cela, M. le Président, je n'oublie nullement les risques que fait courir un protectionnisme croissant à la Communauté économique internationale.

Le Président de la République française, dans le discours qu'il a prononcé ici même à l'occasion du 40ème anniversaire de notre Organisation, a clairement affirmé notre position à cet égard: nous sommes contre le protectionnisme.

Mais nous ne pensons pas pour autant que -la seule libération du commerce international constituera une garantie pour le développement agricole des pays où précisément les ressources alimentaires font défaut.

Comment ne pas voir que l'exercice des seules forces du marché tournera inéluctablement au désavantage de la majorité des pays en développement qui n'ont pas les moyens de participer à la compétition internationale?

L'approche retenue par le document conduit à se demander si notre objectif doit être de créer un marché mondial unique ou bien d'organiser les échanges selon des normes supportables par tous. Je note que le document répond indirectement à cette question aux paragraphes 447 et 448 au travers d'une contradiction. Il y est dit en effet que la libéralisation générale des échanges ne s'oppose pas à la nécessité des accords de produits destinés à appuyer la stabilité des marchés internationaux. C'est reconnaître tout simplement que toute politique libérale à laquelle nous demeurons fermement attachés doit être accompagnée d'une certaine régulation qui ne doit pas être confondue avec le protectionnisme. Tous nos pays ont intérêt au développement harmonieux des échanges internationaux. Tous nos pays ont intérêt à ce que les règles commerciales internationales favorisent le développement de ces échanges. Nous ne pensons pas que le problème se réduise à un simple choix entre le protectionnisme et le libre échange: il s'agit plutôt d'apprécier de quelle manière et à quel rythme la libéralisation des échanges peut se faire dans l'intérêt de tous les pays et en particulier des moins favorisés, compte tenu de la spécificité du secteur agricole. A cet égard, la protection des agriculteurs les plus faibles, la coopération régionale et l'ajustement des marchés internationaux par le biais d'accords économiques nous paraissent des éléments essentiels.

Une qualité essentielle du document qu'a préparé le Secrétariat est de nous avoir introduits à un débat fondamental. Ma délégation est persuadée, tout comme beaucoup d'autres qui nous ont précédés, que ce débat ne peut en rester là, même si des recommandations opérationnelles fort intéressantes ont déjà été dégagées. En se référant à ce que je viens de dire sur les aspects internationaux du problème, ma délégation pense qu'il nous appartient, au sein de cette Organisation qu'est la FAO, d'approfondir notre réflexion à ce sujet. Elle souhaite que, laissant de côté les dogmes économiques, nous fassions preuve d'imagination afin de rechercher ensemble les voies et moyens concrets d'organiser nos échanges et de faciliter le développement des agricultures en péril.

Ma délégation est prête à participer pleinement à cet exercice et suggère qu'y soient associées maintenant les institutions du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale.

Mme A. NIOMBELA MAMBULA (Congo): La délégation de mon pays souhaite féliciter le Dr Islam de l'introduction du document C 85/19 concernant la politique des prix agricoles. Ma délégation remercie et félicite le Secrétariat d'avoir permis à la Conférence d'examiner un document aussi fouillé.

Notre gouvernement est très attentif aux questions des prix et notamment des prix de produits agricoles aussi bien à la production qu'à la consommation; car nous estimons que la question des prix de produits agricoles ne peut pas être abordée dans un contexte isolé. En effet, le souci de notre gouvernement, qui est du reste partagé dans ce document, est de pouvoir offrir des prix rémunérateurs aux producteurs pour accroître leur pouvoir d'achat et valoriser le travail de la terre et permettre aux consommateurs d'avoir un accès relativement aux produits agricoles pour améliorer leur nutrition.

Cependant, comme nous l'avons dit, cette question est liée à tout un ensemble de paramètres que nous ne maîtrisons pas et parmi ces facteurs, il y a les prix du marché international concernant les produits d'exportation dont on sait qu'ils ont fléchi depuis le début de cette décennie. Rien donc d'étonnant à ce qu'on relève ce qui est mentionné au paragraphe 24, à savoir que les prix à la production des cultures d'exportation ont chuté puisque les cours mondiaux eux-mêmes enregistraient une forte baisse.

Voilà pourquoi le Congo pense que les efforts des pays en développement dans ce domaine pourront apporter des résultats sensibles avec l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique international qui organiserait davantage le marché mondial.

En outre, la politique des prix agricoles semble être un facteur très important en tant qu'élément incitatif pour accroître la production, alors que la terre et la main-d'oeuvre ne suffisent pas. Il faut pourtant des semences améliorées, des engrais, des pesticides et autres intrants pour augmenter la productivité des sols et donc accroître la production. Tous ces intrants ne sont pas accessibles à nos gouvernements et encore moins à nos ruraux qui, hélas, voient leur pouvoir d'achat s'amenuiser chaque jour davantage en raison de la détérioration des termes de l'échange, d'une part, et, d'autre part, à cause de l'endettement de nos pays qui nous oblige à des restrictions budgétaires qui interdisent toute subvention à l'agriculture comme le font les pays développés.

A la fin nous encourageons la FAO à aider les pays africains dans la mesure du possible à l'établissement d'un système de statistiques fiables afin de leur faciliter la formulation de politiques des prix.

R. PRINS (Canada): On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I would like to thank Professor Islam and his staff for the preparation and presentation of this excellent document. We agree with many of its findings. The study concludes that its objectives have been met and we generally agree with this conclusion. But, in many respects, this is the beginning only. The watershed of policy changes to which the document refers is only starting, and we would encourage the continuance of efforts both in FAO and among policy makers, to correct the policy bias documented so clearly in the Secretariat's report.

There is strong evidence that aggregate agricultural supply responds positively to prices. While such incentives have been lacking in a great number of countries and while we would emphasize the central importance of getting prices right, we would not discount non-price measures as being important.

Marketing, transportation infrastructure and agricultural research come to mind immediately as important non-price measures. Nevertheless, the ingredient which has so often been missing and on which this document focused, is the question of prices.

While each country is, of course, different, we believe strongly that an effective food strategy, indeed, a vigorous agricultural sector, is a most important element of national development. In this respect we regret to see price policies which discriminate against producers. We believe that some follow-up to this agenda item is required in the years ahead. The Council Session in 1986, or the Committee on Agriculture of 1987, appear to be possible venues for such follow-up. We appreciate that some mechanisms for follow-up have already been built into the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. In the spirit of openness and of constructive dialogue, we would like to see such follow-up and monitoring through the preparation of a report on policy adjustments, particularly pricing policies, in the member states. We would not like to limit this follow-up to any particular group of countries, since on the theme of adjustment, as was discussed yesterday, changes will have to be made by developing as well as by developed countries. FAO, in this report, has created awareness, has facilitated the exchange of views, has identified issues, has documented price bias and has shown that FAO can be a facilitator in the process of this dialogue on the exchange of views of the various member country experiences.

It is now the turn of governments to consider FAO's practical advice in order to implement more appropriate policies in support of food production, and ultimately in food security. The decline in per caput food production, extensive malnutrition and poverty, and burdening fiscal deficits, are some of the signs which are encouraging many governments to reconsider not only their policies, but also their institutional arrangements.

Canada, along with other food aid donors, is actively involved in an experiment to help Mali to restructure its cereal market. The preliminary conclusions of these efforts have been published and could be further highlighted in paragraph 455 of the pricing policies document.

Some countries will want to draw on the expertise of the FAO. Resources have been provided in the FAO budget to focus on analytical support to member governments in implementing appropriate policy changes.

My government would request the Secretariat to place a follow-up report before the Ninetieth Session of the Council, outlining FAO assistance in implementing price policies as well as noting the results which such assistance is having.

Turning briefly to the report itself, we see the following main conclusions: - a) price bias should be reduced; b) food subsidies should be targeted; c) protectionism should be reduced; d) price measures are necessary but not sufficient.

Without dwelling on these individual conclusions, it goes without saying that governments need to take action in developing consistent, pragmatic and flexible action to optimize the use of their domestic resources. The value of a consistent set of policies, was demonstrated by the performance of many developing Asian economies during the period 1980-1984.

Turning to specific paragraphs, the Section starting at paragraph 423 has our general support in concluding that positive protection in developed countries has had the effect of lowering world prices. By contrast the effect of negative protection in some developing countries must also be kept in sight. For the previous agenda item I quoted one study which considered these aspects for the liberalization of trade in rice.

In paragraphs 74 and 75 some interesting conclusions are drawn with respect to the conditions of the small farmer. FAO's focus on small farmers would warrant the highlighting of the findings reported in these paragraphs.

There are a number of other comments of details that we could refer to. In our opinion the minor nature of these comments would tend to diminish the overall satisfaction we have with this excellent document. In total it contains many useful thoughts. They are food for thought which policy makers in developing countries must borrow from in relation to their own unique problems.



K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh delegation thinks that the FAO Study on Agricultural Price Policies as documented in C 85/19 is self evident in its merit. We pay tribute to the Secretariat for undertaking it, and we congratulate Professor Islam for his lucid and precise introduction to this very complex subject.

In spite of the formidable divergence among countries in political, economic, and administrative systems the study has succeeded in capturing virtually the entire spectrum of factors that influence price policies and the dilemmas of developing country governments.

Its conclusions will help many developing countries to formulate and upgrade their policies. The study rightly points out that agricultural price policy is country specific. But, of course, it includes extraneous pressures and budgetary constraints. The objectives of the government of Bangladesh: are. 1) to achieve food self-sufficiency and provide all citizens access to food; 2) maintain a balance between producer and consumer prices; and 3) ensure appropriate resource allocation so as to maintain production of major export crops.

A few implications of these objectives are as follows: a) in relation to achieving food self-sufficiency it is desired that output prices remain remunerative so that increasing technologies be adopted by farmers. Related to this is higher labour use and a consequent increase in effective demand. Until such time food production rises to the level of self-sufficiency, a continuation of input subsidies may be indicated; b) given that there is urgent need for rapidly raising the nutritional status of the vast majority of the population, subsidies on consumer food prices may also be required. Such actions are, however, rendered difficult by budgetary constraints any rate, market stabilization is carried out by release of public grain stocks at one end, and public procurement of grains at harvests at the other.

For export crops, intervention to maintain production levels is more difficult due to sharp fluctuations in international market prices.

The Bangladesh Government recognizes the need for a national agricultural price policy to ensure the improvement of people's nutritional status, to secure optimum resource allocation between sectors and within the agricultural sector, and to promote rural development.

The position of the Government of Bangladesh was succinctly stated by the Head of my Delegation at the Plenary and which I quote: "budgetary and other constraints have forced us to rapidly withdraw subsidies on agricultural inputs. This may have a negative impact on the productivity of small farmers who are preponderant in Bangladesh. It is in this context that the value of appropriate pricing policies has assumed vital importance for desirable resource allocation and balanced growth. We welcome the study undertaken by FAO on this important subject as critically relevant to all developing countries. I wish to also thank FAO for the TCP project which has helped us greatly in understanding and formulating policy in this regard".

As the study recognizes, in formulating and implementing an effective price policy there is dependence on numerous variables. Reliable statistical information and proper analysis to provide policy inputs, improvement of marketing conditions, efficient inter-sectorial linkages and compatible growths, stability of exchange rates and international market prices are but a few. Many of these variables are outside the control of many developing country governments. It appears, therefore, that at the very best their price policies will not be optimally affected; at any rate, serious attention must be paid to this area. Also as suggested in the study, it is important to strive to achieve as close a harmony in price policies in the regional countries as possible. Each may stand to gain from it.

Finally, we are constantly in quest of the most appropriate price policy for ourselves in a given time. In trying to refine our current price policy, we have undertaken a number of studies in addition to the study carried out with FAO assistance. We wish that the unique experience and skill of FAO will continue to join forces with our own. We also hope that this is only the beginning of an exercise, and that there will be appropriate follow-through.

B. BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne voudrait tout d'abord remercier le Dr Islam pour l'introduction claire du document C 85/19 se rapportant à la politique des prix agricoles et objet du point 7.3 de l'ordre du jour. Nous trouvons que cet excellent document donne un aperçu clair et objectif sur les politiques de prix appliquées dans les pays tant développés qu'en développement. La délégation tunisienne, en félicitant la FAO pour la qualité du rapport qui nous est soumis pour discussion, tient à faire part de certaines observations sur des paragraphes qui ont particulièrement retenu son attention.

Tout d'abord il y a un fait certain, comme il est dit d'ailleurs dans l'avant-propos du Directeur général, c'est que les politiques de prix à elles seules ne suffisent pas. En effet, tant qu'elles ne sont pas accompagnées de mesures d'ensemble permettant au secteur agricole d'évoluer dans un environnement incitatif et favorable au niveau de l'acquisition aisée des moyens de production et des services, l'amélioration des prix à la production ne pourra profiter, comme cela est souhaité, à l'accroissement de la production. Ainsi les prix incitatifs à la production agricole se justifieraient encore plus lorsqu'ils sont conçus dans un cadre de développement macro-économique global et harmonieux.

Par ailleurs, la délégation tunisienne trouve que la réduction graduelle des subventions et l'intéressement du secteur privé dans la commercialisation des intrants agricoles sont dignes d'intérêt, quoiqu'il faudrait oeuvrer habilement de telle façon que le secteur agricole n'ait pas à subir les effets négatifs d'un tel changement et soit en mesure d'assurer son autodéveloppement par la procuration de revenus suffisants aux producteurs. Encore faudrait-il que l'environnement international soit favorable à une telle évolution. Or, il est constaté que le protectionnisme pratiqué par les pays développés a plutôt créé un climat incertain tel que mentionné dans le paragraphe 37 du document; et les prix internationaux dans ces conditions ne pourraient servir de référence pour la fixation des prix à la production à l'échelle nationale.

C'est pourquoi nous considérons que les principes évoqués dans le document représentent un cadre général et une référence à la disposition des pays concernés par l'élaboration d'une politique des prix. Ces principes doivent être adaptés aux conditions particulières de chaque pays compte tenu des moyens dont il dispose et des contraintes auxquelles il est confronté.

Ms. N. MORAD (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Allow me to preface my remarks by congratulating the Secretariat for the excellent job of work they have done in producing this document which has been submitted now to our Commission. We all agree that pricing policies can have a great effect on other sectors, as is said in paragraphs 105 to 114. We are sure that certain measures have to be taken so that we can limit the adverse effects which have been quoted in paragraph 115 of this document.

Regarding agricultural price policies in my country, I shall give you a brief run-down. We applied well-defined criteria for subsidizing inputs to farmers to be able to provide them at acceptable prices. Recently, we adopted the principle of changing prices for some products so that we could approximate world price, and therefore, provide more incentives to farmers. In my country, those responsible undertake surveys of certain prices, of certain crops, and apply them to world prices to ensure that the farmers receive a decent profit margin when they sell their goods nationally or internationally. We also try to balance the interests of producers and consumers, and we give subsidies on certain food prices or staples. This is to make sure that there is a sufficient supply of these goods.

H. POPP (Switzerland) (original language German): I would like to add my words to those who have thanked the Secretariat for this excellent document. This is a source of a great deal of information. It is a very comprehensive analysis, and it gives a great many data and a lot of recommendations are contained within it.

I do have some criticisms. There are too many repetitions. It is too large, it is too comprehensive. It tries to cover too much. I would hope that next time we get something shorter or more abridged which would base itself on the salient points. I would, however, like to say something from the point of view of my own country. I would like to say that I am going to advocate a system of price

guarantees for limited amounts; in other words, for an ordered market system with fair prices for farmers, instead of a system where there is competition and displacement in the market using so-called market prices, where, in reality, it is only the larger and stronger farm which is going to survive.

The first observation I would like to make, and the one I would like to stress in the main thrust of this report is that producer prices are very important for the farmer as an inducement for production with the requisite that they be high enough, that they should not fluctuate too much, that the farmer should know that he has a guaranteed price, that he can sell at that price and that there are market structures of this nature. Looking at price levels, we know that if the price is too low there is not sufficient inducement and incentive, and that there is too much diversion. This is a problem in many developing countries. If prices are too high, then the tendency is for over-production. These are the main problems of agriculture in Western Europe and in other developed economies.

The second observation is that the target of price stability is presented very well in this document, and we give our full support to it. The idea is that we prevent big fluctuations in price. In Switzerland this is done using price guidelines. There is a spread, and prices can fluctuate within a given band.

My third observation is on so-called protectionism. There are a number of calls for some adjustments to be made to this document.

I agree with what was said by France, that the reasons for this so-called protectionism are not given full coverage in this document. The thin is that there is a price policy where prices are very important in the composition of income for the farmer. This is certainly what is done in my country, because we have to make sure that farming families have a decent income and livelihood. Many of the small-scale and medium-sized farms cannot live with world market prices as they now are, and they could not accept the American prices which are fine for large American agricultural holdings.

Here I would indirectly like to say something to the doctrine put forward by the American Delegate, the so-called world market prices. I think this is Utopian for European agriculture. We need prices which are higher than world market prices so that we can have survival of the family-sized farm in Europe. We have seen that consumers are prepared to pay such higher prices. My conclusion would be that our so-called price policy is not targeted at anyone else.

The reason for it is that we pay prices to our farmers which give them a decent and comparable standard of living. There are other political targets involved in this. For example, we have food security at times of emergency. We try to protect the landscape. We have certain economic reasons, such as job protection in rural areas, and we also want to prevent rural exodus.

I should like to say something about the problem of surpluses. The criticisms of high pricing policies are made because we are told that these create surpluses. However, I have to say that the problem of surpluses is really the biggest problem in Western Europe and in most developed market economies. But I believe that it does not have to be like this. There are ways and means to overcome this difficulty. They would be a system of price guarantees for specific amounts, for amounts which can be sold domestically. This, of course, assumes that there would be an allocation of quotas to specific and individual farmers. The farmer who produces more than his quota would then get a much lower price for the amount which is overproduced, and he would get a disincentive, to do it. The advantage would be that there would be good prices for farmers but there would be no surpluses. This would not disrupt international markets either. The question is, though: is this feasible? My answer to that question is "Yes". This is done in our country for sugarbeet, for oil seeds, for potatoes, for fruit, for the wine industry, for milk since 1977 and for beef and pork since 1980. In 1984 the EEC tried to do something along these lines for milk production.

In a nutshell, I would say that this is a system that works. It is a price and incomes policy for farming families. There are no surpluses produced. This does not cause any problems which have an adverse effect on the community. This does not disrupt international markets because surpluses are put on to the international markets. This is, therefore, something which does not adversely affect developing countries who can themselves seek international markets. There are, of course, many commodities where there is a comparative cost advantage for developing countries and, as far as possible, we should allow them to have access to their world markets for those goods.

Finally, what we need for this work - the corollary, if you like - is a protection against imports. If we are prepared to limit our production then, this should not be undermined by cheap imports of cheap feedingstuffs, such as oil cake, manioc, etc.

Such a market system which I am advocating means definite measures to be taken. We also have to be able to control the imports of fodder and feedingstuffs, using a levy system. I would ask the exporting countries to understand this approach. I am sure that we have to revise current GATT provisions in this area. In the long term, this is in the interests of agricultural exporting countries, because it cannot be in their interest for us to import a lot of feedingstuffs and overproduce eggs, milk and meat, and then put these back, at bargain basement prices, on to the world market.

In a nutshell, I am in favour of a system where we have ordered agricultural markets with reasonable prices for farming families in all countries. This would be in place of untrammelled competition where prices can fall greatly, where only the very large holdings in the best areas of the world will survive. I advocate a system which concentrates on small and medium-size holdings and allows them to survive without specific protectionism, and without a specific market order this will not be possible. This will be worth it, because we want to have work, food and a livelihood for as many as possible rather than expansion for only a few.

P.A.L. de RIJK (Netherlands): Our delegation considers the document on agricultural price policies particularly useful. It is a type of major study dealing with important items not earlier analyzed in such a comprehensive way that can have considerable practical impact. The report provides, indeed, useful guidance for countries in the formulation and implementation of their food and agricultural price policies, the aim stated in paragraph 6. Our delegation encourages FAO to continue further studies in this field, as well as actions at the country and regional level.

An interesting result of the study is that the early 1980s are indicated as a period of important positive changes in the evolution of price policies. First of all, the common element in price modifications being made in many developing and developed countries is that of bringing consumer and producer prices closer to costs and returns respectively. Secondly, it appears that, in spite of weakening international prices, prices received by farmers in developing countries for cereals were slightly increased, reflecting a shift in national price policies from favouring export crops to favouring food crops. An important conclusion of the study is that policies which raise or support agricultural product prices or subsidize inputs are likely to worsen the distribution of farm income, because larger farms sell a higher proportion of their output than the poorer, smaller farms.

As is indicated in the report, structural policies are required to compensate for the worsening distribution of income. The question is to what extent such a compensation can be realistically obtained. In view of the importance of this aspect, in the context of which we refer also to Guideline 6 of the International Agricultural Adjustment, we should like to suggest that the Secretariat should elaborate on this problem in a future study.

What has not been sufficiently dealt with in the report, in our opinion, is the aims of the general agricultural policy in relation to price policy that are valid for all countries and tensions between those aims that would justify some level of protection also for the developed countries.

The aims of a general agricultural policy include: (1) to ensure the availability of basic agricultural products, especially food, and, related to that, to ensure reasonable prices for consumers; (2) to ensure a rational use of resources; (3) to ensure a reasonable income for the farmers.

The tensions between these aims also become apparent when attempts are made, notably in GATT, to reduce agricultural protection to reasonable levels.

Our delegation is in agreement with the aim of limited protection in agriculture to a level that reflects a proper equilibrium of the various aims of the agricultural policy. There are certainly negative effects of agricultural production in the developed countries on the developing countries, but remarkably, whereas developing countries would experience on balance a negative impact of trade liberalization measures, as is indicated in paragraph 437, the report indicates in fact that the effects of liberalization would be unevenly distributed among developing countries, yet provides only a few examples. Our delegation therefore suggests that this aspect be studied in more detail, focusing on its impact on the poorer developing countries. Such an analysis should not only deal with direct effects of trade liberalization but also estimate its indirect effects, which have hardly been dealt with in the present report.

N. ROSSI (Italie): Je remercie le Secrétariat pour son rapport très concerné le document sur la politique des prix, nous partageons les de la Commission CEE.

De notre côté notamment, nous voudrions dire que la réalisation d'une telle politique, même de manière imparfaite, atteint quelques-uns de ses principaux objectifs comme celui d'assurer un revenu équitable aux agriculteurs, la stabilité du marché et la sécurité des approvisionnements.

Nous sommes conscients que, là où cela est possible, on devra apporter les corrections nécessaires au PAC. En particulier, nous estimons que le soutien aux revenus agricoles devrait être assuré non seulement à travers la politique des prix mais aussi et surtout avec les interventions de caractère structurel qui peuvent éliminer les différences de revenus existant au niveau régional et les "handicaps naturels des agriculteurs les plus défavorisés de la communauté".

Nous désirons également souligner la nécessité de mettre l'accent sur cet aspect particulier, compte tenu du fait que les ressources communautaires sont presque entièrement destinées au soutien de la politique des prix, tandis que la politique structurelle, même si lors des dernières années elle a obtenu un niveau plus élevé de soutiens et de financements, reste tout de même limitée et réduite, en comparaison des moyens utilisés au soutien du marché. Ceci, surtout pour résoudre les "handicaps" de certaines agricultures défavorisées que la politique des prix ne peut pas résoudre.

En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement le paragraphe 427, page 81 du document, il semblerait justifier une modification pour indiquer les vraies caractéristiques du Système STABEX: ce n'est pas un mécanisme commercial, il s'agit d'un mécanisme économique de soutien des pays en voie de développement, tel que prévu dans la Convention de Lomé à l'article 147 qui énonce les objectifs du système STABEX: "... Remédier aux effets négatifs de l'instabilité des recettes d'exportation pour aider les pays PAC, etc."

En outre, il faudrait relever qu'une récente décision du Conseil de développement de la CEE a décidé l'extension du système STABEX aux pays les moins avancés non PAC, c'est-à-dire aussi aux pays de l'Amérique latine et de l'Asie.

Une telle décision doit être appliquée par les organismes compétents de la CEE.

En ce qui concerne la question des politiques nationales et de la libération des échanges, nous sommes d'accord sur le fait qu'il faut atteindre un niveau plus élevé de libéralisation des obstacles aux échanges.

Ceci dit, il faut souligner que cet objectif ne peut pas être réalisé par un démantèlement de la politique communautaire des prix. Si cela était, on arriverait au résultat qui serait de mettre les exploitations européennes dans une position telle qu'elles ne pourraient pas concurrencer les productions des autres pays grands exportateurs de produits agricoles.

Comme nous l'avons dit hier, nous sommes d'accord sur le fait que, dans la mesure du possible, on devrait apporter les correctifs nécessaires à la politique agricole commune et que, d'autre part, par la PAC (politique agricole commune), on entend l'exigence, à moyen terme, d'aligner les prix communautaires aux prix internationaux pour les produits pour lesquels cela est possible (les céréales par exemple). Pour les autres produits, pour lesquels cela n'est pas possible, le soutien reste encore nécessaire.

Enfin, pour ce qui est des aides nationales qui directement ou indirectement peuvent avoir une incidence sur les échanges nationaux, et en ce qui nous concerne, nous devons considérer que toute mesure d'aide nationale ne peut être mise en vigueur que si elle est notifiée, d'abord à l'état de projet à la Commission CEE et que si elle a reçu un avis favorable de celle-ci. Nous aussi travaillons dans ce secteur dans la réalité communautaire et sommes soumis au contrôle préliminaire de la Commission CEE pour ce qui est de la comptabilité des aides communautaires. Ce secteur ne falsifie pas la concurrence entre les Etats Membres et, cependant, pour la même raison, il n'en résulte pas de répercussions au niveau des échanges internationaux.

Il s'agit en conclusion d'interventions structurelles liées aux programmes structurels communautaires dont les effets ne se feront sentir qu'à long terme.

En effet, ces interventions sont nécessaires parce que dans le cas contraire nous laisserions le secteur agricole abandonné (et en Europe, les agriculteurs ne peuvent pas payer les intérêts élevés existant sur le marché).

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): May I first apologize for taking my place on the list of speakers so very late. I am afraid I have no alternative but to speak at this late hour.

Allow me first of all to say that the Secretariat has done a commendable job in putting together a wealth of information on this very complex subject. We find the study very useful. In order not to take up the time of the Commission I shall emphasize only the following few points: the need to strengthen the data collection and analysis system on commodities in developing countries which includes the training of national personnel on the various aspects of commodities; secondly, the need for regional and sub-regional workshops or seminars to share experiences on commodity prices, as well as the mechanism for setting up these prices, problems in the implementation of price policies, and so on; thirdly, the development of infrastructure for the quick delivery of inputs and outputs. Here, I single out transport costs for both inputs and outputs. These can be very high depending on what is involved so that by the time, for example, that fertilizers reach the farmer the price is far beyond what the government may have set. Delivery systems of essential inputs like fertilizer must be considerably improved, if the fertilizer price is to be an incentive to increased farm production.

Fourthly, we agree that the announcement of prices in time will influence production decisions. However, the degree of influence will depend on the relative prices of competing agricultural commodities and also on the assurance of marketing, including the purchasing of farm produce in time. Small farmers normally have serious financial problems and any money they have or wish to get is for multiple ends. They have enormous problems. So that delayed output farm purchase is not an incentive to production because usually they have no farm storage facilities. They will not grow the produce again if it is not bought quickly.

My last point is on the relative prices of other countries. Here I shall pick out one category, that of all those countries who may share a common border. In setting up price policies - for example, subsidies - one needs to look at prices across the borders. All of us here probably agree that the border trade can sometimes be very complex. It is not easy to enforce the necessary legislation against any undesirable practices where they exist, however good that legislation may be. A significant amount of some commodities can be involved in that kind of trade and those who formulate price policies should therefore also examine this factor where such practices may have an impact on the economies of the affected country or countries. Perhaps this is one area, among others, where regional or sub-regional workshops or seminars could help to elaborate on the nature of the problem, and the type of policy that could be developed to minimize the problem.

CHAIRMAN: The delegation of Zambia has submitted a written statement. The delegation of Sudan has also submitted a written statement on agenda item 7.3 and both will be included in the verbatim record.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I announced this morning that statements not delivered can be inserted in the verbatim record at the request of the Chairman or of a delegation during the discussions on the particular item. The statement must be handed to the Chairman or the Secretary during or immediately after the meeting in which the item referred to in the statement is examined.

N. NUMBA (Zambia): I am happy to participate in the debate on item 7.3, document C 85/19.

This paper gives very good guidelines on the parameters to be used in using pricing mechanisms as a means of policy interventions. We in Zambia have taken note of the contents of the paper. We intend to use it in our future policy initiatives in order to ensure that farmers, especially small-scale farmers, benefit from such measures.

We are particularly pleased with the contents of paragraph 329 and the box that follows it.

1/ I wish to congratulate FAO for a very balanced and well-prepared paper. <sup>1/</sup>

A.M. OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, the prices of agricultural products are normally determined by quality and availability on the one hand, and by costs and national policy on the other. Therefore it would be helpful to improve the quality of various commodities. Similarly, should there be adequate capabilities and agricultural inputs, it would be helpful to provide enough seasonal quantities of any given crop. It is, however, very difficult to control the prices of: (a) machines and spare parts; (b) fuel oils, etc.; (c) broad national policies; (d) support to commodities similar to those provided by large-scale producers.

Agricultural products are basically seasonal. It follows that in order to make them available during times of scarcity, they have to be preserved in such an easy manner that facilitates their distribution and marketing; such as canning of fruits and vegetables. In the Sudan, for instance, the price of tomatoes went up to L.S. 5 per kg. in July 1985 when this commodity was scarce; but in October 1985 the price went down to L.S. 0.5 and many even go further less in the course of the season. It is evident, therefore, that the price of such a commodity could decline appreciably, and still the commodity would be available to citizens should there be a factory for canning it in the time of plenty so that it could be supplied in the time of scarcity. The same thing applies to other crops such as onions, maize and okra. As for the cotton crop, its production has become very expensive due to the rise in the cost of such agricultural inputs as spare parts, fuel and pesticides. It is important, therefore, that we should adopt a price policy that would promote agricultural development; such a policy has to be based on ensuring a remunerative incentive, so that farmers would be encouraged to carry on production activities; and safeguarding prices against fluctuation, with a view to ensuring a stable income for farmers.

To achieve this, the Sudan is moving towards linking the prices of basic commodities such as cotton and wheat with those of the international market. As for such crops as broad beans, sesame, and Arabic gum, we have established minimum prices that cover the costs of production plus a reasonable profit for farmers.

We believe that commitment to an appropriate price policy is a pre-requisite to the promotion of agricultural development 1/

The meeting rose at 18.25 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 horas

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/11

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

ELEVENTH MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE  
11<sup>a</sup> SESION

(21 November 1985)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 10.25 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 25  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 11<sup>a</sup> sesión a las 10.25 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation : (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture : (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.3 Study of Agricultural Price Policies (continued)

7.3 Etude des politiques de prix agricoles (suite)

7.3 Estudio sobre políticas de precios agrícolas (continuación)

C. GOODING (Barbados): My delegation would like to join with the other delegations in extending deepest appreciation to Professor Islam and his staff for the very informative, and thought-provoking document which they presented to us. In our opinion the document has done justice to a very complex subject, particularly when the difficulties experienced in obtaining data at the country level are taken into consideration.

The Barbados delegation has listened with great interest to the very useful and constructive observations which have been made by previous speakers. We would now wish to take a moment to highlight some of the areas of interest to us, and generally to share a few observations of our own.

First, let me say that we would welcome a situation where market forces would be allowed to determine prices so that both consumers and farmers could be happy at one and the same time. We recognize, however, that in a real world situation such a development is unlikely, given numerous distortions prevailing in the various economies.

It is our view that a pricing policy should not be seen as an end in itself, rather it should form part of the sectoral development policy and should be formulated in consonance with the national development policy. We feel that effective pricing policies cannot be developed on an ad hoc basis, nor can they be developed in a vacuum. Such policies must be the result of careful investigation and analysis. In other words, we fully subscribe to the views expressed at paragraph 54 of the document now before us.

This brings me to my next point. It is that this study has served to highlight a very serious problem in many developing countries. It is, in fact, the deficiency of basic statistical data. I wish to stress that this problem has far-reaching implications for overall agricultural development, from planning through to monitoring and evaluation, both at the sectoral and national level.

The severe economic pressure facing many of the developing countries dictates that available resources be used with maximum efficiency. But, is it reasonable to expect the most efficient allocation of resources in an environment where weaknesses in the agricultural information system prevail? My delegation therefore finds it necessary to repeat a call which has been echoed at many regional and international fora before. It is, that developing countries undertake to commit some of their resources to the improvement of their agricultural information systems. Also, the international community, particularly the financial institutions, should show a much greater willingness to support projects designed to strengthen agricultural information systems at the country level. Of course, we would also wish to urge the FAO to continue to lend support and encouragement to developing countries for the improvement of national agricultural information systems.

We share the view that producer price-support schemes can be burdensome for any economy, whether developed or developing. Under the circumstances, we believe that developing countries should avoid a recourse to producer price-support schemes where possible. This view is based to a large extent on the observation that such schemes, once initiated, are extremely difficult to bring to a halt since producers become accustomed to the support, and naturally resist any effort to reduce their income.

Our delegation feels that FAO should capitalize on the interest which has been generated in the subject of agricultural pricing policy as a result of this study. We would therefore wish to join other delegations in the call for some priority to be given to follow-up action so that, to the greatest possible extent, the experience gained can be put at the disposal of the Member States of the Organization so as to help them to formulate, and implement, more effective agricultural policies.

Notwithstanding the observation made in the report that "agricultural price policy is country specific" we believe that there is scope for employing similar approaches in countries which have a sufficient degree of similarity among them. In this context, I wish to refer specifically to the Eastern Caribbean Region where there are a number of small island states with fragile, open economies and a heavy orientation towards agriculture. The agricultural sector of these States are all under pressure. Consequently, I would wish to support the call made by the Trinidad and Tobago delegation for FAO to give attention to the Caribbean region in any follow-up programme. Perhaps I may add that the head of the Barbados delegation in his address to the Plenary session of the Conference has already called for some "examination of the special problems of agricultural development in small open economies.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): We, too, want to compliment Professor Islam for his high-level presentation of a very complex issue. Let me say first of all that Yugoslavia fully supported the FAO project on price incentive policies in the previous programming cycle. We now are even more reassured. It was an important but equally unenviable task, that of filling a very serious empirical gap in FAO and elsewhere. It is obvious that any attempt to assess the price policies of so many countries with vast differences in resource development, level of development, historical heritage, external environment in the initial stage of development, etc., is bound to incur enormous difficulties.

The methods that we use, generally speaking, are inadequate in coping with the incomprehensible complexity of factors involved in measuring prices on world agricultural production. At best our methods, no matter how sophisticated, as in the case of policy modelling in the USDA, provide a very rudimentary simulation. Furthermore, availability, measurability and reliability of data are even more beyond the capabilities of the model used.

Finally, all our knowledge has derived mostly from the studies on individual countries at various points in time, and the results of these studies are almost uncomparable, given the differences in methods, data handling, etc. I am insisting on the difficulties in establishing as reliable as possible a relationship between production levels and prices because it represents the central element for the assessment of price policies in general, and especially so in the developing parts of the world. If this FAO study - and we are faced with a highly condensed summary of the problem - is measured against the background that I have so roughly sketched we have, we believe, all reasons to be satisfied. In our view, the study has achieved its primary goal of filling the major empirical gaps by bringing out facts and figures for a relatively large sample of the developing countries. We hope that the solid empirical insight provided by the study will somewhat tone down the highly one-sided and, may I say, even ideologically charged theorizing that in recent years prevails in certain academic - and unfortunately not only in academic - circles.

Briefly, the study has demonstrated something that was already quite well known, that is that in most developing countries there was a price bias against agriculture for a long period. The study obviously did not venture to explain the roots and forces behind the price bias, and we understand why. However, it is broadly recognized that a price bias was historically unavoidable. The bias, after all, at least indirectly existed in the initial stage of development in almost all industrialized countries. Developing countries, especially large developing economies, more or less copied the development model of the industrialized world. Forced industrialization seemed to be the only way out from desolation and poverty. The historical analogy seems to stop here. I have obviously no time to expand on this otherwise very interesting theme further, but let me only mention that a number of external factors only amplify the so-called emulation. First, the terms of trade for developing countries' exports of agricultural commodities were steadily deteriorating in the 50s and 60s. Further, official development assistance to agriculture was at a very low level indeed until the early 70s. Finally, in the same period, food aid covered a large part of the cereals import needs, in our view, contributed to the low profile of agriculture and the price bias against agriculture up to the early 70s.

Quite naturally, no one country in the world except the United States and, to a certain extent only, other main cereal exporters, allowed the soaring and very unstable prices in the 70s to be directly mirrored in domestic markets. For this reason alone, the world price levels are indeed a very unreliable yardstick for measuring the price performance of developing countries in the 70s. Unfortunately, this movement is not highlighted in the study explicitly. However, it is feasible that relative prices of cereals on the average have increased since the global cereal crisis that erupted in 1973. It has been particularly the case in recent years. Again, the same relates, to a large extent, to the prices of export crops.

Wide differences among countries are, I believe, largely the consequence of inadequate data quality and most likely, imprecise price deflators. We are generally in agreement with the main findings and recommendations in Part Two. We would have preferred a slightly greater emphasis in II.4, particularly on the central issue of the impact on input subsidies and world price effects on outgrowth. From our own experience, and we believe from the experience of the industrialized countries, it seems quite clear that input subsidies could be distinctly superior to the price effects in the initial stage of development at the lower level of technology. It is especially the case with quality seed and fertilizers. The danger of structure distortion is, in our view, more theoretical than practical. Again we feel that the temporariness of input subsidies is perhaps overemphasized in paragraph 198. The study has frankly admitted that it was virtually impossible to draw a reliable conclusion on the net effect of low temporary prices of cereals and the adverse effect of protectionism on developing countries.

In this regard, we want only to express our conviction that some of the studies on the trade effect like, for example, the so-called Valdez study, heavily underestimated the effect of protectionism by the OECD countries on the export earnings of the developing world. Still on protectionism, I have virtually nothing to add to what Australia stated yesterday. We fully endorse the statement made by Australia. Just to indicate that we are in almost full agreement with Parts Three and Four, we feel that both chapters are represented in a very objective way.

Finally, in our view there are two lessons to be learned. It is nothing very new, but still it concerns something that we believed before we studied these documents. The basic lesson for us is contained in paragraph 544, and indeed, I should even quote that evidence exists that global production responses to prices are large enough for prices to matter, but low enough to rule out the possibility of yielding sustained growth in agricultural production by positive pricing inducement alone. We cannot but fully agree. We agree with the following sentence, which also carries, in our view, a very important message that, in any case, it would be beyond the capacity of most developing countries to tax their relatively smaller non-agricultural sectors sufficiently to support such a price approach alone. We also fully agree with the sentence that appears under the Director-General's foreword that every country is different and that there can be no single blueprint for national price policies and associated problems.

At the end, Mr Chairman, may I add that we believe that this study, after some editing, perhaps some restructuring and more comprehensive technical notes, should be published. We would urge that it be published. We believe, as I have already mentioned, that it fills a very important and, for a long period indeed, felt gap in FAO and elsewhere. We would like to hear from Professor Islam something more about the follow-up, more than what we see in paragraphs 99-103. We are interested first of all for FAO itself. We would assume that FAO would maintain and continually update the very valuable information base with further experience that its gains in this project. So I would like to hear more details about the follow-up action by FAO.

J.M. FEINGOLD (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): Thank you very much for giving the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, the only worldwide body of farmers' organizations, the opportunity to comment on the agenda item, price policy study. We would first like to congratulate FAO and especially Dr Islam and his team for producing this excellent document. We appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has gone into this comprehensive study and how difficult it was to obtain up-to-date facts and figures. We collaborated with FAO in a modest way and provided some inputs for the study. We regard this document as a reference book, a framework which will be very helpful to many developing countries. It will obviously be used in different ways by various countries, and I do not intend to comment on the country examples or the degree of emphasis given to the various policy options, their advantages or their constraints. Let me, however, make a number of suggestions which I hope will facilitate the use of this valuable document.

Like any comprehensive study of a complex issue, the document is very long. It is, in our view, unlikely that ministers or permanent secretaries will have the time to read it. It is in our view most important that the major decision-makers have direct access to the study and do not base their views on an interpretation of the document. We would therefore suggest that a summary be provided by FAO on the lines of the suggestions for formulating and carrying out price policy as set out in page 55 in the English text. This could then be the basic reference document and guideline for the top decision-makers.

Secondly, I must admit very frankly that we are disappointed that no reference is made to the role of farmers' organizations or to ways in which the views of farmers can be obtained. How can you know what farmers want and need, how can you assess the mood and reactions of producers, who after all are the key actors in this whole exercise, unless you find out from them, through their organizations, where they exist and what their views are? This is even more important as in many developing countries reliable and up-to-date data is so often inadequate. In any case farmers cannot be treated just as production factors or as part of data. The human reaction of farmers must be assessed, and their involvement in the policy formulation process is essential to successful policies.

Reference has been made by various speakers to immeasurable measures, such as, for instance, the quickness of payment, the reaction of women to the market conditions and methods of payment, all of which can be determined and must be determined through consultation with the producers.

we in IFAP have produced a document, "Agricultural Pricing Policy in Developing Countries: A Basic Strategy for Farmers' Organizations", which has been very favourably received, not only by our 50 member and contact organizations in the Third World. but also by international agencies, including FAO.

We are currently engaged in establishing data collecting systems based on the limited figures available in many countries, but which can nevertheless be used by farmers' organizations. This will be useful to them in presenting well-founded arguments to governments. This is especially important as in many instances urban interests are better organized and frequently exert greater influence on agricultural pricing policies than their numbers or importance warrant.

My third point refers to the mechanism which can be used to obtain the views of the various interests, both within governments and from farmers, consumers or industrialists. Various options such as price or income commissions, price advisory councils, prices and costs committees and so on, should be set up in some detail and their advantages and disadvantages set out. We maintain that in all cases farmers' representation, at least in an advisory capacity, is essential. Of course, other interests must also be represented.

We should like to point out that some substantial agricultural increases have been achieved in many countries where farmers' organizations are consulted. India, Kenya, Ivory Coast and Zimbabwe are just four examples which one can quote.

The other point I should like to make, which many previous delegates have also mentioned, is the inadequacy of data systems prevailing in many developing countries, and I am convinced that FAO has a great role to play there to assist developing countries in developing their data systems. But I must say that all this will take time, and I think FAO could also assist all of us by spelling out in some more detail how one can assess production costs and price levels with inadequate data. Anybody can do it with perfected data system common in many industrialized countries.

Finally, we hope that FAO will update this document from time to time since it is important that we follow new developments, new pricing changes and production patterns.

We hope that our suggestion will be acceptable to this Commission, that they will be included in the report, acted upon and received in the constructive spirit in which they were given.

Mr Chairman, I beg your indulgence. The Vice-President of IFAP, with your permission, would like to make a brief statement on an allied matter of farmers' consultation.

G. FLATEN (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): Thank you for giving the observer of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers the floor after the completion of the agenda items covering the world food situation, the World Food Security Compact, the Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment and the Study on Agricultural Price Policies.

These are all matters of major importance to farmers and their organizations.

These are all policy items on which farmers feel they should be able to provide a significant input, both conceptually and practically. Yet there has been little consultation with farmers' groups. I know that FAO is aware and concerned over this situation. We are pleased to note that FAO is suggesting that governments set up advisory groups in their own countries regarding of price support policies. Similarly, I would say that the principle applies equally to having an advisory group of farmers working with FAO.

We listened with interest to the good discussions on well-prepared reports. However, because of the rules of FAO, observers can only participate in Commission discussions when no delegate wishes to speak. They cannot become involved in active discussions.

However, we are not proposing that FAO should change its rules. We would, however, like to propose a procedure which would enable farmers' organizations to contribute to, to consult on, and participate in, the work of FAO, especially as it relates to commodity policies.

You will find that our proposal is not unique. The procedure we will suggest is already in practice in one way or another in FAO.

We propose that the Commission recommends to the Conference that it request that the Director-General set up an advisory group or committee consisting of farmers' representatives to meet with him or his representatives and to advise him on FAO activities pertaining to agricultural commodity policies and programmes. To get this proposal under way, we propose that the FAO and the IFAP, which is the only international farmers' organization having top consultative status, meet to work out the details as to the kind of advisory committee, the nature of representation, the subject matters to be considered, the number of meetings and so on. We would expect that IFAP would advise the Director-General on the selection of such advisory committees.

Mr Chairman, we want to assure the Commission and the Director-General that the intent of this proposal is only to ensure greater cooperation between FAO and farmer representatives in our joint search for solutions to farm problems. We must remember that, while governments and FAO propose, farmers are expected to implement these proposals.

Mr Chairman, our proposal is in line with the call we heard at this Conference for greater people's participation.

While we realize that delegates are not in a position to give formal approval to this proposal, we would appreciate support for the principle of farmer involvement in the commodity policy process.

E. PARDO (Argentina): Hemos analizado con particular interés el documento C 85/19, especialmente los párrafos 90 a 98: "Orientaciones para las políticas futuras en los países desarrollados".

A esos temas nos hemos referido repetidamente en esta Comisión. Al respecto, hemos suministrado oportunamente algunas cifras relativas a las consecuencias perjudiciales de las políticas internas de precios agrícolas de algunos de los países desarrollados y la organización e integración que algunos de esos países desarrollados han originado sobre nuestras exportaciones.

Por otra parte, Sr. Presidente, sabemos que es difícil hacerlo, pero resultaría de particular interés, no sólo para los países en desarrollo, sino sobre todo para los países desarrollados, que estudios como el que estamos analizando incluyeran también cuánto cuestan en términos de oportunidad

las políticas agrícolas de los países desarrollados. Sería interesante explicitar cuánto le cuesta al respecto a los consumidores y especialmente a los que tienen que pagar impuestos a países a que antes hacíamos referencia al afrontar niveles tan irreales de precios en relación con los predominantes en el mercado internacional.

Sr. Presidente, coincidimos con las expectativas sobre comercio internacional más libre, que se expresan en los párrafos 441 al 449, aunque deberíamos ser bastante escépticos, a la luz del resultado obtenido en el marco histórico de las negociaciones del GATT, en lo que respecta al multilateralismo y a la libertad de mercado en el sector de los productos agropecuarios.

M.A. MAHAMAT (Tchad): Je vous remercie sincèrement de m'avoir autorisé à prendre la parole pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission I qui revêt une importance capitale pour ma délégation.

Je profite de l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour vous adresser toutes mes félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission.

Je voudrais rendre un hommage mérité au Secrétariat de la FAO qui nous a soumis un document excellent de réflexion sur les politiques agricoles.

Il est exact que les politiques cohérentes des prix conditionnent le développement et l'accroissement des productions agricoles et en cela le document C 85/19 ne souffre d'aucune ambiguïté.

Comme cela était stipulé dans le document il est impossible d'instaurer un système de politiques de prix uniforme pour tous les pays qui, par contre, doivent s'inspirer de cette analyse afin de mettre sur pied un cadre propre aux réalités des pays.

Compte tenu des effets néfastes de la sécheresse qui sévit dans le Sahel depuis plus d'une décennie, les pays membres du CILSS ont déjà songé au rôle des prix agricoles qui ont été l'objet d'un colloque tenu en 1979 à Nouackchott.

La situation de l'agriculture dans mon pays, surtout dans le domaine de la production vivrière, est au stade traditionnel car les cultures vivrières ne bénéficient pas de tous les intrants indispensables à son exploitation et les rendements sont fonction de l'action des paysans. Cela est évidemment le résultat du système des monocultures de coton instauré depuis la colonisation. Dans ce contexte les prix des produits agricoles jouent un rôle important sur la vie des paysans et des consommateurs. La plupart des paysans vendent prématurément leurs récoltes aux commerçants qui en retour les leur revendent trois à quatre mois plus tard à des prix doubles, voire triples du prix d'achat. Cette situation maintient les paysans dans des conditions alimentaires difficiles ce qui les oblige à recourir à des racines sauvages qui sont souvent la source d'intoxications.

Pour faire face à cette situation persistante, les paysans du CILSS ont mis en place dans leurs pays respectifs des offices nationaux de céréales qui ont pour rôle l'achat des produits nationaux à la fin des campagnes à des prix favorables aux producteurs; assurer le stock céréalier alimentaire et régulariser les prix du marché en période de soudure.

Cette action est une étape très importante dans la recherche des voies et des moyens susceptibles de contrôler les prix des producteurs et des consommateurs.

Pour ce faire, nous souhaitons que la FAO, à la lumière des réflexions contenues dans le document, puisse aider nos pays à résoudre leurs difficultés alimentaires en tenant compte effectivement de la spécificité des pays et de la complexité des problèmes liés aux prix agricoles afin d'améliorer les conditions de vie de nos populations.

J.S. NIELSEN (Denmark): I apologize for intervening for the second time. I shall be brief. The reason for my second intervention is that I listened with great interest to the speech just made by the Observer from the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, and I wonder whether in

the past there has been sufficient contact between FAO and the farmers' organization in formulating and preparing the very interesting documents we have had on price policies. Although we do not believe that the Conference would be ready to request the Director-General to set up a formal advisory body on the matter just now, we think in general it is important that there is a current contact between international secretariats, national administrations and professional organizations in order to improve quality of analyses and in order to facilitate political decisions.

We will be intervening on this and on the item on NGOs in Commission II later this morning. We do so because we also think that providing current analyses from the external environment, farmers' organizations and NGOs can enhance the updating and orientation of the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat will answer the point you have raised later on.

M.S. HALABI (Syria) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my country's delegation I would like to thank Professor Islam for the excellent presentation he gave us concerning price policies. I would also like to thank the Secretariat of the Organization for the considerable efforts they have undertaken in order to prepare this document on price policies, because we are all fully aware of the tremendous difficulties facing any one who wishes to grapple with such a complicated and difficult problem as this one.

Any assessment of price policies will be likely to help us overcome a large number of problems with which we are faced, and will contribute, without any doubt whatsoever, to ease the task of fixing prices and settle trading problems which have an impact on food security and agricultural or food production. While discussing this document on the analysis of price policies, we would put forward the hope that the Organization will be in a position to draft recommendations and positive and concrete suggestions which will be put into practice at all levels, be they national, regional or international.

I would like to support the suggestions contained in this document. I would also like to support the recommendations contained therein regarding the improvement of price policies. These are proposals which are practical and comprehensive, and which allow us to solve these problems, particularly in developing countries. I would like to support the suggestion made by the observer from IFAP who made the request to FAO, asking it to prepare a summary of proposals concerning price policies contained in the document. This would enable us to take decisions more easily and help us in adopting measures to improve our price policies. We also give full support to what was said by the representative of IFAP, namely, that it is necessary to be more aware of agricultural producers and not to consider them as mere factors in the production process. They must be involved as well. We must have a global information system and I support this proposal as well. This would allow us to sustain a proper price policy.

R. PRINS (Canada): My delegation would like to intervene a second time to lend its general support to the statement by the representative of IFAP. In particular we encourage the development of mechanisms whereby a greater dialogue can take place between the Secretariat and farmers' groups. Nevertheless, we feel the idea of new bodies should be considered with the utmost caution.

CHAIRMAN: May I inform the Commission that the distinguished delegate of Madagascar has requested me to include his statement in the verbatim report so that the statement made by Madagascar will be included in our proceedings.

I. MARINCEK (Switzerland): The distinguished delegate of Argentina asked a question about the cost to the consumer of price policies in developed countries. With respect to Switzerland, I would just like to add that it is true that the consumer pays a higher price than on the world market.

On the other hand, the consumer's share of the expense with respect to food is decreasing in Switzerland and the share of the budget allocated to agriculture is also decreasing, so that the consumer only contributes to the payment. It is not small for our farmer, but is no hardship on his side.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): We in the Secretariat are grateful to the delegations for the appreciation which has been expressed for the document on agricultural price policies. We hope this document will be of some help to member countries in the course of analysis and formulation of their price policies at country levels.

We agree with those delegates who have emphasized that there is no universally valid model applicable to all countries at all stages for an appropriate pricing policy. The debates here have indicated a wide diversity of conditions depending on the stages of development, structure of economy, multiplicity of objectives and instruments or policies at their disposal.

The distinguished delegate of New Zealand in fact went on to elaborate an alternative way of looking at analysis of price policies in countries at different stages of development and spoke of countries moving from the stage of food sufficiency to that of food efficiency. There are obviously alternative ways of looking at and analyzing this highly complex and intricate subject.

Comments were made that in our analysis of the developed country price policy we had not been sufficiently careful in distinguishing between various groups of developed countries. As you will recall, Mr Chairman, in fact this was a point made in the Committee on Agriculture where the treatment was even more abbreviated and in summary form as far as developed countries' price policies were concerned. Here we have tried to expand on this treatment, and apparently it is not enough. Expansion has to go further in distinguishing between groups of countries. We agree that the small countries which do not have much influence in world trade therefore do not destabilize or depress world prices. In fact, one can distinguish three groups of countries, if you like; of course, you can classify them in different ways. The first group will be those which restrict imports and achieve self-sufficiency but do not allow access to the domestic market of imports of, let us say, basic foodstuffs or cereals. The second group one can think of include those who not only restrict access to their domestic market of imported foodstuffs or cereals, but in addition allow self-sufficiency to proceed beyond the level of domestic need and produce export surplus, and then they resort to subsidies to dispose of the surpluses on the world market.

Third group of countries we can think of are those which export a large or a major proportion of their domestic output of specific commodities. Even though they do not usually pursue import restrictions for commodities which they import, they pursue import restrictions as much or more than the other two groups. It may be interesting to pursue this classification and its implications in the future for the analysis of trade policies. Their impact on world trade naturally has differing degrees of intensity, but they do all affect it in different ways.

As far as the treatment in the document of the developed country pricing policy on the world market, including stability and price levels, is concerned, our treatment of the data on and the estimation of subsidy equivalents and nominal protection has been questioned. As I explained in my intervention on an earlier item, we agree with many of the comments made on the subsidy equivalents and intend to improve, expand and further revise the estimation of subsidy equivalents in cooperation with the EEC and OECD. Specific comments were made that they were not updated, that the commodities covered in the estimates of some of these magnitudes were very limited in number and that there were other important commodities for which we should also have made similar estimates. Both these points are well taken, We intend to do so in our future work, and we are very grateful for the offer of assistance made by the distinguished delegate from the EEC, and also earlier by the distinguished delegate from the OECD. We shall certainly be in touch with them to improve our work in this respect. We are also very grateful to the distinguished delegate from the EEC for giving us additional information on some features of the Lomé Convention relating to the access of the Lomé countries to the markets of the EEC.



As far as the analysis of the impact of protection of trade liberalization on developing countries is concerned, the various estimates given are taken from published studies which we have quoted in the document. We agree, of course, that these quantitative estimates indicate orders of magnitude and directions of change. Not necessarily all the figures have to be taken with any degree of precision.

Of course, with the change of assumptions and change of coverage of commodities we have different results. Most of the studies, since they have dealt with specific commodities, one to three or four in number, do not give the results which will be obtained if you analyze liberalization on a broad front, instead of just on cereals or two or three commodities. Therefore, the impact on various developing countries in terms of gains and losses will be radically different if you consider liberalization, not of cereals or one or two dairy products, but a whole range of agricultural products. For example, studies have been made - I can quote a recent study in a World Bank document - of the liberalization of trade by the OECD countries with respect to imports on sugar and veal and beef; these three commodities were analyzed. In the case of sugar, the estimated effects in terms of the increase in export revenue of developing countries, if restrictions on sugar were abolished, is about US\$5 billion a year, an average of 1979-81. For veal and beef, the average annual estimate of increased export revenues is also about US\$5 billion. So increased earnings from these two commodities would add slightly more than US\$10 billion a year to the export revenue of developing countries.

I am just illustrating how the estimates will be different if you start considering different kinds of commodities. So in a comprehensive analysis of the impact of liberalization of trade on developing countries, results would be very different from the various figures we have quoted in the document that are limited to a few commodities only.

Comment was made that the document seems to advocate complete free trade. It must be a misunderstanding because we made it very clear that it is not realistic or even necessarily efficient. In fact, the average taken on the subject of trade liberalization is given in paragraphs 443 to 445 very clearly. It says that we are suggesting mainly marginal changes, and the marginal changes could also make improvements, in some cases significant improvements, in orderly expansion of trade.

Questions were asked that the document seems to consider that protectionism is the only factor contributing to fluctuations in agricultural prices in the world market. We are sorry if that is the impression given. The document was analyzing the impact of only one factor in world prices, i.e. pricing policies in developed countries, not the impact of all the factors which could possibly contribute to the instability of agricultural prices in world markets. Obviously, there are many more factors.

One of the distinguished delegates referred to the variations in the exchange rates and their impact on price variations in world trade. Obviously that is a very important factor. In fact, a few years ago the FAO Commodity Review and Outlook analyzed the impact of exchange rate variations on world trade.

The distinguished delegate from India made a number of very interesting observations. I would only take up three of them and, in fact, I agree with them. The first point was that we should not take the year to year changes in "price bias" or terms of trade as an indicator or a basis for any policy changes. Obviously one has to analyze any sustained price bias over a number of years before any corrective policy is undertaken. Short-term changes need not necessarily suggest policy changes.

The second point made was that we should not merely analyze the impact of output price policy on agricultural performance, i.e., just related changes in output price or in output price bias to production performance. We should also relate - and appropriately so - changes in the output input price ratios to changes in production in order to evaluate the impact of price policies on agricultural production. This point is well taken.

Now the third point mentioned was that the document does advocate, in order to cushion the impact of rising producer prices, on the poor, narrowly targeted consumer subsidy programmes, for example, and

indicates how difficult it is to design and implement a narrowly targeted subsidy programme. We entirely agree with that. In fact, we are planning to hold a workshop in 1986 precisely on this subject, i.e. how to devise an operationally feasible programme to improve the access of the poor to food.

The distinguished delegate from Sweden made a very appropriate point that for policy changes to be really effective over the long run, they must be gradual, well planned and implemented over a period of time on a broad front, not just in terms of price policies. This is precisely the kind of inter-relationships between price policy changes and other non-price factors which we hope the document has sought to emphasize. In fact we are planning to study recent experiences in a number of countries. Some of them have undertaken significant policy changes, involving a wide range of policies, including pricing policies and exchange rate policies, etc., and we hope that we can derive some lessons from these studies for the use of other developing countries.

What are the plans for the future regarding the follow-up of this study? As we have stated at the end of our document, the emphasis will now shift from global analysis and global studies to work at the country level, such as assisting or cooperating with developing countries in the collection and improvement of price data, in assisting them in undertaking an analysis of their national price policies, and in training national staff for such analytical work, so that they can themselves analyze cost and benefits of alternative policies. Also we intend to promote an exchange of experience among developing countries, not only in terms of the formulation of policies but also in terms of the implementation of such policies.

Now as far as this present document is concerned, our intention is to publish it, obviously taking into account some of the comments made at this Commission meeting. We shall revise and then publish it in the form of a book, elaborating some of the technical details.

As far as the Secretariat's future work on the analysis of policies is concerned, we certainly intend to maintain and update the data which, with great difficulty and great effort, we have collected over the last year. We try to improve it, to better determine the "price bias" which we have now estimated for the past ten or eleven years, and do monitor the changes to the extent we can for the various countries over time.

Secondly, we also intend to follow, by monitoring and keeping in touch, policy changes in various countries and, after an adequate interval of time, attempt to assess their experience.

Thirdly, as and when we are able to collect a sufficient amount of information on policy changes and make an assessment of their impact, we will publish it in a special chapter on the State of Food and Agriculture. As distinguished delegates are aware, we do have a special chapter in our Annual Publication, (SOFA) and one of the special chapters after a number of years could be this particular topic. Also we would monitor some of these developments in the course of our progress report on International Agricultural Adjustment.

I should also like to mention that we intend to promote and organize national and regional workshops, wherever feasible, on pricing policies. I can report to the distinguished delegates that we are already doing it. Next month we shall have a regional workshop on the same subject in Damascus in Syria. We have already held national workshops in Yemen and the Sudan. In Egypt we will hold one in 1986; in Sudan we had one in 1984. We had a regional consultation in the Asia and Pacific region in 1984.

The distinguished delegate from Denmark raised the issue of whether we had any consultation with IFAP in the course of the preparation of the price policy study. Yes, we had consultations with them. In fact, we had some material for them on this subject and on some countries' national experiences. Also there is a IFAP publication dealing with a conference held in New Delhi. We had access to it and we used this material in the preparation of our study. As you know, they have a consultative status with FAO and we have occasions to discuss such matters with them.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Professor Nurul Islam for this response to some of the points raised by the delegates. I hope you are satisfied.

E. PARDO (Argentine): Lamento volver a hacer uso de la palabra pero no quería dejar sin referirme a la amable alusión que hizo recientemente la distinguida delegación de Suiza.

Sr. Presidente: Al respecto nos alegramos que la política de precios interna Helvética tenga tan buenos resultados respecto a los campesinos de este país. Nosotros nos referimos en nuestra intervención al costo de oportunidad de la política de precios agrícolas interna de algunos de los países desarrollados, y me permitiré al respecto, coincidir en términos de bienestar económico global con cuanto nos han enseñado repetidamente los economistas más ilustres de economía de mercado, incluyendo los de Suiza.

R. RABE (Madagascar): La délégation malgache voudrait féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C/85/19 et se réjouit de sa grande utilité pour les Etats Membres dans la formulation et la mise en oeuvre de leur politique de prix agricoles. Malgré le caractère excessivement compliqué du sujet, le Secrétariat a pu adapter une méthodologie qui permet de faire ressortir les éléments déterminants en matière de politique des prix agricoles. Nous sommes convaincus que l'exploitation des résultats de cette étude exhaustive permettra aux Etats Membres d'amender ou de consolider leur politique nationale de prix et ce faisant d'apporter une amélioration sensible de leur production agricole et alimentaire.

Le but à atteindre est en fait d'une part d'assurer un environnement favorable aux petits agriculteurs responsables de la sécurité alimentaire dans les PVD, et d'autre part de garantir l'accès aux nourritures des couches les plus pauvres de la population. Les difficultés résident dans le fait que les intérêts des producteurs et ceux des consommateurs sont souvent en conflit et les PVD sont dans l'incapacité d'exercer une quelconque influence sur l'évolution des prix sur les marchés internationaux.

Les Etats peuvent, sinon éviter, du moins réduire l'intensité du conflit entre les intérêts indiqués ci-dessus en améliorant la maîtrise des critères à prendre en considération lors de la fixation des différents prix notamment en développant un système d'information approprié mais ils ne peuvent que subir les contrecoups des mesures négatives adoptées par les Pays développés.

En prenant le cas de Madagascar, la chute vertigineuse des prix du sucre, du café et du cacao et les mesures protectionnistes appliquées pour la viande de boeuf ont annihilé les efforts du Gouvernement pour soutenir vigoureusement les paysans producteurs de ces denrées. Pour éviter le pire, le Gouvernement a dû consentir des sacrifices énormes et ponctionner dangereusement son budget afin de combler les déficits des exploitants. Les conséquences immédiates de ces mesures sont le ralentissement des efforts de développement et la détérioration des moyens de production.

Nous souhaitons vivement un redressement rapide de la situation car la diminution de nos recettes d'exportation, outre les problèmes internes que cela a entraînés, nous met dans la quasi-impossibilité de faire face aux lourds services de nos dettes extérieures.

Comme la majorité des PVD, nous avons mis en oeuvre des mesures draconiennes d'ajustement structurel en réduisant ou en supprimant des subventions et en revisant en hausse les prix des denrées mais il nous faut, en même temps résoudre des problèmes graves de réhabilitation des infrastructures. En effet, il nous faut ouvrir de nouvelles routes rurales, assurer l'entretien du réseau routier existant, il nous faut réhabiliter l'ensemble du réseau hydroagricole pour une meilleure maîtrise de l'eau, il nous faut renforcer notre système de stockage et j'en passe. En somme, il nous faut disposer de moyens financiers conséquents pour la réalisation de ces programmes si vitaux pour assurer un environnement encourageant aux agriculteurs. L'amélioration des prix, des produits d'exportation et l'augmentation des recettes y afférentes, le rééchelonnement à long terme de nos dettes extérieures, l'obtention de financement à des conditions de faveur, l'aide alimentaire pour le développement accordée aux couches les plus pauvres de la population, seraient un ensemble de mesures qui nous permettraient d'aller de l'avant.

Pour revenir aux problèmes de formulation et d'exécution des politiques des prix, notre délégation partage les commentaires et observations contenus dans le document. Compte tenu de la complexité du sujet, nous appuyons fermement le rôle que la FAO doit remplir pour aider les Etats dans la formulation et la mise en oeuvre de leur politique de prix, rôle décrit dans les paragraphes 99 à 103 du document C 85/19 et que priorité soit réservée à ces actions dans le Programme de l'Organisation.<sup>1/</sup>

CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the end of our intervention on this agenda item. I will just provide a small summary of our discussions. More than 50 delegates spoke on this agenda item, which took us about six hours to complete. In general, the delegates welcomed the study undertaken by FAO on pricing policy, and agreed it was a useful exercise. Of course, some delegates pointed out areas of deficiencies of which the Secretariat has taken note. The delegates noted the important conclusions and recommendations drawn up from the study and agreed that these should be implemented by countries and international organizations.

The delegates welcomed the future action that FAO will take and asked FAO to particularly assist the developing countries in drawing up and implementing an appropriate pricing policy, particularly in the areas of data collection, also in the improvement of the agricultural information system regarding various commodities. The delegates requested FAO to give priority to follow-up action and report to the next Committee on Agriculture and to the Conference. I think these are the highlights of what the delegates said. We shall leave the rest of the Drafting Committee to prepare their report. So, that concludes our discussion on this agenda item.

7.4 Forestry - The Manifesto of Mexico (Ninth World Forestry Congress, July 1985)

7.4 Forêts - Manifeste de Mexico (neuvième Congrès forestier mondial, juillet 1985)

7.4 Montes - El Manifiesto de Mexico (Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, julio de 1985)

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): El Consejo, en su reciente sesión, instruyó a la Secretaría para presentar este punto sobre el Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial y el Manifiesto de México. Los documentos de referencia son el C 85/LIM/20, y el documento que se refiere directamente al Manifiesto de México es el C 85/INF/15.

El Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, Sr. Presidente, se reunió en la ciudad de México del 1 al 10 de julio de este año, al cual asistieron más de 2 200 participantes, entre ellos 34 ministros de 105 países. Coincidiendo con el Congreso se celebraron varias reuniones satélites, entre ellas una consulta de expertos de la FAO sobre la función de la silvicultura en la lucha contra la desertificación, y una reunión del Comité Asesor de la FAO sobre enseñanza forestal. Se realizaron viajes de estudio, previos y después del Congreso, por México, Estados Unidos, Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua y Costa Rica.

El Congreso fue inaugurado por el señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, con la asistencia del Director General y el Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos de México, quienes pronunciaron sendas declaraciones ante el Congreso, cuyo tema central era los recursos forestales en el desarrollo integral de la sociedad.

Se organizaron debates sobre diversas cuestiones; el tema, las actividades forestales y su función en el desarrollo, se examinó en sesiones plenarias y tres comisiones técnicas se ocuparon de las tendencias y nuevas aportaciones en lo relativo a protección y manejo de los recursos forestales, producción y productividad e instituciones y desarrollo rural. Todas las discusiones se realizaron en el marco de las preocupaciones del mundo actual: la crisis de la pobreza en el mundo en desarrollo, manifestada en el hambre y la malnutrición, la escasez de la leña, el desempleo y el aumento

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<sup>1/</sup> Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

de la deuda exterior que exacerba la destrucción y degradación de los bosques tropicales y acelera la desertificación de las regiones áridas, la crisis ambiental en parte del mundo, particularmente la contaminación atmosférica de la que la lluvia ácida es la más divulgada, por cuanto es la causa principal de la destrucción de los bosques en las zonas templadas de Europa y de América del Norte.

El Manifiesto de México resume las conclusiones, recomendaciones y llamamientos del Congreso. No se hizo ninguna recomendación dirigida específicamente a la FAO, no obstante lo cual el Congreso reconoció y apoyó las políticas, estrategias y programas de la FAO en el sector forestal.

Quisiera llamar la atención, Sr. Presidente, particularmente a los siguientes puntos del Manifiesto: primero, la recomendación del Consejo de la FAO de que el Congreso prestara atención especial a la conservación y la debida utilización de los recursos forestales, fue advertido oportunamente. Convencido el Congreso de que el Año Internacional del Bosque declarado por dicho Consejo de la FAO, proporcionaba una oportunidad única para el examen de los problemas forestales mundiales. El Congreso exhortaba a los gobiernos a que apoyaran los objetivos del Año Internacional del Bosque, de la FAO cuyo éxito depende en su mayor parte de las iniciativas nacionales y locales.

Declaró que el Plan de Acción en los bosques tropicales, que fue aprobado por el Comité de la FAO de desarrollo forestal en los trópicos, justifica una acción urgente y el apoyo general de todos los organismos y personas interesadas.

Apoyó asimismo la Resolución de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para Europa celebrada en Reykjavik en septiembre de 1984, referente a los impactos de la contaminación atmosférica sobre los bosques, y además sugiere la creación de un fondo mundial para el desarrollo y la protección forestal, especialmente para ayudar a los países en desarrollo.

En este sentido, Sr. Presidente, el documento C 85/LIM/20 hace suyos algunos de los puntos expresados en la introducción.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Dr Flores Rodas, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department for his introduction to this agenda item.

E. REYES BRAVO (México): Ante todo, Sr. Presidente, deseamos felicitar al Dr. Flores Rodas por su excelente presentación del tema y sus expresiones amables para nuestro país y la organización del Congreso. En consonancia con la decisión del Consejo de transmitir a esta Conferencia el Manifiesto de México para su adopción mediante una Resolución, la delegación de México se honra en poner a la consideración de esta Comisión un proyecto de Resolución en ese sentido, que dice lo siguiente:

La Conferencia,

Reafirmando la importancia del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, celebrado en México en julio de 1985, que constituye un esfuerzo significativo de la Comunidad Internacional para el desarrollo, promoción y aprovechamiento racional y equitativo de los recursos naturales renovables.

Recordando la Resolución 2/86 del Consejo de la FAO que 'declaró 1985 Año Internacional del Bosque, llamando la atención en que "La destrucción de los bosques se ha convertido en uno de los mayores problemas de la humanidad, y que es necesario la conservación y uso racional de los recursos forestales del mundo".

Reconociendo el valor que el Manifiesto de México tiene como documento fundamental de actualidad en el que se resumen la importancia de los bosques, tanto en la protección del ambiente como en la contribución al desarrollo.

Tomando nota con satisfacción que los programas de FAO en el sector forestal coinciden completamente con el contenido y el espíritu del Manifiesto de México:

1. Adopta el Manifiesto de México.
2. Insta a los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros para que dichos principios y directrices se reflejen adecuadamente en sus inversiones, planes y programas silvícolas nacionales.
3. Invita a organismos e instituciones internacionales a promover la observancia de los principios contenidos en el Manifiesto y a apoyar financieramente el desarrollo y el aprovechamiento integral de los bosques.

Este proyecto será entregado a usted para que lo haga llegar al Comité de Resoluciones con el objeto de que se siga el procedimiento a que haya lugar.

No puedo dejar de manifestar el agradecimiento del Gobierno de México a la FAO, y en especial al Departamento de Montes por su valiosa asistencia en la organización del Congreso.

D. KINZEL (Austria) (original language German): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Flores Rodas for the excellent introduction he gave to this subject. Forests are suffering from an increasing burden throughout the world, and according to FAO estimates we must reckon with a deforestation rate which will account for more than 110 000 square kilometres in the developing countries per annum. A further fact is that we have very damaging air pollution in the European countries, which has become the number-one problem for our woods and forests. In wide areas of Europe the very existence of our woods and forests are threatened. Therefore, in assessing and applying technologies and installing new production processes and production plants, it is essential to assess their impact on the environment and make this the basis for any decisions on to use such technologies.

The need to adapt thinking and action in our societies to the requirements of our ecosystems is particularly vital today because environmental damage is often irreparable. If human society is still to have any environment which makes life worth living tomorrow, then we must combine what is economically desirable with what is ecologically necessary.

It is a fact that in so doing, we are dealing with a problem which is only partially capable of solution through forestry activity of various kinds. It is important to undertake initiatives in forestry policy to provide a socio-political base which encourages a positive attitude toward our woods and forests by the people.

Austria has adopted a number of measures to protect our woods and forests against environmental pollution. In order to protect our woods and conserve them, on the 1st January 1976, following the development of our traditional laws, we adopted a comprehensive and modern law for our forests. In this law, we find provisions to combat the air pollution that has such a damaging effect on our woods and forests. The activities which were undertaken in Austria before the World Forestry Congress and which have been known to the public on various occasions and have been presented to various international bodies such as the World Forestry Congress in Mexico will be given increasing attention in our country in the future. For instance, I would mention by way of example the following points: the implementation of energy conservation programmes; the use of energy resources, raw materials and products resulting in low pollution levels; the establishment of plants to purify exhaust fumes; the use of unleaded petrol; the implementation of strict provisions on exhaust gases in transport, and the limitation of speed limits to reduce exhaust fumes from transport. Unfortunately science still does not give us enough information about the causes which have led to the dying of our woods and forests. It is still often not clear which pollutants are mainly responsible for the damage which has occurred. Research will therefore have to deal very comprehensively with all of these interrelated factors. In order to supervise and control damage in our forests, a so-called bio-indicator network was established to allow us to investigate the disposition of pollutants in the leaves and needles of our trees and an inventory of the state of our forests which takes into account the crowns of our trees and thereby allows us to make deductions about the degree of damage which has occurred in our woods and forests was created.

Each and every country will have to fight against pollution which is produced in that same country. The reduction of long-distance emissions and pollutants requires international cooperation, of course. Above all, it will be necessary to see to it that international agreements are reached on long-distance trans-frontier air pollution accompanied by concrete provisions to reduce the emission of pollutants. It is important that the world acknowledges the importance of the establishment of an environmental fund, as was suggested by our Federal Minister Haydn, for the creation of preservation, conservation and reforestation programmes, for the prevention of the loss of forest areas, and for the granting of long-term credits at low interest rates for this purpose.

The Austrian Federal Government has declared 1985 to be the year of Forest, and this has been proclaimed by the FAO at an international level also. We must act quickly because our woods and forests are in a dangerous state. In the international field we have to adopt the necessary measures as quickly as possible in order to promote international cooperation, to promote our woods and forests. This is an urgent demand of our day and age. This is a worldwide, global necessity. As far as the Tenth World Forestry Conference is concerned, we are aware of the fact that the decision as to where this conference should be held must be taken by the FAO. I would like to emphasize once again that my country is extremely interested in the organization of this important congress.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Austria for his statement. I think the Secretariat has taken note of your offer.

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Given the very large extent of forest in the Brazilian territory, among which is two thirds of the largest tropical forest in the world, Brazil places high priority on this sector. The Brazilian Government has already developed and is currently implementing a broad programme related to the proper conservation and utilization of forests for the production of food and rural development. In the same context, Brazil has also benefited from very significant assistance from international organizations in this field.

As is rightly mentioned in document C 85/4 on the review of field programmes, Brazil provides an interesting example of large-scale multi-fronted projects. FAO provides assistance to Brazilian institutions for these projects through UNDP funding. It started in 1971 and is currently in its fifth phase. The project has contributed, among other things, to the establishment of a chain of forestry education centres and to the assessment of our forest resources.

In spite of the achievements already reached, the Brazilian Government is conscious of the constant attention and priorities that the forestry sector deserves. Therefore, at this point the Brazilian delegation reiterates its support for the Manifesto approved by the Ninth World Forest Congress, especially in regard to the twenty-three principles and guidelines on forestry policies and strategies which are in accordance with our national policies. Conservation and proper utilization of forests should be the goal of any national state with forest resources within its geographical area. Assistance from international organizations should be welcomed whenever needed and requested in specific areas of interests to these states.

As a result, we support the Council's proposal to adopt the Manifesto of Mexico by a Conference resolution. Before defining our position on the creation of a fund for the development and the environmental protection of forests, a proposal that we support in principle, however we do believe that additional information on the Fund's structure should be provided.

T. KATIYA (Japan): At the outset, my delegation would like to thank Mr Flores Rodas for the excellent presentation of this important agenda item. We fully recognize that the conservation of forests and the development of forestry are quite important, not only in maintaining a favourable environment for agricultural production, but also in improving the standard of

living for rural people. Therefore, we strongly hope that the activities in the field will be further strengthened. We appreciate very much the successful results of the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico, and we are very pleased with the Manifesto of Mexico because it clearly identifies current problems in the field of forests and forestry, and it indicates the proper direction in tackling these problems. Therefore, we can support it in general.

However, we would like to draw your attention to the reservation which the Japanese delegation expressed to the Congress with regard to the proposal for the establishment of a world fund for the development and the environmental protection of forests. Although our reservation is missing in the footnotes of the text of that Manifesto, it was actually made at the Congress together with the Federal Republic of Germany. My delegation fully understands the objective of the proposal which seeks to promote assistance to the developing countries in the field of conservation of forests and the development of forestry. However, we are afraid that the new fund will not necessarily bring about effective and efficient results, but it might be rather result in unnecessarily increasing administrative costs. Although we have no intention of hindering the adoption of the Manifesto at the Conference, we request the Secretariat to clearly mention in the report of the Conference our reservation concerning the proposal for the establishment of the new fund.

Before my closing remarks, my delegation has the pleasure of mentioning that my country will continue to make every effort to assist developing countries in this field.

F. FERNANDEZ de ANA MAGAN (España): Vamos a ser breves. Sin embargo, queremos intervenir para apoyar la presentación de este documento, agradecer su presentación e insistir una vez más, como ya lo hemos hecho en las reuniones del Grupo Europeo en Islandia y después en México, en nuestra gran preocupación por el tema de los incendios forestales.

Vemos con cierto disgusto, Sr. Presidente, que este documento, que habíamos examinado ya en México, 'da una cierta preferencia al tema de la contaminación ambiental. Estamos de acuerdo con el colega de Austria, en el sentido de la gran preocupación que los países centroeuropeos vienen teniendo por el tema; pero los países mediterráneos, todos aquellos de clima mediterráneo, ponen su preocupación además en el incendio, en el fuego y en el monte. Y esto, no sólo por la destrucción de la riqueza maderera, sino por la destrucción del ambiente, del medio ecológico forestal, que es más grave todavía.

En este sentido insistimos en que no nos gusta demasiado la redacción de los párrafos 18 y 19, en los que nos da la sensación de reforzar de alguna manera el tema de la contaminación de la lluvia ácida y el tema de la contaminación ambiental; dejando en cambio un poco desvalido el tema de las provocaciones de incendios.

Estos factores bióticos no funcionan aisladamente; todo su conjunto es el que interviene en la destrucción del bosque y las plagas, los incendios y la contaminación ambiental, empeorando así cada vez más la situación y destrucción del bosque.

No sé si sería procedente que en la última parte, cuando el manifiesto habla de lo que se debe conceder y aceptar en materia forestal, eso se debía de haber redactado en presente, ya que se reconoce y acepta esa responsabilidad en los sectores forestales. Por lo demás, nos parece perfecto el presentarse este documento y que lo apruebe esta Conferencia de la FAO.

G. FRADIN (France): La France a activement participé aux travaux du Congrès forestier de Mexico, et le Ministre délégué de l'agriculture et des forêts, M. Souchon, s'est rendu lui-même au Mexique pour participer à ces travaux. Il va de soi que la délégation française appuie les conclusions du Congrès et le Manifeste de Mexico qui en résulte, en particulier la proclamation du caractère essentiel du secteur forestier et notamment pour le développement des pays dans les secteurs rural et agricole. La délégation française soutient tout particulièrement la nécessité d'élaborer et de mettre en oeuvre des politiques dans ce secteur en liaison étroite avec les politiques de développement agricole et rural. Il va sans dire que le rôle de la FAO est important et principalement son département des forêts est déterminant à cet égard.



Le Président de la République française, lors de son allocution prononcée la semaine dernière à l'occasion du 40ème anniversaire de la FAO, a rappelé l'invitation qu'il a faite aux responsables politiques du Nord et du Sud de se réunir au mois de février prochain à Paris pour examiner les moyens de faire face aux menaces qui pèsent sur le patrimoine forestier et notamment celui des régions sèches.

Ma délégation remercie le Directeur général d'avoir accordé l'appui de la FAO et espère sincèrement que cette initiative constituera une contribution efficace à la sauvegarde des espaces forestiers de nos pays et une réponse aux appels et aux encouragements formulés par le Manifeste de Mexico.

O.C. FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia considera que uno de los actos más importantes, dentro de la celebración del Congreso Internacional del Bosque, ha sido la realización del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial en la ciudad de México, capital de un país amigo y latinoamericano. Ese Congreso constituyó un certamen de gran importancia, con la presencia del Sr. Presidente de los Estados Unidos de México, Licenciado Miguel de la Madrid, y del Director General de la FAO, así como de otras importantes personalidades de todo el mundo.

Debemos estar complacidos por el hecho de que en este Congreso se atendió nuestra recomendación, en el sentido de ofrecer especial atención a la conservación y debida utilización de los recursos forestales. Igualmente estamos seguros de que las conclusiones del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial tendrán impacto significativo en las actividades forestales de la FAO.

La delegación de Colombia pide cordialmente a los distinguidos representantes de Austria que transmitan el sincero reconocimiento del Gobierno colombiano a las altas autoridades austríacas, porque el delegado de Austria en ese Congreso presentara la propuesta, acogida unánimemente, de crear un fondo forestal para ayudar a los países en desarrollo a conservar sus recursos forestales.

Desafortunadamente, en el pasado Consejo tuvimos la triste sorpresa de que unos países desarrollados intensificaran ya su oposición especial a ese fondo propuesto por Austria, a este paso, ni siquiera los árboles podrán crecer. Esos pocos países desarrollados también desean aplicar el crecimiento continuo de las actividades forestales y sin embargo se niegan a seguir el mismo ejemplo austríaco, que propone la creación de ese fondo forestal, que tantos beneficios reportaría para los países en desarrollo. En efecto, el párrafo 70 del documento C 85/LIM/20 recoge esa actitud ambigua, carente del sentido de cooperación de aquellos países que se han opuesto a la importante iniciativa de Austria.

La delegación de Colombia considera que la Comisión debe apoyar decididamente esa propuesta de Austria, y así pedimos que conste en nuestro informe.

La delegación de Colombia opina que el Manifiesto de México representa un acto de verdadera afirmación en los principios fundamentales dirigidos a la conservación de los recursos forestales y al mejor uso de éstos. De manera que el contenido de este Manifiesto debe ser divulgado y tenido en cuenta en todas las ocasiones propicias. Apoyamos plenamente el proyecto de resolución, que está dirigido a dar una mayor importancia a las proyecciones futuras que el mismo Manifiesto de México contiene.

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Colombia propone que en nuestro informe se consigne nuestro reconocimiento y gratitud por las facilidades dadas para la celebración del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, lo que sin duda contribuyó a su éxito.

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): We wish to express our thanks to Mr Flores Rodas for introducing this excellent document. This document deals with a very important subject which is closely linked to the civilization of nations, as forestry contributes to several fields: industrial, agricultural, and the prevention of soil erosion. In order to maintain forestry systems in every country, we have the following proposals to make, and they are in fact in accordance with those in the document.

First of all, a study should be undertaken by FAO to deal with the possibility of developing new seeds and strains for forests which are resistant to drought and which can be adapted to the climatic conditions of the various regions of the world, especially those with no water resources.

Secondly, maintenance of forests is a very difficult task. It requires a conjunction of efforts. The larger share, or the larger burden, of the role falls on the shoulders of governments, as the maintenance of forestry resources requires vast investments and capacity. This, therefore, cannot be undertaken by individuals. Consequently, we urge governments to allocate the necessary funds for this purpose in their development plans.

Thirdly, forests in many countries are quite often exposed to forest fires. This leads to destruction of vast areas which have been cultivated at the expense of much time and money, and, as we say in Arabic: "He who sows is not the same person as he who destroys". Therefore, I suggest the establishment of some early warning system in forest areas to prevent forest fires. Fleets should be set up in every country to combat fires. Public information systems should also be major components in increasing public awareness of the dangers of forest fires and in advising on the need to maintain and protect them.

Fourthly, we support the establishment of a fund for the development of forests and their protection. We urge all other countries to support the establishment of this fund.

J.R. GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I have just two observations to make. The United Kingdom delegation endorses the view expressed by the Congress of the need for increased investment in forestry and forest industries in accordance with the general directions and priorities set out in FAO Plan of Action on Tropical Forests adopted by the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics and subject to the wishes and priorities of the countries directly concerned.

We are in sympathy with the intentions of the Austrian proposal for the creation of a forest fund to assist developing countries in conserving their forestry resources but believe that this requires further examination before any decision on support for the proposal is made.

G.R. SAINI (India): At the outset, India's delegation wishes to express its appreciation as well as gratitude to FAO and the Ninth World Forestry Congress for the Manifesto of Mexico calling upon mankind to recognize the importance of forestry resources for the biosphere and the survival of humanity and urging them to devote themselves to safeguarding and promoting this resource which has to provide humanity with food, raw materials, energy, rural wellbeing, ecological protection and improvement in the quality of life.

The degradation of forests, ecosystems and the resultant adverse ecological, hydrological and climatic changes, soil depletion and decline in productivity in agriculture are a matter of serious concern. To these may also be added the acute shortage of energy based on forest resources which is manifesting itself in many countries. Besides, we are conscious of the close relationship between forest wealth and productivity and efficiency of farming, animal husbandry, hydrological activities and the socio-economic wellbeing of the dependent population. The utilization of forest biomass as a source of energy needs hardly any emphasis.

We are conscious of the fact that forest resources influence directly or indirectly the livelihood of a sizeable proportion of our population. As in many other countries, India's forests in the past have suffered damage through degradation. At present India uses only about 20 percent of its geographical area for forests and we consider it to be inadequate for a proper ecosystem and ecological balance. Therefore, India has decided to make every effort to increase the proportion of its geographical area for forests to at least 33 percent.

Towards this end, we plan to plant 5 million ha of land with forests every year. Afforestation and social forestry have been accorded high priority in our development plans. We have constituted high-powered National Land Use and Waste-Land Boards, whose primary task is to contribute towards the restoration and establishment of a proper land use and ecological balance for the sustained

growth and wellbeing of agriculture and the rural sector of the economy. We also have tribal and forest development corporations to guide the most efficient exploitation of forest wealth for tribal welfare, keeping in mind the broad guidelines necessary for an optimum ecological balance. The Forest Institute of India, which is a unique institution of its kind, is increasingly devoting itself to the scientific aspects of afforestation and forest development in India. We hope to be able to offer assistance to other countries in this regard. In the end, in the long-term interest of mankind, we strongly urge this Conference to adopt the Manifesto of Mexico.

M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): En primer lugar, deseo agradecer al Dr. Flores Rodas por su concisa y brillante presentación del tema.

Señor Presidente: mi delegación considera como muy positiva la celebración del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial cuyos resultados se condensan en el Manifiesto de México. El recién celebrado Congreso constituyó un paso de avance en la toma de conciencia por la comunidad internacional de la importancia vital de los recursos forestales.

Deseamos también resaltar la decisión del Consejo en el sentido de declarar el año 1985 como Año Internacional del Bosque.

Estamos convencidos de que el Manifiesto de México recoge una clara identificación de la problemática actual del sector forestal y traza líneas de acción para mejorar su situación.

En consecuencia, mi delegación apoya los planteamientos del Manifiesto de México, e igualmente apoya la proposición de la distinguida delegación de México para que se respalde mediante una Resolución de la Conferencia sobre el particular.

Señor Presidente: mi país ha realizado un gran esfuerzo en materia de repoblación y ordenación forestal. Asimismo, en la planificación de la mejor explotación de los bosques y la conservación del ambiente, y por ello, hoy podemos brindar un notable avance en la recuperación y conservación de los recursos forestales.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, deseamos agradecer a los organizadores del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial el haber incluido a nuestro país en el circuito de viajes de estudios pre o post Congreso de los delegados. Quiero expresar además nuestro agradecimiento a las autoridades de la hermana República de México por la excelente organización del Congreso.

I. KABA (Guinée): Ma délégation apprécie le résultat des travaux de Mexico; le Manifeste qui en découle tient compte des préoccupations majeures de mon pays quant à la conservation et à la gestion rationnelle du patrimoine forestier, car la Guinée dans la sous-région ouest africaine occupe une position extrêmement stratégique, compte tenu du nombre important de fleuves qui y prennent leur source. Ainsi, on comprend aisément l'importance de la création de l'organisme sous-régional dénommé "Autorité du Bassin du fleuve Niger", auquel adhèrent neuf pays de la sous-région, et dont le siège est au Niger.

Le rôle-primordial de cet organisme consiste en la protection et l'aménagement de la source et du bassin du fleuve Niger.

L'OMFG est aussi un autre organisme qui s'occupe de l'aménagement du fleuve Gambie. Nous sommes reconnaissants à la FAO pour sa participation aux différentes phases des études de ces importants projets. Quant au projet dénommé Aménagement intégré du Massif du Fouta Djallon, il s'agit là d'une action à laquelle l'OUA et les Nations Unies et mon pays participent activement. En effet, nous considérons qu'une lutte efficace contre la désertification commence par la protection des sources d'eau et l'aménagement de leurs bassins. Ainsi, mon pays affronté à ces importantes tâches ne peut qu'appuyer fermement le Manifeste de Mexico et demander sa plus large diffusion.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): Agradecemos al Dr. Flores Rodas la presentación del importante tema relativo a las conclusiones del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial expresadas y resumidas en el Manifiesto de México.

Sabemos la relevancia de las actividades en materia agropecuaria y forestal en los países en vías de desarrollo, y en esta ocasión, mi delegación no puede dejar de enfatizar la importancia del sector forestal, considerado fundamental para la economía de mi país.

Honduras reconoce y manifiesta su preocupación

- por la gravedad del progresivo agotamiento de los recursos naturales no renovables,
- por las consecuencias graves de la deforestación que, como lo indica el Manifiesto de México, "perjudica la situación alimentaria y la supervivencia".

Nuestra población, señor Presidente, depende en gran parte del recurso forestal como fuente principal de energía para su subsistencia y, con el crecimiento demográfico, la escasez de leña se hace cada vez más aguda con todas sus implicaciones económicas, sociales y ecológicas.

Honduras reconoce los esfuerzos realizados por este Organismo, responsable de apoyar las actividades fundamentales para nuestros países, con la convicción de que con las nuevas políticas y estrategias forestales contempladas en el Manifiesto de México y "con la amplia participación de la sociedad, la conservación y el uso racional del potencial forestal, podrá promover el desarrollo de las economías nacionales, conduciéndolas finalmente al mejoramiento de los niveles de vida, en beneficio de la humanidad".

Honduras da su apoyo a la propuesta presentada por la distinguida delegación de México y apoyada por otras delegaciones, en el sentido de que el Manifiesto de México sea reconocido por esta Conferencia mediante una Resolución.

Srta. D. de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): En primer lugar, queremos agradecer al Dr. Flores Rodas por habernos presentado el presente documento.

Mi país, señor Presidente, posee amplias zonas de foresta tropical húmeda, muchas de las cuales sufren los graves problemas relacionados con el futuro del patrimonio forestal, y que son comunes a casi todos los países en desarrollo, aunque algunas de ellas no dejan de representar serios problemas en otras latitudes.

En efecto, situaciones tales como la deforestación continua y excesiva a que son sometidos los recursos forestales en gran parte del mundo, en especial en las zonas tropicales húmedas, los efectos de tal deforestación en el proceso de desertificación, así como entre otros, la interrelación entre ésta y la seguridad alimentaria mundial, son problemas que merecen nuestra atenta y seria consideración.

Sabemos que el aspecto es complicado, y que en muchos casos, está interrelacionado con situaciones de orden sociopolítico que no son exclusivas de la silvicultura, sino que están íntimamente relacionadas con la compleja problemática del proceso de desarrollo.

Por otra parte, la carencia de legislación apropiada y de técnicos especializados hacen urgente una ordenación de la actividad forestal si no queremos correr el riesgo de incrementar la tendencia a fabricar desiertos.

Es en este marco de referencias y por la importancia que la delegación de Panamá le concede, que deseamos manifestar nuestra complacencia por la celebración del Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial en México, y expresar nuestro apoyo total y decisivo, no sólo a sus resultados sino también a la forma particular de que el Manifiesto de México sea aprobado mediante una Resolución por esta Conferencia, a efectos de que la FAO pueda contribuir, mediante sus acciones, a la conservación y uso apropiados de los recursos forestales.

Igualmente y para terminar, señor Presidente, deseamos apoyar la propuesta de Austria de que se cree un Fondo Mundial para el Desarrollo y la Conservación de los Recursos Forestales.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Indonesia has given in a written statement to be included in the verbatim report. It shall be done.

E. OLET (Uganda): I will be brief. Uganda fully participated in the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico. Therefore, my delegation would like to thank the Assistant Director-General for his clear and concise introduction of the manifesto. My delegation was very happy with the warm hospitality accorded to our delegation in Mexico. We also offer our special appreciation to the Director-General for the assistance provided by FAO which made such a success of the deliberations of the Congress.

My delegation notes with great satisfaction that the manifesto has recognized and supported the policies, strategies and programmes of FAO with regard to forestry generally. We would like to appeal to the Director-General to continue support for the forestry sector.

Uganda is worried about her tropical forests because there has been much destruction of tropical forests for fuelwood and agriculture. This destruction is taking place at an alarming rate. Therefore, we fully support the Congress declaration in Document C 85/INF/15. In declaring 1985 the International Year of the Forest, FAO has paid special tribute to the role that forests play in the development of mankind. This year during the celebration of World Food Day, my Government launched a tree-planting programme in which every able-bodied person was asked to plant a tree. The response should have been more notable, but because of the shortage of saplings many people were not able to plant trees. As we support the creation of a world fund for the development of environmental protection and for forests to assist the developing countries, my delegation would be grateful if ways and means to achieve this goal could be found.

E. PARDO (Argentina): Agradecemos, Sr. Presidente, la intervención de la dirección de la FAO, intervención precisa y que nos ubica adecuadamente en el tema.

Mi país ha prestado pleno apoyo al Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial y a sus conclusiones, o sea, al Manifiesto de México. Para Argentina tiene especial prioridad todo lo que se refiere a la situación forestal a nivel mundial, regional y, obviamente, nacional. La depredación del bosque y sus lamentables consecuencias sobre el ecosistema están cada vez más a la vista. El estado de los bosques a nivel mundial muestra las consecuencias depredadoras de la industrialización y de las prácticas de un consumismo exacerbado.

En consecuencia, consideramos como una toma de conciencia de la humanidad cuanto pueda hacerse para conservar y ampliar los bosques. Los gobiernos deben cuanto antes acordar medidas para frenar la extinción de la masa forestal, cuya repercusión afectará a toda la humanidad. Son sobre todo los países excedentarios de capital, los que deben contribuir a la preservación del bosque; ellos han utilizado a los bosques más intensamente en términos de tiempo de explotación económica y contaminación ambiental." Sobre ellos recaen, en consecuencia, una mayor responsabilidad.

Iniciativas como la propuesta por Austria son ejemplos laudables de lo que debería hacerse en tal sentido. Consideramos con gran interés el proyecto de Resolución que nos ha anticipado la distinguida delegación de México, destinado a implementar en el marco de la FAO la parte sustancial del contenido del Manifiesto de México y esperamos sumarle nuestro apoyo.

A.M. OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): The importance of forests and their direct and indirect effect on the climate and environment and economy, and all the questions which are covered in document 85/INF/15, were not sufficiently well known and were not given due importance, particularly in developing countries. A large number of international organizations such as FAO and some Governments realized the importance of forests and their management, circulated information and scientific documents to this effect and passed legislation for the protection of forests and the environment.

However, it is difficult to implement regulations covering forests. The need for fuelwood in the rural environment, the need to stop overgrazing, the need to clear agricultural land, the spread of forest fires, as well as other problems, affect forests. The practical solution in many cases is to create an awareness among peasants and farmers regarding the importance of the trees about to be destroyed and to provide alternative solutions if possible. Sudanese territory extends from the desert to the tropical forests. During the last few years, particularly in the sub-Saharan and lower savannah areas, we have had a considerable advance of the desert at unprecedented rates which has led to a loss of vast areas of agricultural land. Furthermore, the drought which we have experienced in the last few years has made the problem even more complex. This region in the past was used for the cultivation of Arabica gumtrees which were destroyed by drought. This is why reafforestation in this area is extremely important and why considerable funds are needed for this purpose.

I suggest that the income from forests should be used for reafforestation with the assistance of the relevant organizations and governments concerned, and that all methods of information, audiovisual and others, should be used to draw people's attention to the conservation and the maintenance of forests.

Further, we should continue with reafforestation and protection belts, and prohibit the cutting down of trees without authorization. Every time a tree is cut down another one should be planted. I suggest that we should start now because desertification continues to grow, and trees are burnt and cut down daily.

A. JEAN-LOUIS (Haïti): La délégation d'Haïti accorde un vif intérêt au manifeste du Mexique issu du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial. Ma délégation souscrit aux importantes considérations qui coiffent les déclarations pertinentes du Congrès. Comme nous l'avons souligné en séance plénière, la réhabilitation des couvertures végétales en Haïti représente une priorité urgente pour mon gouvernement.

Fortement frappées par l'érosion, nos terres, en majeure partie situées en montagne, sont actuellement l'objet d'interventions intensives.

Tout en protégeant nos rares formations forestières jusqu'à présent exemptes de l'action destructrice de l'homme, nous essayons de développer un vaste programme d'aménagement des bassins versants en vue non seulement de rétablir l'équilibre du milieu physique, mais aussi de permettre à l'homme paysan d'y vivre avec une certaine sécurité.

En Haïti, l'approche consiste à parvenir à un modèle d'exploitation en montagne de type agro-sylvo-pastoral. A ce compte, les points 19 et 20 du manifeste retiennent particulièrement notre attention. En effet, dans nos efforts pour réaliser nos objectifs dans ce domaine, la coopération internationale nous appuie fortement.

Ma délégation donne son plein appui au manifeste et souscrit à la proposition autrichienne consistant à créer un fonds pour le développement du secteur forestier.

A. NIOMBELA (Congo): Notre délégation ne peut rester indifférente aux conclusions du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial étant donné que la superficie de mon pays est couverte par la forêt. Vu l'intérêt que mon gouvernement accorde à ce domaine, il y a un grand programme de reboisement et de protection des forêts à l'heure actuelle qui se réalise dans mon pays. La ressource forestière joue un grand rôle dans notre économie.

Cela dit, nous approuvons les nouvelles politiques de stratégies forestières issues de ce Congrès, quand elles permettent de résoudre les problèmes forestiers auxquels sont confrontés nos pays. Nous appuyons l'idée d'un fonds mondial pour la valorisation et la conservation des ressources forestières. Aussi n'oublions-nous pas d'appuyer le manifeste du Mexique car il a su souligner le problème de nos forêts et tracer le chemin de sa résolution.

SAUD AL ZUHER (Jordan) (original language Arabic): May I on behalf of my country thank Mr Flores Rodas for the excellent presentation and introduction he gave us on the Manifesto of Mexico proposed at the Ninth World Forestry Congress. I should also like to thank the Mexican Government for the aid and help it gave in organizing this Conference.

We are all aware of the importance of forests and we should like to express our satisfaction with the results of the Ninth World Forestry Conference. We hope that all countries will carry out and implement the policies and strategies thus adopted by the Congress. The Congress calls for the establishment of a world fund for the development and protection of forest areas, particularly to help developing countries. We feel this is very necessary and, on behalf of the delegation of my country, I should like to support the Mexico Manifesto and thank and express my appreciation to FAO for the help that it constantly gives us in the agricultural sector in general.

U. SEIN WIN (Burma): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Burmese delegation, thank you very much for giving me the floor to make a few points with regard to forestry matters which are in conformity with the Manifesto of Mexico, Ninth World Forestry Congress.

Burma, as we all know, is endowed with a wealth of forest resources. These forests play a vital role in the conservation of soil and water, which is enormously helpful to the country's agriculture, and they also provide a large quantity of timber, both for domestic consumption and for export. Forestry matters contained in the Manifesto of Mexico are mainly concerned with conservation strategy, which is the major problem for most of the countries.

Burma is now trying to implement many conservation and greening movements. Since the Tanngya method of shifting of cultivation began in Burma, we are launching a programme to train farmers in its use. Settlement of land ownership problems and initiation of replanting programmes have been implemented in deserted shifting cultivation areas.

With regard to the greening movement, Burma launches a tree programme annually, such as the large-scale plantation programme of 90 000 acres. Wood-lots planting was initiated and villages supplied firewood plantations were being carried out by mass participation, and 5 million tree seedlings were distributed annually to be planted in the month of July, which is the tree planting month.

Protection of both natural and man-made forests and greening movements carried out in the country are somewhat materializing some of the essential forestry matters. Therefore we fully commend that the Manifesto of Mexico should be adopted and carried out with full confidence by Member Nations.

I.N. ARDHA (Indonesia): My statement will be very brief, since the importance of the role of forestry for agricultural development and for human beings in all aspects has been highlighted by previous delegates as well as by the introduction of the Secretariat.

The Indonesian delegation would like to take this opportunity to confirm its position and support the Council decision to adopt the Manifesto of Mexico on forestry development as a Conference resolution.

We believe that working together and exchanging experiences among countries, as was widely discussed during the Ninth Forestry Congress in Mexico, will contribute to our efforts to maintain, improve, conserve and sustain the role of forestry for all human beings. 1/

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

CHAIRMAN: Before we adjourn, the delegate of Mexico made a proposal to submit a Conference Resolution on this agenda item. This was supported by many delegates and therefore the normal procedure should be followed to get this draft Resolution to the Resolutions Committee as quickly as possible before it goes before the Commission.

I adjourn the meeting for this morning.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas



**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION ITWELFTH MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE  
12ª SESION

(21 November 1985)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 15.00 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE  
DALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA  
Y ALIMENTACION (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation; (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture : (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.4. Forestry - The Manifesto of Mexico (Ninth World Forestry Congress, July 1985) (continued)

7.4. Forêts - Manifeste de Mexico (neuvième Congrès forestier mondial, juillet 1985) (suite)

7.4. Montes - El Manifiesto de Mexico (Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, julio de 1985)  
(continuación)

M. WARD (United States of America): The United States was an active and enthusiastic participant in the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico City last July. Our experience in the United States and in our cooperation in economic development in other countries has shown very clearly that if we fail to protect our trees we may lose everything else - our agriculture, our rivers, our villages, and our cities. We have seen with growing alarm the advance of desertification, particularly in Africa, and the destruction of trees and bushes to make way for crops and to provide fuelwood. This is happening in many places. It is probably most advanced in the Sahel. A few years ago there was a circumference of about 50 kilometres outside the city of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso in which most of the trees and bushes had been cut to supply the fuelwood needs of the people in that radius. Then the perimeter was 60 kilometres, and then 70. It is probably about 80 kilometres now. This theme is repeating itself in very many places.

There seems to be a conflict and separation in the ways in which governments and institutions of other kinds are dealing with the problems of agriculture and forestry. I have seen within the United States Government, within other governments, and I have seen within FAO, the phenomenon that the people concerned with agriculture feel all too often, that is, that foresters are the enemy. Why should one permit the growth of trees where it is possible to grow crops? The foresters have found it very difficult to explain their concerns to the agricultural people.

We all need to try to focus our attention on doing something about this. We clearly need to strengthen the links between our concern for forestry and the growing of trees and our concern for agriculture and the growing of crops. We are very interested in the work of FAO in this area. I believe that there is research which is beginning and going on now, carried out by FAO, which is designed to explore the direct effort which the growing of trees in and around fields has on crop production. There can be much greater use made of the symbiosis between the growth of trees for commercial purposes and the growth of crops for food.

There is an institutional problem here which deserves more attention. A number of organizations have been contributing very good work in the area of forestry and the growth of trees, certainly under programmes of the United States Aid Programme, the programmes of many other bilaterals, the programmes and projects financed by the World Bank and by the Comité Interétat pour la Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS). All of these have made substantial contributions in dealing with the problem of forestry.

We certainly support the intentions expressed by those who gathered at the Ninth World Forestry Congress. We support in very large part the principle of the Manifesto set forth at that Congress. However, the United States associates itself with the position taken at the Congress by the Federal Republic of Germany, by the United Kingdom and by other delegates here. We support the principle underlying the creation of a world fund for the development and conservation of forest resources, but we believe that the proposal needs more detailed analysis and study before we can take further action.

M. RYAN (Australia): Australia maintains the position that it adopted at the last FAO Council meeting on this issue. That is, Australia does not support at this stage - and I emphasize at this stage - the creation of the world fund for the development and conservation of forest resources. We consider that to date there has been insufficient detail provided which would lead us to reconsider our previously expressed view. We would, however, see the possibility of reconsidering this question when a more detailed proposal is put forward, including details of how funds will be spent, whether and how contributing countries would have an input into funding allocation decisions, and the fund's relationship with other international funding and implementing bodies.

We also consider it important to take account of the creation of the International Tropical Timber Organization, which directly addresses the issue of tropical forest resources.

Finally, we would suggest that a more detailed proposal be brought forward for proper consideration by member countries. We believe that the FAO Committee on Forestry meeting in March next year could be an appropriate occasion to present such a proposal.

M.A. FREDETTE (Canada): We thank the Secretariat for its report on action arising out of the Ninth World Forestry Congress held in Mexico City last July. Although, as the Council noted at its Eighty-eighth Session, the Manifesto of Mexico contained no recommendations specifically addressed to FAO, it did address several important forestry issues of direct relevance to FAO's activities in this field. First, it brought home again the fact that forestry and agriculture are intrinsically linked in overall land management practices aimed at preserving and improving the land resource base.

Secondly, in reflecting this strong case made for forestry as an important, often vital, link in the food chain of many countries, particularly with respect to deforestation and desertification, FAO's programming should concentrate on its areas of competence and expertise, which are technical advice, global data' collection and statistical analyses.

Thirdly, one must underline the rather small part which forestry occupies in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget. Canada has on numerous occasions called for an increase of forestry's share within the resources available to FAO. Of course, there was an increase in the Programme of Work just approved, but nevertheless the conclusions of the Mexico Manifesto would justify further increases in forestry's share of the Budget.

These observations reflect Canada's great interest in forestry. Domestically, we have to deal with acid rain and other environmental and management problems which threaten considerable parts of our vast forest resources. Internationally, Canada's interest is perhaps best illustrated by the four following examples. First, we were represented on the Task Force which dealt with the Plan of Action of Tropical Forests; second, we hosted the Commonwealth Forestry Conference this September; third, Canada, with an annual forestry development assistance programme of approximately US\$40 million is the second largest bilateral donor in this sector; and fourth, we are a founding member and one of the main financial supporters of the International Council on Research in Agro-forestry, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Returning now to the main proposals which emerged from the Mexico Manifesto, my delegation wishes to outline the Canadian position on the follow-up required at this stage. With respect to the proposal to create a world fund for the development and protection of forests, I refer to paragraph 8 of C 88/REP/5, which states that: "Some members ... considered that this proposal needed more detailed analysis and study before action could be taken thereon". Associating itself with the delegations from the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Australia and others, my Government cannot take a firm position on such a world fund without more specific information on the practicalities of the fund's operations, project selection criteria and the identification of potential donors, to name only a few.

As regards the plan of action for tropical forests, my Government supports its underlying principles and objectives, but the plan has yet to be finalized. In fact, it was discussed both yesterday and today at a meeting of donor agency forestry advisers in The Hague and we trust the outcome of this meeting will allow us to make progress in the near future.

P. ALHOJÄRVI (Finland): On behalf of the Nordic countries I would like to make some comments about forestry in general and the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico in particular. All the Nordic countries have stated several times already in this Conference that they give high priority to forestry in the work of FAO and as part of rural development in the world. We have also stated several times in this Conference that the work done in forestry organized by FAO has been very successful over the period of these four decades. We would like to see this positive trend continuing in the future. We are highly appreciative of the work done by the Assistant Director-General, Dr Flores Rodas, and his staff in this challenging field.

The Nordic countries consider that world forestry congresses organized every fifth or sixth year play an important role because they provide a constructive discussion forum for professionals to gather ideas from all parts of the world in order to solve the very difficult and alarming problems in the field of forestry. We consider that the Ninth World Forestry Congress held in Mexico proved to be successful, a fact which is mirrored in the Manifesto of Mexico reflecting the most important questions in forestry. We would like to thank the Government of Mexico for organizing this vital Conference. We would also like to thank the staff of FAO for giving their much appreciated professional help to the Conference and we sincerely hope that in future we will also see FAO playing an essential role in these conferences.

I would like to comment on the Manifesto of Mexico in a more detailed way. As the Nordic delegations see the function of the Manifesto, it should arouse general public awareness about certain questions, including the problems relating to forestry, and should also have the function providing giving advice in the decision-making process. For this purpose, the Manifesto should be clear and concrete enough to lead to action. In this sense we consider that the Manifesto could have been better.

The Nordic countries support in general the conclusions presented in the Manifesto of Mexico. However, we will have to put forward a reservation against the establishment of a new world fund, as the Nordic countries consider it essential that such proposals be better investigated before a decision is taken.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): I will be brief. May I begin by saying that we are very happy to hear of the progress of the Ninth World Forestry Congress held in Mexico. We were also pleased to hear the lucid and comprehensive introduction by Dr Flores Rodas in highlighting the importance of forests and their contribution to the poorest sections of the community. My delegation strongly believes that forests not only influence the income and standard of living of the poor rural population, in particular the farmers, but they also affect the economic development of the country as a whole.

With regard to forestry development, Thailand has launched many projects to achieve our economic objectives. Many have been carried out and are highly satisfactory. In this context we are happy to see that with the help of international bodies, especially FAO, many projects have reached their targets and therefore we thank the staff of FAO for their efforts in assisting Thailand.

My delegation believes that the world fund proposed by the delegation of Austria and endorsed by the Ninth World Forestry Congress, is not a big burden to FAO and the member countries of this Organization even though it needs more detailed analysis and study. So I would like to say that my delegation supports the Manifesto of Mexico.

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA (Sri Lanka): At the very outset my delegation thanks FAO for taking the initiative to hold the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico and to submit this Manifesto of Mexico. We are particularly happy that FAO has declared this year, 1985, as The International Year of the Forest, because it was Sri Lanka that proposed to FAO in 1983 that it should declare what we then termed The Year of the Tree.

Conservation and development of forestry resources helps in agricultural production and in raising standards of living. Forestry resources provide not only goods and services which contribute to environmental stability, but also to rural and industrial development and food security. We in Sri Lanka have given high priority to forestry management in particular, with high emphasis on the resulting benefits of soil conservation and the maintenance of the ecological balance. This is important for our agricultural development which depends heavily on irrigation facilities from reservoirs which have to be prevented from silting due to soil erosion.

Massive efforts have to be taken to implement these development programmes throughout the country. We are grateful to FAO and other agencies for their assistance in this area of work, and we look forward to further assistance. In the light of this need, my delegation wholeheartedly supports the Manifesto of Mexico and urges that it be adopted in this Conference.

Mme E. MAMMONE (Italie): La délégation italienne voudrait exprimer sa satisfaction quant aux résultats du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial qui ont été portés à l'examen de notre Conférence. L'Italie a participé à ce Congrès avec enthousiasme. Je considère que le problème forestier, tant sous l'aspect de la protection de l'environnement que sous l'aspect de la production des ressources économiques, revêt un intérêt particulier pour notre société.

Sur le plan national, l'Italie est très attentive à la santé de ses forêts. On effectue des prélèvements systématiques de l'état phytosanitaire des forêts, surtout pour contrôler les éventuels dangers provoqués par la pollution atmosphérique mais nous sommes surtout engagés dans la lutte contre les incendies des bois qui sont un vrai fléau pour notre pays comme pour la majorité des pays du bassin de la Méditerranée. Très récemment, en Italie, nous avons préparé un plan national forestier qui sera soumis bientôt à l'approbation de notre gouvernement et qui va exactement dans la même direction que les idées qui sont à la base du Manifeste de Mexico, idées que nous appuyons pleinement et nous espérons qu'elles pourront être mises en oeuvre avec l'approbation de tous les Etats Membres de la FAO. De même, ma délégation, en ce qui concerne la constitution du fonds forestier, voudrait que le problème soit examiné un peu plus en détail et nous nous associons à la proposition de l'Australie pour que le prochain COFO examine plus à fond le problème sur tous les points et les doubles emplois qui pourraient se vérifier entre le Fonds de l'Accord des bois tropicaux auquel l'Italie participe aussi, ainsi qu'à ce nouveau fonds.

A. MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Mon pays, qui obtient de la forêt une grande partie des recettes du secteur primaire, est particulièrement sensible aux questions forestières.

De ce fait nous acceptons les orientations définies par le neuvième Congrès mondial et toujours dans ce sens nous voulons bien profiter de cette opportunité pour appeler votre attention sur ce qui se passe au Portugal en ce qui concerne quelques essences forestières qui intéressent aussi d'autres pays, notamment ceux du bassin méditerranéen.

Une espèce caractéristique de la forêt méditerranéenne est le chêne-liège qui occupe au Portugal plus d'un demi-million d'hectares destinés à une production non ligneuse - le liège - et qui confère à notre pays la première place dans le monde en matière d'exportations et de transformation industrielle de ce produit. Cependant, la grande importance économique de nos peuplements de chênes-lièges est actuellement menacée par l'âge avancé de ces peuplements, qui sont prêts d'atteindre la fin de la période normale d'exploitation, sans que l'on constate des indices de rajeunissement ni la conquête de nouvelles aires d'expansion. Les causes de cette stagnation, bien qu'essentiellement d'ordre économique, résident également dans quelques difficultés d'ordre technique, sans parler de la nécessité de faire face à la concurrence de l'eucalyptus, qui remplace très souvent le chêne-liège, du fait que les profils écologiques de ces deux espèces coïncident très souvent.

Le problème n'intéresse pas seulement le Portugal, mais bien tous les pays du bassin méditerranéen, en tant que producteurs, et tous les pays du monde, en tant que consommateurs, étant donné que le liège est un produit indispensable par ses qualités d'isolant et d'étanchéité et que l'on ne connaît aucun produit de remplacement pour l'industrie vinicole.

C'est pourquoi nous suggérons que la FAO prenne l'initiative d'une étude globale sur le problème des peuplements de chênes-lièges pour la production de liège, conjointement avec d'autres pays du bassin méditerranéen, étude à laquelle le Portugal est prêt à apporter toute sa collaboration sur la base de sa vaste expérience.

Aussi, la culture de l'eucalyptus intéresse toute la zone du bassin méditerranéen, ainsi que différents pays du Sud-Est asiatique et de l'Amérique du Sud, où cette espèce a connu une expansion dans quelques cas explosive. C'est pourquoi il nous semble opportun que la FAO élabore un programme d'études, afin d'éclaircir à brève échéance le problème en question. A titre de suggestion, nous pensons que cette étude pourrait commencer par un bref aperçu des travaux déjà réalisés dans ce domaine et dans différents pays, qui seraient soumis à une première analyse critique globale.

Le Gouvernement portugais est prêt à appuyer avec enthousiasme la réalisation d'une étude de ce genre et offre d'ores et déjà la contribution de son expérience de plus de 50 ans en matière d'installation et d'exploitation de peuplements d'eucalyptus en vue de la production intensive de matériel ligneux.

En ce qui concerne le problème de la protection de la forêt, nous ne nous étendrons pas ici sur cet aspect, étant donné que les points de vue essentiels de mon pays ont déjà été exposés dans la Déclaration du Ministre de l'agriculture à l'Assemblée plénière du 19 novembre dernier.

R. PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): We welcome the fact that this year the Ninth World Forestry Congress has taken place in Mexico City at the invitation of Mexico. The Federal Republic of Germany took an active part in this World Forestry Congress, and subscribed in essential areas to the results of the Congress laid down in the Manifesto of Mexico.

Similarly, we welcome the fact that the FAO Secretariat has lent effective support to the World Forestry Congress. My delegation supports the belief of the World Forestry Congress that increased investment is necessary in forestry and forest industries.

With regard to the Austrian proposal to establish a forestry fund, I should like to make only the following points at the present stage. Before knowing in detail what form the fund should take, the fund as proposed in the Manifesto of Mexico - and here I refer to documents C 85/LIM/20 and C 85/LIM/15 - the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany unfortunately cannot depart from the position adopted in Mexico. The basic position of my country is that the existing international instruments as a source for funding development measures are also suitable for appropriate forestry measures. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has always stated, not only within a national context, but internationally, that activities to protect the forests at national, regional and international levels are of special importance. For that reason we lent our active support to the proposal made by Austria to declare 1985 the International Year of the Forest.

A reduction of pollution in the atmosphere therefore seems to us to be a task of primary importance. The Government of my country has already taken intensive measures at the national level to reduce air pollution. Corresponding proposals have been submitted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Community as well.

My country will continue its efforts towards an increased reduction of pollutants in the atmosphere with a view to protecting the forest. We would also like to point out that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany states its readiness, in pursuance of its active forestry policy, to be the host for one of the next World Forestry Congresses in the capital of Bavaria, in Munich. This is not for the Tenth World Forestry Congress, for which there are already a number of candidates, but the capital of Bavaria would indeed be delighted to host within its walls one of the subsequent World Forestry Congresses. We already stated that at the Eighty-eighth Council Meeting.

O.V. MSISKA (Malawi): Malawi supports the Plan of Action adopted at the Ninth Forestry Congress in Mexico, and welcomes the suggestion to have the International Year of the Forest so that enough awareness in the world community is created. My delegation appreciates the help it has so far received from the international donors, including UNDP and FAO, in forestry development in Malawi and in the training of personnel.

In order for the country to effectively conduct a country-wide forestry programme, involvement of political and civic leaders has been especially useful. A National Planting Day is very well supported and is held annually.

Realizing that an ecosystem balance must be maintained in order for forestry to be of benefit to agriculture as well, agro-forestry is an area which is very well regarded by the country. Social forestry programmes are being conducted and here Malawi would emphasize the need for training of extension staff, because this is an area which is found to be very deficient.

There is also another matter which Malawi particularly takes note of, and that is the conservation of the environment. Malawi has designed a pilot project to try to integrate forestry and husbandry, and fisheries and crop production, in order to rehabilitate areas which have been especially degraded. To this effect, therefore, information on an international forest fund for conservation would be very welcome to Malawi, although more details would be required to make any conclusive decision at this moment.

My Government also attaches much importance to better and more efficient use of forest products, and since there is no possibility of obtaining producer gas, charcoal and pellets would be particularly useful to Malawi. Perhaps here again by using its expertise, FAO could design a programme for the alternative uses of forest resources, as this is normally beyond the competence of a developing country like Malawi.

In conclusion, I would say that investment seems appropriate for a country like Malawi.

T. ISKIT (Turkey): I ask for the floor to put on record that my country fully endorses the results and conclusions of the Ninth World Forestry Congress and, namely, the Manifesto of Mexico. Turkey has been represented at this Congress at the Ministerial level and has participated actively in its work.

Turkey has substantial forestry resources. The conservation management of these resources is given high priority in our economic development plans and is undergoing expansion. We have accumulated some experience related to policy and technical aspects of silviculture, and we strive to share this experience with interested developing countries, namely those in Africa, within the framework of TCDC activities and to establish training projects in cooperation with FAO. We also believe that FAO continues to accomplish very useful work through Mr Flores Rodas' efficient Department.

I want to conclude by expressing our full support for this proposal, with a view to adopting the Manifesto of Mexico as a Resolution of our Conference.

I.A. RONQUILLO (Philippines): The Philippines' Permanent Representative, Ambassador Clave, regrets that he cannot be present and has delegated me to read this intervention for him.

The Philippines is for the greater attention of the forestry programme of FAO. Consequently, therefore, it has in its earlier intervention in the Council proposed a greater share in the allotment of funds for forestry. The Philippine position in forest development takes into consideration not only the economic and ecological value of forests, but the frightening desertification of land as well. In my country the diminution of the forest cover of our mountains has unhappily resulted in the loss of fertility of agricultural lands as well as in floods.

The Philippines, therefore, endorses the efforts of FAO in these particular fields of endeavour. But at the same time it hopes that this awareness of the problem of the deforestation is translated into action programmes that will eventually rehabilitate the forest resources of the world.

In view of the above, we are for any manifestation of concern in saving the forest, but our greater concern will be with the translation of words into vigorous action programmes. We therefore support the Manifesto of Mexico.

B. BEN AMMAR (Tunisie): La délégation tunisienne voudrait tout d'abord féliciter M. Flores Rodas pour l'excellente introduction qu'il a faite du document afférent au Manifeste de Mexico qui fait état de la situation actuelle du secteur forestier et invite les gouvernements à accorder une importance plus grande à la forêt, eu égard au rôle qu'elle joue dans la survie de l'humanité.

Il est un fait que les ressources forestières mieux gérées et bénéficiant d'une plus grande attention contribueraient mieux au développement économique et social. C'est ainsi que la Tunisie, depuis maintenant près de 30 ans, a accordé au secteur forestier un intérêt particulier par l'institution d'un Code forestier et un effort sans relâche dans les domaines du reboisement et de CES. C'est pourquoi la délégation tunisienne appuie les stratégies ainsi que les principes énoncés dans le Manifeste de Mexico et suggère l'élaboration d'un code international pouvant aider les pays concernés à régir le secteur forestier.

J. THINSY (Belgique): La Belgique a accordé un grand intérêt aux travaux et aux conclusions du neuvième Congrès forestier mondial de Mexico. En effet, la protection des forêts doit être un objectif global de l'humanité, même si les problèmes se présentent différemment selon les régions.

Par exemple, en Europe, la forêt est maintenant relativement respectée et dans mon pays les surfaces de forêt se sont étendues. Cependant, nos forêts souffrent dans des mesures variables de la pollution par exemple des pluies acides. Les solutions sont peut-être d'autant plus difficiles à adopter qu'elles peuvent remettre en cause un mode de vie.

Dans de nombreux pays en développement, les problèmes sont pour le moment différents. Il s'agit de la déforestation et de ses conséquences, l'érosion et la désertification; les besoins en bois de feu sont un grand problème et l'exploitation du bois pour l'exportation jusqu'à présent ne tient pas suffisamment compte du temps et des moyens nécessaires pour reconstituer la forêt. De plus, pour les pays en développement, les problèmes sont également nombreux et souvent aigus. Depuis de nombreuses années, la Belgique a mis l'accent sur l'importance du programme de reboisement dans les activités de la FAO; nous avons insisté pour qu'une plus grande priorité soit accordée à ce programme dans le budget. L'intérêt que nous portons au problème des forêts fait que la Belgique soutient pour l'essentiel le Manifeste de Mexico; cependant, en ce qui concerne la création d'un nouveau fonds, la Belgique estime qu'il est nécessaire d'obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires avant qu'une décision soit prise. En effet, il devrait être déjà possible dans le cadre des programmes existants et dans le budget actuel de concentrer les efforts nombreux qui existent dans ce domaine. Les ressources disponibles pourraient être rassemblées afin d'arriver à plus d'efficacité

De plus, comme d'autres délégations l'ont souligné, nous nous trouvons dans la phase de mise en place de la nouvelle organisation internationale des bois tropicaux qui devra sélectionner et financer des projets de recherche-développement dans le domaine forestier.

C'est pourquoi, à ce stade, la Belgique estime prématuré d'approuver la création d'un nouveau fonds mondial.

Maintenant que j'en ai terminé avec la déclaration de la délégation belge, en tant que pays ayant la présidence des communautés européennes, je vous prie de bien vouloir accorder la parole à Monsieur le représentant de la mission des communautés.



K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): My delegation would like to thank Dr Flores Rodas for his very precise and clear introduction of the subject, the Manifesto of Mexico as contained in the Conference documents.

We would also like to take this opportunity to restate our thanks to the Government of Mexico for hosting the Ninth Congress. We also would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for the initiative in this respect. I hardly need to mention the crucial linkages between forestry, food production, food security, the role of forests in the protection of the environment, ecology, soil conservation, watershed management, preservation of wildlife and the provision of fuel wood as a source of energy, so on and so forth. These are known to everyone.

I recall having read in one of the FAO documents that about 11 million acres of tropical forests are annually being degraded and deforested. This is an alarming event and it calls for concerted action by the world community to reverse this process. In my own country, forest areas has declined to about nine percent, which is far below the desired level. This causes a severe problem not only in terms of supply of industrial raw material and fuel wood, but also because it affects critical areas of soil conservation, soil fertility and its hydrological implications. Bangladesh is one of the countries which has very sizeable mangrove forests. The degradation of mangrove forests has not escaped the general process of deforestation and degradation.

For a country like ours, mangrove forests are crucially important to help land decoration to prevent erosion, and to stabilize the land for agricultural purposes. We have been seeking answers to our problems. In a densely populated country like mine, the depletion of natural or custodial forests is now a very difficult problem. Forest policing is virtually impossible and yet we have to strengthen our institutions to protect what we have and augment what we can. The answer, perhaps, really lies in the area of social forestry, rural forestry, community forestry, whatever you call it. In order to achieve this we do recognize that the traditional rivalry between the food producers and the forestry officials must be set aside and institutional arrangements have to be evolved to effectively implement social forestry projects, where the cooperation between agricultural extension and forestry extension people becomes absolutely necessary.

Given the facts that confront us, it is very likely that the national and international actions are not really adequate to achieve the desired results of alleviating the problems that were discussed in the Ninth Congress. Therefore, greater national and international action is necessary. This is borne out by the facts that we have before us.

Therefore, the Bangladesh delegation fully endorses the strategies and principles set out in the Manifesto of Mexico and proposes that it be adopted as a Conference Resolution. Bangladesh also suggests that the establishment of a world fund for conservation of forestry be expedited.

V. MOE (Trinidad and Tobago): The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago would first of all like to congratulate the Government of Mexico and FAO on the successful organization of the Ninth World Forestry Congress. The Manifesto of Mexico outlines clear principles and guidelines for the adoption of new policies and strategies for forestry development which we all support. We endorse the view expressed by the Congress on the need for increased investment in forestry and forestry industries to intensify conservation, protection, social well-being and industrialization activities. We also see forestry as being very important in providing wildlife reserves, and in the protection of our wildlife species, which I think that the Manifesto should have taken into consideration.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has implemented several programmes in reforestation, conservation and industrialization of its forest reserves. Short-term cropping and soil conservation and effective watershed protection and management in the northern range of Trinidad and Tobago were started with the help of FAO. We have already seen some beneficial results from this joint project.

My Government has also given positive consideration to the creation of a permanent forest resources inventory and management section in the Forestry Department. It is against this background and with the view of developing our forest industry that we fully support this Manifesto, and view it as a very useful document that developing countries should utilize in the development of their forest industries.

While we support in principle the creation of a world fund as proposed, we will await further information on its structure and operation before committing ourselves. Lastly, we would like to draw this Commission's attention to the Twelfth Commonwealth Forestry Conference held in Victoria, Canada, and the recommendations which came out of that Conference. We would also like to take this opportunity to commend the Standing Committee on Commonwealth Forestry for the valuable work which they have performed.

M. A. MAHAMAT (Tchad): Cette question relative à la forêt constitue un point spécial et demeure une préoccupation primordiale de mon gouvernement car notre pays est dangereusement menacé par la désertification triste et galopante.

La désertification qui sévit actuellement au Tchad constitue une menace grave contre la vie humaine et animale.

Ainsi les surfaces cultivables diminuent d'année en année à cause de l'ensevelissement des zones de production agricole par le sable, créant ainsi un paysage austère et difficile à vivre. Cette situation a été aggravée surtout dans cette dernière décennie avec la persistance de la sécheresse provoquant la destruction des arbustes par manque d'eau. Face à cette situation, le Gouvernement du Tchad avait entrepris des mesures pour juguler progressivement le fléau mais c'est un programme de longue haleine, compte tenu de l'immensité du programme. C'est ainsi qu'une semaine de l'arbre a été décrétée sur l'ensemble du pays, où chaque citoyen doit planter un arbre chaque année. Cette action marque la prise de conscience de nos responsables sur le danger que représente la déforestation et les effets néfastes des feux de brousse sur les sols et les êtres vivants.

Dans ce contexte, des mesures de lutte contre la désertification ont été également prises au niveau du CILSS et d'autres organisations sous-régionales pour lesquelles nous tenons à témoigner de notre reconnaissance à la FAO pour les actions entreprises en vue de lutter contre ce fléau.

Nous approuvons les recommandations du Plan d'action stipulées dans le Manifeste du Mexique; et compte tenu de la situation spécialement critique de la forêt dans mon pays, nous souhaitons que la FAO entreprenne toutes les démarches utiles et nécessaires pour la réalisation des objectifs de ce Manifeste; nous souhaitons que la communauté internationale prenne à cœur cette situation et donne une suite favorable à la création du fonds mondial pour le développement et la protection de l'environnement forestier qui constitue un volet indissociable avec la mise en place des nouvelles politiques et stratégies forestières dans l'intérêt de nos peuples.

GETACHEW TEKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): Forestry has always been an integral part of man's history, economic development and livelihood, including food. In the developed world it provided the essential backing for the infrastructure and energy development to the extent of paving the way for other alternative sources. Thus, resort to alternate energy sources has served to relieve the forest and has led to the care of the ecological and environmental balance, which could not otherwise be instituted.

Forests in developing countries, however, are still the major sources of energy and construction materials, thus being continuously depleted without a sign of replacement. It is not an exaggeration to say that forests in developing countries are depleting at an alarming rate, with environmental and ecological problems getting out of control, and as a consequence, increasing the magnitude of hunger and malnutrition.

In the Ethiopian case, 40 percent of the total land mass was under forest cover. In less than a century that amount has been now reduced to less than 4 percent. This has caused a problem of ecological imbalance which has resulted in drought, shortage of food production, fuel and construction material shortages. Therefore, we have keen interest in observing the increased interest of FAO and the international community in the development of forestry. The Ethiopian Government is aware of the problem and is now taking steps to change the train of deforestation. In the 10-year development plan which was launched in 1984, special emphasis is given to national resource conservation, of which forestation and forest conservation are the major recipients.

In addition to the 10-year development plan, a special nation-wide campaign is being prepared, and this is going to be launched within the coming year and is going to involve all people of different ages and sexes. The Ethiopian delegation, with this background, finds the Mexico Manifesto to be appropriate. It encourages the FAO Member Nations to adopt the Manifesto. The Ethiopian delegation supports the creation of a special fund for forest development and environmental protection.

Ms HOANG THI CU (Viet Nam): My delegation is very grateful to Mr Flores Rodas for his brief but very clear and precise presentation of the document. My country pays great attention to food production, and we think that the combination of agriculture and forestry is of great importance. That is the reason why we fully endorse the strategies and measures taken by FAO. Viet Nam strongly supports the Manifesto of Mexico and hopes that it will be adopted by the Conference without any difficulties.

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Je voudrais tout d'abord indiquer que la Commission des communautés européennes approuve les objectifs du Manifeste de Mexico dont l'appel a notamment pour objet, en ce qui concerne les forêts européennes, de lutter pour la protection des forêts contre les incendies et contre la pollution atmosphérique. Je voudrais aussi préciser que nous nous félicitons de l'excellente collaboration entre la FAO et la CEE en matière de foresterie et des résultats de la vingt-deuxième session de la Commission européenne des forêts de la FAO.

La Communauté européenne a pris des initiatives par des actions de sensibilisation des gouvernements et de l'opinion publique dans le cadre de l'Année internationale de la forêt. Lors de la Commission européenne des forêts de la FAO, dont j'ai parlé précédemment, qui vient de se tenir à Budapest, la Commission des communautés européennes a présenté un bilan des actions en la matière. La Commission des communautés européennes considère en effet que la forêt a une grande importance pour l'environnement et la protection de la nature; que le problème des incendies de forêts et de la pollution atmosphérique sont des sujets de préoccupation majeurs; qu'il est nécessaire de veiller à une bonne hygiène des forêts.

Mais nous devons aussi penser aux problèmes des forêts des autres continents et c'est pourquoi la Commission des communautés européennes, en association avec la FAO apportera une contribution à la préparation de la conférence forestière à haut niveau politique qui se tiendra à Paris du 3 au 7 février 1986. D'ores et déjà, j'aimerais attirer l'attention sur les travaux actuels de la Commission des communautés européennes qui, en matière de lutte contre la désertification, prépare un plan d'approche global qui, dans un premier temps, mettra l'accent sur les actions de reforestation avec les pays africains concernés.

pour conclure, je voudrais à nouveau me féliciter de l'excellente collaboration entre la FAO et la CEE en matière de foresterie.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Trataré de ser lo más breve posible, Sr. Presidente, en esta discusión en la cual han participado 42 países y un observador. Tratando de resumir el punto de la agenda, podría decir que el Manifiesto de México mereció la aprobación total de la Comisión, con diversos énfasis, lo que significa que el producto de un Congreso Forestal Mundial, en el cual estuvieron representados 105 países y más de 2 200 participantes, ha podido en alguna forma reflejar las necesidades del sector forestal, las necesidades de la sociedad que espera algo del sector forestal y la oportunidad de este sector para participar en la solución de los problemas de desarrollo.

Es indiscutible que ante los problemas analizados por los distinguidos miembros de esta Comisión, representantes de 42 países, en los cuales prácticamente hemos escuchado todas las formas ecológicas del mundo en desarrollo y desarrollado, no puede ser específico de ninguna manera, pero sí lo suficientemente claro y pragmático como para que pueda ser aplicado en planes de acción a nivel de que cada país o cada subregión tenga problemas e intereses comunes.

Por estas razones Sr. Presidente, el Congreso, a conocimiento pleno, decidió no ser muy específico en su Manifiesto para no excluir a ningún país, o a ninguna situación específica. Además de esto, Sr. Presidente, prácticamente los 42 países que tomaron la palabra en el día de hoy, estuvieron presentes en la ciudad de México en alguna delegación y tuvieron oportunidad de participar en la redacción del Manifiesto.

Específicamente, Sr. Presidente, querría mencionar que a nivel de Europa, y haciéndome eco de la inquietud del distinguido representante de España, el tema de los incendios forestales se está tomando en cuenta por la FAO y en este sentido quería recordarle la reunión de la silva mediterránea en el próximo mes en la ciudad de Montpellier, de Francia, para discutir específicamente un punto principal: los incendios forestales en el área mediterránea.

En segundo lugar, el distinguido representante de Iraq hizo mención, entre otros puntos, de la necesidad de las especies de semillas arbóreas y cepas que se puedan adaptar a las zonas áridas y semiáridas.

Querría llamar la atención del Comité en el sentido de que el Departamento de Bosques, en su División de Recursos Forestales, tiene programas sobre mejoramiento genético forestal que se concentran en la selección, el abastecimiento y el intercambio de semillas de algunas especies y de variedades particularmente resistentes a cuestiones climáticas áridas como las especies de acacia y prosopis. Por supuesto, tenemos algunas publicaciones que están a disposición del representante de Iraq, o cualquier otro representante, si así lo desea.

Finalmente, querría mencionar la inquietud que expresó el distinguido representante de Bangladesh respecto al manejo y al uso de los manglares. Este es un programa conjunto entre el Departamento de Bosques y el Departamento de Pesca de la FAO en los programas de manglares, en el uso del mantenimiento y ordenación de los manglares, para la producción de programas de desarrollo que tengan que ver con la zona ecológica.

También como comentario general, Sr. Presidente, el Manifiesto de México hace ver muy claro la participación del bosque en la solución de problemas sociales; las preocupaciones de algunos colegas aquí presentes en el día de hoy por la desaparición y la constricción del recurso forestal, es simplemente un indicador de la capacidad en ese sector y hasta dónde ese sector o a ese sector se le ha permitido participar en la solución de problemas sociales de cada uno de nuestros países.

El Congreso reconoce específicamente y hace mucho énfasis en la participación popular en la toma de decisiones y hace énfasis también en la no participación policial de parte del sector forestal en la solución de tales problemas así como en la necesidad de industrias forestales apropiadas que puedan dar un desarrollo económico, una mejora en las rentas de cada una de las personas rurales de nuestros países.

Hubo un apoyo general a la propuesta de la distinguida representación de Austria hecha con ocasión del Congreso, sobre el fondo Forestal y creo que en ese sentido, Sr. Presidente, el párrafo mencionado en el documento del Consejo tiene nuevamente un valor importante y podría ser prácticamente transcrito en las notas de esta Comisión.

Solamente esto, Sr. Presidente, como un resumen general; por supuesto sigo estando a la disposición de los Sres.'delegados si tienen algunas preguntas específicas.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Flores Rodas, for responding to some of the points raised by delegates. In fact, you have provided some of the summary which I had wanted to make. With Mr Flores Rodas' summary and response to some of the points raised, we are now ready to conclude our discussion on this agenda item, but, before we do, I should like to inform you that Angola, Cameroon, Niger and Zaire have submitted a written statement to be included in the verbatim report.

I shall now try to summarize some of the points raised by the delegates. The delegates expressed their appreciation to the people and Government of Mexico for hosting the Ninth World Forestry

Congress in Mexico this year. Delegates also expressed their appreciation to FAO for the support given to the Forestry Congress to make it a success. Delegates endorsed the principles and conclusions contained in the Mexico Manifesto and recommended that this be adopted by a conference resolution. This resolution is now with the Resolutions Committee and it will come up for discussion tomorrow morning in the Commission.

Most delegates welcomed the suggestion for creating a special fund for forestry. However, some delegates felt that there was a need for more information about this fund before it was created and invited FAO to provide this information to the Member Nations.

There was a unanimous appreciation by delegates for declaration of 1985 as the Year of the Forest.

Many delegates informed this Commission of the programmes of their countries regarding forestry, particularly in the areas of agro-forestry, social forestry and environmental forestry. Many delegates requested that priority should be given in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget to the area of forestry.

The delegates of Austria offered to host the Tenth Forestry Congress and therefore informed the Commission of his country's intention in that direction. The delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany also offered to host any subsequent Forestry Congress meeting in his country.

I now conclude the discussion on this agenda item. There will be some consultation before we take on the next agenda item. Meanwhile, I thank the Assistant Director-General of the Department of Forestry and his staff.

P.A. KANGA (Angola): En premier lieu ma delegation tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la présentation claire et concise du Manifeste qui nous est soumis pour analyse.

Notre gratitude s'adresse aussi au Directeur général pour l'intérêt qu'il attache aux problèmes forestiers et qui s'est traduit par la tenue du 9ème Congrès forestier mondial de Mexico.

Mon pays, l'Angola, possède de grandes superficies recouvertes de forêts tropicales au Nord. Au Sud, nous assistons à la désertification, donc à l'avancée du désert de Kalahari et ceci constitue une grande préoccupation pour mon gouvernement. De ce fait, nous avons élaboré un vaste programme pour le développement forestier au niveau national. Ce programme se butte à des difficultés diverses, en particulier à l'absence de spécialistes forestiers pour sa mise en exécution.

Toutefois, mon pays reste convaincu qu'avec la préoccupation et l'assistance technique de la FAO, l'exécution de ce programme sera intensifiée.

Ma délégation appuie les objectifs de l'"Année internationale de la forêt", ainsi que l'importance et l'urgence du Plan d'action sur les forêts tropicales adopté par le VIIème Comité de la FAO sur la mise en valeur des forêts dans les tropiques, et appuie sans réserve toutes les initiatives qui accéléreront la mise en oeuvre des actions définies dans les cinq domaines prioritaires.

Pour terminer, nous saluons la création d'un Fonds mondial pour le développement et la protection de l'environnement forestier, en particulier pour aider les pays en développement et nous invitons les pays qui ont émis des réserves de suivre l'exemple si louable de l'Autriche. 1/

D. DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun a suivi avec intérêt la brillante introduction du Secrétariat sur cet important point de l'ordre du jour.

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

En effet, durant la menace évidente de la dégradation progressive des écosystèmes forestiers liés à l'appauvrissement génétique, la disparition des espèces, les détériorations écologiques, hydrologiques et climatiques, l'épuisement des sols et la réduction de leur productivité, l'insuffisance de mesures visant le renouvellement des ressources forestières, ce manifeste constitue une réponse positive de la Communauté internationale à la grande tâche qui nous revient dans le processus de la restauration, pour l'avenir, du patrimoine forestier commun dont l'impact sur nos économies et la vie de nos sociétés ne sont que bien établies. Cette donnée fondamentale justifie toute l'attention que les gouvernements se doivent d'accorder à la formation de nouvelles générations de cadres forestiers à tous les niveaux dans le souci de rationaliser les méthodes de conservation, de protection, de gestion et d'exploitation des ressources des forêts de manière à permettre l'intégration de la foresterie dans l'appareil national de développement économique global. La nécessité d'accorder au secteur forestier la priorité qu'il mérite dans le cadre de l'exécution des plans nationaux de développement économique et social se justifie donc parfaitement.

L'attention particulière que nous devons accorder à la recherche et à la diffusion technologique dans ce secteur, tout spécialement en zones critiques, et précisément les forêts tropicales, les terres arides ou fortement érodées, rencontre notre entière adhésion.

C'est dans cet esprit que le Gouvernement camerounais a mis en place un plan général d'aménagement de régénération de la couverture forestière tant en forêts denses qu'en zones de savanes humides -et sahéliennes avec un accent particulier sur la participation effective de la population à l'exécution du programme de reboisement que supervise l'Office national de régénération des forêts.

Nous pensons que l'enrôlement des populations dans ce programme est essentiel pour la protection et la lutte contre les feux 1/.

MAMANE MARICHATOU AMADOU (Niger): Le Niger, à l'instar des autres pays du Sahel, fait face au douloureux problème qu'est la désertification due essentiellement à: l'accroissement des superficies cultivées de l'ordre de 5 pour cent en moyenne (pour compenser les baisses de productivité des écosystèmes) et aux systèmes et modes d'élevage.

A cet effet, cette croisade contre le désert demeure une de nos priorités. Ceci s'est traduit par l'organisation d'un séminaire à l'issue duquel des recommandations ont été proposées et adoptées par le gouvernement et qui reflètent les grandes lignes développées dans ce Manifeste, à savoir: la participation responsable et volontaire des populations; accorder la priorité au secteur environnement dans la recherche de financements; l'intégration d'un volet forestier dans tout projet; l'association des pays dans les décisions, l'élaboration et la gestion des stages; la recherche de substituts pour les besoins énergétiques, notamment le charbon, les foyers améliorés et l'utilisation du gaz.

Pour terminer, permettez-moi d'apporter tout le soutien de mon pays à ce Manifeste et à la création du fonds de développement de l'environnement 1/.

SAMBA MOONI te AVELELA (Zaire): Monsieur le Président, la délégation du Zaire tient tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour l'excellente présentation ainsi que pour la qualité du document soumis à notre examen.

Le Zaire est un grand pays forestier et pour nous, la forêt constitue la base même de la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi sur le plan international, le Zaire appuie les objectifs de l'Année internationale de la forêt.

Sur le plan national, cette conviction est traduite par une loi qui veut qu'à chaque naissance dans une famille, les parents sont tenus à planter un arbre.

La forêt est un domaine auquel nous attachons beaucoup d'importance et nous sommes convaincus que toute amélioration des techniques d'exploitation forestière a un effet positif sur la production agricole 1/

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

The meeting was suspended from 16.25 to 16.45 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 25 à 16 h 45

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.25 a 16.45 horas

THE CHAIRMAN: I would inform you that although we are a little ahead of time, in fact we are in some way behind time in discussing some of these items. The Resolution on the Critical Situation in Africa has not yet come back to Commission I. There is another resolution which we have just discussed in connection with forestry which will come tomorrow, so we have to make progress today and the only way we can do it is to move ahead to Agenda Item 9 and start discussing that today, in the hope that tomorrow we will be able to finish.

9. Report on the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development  
(June-July 1984)

9. Rapport sur la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches (juin-juillet 1984)

9. Informe de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros (junio-julio de 1984)s

J.E. CARROZ (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, FAO): Document C 85/22, which is rather slim, summarizes the major results of the World Fisheries Conference and the follow-up measures already taken or envisaged. I should like to stress at the outset that it is not one of the formal and substantive progress reports requested by the Fisheries Conference. The first such report will be submitted in early 1987 to the Committee on Fisheries and, subsequently, to the governing bodies of the Organization.

Before highlighting the main points in the document before you and bringing to your attention events which have taken place since the document was prepared several months ago, I should like to say just a few words about the world fisheries situation.

1984, the year of the World Fisheries Conference, happened to be a record year - some 82.5 million tons against the 77 million tons in 1983. This significant increase in production in no way invalidates the analysis of the overall situation which was made at the time of the Conference. According to preliminary estimates, the catch in 1985 is not expected to exceed the record level reached in 1984. However, the demand for fish is likely to double by the end of the present century. Without a substantial increase in the rate of production, there will be a gap between available supplies and potential demand. It is therefore essential to continue and reinforce efforts (i) to increase yield through better conservation and management; (ii) to promote the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture; and (iii) to make better use of the fish once caught, through the use of by-catches and the reduction of post-harvest losses.

The problem of conservation of fish stocks will of course receive particular attention. I could mention tuna stocks in the Indian Ocean or the fishery resources of West Africa. Also, with the support of some delegations who spoke in Plenary last week, the Director-General has agreed that FAO will carry out, within the limits of its competence and mandate as a specialized technical agency, an assessment of the state of fish stocks in the South West Atlantic, including migratory stocks on the Patagonian shelf. Its report will also cover as far as possible the impact of fishing on the ecosystem of the area. Indeed, we have been following developments closely since 1983 and the document on the state of world fishery resources submitted to our Committee on Fisheries in April of this year draws attention to the seriousness of the situation. There are indications that the level of fishing efforts in the area might increase significantly in the forthcoming fishing season.

As most of you are aware, the World Fisheries Conference adopted a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, five associated Programmes of Action and a number of Resolutions relating to specific aspects of fisheries management and development.

As regards the implementation of the Strategy, the document before you provides in some detail information on the format, content and periodicity of progress reports to be prepared by governments and by FAO. I will not repeat this. I should perhaps say a few words on that part of the Strategy which deals with international trade in fish and fishery products. It recommends regular consultations in order to ensure that international trade contributes effectively to fisheries development. Acting

on this recommendation, the Committee on Fisheries at its last session in April of this year decided to establish a Sub-Committee on Fish Trade which will be the forum for such consultations. The Sub-Committee will endeavour to identify opportunities for fishery commodity development and improvements in quality, and for increasing the participation of developing countries in fish trade. Close cooperation is in the interests of both exporting and importing countries. Preparations are underway to hold the first session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in October 1986.

Still regarding the Strategy, I should bring, with your permission, two recent events to your attention.

The Government of Spain convened in La Toja, from 15 to 18 September last, a Ministerial Conference on Fisheries which was attended by 24 countries and a number of international organizations. It was addressed by the President of the Spanish Government and the Director-General of FAO. Its main objective was to promote an exchange of views on the measures taken by the Participating countries and organizations to implement the strategy adopted by the World Fisheries Conference, and this with particular reference to international cooperation in the area of fishing management and development. At the request of the Spanish Government, FAO prepared a Summary of the Proceedings of that Conference which is being made available to you today as document C 85/INF/22.

I should also mention, as a follow-up to the World Fisheries Conference, that we have had preliminary discussions with UNIDO on the organization of a Consultation on the Fisheries Industry. UNIDO has had a system of consultations with governments and industries for a number of years now but this would be the first one dealing with the fishery industry. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in June 1987.

I should like to turn now to the five Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference. These programmes, as you know, provide a basis for comprehensive and concerted assistance to fisheries in developing countries for a period of five years. Their implementation requires extra-budgetary resources amounting to some US\$15 million per year. For 1985 - for this year - if I take into account only the funds channelled through FAO for the execution of regional projects, and the assistance in kind provided to FAO for the execution of these projects, the target figure has already been exceeded, but to a modest extent. Indeed, the consultations referred to in paragraph 30 of the document before you, with Italy for support to aquaculture development in Latin America, and with the United States for support to fisheries management and development in West African countries, have been successfully concluded.

In so far as the funds channelled through FAO are concerned, we are very grateful to UNDP, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States and the EEC. We also greatly appreciate the assistance in kind which had already been provided by China, France, Norway, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

As mentioned by the Director-General in his opening statement to the Conference here we are continuing to negotiate for further pledges with potential donors. Our preoccupation is also to correct the imbalances that still remain in the distribution of funds between geographic areas and the different Programmes of Action, since in practice we often depend on priorities of donors. In this respect, I can mention that we are working with UNDP on a fisheries programme for the next UNDP cycle starting in 1987. We have also approached the EEC, which is in the process of identifying and formulating projects to be funded under the Lomé III Convention.

With respect to the resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference concerning specific aspects of fisheries management and development, I will limit myself to mentioning the decision of the Director-General to select "Fishermen and Fishing Communities" as one of the two major themes for World Food Day 1986.

Lastly, I should like to invite the attention of the Commission to the draft resolution appearing as appendix to document C 85/22. I should mention in this regard that, this is not mentioned in the document, that at its Eighty-sixth Session in November 1984, the Council reviewed the Report of the World Fisheries Conference. On that occasion, the Council recommended that the FAO Conference adopt a special resolution endorsing the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference. That is why a draft resolution has been prepared for your consideration on this subject.



CHAIRMAN: I thank you Mr Carroz for this clear introduction to the agenda item number nine. The resolution referred to by Mr Carroz is appendixes as C 85/LIM/24 and has been to the Resolutions Committee ended before this Commission.

I would like to open the list of speakers now, so I call on delegates to submit their names for inclusion.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): The Thai delegation wishes to thank Mr Carroz for his clear and constructive introduction and wishes to express its appreciation to the Director-General of FAO for initiating the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and the wonderful follow-up afterwards.

Fisheries in Thailand have been rapidly developed during the past two decades. Marine fisheries, in particular, is the most important contributor to the increase of national fish production. The increase in fish production has led to a massive investment both in pre- and post-harvest activities as well as other associated fishing industries. As a result, the fisheries sector is overcapitalized and the resources are over fished. Most of the large-scale fishing vessels have to operate further from Thai territorial waters into the South China Sea or in the Andaman Sea. Only the medium- and small-scale fishing vessels remain to fish in the coastal area. The situation has worsened since the adoption in 1982 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; all Thai vessels have to come back to our waters which have already deteriorated. This calls for an immediate action for the management and development of our fisheries resources. The Strategy, with all its major elements endorsed by the Conference is very useful, and is a great help to the Government of Thailand in formulating its national fisheries policy. Thailand is, at present, adopting guidelines and principles on the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development to be used in the planning of the Sixth National Economic and Social Development Plan commencing in 1987.

With regard to Programmes of Action, my delegation would like to express our gratitude to FAO in having initiated these programmes at just the right time to alleviate fisheries problems that we are presently encountering. The recent seminar on the management and development of fisheries organized jointly by FAO and South East Asia Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) in Bangkok in October 1985, is one of the best examples that reflects the benefit gained by all member countries in the region.

Though the concept of Exclusive Economic Zones has generated a greater benefit to most maritime states, Thailand is badly affected. We would like, therefore, to request FAO to play a more active role in promoting international collaboration in fisheries such as joint ventures or joint fishing cooperation. We do believe that the neutral role of FAO will be able to promote the proper utilization of marine resources for the maximum benefit of all mankind.

In conclusion, my delegation duly endorses the result of the World Fisheries Conference. My delegation would also like to support the endorsement of a draft resolution on the Follow-up to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development as indicated in document C 85/22. In this connection, we would like to propose the insertion of a paragraph after the paragraph beginning with "Noting". The proposed paragraph reads as follows:

"1. Commends the Director-General for having taken the initiative of convening the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development;"

DATO ALWI JANTAN (Malaysia): To begin with I should like to congratulate Mr Carroz on his comprehensive and clear introduction to this agenda item. The World Fishery Conference, on Fisheries Management and Development, held in 1984, was indeed most timely and it was held at the crucial moment when the world was undergoing dramatic changes with respect to the jurisdiction of the seas. The signing of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in December 1982, and the subsequent proclamations by many coastal states have given new dimensions to the fisheries of this country. Developing coastal states now have the opportunity to expand their fisheries without undue competition from the advanced fishing fleets of more aggressive and developed countries, which have been habitually fishing near their coasts.

The regime of the sea also imposes responsibilities on coastal states to exploit their fishery resources in the most rational manner in order to derive the optimum benefit. Recognizing the limitations in terms of expertise, finance and infrastructure in developing coastal states, it is imperative that the international community, together with the relevant agencies, especially FAO, play their role in assisting these countries in the rational development of their fisheries. The world has recently seen a record landing of 82 million tons of fish, which is most heartening in view of the ever increasing demand for fish. Nevertheless, since most of the coastal regions of the world are presently heavily exploited, further increases from these traditional fishing areas are not likely. Further increases can only be expected from non-traditional stocks or from deeper waters, the exploitation of which requires highly sophisticated technology and huge financial resources.

In the foreseeable future, fisheries development will still be confined to inshore areas and the areas within the exclusive economic zones. Due to their proximity to the coast, inshore areas are most vulnerable to over exploitation. It is for this very reason that my delegation feels that the most important single activity that coastal states, and FAO, should concentrate on is the rational management and conservation of inshore marine fishery resources.

It is therefore most appropriate that the World Fishery Conference adopt this element as one of its prime strategies. Good sound management is the key to sustained yields and income for the fisherman. However, national objectives go beyond sustained catches; they usually aspire to a suitable income, ownership and better socio-economic status for those involved in the fisheries sector. For this reason my delegation also fully endorses the strategy and the special role and needs of small-scale fisheries.

We are all too familiar with the situation of widespread poverty existing among fishermen. The reasons cited for this unfortunate situation include overfishing due to uncontrolled fishing efforts, inequitable share of productive assets, lack of infrastructure, a high level of post-harvest spoilage, lack of credit facilities and unfair market practices.

All these factors must be addressed carefully by developing countries which aspire to realize objectives of adequate fish supply, increased export earnings and increased socio-economic status for their fishermen. One of the most important programmes of action which my country is actively pursuing is agricultural development. We view agriculture as the single most important field, where surplus labour from the over-exploited inshore fisheries could be devoted.

The potential for agriculture is tremendous, provided the appropriate technologies are available and applied. In this respect, we look forward to the FAO to provide all the necessary help in promoting the transfer of the required technology to its various programmes of training, TCD, TCDC, field programmes, as well as the newly proposed twinning of the research institutions under TCP.

It has been one year and four months since the World Fisheries Conference was held. Progress in the follow-up action can be considered to be quite remarkable. FAO during this short span of time has managed to get the endorsement of various international agencies for the strategies and programmes of action, as well as for the resolutions. It is commendable, too, that the indicative annual target for the 1985 figure of 15 million U.S. dollars for the financing of projects is likely to be reached. We would like to congratulate FAO for its efforts in mobilizing this force. We wish to appeal to the members of the international community to make the necessary commitments to ensure the implementation of the programmes of action. Concerted efforts must be made to help developing countries realize their objectives of self-sufficiency in protein supply, as well as of improving the socio-economic situation of the fishermen.

We wish to endorse the proposal for a slight increase in the FAO budget for fisheries. This increase is cognizant of the increasingly important role of fisheries in the economy and food supply of member governments. To ensure successful implementation of programmes of action, effective monitoring through regular reports is considered necessary by my delegation. We support the proposal to employ standard formats for the compilation of data from the member countries for the purpose of consolidation and analysis.

On fish trade, my delegation lauds the proposed establishment of a sub-committee of COFI to serve as a multilateral framework for consultation on international fish trade. International fish trade is still in a healthy state compared to trade in other agricultural commodities. We wish to preserve this healthy state and believe that this sub-committee could ensure its perpetuation and make further improvements. My delegation wishes to reiterate our full endorsement of the strategies and programmes of action as well as the resolutions put forth by the World Fisheries Conference of 1984 and urges their expeditious implementation. Finally, we fully endorse the proposed resolution as contained in document C 85/LIM/24 in its entirety.

E. MUYANGA (Zambia): Firstly, I would like to congratulate FAO for producing such a clear and concise document I would also like to congratulate Mr Carroz for the introduction which was very comprehensive.

My delegation is happy with the speedy manner in which FAO has taken follow-up action on the World Fisheries Conference. The FAO World Fisheries Conference brought an awareness to policy makers throughout the world of the need to develop fisheries for the benefit of mankind as it touched on a number of issues which were agreed upon by the delegates. This clearly shows that the Conference was a success.

My delegation would like now to comment specifically on paragraphs 16-18. We fully agree with the suggestion of submitting progress reports regarding progress achieved in implementing the strategy. But before these reports are submitted, FAO should prepare and send formats to member governments on time so that the officials who will be preparing the reports can have adequate time to familiarize themselves with the type of information that will be required.

As for the periodicity of the reports, we fully agree that the first reports be submitted in 1987. My delegation would like to suggest that in countries where, due to lack of resources, they will not be able to prepare these reports, FAO should use its good offices to assist the countries concerned in preparing the initial reports, which my delegation considers to be very important as they would indicate the momentum in which the strategies are being implemented.

My delegation would also like to fully support the draft resolution appended to this document.

Finally, my delegation would like to register its satisfaction with the work being done by FAO in fisheries. In my country, FAO has been assisting us in the development of aquaculture.

The assistance in aquaculture has brought an awareness to the people of the possibility of taking up fish farming at both the commercial and village levels, So far we have a good number of farmers who are taking up fish farming. During the year, FAO organized three workshops in my country. These workshops were on fish technology, stock assessment and aquaculture in the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference countries and were intended to improve the knowledge of fisheries personnel in Africa in these fields. In organizing the workshops, FAO was already implementing some of the strategies adopted by the World Fisheries Conference. My delegation would like, therefore for FAO to continue with its good work and would like to appeal to donor agencies to assist in the implementation of strategies adopted by the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The success in implementing these strategies and programmes of action requires concerted efforts by member states, bilateral and multilateral agencies.

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Ante todo, Sr. Presidente, mi delegación desea felicitar al Doctor Carroz por la excelente presentación del tema, la revista que ha hecho de la situación panorámica de la pesca mundial es muy orientadora y en esta ocasión también muy alentadora ya que muchos aspectos son muy positivos, como las capturas récord de 1984, y la respuesta tan positiva de los países donantes.

México, Sr. Presidente, le da una gran importancia a la pesca y a su desarrollo, ya que su ubicación geográfica lo ha dotado de importantes recursos pesqueros y porque en sus litorales y lagos hay un gran número de comunidades pesqueras que practican la pesca artesanal. Además existen diversos tipos y niveles de acuicultura los cuales, sumados a la pesca industrial que se desarrolla activamente en los últimos tiempos, constituyen un sector que nos es muy importante consolidar y desarrollar para cumplir nuestras metas de alimentación, empleo, intercambio comercial y generación de divisas.

Por todas estas razones, Sr. Presidente, mi país concede especial importancia en su Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Pesquero a la participación activa en los organismos y foros internacionales, consciente de la necesidad de apoyar la armonización de las políticas y medidas que aseguran el mejor aprovechamiento y la conservación y mercadeo de los recursos pesqueros en beneficio de los pueblos.

La deferencia de que nuestro Secretario de Pesca, el Licenciado Pedro Ojeda Paullada, presidiera la Conferencia Mundial para la Ordenación y Desarrollo de la Pesca constituyó no sólo un privilegio, sino una responsabilidad que estamos empeñados en cumplir.

Estamos participando activamente en la consecución de las medidas complementarias a la Conferencia y la puesta en práctica a nivel nacional y regional de los principios contenidos en la Estrategia y Programas de Acción.

Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, desea expresar su complacencia por las activas gestiones que la FAO ha realizado para conseguir los fondos extrapresupuestarios requeridos para financiar los programas de acción y se congratula y felicita a los países donantes que harán posible su puesta en práctica.

Asimismo deseamos apoyar el que la FAO continúe con estas gestiones para lograr un mejor equilibrio en la ejecución de proyectos y que regiones menos beneficiadas como la nuestra puedan complementar mejor sus propios esfuerzos, que ya están realizando a través de su órgano regional que ya ha formalizado sus relaciones con FAO para establecer líneas de colaboración.

Como ya ha sido dicho insistentemente, el apoyo de la CEPD y la CEPD es un camino muy apropiado y el área de la pesca y la acuicultura es indudablemente uno de los campos más fértiles para practicarla.

La delegación de México quiere refrendar asimismo su apoyo a la presentación de los informes previstos en la Estrategia y Programas de Acción refrendados por el COFI y por el Consejo. Nuestra delegación, Sr. Presidente, desea felicitar al Director General por haber puesto en práctica la resolución respectiva para que el tema de los pescadores y sus comunidades sea adoptada por el Día Mundial de la Alimentación del próximo año.

Finalmente, damos todo nuestro apoyo al proyecto de resolución sobre las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

K.T. SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic); The Iraqi delegation would like to thank the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries for his elaborate and clear introduction of this document. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with this document and for crystalizing its objectives.

We would like to make the following observations on this document: (1) With regard to international trade in fisheries and fish products, the strategy as well as the programme of action have tackled this question from several angles. The strategy provided information on the market situation and trends, diversification of export transactions, removal of obstacles impeding trade exchange, improvement of products' quality and cooperation between concerned organizations.

However, we believe that the call to achieve these objectives and to establish statistical organs to furnish prices, such as INFOSAMAK, INFOFISH and INFOPESCA, are not sufficient to achieve the objectives of deriving additional benefits from fisheries.

Production costs have become so high that they do not justify trade in some kinds of fish with low prices, particularly the pelagic catch. Therefore, this Conference should adopt some necessary recommendations which could help cut down expenditures. For example, we could recommend a decrease in the fees of catch rights; the laying down of principles for price control, the establishment of an organ to stop speculation; thus a balance could be struck between costs and selling prices. Another recommendation should be adopted in order to weaken the domination of some merchants in the world fish market. (2) Fishing projects in developing countries: The Strategy also made reference to this question. It said that joint projects could be an effective tool in activating the development of fisheries. The Strategy called upon the interested developing countries to take part in fisheries joint projects.

Yet, the establishment of such bilateral or multilateral joint projects may not be enough unless the necessary elements of rendering these projects successful are provided.

On our part, experience has shown that many of these joint projects may fail as a result of low technology on the part of the contracting parties.

In order to render this trend successful in the developing countries, this Conference must adopt recommendations on the effective assistance to be extended to the developing countries and on the measures to be taken to achieve this assistance. Perhaps the establishment of an advisory technical body to which the developing countries could resort directly to solve problems that may arise and to provide continuous advice on the joint projects between developing countries could be one solution.

**P. SEBASTIÃO** (Angola): Tout d'abord nous vous félicitons pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Nous sommes sûrs que vous ne ménagerez aucun effort pour la réussite de nos travaux. Nous félicitons également le Secrétariat pour nous avoir soumis un document clair et complet.

Avec la réalisation de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, ici, à Rome en 1984, une nouvelle page dans l'histoire de notre Organisation a été ouverte. La Conférence mondiale a été un forum international d'une extrême importance car il a permis d'identifier tous les éléments pertinents visant à développer les pêches. La République populaire d'Angola, ayant un littoral de 1 600 km et une zone économique exclusive en ressources marines, a pris part à la réalisation de cette Conférence avec beaucoup d'intérêt. Elle oeuvre dans le sens d'une mise en place de ces résolutions. Considérant l'importance de la pêche dans la diète alimentaire des populations, son impact social et économique, son effet dans la promotion de valeur nationale et la promotion des échanges internationaux, il est facile de comprendre l'attachement du Gouvernement angolais pour le développement des pêches.

Des investissements portant sur l'exploitation des ressources marines, leur transformation et leur distribution, la formation des cadres à tout niveau et la construction des structures sont en cours. L'intégration des populations dans les activités des pêches à travers la création des associations et des coopératives de pêcheurs ainsi que le renforcement des coopératives déjà existantes sont en voie d'aboutissement.

La République populaire de l'Angola participe et contribue avec ses modestes expériences dans la Conférence internationale d'une façon générale et privilégie pour la coopération sud-sud avec la signature des accords des pêches. Le moment n'est pas encore venu de dresser un bilan des résultats de l'application des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. Ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour appuyer inconditionnellement le document qui nous est soumis et plus spécialement le point suivant: les rapports nationaux sur notre vie devront être le plus simple possible pour ne pas constituer un fardeau pour les Etats Membres. A notre avis, ces rapports doivent être remis chaque quatre années puisque c'est le temps minimum permettant une observation sur les éléments de la stratégie. Nous sommes pleinement d'accord avec la suggestion du Sous-Comité des commerces des produits et des pêches et nous sommes également d'accord avec le projet de résolution sur la suite à donner à la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

A.D. WEYGANDT (United States of America): Allow me to begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to Dr Carroz for his clear and useful introduction on this subject. The US considers the World Fisheries Conference to have been very successful and a testimony to the useful forum that FAO can provide for governments to discuss technical, substantive issues of importance. In bringing together fisheries experts from around the world to discuss ideas and approaches to solve common fisheries problems, the Conference reaffirmed the singular role that FAO plays.

The US believes the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and its associated Program of Action together provide useful guidance to coastal states on how to manage their fisheries resources and on where development assistance may be needed.

In general, the US also approves of the various follow-up actions taken, and proposed, to implement the results of the Conference, with, of course, the proviso that the results of Conference constitute guidelines and that their implementation is at the discretion of individual coastal states.

The US delegation supports COFIS decisions on the presentation of progress reports on following activities.

For our part, we are reviewing development assistance programmes for fisheries in several areas of the world, including West Africa, the Caribbean and the South Pacific - although no decisions have yet been reached, or commitments made.

My government attaches great importance to FAO's Fisheries Programme. We consider this work to be of major importance both for developed and developing countries alike, and we intend to continue our support for it.

I.A. RONQUILLO (Philippines): The Philippine delegation joins other countries in giving tribute to the Director-General for his foresight in the timely convening of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in 1984 here in Rome.

I wish to thank also Mr Jean Carroz, Assistant Director-General for Fisheries, for his comprehensive summary of the Document C 85/22 on the report of the said scientific conference.

The Philippines is one of the few countries where agriculture has been given great attention, especially mariculture, which is now rapidly developing. We are thankful to FAO for the considerable assistance given to the Philippines, which has led to the increase in our fish production from the sea, lakes, fresh water farms and deep-waters surrounding the country, and now especially to the development of mariculture in the shallower areas in Sulu.

Upon the termination of the UN Law of the Sea Conference, most developing coastal states realized that fisheries resources could be better exploited if they had more knowledge on the management and the development of fisheries. It became their responsibility, after the new regime of the exclusive economic zone to practice their sovereign rights to such living resources.

The Philippine delegation fully supports, therefore, the strategies for fisheries management and development, as well as the five Programmes of Action. We call upon multilateral and bilateral donors and financial institutions and donor countries to support these Programmes of Action.

The Philippine delegation commends the Committee on Fisheries on the steps already taken to implement the strategy. We appreciate the actions already taken by the Director-General after the termination of the Fisheries Conference, welcome the establishment of a Sub-Committee on fish trade and approve the terms of reference.

We are thankful to the Director-General for the funds provided to implement the Programme of Action, as well as to the major donors to the Programme, especially the UNDP and other countries, for their financial support in the attainment of the target 15 million US dollars required to implement the Programme.

We endorse "Fishermen and Fishing" Communities" as one of the themes to be celebrated on World Food Day in 1986.

Finally, we request Member States to take timely action to fill in the questionnaires as soon as they are received. The data on the progress achieved in national fisheries as regards the strategy endorsed by the Fisheries Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action is needed by the Fisheries Department for their subsequent report in 1987.

We urge those fishing nations that fish for highly pelagic species - the migratory species -in the high seas and the EEZs of developing countries to contribute generously to FAO to support the Programme of Action and to reduce the imbalance in the distribution of funds between geographic regions and between the different Programmes of Action.

The Philippine delegation fully supports and endorses the Resolution in C 85/22, as amended by the distinguished delegate of Thailand. We would add the following sentence after the paragraph starting "Noting": "Commends the Director-General for having taken the initiative of convening the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development".

N.V.K.K. WEREGODA (Sri Lanka): The Sri Lankan delegation wishes to join the other delegates in endorsing appreciation of the FAO in taking the initiative in conducting the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and for the concise and informative document numbered C 85/22 submitted to this Commission.

In Sri Lanka fish production can be categorized as coastal fishing, deep-sea fishing and inland fishing. Coastal fishing is fairly close to the shore within about 20 to 30 kilometres of shelf area. The area beyond that is the deep-sea fishing out to the 200 mile economic zone. Inland fishery resources are in the freshwater reservoirs and in the brackish water coastal lagoons.

Fish represents 60 percent of the animal protein consumed in Sri Lanka, with an average per capita consumption of 15 kilograms in 1983. Sri Lanka is now facing a situation in which coastal fishery production is nearing maximum sustainable yields, and, as a result, already many fishermen have low incomes and are under-employed. Therefore, the Sri Lankan Government is taking all possible steps to develop aquaculture in inland waters and the coastal lagoon areas.

In this context the Sri Lankan delegation is particularly happy to note that in the five Programmes of Action adopted at the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development there is specific reference to the area to which we have already decided to give high priority in Sri Lankan fishery development programmes.

Finally, the Sri Lankan delegation endorses its support in adopting the resolution before us on follow-up to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

T. KUME (Japan): To begin with, my delegation would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr Carroz, for the excellent presentation of this important agenda item.

Our comments will be very brief. We have no intention of reiterating our comments already made at the World Conference and the 86th Session of the Council. We should like to remind the Commission of our position on paragraph 14 of the Strategy which was mentioned in the report of the World Conference.

In view of the need to assist the development of fisheries, my Government has been extending financial and technical cooperation to various developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels. We will continue to do so within the framework of our assistance schemes.

Concerning the concrete cooperation projects relating to the Programmes of Action, I am pleased to inform the Commission that my Government will contribute US\$700 000 this year for aquaculture and for the tuna stock project in the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. Apart from this, taking into consideration the requests from developing countries, we will continue our bilateral cooperation as well.

The meeting rose at 17.50

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17. 50 horas



**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/13

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23° período de sesiones  
COMISION ITHIRTEENTH MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE  
13ª SESION

(22 November 1985)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 10.05 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 10 h 05  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

se abre la 13ª sesión a las 10 05 horas  
ba jo la presidencia de J. Ladan 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

ALIMENTACION continuación)

9. Report on the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development (June-July 1984) (continued)

9. Rapport sur la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches (juin-juillet 1984) (suite)

9. Informe de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros (junio-julio de 1984) (continuación)

MANIRUZZAMAN CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh): Firstly, kindly allow me to join my fellow delegates in thanking the FAO Secretariat for preparing the necessary documents which have helped us in a better understanding of the subject. We would also like to record our appreciation for the lucid introductory remarks made by Mr Carroz, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department, which will definitely allow us to arrive at the right decisions under your able and experienced chairmanship. You may appreciate the fact that Bangladesh has all along been lending its active support to various initiatives and programmes undertaken by FAO in this very important field. It would perhaps, therefore, be appropriate to state very briefly the important role that is being played by the fisheries sector in our country. Though it represents only about 6 percent of the GDP and little above 10 percent of the nation's export earnings, the fact remains that about 80 percent of the country's annual protein is contributed by the fisheries sector. The primary sources of fish in Bangladesh are open water capture fisheries in the rivers, estuaries, flood plains and natural depressions. The other sources are the virtually innumerable ponds and tanks. Rivers and canals roughly cover about 5.8 percent of the total area of the country. As a matter of fact, during the annual floods in the summer season when about 70 percent of the total area goes under water the whole country turns virtually into a vast fishing ground. In addition, Bangladesh has a coastline of about 288 miles, its territorial waters extend up to 12 miles from the coast with an extended economic zone (EEZ) of 200 miles. Based on a survey conducted by the fisheries resource survey system of the Directorate of Fisheries, fishing production of the country has been estimated in the year 1983/84 as follows: a) inland, both capture and culture fishing 578 807 metric tons, b) marine, coastal and offshore, 172 486 metric tons. The total is 751 393 metric tons.

The Bangladesh Government has not only supported the strategy for fisheries management and development as endorsed by the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development 1984, but has also been actively implementing the five programmes of action approved by the Conference aimed at increasing fish production and individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries. It has given top priority for the development of the fisheries sector during the third five-year plan, which has just started.

In order to ensure proper policy formulation and implementation of the same, a full-fledged Ministry has been created and a Cabinet Minister is looking after the same. A complete resources study and survey is being undertaken to determine the status and potential of both inland and marine fisheries with the active support of the World Bank and the FAO, and we appreciate that, Mr Chairman.

A twenty-year national plan for the development of fisheries is also under active consideration. It will not be irrelevant, perhaps, to make a passing reference also to some of the important areas in which the Government is very eager to take action early. These include improving the lot of small-scale fishermen who provide the bulk of the catch in our country; increasing the role and contribution of aquaculture to a significant level from the present 14 percent of the total production, one of the significant growth areas.; developing further potential of export trade, and above all ensuring a regular and increased supply of protein from our own sources. In this connection, it is necessary to point out that the regional fora under the auspices of FAO and other international agencies may prove to be very useful. It appears that a lot remains to be done in this regard, particularly in view of necessity in our area, on an urgent basis.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the Bangladesh delegation reaffirms and endorses its strong support for the follow-up action programme including the adoption of the Draft Resolution in implementing the strategies and Programmes of Action outlined in the World Fisheries Conference. We appreciate the activities of the Director-General in this regard.

Reynaldo TREMINIO (Nicaragua): Mi delegación ha revisado el texto del informe que se somete a debate en esta Comisión. Pensamos que todas las acciones que se orienten a ordenar y normar recursos y esfuerzos son pasos que nos acercan al propósito de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En mi país realizamos ingentes esfuerzos en el ordenamiento y el desarrollo pesquero. Dentro de nuestras limitadas posibilidades económicas, se impulsa la pesquería y el desarrollo de la apicultura. Igualmente merece especial atención la promoción y el consumo de pescado, tanto en el área urbana como en la rural.

Sr. Presidente, mi delegación acoge con satisfacción los resultados logrados en la Conferencia Mundial de la Pesca y felicita a la FAO por este esfuerzo importante.

Asimismo mi delegación apoya el proyecto de resolución para la Conferencia.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): We welcome the report on the FAO World Conference on Fisheries in this document. The relatively recent creation of a New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone and our role in the activities of the Forum Fishery Agency in the Pacific has heightened our interest in FAO fishery matters in recent years. New Zealand was represented at the 1984 World Conference as were representatives of the island nations of the Forum Fisheries Agency, giving the South-West Pacific region a strong presence at the FAO meeting.

This year we have been pleased to note continuing Forum interest as evidenced by the attendance at COFI of Fiji and Papua New Guinea as an Observer and the representatives of the Agency itself. Traditionally Australia and New Zealand have kept an eye on the interests of other non-attending nations in the region. In the future we hope to see continuing and increasing island nation participation in FAO fishery matters, as the problems and needs of the South-West Pacific region nations depend to a very large degree on the future of their fisheries.

The value of the World Conference is demonstrated by the development of a set of eight strategies for future fisheries management and development and five programmes aimed at assisting developing countries. We would comment that the propositions are almost transcended by the focus provided for global fisheries development and the framework provided for future relationships between the international and regional fishery organizations. Accordingly, the holding of the ad hoc World Conference was well justified from the New Zealand point of view. As pointed out in the document C 85/22 it is too soon to see any tangible results of the Conference. This was appreciated at this year's COFI session. By the time of the next session of COFI there will have been three years to gauge what practical benefits will emerge.

The third element of the strategy emphasizes the need for fishermen to have clearly defined fishing rights and that allowable catches do not exceed the productivity of the resources. Since the conference New Zealand has been developing a policy to set total allowable catches and to define individual fishing rights in the forum of individual transferable quotas. This policy is planned for introduction in mid-1986 to cover all the major commercial species. This is a most important development from our point of view and one totally consistent with the third element of the strategy.

In relation to strategy 5, we welcome the formation of a sub-group of COFI on fish trade which will meet when COFI next meets. We would want to see action taken in wider international fora to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade where these are significant for exporters of fish products.

We welcome the reporting back arrangement suggested for the next meeting of COFI. With regard to strategy 6, New Zealand's investment in aid programmes to developing countries is aimed specifically

to support the guidelines set out. For example, New Zealand is providing assistance and aid in training and technological transfer to improve Pacific states' Self-Sufficiency in marketing and harvesting and is placing emphasis in assisting artisan fisheries on their self-sufficiency once aid programmes cease.

With regard to strategies 7 and 8 regarding economic and technical cooperation and international cooperation, we see increasing cooperation in fisheries management between New Zealand and the Pacific states where there are major commercial species. At present a cooperative programme for the various tuna is being developed. On a wider front we see increasing cooperation in the area of surveillance and advice on management of the Pacific states' Exclusive Economic Zones. We support the proposed Draft Resolution.

Knut BØRVE (Norway): On behalf of the Norwegian delegation I would like to thank the Secretariat for the clear introduction of the report of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. Fisheries development is important because it forms an integral part of economic and social development, particularly in the developing countries. A carefully planned and balanced fisheries policy could also contribute to an increase in the world supply of fish and thereby to an increase in self-sufficiency of food for many nations of the world.

Against this background Norway thinks that the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was a very important contribution to the management and development of fisheries in the international context. The Norwegian delegation took an active part in the proceedings of the Conference, and we support the strategy and the five Programmes of Action adopted by it. Norway will take the consequences of this engagement in its future multilateral and bilateral cooperation with the developing world.

Finally, my delegation would like to commend the FAO Fisheries Department for the follow-up activities already taken, and we are looking forward to a broader progress report on the implementation of the strategy and Programmes of Action at the next FAO Conference.

Almir Franco de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation thanks the Secretariat for the concise document C 85/22 and Mr Carroz for the useful introduction of the item of the agenda.

My Government pays great attention to the fisheries sector in its developing economic plans as well as to international activities in this field. We have traditionally endorsed FAO's initiatives in the fisheries sector, and we fully support the new effort concerning the implementation of this strategy and the Programmes of Action of the World Conference on Fisheries.

The relatively short period of time elapsed since the Conference on Fisheries does not allow a substantive evaluation of the results. However, the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Fisheries held last April offered the right opportunity to evaluate the steps related to the disclosing of the results of the Conference on Fisheries, and especially to set the basis for the follow-up of the strategy and implementation of the Programmes of Action, as well as to define the responsibilities of FAO and Member Nations. While reaffirming FAO's Member Nations' primary responsibility for the implementation of the strategy, the last COFI session recommended that FAO collect and coordinate the collection of information on a standard format from information provided by Member countries. They also requested the preparation of special in-depth studies regarding the strategy and contribution from donors. At this point we want to express our appreciation in regard to the financial support already provided by the donors for the implementation of the Programmes of Action.

On the other hand, we feel again the need for universal balancing in this implementation and mention again the lesser attention that has been given, not only in fisheries but also in other areas of FAO's competence, to Latin America and the Caribbean region. We do hope that the international community will listen to our appeal and that the trend can be reversed. As an exception to this trend, it should be mentioned that Italy supported the Latin American Regional Agriculture Development Project. We wish as well to express, our satisfaction for the creation of the Committee on Fisheries Trade and reiterate our support to TCDC in the area of fisheries.

In this respect, we want to confirm our interest in the relationship and exchange of information and experiences between Brazilian institutions and other developing countries' institutions on fisheries.

Finally, we present our full support to the resolution proposed by the Secretariat as recommended by the Council.

O.V. MSISKA (Malawi): My delegation wishes first to congratulate the Chairman for efficiently carrying out his duties, as we appear to be covering ground faster than planned through his guidance. I also wish to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr Carroz, for his clear and informative introduction of this item.

While fisheries contribute only about one quarter of the world supply of animal protein, Malawi derives more than 70 percent of the animal protein from this source. For rural people this is the cheapest source of animal protein. Therefore, my delegation very much appreciates FAO's action in giving this-sector strong emphasis. Malnutrition is among the major causes of high child mortality, and therefore it would be useful if nutritional data were made available to planners so that they give it due consideration. In most cases such information appears to be missing, and therefore we would hope that in the FAO format this would be taken into consideration.

Since Malawi obtained independence in 1964, fish production has increased from 13 100 tonnes to 65 300 metric tonnes in 1984. This is due to the policy of development which the government has followed and the financial assistance it has received from donors like UNDP. Over the recent past, however, catches have almost stagnated and are not keeping up with the population increase. Some of the most prized fishes have almost disappeared. For a land-locked country like Malawi, this is very serious. Fish species which have been affected are those which are known to show homing behaviour like salmon of the temperate regions. Since salmon has been domesticated in these regions, it would appear that a similar approach could be attempted for these fish in Malawi. Therefore, the stress on aquaculture by FAO is very welcome in Malawi. Malawi thinks that aquaculture should be approached in the widest sense in order to bring about increased fish supply in the inland waters. There may be need to collect further baseline data on trophic ecology of the great lakes of Africa in order to see if extensive methods like pen or cage culture could be the answer. Although originally classified as oligotrophic, the great lakes produce up to 125 kilograms per hectare of fish, and therefore they need further consideration.

Malawi has also considered methods of reducing post-harvest losses through use of pesticides, and actellic appears to be one of the promising ones. However, more work is required for it to be internationally accepted. In this way it is hoped that more than 18 percent more fish can reach the consumer in a state which is still safe for consumption.

Malawi participated in seminars which were organized by FAO and in their follow-up programmes in Zambia and thought that they were very worthwhile.

Long-term training needs, however, seem to indicate that for Malawi and the other eight members of the SADCC region there is need to train technicians or intermediate staff for the region. The present training in Nigeria, at ARAC, is okay for senior agriculturists, but there is still this missing link, which could be better rectified at regional or sub-regional level, and it is the feeling of these nations that this cannot be done on a national level as stipulated in the FAO World Fisheries Conference, because some of these countries are too small, and therefore the regional approach is being recommended.

My delegation very much welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General to make a modest increase in the FAO fisheries budget. It realizes that the task ahead is big and maybe in future more financial support will be required.

The decentralization plan that has been mentioned in one of the documents, C 85/8, is very much welcomed. Hopefully, in the future eastern and southern Africa could be allocated a field officer, considering the logistics of operating either from Accra or from Rome.

This delegation is pleased to note the inclusion of fish in food security arrangements.

The Malawi delegation welcomes efforts being made by FAO to review the track record of aquaculture in African countries so that some common constraints which limit progress can be documented, as has been done for the forestry programmes, documented in C 85/4. This should put aquaculture on a sound footing.

The great lakes of Africa have a diverse fish fauna which is worth conserving. Such fauna may also be a source of good genetic material for aquaculture. With present transfers and introductions taking place in the world, some code of practice could be drawn up by FAO for use by countries who cannot draw up their own.

Malawi welcomes the emphasis on small scale fisheries development by the FAO World Fisheries Conference. These are important as they provide at least 85 percent of the catch in Malawi. Their needs require special attention with regard to support services and improved technology.

In conclusion, my delegation supports the draft resolution on fisheries and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Fisheries Conference, which Malawi attended.

R.C. GUPTA (India): First of all, I should like personally to express my happiness and satisfaction, Mr Chairman, at seeing you presiding over our deliberations on a very important subject.

We have gone through this useful document, C 85/22, with great interest and we have found the introduction given by Mr Carroz, as usual, extremely clear and informative.

We are aware that fisheries production had been stagnating for almost a decade and, considering the potential available and the projected requirements, we feel that the holding of the World Conference on Fisheries last year was an extremely important and timely event. The eight-point Strategy which was evolved by the Conference, along with the 5 Programmes of Action, are steps which, if sincerely and seriously followed-up, could contribute very considerably to a more scientific exploitation of the fisheries resources to avoid waste in post-harvest processing and to increase the nutritional standards of people in developing countries.

As some of my distinguished colleagues have said, it is only about one and a quarter or one and a half years since this Conference was held, and it is too early to make an informed or valid assessment of the results of the achievements made. Nevertheless, the action which has already been taken by the Secretariat in terms of bringing the Strategy to the notice of all concerned at the highest level in our governments, and also in trying to find adequate financial support for the five Programmes of Action, is highly commendable.

We are told in this document that the indicative target of US\$15 million per annum of funds required for carrying out these Programmes is likely to be exceeded in the year 1985. This is an extremely heartening and most welcome development. While Commending the FAO Secretariat, Mr Carroz and his colleagues for their efforts, we should also like to place on record our appreciation of finances provided by UNDP and donor countries like Australia, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. We find, however, that all the five Programmes of Action have not received equal support, which is understandable in view of the preoccupations and preferences of donors regarding certain aspects of fisheries development. We would strongly urge that all these Programmes, since they combine to form a balanced whole, be equally supported, otherwise some areas would be neglected and some countries would not get adequate support in the development of the fisheries resources along the lines recommended and suggested by the Conference.

We consider that another important event was the setting up of a Sub-Committee of the Committee on Fisheries, because in the matter of trade in fish, as in the case of most commodities, there is great need for the development of the market, for more orderly trade, and for lowering of tariff and non-tariff barriers, and we feel that this Sub-Committee could provide a very useful forum for exchange of information for understanding the points of view of one another and for bringing about a more orderly, more equitable system in the world trade in fisheries.

If I may I should like to say a word about our own development of fisheries in India. If we take the overall picture, our catch has gone up by about 12 percent in the year 1984. Indian fisheries is a mixed picture, with both marine fishing and inland fishing. In the sector of inland fishing,

we are one of the largest in terms of the catch. Our FEZ has a potential, on a rough estimate, of almost 4.5 million tons of catch every year, whereas our achievement to date is only about 1.8 million tons - that is, about 33 percent of our potential. This is an area in which we look forward to, and seek, assistance from developed countries and from international financial institutions to build the expertise, to have the necessary equipment and gear, to have transfer of technology, to develop and build this important potential that we have.

In the area of inland fisheries, our annual catch is about one million tons, but considering the river systems in India, the areas of the water bodies that we have inland, there is a potential for the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture. We are trying, through a number of institutions and training programmes, to assist the farmers to transfer technology to them for inland fisheries and aquaculture, and in this area again a lot of work can be done, with external assistance.

To conclude, we would like to lend our support to the resolution proposed and would also like to state very clearly that whatever facilities we have developed we would be most willing and happy to share. We are going to set up a separate university for fisheries. I reiterate that we are happy to share our experience and whatever expertise we have been able to develop with other friendly countries amongst developing countries.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La situation mondiale des pêches depuis le début des années soixante-dix une mutation de la plus grande importance. Comme le souligne bien l'excellent rapport soumis à la Conférence, les résultats records obtenus en 1984 pour la production halieutique, je pense en particulier au chiffre de 80 millions de tonnes, ne doivent pas faire oublier que depuis une dizaine d'années la tendance générale est à la stabilisation des captures mondiales de poisson. Pendant la même période la demande de poisson a connu une forte croissance tandis qu'avec l'adoption en 1982 de la Convention des Nations Unies sur le Droit de la mer, des perspectives nouvelles d'une ampleur considérable se sont ouvertes aux Etats côtiers pour l'exploitation des ressources halieutiques de leur zone économique exclusive.

Face à ces mutations d'une portée véritablement historique, la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches de 1984 a, sans nul doute, constitué un événement de première importance en fournissant au niveau mondial un cadre complet et cohérent pour une action à long terme.

La délégation française tient ici à renouveler à l'OAA ses félicitations pour cette initiative particulièrement opportune dans cette période de mutation. Ma délégation donne son accord à la stratégie et aux cinq programmes d'action retenus à l'issue de la Conférence mondiale. Cette stratégie et ses programmes d'action fournissent aux Etats membres de notre Organisation les bases d'une coopération et une réponse à un certain nombre de besoins essentiels.

Je citerai quelques-uns de ces besoins, je pense en particulier aux besoins de nouveaux concepts et méthodes de régulation de la pêche adaptés aux caractéristiques spécifiques de l'exploitation des écosystèmes naturels; aux besoins de mieux apprécier les perspectives de l'aquaculture et ceci par grandes régions géographiques, par mode de production et par types de produits; je pense enfin aux besoins d'améliorer l'utilisation de la matière première compte tenu de la pénurie actuelle, ce qui implique tout à la fois une meilleure valorisation et une réduction des pertes après capture. La satisfaction de ces besoins est indispensable si l'on veut dans l'avenir améliorer la rentabilité et les performances des entreprises de pêche; améliorer aussi la situation des communautés de pêcheurs et renforcer enfin la contribution de la pêche aux économies nationales et à la sécurité alimentaire.

La stratégie mondiale des pêches et les cinq programmes d'action apportent, de l'avis de ma délégation, une réponse tout à fait satisfaisante à ces préoccupations. Dans leur mise en oeuvre, il conviendra cependant, si l'on veut véritablement progresser vers les objectifs fixés, d'être très attentifs au respect d'un bon équilibre entre les grands programmes d'action prévus.

Comme l'a fort justement reconnu la Conférence mondiale des pêches, une gestion rationnelle des ressources halieutiques implique nécessairement qu'une toute première priorité soit accordée aux actions d'aménagement. A cet égard, la France appuie fermement le paragraphe 29 du rapport C 85/22

soumis à notre Conférence lorsqu'il indique: "... tout progrès nouveau et soutenu dans le secteur de la pêche dépendra, dans de nombreux cas, d'un meilleur aménagement des ressources." Je pense que nous sommes dans ce domaine engagés dans la bonne voie. La France attache aussi une très grande importance à la coopération dans le domaine de la pêche sous toutes ses formes: recherche, formation, coopération technique, coopération économique. Dans la mise en oeuvre de sa coopération bilatérale également mon pays approuve et applique les principes énoncés de mise en relief et adoptés par la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. Enfin la France appuie le projet de résolution soumis à cette vingt-troisième session de la Conférence.

MA GENG'OU (China) (original language Chinese): My intervention will be very brief.

The Secretariat has prepared an excellent report on the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It not only gives a brief account of the chief results of that Conference, but also clearly elucidates the relevant follow-up actions taken after the Conference. I think it will help us to gain a full understanding of the developments and facilitate our examination of the draft resolution.

It is known to all that about 20 percent of the animal protein contained in the human diet originates from fish, while more than 80 percent of fish products comes from the sea. The law of the Sea adopted by the United Nations has brought about major changes in the ocean regime, which will consequently give a great impetus to the reform of world fisheries. It was just at this important historical juncture that the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development was convened. The Chinese government sent a delegation led by a Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery to attend the Conference. From our experience, the delegation expounded the basic views of our country on the major relationships governing fishery development, stressing the importance of developing aquaculture. The delegation also expressed our readiness to enhance cooperation in fishery development with other countries, especially with developing countries in the spirit of equality and mutual benefit, as well as our desire to strengthen cooperation with FAO in the relevant follow-up actions.

We endorse the report on the recommendations of the follow-up actions of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Julio César JARA D. (Chile): Mi delegación felicita a usted, Sr. Presidente, por haber sido elegido para presidir esta importante Comisión. Asimismo mis felicitaciones a los vicepresidentes y al Sr. Carroz por la excelente presentación del documento que tenemos a la vista.

Sr. Presidente, respecto a los temas tratados durante dicha Conferencia Mundial la delegación de Chile formuló las siguientes observaciones que reiteramos en esta oportunidad:

Nuestro interés en el desarrollo de la acuicultura y la repoblación de especies naturales, ofreciendo toda colaboración al intercambio de experiencias y el envío de técnicos para el desarrollo de estas actividades.

La posición de Chile sobre el fomento del libre comercio, y se insiste en el desarrollo por parte de FAO de efectuar estudios tendientes a mejorar los niveles de información comercial internacional, así como la búsqueda de la eliminación de barreras arancelarias y paraarancelarias.

Chile sustentando su posición de país productor de harina de pescado, manifiesta su capacidad potencial en generar Productos al consumo directo, siempre y cuando el consumo y fomento de los mismos en otros países, como el mejoramiento de los mercados, así lo permita.

En consecuencia, recalco: el derecho soberano de explotación de las zonas exclusivas; el fomento al libre comercio; la utilización y aprovechamiento de los recursos explotados en forma integral y su voluntad de país en el mejoramiento del desarrollo pesquero para promover actividades de acuiculturay y colaborar en el programa contra la subnutrición mundial; además apoya el proyecto de resolución.



Sra. Dra. GRAFILA SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Como usted conoce, Sr. presidente, aspectos de la pesca son muy importantes para mi país. Permítame, a nombre de la delegación de Cuba agradecer al Sr. Carroz por la excelente presentación de este tema puesto que nos ha ofrecido informaciones muy útiles, especialmente en lo referente al incremento de las capturas en 1984, así como al comienzo de las actividades para cumplimentar los acuerdos de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros.

La delegación de Cuba considera que esta Conferencia constituyó un evento de gran interés para la comunidad internacional en su conjunto, y de importancia particular para los países en desarrollo que han adquirido derechos soberanos sobre nuevos recursos pesqueros naturales por constituir el primer esfuerzo a escala global en la concertación de ideas, experiencias y recursos que permitan la utilización más racional y económicamente ventajosas de los recursos pesqueros, a partir del nuevo orden jurídico de los mares. Los conceptos discutidos y aprobados por la Conferencia pueden contribuir a elevar el papel de la pesca en la economía, sobre todo de los países Subdesarrollados. Una Conferencia de este tipo no puede detenerse en el análisis de la situación de un solo país; sin embargo, el problema de estrategias para el desarrollo puede ser tomado como una referencia orientadora para cualquier país en el momento de definir los objetivos del sector pesquero, así como para planificar la ordenación y el desarrollo de la pesca.

Mi delegación, Sr. presidente, considera que los Programas de Acción aprobados han identificado los aspectos y las regiones más necesitadas de atención financiera y asistencia técnica para el desarrollo ulterior del sector pesquero.

A nuestro entender esta Conferencia puso de relieve los derechos y los deberes de los Estados en cuanto a la explotación, la conservación y la concesión de los excedentes de pesca en las zonas económicas exclusivas. A este respecto debemos destacar que la inmensa mayoría de los países aceptan sin mayor discusión el derecho soberano de los Estados costeros a explotar y conservar los recursos pesqueros de sus zonas económicas exclusivas, así como el derecho de estudiar dichos recursos, determinar la porción que puede ser explotada por sí misma y conceder el acceso a otros Estados para la explotación de los excedentes, tal como lo recoge la Convención de Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar.

El hecho de que unos pocos países no comparten este criterio resalta la necesidad de continuar haciendo esfuerzos por desarrollar formas más eficaces de colaboración internacional, tanto por las vías bilaterales como por las multilaterales. En este empeño consideramos que la FAO tiene un importante papel que jugar como agente catalizador del desarrollo pesquero y estimulador de formas apropiadas en la cooperación internacional. El resultado visible de la Conferencia se expresa a través del informe correspondiente y de las resoluciones aprobadas, las cuales si bien es cierto que tienen un carácter general, puntualizan los aspectos más relevantes del dilema pesquero internacional e insta a la FAO, a las organizaciones internacionales y a los Estados a tomar medidas para elevar el papel del sector pesquero en el desarrollo económico y social de los países, mejorar la alimentación y estimular el comercio y la cooperación internacional.

Para concluir, Sr. Presidente, la delegación de Cuba apoya la resolución sobre las actividades complementarias de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesquero y, asimismo, agradece y apoya la propuesta de la Secretaría para que el próximo Día Mundial de la Alimentación sea dedicado a los hombres y mujeres que realizan sus esfuerzos en las actividades pesqueras.

KYO EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): I would like to start my statement by expressing my thanks to Dr Carroz for his excellent introduction of agenda item 9.

My delegation welcomes the results of the World Fisheries Conference and its follow-up actions, and supports their adoption as a conference resolution.

In my delegation's view, fisheries resources are of the same importance as other food resources such as cereals and meat, In this regard, firstly my delegation wishes that a stronger follow-up action be made with due emphasis on it. In particular we feel that the efforts of FAO should be strengthened - and expanded in fields such as inland fisheries, development and aquaculture for the benefit of rural people. We believe that the expanded role of FAO in those fields would certainly provide us with a good deal of contributions to increase the supply of food and to increase small farmers' incomes and their employment opportunities.

Secondly, my delegation also feels that the technology transferred in this field is quite urgent, as has been indicated. The Government of the Republic of Korea has endeavoured to share our experiences and techniques in inland fisheries and aquaculture through the exchange of training with fellow developing countries, and we hope that such an opportunity could be expanded through FAO programme development.

Finally, as the delegate of Thailand requested yesterday afternoon, my delegation also strongly wishes that FAO should play a leading role in promoting the international, regional and bilateral cooperation for the efficient utilization of fisheries resources, since in some cases the exclusive economic zones have failed to be managed and developed efficiently and economically.

Jan ORZESZKO (Poland): It is very appropriate that our main task is that of reviewing the follow-up actions required at the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The impetus provided by that important and historic Conference must not be lost. We must capitalize on the remarkable consensus that the Conference achieved at the Conference and clearly recognizing the varied situations and special policies of individual nations. We must continue to seek to work together to secure a new and improved basis for the better management and use of the world's fishery resources. My delegation is grateful to Mr Carroz and his colleagues for the document before us, and we extend our congratulations for a paper which is not only informative and constructive, but also brief as well as comprehensive.

I should like to say that it does not surprise us because the whole work of the Fisheries Department has always been - and especially recently - very constructive and of great benefit to all of us. Here, on behalf of the Polish Government, I would express our highest appreciation.

We are pleased to note the concrete steps taken by the Director-General, both with regard to the prompt actions already taken to implement the Conference's recommendations, and with regard to the elaboration of proposals for a system of reporting on future progress. My delegation fully supports the suggestions made regarding the format, content and periodicity of the progress reports to be prepared by governments, as well as the supplementary special in-depth studies to be carried out by the Secretariat on particular elements of the Strategy and the contributions from donor agencies and financial institutions.

With regard to that part of the Strategy which deals with international trade in fish and fishery products, my delegation welcomes the Committee on Fisheries' decision to establish a Sub-Committee on fish trade, as well as the preparations being made for the first session of that new FAO body.

I should also like to refer to the pleasure with which the Polish Government collaborated with the Fisheries Department in one very important aspect of the Strategy and its associated Action Programmes; that is to say, in training. In this respect, very close collaboration with FAO resulted in the organization of the training course on Fisheries Management and Development Planning for the CEECA region in Szczecin, Poland, in September 1985. The training course was attended by 23 participants from 19 countries. It was considered by the participants as most relevant and useful for better development planning and management of their fisheries.

My delegation fully supports the Director-General's proposal relating to the Budget and Work Programme of the fisheries activities for the 1986/87 biennium. We also support the draft resolution.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): May I begin by stressing the important contribution of fisheries to the economic development of all the Member countries of the South West Pacific region, all of which, including Australia, are island states. As the Conference well knows, there are now nine Members of FAO from the South West Pacific region. All of these, and a number of other Members of the region, participate as Members or observers of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency which provides a focus for regional approaches to fisheries' matters.

As the Delegate of New Zealand has noted the recent World Fisheries Conference provided the opportunity for Members of Forum Fisheries Agency to participate in the preparation of fisheries management and development strategies, both during the Conference itself and in its preparatory meetings. It needs to be emphasized that the development problems of small island states are unique. Consequently international organizations as well as bilateral agencies need to recognize their special problems and requirements in any cooperation that is undertaken, either with individual states or with their regional organizations, such as the Forum Fisheries Agency.

I should also like to recognize the important contribution the World Fisheries Conference and its deliberations have played in the development of Australia's National Fisheries Strategy. We have continued to keep the FAO Secretariat fully informed of developments in that regard, and in the detailed management of Australian fisheries resources. As an aside, since I have very little time myself remaining in Rome, may I also on this occasion pay tribute to Mr Carroz and the members of his staff for their very professional and competent approach to their jobs, and for the assistance and cooperation they have provided to me personally over the last three years, and to Australia generally. I believe FAO's fisheries work deserves recognition as an example of the important contribution FAO can make for all its Member Nations. It is an area in which I believe FAO has demonstrated that it has a unique and beneficial role to play.

I should also like to stress the importance we in Australia attach to regional action through such regional FAO bodies as IPFC and IOFC in translating and transmitting the benefits of the World Conference to concrete and practical action at the field level - or perhaps I should say, at sea level. Australia actively participates in these regional initiatives in the Asia and Pacific region. As the Secretariat well knows we place a high priority on the work of such bodies.

I should also like to give the highest possible commendation to the Director-General for his comments in his speech to the Conference where he said, in relation to fisheries, management and development, and I quote him exactly, "the spotlight is now on improved management".

We agree that management is essential in the rational utilization of fishery resources and we welcome the emphasis that FAO intends to place on fisheries management in its Programme of Work and Budget and through the use of extra budgetary resources under the World Fisheries Conference Programme of Action No. 1.

In respect of particular items in the Programme of Work and Budget, we see particular value in Programme 2.2.1 on fisheries information since we believe the availability of fisheries data and statistics is essential for management purposes. We also welcome the activities undertaken under the Sub-Programme on Fisheries Policy and Planning. With respect to the Sub-Programme on International Coordination and Liaison, we would like to stress the need for FAO to conduct its programmes in collaboration with regional fisheries bodies. Can I emphasize that within the Pacific Region we see particular value in continued cooperation and assistance for the Forum Fisheries agency.

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): My remarks shall be brief, to be consistent with the manner in which you have chaired our deliberations, and which I take this occasion to commend.

First and foremost, my delegation joins others in endorsing both the Strategy for Fisheries Management and the Development and the draft resolution on follow-up to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Secondly, I wish to make two observations on Document C 85/22: in paragraph 15, the steps already taken include only those actions taken by FAO and the EEC. This is only a partial list. For instance, Canada hosted an expert consultation on the issue of fishing vessel identification in March 1985.

In paragraph 29, we are particularly pleased by the strong statement in support of the importance of fisheries management and we encourage the FAO to continue giving prominence to this important aspect. We are also very pleased and wish to underline that the Council, at its Eighty-seventh Session, stressed the importance of the role of women in fisheries and recommended that FAO take special steps to further promote their participation in this sector. It is precisely in this spirit that my delegation supports the Resolution on Women introduced yesterday in Commission II by Venezuela, and which Canada intends to co-sponsor.

Finally, my delegation joins others in endorsing both the strategy for fisheries management and development and the draft resolution on follow-up to the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Mbome MOUKIA (Cameroun): Permettez-moi d'abord d'adresser les félicitations de la délégation camerounaise à M. le Directeur général de la FAO pour l'initiative qu'il a prise en convoquant une conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

Nos félicitations vont également à M. Carroz pour la qualité du document que nous examinons en ce moment même.

Nous ne reviendrons pas sur le rôle que joue la pêche dans la vie économique de nos pays comme source d'emplois ni sur la place qui revient aux produits de la pêche dans notre alimentation. Tout en sollicitant une intervention accrue de la FAO pour la mise en place de nos flottilles de pêche industrielle dans le souci d'une exploitation rationnelle de nos zones économiques exclusives, nous insistons pour une intensification de la modernisation du secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, secteur moins exigeant en investissements et intéressant particulièrement les artisans pêcheurs.

Nous saluons encore une fois l'initiative prise par le Directeur général de la FAO pour mobiliser les moyens auprès des pays technologiquement avancés pour les pays en développement. Nous réitérons ici notre souhait de voir la FAO porter aussi son assistance sur la formation du personnel d'encadrement, notamment en matière de gestion des ressources et pour faire face aux problèmes que ne manquera pas de nous poser l'aquaculture.

Pour terminer, nous tenons à exprimer notre plein appui au projet de résolution préparé par le Secrétariat de la FAO.

Carlo PINHEIRO SILVA(Cap-Vert La délégation du Cap-Vert tient à remercier le Secrétariat pour la présentation concise et claire de ce thème très cher à mon pays et sur le développement des pêches. Effectivement l'insularité du Cap-Vert; associée à un encadrement stratégique, est à l'origine de conditions particulièrement favorables à l'aménagement de ressources maritimes dont les potentialités sont loin d'être exploitées.

Mon pays remercie vivement le Département des pêches de la FAO pour l'assistance octroyée dans le cadre du plan national de développement. L'initiative de la FAO dans l'organisation de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches a été très pertinente; elle a été accueillie avec beaucoup de satisfaction par mon gouvernement. Le Cap-Vert appuie inconditionnellement la stratégie du développement des pêches préconisée par la Conférence et soutient pleinement les cinq programmes d'action adoptés; il soutient également fermement la résolution qui nous est soumise, suite à la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

Michaël HJORTSØ (Denmark): Denmark participated actively, and with great interest in the World Fisheries Conference in Rome in 1984. My Government supported the important decisions taken by that Conference and considers them to be important tools for the development of fisheries world-wide, and especially in the developing countries.

Against that background we appreciate the report before us and the encouraging oral introduction on the state of world fisheries, made by the Assistant Director-General for Fisheries, Mr Carroz. We were especially encouraged by the information on the record catches in 1984, and on the financial backing for the programme.

The Assistant Director-General was kind enough to refer to my country as one of the countries which has supplied part of the needed extrabudgetary funds for the implementation of the programme of action. Denmark has quite a comprehensive Trust Fund programme with the FAO concentrating on a few selected programme areas. One of these is support to the development of the fisheries sector. The programme of action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference covers five areas. Planning management and development of fisheries, small-scale fisheries development, aquaculture development, international trade in fish and fish products, and the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

We have been happy to note that the FAO/Denmark Trust Fund Programme for Fisheries fits very well into the programme of action. My Government intends to continue its support to the fisheries sector through our Trust Fund programme with FAO.

Denmark is itself a country where the fisheries sector plays an important role. For this reason my country is intimately aware of the important role which fisheries plays in the economic development and in nutrition. We have been very happy to share our knowledge and experience in this area with developing countries.

Let me conclude by informing you that Denmark can support the draft resolution before us.

CHRISTOPHER DHATEMWA (Uganda): I would like to thank Dr Carroz for his presentation of documents C 85/22 and C 85/LIM/24.

Uganda participated fully in the World Fisheries Conference held in Rome last year. We therefore associate ourselves with the resolutions suggested. In Uganda fisheries play a major role in providing the much needed animal proteins and we are determined to preserve and manage our fish stocks rationally for the good of our citizens. It is for this reason that we are duty bound to support any national or international measures intended to further our good. The strategies and programme of action worked out at the World Fisheries Conference conform to our priorities.

Mr Chairman, we note with appreciation all the steps, so far, taken by the Director-General to implement the resolutions of the World Fisheries Conference. We are inclined to single out the recommendation to declare 1986 World Food Day a day for the fishermen and the fishing communities. This we fully endorse but we hesitate to add that the small fishermen using canoes, who are a majority in our fisheries, may not be able to get the message. Their requirements at the moment are more fishing inputs. We appreciate the help provided to us in this respect by the EEC and IFAD, and other donors, but maybe FAO could utilize the World Food Day of 1986 to provide the small fisherman with some kind of input, even if it is one net per canoe at a nominal price.

We appreciate the assistance FAO gives to fisheries, especially in the field of training. We recently benefitted from FAO/DANIDA National Workshop on Fish Technology and Quality Control. This was indeed valuable in training not only our middle-cadre staff, but ultimately the fishing communities in better handling and processing methods. We would appreciate other training programmes, especially in the collection of fisheries statistics.

At the La Toja Ministerial Conference training was emphasized and countries offered training facilities to developing countries. Although we did not attend that Conference we are hoping that this invitation is for all developing countries, including ours. On the other hand, we have modest training facilities in inland fisheries at Entebbe. These facilities have been shared with our neighbours and I would like to inform the distinguished delegates that we welcome applicants from all corners of the world.

In conclusion I would like to reiterate that the Uganda delegation endorses the resolutions in document C 85/LIM/24.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation welcomes the presentation of document C 85/22. The statements contained therein are broadly shared by us. The document shows the progress that has been made in the field of fisheries management and development since the end of the FAO World Fisheries Conference which was held in July 1984.

Furthermore, the document shows the way for continuing international efforts in this field. My delegation concurs with determinations achieved by the Conference. We were in favour of setting up a sub-committee on fish trade because we consider it important to have a body to deal with trade questions in the field of fisheries, and it is only natural that this topic be tied in with COFI. I think this is the simplest and most cost-effective approach as well.

We also welcome the ideas expressed in paragraph 25 of this Document C 85/22, namely to obtain additional information about the assistance to fisheries through bilateral and multilateral agencies by means of a questionnaire to be sent by FAO. Such a new questionnaire would enable the Organization and the Member Countries to have a broader overview of the activities underway in the field of fisheries, which would, in turn, improve aid coordination.

We also welcome the positive development in the fisheries field in 1984, as is indicated in paragraph 29 of the document we have before us. Within the framework of bilateral cooperation pursued by the Federal Republic with the developing countries, fisheries and aquaculture enjoy a high priority. They should contribute to food security and improvement. This is done by improving standards of living, increasing self-reliance, and stepping up income levels in marginal rural regions as well as by increasing productivity, by making use of existing resources and creating jobs. This kind of cooperation is fully consistent with the development strategies which have been set by FAO in this field.

The priority areas of our bilateral developments cooperation in the field of fisheries and aquaculture are coastal and deep-sea fisheries as well as fishery technology and aquaculture.

We are presently engaged in 58 projects of development cooperation amounting to a value of DM375.2 million. We also welcome the Director-General's suggestion that fishermen and the fishing communities be one of the major topics of World Food Day in 1986. The Resolution found in the Annex to document C 85/22 is supported by our delegation in the form suggested.

C. GOODING (Barbados): The introductory remarks given by Dr Carroz to facilitate discussion of this agenda item have been most informative and enlightening. The Barbados delegation, therefore, wishes to congratulate him for a task well done.

As you are aware, it was only sixteen months ago that the FAO convened the first World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development here in Rome. This Conference, among other things, made two decisions which are of major importance for fisheries management and development, particularly in Caribbean and other developing countries. The first decision related to its endorsement of a strategy for fisheries management and development, and the second to its endorsement of five Programmes of Action to assist developing countries to increase fish production.

Our delegation observes that there have been a number of initiatives undertaken since the Conference to promote fisheries development, both at the regional and international levels. In particular, we are pleased at the priority being given to the implementation of the decisions of the Conference which were referred to earlier.

It is noted that some US\$15 million will be needed annually from extra-budgetary forces over a five year period to implement the Programme of Action. We are therefore deeply impressed by the enthusiasm exhibited thus far by the international community in its response to this need. Our hope is that this initial enthusiasm will be sustained.

Like many other developing countries, Barbados attaches considerable importance to the further development of its fisheries sub-sector, and there are good reasons why. Our fisheries sub-sector is an important contributor to the national output. It provides employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly, for many Barbadian men and women, and it provides consumers with a regular source of low cost protein, a factor which contributes greatly to the health and well-being of the low-income groups within our society.

Our fisheries development strategy is directed towards the attainment of the highest measure of self-sufficiency in fish and fish products. For this reason a number of initiatives are being taken. By way of example, I can mention that the advisory service for fishermen is being strengthened, facilities at landing sites are being upgraded and the marketing and distribution system is being overhauled. Every effort is being made to provide the kind of environment which will give encouragement to fishermen to increase their output and to present consumers with a higher quality product.

I have given this information concerning the fisheries sub-sector of my country in order to facilitate a proper appreciation of its importance in the context of the national economy. The process already initiated of modernizing the fishing fleet and facilities needs to be continued. Investment in the sector will therefore have to be increased in the years ahead.

The Barbados delegation accordingly wishes to restate its support for the strategy for fisheries management and development as well as the five Programmes of Action. We would also like to express our support for the measures planned or already taken by the Director-General to implement the strategy.

We support the view of the Committee on Fisheries that any progress reports required in relation to the implementation of the strategy should not be a burden on national administration. Furthermore, we feel that the periodicity of progress reports should be decided at the 17th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

In concluding, we would wish to say that the Draft Resolution now before us is consistent with our own fisheries development programme. We therefore wish to express our wholehearted support for it.

Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, took the chair

Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: Before asking the Congo to take the floor, I would just like to inform you a bit about what's happening. You know why I have not been here for some days, which is quite a particular situation, of course. I would like to tell you that the small group of friends which is trying to find solutions for the text on Africa has indeed been working hard for several days, as I more or less implied. The work is not yet finished and there are a few articles or paragraphs still to be seen and discussed. As you can imagine, they are not the easiest ones. Consequently, this afternoon I will have to be there at that group of friends and ask for your understanding. Hopefully, we will then have a solution late this afternoon.

Mme A. NIOMBELA MAMBULA (Congo): La délégation congolaise tient à exprimer sa satisfaction pour les résultats extrêmement positifs auxquels est parvenue la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches.

Ces résultats pensons-nous sont le fruit d'une phase préparatoire minutieuse qui a précédé la tenue de cette importante réunion. Nous tenons donc à rendre hommage au Directeur général de la FAO et au Secrétaire général de cette Conférence pour toutes les initiatives prises afin d'aboutir à ces résultats.

Le Congo, qui a activement pris part aux travaux de cette Conférence, n'a pas d'autres intentions ici que d'appuyer une nouvelle fois la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches y compris les éléments principaux qui la composent et notamment la contribution des pêches à la réalisation des objectifs socio- économiques et nutritionnels et son poids dans l'amélioration de l'autosuffisance alimentaire nationale. C'est pourquoi nous apportons notre soutien au fait qu'on ait insisté sur le rôle des besoins spéciaux du secteur de la pêche artisanale car celle-ci joue un rôle de tout premier plan dans nombre de pays en développement, sans pour autant tourner le dos à la grande pêche qui doit être à la base d'une coopération internationale active et équilibrée.

A cet égard, en raison de leur contribution à celle-ci, nous pensons que l'adoption des cinq programmes d'action par la Conférence semble être le résultat le plus probant de la Conférence et nous sommes certains que les Etats Membres de la FAO apporteront un soutien actif à ces programmes jusqu'à leur complète réalisation.

Si nous nous réjouissons du travail mené par le Secrétariat pour la diffusion des résultats de cette Conférence, nous sommes davantage satisfaits de la mise en oeuvre des programmes d'action dont le financement connaît des développements heureux. Nous souhaitons néanmoins que tous les programmes d'action rencontrent le même écho auprès des donateurs pour que ces cinq programmes, qui constituent un tout cohérent, s'exécutent au même rythme.

Le Congo déploie en ce moment des efforts pour revitaliser l'action des pêches, aussi bien la pêche maritime que continentale. Il se soucie de relever le niveau des revenus des pêcheurs et d'améliorer leurs conditions de vie. Voilà pourquoi nous partageons ce qui est dit au paragraphe 32 sur le rôle du pêcheur.

Enfin, ma délégation se déclare satisfaite des résultats des travaux de la Conférence et du début de la mise en oeuvre des décisions et résolutions de la Conférence et approuve fermement le projet de résolution annexé au document C 85/22 soumis à notre examen.

Sra. Delia de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Mi delegación desea, en primer lugar, agradecer al señor Carroz por la clara introducción del tema.

El sector pesca constituye una de las áreas capitales de nuestra economía y fuente alimentaria inagotable, razón por la que concedemos importancia especial a la conservación y utilización racional de los recursos pesqueros en las aguas marítimas y continentales, así como la relativa al fomento de la acuicultura, renglón al que Panamá confiere un interés particular, específicamente en lo que se refiere a intercambios de técnicas y experiencias.

Dentro de este contexto, reiteramos nuestro apoyo a las Estrategias para la Ordenación y Desarrollo de la Pesca, y de manera especial a los Programas de Acción por considerar que constituyen instrumentos amplios y eficaces para la obtención de resultados prácticos.

Es por ello que nuestra delegación reconoce la eficacia con que la FAO ha puesto de relieve las principales Recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial, en especial lo referente a los cinco Programas de Acción en los diferentes órganos de la Organización y de las Naciones Unidas.

Asimismo, consideramos loable los significativos progresos logrados en la movilización de ayuda para dichos programas, aspecto del que nuestra delegación se congratula por las respuestas positivas de muchos donantes, a los cuales felicitamos.

Igualmente, agradecemos los esfuerzos que se realizan en búsqueda de un equilibrio regional en aplicación de los programas. Tales acciones, a juicio de nuestra delegación, facilitarán que regiones menos beneficiadas como la nuestra, América Latina y el Caribe puedan verse atendidas en lo que se refiere a los esquemas y orientaciones a presentar a los países para la elaboración del Informe. Deseamos resaltar que además de la uniformidad, se prevea una amplia participación y una divulgación adecuada.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, mi delegación brinda su total apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución de conformidad a lo acordado en el 86° período de sesiones de esta Organización.

Srta.Dra. Hilda LOPEZ de MORAL (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea agradecer al señor Carroz por la presentación de este documento de por sí muy valioso por su contenido. El Sr. Carroz ha procedido a destacar, para información de esta Conferencia, los hechos sobresalientes y los logros de la FAO en materia de pesca, sobre todo a partir de la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros, los resultados más importantes de la misma así como las medidas complementarias inmediatas adoptadas o previstas por esta Organización.

Nuestro país tiene posibilidades casi ilimitadas de desarrollo pesquero, con vastas costas en dos mares que nos dan acceso a importantes y variados recursos, así como ríos y lagos que nos abren fronteras para la acuicultura aún no completamente exploradas.

El Gobierno de Colombia está muy reconocido al Director General de la FAO, y en particular a usted señor Carroz, por la valiosa asistencia que esta Organización ha ofrecido al Gobierno de Colombia. La asistencia de reconocidos y valiosos expertos pesqueros enviados por la FAO a nuestro país, está aquí activando nuestros propósitos de reordenar los recursos pesqueros, racionalizando la producción, e integrando esta importante actividad en los planes de desarrollo del país para que, a la par de la agricultura, contribuya a aumentar la oferta de alimentos ricos en proteínas no sólo para el consumo interno sino también como producto de exportación, fuente de empleo y de divisas.



Colombia participó activamente en la Conferencia Mundial de la FAO sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros celebrada en junio de 1984. Tiene gran interés en conocer los informes sobre los adelantos alcanzados en aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por la misma.

Colombia, señor Presidente, ha seguido muy de cerca todo lo relativo a la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Derecho del Mar, y nos complace sobremedida la colaboración que se ha establecido con la FAO en esta materia. Este interés nuestro se manifiesta también por el hecho de que Colombia es Miembro de la Comisión del Pacífico Sur que actualmente tiene su sede en nuestro país, y es dirigida por un compatriota nuestro, el Dr. Joaquín Fonseca.

Por todo lo anteriormente expuesto, señor Presidente, damos nuestro pleno apoyo a la Estrategia para la Ordenación y el Desarrollo de la Pesca que fuera presentada y aprobada por la Conferencia Regional para América Latina en Buenos Aires y el Consejo en su 87º período de sesiones, así como sus planes de acción, especialmente en lo que se refiere a los programas interregionales, regionales y subregionales, como figura en los párrafos siete al diez del documento que nos ocupa.

Nos complace la idea de que el tema "los pescadores y sus comunidades" haya sido elegido para celebrar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación 1986.

Espera nuestra delegación que la participación de la mujer en las actividades pesqueras sea puesta de relieve. En este sentido, vemos con beneplácito la Resolución presentada en la Comisión II por la delegación de Venezuela sobre el papel de la mujer en todas las actividades que interesan a esta Organización.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, Colombia desea apoyar la Resolución contenida en el Apéndice de este documento, en el documento C 85/LIM/24, y espera que reciba el apoyo unánime de esta Conferencia.

Sra. Doña Pilar GARCIA DOÑORO (España): Gracias por concedernos la palabra. Quisiéramos resaltar que España tiene un gran interés en todos los temas de pesca, y esto se ha demostrado en diferentes circunstancias; por ejemplo, la participación de mi país en diferentes organismos internacionales y multilaterales, y más recientemente en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Ordenación y Desarrollo Pesqueros celebrada el año pasado, con la presencia en la Conferencia, en la Sesión Inaugural, de Su Majestad el Rey de España. Posteriormente, se recogió el contenido de la Conferencia y la conveniencia de continuar el análisis de los temas propuestos.

En España se ha organizado este mismo año, en el mes de septiembre en La Toja, una Conferencia de Ministros de Pesca que ha tenido un gran éxito, a decir por los participantes. Como asistentes, contamos con la presencia de varios países, veinticuatro: República Federal de Alemania, Angola, Argelia, Argentina, Bélgica, Brasil, Cabo Verde, República Popular de China, Francia, Grecia, Guinea, Guinea Ecuatorial, Indonesia, Irlanda, Madagascar, Marruecos, Mauritania, México, Mozambique, Países Bajos, Portugal, Reino Unido y Uruguay así como organismos como la FAO y Comunidad Económica Europea. Fue una ocasión ideal para, dentro de un marco muy apropiado, poder estar discutiendo durante varios días el seguimiento precisamente de las decisiones que habían sido tomadas en la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca.

Esto supuso, esta ocasión, en Galicia, en España, un momento para promover una serie de intercambios de ideas acerca de las medidas que se habían tomado por los diferentes países ya y por las organizaciones participantes, con vistas a la implementación de esta Estrategia, y al buscar nuevas fórmulas de cooperación internacional.

Contamos con la presencia, en la inauguración, del Sr. Saouma, y otro día también contamos con la presencia de nuestro Presidente, el Presidente del Gobierno español, el Sr. Felipe González. Esta Conferencia, como decía, tuvo un clima muy cálido de comportamiento. Se tocaron varios temas; principalmente se hizo un análisis por parte de los participantes de las políticas pesqueras de sus países.

Estos temas se podrán encontrar próximamente en una publicación que creo va a llevar a cabo la FAO y también nuestro país. Se resaltaron algunos otros temas prioritarios como fueron los aspectos de cooperación bilateral, regional y multilateral, igual que la importancia de la pesca para la alimentación humana en la lucha contra el hambre.

Se sugirieron por algunos representaciones nuevas vías para incrementar la producción, como pueden ser las capturas de nuevas especies o especies todavía poco explotadas, el desarrollo de la pesca industrial y el fomento de la acuicultura.

Otros temas importantes que se tocaron en esta Conferencia de La Toja fueron el fomento al comercio internacional de pescados y productos pesqueros, a pesar de que varios países señalaron las dificultades que suponen las medidas arancelarias vigentes en muchos países importadores de estos productos.

Se resaltaron también los aspectos de formación profesional de los pescadores y la formación de cuadros como elementos indispensables para el desarrollo de las pesquerías y, explícitamente, se apoyaron los cinco Programas de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Pesca, que fueron unánimemente recogidos por todos los participantes. También se aprobó una declaración final recogiendo todos estos aspectos. En este sentido queremos decir que nosotros creímos que era una ocasión importante para empezar a analizar cómo se estaba avanzando entre los distintos países en la estrategia sugerida en la reunión de la Conferencia Mundial, y algunos resultados interesantes ya se han podido detectar.

Mi país ha colaborado, como es sabido, desde hace bastante tiempo en tareas de cooperación internacional y para ello ha aportado sus vías propias con el desarrollo de acuerdos de pesca con distintos países, países que sobre todo están situados en la zona africana: Marruecos, Angola, Seychelles y otros; y creemos que tenemos una experiencia importante en cuanto a este tipo de cooperación. Nos gustaría poder desarrollar otro tipo de cooperación con los países tan amigos nuestros de América del Sur, pero algunas razones geográficas, la lejanía y la falta de conocimientos sobre las poblaciones marinas de esos fondos han impedido, por el momento, otro tipo de relación. España, en todo caso, se encuentra muy abierta a todo tipo de sugerencias que ayude en la línea del desarrollo de la pesquería para los países ribereños y para todos aquellos países que a nivel internacional tienen una presencia histórica importante en estos temas.

Por tanto, es un placer para nuestro país apoyar la resolución que ha sido presentada a esta Conferencia, y queremos que conste explícitamente que vamos a hacer todo lo posible para cumplir todos los compromisos que entre todos nosotros queremos llevar a cabo.

Václav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): Permit me first of all to express, on behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation, appreciation of the work done so far in the elaboration and implementation of the conclusions of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It is understandable that the document under discussion, C 85/22, pays main attention to the broad range of questions of sea fisheries. I myself, however, speaking as representative of a landlocked country, may state with satisfaction that due attention is paid also to questions connected with the further development of fresh-water fisheries.

I say so because Czechoslovakia has no access to the seas and cannot, therefore, make use of its riches. That is why we have focused attention on the promotion of the breeding of freshwater fish which has a long tradition in my country, dating back, in fact, to the 14th century.

May I add, for your information, that for purposes of fish breeding we have available at present some 136 thousand hectares of water surface. The main species bred is the carp, but we also produce other thoroughbreds. This is possible, *inter alia*, by means of artificial reproduction, controlled milting etc.

We do not engage only in the breeding as such. We have an elaborate system of fish breeding. We have managed, by using appropriate technologies, to minimize losses in breeding. We take measures to improve water environment in fish ponds to the best possible degree. We make use of heated up water, etc. I feel I should also inform you that the nature of our agricultural production is linked organically to fisheries. Our fish ponds are of importance for the regulation of groundwater in the soil, for irrigation and other uses of water for different purposes.

All I have said illustrates our full support for the conclusions adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries and demonstrates clearly enough the attention paid in my country to fish breeding.

As an active member of FAO, we are ready to make available our experiences, procedures and achievements in this field to other countries, especially developing countries, some of which, the same as our country, have no access to the use of the riches of oceans and have practically the same conditions in this sphere.

Permit me, therefore, to avail myself of this opportunity to say that our country offers its aid to developing countries in the form of expertise and advisory service, as well as its scientific, technological and pedagogical assistance in this field. We do not limit our offer of assistance to the sphere of fish breeding. We are ready to provide assistance in the construction of fish ponds and reservoirs, in the care of biological purity and in the combat of infections and diseases of fish.

In conclusion, may I add that our tradition in fisheries is closely linked to our system of specialized education. Therefore we also offer facilities for training specialists from developing countries in our production plants, research institutes and universities.

Quite separate is our offer to hold training seminars which would include theoretical instruction and practical demonstration in the field and subsequent training.

We are aware that desirable results require projects of this type to be duly prepared, both as concerns their organization and the subjects to be dealt with, and that they have to be discussed in detail, and provided for financially in cooperation with FAO.

I would like to ask you, Mr Chairman, to consider this offer as the Czechoslovak contribution to the implementation of the conclusions adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Abdalla Mekki OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): We wish to thank FAO for the commendable effort it has never ceased to make for the development of fisheries and increasing fish production in various countries of the world through extension, training and other methods.

Sudan considers that among the most important forms of assistance provided by FAO in this area was the establishment of the regional aquaculture centre in Nigeria. We hope that the centre's programmes will expand and cover most of the African countries, including Sudan. We attach great hopes on the training of a high number of persons in aquaculture and in the preparation of feed blends for several varieties of fish.

Mr Chairman, Sudan's experience relies on the success of small-scale inland fisheries, and in this respect, Sudan wishes to express its satisfaction for the progress which took place after the First World Conference on Fisheries and gave birth to great hopes for the financing of such projects, for we expect that they will provide a wealth of expanded training courses to the fishermen of the region.

I must also deeply thank FAO and UNDP for the valuable assistance they offered to Sudan for the establishment of the "Mohammad Gol" in East Sudan. These fisheries have achieved an unparalleled success, and we hope that we shall all be able to establish similar stations in other parts of Sudan, such as the Lake of Moulia and Djebel Awlia.

ALHAJI D.D. APANPA (Nigeria): First of all, my delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General and the Fisheries Department of FAO for their comprehensive preparation of document C 85/22, otherwise known as the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Secondly, my delegation is very appreciative of the brilliant manner in which Mr Carroz introduced the subject matter. I am also delighted to say that my delegation fully participated in all the meetings which preceded the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in June 1984. The last COFI meeting was also attended in full by my delegation.

Briefly, Nigeria, as a coastal state has a large area in which the coastal influence is non-existent. For this reason, we place great importance on both marine fisheries and the development of aquaculture to fulfill our great need for animal protein. Inasmuch as we are trying hard to meet these obligations, there are still many gaps to be filled simply because of limited know-how, coupled with unavailability of necessary equipment and facilities to help us achieve a comprehensive Fisheries Management and Development Programme.

With this background in mind, we view as of great importance the first World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development initiated by FAO. In considering the implementation of the strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, together with Programmes of Action, we wish to congratulate the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat in general, as well as the Assistant Director-General, Mr Carroz, and his department in particular, for all the various activities that have already been undertaken.

My delegation also takes this opportunity to thank all the donors who have contributed to the FAO effort in realizing the successful implementation of the approved Programmes of Action. My delegation especially congratulates Poland, Norway and the United States of America for their help in fisheries planning, fisheries trade information and CECAF funding. We expect other donors to follow suit, by contributing either in cash or kind to fisheries development and management, especially in the developing countries.

My delegation believes that the developing countries should not always be on the receiving end, and as a result, Nigeria is currently considering the secondment of personnel to complement the CECAF Staff Secretariat, as well as our contribution to infrastructural facilities for ARAC, the African Regional Aquaculture Centre. My delegation fully endorses the resolutions of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, and the follow-up actions already taken or proposed.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your intervention and for your contribution more generally.

Mme Laetitia OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): Le présent document, qui résume les principaux résultats des travaux de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, retient l'attention de la délégation du Burkina Faso, même si mon pays est très enclavé et n'a pas les activités de la pêche pour vocation. Cependant le gouvernement de mon pays qui ne ménage aucun effort pour parvenir à l'autosuffisance alimentaire donne à la pêche en eau douce et à la pisciculture la place qu'elles méritent. La stratégie et les cinq programmes d'action issus de la Conférence sur les pêches ont l'avantage de dégager des principes et des idées directrices variés, non rigides, ceci devant permettre à chaque pays de les adapter à sa situation particulière, en tenant compte de sa souveraineté nationale. Aussi le programme d'action a reçu un écho favorable auprès de mon gouvernement car il répond à une partie de notre politique alimentaire. Une vaste campagne est mise en place pour favoriser la pêche et la pisciculture afin d'augmenter l'apport calorique et protéique humain dans l'alimentation de nos populations. Aussi, nous soutenons les travaux de cette Conférence et surtout les cinq programmes d'action proposés et nous souhaitons que les principaux résultats de cette Conférence sur les pêches qui ont déjà eu un début ne demeurent pas lettre morte et puissent continuer. Nous voudrions que tout soit mis en oeuvre pour l'aboutissement des résolutions y afférentes. Enfin, nous espérons que le thème de la journée mondiale de l'alimentation consacrée à la pêche et aux pêcheurs permettra de développer la pêche artisanale et de valoriser la formation des petits pêcheurs de notre pays qui semblent être oubliés en faveur des grands.

Oscar SALES PETINGA (Portugal): La délégation portugaise a déjà eu l'occasion d'exprimer sa satisfaction au cours de la dernière réunion du Comité des Pêches pour les initiatives qui avaient été prises ou prévues par le Directeur général de la FAO en vue de l'application pratique de la stratégie d'aménagement et de développement des pêches approuvée par la Conférence mondiale.

Nous sommes d'accord sur l'avantage qu'il y a à présenter périodiquement des rapports qui permettent d'évaluer les progrès réalisés dans chaque pays dans l'application des principes et des idées directrices déjà approuvées. Quant aux dispositions complémentaires qui devront être prises pour mobiliser

des formes d'appui pour l'exécution des programmes d'action et réduire les déséquilibres existant dans la répartition des fonds, nous pensons qu'il est essentiel et indispensable de développer la coordination et la conjugaison des efforts entre les pays développés et les pays en voie de développement, sans quoi les objectifs proposés par la Conférence seront difficilement atteints.

C'est pourquoi nous estimons indispensable que soit poursuivi le dialogue avec les pays et les organismes donateurs, afin de pouvoir harmoniser les programmes d'action avec les besoins des pays bénéficiaires.

Mon pays, qui dispose d'une des zones économiques exclusives les plus vastes du monde, relativement à sa superficie terrestre, accompagne avec le plus haut intérêt tout ce qui se rapporte à la confirmation des ressources maritimes et au progrès technologique dans le domaine des pêches, convaincu qu'il est des grandes potentialités de ses eaux en ressources marines dont l'exploitation de sa part est en-deçà des possibilités existantes.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): Let me first express our appreciation of the comprehensive introduction by Mr Carroz. The World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development came at a very opportune time and we hope that it came in sufficient time to have an effect on the rational exploitation of countries' marine resources for the benefit of all. We welcome the strategy on fisheries management and development which came out of the world conference. Its principles and guidelines are taken seriously into consideration in the formulation of our fisheries management development policy.

Moreover, we welcome even more the adoption of the five programmes of action which the World Fisheries Conference approved, as it is clearly obvious to us that many of the developing countries and, indeed, Cyprus, require assistance to exploit and manage rationally their fisheries resources. The different socio-economic needs prevailing in different countries and the widespread lack of resources make the development of fisheries a problem in many ways. The main transfer of necessary technology is not enough to guarantee lasting self-reliance. This is why we look forward to the timely implementation of the five action programmes, elaborated at the World Fisheries Conference. This is why we would like to see a strong recommendation with regard to the financial support of the five action programmes and international assistance, in particular by FAO, to developing countries. Substantial financial support is necessary if the programmes of action are to be successful in achieving their aims. Without such support, they will remain idle dreams.

The different geographical regions covered by the programmes of action often have very different needs, but these needs are invariably substantial and if not dealt with, will become a stumbling block for future development in that area. Equally, there is a need for a balance in the various components of the various programmes of action, a balance which surely must be arrived at by taking into account not only economic and social criteria, but keeping in mind at the same time both the short- and long-term needs of mankind in fish.

Cyprus is but a small country in a sea which is relatively poor in resources. These resources are heavily exploited, and often over-exploited. This kind of over-exploitation of resources invariably results in direct or indirect pressures on the resources of other states. We look forward to assistance being given to or through the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean for the better management and exploitation of the Mediterranean.

This having been said, I must also point out that the scant resources of the Mediterranean, however well exploited, are unlikely to be sufficient for the needs of its population. We look forward to the further development of aquaculture as an alternative producer of fish for our people. In the light of this, and the nature of the fisheries and, indeed, most of the Mediterranean fisheries which are, to a large extent, smallscale fisheries, we welcome the support for the programmes of action for the Mediterranean region in this sphere. Therefore, we welcome the regular monitoring by the FAO Conference of the progress achieved in the implementation of the action programmes and their financing, as well as the good progress achieved in the strategy adopted by the World Fisheries Conference.

With these remarks, the delegation of Cyprus would like to support the resolution before the Commission.

IBRAHIMA KABA (Guinée): Le gouvernement de mon pays a activement participé à la préparation et au déroulement de la Conférence mondiale sur la pêche par l'envoi d'une importante délégation dirigée par le Secrétaire d'Etat à la pêche, et cela compte tenu de l'intérêt que nous accordons à cette activité économique encore peu exploitée par manque de moyens.

Les cinq programmes d'action, en particulier, et les résultats de la Conférence mondiale en général, sont considérés par mon pays comme un apport considérable de la FAO à l'impulsion du secteur de la pêche.

Comme suite immédiate aux recommandations de la Conférence, mon pays, avec l'assistance de la FAO, s'est attelé à la confection d'un code de la pêche, document juridique indispensable à la réglementation des activités de pêche. Avec un financement de la BAD (Banque africaine du développement) la FAO a étudié un important projet de pêche artisanale d'un montant d'environ 25 millions de dollars. De plus, depuis la Conférence mondiale qui a indiqué avec objectivité les démarches les mieux appropriées pour la mise sur pied d'une stratégie qui tienne compte de tous les paramètres sociaux et économiques du pays, notre gouvernement a initié des projets qui ont le mérite d'améliorer progressivement l'approvisionnement des pêcheurs en facteurs de production, et d'augmenter l'offre en produits de pêche.

Ainsi, ma délégation approuve les résultats de la Conférence et appuie le projet de résolution. Mon pays considère les résultats de cette Conférence comme un moyen efficace à l'impulsion de la coopération internationale.

PANAYIOTIS SKALIERIS (Greece): Fisheries is an important source of wealth which contributes to national nutritional and economic goals. It is for this reason that we agree fully with the strategy for fisheries management and development. The rational management of fish resources calls for international cooperation in fisheries. Indeed, thus can individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries be ensured. Achievements of this nature benefit not only developing countries striving to improve the nutritional level of their people, but also industrialized countries, in view of the interdependence between the economies of all countries of the international community.

My country is devoted to the principles of the United Nations Charter and we fervently believe in the principles of international cooperation for the solution of all problems of common concern. We would make every possible effort to contribute to the successful implementation of the recommendations and decisions of the World Fisheries Conference of FAO.

In this context, we support the draft resolution which is before us for consideration and adoption.

Husseien Ali AHMED (Somalia): Some time in the distant past Somalia tended towards animal husbandry as a means of livelihood, but a segment of our population has supported itself for centuries by fishing. Their vessels and fishing gear were primitive: processing was simply salting the fish and drying it in the sun. The only marketing outlets were the itinerant Arab traders who ranged the Red Sea and the Western Indian Ocean far down the east coast of Africa in their sailing dhows.

The Government of Somalia, recognizing the economic significance of its fishery resources, has demonstrated by its action, its eagerness and its determination, its desire to utilize this asset to the extent of its sustainable potential, and within the bounds of product resources and management practices. Fisheries resources could also be used in diversifying the national economy from one that totally relies on agricultural and pastoral production to one less seriously affected by the climatic extremes to which Somalia is subject.

The goal of our development plans is to fully utilize these resources at maximum sustainable economic yield levels by properly planning the number and sizes of fishing vessels, by purchasing efficient fishing gear and by providing well-trained fishermen with provisions. Harbour supply facilities, fishing gear, fuel, decks and engines are also to be developed in parallel

with the expansion in the fishing fleet and fish collection facility. Fish landing and storage, processing and marketing facilities and systems are also to be well-planned and developed properly to absorb the increasing fish products.

The three-year development plan, 1979-81, contained an ambitious programme for the fisheries sector involving 20 different projects, thus providing the foundation upon which to build a viable coastal industry. Twenty-five fishery cooperatives were formed along the entire length of the Somalia seaboard of 3 300 kilometres with the assistance of FAO and other donor countries. During the current period of the five year development plan 1982/86 fisheries production from the industrial and artisanal sector will be increased through the establishment of joint venture companies and the full utilization of the Government fishing fleet.

During the period the Government is directing and therefore, creating an environment that encourages expansion, and to this end, desirable policy changes include: a) finalization of a Somalia fisheries law giving the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources legal authority, commensurate with its responsibilities and actions; b) liberalization of active private-sector participation; c) liberalization of fish prices from control to find their own levels and to allow each section a reasonable profit; and d) creation of a revolving loan scheme to assist fishermen in acquiring their own boats and gear.

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): I apologize for asking for the floor at this advanced stage of our discussion, but I will try to be very brief. First of all I wish to reiterate our appreciation of FAO's efforts, through its Department of Fisheries under the able direction of Dr Carroz, to promote international cooperation and foster self-reliance of developing countries to manage and develop their fisheries resources. Let me assure you that Turkey strives actively to participate in all aspects of cooperation in this field.

Turkey, which is surrounded by four seas and which has large aquaculture resources, has a very rich potential in this field, but this potential is still only partially tapped. In order to tap this potential to a larger extent, we seek to develop an integrated system covering cold and deep-freeze conservation of the fish exploited, proper management of distribution channels and the establishment of effective management information systems.

When such a system is set up we hope that most of the production and marketing problems which Turkey is presently facing will also be solved to a great extent.

In addition to the aquaculture activities, we seek to promote the production of economic species, such as eel, catfish, freshwater cray fish and others. Of course, the fulfillment of all these aims requires economic and technical cooperation with international or bilateral funding institutions. This is valid especially for the production of rare species such as sturgeon and sea trout.

We are also convinced that coordination with adjacent coastal states is necessary for the better management of marrying resources.

With regard to access to control measures, limits for size and species, as well as gear and equipment used, are the areas where we can learn such cooperation. We believe that all neighbouring states should cooperate within the principle of mutual respect of sovereign rights.

Finally, I should like to affirm that Turkey has not signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that Turkey's participation in the World Conference on Fisheries or her approval of the Strategy. Did not in any way imply her acceptance of the provisions of the Convention referred to in the Strategy and associated programmes of action.

My Delegation endorses the resolution before this Commission with this understanding.

André JEAN LOUIS (Haïti): La situation insulaire de la République d'Haïti, le déficit qu'accuse le régime alimentaire des classes pauvres en majorité, la participation importante d'une partie de la population rurale aux activités de pêche artisanale suffisent pour justifier l'intérêt de ma délégation pour ces débats relatifs à la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches. Le Gouvernement haïtien a déployé et déploie des efforts considérables pour la promotion de ce secteur; particulièrement l'amélioration de la pêche artisanale retient notre attention au premier abord. Parallèlement, à l'intérieur du pays, nous essayons de développer l'aquaculture. Il est indéniable que les potentialités en aquaculture ne sont pas négligeables et la FAO nous fournit une aide appréciable dans ce domaine.

Nous espérons bénéficier de la coopération d'autres institutions et de certains pays amis; aussi soutenons-nous les travaux de la Conférence sur les pêches et souscrivons-nous aux cinq programmes d'action qu'elle a approuvés.

La République d'Haïti tient à renouveler son intérêt pour les pêches et sa disposition à coopérer à la promotion des activités dans ce domaine. Ma délégation donne son plein appui au projet de résolution présenté.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Syria has forwarded his written statement to the Secretariat to be included in the verbatim report regarding agenda item 9.

Mohamed Rachid KANBAR (Syria)(original language Arabic): I beg in the first instance to thank the Secretariat for the well-prepared document on the World Fisheries Conference.

My country pays special attention to fisheries on account of the important role that the fisheries sector plays in nutrition and Food Security. With this in view, we have established a special body for fisheries and are we providing the material and human inputs that are necessary for the discharge of its functions.

Mr Chairman, my delegation welcomes the outcome of the World Fisheries Conference. We support, as well the action programmes that were adopted by the Conference with the aim of assisting developing nations in the development of their fishery sector.

Finally, we support the draft resolution before the Conference concerning the results of the World Fisheries Conference. 1/

LE PRESIDENT: Pourrais-je maintenant entamer la catégorie des observateurs où sont inscrits l'URSS, la Communauté économique européenne, l'Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

Jurij A. ZNAMENSKI (Observer for the USSR): I will be very brief. It is well known that to provide knowledge to the developing countries is one of the basic principles of the foreign economic policy of the USSR, and with regard to fisheries, this was shown by the Minister of Fisheries of my country during the World Fisheries Conference in 1984. In relation to the developing countries, I would like to inform the Conference that the Soviet Union supports the FAO initiative to conduct seminars and training courses in the Soviet Union, concerning the management of fish farms and fisheries in inland waters. The Soviet Union has experience in this field. These seminars, fully realized by FAO, are in accordance with the programme of action approved by the World Fishery Conference. We think the programmes of such seminars and training courses could be developed through the FAO.

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1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.



CHAIRMAN: I have been telling you this morning that the work in the Friends of the Chair Committee is going on, and it is not finished and that work will be going on this afternoon. It will still take a few hours to say the least. In those circumstances there are some difficulties with our timing. However, there is a possibility, which is a real possibility and which is normal, and that is that the Chairman, in this case me, can suggest to you that the Informal Consultations Committee or Group produce a text, and this text, when it is ready, can be sent immediately to the Drafting Committee. Then, of course, you will see it afterwards and you can adopt it afterwards here in Plenary. So, my proposal is, and I really do not like to do it, but I can assure you it is normal procedure, to send that text that will hopefully come out of the Friends of the Chair Committee, directly to the Drafting Committee, and of course it will be discussed afterwards. Is this proposal agreeable to everybody? I see that it is. Thank you very much indeed for your understanding.

Gilles DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): La Commission de la Communauté économique européenne, en ce moment de bilan, comme elle a déjà eu l'occasion de le souligner lors de la seizième réunion du COFI et de la quatre-vingt-septième session du conseil, tient à exprimer sa satisfaction du succès de la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement des pêches, de ses conséquences et notamment des objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés dans la stratégie et les cinq programmes d'action. Ce témoignage de satisfaction a entre-temps été également affirmé par le Parlement européen dans une résolution du mois de mai 1985.

En ce qui concerne le rapport qui nous est soumis aujourd'hui, permettez-moi d'attirer votre attention sur trois points particuliers:

- a) La Commission est prête à collaborer avec les instances de la FAO afin de présenter un rapport au nom de la Communauté au sujet du suivi de la Conférence. Cependant, les Etats membres de la Communauté vont présenter des rapports nationaux étant donné que les questions de pêche, bien que faisant partie des compétences exclusives de la Communauté, dans le contexte de la Conférence mondiale, ont revêtu un caractère plus général qui a trait à la politique de développement, elle-même en partie du ressort des Etats membres.
- b) Un autre point sur lequel le représentant de la Communauté avait attiré votre attention lors de la seizième réunion du COFI et de la quatre-vingt-septième session du Conseil concerne la création d'un sous-comité sur le commerce international des produits de la pêche. La Commission, consciente de l'importance politique et économique des questions commerciales, entend participer activement au nom de la Communauté aux travaux de ce sous-comité. Il est à souligner donc quesi la Communauté ne dispose pas de statut approprié, compte tenu notamment de sa compétence exclusive en matière de pêche ainsi que de politique commerciale, sa contribution risque d'être très limitée, ce qui va à l'encontre des intérêts dudit sous-comité.
- c) Concernant le projet de résolution repris en annexe du rapport, permettez-moi de souligner que l'utilisation optimale mentionnée au quatrième considérant comme condition préalable, et à la fois conséquence inévitable, l'exploitation rationnelle des ressources. Celle-ci doit être également prise en compte si l'on veut garantir un cadre sain de développement à long terme du secteur de la pêche. En effet, faute de mécanismes adéquats pour imposer des contraintes dans le cadre de la pêche au niveau international, certains pays en développement qui ne disposent pas eux-mêmes des moyens d'assurer cette exploitation rationnelle risquent de se voir confrontés à une situation irréversible.

I. A. RONQUILLO (Observer, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission): It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for me to participate in this Commission of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

These past forty years have witnessed an admirable list of achievements by FAO in its special field; and I shall be referring particularly to its achievements in the field of fisheries.

The IOC commends the Director-General for his initiative to convene the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. The IOC and FAO have been associated in research studies during the past 25 years. It has enjoyed the close collaboration of FAO directly or through two mechanisms: first, FAO's Advisory Committee on Marine Resources Research is one of three scientific advisory bodies to the Commission and has guided the IOC in a number of major marine scientific research fields; second, FAO's participated in the Intersecretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes relating to Oceanography, established in 1969, through which the UN organizations concerned use the commission as an instrument for discharging certain of their responsibilities in the field of marine science.

There are several major areas in which FAO and IOC collaborate, to the mutual benefit of their Member States.

Oceanography, as you know, includes almost all aspects of marine science, and therefore has much in common with fishery science. A clear understanding of the relationship between the marine living resources and the marine environment is essential if optimum use is to be made of these resources.

A significant step forward in increasing our understanding of this relationship has been made with the launching of the Joint IOC-FAO Programme on Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources. This programme can make a potentially significant contribution to achieving certain of FAO's objectives by contributing to the development of the scientific basis for the rational assessment and management of living marine resources. Other IOC programmes, notably that on ocean dynamics and climate, will in the long run, also contribute to this understanding and finally to the desired level of forecasting of changes in abundance in distribution of fish stocks.

Another field of IOC activity that meets FAO's interest is marine pollution, including the effects of pollutants on the living resources. Here, the IOC has long recognized the importance of preventing the degradation of the marine environment to the detriment of its living resources, and the cooperation of FAO in the development of the IOC's Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment is much appreciated.

Training, Education and Mutual Assistance in the Marine Sciences activities are given high priority in IOC programmes although FAO caters for the needs of the fishery sector, most of the related science training is undertaken by IOC and by UNESCO. We have been conducting for many years, a TEMA programme as an integral part of each of the Commission's scientific programmes and ocean services, but this effort, though valuable, has not met all the needs of the Member States in this field. The IOC has, therefore, adopted at its Twelfth Assembly in 1982, a comprehensive plan for major assistance programmes to enhance the marine science capabilities of developing states. This plan was subsequently endorsed by UNESCO and is being implemented jointly with a view to increasing national self-reliance in marine scientific affairs. Nevertheless, every effort is being made to ensure complementarity with analogous FAO activities, particularly those under the FAO special programme of assistance to developing countries in the development and management of fisheries in their exclusive economic zone. One significant joint activity was the IOC-FAO Workshop on Improved use of Research Vessels, which was supported by NORAD.

To meet the increasing demand for fish by a burgeoning world population, ways must be found to increase production, and one way to do this is to increase our understanding of the natural forces affecting fish-stock variations, and through correspondingly more efficient management based on that increased understanding.

We therefore were pleased that the Director-General of FAO convened the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development in Rome from 27 June - 6 July 1984. This was a major event in international cooperation, and FAO and Dr Edouard Saouma in particular are to be congratulated. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission has been studying the strategy for fisheries management and development and the five Programmes of Action designed to assist developing states, mostly at regional and sub-regional levels, to increase their fish production and improve their individual and collective self-reliance in fisheries. The IOC is ready to respond to the call of that Conference to take into account the principles and guidelines of the strategy agreed thereat and to further develop its cooperation with FAO as the leading organization in the UN System for fisheries development.

Among the areas that will require closer FAO and IOC collaboration under the Programmes of Action adopted by the World Fisheries Conference will be the provision of advisory services for the promotion of fishery research and the analysis and exchange of marine scientific data and information. I am confident that such joint action in ocean science and resource exploitation will be a good example of the inter-agency collaboration for the benefit of Member States. The world food shortage is likely to continue, alas, but in many cases the living resources of the sea could make a greater contribution to the battle for food self-sufficiency. I therefore look forward to continuing and mutually beneficial cooperation in the framework of the ICSPRO Agreement between FAO and the IOC in the coming years, since much remains to be done to ensure the optimal and equitable use of the oceans and their resources through the mobilization at national, regional and global levels, and of the resources of FAO and IOC. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the speed at which you delivered your speech. That being said, do we have the time to allow the Secretariat three minutes for its answer?

J.E. CARROZ (Sous-Directeur général, Département des pêches): Je me limiterai à l'essentiel. Tout d'abord, au nom du Directeur général, je remercie toutes les délégations pour les paroles encourageantes à l'égard des programmes de la FAO dans le secteur des pêches. Nous tiendrons évidemment compte de toutes vos observations dans le projet de rapport. J'aimerais rassurer les délégués à propos des rapports périodiques qui seront préparés sur la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie. Nous sommes en ce moment en train de terminer un modèle commun aussi simple que possible qui sera soumis aux administrations au début de l'année prochaine, qui, j'espère, facilitera la tâche des gouvernements en coopérant avec nous à la préparation de ces rapports périodiques. Plusieurs délégués ont insisté sur l'importance de l'aménagement rationnel des ressources halieutiques. Je dirai que c'est également notre préoccupation, ainsi que l'a souligné le Directeur général lui-même, et comme l'affirme le document C 85/22 qui vous a été soumis et, comme je l'espère cela se reflète dans les programmes du Département des pêches pour le prochain biennium.

Nous avons été très sensibles également aux remarques faites sur l'importance de la coopération en matière de pêches. C'est évidemment valable pour toutes les régions mais je pense plus particulièrement au Pacifique Sud auquel a fait allusion le distingué représentant de l'Australie. Nous tiendrons le plus grand compte de ces remarques. Un dernier point sur le document C 85/22 qui fait référence à toutes les contributions qui ont déjà été faites par les gouvernements et les organisations internationales comme le PNUD à la mise en oeuvre des Programmes d'action. J'aimerais ici remercier les délégués qui ce matin ont offert leur coopération pour la mise en oeuvre de ces programmes. Nous avons apprécié évidemment les interventions des distingués représentants de la Tchécoslovaquie et de l'URSS et je puis vous assurer que nous entrerons en contact avec ces pays pour donner une suite heureuse à leur offre généreuse.

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/14

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

FOURTEENTH MEETING  
QUATORZIEME SEANCE

14ª SESION

(22 November 1985)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 15.25 hours,  
J. Ladan, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 25  
sous la présidence de J. Ladan, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 15.25 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J. Ladan, 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 ALIMENTACION (continuación)

11. Programme for the 1990 Census of Agriculture

11. Programme pour le Recensement de l'agriculture 1990

11. Programa del Censo Agropecuario en 1990

CHAIRMAN: I now invite Professor Islam to introduce agenda item 11, Programme for the 1990 Census of Agriculture and document C 85/18 and Corr. 1.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The document C 85/18 presents the programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. Since 1950, FAO has been sponsoring a world census of agriculture every 10 years. Participation in such census has steadily increased over the four decennial programmes. By the end of 1985, 93 countries are expected to have completed, or to be in the process of completing, agricultural censuses for the period covered in the 1980 Census Programme, i.e., 1976-1985.

World Censuses of Agriculture are not to be interpreted as a censuses carried out simultaneously in all countries during a given year. Such an attempt was made in 1930, as early as that, but did not succeed because of differences in national statistical commitments and situations. Since then they have been conducted over a period of time, every ten years. Accordingly, the 1980 programme of census covered national censuses taken during 1976-1985.

The draft 1990 programme presented to you has benefitted considerably from expert consultations and discussions in various regions carried out during the last year. Recommendations from the various FAO bodies on statistics; as well as comments received from various UN Agencies and international organizations have also been taken into consideration in formulating the 1990 programme.

While recognizing the wide range of economic and statistical situations, and different levels and stages of development in the Member Countries, this programme encourages countries to develop and implement an agricultural census tailored to their unique situations. But within each country the Programme visualizes a well defined scope for agricultural census and a complementary relationship between the agricultural census and more frequent sample surveys, as well as with other non-agricultural but related, censuses and surveys. Attempts to undertake very large and comprehensive agricultural censuses often result in problems, not only in implementation but also in timely processing and dissemination of census results. Thus, while formulating agricultural census programmes it is necessary to emphasize a number of important considerations.

Firstly, it must be noted that all food and agriculture statistics cannot be collected through a decennial census of agriculture. The range of information and data needed for such an enterprise, for formulating policies, and for preparing, monitoring and evaluating plans and programmes in the agricultural sector need a much wider range of data than can be collected through one census every 10 years. Thus, as early as 1966 attention was drawn to the need for establishing an integrated set of data sources, of which the census was to be an important component. It was in this light that the 1980 Census emphasized the need for an integrated system of food and agricultural statistics, including other data sources.

Secondly, the countries are encouraged to prepare a multi-year programme for a sequence of activity relating to data collection, processing and analysis, and to allocate adequate resources in a balanced manner across essential programmes. Implementation of such a sequence of coherent statistical activities requires an efficient organization, trained personnel and sufficient budgetary allocations for a period of years.

Thirdly, an agricultural census is best suited to the collection of data on various characteristics relating to agricultural holdings that change slowly over time. A census is usually conducted at ten year intervals, as I just emphasized, and the agricultural holding is a unit of observation for the collection of data in the census. The emphasis, therefore, in the census is on the structure of agricultural production and on various characteristics relating to agricultural holdings. The structural characteristics on which data are collected include not only types of farming enterprises, but also socio-economic indicators relating to the tenurial status of farmers, demographic characteristics of farm holdings, and size of farm holdings, etc. Data on the performance of the farm production sector as well as other important policy indicators, such as food prices, consumption and nutrition, etc., which change rapidly over time, can best be collected through frequent sample surveys. Thus, an agricultural census provides a framework for sample surveys through which other data can be collected.

Two points, therefore, need to be kept in mind when considering the scope of the agricultural census. One involves collection, processing and analysis of data from a very large number of holdings. In view of the difficulty in implementing a census involving such a large coverage, the scope of the census should be limited to basic essential data to ensure its success. Second, since the unit of observation in the census is the agricultural holding, data related to other units of observation which may be of considerable importance, such as agricultural households as a unit of observation, or agricultural services establishments or, occasionally, farmers or workers, should be collected from other data sources. That is why the 1990 Census is more limited in scope than previous programmes in order to ensure its quality, timeliness and expeditious processing.

While formulating this programme, we have taken care that the concepts, definitions and criteria of classification used in the census are harmonized with those used in other data sources conducted by other organizations in the UN System.

Mr Chairman, we have a good record of participation of FAO Member Nations in the past programmes of agriculture censuses. The Director-General hopes that participation by Member Nations in the present programme will be very substantial and will be carried out within the time period emphasized in view of the great importance of a reliable agricultural information system in developing countries.

The discussions in the last few days in this very Commission on various agenda items ranging from the state of food and agriculture to that of agricultural pricing policy, confirmed once again, if any confirmation was needed, how important is the need for reliable and comprehensive agricultural statistics, and how inadequate, in many respects, in spite of progress in recent years, is the present state of agricultural statistics in many developing countries.

We in the Secretariat very much hope that Member countries will implement such a census within the context of an integrated food and agricultural statistical information system.

FAO, within the limits of its resources, stands ready to provide assistance and to cooperate with Member countries in the planning and implementation of such a census.

We also hope that other bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations will take an active interest in providing assistance to developing countries in implementing such a programme.

CHAIRMAN: I thank you, Professor Nuru Islam, for your clear and thorough introduction to this agenda item. I shall now invite comments from the delegations.

Niilo HINTIKKA (Finland): Finland has followed with keen interest the preparation of the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. For example, we took an active part in the 15th Session of the FAO, ECE, CES in Europe last year. In our opinion, the programme in its present form is a well prepared and detailed document. It takes into account experiences gained from earlier programmes and gives guidelines on how various countries should organize their work in this effort.

In order to stress the importance of the census, I can give you an example from Finland. In 1969 the last agricultural census comprising all holdings was made. Based on that census, the Holdings Register was created. At the same time, the decision was made to abandon censuses in coming years. It was felt that the Holdings Register updated every year through postal enquiries would be a convenient and inexpensive means of obtaining necessary information for statistical purposes. Now, in the course of fifteen years, we have noted that the Holdings Register has not proved a satisfactory alternative to censuses conducted from time to time. There are two reasons for this. Firstly, it is difficult to identify those holdings which disappeared or were left idle in the course of the years. Secondly, farmers do not respond to postal enquiries.

Facing this situation, it is foreseen that our Government will decide to restore agricultural censuses, and the first one should coincide with the next world census. With these remarks, I just wanted to draw your attention to the importance of the subject which we are discussing now. I hope that every country will do its best so that reliable and good coverage for the coming World Census of Agriculture will be safeguarded.

Julio César JARA D. (Chile): Gracias Sr. Presidente, y gracias también al Doctor Islam.

La preocupación de la FAO en señalar la importancia de las estadísticas alimentarias y agrícolas es claramente atendible si se considera que los programas emprendidos deben estar fundados en el conocimiento de la realidad agrícola de los países. Resulta obvio, además, la importancia que tiene para la posterior utilización de la información, la uniformidad de los conceptos y de la mecánica con que se ejecutan dichos levantamientos. El Instituto Nacional de Estadística de Chile ya ha iniciado gestiones tendientes a la realización de un nuevo censo agropecuario nacional y para este efecto las recomendaciones de la FAO serán consideradas y se agradecen.

Václav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): First I would like to express my appreciation for the comprehensive and excellent introduction of this very important item by Professor Islam.

Like the previous censuses in 1970 and 1980, participated, in which Czechoslovakia the World Census of Agriculture in 1990 will be based on the maximum utilization of current agricultural statistics (regular statistical surveys) to provide the needed data. From this point of view, some necessary changes will be made in processing programmes for computers in order to apply the classification required by FAO normally used under our conditions, such as classification of all data according to farm size. The most important data required in the World Census of Agriculture will be obtained in this way from the State Data Pool managed by the State Statistical Authorities and from the land records kept by the geodesy and cartography authorities.

Apart from this, the remaining small proportion of data will be obtained from a new statistical survey to be conducted among the State-owned and cooperative farms and some selected private holdings. The complete data for the World Census of Agriculture 1990 will, in fact, be based on exhaustive surveys in our country, because subject matter for the data required in the World Census is included in regular periodic surveys of all farms in Czechoslovakia. We are interested in improved applications of this work for our analogous evaluations and analysis. From this point of view, we would welcome quick publication of the results of the World Census of Agriculture for individual countries. For instance, our country was one of the first to present our results of the 1980 World Census of Agriculture to the FAO, but we could obtain data on other countries only with considerable delay.

Concise, well-arranged and instructive guidance is indispensable for the implementation of the World Census of Agriculture and for international coordination in providing assistance to countries

We believe that the present document will, after amendment and finalization, provide useful guidance for census activities. In order to contribute to the successful finalization of the document on the 1990 Census, we have formulated some remarks on methodology and definitions of the proposed census items, that is, on the core of the document. They should not be considered as a deterred opinion. Their purpose is to show the type of comments that professional statisticians could have. We shall present our comments in written form to the FAO officers concerned. We propose to accept the present document on the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture as a preliminary one at this stage and recommend that work on the document should be continued on the basis of the comments made by individual delegations.

Elias REYES BRAVO (México): La delegación de Mexico quiere expresar su reconocimiento por las actividades que la FAO realiza al reunir, analizar, interpretar y divulgar información relativa a la nutrición, alimentación y agricultura.

En México se realizó un programa de estadística continua agropecuaria y forestal y se desarrolló un proyecto para el levantamiento del inventario nacional forestal. En ambos casos se contó con el apoyo de la FAO. Actualmente México cuenta con una experiencia considerable en el levantamiento de los censos agropecuarios, en que se considera básicamente las recomendaciones que hace la FAO en el documento C 85/18, garantizándose la comparabilidad de la estadística nacional con la internacional, y con la adecuación necesaria a las particularidades del país.

Consideramos importante la recomendación que se hace en el documento citado para que todos los esfuerzos de desarrollo estadístico se orienten al objetivo a más largo plazo de establecer un programa integrante de estadísticas que proporcionen datos seguros y que abarquen todos los aspectos pertinentes de la alimentación, la agricultura y el desarrollo rural. Compartimos la apreciación que hace el documento en cuanto a la importancia que la estadística debe tener en la formulación de las políticas nacionales y en los planes y proyectos relativos a la alimentación, la agricultura, la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

Está clara la importancia de los censos hacia el interior de los países. También tienen una incidencia importante en lo concerniente a la solución de problemas alimentarios y agrícolas en el plano internacional, siendo además necesarios y útiles para efectos de cooperación asistencial o ayudas internacionales, ya que donantes y beneficiarios requieren información de mayor calidad.

Marian BRZOSKA (Poland): Poland fully accepts the guidelines included in the World Census of Agriculture. The FAO methodic recommendations are used in improving the yearly returns of agriculture in Poland and the new guidelines will be used in the Population and Agricultural Census 1990. We were pleased to find that our remarks sent to FAO some time ago are reflected in the document under discussion.

Kosei SHIOZAWA (Japan): First of all, my delegation would like to thank Professor Islam for his lucid and comprehensive introduction on this agenda item. My delegation is convinced that the Agricultural Census is very important because it will provide the basic data on agricultural structures which are necessary in the design, implementation and assessment of various agricultural policies and because it will provide a sampling framework which will be very useful to us in carrying out other agricultural surveys.

It has been presumed that the lack of basic data concerning agricultural structures in developing countries often poses obstacles for the implementation of agricultural policy, such as agrarian reform. I hope, therefore, that this Census will be carried out in as many of the member nations as possible under the guidance of FAO. In this regard, we appreciate the endeavour made by the FAO Secretariat in simplifying the Census scope so that it may be easily carried out throughout a great number of countries.



The Census results should be required to be as highly accurate as possible. Therefore, I should like to appeal to the member nations to make their best efforts in submitting to FAO the results of the Census which reflect precisely the exact agricultural structure of their nation.

My Government carries out agricultural and forestry censuses every ten years, keeping in line with the FAO Programme, and forwards the results to FAO without delay. In addition to that, we carry out our own census in the interim years between the World Census. Just last February, the 1985 Census was completed, and the results will be forwarded to FAO.

My Government would like to request that FAO compile a report on the implementation of the 1990 World Agricultural Census and an outline on the results as well, distribute the feedback among the member nations.

GETACHEW TEKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation has thoroughly examined the document C 85/18 on the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. It has found the document to be well prepared, clear and comprehensive. My delegation commends the FAO Secretariat for the magnificent work they have done.

As mentioned in the document, the importance of reliable, sufficient and timely data on food and agriculture cannot be over-emphasized for planning and monitoring agricultural development, for formulating policies and preparing development projects. Even though the importance of statistical information on food and agriculture has been long recognized by most of the developing countries, they have not been able to develop the system, infrastructure and manpower required to collect, analyze and disseminate the necessary information on food and agriculture in their respective countries. Ethiopia is one of the few countries which has not conducted an agricultural census to date. In the last 15 years, agricultural information, specially annual crop production data, was collected using the sample survey method. UNDP and FAO have assisted the Government of Ethiopia in strengthening its Central Statistics Office to be able to establish an integrated system of food and agricultural statistics. Through this assistance, the Central Statistics Office developed a sound system of collecting, analysing and disseminating agricultural and related information. It has also modestly developed data processing and trained national, professional, and technical staff in agricultural statistics and other related fields.

During the life of the Programme, a wide variety of agricultural and household socio-economic surveys were conducted. As a result, more reliable information on crop production, land use, livestock numbers, marketed agricultural produce, etc. was gathered through agricultural sample surveys and research studies. Through this Programme we have been able to get a wider variety of reliable information. However, the work so far implemented has covered the sector partially. Considering the need for information on the Food and Agricultural Development Plan, much more has to be accomplished. To have the full picture of the agricultural situation of the country, an agricultural census has to be implemented. Preparation is already under way for doing this. In this regard, the following has been done. Objectives formulated, questionnaires, tabulation plans, enumerators, supervisors editing and coding manuals prepared. Since the first population and housing census was carried out in 1984, construction for an agricultural census framework using population and housing results has been under way. The draft document under preparation for the agricultural census of Ethiopia has been checked and compared against the contents of document C 85/18. It will be too cumbersome and time-consuming to go through each topic.

However, in general there is good agreement on methodology objectives and the general coverage of the questionnaires, except for a few differences in the building construction and farm machinery categories. Since the work is at the draft stage, we still have time to adjust the questionnaires to meet the requirements of FAO as much as possible.

This is the first time we have carried out an agricultural census. Therefore, we need technical, professional and material support and assistance from FAO, from bilateral and multilateral organizations and other countries. I am glad to express the readiness of Ethiopia to participate in the 1990 World Census of Agriculture.

KYO EUN KIM (Republic of Korea): First of all, my delegation expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretariat for their lucid preparation of document C 85/18 and to Dr Islam for his excellent introduction. As all delegates are aware, the subject of basic statistics is of great importance in the formulation of agricultural policy and planning, especially in the developing countries. In this connection I would like to comment briefly on this agenda item.

First of all, we feel strongly that the training programme of FAO for census enumerators is of great importance. It will strengthen the emphasis because it is one of the most decisive factors in the success of the census.

Secondly, in line with the agricultural census and taking into consideration the rapid changes in economic and agricultural structures, a five-year complementary census is also required for technical use, for surveys and for sampling for other purposes.

Thirdly, census items should be diversified step by step. For example, in addition to items dealing with crops and livestock, an item on fruit, for example, should also be added in the near future because of its great potential in agricultural production as well as as farm economy.

Finally, I would like to inform the Commission that an Asian Statistical Mission will be held in Seoul, Korea, next year, 1986. We cordially invite all the countries of that region to attend. I firmly believe the meeting in Seoul will be both fruitful and successful for constructive and financial regional cooperation in agricultural statistical censuses.

Mme A. NIOMBELA MAMBULA (Congo): Je remercie M. Islam de la présentation du document C 85/18 concernant le programme de recensement mondial de l'agriculture 1990. Nous reconnaissons le rôle que jouent les statistiques dans l'économie d'une manière générale et en particulier dans le domaine agricole. Dans les pays en voie de développement où la maîtrise des statistiques est aléatoire, la mise en place d'un programme de statistiques permettra aux pays de mieux apprécier leur développement agricole. Ces dernières années notre pays s'est engagé dans la voie de la planification de son économie et les données statistiques servent de base à la planification et à l'organisation du développement agricole. Le projet de recensement agricole est pleinement appuyé par notre gouvernement qui a depuis deux ans mis en place une structure organisée qui actuellement est en oeuvre sur le terrain, c'est-à-dire au stade de formation du personnel, en particulier le personnel de l'encadrement. Nous appuyons fermement ce programme qui permettra à mon pays de mettre en place un système permanent de collecte de données statistiques.

G.R. SAINI (India): At the outset, may I express our appreciation and congratulate the Secretariat for this comprehensive document on the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. Dr. Islam's introduction has indeed been very inspiring.

India has conducted three agricultural censuses since 1970/71. We have observed that the number and area of operational holdings and other related economic characteristics are changing rapidly in the wake of overall agricultural and economic development, making it imperative to conduct the agricultural census once every five years.

We find agricultural censuses a useful aid in formulating our development plans and in laying down strategies in successive Five-Year Plans. We have therefore, decided to conduct the agricultural census once every five years as suggested by FAO. We propose to undertake the next census using 1985/86 as the reference year, and the subsequent one using 1990/91 as the reference period.

India conducts the agricultural census in two parts - the main census covering basic information on a number of characteristics of holding within the selected reference year, followed by a comprehensive input survey in the following year. The agricultural census is carried out on a complete enumeration basis in those states which maintain comprehensive field-by-field

records. This accounts for about 85 percent of the total number of operational agricultural holdings, and 90 percent of the operated area in the country. In the remaining areas where requisite comprehensive land records do not exist at present and are in the process of being built up, the census is conducted on a sample survey basis through a household approach.

The data for input surveys are collected on a sample basis through the household approach throughout the country as information on these items is not available in revenue land records. For the latest input survey in 1981/82, a sample of 7 percent of the villages was taken to provide for the reliability of dependable estimates at district level.

I may mention here that the input survey is primarily intended to provide data on coverage under high-yielding varieties of crops extent of fertilizer use, livestock, agricultural machinery and implements, and institutional credit.

The last item mentioned, namely credit, will be a useful addition to the wealth of statistical data generated by the census and we commend it for adoption by other countries who have not yet done so.

The document circulated by FAO sets out detailed concepts and definition and land use classifications. While information on some of the items can be found somewhere or other in the document, I would submit that net and gross irrigated areas for the holding as a whole and for each of the crops may be considered for greater and more distinct emphasis in the census. Similarly, total harvested area under all crops - or we may call it gross cropped area as distinct from net harvested area under individual crops - needs to be computed and recorded as a separate category.

India has a well established system of agricultural statistics built up over a long period of time. We are following a ninefold classification of land utilization which clearly brings out the various characteristics of land use including irrigation and intensity of cropping, both on irrigated and non-irrigated land. I would submit that this classification may be considered by FAO as well as other member countries when launching the forthcoming census.

While going through the document I came across a few points which I would like to mention briefly. These are in the nature of clarifications which I would like to seek. On page 24 in paragraph 3.74 under "Arable Land" there are two categories mentioned at (a) and (b) is "land under temporary crops - in open air" and (b) "land under temporary crops" which requires elucidation and clarification because in the subsequent paragraph the distinction does not appear to be very clear.

Then on page 28, in paragraph 3.96 and subsequent paragraphs, there are three concepts which have been used - gross area harvested, the gross area and total area. The guidelines appear to give freedom to different countries to adopt either net or gross area as the case may be. But this is a little too much freedom, as multiplicity of concepts especially if used by different countries make comparisons difficult, even if clarifications are recorded in footnotes. These are usually lost in the process. Instead of recommending two concepts, net and gross, we should define only a single one and make a distinction between the net area and the gross area.

On page 40 there is useful information on the number of permanent agricultural workers. Under "holdings with permanent agricultural workers" there are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 workers and over. These may be reclassified by relating them to the size of the holding. This will provide useful information. Wherever possible the size of the holding should be kept in mind. There is an intriguing concept listed under land tenure. Under (a) there is a category "holdings without land". I do not know what it would mean in terms of land tenure for holdings without land. If this is just a conceptual difficulty, then perhaps that point could be clarified. If a distinction is made between operational holding and ownership holding I think this will probably take care of this particular part.

I do not want to go into too many details. I think the document is comprehensive. Notwithstanding the comments and a few observations, my delegation once again would like to compliment Dr. Islam for providing such excellent guidelines for the World Census on Agriculture.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of India for his comments, and the Secretariat will answer them later on.

Guy FRADIN (France): La délégation française a étudié avec attention et grand intérêt le programme de recensement mondial de l'agriculture de 1990. C'est en effet un sujet de première importance, d'abord parce que, comme le rappelle le document, ce programme est fondé sur le premier article constitutif de la FAO; ensuite, parce que l'importance de statistiques agricoles et alimentaires est fondamentale pour la formulation et la mise en oeuvre des politiques et programmes d'action en la matière. La France partage l'analyse et les recommandations de la FAO pour la réalisation de ce programme. Dès à présent mon pays, en liaison avec les pays membres de la Communauté économique européenne a entamé le processus d'exécution de cette opération qui devrait aboutir en 1989.

S'agissant de la réalisation de ce recensement dans les pays en développement, je voudrais insister sur un point, souligné d'ailleurs par le document ainsi que par M. Nurul Islam dans son introduction. Il est tout à fait essentiel que ce recensement ne soit pas une action ponctuelle mais plutôt l'aboutissement de l'activité d'un système permanent de prélèvement des données. Il nous semble que le recensement doit être la clé de voûte d'un édifice. Or, pour des raisons multiples, infrastructure, finances, formation, les pays en développement rencontrent de sérieuses difficultés pour se doter d'un système permanent permettant une action continue.

Ma délégation pense que la continuité de l'action dans ce domaine est absolument indispensable et que sans elle les actions de recensement perdent rapidement une grande partie de leur intérêt.

Nous espérons donc que la FAO pourra apporter son appui à une action à long terme ainsi qu'elle le recommande au paragraphe 1.11. Mon pays, comme beaucoup d'autres contribue à la formation de statisticiens en provenance de pays en voie de développement et souhaite que ces compétences nouvelles soient pleinement utilisées dans ces opérations de recensement de l'agriculture.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais savoir, dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre de ce programme, si la FAO compte faire comme par le passé des recommandations par zone géographique, ce que ma délégation trouverait tout à fait pertinent.

Knut BØRVE (Norway): On behalf of the Norwegian Delegation, I should like to thank Professor Islam for his clear introduction of the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. Appropriate statistics are of very great importance for implementing and evaluating actions and policies.

Norway approves the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. However, we underline that the Secretariat, in implementing the Programme, should cooperate closely with other international organizations which are also collecting statistics, such as OECD, the International Wheat Council and others.

Jorge A. Santos OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): La délégation de la Guinée-Bissau aimerait féliciter Ml Islam, le Secréariat et tous les membres de la Division des statistiques pour l'excellent document qui nous est soumis pour appréciation. Les problèmes de données statistiques sont des lacunes qui affectent beaucoup de nos pays en développement. La Guinée-Bissau, sortant d'une indépendance récente - onze ans à peine - a besoin pour ses plans de développement de données de base dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Le dernier recensement agricole fiable en Guinée-Bissau a été fait en 1953. Tout en tenant compte de l'importance du programme du recensement mondial de l'agriculture pour 1990, nous voudrions appuyer toutes les actions de la FAO dans ce sens, surtout dans le domaine de la formation de cadres.

Mais notre pays, pour pouvoir aider et participer à ce programme, doit auparavant exécuter son recensement agricole.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons aussi un appui de la FAO pour l'organisation et la mise en place d'un recensement agricole en Guinée-Bissau et l'installation d'un système national de statistiques alimentaires et agricoles avant 1990.

José Joaquín GARCIA DEL CASTILLO (España): Primeramente, quisiera felicitar al Secretariado por la redacción del documento C 85/18 en el que se presenta el Programa del Censo Agropecuario para 1990, así como la exposición tan clara que nos ha hecho del mismo el Dr. Islam.

En el documento se considera la posibilidad de que el Censo Agropecuario Mundial de 1990 sea realizado bien por enumeración exhaustiva de todas las explotaciones o bien por muestreo.

En la ejecución española habrá que decidirse por uno u otro sistema teniendo también en cuenta la sistemática del conjunto de los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea, El Programa para 1990 establece unas exigencias mínimas junto con un mayor detalle y desarrollo que puede ser aplicado en países que tengan un sistema estadístico más avanzado. Mi país considera que puede cumplimentar dicho programa por encima de los mínimos establecidos.

Etienne SARR (Sénégal) : Je remercie tout d'abord le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la consistance du document C 85/18 qui nous est soumis et pour le résumé concis que vient de nous en faire le Prof. Islam.

Notre pays ne peut que soutenir un tel document si l'on sait l'importance particulière qu'il joue ou devrait jouer en ce qui concerne les statistiques agricoles dans l'élaboration, l'orientation ou l'exécution des politiques agricoles dans nos différents pays.

Cette importance, du reste, dépasse le cadre sectoriel de l'agriculture ou de l'alimentation pour intégrer les politiques économiques d'ensemble dans le cadre élargi d'une planification de l'activité économique en général.

Mon gouvernement a bien compris l'importance des statistiques agricoles dans nos pays en développement et essaie actuellement, avec l'aide d'organismes de financement bilatéral, de mettre en place un système informatique d'analyse des données afin de mieux orienter la politique dans le secteur agricole.

Abdalla Mekki OSMAN (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I should like to thank FAO for preparing document C 85/18 on the agriculture census. Agriculture censuses have become an integral part of sound planning and are of special importance to development activities, laboratory and field research and all successful projects. Agricultural statistics in the various fields of agricultural activities have acquired increasing importance particularly after the years of drought which have led to losses in livestock in the valleys and plains. A correct census enables one to know distribution of available resources and determine their exploitation in the most efficient manner. Sudan approves the document and appeals to FAO to continue with the preparation of a booklet which would facilitate the implementation of agricultural censuses by countries.

James E. ROSS (United States of America): The United States has consistently supported FAO's efforts in assembling, analyzing and disseminating statistics on world food and agriculture. We have not, however, often commented on this work. The Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture provides an opportunity to do so.

In reviewing the Census document and comparing it to similar programmes in the past, and given Professor Islam's introduction, it is evident that FAO is attempting to change the magnitude of

agricultural censuses. We applaud this effort to bring agricultural censuses into a more productive balance with other basic data collection activities. My country believes that this is a step in the right direction. We agree with the emphasis placed on the role of the agricultural censuses in establishing a statistical framework for follow-up sample surveys.

We favour a narrowly focused agricultural census, possibly one with a complementary role in population censuses. The results of an adequate sample frame of agricultural holdings and rural households should facilitate the planning and conducting of many cost-effective annual sample surveys. Such surveys should provide much of the data that, as Professor Islam implied, are lacking. These data would include such crucial areas as food production and consumption, agricultural inputs, agricultural prices, and the status of disadvantaged socio-economic groups in rural areas.

Although my country is in basic agreement and appreciates the excellent FAO effort represented by the Fifth World Food Survey, we regret that such critical analysis is based on actual food consumption survey data for a very few countries. Some of those data are several years old. My country is concerned that not many countries provide data on fertilizer inventories. We hope that FAO will strongly encourage countries to assemble and report data in this area.

Another significant change we note in the 1990 Programme is the added emphasis on data processing. We believe that too many developing countries have conducted the field enumeration phase of agricultural censuses and surveys in the past without having made adequate provisions for data processing and dissemination. We strongly agree with the 1990 Programme emphasis on a balanced programme of data collection, processing and analysis.

We are in full support of the approach presented in the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme. We consider an agricultural census just one component in the statistical programme dimension of a national information system for food and agriculture.

One final concern relates to the special situation in Africa. My country agrees with FAO's recognition of, and emphasis on, finding solutions to the food and agriculture and rural development problems facing many African countries. We believe, however, that many African countries do not have adequate resources to provide the necessary statistics for analyzing and solving such problems.

It is my country's hope that the FAO emphasis on Africa will include a special concentration of efforts in the 1990 World Census of Agriculture Programme to help African countries improve their statistical capabilities. These efforts should focus on basic data, on area, yields and production of basic food crops. In this respect, my country hopes that FAO will find a cost-effective way to significantly improve the training of agricultural statisticians.

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): First of all, we should like to thank Professor Islam for his very clear introduction.

It is a known fact that food and agriculture is a complex subject involving interactions among physical, climatic, and human factors. A comprehensive understanding of these interactions is essential for successful development planning in agriculture. It is only through relevant accurate and timely statistics that a true analysis of relationships among various factors playing a role in food and agriculture can be achieved. It is by sheer coincidence that the first paragraph of the First Article of FAO constitution is devoted to statistics.

Presently, in many parts of the world, statistics on food and agriculture are not yet fully developed, although much has been accomplished in this field. FAO has to be congratulated for its valuable efforts in developing internationally acceptable definitions of concepts and in providing technical assistance to countries in order to improve their statistics.

We believe that previous programmes for the World Census of Agriculture have been important vehicles to secure the consistency and the comparability of statistics across countries. We also find the document on the 1990 World Census of Agriculture well prepared. We are confident that it will prove to be very useful for all countries in executing their national censuses of agriculture during the next decade. We particularly appreciate the approach adopted in the programme to place the census within the larger perspective of a national information system for food and agriculture.

We realize that a census is an important source of statistics, but for reasons mentioned by Dr Islam an agricultural census has to be limited in its scope and it should collect data only on the structural aspects of agriculture. Thus we believe there is a need to develop other sources of data as well. In particular statistics on operational aspects of agriculture need to be collected by special sample surveys. The agricultural census provides a framework for such specialized surveys.

I want to conclude by expressing our full support for the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. Turkey will certainly do her best to participate in this extremely useful activity.

Miss P. WEST (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom welcomes paper C 85/18 and the programme it sets out for the 1990 Census on Agriculture.

The United Kingdom has participated in all the decennial world censuses of agriculture, and it is our policy to do so in 1990, since we have a general interest in encouraging good basic statistics from all countries, particularly those regarding the size, structure and scale of the main agricultural activities. Indeed, all countries stand to benefit from the availability of comparable international data and from the dissemination of better methods and techniques which should be stimulated by this kind of exercise.

We are glad to see that a sensible and pragmatic attempt has been made in the 1990 Programme to limit the scope of the items to be covered, although, of course, as the secretariat recognizes, these may still have to be modified or reduced in light of each country's particular interests or resource constraints.

We also wonder whether the tabulation is not a little over-ambitious, with up to 200 or so - tables being requested. Some previous censuses have become overburdened by too many items and tabulations, causing problems not only in collection, but also in data analysis, and burdening both the public purse and the farmer who is asked to complete the forms.

We are interested to see that the census planning document is based on a methodological framework of wider significance as referred to in paragraph 1.10 of the Programme. We wish this attempt well, but would sound a note of caution against trying to set up too abstract and theoretical a structure.

We also think that FAO should try to maximize participation in, and thus the effectiveness of, the 1990 Census through approaches to countries at high levels, through publicity and through concentration on the early production of key data and results. We urge the Secretariat to publicize essential data in advance of the full census report.

Finally, we would recommend that the 1990 Census be used as an opportunity for professional interchange on techniques, particularly on the latest methods related to modern computer facilities.

I.A. RONQUILLO (Philippines): The Philippine delegation joins other delegations in congratulating Professor Islam for his comprehensive and lucid introduction of the agenda item.

The Philippine delegation wishes to express satisfaction with the efforts devoted by FAO to improve world statistics in food and agriculture. The promotion of the decennial world census of agriculture has always been one of the important tasks of FAO in improving agricultural statistics. We are glad that FAO has now prepared the Programme for another World Census of Agriculture for 1990.

Mr Chairman, my delegation had the honour to sponsor Resolution No. 14/75 concerning the Programme for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture in the 18th Session of the FAO Conference held in 1975. The Resolution requested the Director-General to take steps to encourage the widest possible participation of countries in the census of agriculture, especially in the developing regions. It also requested the Director-General to provide technical assistance to developing countries to enable them to conduct the census and to process the census data. Furthermore, it urged Member Nations to participate in the Programme, to initiate their plans for participation at an early stage and to give high priority to the needs of agricultural censuses when formulating their request for technical assistance.

The Philippines participated in the 1980 Programme by carrying out an agricultural and a fisheries census in 1981. For the first time the 1981 agricultural census included a complete count of all farms, whereas our other agricultural censuses in the past were an enumeration of sample farms. Our agricultural census personnel benefitted from training at the National Demonstration Centres organized by FAO for the 1980 World Census of Agriculture. This form of technical assistance is very much appreciated and we strongly recommend that FAO continue to organize similar training centres not only for agricultural census personnel for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, but also for other aspects of food and agriculture statistics. Computer processing of agricultural census and survey results should be an important component of the training courses to be organized by FAO.

My delegation is pleased to note that the 1990 Programme considers agricultural censuses one of the major sources of data for national information systems. The note that all censuses surveys and other data sources need to be coordinated and/or integrated is most welcome. We are sure that if such coordination and/or integration is realized, more coverage and better quality statistics 1980 Programme urged that Member Nations develop their long-range integrated systems of agricultural statistics, of which the agricultural census is a key component.

The 1990 Programme provides very useful guidelines for carrying out a census of agriculture. We, therefore, support the approval. The Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture, which will be very useful to my country in planning our participation in the 1990 World Census of Agriculture.

Mohamed Said HALABI (Syria) (original language Arabic): On behalf of my country, Syria, I would like to thank the Secretariat for the tremendous efforts it has made in preparing this important document. As Professor Islam said, the Secretariat has made optimum use of both the Organization's competence here at Headquarters, as well as the expertise available in different parts of the world.

We are confident that the Organization has made great progress in the field of agriculture censuses, especially as it affects organization of sample questionnaires and data analysis. Syria has greatly benefitted from the census which was carried out in 1970, as well as the one in 1980. We shall use this proposed model for the agricultural census in 1990.

We are certain that the Organization's technical assistance in 1980 - all technical assistance, especially through the use of computers - will be greater. As the delegation of Sudan has said, it will be very important for the Organization to prepare a pamphlet on the methodology of agricultural censuses. We commend this proposal and second it.

My country's delegation is in total agreement with the contents of this document. We feel it is a very useful document and shows that great progress has been made in interpreting the results of such agricultural censuses. These findings will make it easier to have the necessary basis for planning and implementing development policies in our country.

Nguen SRISURAK (Thailand): At the outset, my delegation welcomes the programmes for 1990 World Census of Agriculture, and also thanks Professor Islam for his clear and constructive introduction.

My delegation strongly believes that agricultural statistics are very important for many purposes, namely farm planning, economic development, etc. It contains information that entirely concerns agriculture. The economic planners; and policy decision-makers can then provide desirable, and useful solutions for the development of agriculture.

A agricultural census following the guidelines in document C 85/18 is one of the most important programmes implemented in my country. In this context, therefore, my delegation supports the guidelines for completing the census of agriculture. However, my delegation would like to make the following observations: the first concerns the definition of the farm holder. The meaning of



"the farro holder" varies from country to country, from time to time, and according to stage of agricultural development. In this respect, the misinterpretation has been made by various users, especially when comparing the agricultural conditions between countries at different times. In many cases the successful agricultural development at different times or in different countries is hard to compare, despite the fact that the economic analyst may have a background in data collection. He should be aware of users, especially international ones. A primary example is that of the chicken farm holder. This may be an extreme case, but I think it is a good example. Allow me to say more about this. If a chicken raiser has only land, and no chickens, a question is raised: is he a farmer?

Secondly, is the problem of informing the public, especially the farmers. Many raise the question: what do we get from you when we answer your questions? In developing countries, this is one of the most difficult problems, because some of us sitting in this Conference have never been interviewers and have never been put in the position to explain positions and justify programmes. We must keep this in mind, and also be aware of the needs of farmers who would like to know not only the agricultural statistics but also other things. Therefore, the interviewers should be ready to answer all their questions.

Thirdly is the problem of the data produced from information compiled according to farmers' responses. Problems occur when there are time constraints involved. That is, many farmers answer questions from memory, not from their farm accounts, because in many cases, he keeps no farm accounts. The reliability of the data, therefore, is not dependent on the questionnaire or innumerator, but on the farmers' memories. We must keep this in mind. However, Thailand is ready to participate with the FAO as much as possible. In this respect, we hope that this participation will provide as with concrete and useful solutions.

Carlos Pinheiro Silva (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation voudrait s'associer à celles qui l'ont précédée et voudrait féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellente et claire présentation de ce document très important. Pour un pays où les informations de base sur les secteurs économiques en général et le secteur agricole en particulier sont insuffisantes et peu viables, le perfectionnement de l'appareil stratégique est une condition basilaire, un outil indispensable pour l'établissement des plans nationaux de développement. Le Cap-Vert attache la plus grande importance au programme de recensement mondial de l'agriculture, 1990, et lance un appel à la FAO dans le sens d'élargir son appui au plan de renforcement du service national de statistiques agricoles qui malgré les progrès accomplis ces dernières années accuse de nettes insuffisances.

MANIRUZZAMAN Chowdhury (Bangladesh): At the outset, please allow me to compliment on my behalf and that of the Bangladesh delegation Professor Nural Islam for the comprehensive and lucid introduction to the subject. The FAO Secretariat also deserves credit for the good work in preparing the document C 85/18.

The Bangladesh delegation supports the idea of holding a worldwide census in 1990 and is confident that it would help the individual nations and also the world agencies like FAO to locate or pinpoint the areas where international help is urgently required and quickly arrange for the same. As has been the case in Bangladesh, improvements in statistical capability and reliability achieved through regular and sample surveys conducted at regular intervals can assist governments determining where the problem areas are and what corrective measures may be necessary in redressing them.

We believe that Bangladesh is prepared to hold such a census with other nations and would intensely benefit from the the same. Such a belief is based on the knowledge that for some developing countries, like Bangladesh, the availability of reliable agricultural statistics would enable the international agencies to better appreciate our difficulties and to provide necessary assistance in overcoming them, as pointed out earlier. We therefore believe that the standardization of the questionnaire would go a long way in developing a proper and easily comparable data base for the effective

utilization by the country concerned or by other international organizations. The standardization would be useful for the policy planners and the evaluators, both at the formulation stage or in critical analysis of the same. We suggest that before circulating this questionnaire or the standard form, it should be re-examined again for possible improvements, by the Secretariat.

At the end, I would like to reiterate Bangladesh's support and willingness to participate in the census of 1990. We believe that all nations will immensely benefit from it.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): Ante todo, permítame felicitar al Sr. Islam, por la clara y brillante exposición sobre un tema que resulta extenso y complejo desde el punto de vista técnico, pero de mucha utilidad para los países y la comunidad internacional. Deseo asimismo reconocer el esfuerzo realizado por la Secretaría para presentarnos el documento C 85/18, que consideramos muy completo, de alto rigor técnico y suficientemente didáctico; por lo que mi delegación está totalmente de acuerdo con el mismo.

Sr. Presidente, desde hace varios años se vienen realizando cursos agropecuarios, que han suministrado importantes conclusiones y la FAO en este sentido ha marchado a la vanguardia, junto con otras organizaciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas; por lo que merece nuestro elogio.

Tal como se expone en el Documento C 85/18, no siempre los objetivos propuestos se han alcanzado en la extensión y precisión informativa deseada, por lo que consideramos que el programa que examinamos en esta oportunidad está muy mejorado, al tomar en cuenta las experiencias y dificultades de censos anteriores.

Sr. Presidente, nuestro país ha venido trabajando sistemáticamente en la actualización de las estadísticas nacionales de todos los sectores y en particular de la agricultura y la alimentación. El Comité Estatal de Estadística de Cuba y el Ministerio de la Agricultura, así como otros organismos, trabajan estrechamente coordinados en la toma, almacenamiento y procesamiento de la información estadística relativa al sector. Este trabajo nos ha permitido disponer de un importante instrumento para el control y planificación a mediano y largo plazo del desarrollo de la agricultura, la alimentación y el desarrollo rural. Estamos seguros de que las orientaciones y consideraciones técnicas en cuanto al censo agropecuario dadas por esta Conferencia serán de mucha utilidad para nuestro país y contribuirán a mejorar nuestro trabajo.

Sr. Presidente, examinando el tema desde el punto de vista estrictamente técnico y de posibilidades de realización, tal como se expresa en el documento, y como ha sido expuesto por los mismos delegados, no todos los países cuentan con los recursos humanos y materiales que les permitan llegar al alcance propuesto, y por ello mi delegación desea proponer que, de ser posible, se organicen seminarios regionales o subregionales para capacitar al personal que se encargará de organizar y dirigir las actividades del censo en los diferentes países. Es también pertinente solicitar a la FAO que facilite la asistencia técnica necesaria para la realización del censo, en la medida que los países la soliciten.

D. KINZEL (Austria) (original language German): First of all, I should like to thank Mr Islam for the very clear and informative introduction.

The basis of decision-making is a solid data base. The agricultural censuses of the FAO are, therefore, of considerable importance for national agricultural policies. The Austrian delegation supports the programme presented to us and the analyses and recommendations set out in this document. I should like to share the views expressed by the delegate of France, and I should like to draw your attention to the importance of the continuity of such procedures. We should like to request FAO to continue its activities in this field and also to aim at achieving an integrated information system. We can assure you that Austria, as in the past, will actively support these activities of FAO.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): The World Census of Agriculture, which is decennial programme, has been conducted six times. As it contains up-to-date information, it facilitates our understanding of world agricultural resources and production structures. The data accumulated by the census provides sound bases for the formulation of international agricultural development programmes and other related policies. It is also useful for individual countries.

Proceeding from the experience and lessons of the six previous censuses, the FAO Secretariat has defined two objectives for the World Census of Agriculture for 1986 to 1995 and seven items to be encompassed therein. We think that these items concisely cover the common features of different farming systems in the world.

Chapter 5 deals with the guidelines for taking a census in agriculture. We shall carefully study them. Since the '50s, China has carried out a number of censuses on production, income distribution, soil, water conservation, biological resources, etc., in accordance with the need to develop our agriculture.

Not long ago a national population census was conducted in our country. We can say that we have gained some experience in this connection. However, if we are to conduct the kind of census described in document C 85/18, we do not think we are fully prepared. Besides, we lack experience for such a large-scale census and we especially lack trained staff and the necessary facilities. . Therefore, we look forward to strengthening cooperation efforts with FAO in this field in the future.

C.GOODING (Barbados): The Barbados delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the very comprehensive coverage that has been given to this important subject in the document before us. We should also like to thank Professor Islam for his very clear and concise introduction of the subject.

We note that the Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture is being presented at a time when many countries are experiencing severe economic difficulties, and in such an environment we feel that efficient utilization of available resources must assume the greatest importance. As we have stated on another occasion, it is unlikely that countries will be able to realize the most efficient allocation of available resources in the absence of adequate statistical information. Indeed, we fully endorse the sentiments echoed in paragraph 1.9 of the document C 85/18. We recognize, of course, that an agricultural census can be a costly undertaking, but such an exercise should, in our opinion, be viewed as an investment which would bring returns over a period of several years. For this reason, we believe that the commitment of funds by developing countries to facilitate the undertaking of an agricultural census as part of an overall programme for the improvement of agricultural statistical information systems can be fully justified. Nevertheless, we would like to urge the international community to give some priority to supporting efforts on the part of developing countries to improve their agricultural information systems.

Barbados fully supports the Programme outlined for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. We would wish to compliment the FAO for the strenuous efforts it has made over the years to improve world statistics on food and agriculture and in particular for the invaluable assistance which it has provided to individual countries in helping them improve their own information systems. In concluding, we should like to urge the Organization to continue and, if possible, to intensify its efforts in this area for the future.

Mbome MOUKIA (Cameroun): La delegation du Cameroun a suivi avec intérêt l'excellente présentation du document sur le programme de recensement mondial de l'agriculture 1990. Nous avons conscience de ce que la surveillance de l'évolution des tendances du secteur de la production alimentaire et agricole, dans les pays, implique en premier lieu la connaissance précise des systèmes nationaux de production, des productions annuelles, leur répartition dans l'espace et dans le temps, ainsi

que les mécanismes de commercialisation. Aussi, notre délégation ne saurait-elle qu'appuyer le programme de recensement mondial de l'agriculture projeté en 1990 par l'Organisation. Ce programme doit permettre aux pays intéressés de réunir des informations détaillées sur leurs structures et leur système de production utiles à la planification. Dans cette perspective, et en raison de la faiblesse de nos structures nationales dans le domaine des statistiques agricoles, nous pensons que la FAO devra apporter une plus grande assistance dans la formation en matière de technique de recensement par le biais des centres nationaux de démonstration.

Dans cette optique, et pour permettre aux pays en développement de disposer de flux continus d'informations pertinentes en vue d'avoir un meilleur suivi de l'évolution du secteur agricole, il est souhaitable que le recensement préconisé soit suivi de la mise en place de systèmes permanents de collectes de données.

Le Gouvernement camerounais apprécie à sa juste mesure toute l'assistance dont il a déjà bénéficié de la part de la FAO dans ce cadre et souhaite que cette assistance soit accrue davantage pour permettre la mise en place effective des systèmes de statistiques de production et de distribution des denrées de base.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): I should like to congratulate the FAO on preparing the document which is before us now and Professor Nurul Islam for introducing it.

In the case of Uganda, the last census on agriculture was conducted in the 1963/65 period. We have therefore, as a result, experienced all the disadvantages associated with the lack of a reliable data base on agriculture. However, we already have an agricultural census project which was formulated with the assistance of FAO and which is ready for implementation. It is intended to provide us with the essential data base which we need so badly and at the same time afford opportunity for the training of local personnel in statistics-gathering techniques. We shall therefore be able to fall in step with the implementation of the 1990 World Census of Agriculture. We welcome the proposed census.

Emilio PARDO (Argentina): Deseamos agradecer a la Secretaría el documento C 85/18 y su excelente explicación introductora.

El programa del censo agropecuario 1980 cubrió los censos realizados durante 1976 a 1985, para 93 países del mundo, entre los cuales no figuraba Argentina. Por este motivo, es propósito de mi Gobierno hacer lo necesario para que nuestro país se incorpore al programa de 1990. Este programa no implica que el censo deba realizarse en un año determinado, sino que se recomienda que se levante un censo agropecuario durante el período 1986 a 1995.

En la República Argentina se carece de listados o registros especializados agropecuarios, que sirvan de base al censo. Por este motivo es imposible trabajar con cartografía de tipo catastral, por lo menos en las principales provincias. En aquellas provincias en que no se dispone de cartografía adecuada, sería necesario adoptar el método de solicitar al productor que declare en centros de recepción de información. Este sistema, si bien económicamente no es recomendable, porque trae graves problemas de cobertura, sin embargo para varias de nuestras provincias, es posible que no exista otra alternativa.

Actualmente el Servicio Nacional de Sociología Rural y Agricultura está colaborando con el Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos, con objeto de levantar un censo agropecuario, de ser posible, durante el año 1987.

Para ello, se están realizando trabajos preliminares de localización y obtención del material cartográfico básico y prueba del mismo en el campo, pero hasta el presente, el problema que todavía no ha podido ser superado es la carencia de presupuestos adecuados para realizar la ingente cantidad de tareas que un operativo de esa magnitud requiere, y que es imperativo comenzar a llevarlas a cabo cuanto antes.

El método que se propone consiste en visitar a los productores agropecuarios en sus propias explotaciones mediante el uso de la cartografía catastral existente, lo que permitirá obtener información general de cada uno de ellos a través de las cédulas censales; confeccionar un padrón de productores asociable con la cartografía y con información sobre la actividad de las explotaciones, lo que permitirá facilitar la realización de operativos por muestreo durante los años posteriores al Censo.

Deseamos reiterar nuestro agradecimiento a la Secretaría por el documento mencionado precedentemente.

CHAIRMAN: If I see no more speakers, I will speak on behalf of my delegation, Nigeria.

JAAFARU LADAN (Nigeria): My delegation fully supports the proposed Programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture as presented to us. This census will not take place simultaneously in all countries, as we have been informed. However, we believe that such a census could be conducted on a regional or sub-regional basis. In this connection, my delegation concurs with the observation of the delegate of the United States when he said that Africa would need a lot of assistance in this exercise to improve its statistical data collection, analysis and distribution. We hope FAO will take this into account when implementing this Programme.

We also agree with the observation by the delegate of Sudan when he suggested that a booklet on the methodology should be drawn up. This, we believe, with the training programme and workshops, will assist us in participating fully in the exercise.

CHAIRMAN: I now give the floor to Professor Nurul Islam to respond to some of the points raised by delegates.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I have very few points to respond to. We are very grateful to the distinguished delegates for commending and appreciating FAO's work on censuses of agriculture. Many delegates have referred to the particular circumstances of their individual countries and the relevance of this overall framework provided by the Secretariat document to their particular situations. As I have emphasized in my introduction, this framework is a broad one, which has to be adjusted to the particular circumstances of individual countries.

On the question raised by distinguished delegates on the need for publishing original supplements, I should like to inform the distinguished delegates that we do intend to publish original supplements to the main document. We are in the process of finalizing three such original supplements, on the Near East, Europe, and Asia and the Pacific Region. Supplements on other regions are on the way.

We recognize, as has been emphasized, the acute need in Africa for improving, or even collecting for the first time on a comprehensive basis, agricultural statistics, and certainly in our Programme of Work Africa does occupy a priority place.

Delegates have urged us to publish the results of national censuses as soon as possible. Indeed, we do publish them in standardized form for international comparison and in different languages. We have published for forty countries such analyses of past censuses, and we plan to build upon them a data bank analyzing major census results which can thus provide us with a time series on these specific items. We are now preparing the analysis, for example, of changes in the structure of agriculture as derived from the 1980 census compared to 1970.

Questions have been asked as to the need to provide for training in the developing countries in facilitating census work. We run national demonstration centres for national agricultural censuses

which are intended to train the statisticians of the member countries who, in turn will then train their own statisticians. The last such demonstration centre was conducted this year in Santiago for Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Statisticians from 17 countries were trained in their national demonstration centres for six weeks. The next training centre is being planned for the Near East region and will be implemented during 1986.

It was recommended that FAO should publish an explanatory booklet for the 1990 Census of Agriculture. We have plans to prepare such a document for the preparation of questionnaires and manuals for enumeration. We have taken careful note of some of the detailed comments such as those from the distinguished delegate of India, and will try to explain and possibly to add explanatory notes in the document clarifying some of the points he has raised.

The distinguished delegate from the United States of America in his remarks referred to the need for updated consumption surveys and commented on the inadequate or outdated consumption surveys on the basis of which we have had to prepare our Fifth World Food Survey. He is right in pointing out the paucity of consumption surveys of the type we need for estimating the nutritional status of populations in the developing countries. We have made strenuous attempts to collect unpublished data and unprocessed data on consumption surveys. Sometimes such surveys are undertaken, but the results are neither processed nor published. We have made systematic attempts to collect some of them and are continuing our search for them for future work. In addition, in our training courses we do include training on how to implement consumption surveys. We are now processing and preparing a manual for that purpose, but as delegates will appreciate countries which have difficulty or inadequate resources to carry out basic census work are not always over-enthusiastic in implementing periodic consumption surveys and have difficulties in stimulating interest in them.

CHAIRMAN: I hope distinguished delegates are satisfied with the answers provided on the points raised. I will now briefly sum up the discussion on this item. About thirty speakers intervened on this item. There was unanimous appreciation of the need for the programme. The 1990 agricultural census is a very important undertaking for planners and users of agricultural data. I think that is the only summary I can provide. The document is comprehensive enough for the delegates, with the exception of some of the points raised. With this short summing up I close the discussion on this agenda item.

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation: (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture: (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo: (continuación)

7.4. Forestry - The Manifesto of Mexico (Ninth World Forestry Congress, July 1985) (continued)

7.4. Forêts - Manifeste de Mexico (neuvième Congrès forestier mondial, juillet 1985) (suite)

7.4. Montes - El Manifiesto de México (Noveno Congreso Forestal Mundial, julio de 1985) (continuación)

Sra. Margarita LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): La delegación mexicana quiere expresar su gran complacencia por la calurosa acogida que tuvo nuestra proposición de Resolución presentada el día de ayer en esta Comisión. A continuación, daré a leer la decisión que ha tomado el Comité de Resoluciones que, en términos generales, nos indica que este Proyecto ha sido aceptado en su forma, y que solamente se hacen las proposiciones de dos enmiendas. Una en el párrafo uno relativo a la parte dispositiva en la que exclusivamente añade, sugiere añadir al final: "tal y como fue adoptado".

En el párrafo tres de la parte dispositiva, en la sugerencia se indica reemplazar el término "Solicita" por el de "Invita", considerando que este segundo término es más apropiado para un texto que está dirigido a otras organizaciones e instituciones internacionales, las cuales fueron incorporadas al texto adjunto que ahora reza como sigue:

La Conferencia,

Reafirmando la importancia del IX Congreso Forestal Mundial, celebrado en México en julio de 1985, que constituye un esfuerzo significativo de la comunidad internacional para el desarrollo, promoción y aprovechamiento racional y equitativo de los recursos naturales renovables,

Recordando la resolución 2/86 del Consejo de la FAO, que declaró 1985 Año Internacional del Bosque y señala que la destrucción de los bosques se ha convertido en uno de los mayores problemas de la humanidad, y que es necesario la conservación y uso racional de los recursos forestales del mundo,

Reconociendo el valor que el Manifiesto de México tiene como documento fundamental de actualidad en el que se resume la importancia de los bosques, tanto en la protección del ambiente como en la contribución al desarrollo,

Tomando nota con satisfacción que los programas de FAO en el sector forestal coinciden completamente con el contenido y el espíritu del Manifiesto de México,

1. Aprueba el Manifiesto de México tal y como fue adoptado:

2. Insta a los gobiernos de los Estados Miembros a que los principios y directrices de dicho Manifiesto se reflejen adecuadamente en sus inversiones, planes y programas silvícolas nacionales.

3. Invta a los organismos e instituciones internacionales a promover la observancia de los principios contenidos en el Manifiesto y a apoyar financieramente el desarrollo y el aprovechamiento integral de los bosques.

Queda pues a consideración después de la, digamos, calurosa bienvenida que tuvo nuestro Proyecto, el decidir si esta Resolución es discutida o si se desea remitirla al Comité de Redacción como había sido sugerido esta mañana.

Nosotros estamos en la mejor disposición y muy complacidos de la acogida, como ya lo habíamos mencionado.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Mexico for introducing this resolution which is before all the delegations and was discussed by the Resolutions Committee. All the amendments indicated by the delegate of Mexico are incorporated in the resolution before us. I now invite comments on the text.

M.NLETO LARA (Cuba): Mi delegación entiende, Sr. Presidente, que el texto de esta Resolución es lo suficientemente llana como para que sea acogida por esta Comisión como un acuerdo unánime. Deseamos reconocer el trabajo del Comité de Resoluciones en el sentido de hacer adecuaciones que consideramos muy atinadas.

CHAIRMAN: The distinguished delegate of Cuba has proposed that this resolution should be adopted by this Commission for inclusion in our report to Plenary.

Guy FRADIN (France): Ma délégation appuie effectivement ce projet de résolution proposé par la délégation mexicaine. Néanmoins, je souhaiterais vous proposer deux modifications qui, je l'espère, seront des améliorations légères à ce texte. Elles sont assez simples.

A la deuxième résolution, il s'agirait en fait d'ajouter l'idée de l'intégration de mesures en matière forestière, intégration des politiques de développement des pays; cette idée pourrait être traduite par la simple adjonction d'un groupe de mots après les termes : "comme il convient", si bien que la résolution No 2 se lirait ainsi: "Demande instamment aux gouvernements des Etats Membres de tenir compte, comme il convient, dans la mise en oeuvre de leurs politiques de développement, des principes et directives qui y sont énoncés." Là, je ferais une correction de pure forme pour que le texte soit correct: "en matière d'investissements de plans et programmes sylvicoles nationaux". La deuxième modification que je propose concerne la résolution No 3 sur l'invitation qui est faite afin d'y intégrer la notion qui figure un peu plus haut dans le texte de gestion rationnelle des ressources forestières qui est une notion importante et qui serait simplement à ajouter aussi après les mots "mise en valeur", si bien que le texte se lirait de la même manière que maintenant, comme il est écrit, et on ajouterait donc "appuyer financièrement la mise en valeur du patrimoine forestier, (puisqu'il faut bien définir cette mise en valeur) "La gestion rationnelle des ressources qu'il contient et l'exploitation intégrée des forêts".

CHAIRMAN: Before I ask delegates to speak perhaps the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department would like to say something on this suggestion proposed by France.

Sr. M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Permítame, Sr. Presidente, pero creo que en este momento es importante intervenir para aclarar algunas cuestiones relacionadas con el lenguaje y que desgraciadamente en español no han sido traducidas correctamente. Habla aquí de programas silvícolas. Debe leerse programas forestales, no silvícolas, porque es restrictivo, y se refiere a todos los programas forestales.

En segundo lugar, se habla de "aprovechamiento", aquí correctamente no debe traducirse "explotación", ya que no es explotación, es aprovechamiento.

Quiero hacer esta aclaración porque es importante para los países aquí presentes de lengua española que se haga la traducción correcta.

CHAIRMAN: There are two improvements called for by the delegate of France. We are in a procedural situation. Delegate of Cuba, you called a motion or a proposal? Let me be clear on that first.

Sr. M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Una propuesta Sr. Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of France has proposed some changes or amendments to paragraphs 1 and 2. Are there any comments on the proposal by France?

Sra. M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Me parece, Sr. Presidente, que la proposición que ha hecho el colega de Francia realmente refuerza y complementa adecuadamente la Resolución.

CHAIRMAN: Does anyone wish to speak on the proposal of France?



Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): I should like to ask the Secretariat to what extent this proposal is already contained in the Manifesto itself. I was wondering whether such a modification of the text is really necessary. The Secretariat might be able to tell us - or the Mexican delegation - if this idea, which has been suggested by France and is a very important one, if it is not already contained in the Manifesto itself.

CHAIRMAN: Mr Flores Rodas will reply to that.

Sr. M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Esencialmente, yo creo que el distinguido representante de la República Federal de Alemania tiene razón. El Manifiesto de México está adoptado aquí como un paquete que no puede ser modificado puesto que fue hecho por un organismo de la Conferencia y contemplados todos los aspectos de la ordenación y de la gestión nacional de los recursos forestales, y su aplicación a la solución de los problemas de desarrollo, y se hace un llamado general, y demás, tal como lo presupone el representante de la República Federal de Alemania. Sin embargo, en esta Resolución que adopta la Conferencia, simplemente lo que aparece aquí es énfasis y un recordatorio específico de lo que la Conferencia considera que es lo más sobresaliente y lo más importante del Manifiesto de México. No veo ningún conflicto en la redacción tal como está.

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat has confirmed that this addition does not modify the text in any way outside the Mexico Manifesto, and also the delegate of Mexico has accepted the proposed changes as strengthening the text. In order not to go into a deep discussion on this addition, are there any other proposals or counter-proposals to what France has said, so that we can move on?

Miss P. WEST (United Kingdom): My point concerns point 1 of the resolution. In view of the fact that the resolution now endorses the Mexican Manifesto as adopted, and the Mexican Manifesto supported the creation of a world fund for development and environmental protection of forests, I feel it appropriate to put on record at this juncture that the United Kingdom considers that further studies are required before the creation of such a fund can be justified.

CHAIRMAN: Well, I do not know. Was it a question? I ask the delegate of the United Kingdom - was it a comment for the record or do you want clarification?

Miss. P. WEST (United Kingdom): No, it is a comment for the record.

M.A. FLORES RODAS (Subdirector General, Departamento de Montes): Discúlpeme, Sr. Presidente, la frecuencia con que estoy interviniendo esta tarde; pero quiero volver a recordar a la Sala que esto se refiere al Manifiesto de México tal como fue adoptado y no refleja de ninguna manera las discusiones que han tenido lugar anteriormente en esta Comisión. Estoy seguro que en el borrador que será discutido en el Comité de Redacción, aparecerá con seguridad algún capítulo, algún párrafo, que refleje claramente la posición de los países que apoyan, que no apoyan o que reservan su opinión sobre la propuesta de Austria. Por tanto, en la Resolución misma es simplemente un párrafo más que pasará, como todos lo sabemos, al Comité de Redacción para su redacción final; después vendrá a esta Comisión I para su adopción. Me parece que esta Resolución debe quedar como está y que vaya así al Comité de Redacción con el informe de esta Comisión, donde aparezcan las reservas expresadas por los países que tienen dudas o que se oponen al Fondo Mundial propuesto por Austria.

CHAIRMAN: The text of the resolution can be decided here; any additional comments will appear in the report of the Commission which the Drafting Committee will finalize, so if we can agree on the text itself, we can make progress.

Jorge A. SANTOS OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): A ce stade de la discussion, je voudrais appuyer ce projet de résolution proposé par la délégation de Cuba.

Antonio RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Comité de résolution qui a fourni un excellent travail. De l'avis de notre délégation, nous désirons appuyer la proposition faite par la délégation de Cuba et dire, comme nous l'avons dit pour la résolution 2/85 au Conseil, que mon pays appuie tout le contenu de cette résolution.

Srta. Hilda LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Nuestra delegación desea apoyar la Resolución sobre el Manifiesto de México que ha presentado la delegación de México, con los cambios que han propuesto las delegaciones de Cuba y Francia.

Respecto de estas enmiendas, en vista de lo que aquí se ha discutido, es opinión de mi delegación que son en realidad enmiendas de forma y de redacción, y no de fondo. De manera que si no hay problemas al respecto en el Comité de Redacción, Colombia no tiene a su vez ningún inconveniente en aceptarlas.

TEMEL ISKIT (Turkey): My delegation also supports the Cuban proposal to accept the resolution here at our Commission without sending it to the Drafting Committee. May we make a small suggestion which we think will reinforce the text. At the third operative paragraph - "we are inviting the international organizations to lend their financial support only", we think is too restrictive. When we invite these organizations we may appeal to their financial and technical support. So, may we suggest the addition after "their financial", last line of the third operative paragraph, of "and technical support".

CHAIRMAN: I am sure this is just an improvement on the text, a very important improvement. The delegate of Mexico will not argue with it, so it is acceptable.

WOLFGANG A.F. GRABISCH (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): Just a point of clarification. I did not hear the distinguished delegate of Cuba making a proposal for an amendment. Colombia has just said that it supported the proposed amendment submitted by Cuba, so I confess to a measure of confusion here, and I hope, perhaps, you may read the whole text through to us from the beginning to end and we will know exactly what it is that we are dealing with.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps what the delegate of Colombia meant to say was, supporting the proposal by the delegate of Cuba, with the amendment proposed by the delegate of France, which was accepted by the delegate of Mexico. Cuba did not introduce any amendment to the text. I hope you are satisfied.

J.P. COTIER (Secrétaire adjoint, Commission I): Je relis la proposition d'amendement faite par la France. Au point 2, la proposition est donc: "Demande instamment aux Gouvernements des Etats Membres de tenir compte, comme il convient, de la mise en oeuvre de leurs politiques de développement, des principes et directives qui y sont énoncés en matière d'investissement dans les programmes sylvicoles nationaux."

Ensuite, au point 3, je relis l'ensemble de la phrase: "Invite institutions et organismes internationaux à assurer le respect des principes énoncés dans le Manifeste et à appuyer financièrement' (et là j'introduis la proposition faite par le représentant de la Turquie), "et techniquement, la mise en valeur", (j'ajoute ici la proposition faite par le délégué de la France), "du patrimoine forestier et la gestion rationnelle des ressources qu'il recèle".

CHAIRMAN: I think the idea had been accepted. It may not be possible to get all the other languages to flow, so if we can allow the Drafting Committee to translate the French text into the various languages, taking into account the idea proposed by the delegate of France had been accepted.

MARC ANDRE FREDETTE (Canada): I am afraid we will have to join with the United Kingdom in pointing out, if "in this resolution the Conference as a whole endorses the Mexico Manifesto as adopted" means quite plainly, that we also endorse the creation of a world fund. My Government as it said earlier in this Commission cannot do that at this stage, until further studies. we simply will have to reserve on this. We will, hopefully, find wording that allows us to do anything but endorse, to support the principles and so on, but to endorse the Manifesto verbatim would unfortunately be impossible for my delegation.

ANDRE JEAN-LOUIS (Haïti): J'ai demandé la parole pour appuyer le projet de résolution avec les amendements de la France; et je souscris à la proposition de la délégation de Cuba.

JAMES E. ROSS (United States of America): The United States would have to associate its position with that of the United Kingdom and Canada.

NULO HINTIKKA (Finland): The Nordic delegations would like to associate with the remarks made by the United Kingdom, United States of America, and Canadian delegations.

KOSEI SHIOZAWA (Japan): Our delegation would have to associate with the United Kingdom and United States of America.

M. RYAN (Australia): Australia's position is in agreement with that expressed by the United Kingdom, Canadian, United States of America, Nordic and Japanese delegations.

CHAIRMAN: Now the text will go to the Drafting Committee for inclusion in our report, and then in our main report. The countries that have expressed their reservations on the creation of a fund, which I believe is what is causing the problem here, will be reflected in the main text of the report. However, the resolution is accepted as proposed by the delegate of Mexico, and supported by many delegations. With this comment I will close our discussion on this agenda item.

The meeting rose at 18.00 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 heures.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.00 horas.

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**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 85/I/PV/15

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

FIFTEENTH MEETING  
QUINZIEME SEANCE  
15a SESION

(25 November 1985)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 11.20 hours

Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 11 h 20

sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 11.20 horas

bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

Tribute to Mr Jean E. CARROZ, Assistant Director-General, Fisheries Department  
Hommage à M. Jean E. CARROZ, Sous-Directeur general, Département des pêches  
Homenaje al Sr, Jean E. CARROZ, Subdirector General, Departamento de Pesca

LE PRESIDENT : Je voudrais commencer en disant un mot concernant M. Carroz, Sous-Directeur général du Département des pêches qui, comme vous le savez maintenant, est décédé ce matin. Vous savez également que le début de la séance plénière a été consacré à cette personnalité qui vient de disparaître. Je voudrais vous proposer de faire une minute de silence en sa mémoire. En effet, nous, en Commission I, sommes les premiers concernés, nous savons tous qu'il s'agissait d'une personnalité importante à la FAO, que tout ce qu'il a fait ici, il l'a fait avec beaucoup de succès. Et nous sommes d'autant plus touchés par la disparition de M. Carroz, qu'il était en bonne santé et qu'il était avec nous il y a quelques heures.

Je m'excuse encore auprès de vous du retard apporté à nos travaux mais chacun a voulu rappeler la mémoire de M. Carroz en séance plénière. Je vous propose de faire une minute de silence en souvenir de ce grand fonctionnaire de la FAO que nous avons tous connu.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

Bien sûr, il n'est pas très facile de commencer notre ordre du jour dans ces circonstances et nombreux parmi nous auraient aimé avoir davantage de temps pour vaincre nos sentiments. Mais la vie a ses droits et nous avons beaucoup de travail à faire;

ADOPTION OF REPORT

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT

APROBACION DEL INFORME

Je vous propose de commencer l'adoption de ce projet mais auparavant je voudrais faire deux observations.

En premier lieu, concernant ces textes, il y a eu accord de la part du Comité de rédaction, parfois après de longues discussions. Il faut donc tenir compte du fait qu'au sein du Comité de rédaction il y a eu consensus. J'espère qu'il vous sera possible de voir passer ces textes en bloc: Je voudrais donc faire un appel pour que dans la mesure du possible tout le monde fasse passer ces textes en bloc. Nous les prendrons texte par texte puis nous verrons ce qu'il est possible de faire. Je vous fais un plaidoyer pour que nous les acceptions en bloc mais il est bien entendu que si certaines délégations désirent prendre la parole sur n'importe quel point elles en ont le plus grand droit. Je ne veux en aucun cas donner l'impression de vous enlever ce droit à la discussion, bien au contraire. Mais s'il est possible d'accepter le texte en bloc, cela nous ferait gagner du temps. Et comme je le dis souvent, nous sommes véritablement entre vos mains; il n'y a aucun doute à ce sujet.

En second lieu, le Comité de rédaction est arrivé à des conclusions sur presque tout. Il reste encore la résolution sur l'Afrique. Vous savez que les amis du Président se sont réunis plusieurs fois et nous sommes maintenant tout proches d'un texte définitif, mais nous n'y sommes pas encore tout à fait arrivés. Je vous propose donc de mettre encore cette résolution sur l'Afrique de côté et de ne pas la traiter encore maintenant. Il y aura encore cet après-midi une réunion du groupe des amis; à sept heures, le texte passerait devant le Comité de rédaction et il vous serait soumis demain à 9 h 30.

On me dit maintenant, de la part du Secrétariat, que ce texte sur l'Afrique serait rediscuté vers 17 heures par les amis du Président mais que le Comité de rédaction qui a déjà vérifié ce texte ne se réunirait plus à ce propos et qu'il repasserait directement à 9 h 30 devant notre Commission; il ne passerait donc plus par le Comité de rédaction; ce sont les dernières nouvelles.

Pour me résumer, il y aurait donc à 17 heures une réunion du Comité des amis sur ce texte, puis demain matin ici en session plénière une discussion qui pourrait être extrêmement courte et peut-être même n'y aurait-il pas de discussion du tout.

Le Président du Comité de rédaction étant arrivé, je lui donne maintenant la parole afin qu'il vous donne un aperçu général de tous ces documents; puis nous prendrons les documents un par un.

JOSEPH TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction): Je voudrais tout simplement dire que le Comité de rédaction a travaillé toute la semaine dernière et a tenu sa dernière séance samedi après-midi. Le rapport ou plus exactement les rapports que vous avez devant vous représentent le fruit de nos délibérations qui se sont déroulées dans une atmosphère amicale et empreinte de respect mutuel. Cela a été pour nous un plaisir et un privilège que de travailler avec tous les membres de notre Comité de rédaction qui n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour aboutir aux résultats que nous avons devant nous. Ce travail, nous le devons à vous-même et aux vice-présidents qui ont fait un excellent travail en tirant sur chacun des points inscrits à notre ordre du jour des conclusions claires reflétant le débat de cette Commission. En effet, ces conclusions ont été pour nous des guides et ce, d'autant plus que nous avons travaillé exclusivement en tenant compte des points de vue exprimés dans cette salle et oeuvré pour éviter que de nouveaux débats s'engagent au sein de notre Comité de rédaction. Nous avons ainsi voulu rester dans les limites des pouvoirs dévolus au Comité de rédaction, Comité que vous avez vous-mêmes mis en place; cela d'ailleurs nous a facilité la tâche et permis d'aboutir aux conclusions qui figurent dans les rapports qui nous sont soumis.

Nous l'avons dit, ces rapports sont le résultat d'un travail collectif obtenu grâce aux efforts déployés par tous pour aboutir sur des questions litigieuses à des compromis qui ne pourront pas, nous en sommes sûrs, être interprétés comme des compromissions par l'ensemble de groupes d'opinions que les membres représentaient au sein du Comité de rédaction. Pour terminer, je tiens à remercier tous les membres du Comité de rédaction pour l'esprit de coopération dont ils ont fait montre tout au long de nos délibérations, esprit qui a permis d'aboutir aux résultats que vous avez devant vous. Cependant je manquerais à mon devoir si je ne mettais pas en garde la Commission sur le fait que beaucoup de paragraphes ont fait l'objet d'un examen attentif et les textes présentés ici constituent l'équilibre le plus acceptable que nous avons trouvé et une remise en cause ici rouvrirait des discussions dont on pourrait craindre le résultat. Le Comité de rédaction espère qu'on tiendrait de ces indications au cours de l'examen de ce rapport.

Nous tenons à signaler qu'étant donné la suggestion faite par le Président et acceptée semble-t-il par tous, le Comité de rédaction n'a pas délibéré sur la situation critique de l'Afrique et je pense que vous l'avez indiqué ici vous-même, M. le Président.

Enfin je tiens à vous remercier pour la confiance que vous avez placée en nous en nous désignant comme Président du Comité de rédaction de cette importante Commission de notre Conférence. Il s'agit là d'une marque de sympathie que vous avez manifestée au-delà de ma modeste personne à mon pays et je pense avoir oeuvré pour mériter cette confiance.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci beaucoup, ambassadeur Tchicaya. Nous sommes très contents que vous ayez pu parvenir à ce résultat. Je voudrais aussi attirer l'attention de toutes les délégations sur la bonne volonté montrée par beaucoup de petites délégations qui ont vraiment de grandes difficultés à être présentes à la fois à la Plénière et ici. C'est une difficulté qui est une réalité pour l'ambassadeur Tchicaya; il n'est pas le seul, mais il a joué un très grand rôle; le Comité de rédaction, comme c'est souvent le cas, s'est réuni de très longues heures et il a toujours été disponible; j'ajoute qu'il a été également très disponible dans ce groupe non officiel des amis du Président qui s'est consacré à ce texte sur l'Afrique. En fait, il a vraiment fait une double tâche et il est maintenant ici parmi nous. Je voudrais en profiter pour lui demander de faire une introduction sur le premier document que nous allons examiner, mais je voudrais auparavant demander au Secrétariat de faire une petite déclaration car il y a, je crois, une légère correction à faire sur le texte, correction d'ordre matériel; ensuite, nous accorderons la parole à l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya.

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

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): There is a typing error in the English version and it may save us time if it is pointed out in advance. The first and second lines of paragraph 8 of C 85/I/REP/I in the English version should read: "...should play a continuing and important role in agricultural development in Africa." The words "to play" should not be there. Would you cross them out. In the correction of the draft they were left in instead of being omitted. That sentence should read: "The Conference also stated that food aid should play a continuing and important role in agricultural development in Africa." It is just a typographical error.

LE PRESIDENT: Pourrai-je maintenant demander à l'ambassadeur Tchicaya, en tant que président du Comité de rédaction, de bien vouloir prendre la parole sur ce document C 85/I/REP/1?

J. TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction): S'agissant de ce document C 85/I/REP/1, le Comité de rédaction l'a examiné suffisamment longuement et nous pensons que c'est un document bien équilibré qui ne devrait poser aucun problème aux membres de notre Commission.

LE PRESIDENT: Puis-je maintenant demander si certaines délégations demandent la parole sur ce texte? S'il n'en est pas ainsi, j'en conclurai que nous sommes tous d'accord sur ce texte important. Donc ce document C 85/I/REP/1. est approuvé.

Paragraphs 1 to 15 approved  
Les paragraphes 1 à 15 sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 1 a 15 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 1, was adopted  
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, première partie, est adopté  
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte I, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - DEUXIEME PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15  
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 15  
PARRAFOS 1 a 15

Nous passons maintenant à l'examen du document C 85/I/REP/2. En ce qui concerne le point 7.2 La situation critique de l'Afrique, il y a donc la résolution contenue dans le paragraphe 16 qui reste encore à voir avec la procédure sur laquelle nous nous sommes mis d'accord.

GORAN ANCKARBERG (Sweden): Through you, Mr Chairman, may I ask a question of the Secretariat concerning paragraph 15? In this paragraph we state there will be a special session on the critical situation in Africa. Can the Secretariat confirm that the General Assembly has taken a decision that there will be a session? I know there is a Draft Resolution concerning a special session, but has actually a decision been taken?



N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): About the query made by the distinguished delegate from Sweden, paragraph 15, as to whether there has indeed been a final decision on the United Nations General Assembly Session on Africa's critical economic situation. Our latest information is that the final decision has not yet been taken, but it is expected that it will be taken.

G. ANCKARBERG (Sweden): I am grateful to the Secretariat for giving us this answer but, the General Assembly has not yet taken a final decision. This being the case, I propose that we delete the words "the forthcoming" and insert the article "a", so, the paragraph should read "Given the crucial importance of the food and agricultural sectors in Africa the Conference emphasized the important role of FAO in the preparations for and the deliberations of a special session of the United Nations General Assembly", and so on.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal that has just been made I, for my part, think is quite acceptable. If everybody agrees, and that is really what I am asking you know, is there anybody against this Swedish proposal? If not, then we can accept it. Nobody has asked for the floor, so the Swedish proposal on paragraph 15 has been accepted.

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 17 TO 22, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHERS 17 A 22, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 17 A 22, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

Est-ce que sur ce point et sur le point 10—Adoption du Pacte mondial de sécurité alimentaire des délégations veulent prendre la parole?

IGOR MARINCEK (Suisse): Au sujet du paragraphe 20, avant la dernière phrase, ma délégation propose d'ajouter une phrase, donc après "Quelques Membres ont déclaré qu'ils auraient préféré de nouveaux amendements pour renforcer plusieurs aspects du projet de pacte et en améliorer la rédaction", on ajouterait "une délégation a notamment suggéré d'évoquer dans le texte du Pacte le rôle essentiel des médias dans la sensibilisation du public pour les problèmes de sécurité alimentaire", et on continue comme mentionné dans le projet soumis à la Commission.

Sra.Dra. GRAFILA SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Se trata del párrafo 19. Casi al final del párrafo, donde dice: "Tres países se disociaron de este texto, que fue aprobado por el Consejo en su 87° período de sesiones", mi delegación propondría agregar la siguiente frase: "Y otra delegación deploró esta actitud por considerar que era contraria a la cooperación internacional".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other countries who ask for the floor at this stage? This is, for the moment, not the case. We will look first at the remark by Switzerland which asked that a phrase should be added. Are there any remarks about this demand of Switzerland? There are none, so this phrase could then be added. The Secretariat will now read out that phrase so that we are all sure about what it contains.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): The proposed Swiss amendment would come in as a new sentence, the second to last sentence of paragraph 20. After it is said that some members stated that they would have preferred further amendments, there is this new sentence: "One member suggested that in the text of the Compact one should refer to the essential role of the media in sensitizing public opinion on food problems."

LE PRESIDENT : En ce qui concerne la phrase de la Suisse, aucune délégation ne demandant plus la parole, je propose qu'elle soit incluse dans le texte et nous proposons maintenant que l'on passe au texte proposé par Cuba. Y a-t-il des délégations qui demandent la parole à propos de cette proposition qui sera lue encore une fois par le Secrétariat?

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): This new sentence would be inserted into paragraph 19 on page 6, after the sentence saying, "Three members dissociated themselves from this text ..." After that sentence, a new one would be inserted reading as follows: "Another member deplored this attitude considering it contrary to the spirit of international cooperation."

LE PRESIDENT : Y a-t-il des délégations qui désirent prendre la parole à propos de cet ajout proposé par Cuba ? Puisqu'il n'y en a pas, cette phrase fera dorénavant partie du texte.

We can now conclude that, with the two proposed alterations which have been accepted, the text of document C 85/I/REP/2 is accepted.

Paragraphs 17 to 21, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 21, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 21, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 22, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 22, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 22, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 2, (less the resolution) as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, deuxième partie, sauf la résolution ainsi amendée, est adopté

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 2, menos la resolución así amendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - TROISIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 27

PARAGRAPHES 1 à 27

PARRAFOS 1 a 27

LE PRESIDENT : En ce qui concerne le C 85/I/REP/3, je voudrais maintenant demander au Président du Comité de rédaction de prononcer s'il le veut bien un mot d'introduction.

JOSEPH TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction) : Comme vous pouvez l'imaginer, ce point a fait l'objet d'une assez longue discussion. Nous sommes arrivés malgré tout à trouver des formules pouvant satisfaire toutes les parties. Nous pensons avoir entre les mains un texte très équilibré et tenant compte de tous les avis. Par conséquent, nous souhaiterions le voir adopter en l'état.

LE PRESIDENT : Je vous remercie pour votre introduction. Nous avons donc ce texte maintenant devant nous, et je vous demanderais de me dire si l'on peut l'adopter tel quel ou bien y a-t-il des objections? Oui, le Canada voudrait prendre la parole.

DOUGLAS LINDORES (Canada): This is a question of clarification relating to paragraph 23. The sentence in English does not appear to make sense, and I am not too sure whether something has been left out. The past phrase, in referring to the International Emergency Food Reserve, reads: "... which had ... resulted in the minimum annual target of the ...(IEFR) being met for four years since the inception of the Reserve." Has there been a misprint or something or other? It does not seem to read correctly.

CHAIRMAN: Indeed, I have to thank the delegation of Canada because there seem to be a few words lacking. The Secretariat perhaps can verify this and give their opinion about what has happened. The Secretariat are looking at this and ask for your indulgence as they would like to check this. It seems there are a few words missing. We will take up this point again in a few minutes.

GUY FRADIN (France) : J'ai bien entendu l'appel de l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya, mais je propose une correction de pure forme. Ce sont deux corrections qui concernent les paragraphes 12 et 15. . Dans le paragraphe 15 la première phrase dit "La Conférence est convenue que la communauté internationale devrait faire tout son possible pour persuader les pays de mettre un terme aux mesures protectionnistes, y compris subventions à l'exportation et pratiques analogues qui affectent les marchés internationaux". Je souhaiterais qu'on ajoute, après le mot "y compris", les mots : "les restrictions d'accès aux marchés", les subventions à L'exportation et pratiques analogues, ... ce qui permettrait d'établir une cohérence avec le paragraphe 12 dans lequel, il est dit: la Conférence "est . convenue que le protectionnisme, y compris les restrictions d'accès aux marchés, et l'usage de subventions et autres pratiques similaires du commerce agricole sont persistants,".

La seconde modification concerne le paragraphe 12. Dans la dernière ligne, on parle de "avantage compétitif." . Je pense que l'on doit vouloir dire "avantage comparatif.".

LE PRESIDENT : Vous avez entendu ces deux remarques et propositions énoncées par le délégué de la France. Le délégué de l'Argentine a demandé la parole ainsi que celui de la Suisse.

EMILIO PARDO (Argentina): Es para referirme a las dos enmiendas que acaba de proponer la distinguida delegación de Francia.

Con respecto a la primera de ellas, nos parece adecuada ya que es paralela a lo que se señala en el párrafo 12. En cuanto a la segunda enmienda, la referida a la mayor competitividad, en el texto español me refiero; creo haber oído que la delegación de Francia proponía la sustitución por algo así como "comparatividad". No sé lo que sucederá en francés; pero en español no es un término correcto. Tal vez podría decirse: ventajas comparativas, a fin de usar una terminología económica. Leo: "a bajo costo de aprovechar sus mayores ventajas comparativas".

IGOR MARINCEK (Suisse): Ma délégation a reçu les documents C 85/I/REP/3, C 85/I/REP/4 et C 85/I/REP/5 ce matin seulement, et nous n'avons pas encore eu le temps d'en terminer la lecture. Donc, pour ce qui est de ma délégation, nous ne sommes pas en mesure d'entrer dans la discussion et si ce problème existe pour d'autres délégations, ma proposition serait donc de pouvoir continuer l'examen des documents C 85/I/REP/4, C 85/I/REP/5 et C 85/I/REP/6 dans l'après-midi seulement. Je le répète, ceci en raison du fait que nous n'avons pas encore pu prendre connaissance de ces documents.

JAMES E. ROSS (United States of America): I apologize for taking the floor on this point, but I think it is essential to clarify our country's position.

The first paragraph on page two, has a footnote 2/. I should like to add a 3/, and then at the bottom of the page, an insert for a footnote 3/, "Participation and agreement of the United States in discussion of this agenda item was without prejudice to its reservation on the revised IAA (International Agriculture Adjustment) Guidelines". That statement was made and we would like to have it reflected in a footnote.

JOHN SAULT (Australia): I have a suggestion relating to paragraph 13. The last sentence of that paragraph refers to a statement which was made by the member countries of the EEC about the Community being the largest importer of agricultural products. That point certainly was made, but it was responded to by a number of countries, and also I think by the Secretariat. In order to give an adequate balance to the debate which occurred, we should add an additional short sentence which would read as follows: "Some countries noted that the EEC is an area of high consumption and that most of its agricultural imports were tropical products, commodities which the Community largely did not produce itself, and agricultural raw materials".

KADHIM TAYEH SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): I have a small amendment in the Arabic version, in the last line of paragraph 4. The last sentence in Arabic reads "to the developing countries". It should say in Arabic "towards". This is okay in the English text, and this refers just to the Arabic version.

CHAIRMAN: It seems to be a translation problem. I think you will agree, and the Secretariat will agree, to arrange it so that the Arabic text will really be saying the same thing as the English text. I think you will agree that we leave that to the administration and translation services. The text will be corrected in the way you asked.

Si plus personne ne demande la parole (mais bien entendu on pourra y revenir), je vais demander au Secrétariat de donner une réponse sur les deux questions matérielles qui ont été posées.

N. ISLAM (Assistant Director-General, Economie and Social Policy Department): On REP/3, paragraph 23, a question was asked by the distinguished delegate from Canada, as to whether there was a missing word in the last sentence of that paragraph. It appears not, because the minimum annual target of IEFER was indeed met for four years between 1981 and 1985 since the inception of the Reserve. Out of these five, one year it was not met, and for four years it was met. The language may not be very efficient, I am afraid.

CHAIRMAN: I think Canada is satisfied with the answer. Is that so? Indeed, so then, that is all right.

I would propose, if you agree, to move on to the next remarks, and these are from France who, if I am not mistaken, made remarks on paragraphs 15 and 12. I would now like to put these questions before you, and then try and finish them. The floor is open for these two proposals from France, where there has been a reaction from Argentina already.

Est-ce qu'une autre délégation demande la parole concernant ces deux propositions de la France, mis à part l'Argentine qui a déjà pris la parole à ce propos ?

KADHIM TAYEH SALMAN (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Regarding the amendment which has been proposed to paragraph 12, where we talk about "competitive advantage", and we changed it to "comparative advantage", I think in the Arabic version "competitive" is more correct. I would like the Arabic text to remain as it is.

LE PRESIDENT: Il me semble qu'à ce stade de nos discussions il serait préférable d'entendre l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya sur ces points.

J. TCHICAYA (Président du Comité de rédaction): Concernant le paragraphe 15 nous n'avons aucune objection à ce que l'on ajoute le membre de phrase proposé par la France.

Concernant le paragraphe 12 j'ai moi-même été quelque peu surpris de voir ce mot "compétitif" parce que le texte adopté par le Comité de rédaction parlait bien d'avantages comparatifs. En fait, je ne sais pas exactement d'où vient le mot "compétitif".

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez donc entendu les remarques du Président du Comité de rédaction; est-ce qu'il vous convient bien d'avoir l'expression "comparatif"? Le Président du Comité de rédaction vient de souligner que c'était bien de ce mot dont il s'agissait.

Si personne ne s'y oppose, nous mettrons le mot "comparatif" au paragraphe 12.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 15, j'ai eu l'impression que là aussi il n'y avait pas véritablement d'objection; nous avons entendu les propos du Président du Comité de rédaction; si aucune pancarte ne se lève, nous allons décider d'accepter la phrase proposée par la France pour le 15. Aucune plaque de se lève? Dans ces conditions, la phrase proposée par la France au 15 est acceptée.

Je voudrais passer à la remarque faite par les Etats-Unis à propos de la note en bas de page de la page 2 au paragraphe 1. Y a-t-il des demandes de parole à ce sujet? Comme il n'y en a pas, cette phrase est acceptée.

Nous passons maintenant à la remarque sur le paragraphe 13 de la part de l'Australie. Vous avez entendu la phrase proposée par l'Australie? Est-ce qu'une délégation demande la parole?

JACQUES THINSY (Belgique): J'étais là au moment où cette question a été discutée et je me souviens que la délégation de l'Australie a effectivement fait la remarque qu'elle veut voir introduite dans le document. Mais il me semble que seule la délégation de l'Australie a fait cette remarque. Je pense que pour être plus corrects et afin de mieux refléter les réalités de la discussion nous devrions indiquer: "Une délégation a noté, etc."

Je crois que ce serait plus fidèle.

CHAIRMAN: I would think this is a question for the Australian delegation and before I say what I would like to say, the Australian delegation perhaps would give its opinion.

JOHN SAULT (Australia): Yes, these comments were certainly not confined to the Australian delegation.

EMILIO PARDO (Argentina): Creo que al respecto (como muy bien dice la delegación de Australia) no es solamente una delegación. Hubo otras, entre las cuales estuvo la mía, de una manera explícita o de una manera implícita, pero es así. No ha sido solamente una delegación.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): We spoke at some length and quite explicitly on this issue, so certainly we did put it in and I am sure it is in the verbatim record.

CHAIRMAN: If some delegations spoke implicitly, maybe that is not enough, but a few spoke explicitly about it. I think I can make an appeal to the Belgian delegation to accept the phrase that is proposed. (The delegate of Belgium nodded assent.)

Thank you very much, distinguished delegates from the Belgian delegation, for your understanding. That way we can go quickly. I think in the circumstances the Australian proposal is agreeable and acceptable to everybody. Nobody asks for the floor, so the Australian phrase is then accepted.

I think we' could now finish with the remarks from Iraq which, as it seems to me, are more in relation to translation problems. I would like to ask the Secretariat to give its opinion if that is indeed so, and then we can conclude.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): It seems that it was a question of translation, except that the representative of Iraq said that in Arabic it was "competitive", the sense of the word which is the word he wanted. So we could, perhaps, just leave the Arabic translation as it is, if that is acceptable, and only change the English, French and Spanish, but not change the Arabic.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the remarks just made by the Secretariat, delegate of Iraq, is that acceptable to you? (The delegate of Iraq nodded assent.)

Thank you very much for your understanding. It is very kind.

GUY FRADIN (France): C'est au sujet de l'amendement qui a été présenté par notre collègue de l'Australie: je partageais l'avis de mon collègue de la Belgique sur le fait qu'il n'y a quela délégation australienne qui s'était exprimée de cette façon-là.

J'apprends, et j'en suis un peu surpris, que le délégué de l'Argentine et le délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande se sont également exprimés de cette manière-là. Je vous demanderais, si possible, que l'on vérifie sur les verbatims si cela était-dit de façon explicite, si cela était exprimé en ces termes; et nous pourrions réserver simplement la position jusqu'à cet après-midi.

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais préciser à la délégation de la France que j'avais l'impression qu'on était déjà passé sur ce point et qu'on était d'accord. Vous connaissez ma position; je veux véritablement que tout le monde se sente à l'aise; toutes les délégations ont toujours le droit de tout demander; nous sommes tous des humains et quelque chose peut nous avoir échappé; il est certain que si quelque chose est essentiel nous pouvons revenir sur une question et je ne voudrais pas du tout donner l'impression que je n'agis pas ainsi pour la France, bien au contraire. Je vous pose simplement la question - puisqu'on l'avait accepté - et si, ce n'est pas pour vous une question de vie ou de mort - ne pourrait-on pas passer outre? C'est une question, si vous me répondez non, on fera comme vous proposez. Je n'essaie pas du tout de vous influencer et peut-être pourrais-je avoir votre réponse positive, si c'est possible.

GUY FRADIN (France): Non, ce n'est pas une question de vie ou de mort, fort heureusement d'ailleurs, mais le problème est simplement de dire exactement ce qui s'est passé. Moi je souhaite que la demande proposée par l'Australie sur le fond soit incluse dans notre rapport sauf disons les deux premiers mots "entre certains pays et un pays", ce que l'on peut vérifier d'ici le début de la séance de l'après-midi et on conclura ce point en reprenant cette phrase.

RAINER PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): We would like to check this in detail as well, and we give our full support to France.

LE PRESIDENT: "Nous vous avons compris", comme disait un grand homme d'Etat français. Je crois qu'en cette circonstance tout le monde serait d'accord pour que l'on vérifie le verbatim et je pense ainsi, cet après-midi, très rapidement pouvoir en terminer sur cette question.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): We will certainly go along with your present ruling, if that is what you wish. But I do have my statement in front of me. If the meeting wishes, I could read it and clarify the issue right now. It is up to you, Mr Chairman.

CHAIRMAN: The paragraph you have there, is that the paragraph you were reading in the verbatim, if I may ask you?

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): No, it is a copy of my statement as it was in the verbatim.

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be more convenient to really see, then, as there are a few countries which asked for it, in all fairness to look at what the verbatim says, and if the verbatim says so, I am completely sure that these two or three countries will be compelled by the facts and will take that into consideration and will not ask for the floor any more. So I would rather, if it is agreeable to everyone, try to ask you, let's look at the verbatim during the lunch break and then we will quickly solve this problem this afternoon. Everybody seems to agree on that.

GETACHEW TEKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): I am referring to the comment made by Iraq on paragraph 12. I think the Chair has agreed to leave the English version as "comparative", but the Arabic as "competitive". I do not think we can agree to have two different concepts in one subject in two different versions. So either we have to agree that the English should read "competitive" or the Arabic be changed into "comparative". I'm just asking for information and give my opinion that we cannot leave the text of the two languages that have two different concepts.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. I will ask the Secretariat to react to your question.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I think perhaps, Mr Chairman, that there seems to be, or there was, general agreement on "comparative" - and the Chairman of the drafting group pointed out that "comparative advantage" was the meaning that was adopted in the drafting group. But perhaps the best thing to do is that Iraq and the other Arabic countries could give us the word on which they agree, and we will make sure that that word goes into the text, so that we reflect the correct meaning.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Secretariat. Indeed, this seems to be the best solution to me.

GETACHEW TEKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): I am not speaking as an Arabic-speaking country or translator of Arabic. I am in the group of English speakers. So this is simply an English translation concept problem. A text in two or three different languages should say the same thing. So there is no point in discussing and in informing the Chair.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed, but the delegation of Ethiopia will remember that here, after the intervention of the Chairman of the group concerned, we agreed that "comparatif" in French was the key word. We all agreed on that, I thought Ethiopia too. So I think this question is solved, and you agreed on a key word in French, "comparatif", so I think this is indeed the word - "comparatif" in French. This word "comparatif" will be translated in all the languages concerned and then, of course, there will be no problem because I think we all agree - Iraq agrees, you agree, everybody agrees - it is just a translation problem. It is not really a problem to translate "comparatif" on which we all agree exactly in all the languages concerned. So I think with that we all agree. If everybody agrees on this then, I think this problem is then solved.

Paragraphs 1 to 27 not concluded.

Les paragraphes 1 à 27 sont en suspens.

Los párrafos 1 a 27 quedan pendientes.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, not concluded.

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, troisième partie, est en suspens.

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, queda pendiente.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours.

La séance est levée à 12 h 40.

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas.



**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

**C**

C 85/I/PV/16

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION IVingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I23º período de sesiones  
COMISION I**SIXTEENTH MEETING****SEIZIEME SEANCE****16ª SESION**

(25 November 1985)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.05 hours,  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 15 h 05  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 15.05 horas,  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - TROISIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 27 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 27 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 27 (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Mes chers délégués, nous pouvons commencer; en fait nous étions pratiquement en train de terminer le REP/3 et il y avait encore une question pendante à propos du paragraphe 13.

GUY FRADIN (France): J'ai lu attentivement les verbatims des procès-verbaux de nos débats en Commission I sur ce thème de l'ordre du jour. Effectivement, le délégué, notre collègue de la Nouvelle-Zélande, a abordé le point que l'Australie a souligné. Cela dit, il l'a fait en des termes sensiblement différents de ceux que le délégué australien avait lui-même prononcés. Toutefois, il ne m'appartient pas d'interpréter la déclaration qu'a faite notre collègue et ami de la Nouvelle-Zélande, et s'il prétend que c'est effectivement ce qu'il a voulu dire, il me paraît tout à fait normal d'en tenir compte et d'admettre que cette position a été soutenue par la Nouvelle-Zélande.

Par contre, je ne crois pas que l'Argentine ait parlé d'une manière ou d'une autre de la même chose que le délégué de l'Australie. Dans ces conditions, je voudrais vous proposer tout simplement de retenir l'amendement de la délégation australienne, en précisant simplement qu'il s'agit "de deux pays qui ont fait remarquer", etc. avec le texte qui était proposé.

Toutefois, j'aimerais à ce moment-là que l'on me permette de proposer une petite modification sur la phrase qui suivra cet amendement australien, qui est la phrase actuellement à la fin du paragraphe 13: "Toutefois, les Etats Membres de la Communauté ont souligné que la CEE était le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles..."; j'ajouterais "entre parenthèses 20 pour cent du commerce mondial": ce sont les termes qui ont été employés par le délégué représentant des dix Etats Membres; on continuerait ensuite en disant "et que les pays en développement étaient les premiers fournisseurs de la CEE, leur part ayant progressé de plus de 5 pour cent au cours des dernières années, et que la CEE absorbe près de 30 pour cent de leurs exportations agricoles".

Voici les modifications que nous pourrions apporter et qui correspondent très exactement à la déclaration du représentant des dix Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne.

Donc, je répète:

- je vous propose de placer l'amendement australien là où le délégué australien avait demandé qu'il le soit, c'est-à-dire à l'avant-dernière phrase, en disant: "Deux pays ont fait remarquer..."
- et de modifier comme je l'ai dit; je peux répéter, mais cela figure dans le dernier verbatim de la déclaration. Je répète les modifications plus lentement: après "le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles", on mettrait "entre parenthèses 20 pour cent du commerce mondial"; et après "fournisseurs de la CEE", "leur part ayant progressé de plus de 5 pour cent au cours des dernières années"... "de ces dernières années".

Encore une petite modification qui correspond à ce qui a été écrit; il faut ajouter que la CEE était de loin le premier importateur mondial; je reprends les termes qui ont été écrits.

JOHN SAULT (Australia): As I understand it, when we adjourned before lunch, there was only one question outstanding about the sentence which I suggested be added, and it was the final sentence of the paragraph, not the penultimate sentence. I had suggested that the sentence be added at the end of the paragraph. The only question that was in doubt, was, in fact, the number of countries that made this statement. I think we have already had the amendment agreed. We now find ourselves with a suggestion that the sentence be placed in a different spot, but the number of countries be changed, that additional amendments be made to the sentence relating to the EEC. I would request that we focus solely on that issue which was outstanding, and that is the number of countries which made the statement that I suggested in my amendment. I did recall that at least two countries made the statement quite explicitly. In the remarks that were made by a number of other countries it seemed evident that at least implicitly they had the same feeling.

I really do not want to focus too much on the number. I think that no more than two members of the European Community in fact made this particular point, which is attributed to all members of the European Community. I would appeal that we focus solely on the question of whether it be some countries that noted the sentence that I suggested be adopted, or whether it is a few or whatever, but I do not think we can now return to suggesting a whole lot of further amendments.

EMILIO PARDO (Argentina): Lamento tener que importunarlo nuevamente así como al Plenario de esta Comisión. Espero ser muy breve para precisar la posición de mi país respecto a la iniciativa de la distinguida delegación de Australia y a la reciente alusión que hiciera a mi delegación la distinguida delegación de Francia.

Di je hoy por la mañana que en mi intervención estaba implícito, repito implícito, aunque por cierto supongo que bastante en claro, que nuestra preocupación con la organización de integración de algunos países desarrollados estaba referida tanto a las dificultades de acceso a ese mercado, cuanto al desplazamiento en terceros mercados por productos agropecuarios que no son tropicales o de zona tropical.

Señalé concretamente en otro párrafo de nuestra intervención, el trigo, las carnes, los aceites vegetales, las grasas. Explicité más adelante la fundamentación de mi posición con menciones de cifras y otros argumentos.

En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, afortunadamente la delegación de Australia que habló después de mi delegación, repito señor Presidente, habló después que mi delegación, mencionó concretamente el tema a que estamos haciendo referencia en este momento.

Creo también, señor Presidente, es una pregunta que se dirige a la Secretaría, que cualquier delegación puede referirse hasta el Plenario en relación a cualquiera de los documentos que estamos revisando aquí. Entonces, señor Presidente, me permitiría rogarle que se me incluyera también con Australia y Nueva Zelandia entre estos "algunos países".

BRUNELLA LO TURCO (Italie): La délégation italienne désire s'associer à la proposition de la délégation française car elle semble très équilibrée et conforme à ce qui s'est passé dans cette enceinte.

RAINIER PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): The German delegation would like to support the French proposal. I think it is a very accurate reflection of the discussion which took place in this Commission, and the German delegation, 'too, pointed to some statistics from our foreign trade which show that, of course, developing countries at the present are still the main suppliers of agricultural or other raw materials. But, one must approach these things in a dynamic way. Our own imports from developing countries have changed very much as far as their structure is concerned. If I may just cast my mind back to all of our imports from developing countries, 36 percent of them are finished, or semi-finished products and I am sure that the percentage will increase considerably over the next few years. In other words, the trade pattern is continuing to change, and I think this idea is conveyed much better by the French proposal than by the original text.

H. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Tout d'abord je voudrais m'exprimer en tant que délégué de la Belgique et je me permettrai de donner un conseil à certains délégués présents dans cette assemblée en ce qui concerne les statistiques. La Communauté édite régulièrement des bulletins statistiques qui s'appellent "le NIMEX". Je crois qu'il serait utile qu'ils puissent les consulter de façon à être au fait de la nature des importations aussi bien que des exportations de la Communauté.

Cela étant dit, comme un certain nombre de nos collègues le savent, nous avons l'habitude pour les questions communautaires dans ces enceintes de nous exprimer par la voie de l'observateur des Communautés, ce qui a pour bénéfice de réduire la durée de nos débats, et je crois que cette façon de faire sera encore plus bénéfique à partir du 1er janvier de l'année prochaine car cela nous permettra de nous exprimer une seule fois au nom des douze Etats Membres.

En qualité de représentant de mon pays et en présence du représentant des Communautés durant cette Conférence, je souhaiterais que celui-ci puisse à nouveau s'exprimer pour préciser ce qui a été dit la semaine dernière.

Le PRESIDENT: Je voudrais demander à la Communauté, si elle est présente, de préciser cette idée.

Gilles DESEQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Tout d'abord un problème institutionnel: je voudrais dire que, lorsque le représentant de la Communauté s'exprime, il parle au nom des 10 pays de la Communauté. Donc, dans le débat, c'est bien 10 pays qui ont déclaré que le représentant de la Communauté s'est exprimé. C'est un point très important. Je pensais que tous les délégués connaissaient ce problème constitutionnel.

Maintenant, je crois, comme l'a fait remarquer le délégué français, que dans un souci d'équilibre ce qu'il a proposé devrait rencontrer l'assentiment de nombreux délégués. Mais il est évident, comme l'a dit le représentant de l'Argentine, que ces remarques n'apparaissent peut-être pas dans sa déclaration mais que l'on peut les en déduire. Il a fait référence à d'autres déclarations mais c'était sur un autre point de l'ordre du jour et on ne devrait pas aller dans cette voie-là car un nouveau débat pourrait s'ouvrir. Je rappelle donc que dans un souci d'équilibre il faut essayer de refléter exactement le débat sur ce point de l'ajustement agricole international et donc d'abord mettre la phrase suggérée par le représentant australien puisque le représentant de la Communauté avait répondu au représentant en ce qui concerne le problème des importations mondiales.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I think we want to be very careful that we are not starting to open up this debate again. I think some folk are starting to quote figures again, which may or may not have been quoted in the original debate. I think we have to be careful to quote what was said in the original Commission. I think that must be clear. The verbatim record has been checked and we thank our friends from the EEC for recognizing what we actually said at that debate, which I think was very explicit on that point. I think if we were to open up the debate again, I think we may find a lot of delegations would want to support the point made by Australia and ourselves. We do not want to open that debate again, I think we should keep it simple and go back to the original amendment which goes back to Australia and gives the balance to the discussion which everybody agrees should be there. I think it would be not at all useful for us to overemphasize this whole issue in the text, as we are tending to do by adding yet further amendments and further particulars on this issue. For those reasons I would beg delegates to keep it simple and go back to the original amendment as we moved by Australia, and leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN: I am just wondering whether we could agree on this procedure, that we would take the Australian amendment as it stands, with other countries, to place it at the end because the Australian delegation asked for that, and then to add the figures that France proposed. If we could do that it would enable us to finish with this debate that has now lasted a little longer than was intended. If that is agreeable to everybody we could pass on. I think it should be agreeable to everybody, so we would then have the Australian phrase at the end, and we will add the figures as proposed by France.

GUY FRADIN (France): J'ai été d'accord avec le délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande; il ne s'agit pas de rouvrir un débat mais seulement de traduire dans notre rapport ce qui s'est passé en Commission. Je suis tout à fait d'accord pour qu'on associe, puisqu'elle le demande, l'Argentine à la déclaration australienne, mais il me semble qu'il est tout à fait normal (si l'on prend en compte les déclarations qui étaient implicites), de prendre en compte une déclaration qui était, elle, explicite et dans ces conditions d'ajouter les deux (non pas amendements), mais suppléments que j'ai proposés, à la phrase qui termine le paragraphe 13 et qui ont été prononcés par le représentant des 10 Etats Membres.

S'agissant de la place de cette phrase, et le délégué de l'Argentine l'a bien fait remarquer car c'est lui qui a parlé en premier avant l'Australie, avant le représentant des 10 pays Etats Membres, et je crois que la position de la France concernant l'amendement australien est que celui-ci vient tout à fait logiquement avant la dernière phrase.

JOSEPH TOHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): J'avais demandé la parole un peu plus tôt mais, à ce stade des débats et compte tenu des conclusions que vous venez de tirer, je pense que nous ne pouvons que souscrire à ces conclusions. Je crois pour ma part que le Comité de rédaction n'a pas eu à discuter sur cette question. Par conséquent, nous estimons que nous devons rester fidèles à ce qui a été déclaré au cours des débats dans notre Commission. Si les chiffres avancés par la France ont été effectivement prononcés en Commission, je ne vois pas pourquoi on ne les mettrait pas; de même, je ne vois pas pourquoi on ne mettrait pas qu'il y a deux, trois, quatre délégations et on pourrait je crois retenir les termes de l'Australie, en disant "certains". Je ne pense pas que cela puisse gêner quiconque.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois en effet que j'avais tiré une petite conclusion.

GUY FRADIN (France): Je m'excuse de reprendre la parole mais encore une fois il y a, à mon avis, deux raisons pour lesquelles la phrase de la délégation australienne ne doit pas se situer à la fin, mais en tant qu'avant-dernière phrase; c'est que d'une part cela reflète la chronologie de notre débat et conséquemment cela donne une cohérence et une clarté supplémentaires à ce que nous écrivons dans notre rapport car la dernière phrase actuelle du rapport répond bien à la déclaration australienne soutenue par l'Argentine et la Nouvelle-Zélande.

JOHN SAULT (Australia): The main reason that the Australian delegation made the statement that they did about this point on imports by the Community, was to counter a point that had already been made by a couple of Member States of the Community, that was why I suggested that my sentence appeared at the end. I would also return to the discussion we had before lunch when we had agreed on everything that was in this paragraph except whether it should be "some countries". We do seem to be now adopting a procedure whereby we are opening things which have already been agreed. I would request once again my sentence to be placed at the end of the paragraph because it was certainly made in the context of responding to a point that had been made by two Member States of the Community.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, so there we are. I think we should try to solve this. Let us be open about it: Australia gets its phrase at the end, and the other side gets the figures, (continues in french)

La France obtient quelque chose, l'Australie également. Essayons de nous mettre d'accord sur cette solution, si c'est possible bien entendu, sinon nous devons continuer encore le débat sur ce point. Bien sûr, je suis à votre disposition, j'essaie simplement de trouver avec vous une solution.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I would agree with the Australian delegate, I thought we had agreement before lunch. I think we should be able to move on from this point. I would make the point that the only reason we raised this issue in the debate was to have a proper balance in the discussion, otherwise we would not have raised it. So, I think the appropriate position is where it stands at the end of the paragraph. Let us not go back to reopening what we had already agreed upon. I thought the question this morning was whether or not we had made a statement explicitly in the verbatim-report, and that was a simple check that had to be conducted during lunch-time.

GUY FRADIN (France): Je suis désolé de ne pouvoir accepter cette solution que vous proposez. Je ne tiens pas à ouvrir un débat. La phrase qui est mentionnée dans le rapport n'est pas modifiée sur le fond; elle tient simplement compte de points qui ont été explicitement déclarés. Je ne m'oppose pas du tout à ce que la phrase explicitement déclarée aussi par l'Australie, et plus ou moins soutenue par d'autres délégations, soit incluse, mais la phrase qui figure actuellement en fin de paragraphe est bien celle qu'a prononcée le représentant des dix Etats Membres après la déclaration australienne. Je crois que là il n'y a pas d'ambiguïté. Que fait-on ici si ce n'est d'essayer de retracer fidèlement les débats qui ont eu lieu en séance? De surcroît, je comprends que l'intégration de cette phrase, je veux dire de la proposition australienne, en avant-dernière position donne, je le répète, une cohérence et une clarté au texte qu'il n'a pas, en sens inverse, lorsque la phrase est à la fin.

GETACHEW TÈKLE MEDHIN (Ethiopia): Well, in fact, if this sentence which is going to be added as suggested by Australia doesn't come at the end of the paragraph, it won't make any sense at all because this sentence is trying to react to the sentence by the EEC. So it has to be at the end, if we agree that the sentence should be there. Otherwise, if that sentence comes before the comment France is trying to put forward, it will not make sense. If you say some countries noted that the EEC is an area of higher consumption and so on and so on, it is negating or at least diluting the importance given to EEC in the first statement.

Le PRESIDENT: Je voudrais maintenant essayer quelque chose. Je voudrais revenir à ma proposition car il est tout de même vrai que ce matin nous avons dit que nous allions vérifier (je ne sais pas si un, ou plusieurs pays délégués l'ont dit) que l'on allait vérifier le texte et insérer l'amendement dans le texte.

Si plus personne n'intervient, je voudrais proposer de laisser la phrase australienne à la fin, avec tout ce que la France a proposé d'ajouter au texte. Si des pancartes ne s'élèvent pas rapidement, j'en terminerai avec ce sujet. Je crois que c'est une solution qui donne un peu raison à tout le monde.

Guy FRADIN (France): Vous me mettez dans une position de difficulté. Ce n'est pas moi qui a rouvert le débat. En introduisant un amendement, je constate qu'effectivement il donne un équilibre que je suis le premier à reconnaître. Donc, respectant la chronologie des débats, je n'y peux rien. C'est comme ça que cela s'est passé. Je suis très étonné que l'on essaie de forcer le cours de ce qui s'est déroulé. Tout le monde est témoin. On a le verbatim, on sait dans quel ordre les délégués ont parlé. Cela n'est pas très compliqué de résoudre le problème en sens inverse. Une délégation s'est exprimée, une autre ensuite a répondu explicitement à une déclaration, laquelle aussi est explicite. Je ne vois pas où est le problème.

LE PRESIDENT: La délégation de la France fait valoir qu'il n'y a pas de problème. La délégation de l'Australie pourrait-elle admettre cela? Est-ce que la place de l'insertion de sa phrase pourrait être changée? Nous devons trouver une solution car de toutes façons nous sommes ici pour discuter des documents. Y a-t-il une solution possible à ce problème?

John SAULT (Australia): No Mr Chairman, I think that this is the logical spot for the sentence. It is the context in which the Australian and other delegations made their comments. I repeat, the only reason that we made this statement was to respond in some way to the point that was being made to a couple of Member states of the European Community. Therefore, I feel that it is quite logical that our statement appear at the end of the paragraph as a response to a point that was being made by a couple of Members of the European Community

Guy FRADIN (France): Je ne partage pas cette position car les termes qui sont repris dans la dernière phrase du paragraphe 13 sont bien ceux du représentant de la CEE parlant au nom de dix Etats Membres et répondant effectivement à ce qu'avait déclaré le délégué de l'Australie. Donc, je crois que la logique va dans le sens d'une intégration de la phrase en avant-dernière position.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I just want to make the point, too, that whether or not the delegate for the EEC spoke last or not, the point remains that this issue arose earlier in the debate, indeed that was the only reason why we responded in the way we did. I can assure you that there is simply no point in our making such a statement unless it had been an issue. It's not important to us otherwise. The distinguished delegate from India I think made that point quite clear that the paragraph simply doesn't make sense unless it is put in the order that has been suggested this morning. For that reason, I think we need to stick with it or a formulation fairly similar to it.

JAAFARU LADAN (Nigeria): I do not intend to make any contribution to the debate at this stage, but I am just wondering whether we are actually adopting our report or just opening the debate again. If we can all recollect, these points were discussed. If it was an answer arising from somebody's comments, it should have been taken care of by the drafting committee. If the Chairman of the drafting committee can be given the chance to see in which order it is that these reports should come, that will save time because if we allow this going up and down, we will not be able to resolve the issue. If we go by the order of the speakers, I know that the EEC, to be fair, is an observer and sometimes comes at the end of our debate. Sometimes a Member of EEC requests that the floor be given to him to speak on behalf of the group. But in this instance, what we had was the EEC speaking on behalf of the EEC Members, and then still a Member of the EEC coming separately to put up a suggestion to show that this has been said by the Community in response to a point raised either by Australia or another country. So I believe it is a question of a drafting problem here. If the Chairman can look into the question of whose statement comes first and whose comes later we can make progress, Mr Chairman.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I won't take a moment. That was a positive suggestion from the distinguished delegate from Nigeria, but I do make the point following the statement in relation to the EEC. As it reads in the report now, it is referring to Member countries of the European Community, and not to the delegate or the spokesman for the EEC countries, so I think the order in which the spokesman spoke is really relevant in the course of this debate.

Guy FRADIN (France): Je voudrais faire une proposition pour essayer de sortir de l'impasse. Pourrions-nous couper en deux l'actuelle phrase qui figure à la fin du paragraphe 13 et intercaler la proposition australienne ? Nous aurions donc "Les Etats Membres de la Communauté ont souligné que la CEE était le premier importateur mondial de produits agricoles et que les pays en développement étaient les premiers fournisseurs de la CEE qui absorbe près de 30 pour cent de leurs exportations agricoles." C'est bien ce qui a effectivement été déclaré. Je pense que cela pourrait être acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: Then would this last proposal find a solution? That seems to be the case

So we will then pass on to the next point. I think we can go on with this proposal as it has been formulated, and with this I think we have finished with Rep. 3.

Paragraphs 1 to 27, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 27, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 27, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, 3ème partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - QUATRIEME PARTIE  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIIN I - PARTE 4

LE PRESIDENT: Point de l'ordre du jour 7.3.: "Etude des politiques de prix agricoles." Puis-je demander aux délégués ici présents s'ils sont globalement d'accord avec ce texte? Si cela est le cas, on pourrait l'accepter globalement et passer au suivant. La Suisse demande le parole.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 29  
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 29  
PÁRRAFOS 1 a 29

IGOR MARINCEK (Switzerland)!: In paragraph 22, my delegation spoke quite a long time about the price guarantees for limited amounts, which are used in my country. The second sentence of this paragraph reads "some countries, for instance." I would like to suggest that after the comma we continue "for instance, comma, which had introduced a system of price guarantees for limited amounts, comma, protected their staple food commodities." And we continue the sentence as it stands now. And then, the following sentence, "in small countries not of this kind but using this system, comma, protection." This is the proposal.

CHAIRMAN: We have all heard the Swiss phrases. Are they acceptable to all the delegations here? There is indeed no reaction, so the Swiss phrases in the place where they were proposed are accepted.

MARCOS NIETO LARA (Cuba): Voy a referirme, Sr. Presidente, a dos aspectos. Sobre el primero, en el párrafo 5, quisiera que se me hiciera una aclaración. En el cuarto renglón se dice: "y todos los países." Recordamos que el documento se refería a los gobiernos, sin la intervención de los gobiernos en el establecimiento de políticas de precios.

Quisiera saber, Sr. Presidente, si es un problema de traducción.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une question que l'on devrait peut-être soumettre au Comité de rédaction. L'Ambassadeur Tchicaya pourrait-il intervenir sur cette question qui a été posée par le délégué de Cuba.

JOSEPH TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Il s'agit de la seconde phrase, c'est bien cela, n'est-ce pas? Je ne sais pas ce qui ne va pas, mais dans le texte français, je lis: "Les prix exercent une influence déterminante sur la production, la consommation et les échanges, et tous les pays interviennent dans une certaine mesure - qui peut parfois être considérable - sur les prix des produits agricoles et des facteurs de production." J'aimerais savoir ce qui gêne la délégation de Cuba, je ne comprends pas très bien car en français le texte me paraît clair.

MARCOS NIETO LARA (Cuba): Solamente quería aclarar el término, porque en el documento se hacía referencia a la participación de los gobiernos en cuanto al establecimiento de políticas de precios, y nos parecía que teníamos la acción institucional en el establecimiento de políticas.

CHAIRMAN: I think personally that the term "governments" could be accepted rather than "countries", but that is my personal reaction as Chairman. If you all agree with the Cuban proposal to have "governments" as the expression used there, then of course the problem is solved. That is, if you all agree, and I think you could. Indeed, it does not seem to be a problem, so the Cuban proposal to have the word "governments" is accepted. We all agree.



MARCOS NIETO LARA (Cuba): Quisiéramos agregar una trase o completar una idea en el párrafo n° 17 de la versión española. Me permito leer la cuarta frase. Dice: "Asimismo se declaró que la mejor manera para conseguirlo era con frecuencia combinar los canales paraestatales y privados de comercialización". Nosotros quisiéramos agregar la siguiente frase: "Teniendo presente el efecto negativo que provoca en muchos casos la acción de los intermediarios ..." y el resto del párrafo quedaría exactamente igual.

CHAIRMAN: You have heard the phrase proposed by Cuba. Switzerland has asked for the floor.

IGOR MARINCEK (Switzerland): I doubt if the role of intermediaries was so clearly judged by this Commission. There can definitely be intermediaries which do not bring any appreciable service, but there are others who do. I think there was not a very clear opinion on intermediaries.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to make a suggestion to you, and, if you do not agree, you do not agree. I do this in order to avoid a long debate. I think it is quite clear that not everybody said what the Cuban delegation has now said. But some said it. Would it not be agreeable to everybody to have the Cuban phrase preceded by an expression like, "Some countries said that ...", or, "Some countries remarked that ....". Would something like that be agreeable in order to find a quick solution to this problem? I just submit that proposal to you. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee has said, with some justification, that this was a very complicated point on which there was a long discussion. He has asked for the floor in order to say something about this.

JOSEPH TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Je voulais tout simplement dire qu'effectivement il s'agit là d'un paragraphe qui a suscité pas mal de discussions au niveau du Comité de rédaction. Nous avons essayé de le rédiger en tenant compte de tous les avis; cependant, je dois reconnaître que l'idée qu'évoque le délégué de Cuba est une idée nouvelle qui peut à mon avis compléter cette phrase. Mais peut-être faudra-t-il moins la généraliser en mettant "la multiplication des intermédiaires" qui peut être quelque chose de négatif. À mon avis, si on mettait la multiplication des intermédiaires, cela pourrait convenir; en tous cas, cela cadrerait avec les discussions que nous avons eues au Comité de rédaction: "les effets négatifs qu'entraîne la multiplication des intermédiaires, je pense que cela pourrait aller.

CHAIRMAN: As there is no reaction, I suppose that the proposal that I made, which is to accept the Cuban phrase but to start it with "Some countries" - is accepted. This seems to be the case, so the Cuban phrase, that will start with "Some countries", is so accepted. I am told that there is a problem, if Cuba could wait a second. The Secretariat has told me that the phrase would have to have a verb in it, so it could then be, "Some countries referred to ..." and then the Cuban phrase would follow. Does Cuba still want the floor?

MARCOS NIETO LARA (Cuba): Gracias, Sr. Presidente; pero me parece que al separar esta frase quizá se perdería la fuerza con que ha sido trazado parte del antecedente, es decir, donde se identifican un grupo de problemas y de acciones que deben tenerse en cuenta. Solamente hemos querido completar agregando un elemento, que actúa en el problema de la comercialización y actúa sobre todo con efectos negativos para los pequeños productores. Nosotros no hemos querido generalizar la frase totalmente, cuando decimos "en muchos casos". No es la totalidad de los casos. Si queda incluido que "en muchos caos", no hay problemas.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie Cuba pour cette déclaration, y a-t-il d'autres délégations qui demandent la parole?

Dans ces conditions, je demande à Cuba s'il est d'accord avec la proposition que j'ai faite, Parce qu'il est clair que tout en soulignant ce que vous venez de dire maintenant, c'est votre opinion et l'opinion de plusieurs pays; et j'ai l'impression que tous les pays présents ici n'ont pas employé cette phrase. Pour clore le débat, disons que vous avez maintenant votre phrase, et que vous serez d'accord pour la faire précéder de "some countries referred to" et après cela, viendrait la phrase que vous avez proposée.

Je vous remercie de votre coopération et nous passons au point suivant.

Paragraphs 1 to 29, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 29, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 29, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 4, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - CINQUIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISIIN I - PARTE 5

LE PRESIDENT: Il s'agit de quatre points de l'ordre du jour. Prenons le premier 7.4, le Manifeste de Mexico, avec la Résolution jointe. Y-a-t-il des délégations qui voudraient intervenir concernant ce point ou concernant cette résolution?

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 7 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 7 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 1 A 7 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

D. KINZEL (Austria) (original language German): I refer to the English text at page 3, paragraph 5, line 3. I quote the sentence concerned: "A small number questioned the establishment of such a fund and stated their reservations." I listened very carefully to what distinguished delegates said on this topic, and there was only one single country that I recall as having questioned the establishment of such a fund in principle. Other delegations said they wanted more information, more analyses and more details about how it was supposed to be organized, and so on and so forth. So it seems to me that this sentence fails to provide an accurate reflection of what happened in Commission I.

May I move that the sentence reads as follows: "One member questioned the establishment of such a fund and stated its reservation."

CHAIRMAN (original language German): I am obliged to the distinguished delegate of Austria for raising this. Perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee can field this one. It is a rather difficult question and I think it would be a good thing if, with your agreement, we consulted the Drafting Committee.

JOSEPH TCHICAYA (Président, Comité de rédaction): Nous avons effectivement examiné le point concernant le Manifeste de Mexico, et comme vous le voyez nous pensons que le texte qui concerne le rapport sur ce point, est un texte équilibré. Nous y avons passé pas mal de temps, justement pour essayer de faire en sorte que les opinions de tout- le monde soient reflétées dans le rapport.

"Un petit nombre": lorsque nous avons discuté de ce point, il y avait effectivement certains d'entre nous qui pensaient qu'il n'y avait qu'un pays; mais en définitive, compte tenu des Membres présents et de leur opinion, il s'est avéré que nous avons trouvé qu'il y avait néanmoins plus d'un Membre qui était, disons, opposé ou qui avait eu des doutes comme c'est écrit ici. Nous avons discuté longuement pour faire savoir s'il fallait mettre "quelques-uns", ou "un petit nombre", et nous sommes arrivés à un accord quasi général, pour admettre qu'il s'agissait d'un petit nombre.

Je crains que si nous reprenions le débat sur ce point nous risquerions de perdre du temps.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): May I ask the distinguished delegate of Austria to agree with the text as it stands to avoid a lengthy discussion? I see that you agree and thank you for your understanding. I must say your cooperation is always very good and very positive.

Paragraphs 1 to 6 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 6 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 6 son aprobados

Paragraph 7, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 7, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 7, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Passons maintenant au point 9 de l'ordre du jour, le Rapport de la Conférence mondiale de la FAO sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches avec à nouveau une résolution qui ne porte pas de numéro.

Y a-t-il des délégations qui désirent prendre la parole sur ce point? Si tel n'est pas le cas, je considère ce point comme approuvé.

Paragraphs 8 to 25 approved

Les paragraphes 8 à 25 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 8 a 25 son aprobados

Paragraph 26, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 26, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 26, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Il reste le point 11 de l'ordre du jour, Programme du recensement mondial de l'agriculture de 1990, y a-t-il des délégations qui désirent intervenir? Puisque personne ne demande la parole, le point 11 est approuvé également.

Paragraphs 27 to 34 approved

Les paragraphes 27 à 34 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 27 a 34 son aprobados

LE PRESIDENT: A ce stade, je voudrais vous remercier de votre coopération pour aujourd'hui et pour les jours précédents; ce n'est pas encore le mot de la fin, mais je voudrais quand même constater que nous avons travaillé dans une très bonne atmosphère; je vous suis très reconnaissant d'avoir vu des problèmes, parfois difficiles, de cette façon-là.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 5, was adopted  
Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, cinquième partie, est adoptée  
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 5, es aprobado

LE PRESIDENT: Cela étant dit, vous vous rappelez qu'il reste encore un point à voir demain matin, c'est-à-dire la résolution sur l'Afrique. Il s'agit là d'un point qui vient fort tard et il est venu aussi fort tard dans la semaine; on aurait voulu tout terminer aujourd'hui; cela n'a pas été possible pour des raisons assez évidentes. Les réunions des "amis du Président" ont pris beaucoup de temps et il reste encore un ou deux points à voir. Je voudrais dès maintenant remercier le Secrétariat et le service de interprétation parce qu'il n'a pas été facile de voir une autre partie de l'ordre du jour le mardi où rien n'était prévu et je dois dire que tout le monde a très bien collaboré afin de trouver une solution.

The meeting rose at 16.15  
La séance est levée à 16 h 15  
Se levanta la sesión a las 16.15 horas

## conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## conférence

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

## conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/17

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

### SEVENTEENTH MEETING

### DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE

### 17ª SESION

(26 November 1985)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours

Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-septième seance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 17ª reunion a las 09.45 horas,

bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 6

7. world Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

7. ituación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

7.2 (the resolution) Critical situation in Africa

7.2 (la résolution) La situation critique de l'Afrique

7.2 (la resolución) Situación crítica en Africa

PARAGRAPH 1 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHE 1 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 1 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Delegates and friends, I know of course that we are not a quorum, so I cannot really say that this is a legal meeting. It is not, it is just for information. The information I want to give you is that after many hours the Friends of the Chair have worked out a text that is now being submitted to you. Part of the text is still between brackets, and that is the text on South Africa. The situation is that yesterday night we could not reach agreement on that text.

The Friends of the Chair have asked me to tell you that they would like to have a last try to see if they cannot find a solution for the text on South Africa. I ask for your understanding. I know it is difficult for you to be understanding because I asked that we should try to start early at 9.15, since there was not much time left. I know I said that, and it is unfortunate that we cannot start, but the fact is that the Friends of the Chair thought it would be useful at least to try again. I do not know whether the result of that last attempt will be positive, but, anyway, we will try.

In these circumstances, I would ask you to read and study the text of the Friends of the Chair which is before you now, and I propose to you that the regular meeting of Commission I should start at 11 o'clock, when we will try to work as quickly as possible, because time is indeed rather short. Again, I apologize for these developments which are a little difficult.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Bien sûr je suis d'accord avec ce que vous venez de dire mais je souhaiterais néanmoins avoir une information. J'ai lu dans le journal de la Conférence que l'on adopterait le rapport en plénière. Qu'en est-il exactement? A quelle heure le ferait-on? Parce que j'ai lu que l'on devait adopter le rapport de la Commission I ce matin en plénière.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): The Report is to be adopted in Plenary later this morning, but I have been in touch with the Assistant Secretary-General and the adoption of the Report would continue in the afternoon. Of course, if you are not ready, I will ask the Secretary-General if we could postpone the adoption of the Report until this afternoon in Plenary.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que voilà une réponse qui peut satisfaire tout le monde. Vous êtes donc d'accord, on se réunit ici à 11 heures. On discute sur cette résolution et cet après-midi ladite résolution sera reprise en session plénière.

The meeting was suspended from 9.50 to 11.50 hours  
La séance est suspendue de 9 h 50 à 11 h 50  
Se suspende la sesión de las 9.50 a 11.50 horas

LE PRESIDENT: Merci chers collègues et amis pour votre compréhension et d'avoir bien voulu attendre si longtemps et maintenant nous allons nous attaquer aux problèmes. Pour la forme, je vous dirai très brièvement ce qui s'est passé dans la réunion des Amis bien que je sois certain que vous ayez tous déjà cette information. Donc, la réunion des Amis après de multiples heures est parvenue à vous présenter un texte qui comporte un accord sur pratiquement tout, sauf le point d'introduction 5. "Préoccupée du fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud, etc..... " et puis le paragraphe 11. A part cela, nous avons donc pu trouver un accord au sein de ce groupe informel des Amis du Président. Maintenant, le résultat de ces travaux extrêmement longs vous est soumis.

Il y a également un changement mais c'est une question de langue au point 4, que le Secrétariat m'a signalé et dont nous pourrions parler. Pour le reste il y a une proposition que je voudrais vous faire à propos du texte en entier, mais je vais d'abord demander au Secrétariat de prendre la parole sur ce point 4.

J.P. COTIER (Secrétaire adjoint, Commission I): Il y a une imprécision dans la traduction en espagnol et en français du paragraphe 4 du texte qui vous est présenté. En français, à la page 4, par. 4, fin de la phrase, on disait "dans le cadre de ce programme"; en réalité, il faut lire "dans le cadre du programme PRAA" qui est le sigle dont on fait mention précédemment et qui signifie Programme de relèvement de l'agriculture en Afrique. De même en espagnol, à la page 3, même paragraphe, on disait "De ese Programa en el marco del Programa PRA"; en réalité, c'est "El el marco del Programa" qui signifie "Programa para la rehabilitación de la agricultura".

LE PRESIDENT: Après cette information, je voudrais maintenant essayer de vous faire une proposition. Il est clair que le texte qui nous est soumis maintenant n'est pas un texte parfait. Néanmoins, les discussions parmi des pays assez différents ont été très longues et parfois un peu difficiles, mais tout s'est fait dans un bon esprit d'amitié. Cela je dois l'ajouter.

Pour gagner du temps je demande si vous seriez d'accord, à part bien sûr les deux textes que je viens de citer, c'est-à-dire "Préoccupée du fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud, etc....." et le paragraphe 11 dont on va encore essayer d'établir la base exacte, donc les deux textes concernant l'Afrique du Sud, je voudrais vous proposer de nous mettre d'accord en bloc . avec le texte tel qu'il vous est présenté. Les Etats-Unis demandent la parole.

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): I think your proposal would save much time, and I think that is quite worthwhile. We could support that idea of moving en bloc with the exceptions of paragraphs 5 and 11, but we must reserve the right to move back to paragraph 13 of the operative paragraphs, depending on the outcome of our consideration of paragraphs 5 in the preambular text and 11 of the operative text. That is to say, should we decide that indeed the two paragraphs on South Africa that were unable to be phrased in a language which was acceptable are not included in this resolution, then we will have no problem in accepting paragraph 13 as well. If, however, paragraphs 5 and 11 - 5 of the preambular text and 11 of the operative text - dealing with South Africa, are included in the final analysis in this resolution, then we would have to reserve our right to come back to paragraph 13 of the operative text which asks the Director-General to monitor those questions which will fall into the same category of difficulty as the paragraphs themselves, and for which we would have to include a vote.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Au nom des Etats Membres de la CEE, de l'Espagne et du Portugal, je voudrais dès à présent vous signaler que nous souhaiterions faire une déclaration en ce qui concerne le paragraphe relatif à l'endettement de l'Afrique et au paragraphe 8, ainsi que sur le paragraphe 11.

I. MARINCEK (Suisse): Le quatrième paragraphe du Préambule, nous donne l'impression que la formulation telle qu'elle est actuellement que l'Afrique subit passivement ses calamités qui sont énumérées et nous avons à proposer une modification qui est la suivante: ...

LE PRESIDENT: Je me permets de vous interrompre. Je voudrais simplement savoir si, oui ou non, ma proposition est acceptable et je voudrais être pratique. S'il y a un grand nombre de pays qui veulent faire des remarques concernant certains paragraphes il vaudrait peut-être mieux que ces pays me signalent ces paragraphes dès maintenant. Nous pourrions donc prendre les paragraphes mentionnés et ensuite les autres que j'ai notés, par exemple la remarque des Etats-Unis concernant le paragraphe 13; celle de la Belgique concernant les paragraphes 8 et 11 et celle de la Suisse concernant le paragraphe 4 du préambule. Ensuite, quand tout le monde se sera annoncé de cette façon, s'il y en a d'autres, on pourrait passer à ces différents points.

Cela c'est la procédure que je voudrais vous proposer. La Suisse est d'accord. Il s'agit donc du paragraphe 4 du préambule et d'une petite modification proposée au paragraphe 10. Y a-t-il d'autres pays qui voudraient prendre la parole à propos d'un des autres points ou paragraphes?

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): I should like to make a comment on paragraph number 3 in the preamble and also on operative paragraph number 1 and operative paragraph number 2. In the preamble I should like the Executive Director of the World Food Programme and his staff to be recognized instead of ...

CHAIRMAN: Could I say the same to you as I said to the Swiss delegate? The operation now is this. I have been trying to see if you could accept the text en bloc apart from the paragraphs relating to South Africa, but that seems not to be the case. What I am asking now is that all delegations which want to make interventions should at this stage only indicate on which paragraph or text they wish to intervene. We shall note that and then -we shall take all the paragraphs one by one presented by countries that have asked to intervene. You said paragraph 3 of the preamble and paragraphs 1 and 2. Is there another one on which you want to intervene?

P.M. AMUKOA (Kenya): Paragraph 3 of the preamble. and operative paragraphs 1 and 2.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Como usted perfectamente sabe, el Grupo de los 77, en bloqu y unánimemente, desde el principio promovió muy firmemente la idea de una Resolución que identificara la situación crítica en Africa e instara al Director General a que respondiera firmemente a esta prioridad.

Esta Resolución, señor Presidente, ha sido consecuencia de muy largos y delicados debates y el texto que se nos ha presentado. Si bien no es satisfactorio en cada uno de sus puntos porque sentí mos inclusive que es débil en cuanto a que la realidad es mucho más cruda, mucho más dramática, inclusive trágica de lo que aquí se refleja, el Grupo de los 77 en bloque apoya en general el text de esta Resolución. Y quiero destacar igualmente el apoyo firme y decidido al párrafo V del Preámbulo, y al párrafo 11 y 13 de la parte resolutive. Somos muy firmes en ese sentido.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We should like to comment on preambular paragraph number 3, preambular paragraph number 6, operative paragraph 2 and operative paragraph 8. Depending on the subsequent discussion in this Commission, we should also like to reserve our right to comment on preambular paragraph 5 and operative paragraphs 11 and 13.



**CHAIRMAN:** Before giving the floor to the next delegation which has asked to speak, I should like to stress that we shall be in a little trouble if there are a lot of interventions. As you know, this resolution on Africa should be dealt with by the Plenary this afternoon. Discussion on it should have already started during the morning Plenary session, but because of the facts of life, that has not been possible. It will cause a problem if the discussion lasts very long. That being said, I am in your hands, but we must just see whether things are possible practically.

**J. LADAN (Nigeria):** I am a little confused, Mr Chairman. I thought you were asking whether we would adopt the other paragraphs with the exception of the ones that you listed. If we continue to call on individuals to state which paragraphs they wish to discuss, then we are going to open discussion. Why do we not go through paragraph by paragraph and see who has any statement to make, because one intervention can induce someone else also to request the floor. I thought your suggestion was that, since delegates wished to comment on other paragraphs, that meant that we had to go paragraph by paragraph and see what comments they wished to make.

**CHAIRMAN:** Thank you very much for that intervention. Indeed, one should be a realist. I have been trying to see whether or not it was possible to go through this text taking part of it en bloc. I wanted to see whether a lot of countries wanted to intervene, and that seems to be the case. In these circumstances, I could maybe go back to my old proposal and see what you really think about it, although many of you have said that you want to make interventions. I could ask the question again and if my proposal to do the thing en bloc is not acceptable, then practically, as you suggested, it will be better to go through, one point after the other. That being said, Congo has asked for the floor.

**M. J. TCHICAYA (Congo):** J'ai eu la chance ou la malchance de faire partie du groupe de vos amis. Nous avons travaillé sur le projet de résolution introduit par le groupe africain. Je pensais pour ma part qu'en instituant le groupe de vos amis, vous les aviez choisis de telle sorte que nous puissions arriver à un accord sur l'essentiel. Je suis obligé de constater, à travers toutes les interventions qui se font depuis le début, que cela n'a pas été le cas. Je constate même que ceux qui ont pris part activement à cette consultation demandent à intervenir sur des paragraphes qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de grandes discussions dans ce groupe.

Je pense pour ma part que le petit groupe de vos amis, que vous avez constitué, était suffisamment représentatif et étant donné la longueur des séances que nous avons tenues, il rendrait régulièrement compte à ceux qui s'intéressaient à la question. C'est pour cette raison que je tiens, pour ce qui me concerne, à le dire à nos amis du groupe africain, voire du groupe des 77, pour qu'ils puissent s'abstenir de pouvoir remettre en cause les paragraphes qui ont fait l'objet d'un accord au niveau du petit groupe des amis du Président. Je le leur demande parce que je suis conscient que si nous rouvrons le débat sur tous ces paragraphes, nous ne serons pas en mesure de pouvoir terminer les discussions.

Voilà pourquoi je tiens à faire appel à leur sens de coopération pour qu'ils puissent nous, écouter et passer aux paragraphes qui nous préoccupent.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Vous avez entendu, par une motion d'ordre qui a été présentée d'une manière si gentille qu'elle ne paraissait pas être une motion d'ordre, et je vous remercie d'ailleurs, mon cher collègue et ami, vous avez entendu, en fait une proposition qui est dirigée envers deux groupes qui existent ici. Je crois en ce qui me concerne que c'est une proposition extrêmement constructive. Pourquoi? Parce que le texte mime, et c'est un peu pour cela que je voulais faire cette opération qui consistait à savoir qui voulait prendre la parole et s'il y avait éventuellement des réticences au début avec ma proposition; donc j'ai constaté en effet que plusieurs pays appartenant justement au Groupe des 77 et au groupe africain ont demandé d'intervenir maintenant. Une très grande personnalité de ces groupes leur propose de ne pas intervenir.

Je prends acte de cette proposition très constructive et je voudrais, en tant que Président, reprendre cette proposition et vous la soumettre à vous tous, à toutes ces délégations et à tous ces groupes. Pour des raisons pratiques, et je le souligne toujours, nous avons le droit à tout moment d'exprimer nos opinions, lesquelles doivent être exprimées clairement dans le texte. Vous savez que personnellement j'interviens beaucoup pour ces principes. Cela étant dit, et pour les raisons citées, c'est-à-dire les longues discussions, le fait que vraiment tous ceux qui participaient à ce groupe des amis a tenu compte de beaucoup d'éléments, nous avons eu vraiment des échanges de vues extrêmement longs et constructifs. Je voudrais encore une fois essayer, en tenant compte exactement de ce qu'a dit mon collègue du Congo, de voir si vraiment vous ne pourriez pas accepter ma proposition. Je suis certain, et je l'ai dit au début, que nous tous nous avons encore des petites remarques à faire. Toutefois, étant donné qu'il est déjà tellement tard, ne pourrait-on pas se limiter à deux points, qui en fait n'en sont qu'un, que je viens de citer et pour le reste, même si vous avez des petites difficultés (car certains ont des difficultés parmi les différents groupes) votre groupe, votre pays ne pourraient-ils pas laisser tomber leur petite remarque. Par contre, dans un autre groupe et il y aura d'autres pays, qui de toutes façons auront des petites remarques à faire, pourraient-ils également les laisser tomber?

Je vous lance un appel à vous tous personnellement ainsi qu'à vos pays et vous demande de bien vouloir montrer votre compréhension et d'agir ainsi.

Je voudrais soumettre cette proposition et si personne ne s'y oppose, je considérerais alors que vous êtes d'accord avec elle et nous passerons simplement sur la discussion de ces deux points, disons, ce point, avec un point sur l'Afrique du Sud. Je ne vois aucune opposition, il en est donc ainsi décidé. Nous passons maintenant aux deux points concernant l'Afrique du Sud. Je vous remercie de votre compréhension et de votre esprit constructif. Je vous remercie également au nom du Secrétariat qui a beaucoup de difficultés en raison du retard que nous avons pris. Cela étant, je vous propose de passer à l'étude des deux textes conjointement. Ces deux textes figurent dans le document qui nous est soumis. Nous aborderons en un premier temps le point 5 de l'introduction et ensuite nous passerons au point 11.

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): I just wanted to clarify your ruling, Mr Chairman, when you indicated that we should deal only with those matters which address the question of South Africa. In our view that includes paragraph 13 of the operative language, as it asks the Director-General to monitor that. I assume that was part of your ruling.

LE PRESIDENT: En vérité, cher délégué des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, je crois que cela est acceptable. Vous avez annoncé au début que vous pouviez être d'accord, mais que si l'on ne trouvait pas un accord pour ces deux paragraphes, il faudrait vous donner le droit de revenir sur ces paragraphes. Je crois que nous pouvons accepter votre proposition. J'espère donc que l'on trouvera une solution entre nous pour ce qui est de ces deux paragraphes qui nous occupent.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En cuanto a esto último que ha tocado usted, Sr. Presidente, me permito decirle que el párrafo 13 no es cuestión de nuestros debates, porque es un saldo; es decir para ciertos países que dicen ahora no poder aceptar el párrafo 5 del preámbulo y el párrafo 11 resolutivo, el párrafo 13 tendría consecuencias inaceptables si esos dos se introducen. Sin embargo, si se modificaran esos dos párrafos, en caso de que así se pudiera acordar, el párrafo 13 sería aceptable. De modo que el párrafo 13 solamente es un saldo, una consecuencia de lo que ocurra con esos dos últimos párrafos, que sólo están a discusión.

Por tanto le pido a usted, Sr. Presidente, que sólo intervengamos en torno al párrafo 5 del preámbulo y al párrafo 11 de la parte resolutive ya que, como digo, el párrafo 13 es una consecuencia y no podemos aceptar que forme parte de nuestras discusiones en este momento.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois que je vous comprends très bien. En effet, j'ai donc proposé de parler de ces deux points concernant l'Afrique du Sud, et de ne parler que de ce sujet. Vous étiez d'accord, mais en tenant compte de ce qui avait été demandé en un premier temps par la délégation des Etats-Unis, c'est-à-dire que si l'on n'arrivait pas à un accord sur ces points 11 et 12, on devait je crois admettre que les USA reviennent, dans ce cas là sur le point 13. Je crois que ce que je viens d'interpréter devrait être accepté à ce stade.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Au début de cette séance, j'avais, au nom des Etats Membres, de la CEE, de l'Espagne, et du Portugal demandé à faire deux interventions. L'une concernait le paragraphe 8, l'autre le paragraphe 11. Je voudrais dès à présent vous dire que cette déclaration concernant le paragraphe 8 a simplement pour objet de préciser la position des pays au nom desquels je parle et non pas de demander la modification de l'article en question.

LE PRESIDENT: La Belgique, tout en ne désirant pas changer le texte demande de faire une déclaration concernant le paragraphe 8. Je crois que si vous êtes d'accord, et tout en gardant le principe que l'on ne discutera pas du tout du texte, mais seulement des deux textes sur l'Afrique du Sud, je crois que l'on pourrait demander à la Belgique de faire une intervention brève. Je crois que cela est acceptable.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Au nom des Etats Membres de la CEE, ainsi que de l'Espagne et du Portugal, je voudrais indiquer que nous considérons qu'un dialogue constructif s'est engagé dans le cadre des organismes internationaux compétents et plus particulièrement du Fonds monétaire international, de la Banque mondiale et du Club de Paris, en vue de définir les stratégies appropriées pour aborder le problème de l'endettement auquel sont confrontés les pays africains et d'autres pays en développement. Nous continuons de penser que l'approche cas par cas constitue la manière la plus efficace de mettre en oeuvre les paragraphes respectifs de la déclaration sur l'Afrique qui a été adoptée l'an dernier par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

Je souhaiterais qu'une note de bas de page, dans le texte de la résolution, puisse donner l'essentiel de la déclaration que je viens de faire.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous passons maintenant à l'examen des deux paragraphes. Pour être très clair, je vais les lire: "Préoccupée du fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud et en particulier l'apartheid ont un effet négatif sur la sécurité alimentaire dans la région,"... . Cela est donc le texte qui apparaît dans les "Considérants". Je vais lire le paragraphe 11 du texte:

"11. Se déclare très préoccupée des obstacles de tout genre qui entravent la production alimentaire et agricole sur le continent africain; invite la communauté internationale à redoubler d'efforts pour résoudre ces problèmes dans les instances appropriées; et, dans ce contexte, appelle l'attention de la communauté internationale sur le fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud, et en particulier l'apartheid, ont un effet négatif sur la sécurité alimentaire dans la région".

Voilà les deux textes dont nous voulons parler maintenant. Quelqu'un a-t-il demandé la parole?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voudrions rappeler tout simplement que nous avons fait partie du Groupe des amis du Président qui ont passé de longues heures sur ce texte et notamment sur les paragraphes qui nous préoccupent. Je voudrais dire, et nous le savons, que ce projet de résolution émane du groupe africain et que ce projet de résolution avec celui que l'on avait à l'origine comprenait trois points essentiels. Nous avons dans notre projet original parlé de l'Afrique du Sud, nous avons parlé de la politique d'apartheid, nous avons parlé de la politique d'agression de l'Afrique du Sud; nous avons discuté pendant plusieurs heures afin d'obtenir que ces trois éléments figurent dans le projet de texte qui nous est soumis.

Malheureusement, nous avons rencontré un mur d'incompréhension. Nous avons néanmoins obtenu, après de longues discussions, que les projets de textes qui composent le cinquième paragraphe des "considérants" et le onzième paragraphe des "dispositifs", nous avons obtenu dis-je que ce texte puisse être accepté.

Nous devons dire que ce texte n'a pas été proposé par les éléments du groupe africain qui faisait partie du groupe des amis du Président. Le projet de ce texte a été proposé par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique après de longues discussions. Nous avons pu les accepter. Malheureusement, et je crois que nous devons le dire ici, et le reconnaître, c'est la Communauté économique européenne qui a bloqué les négociations. Nous devons le dire tout haut, il s'agit de la Communauté économique européenne qui a bloqué les négociations au niveau du groupe du Président. Leur attitude a amené les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, qui à l'origine avaient fait la proposition qui figure dans ce document, la délégation des Etats-Unis d'Amérique à changer d'avis. Nous sommes certains qu'il y a eu des pressions à ce niveau. Voilà ce que nous tenons à dire ici, au groupe africain et au groupe des 77. Je crois que nous devons être conscients du fait que la politique d'apartheid est certainement mieux comprise par la CEE que par les Africains.

Bien sûr, on nous a dit que la CEE combat la politique d'Afrique du Sud et que la FAO n'était pas l'organe approprié pour pouvoir discuter de ces problèmes. Sur proposition du Japon, qui avait également fait partie du groupe des amis du Président, on a vérifié si dans le passé, à la FAO, l'Afrique du Sud n'avait jamais été citée.

Il a été démontré que l'Afrique du Sud a été citée plus d'une fois. Voilà les conditions dans lesquelles nous avons négocié. Voilà quelle a été l'attitude du marché commun. Voilà quelle a été notre position.

Nous avons accepté ce texte qui paraît être pour nous le moindre mal; en effet on parle de l'Afrique du Sud, on parle de l'apartheid, et nous avons pensé que dans la négociation il fallait bien laisser quelque chose; et nous avons laissé le mot "agression".

Voilà dans quelles conditions nous avons négocié et nous estimons qu'il n'est pas de bon aloi pour les autres de faire en sorte que le projet de résolution ait été retardé sans succès. Les propositions que nous avons faites le Marché commun sont vagues, sans consistance, elles étaient inacceptables par nous.

Voilà ce que nous tenons à dire pour rendre plus ou moins compte de nos négociations, menées sous votre houlette, pour le groupe africain, et mieux pour le Groupe des 77

LE PRESIDENT: Merci de votre interprétation de ce qui s'est passé au sein de ce Comité.

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): In view of the fact that my delegation was named in the previous intervention, I thought I had better offer a clarifying statement to set the record straight, on the question of the development of this resolution in the language and our respective positions.

As the development of the language proceeded on this paragraph, it was rightly noted by some countries that while we may not have a problem with the substance of the text, there is a very serious question as to the appropriateness of considering the subject matter in this forum. It was with that in mind that the problem became very clear to my delegation, to my government, as well as to those other delegations and governments which share this problem of wanting to assure that FAO does its work in an atmosphere which is not politicized and where political questions are not discussed and the subject matter of resolutions that steal valuable time from the delegations, from the work of the Conference, from the time of the Secretariat, from the primary task to which we are all dedicated, that of the search for food security on a global basis, are not considered.

It was with that in mind that my delegation was unable to accept the language as proposed in this text. It had nothing to do with pressure, and I think that needs to be totally clear. It had to do simply with the question having been pointed out, that it is not only a matter of subject, but of the forum in which this type of question should rightly and appropriately be considered.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Al hacer el reconocimiento de unas explicaciones del representante del Congo sobre antecedentes para llegar a un proyecto de acuerdo sobre Africa, quisiera aprovechar la oportunidad para decir lo siguiente.

Este texto, tal como está ante nosotros, o al menos incluyendo los párrafos 11 y el preámbulo 5, fue presentado al Comité de Redacción de la Comisión I, con el comentario de que no había sido todavía negociado y que por lo tanto se tomaba nota de que dicho proyecto pasaba a nosotros. En esa oportunidad tomé la palabra para apoyar la inclusión de los párrafos en cuestión, porque consideramos firmemente que, cuando se trata de la seguridad alimentaria de un grupo de países de una región determinada del mundo, la FAO es un foro apropiado de discusión.

No cabe la menor duda (y eso lo sabemos todos) que tanto la política interna de Sudáfrica como la política externa afectan a la seguridad alimentaria en los países africanos fronterizos y en los no fronterizos.

También saben todos los presentes que Nicaragua es víctima de la seguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, nosotros no hemos traído posturas a esta Conferencia para tratar de condenar a un país determinado, por agresiones que dañan sobremanera a Nicaragua. Y en este caso estamos la mayoría de muchos países y de muchos millones de seres humanos. Además, se nos ha explicado que en este foro, la FAO, se han utilizado ya términos similares a los que aparecen en este texto o proyecto de resolución.

Por lo tanto, no entendemos por qué puede haber objeciones a poder aceptar el párrafo 11 y el preámbulo 5.

Si nos ponemos a pensar, realmente lo que se dice aquí es simplemente afirmar que hay una política específica de un país que atenta a la seguridad alimentaria de millones de personas.

Desde luego, confirmamos nuestro apoyo a los demás párrafos en este proyecto de resolución.

M. SAITO (Japan): My delegation and I participated for a very long time in a heated discussion of the Group of Friends of the Chairman. At that stage, my delegation frequently stressed, first of all, that we should refrain from criticizing the forum of FAO, which deals with technical matters of food and agriculture. If for some reason we should even refer to some political issues, we should minimize the wording and reference to those political issues. From that point of view, we find some problems in paragraphs 5 and 11. I call your attention to the fact that our predecessors in this FAO Organization carefully refrained from criticizing this forum. As the distinguished delegate of the Congo has said, we have some examples of references to South Africa, but in the case of the resolution dealing with South Africa exactly, FAO deprives South Africa of the right to participate in this Organization. So there is quite a natural reason for referring to South Africa by name.

In the other resolutions, especially the resolution adopted two years ago in this Conference dealing with the same food and agriculture situation in Africa, there is no reference to South Africa, since it was not a political issue at that time. So I appeal to my colleagues at this Conference, that we should continue to maintain the well-established practice of not referring to political issues in this technical forum. In this spirit of cooperation, I think we come to some consensus, or some agreement by bridging the differences of view on this issue.

R. RABE (Madagascar): En tant que participant aux travaux du Groupe des Amis que vous avez constitué, nous tenons à porter à la reconnaissance de cette auguste assemblée que les africains, membres de ce Groupe, n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour insister sur le fait que l'apartheid et l'agression exercés par l'Afrique du Sud sur les pays de la ligne de front, figurent dans le projet de résolution en raison des conséquences néfastes qu'elles occasionnent sur la sécurité alimentaire de ces pays. Nous ne traitons pas de la politique de l'Afrique du Sud en elle-même, en tant que telle, car nous savons que cela relève d'autres instances, mais nous pensons qu'il est de notre devoir de nous inquiéter de ce fait et de prendre des dispositions quant aux effets négatifs que cette politique occasionne sur la production alimentaire et sur la sécurité alimentaire de ces pays-: de la ligne de front.

Nous sommes convaincus de ce que la FAO a le droit et le devoir d'étudier et d'aider à résoudre toute la question qui entrave la production alimentaire et la sécurité alimentaire. Nous tenons à faire cette mention parce que nous sentons que nos débats se concentrent uniquement sur cette politique et nous avons l'impression que l'on a tendance à ne pas lier les conséquences de cette politique sur la sécurité alimentaire; or, nous insistons justement sur la résolution de cette situation et sur ses conséquences sur la sécurité alimentaire.

J. POSTIER (France): A l'issue de l'intervention de l'ambassadeur du Congo, vous l'avez remercié de son interprétation des faits qui se seraient passés dans le cadre du Groupe des Amis du Président. Je crois que vous avez bien fait d'employer le terme d'interprétation; en tout cas, face à cette interprétation, la représentation de la France ne pouvait pas rester passive parce qu'elle considère que les débats qui ont eu lieu dans le cadre de ce Groupe peuvent être reflétés d'une autre façon. Je n'entre pas dans le détail des choses. Les précisions qui ont été apportées à la suite de l'intervention de l'ambassadeur du Congo par le représentant des Etats-Unis ont déjà permis d'éclaircir un peu les choses. Je n'insisterai donc pas là-dessus, mais je me permettrai d'exprimer le regret qu'un groupe d'Etats ait été mis publiquement en cause à l'occasion de débats qui se sont déroulés entre personnes choisies en tant que telles, et qui ne pensaient pas qu'il pourrait être fait état de propos échangés de façon publique, et plus particulièrement pour critiquer le comportement d'un groupe de pays. La Communauté n'était pas représentée en tant que telle dans ce groupe; il y avait la Belgique et il y avait la France.

Dans ces conditions, M. l'ambassadeur du Congo comprendra certainement que nous nous sentions un peu visés par les paroles qu'il a prononcées. Je crois pouvoir dire en toute sécurité que la Belgique et la France, dans le cadre de ce groupe des Amis du Président, n'ont pas constitué le "mur d'incompréhension" (cite les paroles qui ont été prononcées), bien loin de là; je dirais même au contraire - puisque les débats ont été extrêmement longs et extrêmement ouverts - que des opinions ont été émises; il y a donc eu concertation, négociation, discussion, mais qu'il n'y a pas eu ce mur sur lequel se seraient heurtés certains délégués, bien au contraire; mais il y a eu réel effort de votre part, M. le Président, et je crois aussi pouvoir dire de la part de la représentation française, pour trouver un terrain d'entente.

C'est tout ce que j'avais à dire à ce sujet mais il était pour moi nécessaire de le dire.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): When we originally asked for the floor it was on the matter which has now passed due to your ruling. But, now you have given me the floor, let me use the opportunity at this stage to say that we too were honoured, if not lucky, to be appointed to your group of Friends of the Chair, a group that worked very long, very hard and with tremendous effort on all sides, and we were rather close to a consensus. What I wanted to say is that the institution of the group of Friends of the Chair is a very useful one in the system, but its usefulness is based upon the fact that everybody in that group can speak rather freely, no records are being kept, no explicit records are given of its deliberations. If this principle is not adhered to, such groups will not be useful institutions in the future, particularly if just specific parts are being referred to for the record. That is why I would urge you to advise the Committee in order to preserve the usefulness of such an institution for the future, that we do not discuss in detail what happened in that committee. I reserve my right to come back later and speak on the issues before us.

LE PRESIDENT : Si je puis donner ma parole en tant que Président - car j'étais président du groupe et je suis Président ici - je crois qu'il y a beaucoup de vérité dans ce que dit le délégué de Norvège; et je voudrais demander au prochain intervenant de ne plus traiter de cette question. Nous n'aurions pas dû parler de cela; on l'a fait; vous avez entendu maintenant plusieurs voix; il n'est plus nécessaire de revenir encore là-dessus.

En tant que Président, je crois en effet que de telles Commissions sont des endroits nécessaires pour permettre des discussions, mais après, on ne doit plus parler des discussions elles-mêmes-mais bien plutôt du texte qui a été produit.

Cela dit il y a une longue liste de pays qui ont demandé la parole : Inde, Angola, Belgique, Mexique, Cap-Vert, Côte-d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cuba, Congo. Je vais vous demander d'être brefs, car nous sommes face à des problèmes administratifs difficiles à résoudre; il nous faudra trouver une solution à ces problèmes.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): I am afraid that in the discussion before this Commission there was a mistaken impression that agricultural development can be diverted from other relevant issues which have an impact on the growth of agriculture, and the development of food security. I would like to recall that in this very Commission we have had a very long and fruitful debate on the removal of barriers to international trade, without which farmers of the world will not get a fair deal. I do not think any of the countries represented here raised a point of order at that time on the ground that matters relating to international trade should be discussed in Geneva, and not Rome. Therefore, the simple issue before this Commission is to see whether recommendations made for adoption are relevant to the purpose for which the delegations have assembled for the Conference here.

I would like to draw the attention of the delegates to the fact that both the fifth part of the preamble, as well as paragraph 11 of the Resolution before this Commission, merely draw the attention of the Conference to the various constraints which are in the way of agricultural growth and development in Africa.

I would like to submit to this Commission that the question before us is not a political one, but a factual one. The question is whether the statement about South African policies hampering African agricultural development is a correct one. I do not think there is any delegate here who is going to question the correctness of that statement. If that statement is correct then the FAO has the right to take notice of any concern which hampers development of the African continent, and if they do not take note of those constraints, then all the discussions to my mind regarding our concern for the critical situation in Africa would be empty and irrelevant. Therefore, I would like this Conference to consider whether or not South African policies are a constraint for the situation in which South Africa is placed whether or not they are a constraint to the development of agriculture in Africa. Here, I would like to point out that a very political decision has its consequences. Apartheid is not a policy with political consequences alone, it has socio-economic consequences and those consequences are certainly relevant to agricultural development. Therefore, I would like to submit to this Commission that references to South African policies in the context of agricultural development in Africa are relevant.

If there are any constructive suggestions around this Commission table they should be made to reflect this concern more clearly than the Committee or Commission has done, but not to debate whether this is the appropriate forum, or whether these references should be there. Our delegation, which was not a part of the Drafting Committee, or the Friends of the Chair, would like to reiterate its adherence to the concept that anything that comes in the way of agricultural development is relevant for the FAO, and it cannot be washed over by saying it is political, it is economic, it is otherwise. The various agencies of the United Nations system must necessarily link themselves up in a manner which expresses the common concern of mankind for the growth and development of our brethren in Africa.

So, I would plead with this Conference to retain these references. But, if there are any relevant changes which are suggested, I am sure that my colleagues from Africa would consider them with understanding and sympathy. I think we would be wasting the time of the delegates by going back to the commitment the United Nations system has for the elimination of all policies which have a negative impact on growth.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vais vous poser une question et si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, on ne le fera pas. La délégation de Cuba me dit-on a un texte à présenter au nom de plusieurs autres pays. Je ne connais pas ce texte, je ne l'ai pas vu, je ne sais s'il pourra recueillir l'accord de vous tous; je voudrais donc vous demander si vous seriez d'accord pour que j'accorde maintenant la parole à Cuba alors qu'il y a encore une longue liste de délégations qui avaient demandé la parole. Je voudrais simplement demander à ces délégations de bien vouloir faire ce geste: écouter une proposition présentée par Cuba. Puisqu'aucun de ces pays ne s'y oppose, je donne la parole à Cuba.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos también ya que estamos hablando de algunas verdades históricas, hablar de que nosotros vamos a ofrecer un criterio que puede ser sustitutivo de lo que se quiere eliminar. Pero queremos también, señor Presidente, y eso creo que no podemos desligarlo de la proposición que vamos a hacer, expresar nuestro criterio sobre la discusión, porque no hemos intervenido. Hemos oído con mucho detenimiento la información que nos dio la distinguida delegación del Congo de la forma en que se discutió en el grupo de amigos del Presidente, que se hizo un gran esfuerzo por tratar de crear condiciones propias para la aprobación de una Resolución que presenta el Grupo Africano.

Nosotros nos hemos topado, de momento, con una Resolución que consideramos que tiene posición muy clara, muy profunda sobre la situación crítica de la alimentación y la agricultura en Africa, y que propone solamente dos párrafos: el primero, con dos líneas; y el párrafo 11 con siete líneas y media de toda una situación que, a nuestro juicio, está siendo tratada con bastante moderación. Y quiero expresar que aquí se ha dicho que no debemos politizar la discusión.

Cuba es, ha sido y seguirá siendo defensora de que la FAO discuta a profundidad los problemas socio-económicos y técnicos de la agricultura, porque son la única forma de poder enfrentar el desarrollo. No se puede enfrentar el desarrollo solamente hablando de semillas y de tractores si no discutimos quién va a echar la semilla, quién la va a recibir y quién va a manejar los tractores.

Entonces, hemos sido defensores de eso y creo que debemos seguirlo siendo. Podemos darle la razón a los que plantean que no debe politizarse la discusión, pero podemos decirles también que con expresar profunda preocupación no se está discutiendo política.

Creemos que realmente este es un punto muy delicado para discutirlo en las Naciones Unidas, en donde se ha discutido varias veces. Sin embargo, no creo que puedan impedir que este grupo plantee su profunda preocupación con una situación que viene arrastrándose de hace siglos. Y creemos que estamos cometiendo el mismo error de no querer enfrentar una situación real.

Señor Presidente: en esta Resolución, como se ha dicho por algunos colegas, no aparece la palabra condena que podía ser una palabra política. No, no aparece la condena aunque tenemos intención de condenar, y todos saben que nuestros países, por lo menos la gran mayoría de los países del mundo, han condenado; y reconocemos que muchos de los países que están planteando reservas con estos párrafos, han hecho en sus respectivos países expresión de condena a esta situación del apartheid, y que ahora tratan de eliminar aquí una discusión política.

Creo que tienen razón, pero que hay una pequeña confusión porque la gran preocupación, la profunda preocupación expresada no es una discusión del tema. No aparece tampoco la palabra crímenes que podía ser también involucrada como política. No aparece la palabra agresión. Sencillamente aparece "profunda preocupación" y "apartheid".

Nosotros creemos que podemos proponer el eliminar la palabra "Sudáfrica" si eso es lo que está creando alguna confusión de política. Podemos proponer eliminarla además porque estamos convencidos que de eliminar la palabra "Sudáfrica" no estamos afectando a ningún país. Sudafrica no es miembro de Naciones Unidas y no es miembro de la FAO. Así que podemos eliminar la palabra "Sudafrica" y poner sencillamente una verdad histórica, social y económica que no creo que podrán negar, es decir, sustituir la palabra "Sudafrica", mientras se mantiene la palabra "apartheid", pero poner: "una minoría blanca asentada en la parte sur del Continente Africano". Esta es una verdad social, política, económica e histórica a la cual se le podrá distorsionar pero no se le podrá impedir que es así. No estamos discutiendo políticamente, y creemos que podemos proponer: "una minoría blanca asentada en la parte sur del Continente Africano". Eso es todo.



LE PRESIDENT: Je croyais que vous nous auriez donné un texte, mais vous avez fait une longue introduction dont nous avons pris acte. Pourrais-je demander à notre collègue de Cuba de bien vouloir répéter son intervention parce que, si j'ai bien compris la traduction française, il faudrait, d'après sa proposition, refaire une partie de la phrase en question. Puis-je vous demander de nous donner le texte de cette phrase :appelle l'attention de la communauté internationale ..." parce que je n'ai pas bien pu suivre; il s'agit bien du paragraphe 11, et je demande à notre collègue de Cuba de présenter une version définitive du texte qu'il désire proposer. La seconde version étant, me semble-t-il un peu différente de la première.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Sí, señor Presidente. Muchísimas gracias, y podemos hacer otra concesión. A partir de "comunidad internacional el hecho de que", vamos a eliminar la palabra "política de Sudafrica" para que no se irrite; "la política de Sudafrica" lo podemos eliminar por completo, y quedaría el texto: "señala a la atención de la comunidad internacional el hecho de que las condiciones socio-económicas", en vez de "política", "que impone una minoría blanca asentada en el sur del Continente Africano," , y continúa: "incluido el apartheid que tiene un efecto negativo sobre la seguridad alimentaria en la Región."

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons entendu lecture d'un nouveau texte proposé par Cuba qui fait maintenant je pense partie du débat. Puis-je demander maintenant l'Angola de prendre la parole.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Si usted quiere, podríamos buscar que alguien hiciera la proposición en francés para que usted la pudiera captar directamente.

De todas maneras, podemos repetir. En la línea número cinco del párrafo 11, a partir de las palabras "comunidad internacional el hecho de que la", entonces aquí poner: "las condiciones socio-económicas que impone una minoría blanca asentada en la parte sur del Continente Africano,". Continúa:"incluido el apartheid", hasta el final.

P.A. KANGA (Angola): Après les interventions de plusieurs délégués. en particulier celles de nos collègues du Congo, de Madagascar et de l'Inde, ce dernier venant de faire une intervention que j'allais aborder dans le même sens, nous, comme pays de la ligne de fond, nous ne comprenons pas quel est vraiment le problème qui se pose sur ces deux textes, les paragraphes 5 et 11, puisqu'ils reflètent exactement ce qui se passe dans cette région de notre continent. Nous pensons que l'on pourrait peut-être introduire certaines choses pour rendre le texte plus efficace, plus concret. Durant les discussions, j'ai pu avoir des contacts avec le délégué du Congo et nous avons trouvé un consensus qui a été accepté mais qui nous met maintenant en difficulté. Je ne comprends pas si réellement la politique de l'Afrique du Sud est une politique destructrice ou une politique constructive. J'aimerais qu'on nous le définisse ici ce qui nous permettrait au retour d'informer nos gouvernements respectifs.

Parlant de la sécurité alimentaire, notre délégation, dans toutes les instances, dans toutes les réunions au niveau de la FAO, a toujours lié le problème de la paix, quant à la situation en Afrique australe et l'insécurité qui y existe, avec la sécurité alimentaire qu'on ne pourra jamais atteindre sans qu'on ait une certaine paix effective dans la région.

Je ne veux pas prolonger mon intervention; peut-être que par la suite je demanderai à réintervenir sur la proposition du délégué de Cuba mais nous croyons que ce qui a été fait par le groupe d'Amis du Président est suffisant et que l'on peut en accepter le texte.

G. STUYCK (Belgium): On behalf of the European Community, Spain and Portugal, I would like to make the following statement in my capacity as representative of the State exercising the Presidency of the European Community. On several occasions our governments have condemned the

apartheid politics of South Africa and all the repressive measures associated with it. However, FAO is a specialized organization of the United Nations which is considered to be a technical organization in which it is not appropriate to discuss political matters which are within the competence of other United Nations fora. In other words, in our opinion this Organization is not the appropriate body to discuss this highly political subject. On behalf of those 12 countries, I would insist on having my remarks taken as a footnote in the text of the Resolution.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Sentimos mucho que varias delegaciones hagan un manejo un tanto ilegítimo, diríamos, del término de la politización de estos foros. Pareciera que cuando es de conveniencia de alguien o cuando va en contra de los intereses de un grupo de países o de cierto país, cuando se tratan ciertas cuestiones se está politizando. Por el contrario, cuando se tratan de aquellas cuestiones que tienen o teniendo un carácter político se introducen en el debate, entonces no hay protesta.

El término de la politización para nosotros es inaceptable en tanto que en estos foros se debatan cuestiones de carácter técnico como efecto de posturas o de condiciones políticas. Las relaciones económicas son relaciones de carácter político, por lo menos las que establecen o son establecidas por ellas. Y la agricultura y la alimentación, como todos sabemos, son producto o pueden insertarse en el contexto de las relaciones económicas, y por tanto, de las políticas.

La diferencia que debemos hacer en estos foros de carácter técnico no es precisamente tratarlas y condenarlas corno tal pero sí describir y sí manifestar no sólo preocupación sino propuestas de solución a las cuestiones de carácter técnico: de carácter efectivo sobre la agricultura y la alimentación que tienen una posición política o una actitud económica de parte de un país o de varios países.

En este caso, señor Presidente, y como bien se ha dicho y seguramente usted lo ha escuchado una y otra vez a lo largo de los debates en el grupo de amigos del Presidente, lo que aquí se refiere en cuanto al apartheid y la política de cierto país de Sudáfrica, en el Sur de Africa, tiene un efecto concreto bien determinado, conocido por todos, descrito diariamente por la prensa internacional y nacional de todos los países, que ya es un escándalo diario, y que todos conocemos en cuanto a sus efectos sobre una enorme mayoría que comprende a millones y a millones de africanos que sufren las consecuencias en su alimentación, que sufren las consecuencias en su capacidad productiva en la agricultura y que sufren las consecuencias en su incapacidad para desarrollar su campo.

En consecuencia, Sr. Presidente, y siendo esto un hecho que reitera, repito, la prensa y la opinión pública todos los días, el que no se mencione en una resolución sobre la situación de Africa este escándalo que afecta de hecho, pero no de derecho, las circunstancias del desarrollo agrícola, del desarrollo rural y de la alimentación de millones o de cientos de millones de africanos, sería no solamente una contradicción, sino una incongruencia quizá, más candente y más efectivo en contra de la seguridad alimentaria de esos millones de africanos. Es inclusive impertinente no hacer mención de estas cuestiones en este texto, cuando menos en la forma inocua y débil en la que se presenta en los párrafos 5 del preámbulo y el 11 resolutivo.

Quiero llamar la atención a aquellos países que piensan expresar quizá una reserva sobre esos párrafos, que entrarán en contradicción con sus propias posturas porque lo que van a reservar no es un análisis político que está aquí de esta cuestión, ni una discusión de politización de esos problemas que afectan a tantos millones, sino una manifestación, como lo dijo el delegado de Cuba, de preocupación por las consecuencias, por los efectos concretos visibles estadísticamente comprobados de una política y de una actitud que ha creado las condiciones socioeconómicas de la condenación de esos millones de africanos.

Por tanto, Sr. Presidente, pensamos que es indebido que esta resolución no contenga una expresión al respecto; pero si lo que molesta es la referencia a un país, nosotros nos solidarizamos con la propuesta de Cuba que creemos es una fórmula de transacción perfectamente aceptable para todos, inclusive hemos hecho preguntas y muchos, la mayoría de los países del Grupo de los 77 aquí presentes, lo aceptan. Usted podría, Sr. Presidente, preguntar quién se opondría a esta fórmula y en caso de que no se aceptase creo que podríamos pasar a la votación, ya que no puede seguirse discutiendo en tanto que se han visto todas las posibilidades.

Le pedimos Sr. Presidente que usted consulte quienes no pueden aceptar la fórmula presentada por Cuba y si no se acepta creo que debemos pasar a una votación.

Esa es nuestra propuesta Sr. Presidente.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous sommes dans une situation dont le Secrétariat me dit qu'elle est vraiment difficile. J'ai encore sur ma liste presque une dizaine d'orateurs qui sont inscrits. Or, et je dois remercier les interprètes qui ont fait maintenant 45 minutes supplémentaires qui n'étaient pas prévues et je les en remercie car ils doivent terminer impérativement maintenant à la fin de ces 47 minutes. Ils doivent terminer car il est 13 heures 15 passées. Ceci est la première difficulté. Cela veut dire de toute façon que nous sommes matériellement obligés de cesser le débat. Cela étant dit, le Secrétariat me signale qu'il ne serait matériellement pas possible de continuer le débat en Commission I cet après-midi. Le Secrétariat propose donc que de toute façon nous devons en finir maintenant, cela est certain, et il propose de laisser la question telle qu'elle est maintenant et de l'envoyer en session plénière. Vous savez que la session plénière doit adopter toute une série de pièces et de rapports et que cette résolution serait alors considérée. Ceci est la proposition du Secrétariat qui suggère donc que cette proposition soit considérée à la fin des points qui sont encore à voir par la session plénière. Voilà la situation dans laquelle nous sommes.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo quisiera, Sr. Presidente, que la Secretaría tuviese la amabilidad de informarnos sobre cuál es la fórmula práctico-jurídica contenida en nuestros textos básicos cuando una delegación solicita la votación.

Quisiéramos conocer cómo se va a tratar dentro de la Comisión sin pasar a la plenaria, sino en la Comisión, y cómo es la respuesta a una petición de votación. Es, Sr. Presidente, un problema de curiosidad en estos momentos.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà une question qui a été adressée au Secrétariat. Pourrais-je demander au Secrétariat de bien vouloir y répondre?

LEGAL COUNSEL: In the present situation, one member has suggested that your Commission proceed to vote. If the Commission wishes to do so, it should be done immediately. On the other hand, your Chairman has made another suggestion, and it is up to the Commission to decide which course of action it will prefer to take. In order to save time, the second course of action suggested was that the Commission agree not to vote, not to make a decision, and to remit the resolution to the Plenary where a decision would be taken. There are two proposals which could be followed. If your Chairman asks you first whether you would prefer to vote on the resolution or whether you would prefer to send it to the Plenary, following your decision on that particular issue, you could then decide on what to do.

CHAIRMAN: Norway has been asking for the floor for a long time. Could Norway intervene very shortly and then we will try to find a solution.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Monsieur le Président, vous avez établi la liste des orateurs. Je constate qu'il y a des pays qui parlent trois quatre fois et que le Cap-Vert n'a pas le droit à la parole. Je crois que nous devons appliquer les principes qui ont toujours vécus dans notre maison.

LE PRESIDENT: Je réponds aux propos de ce point d'ordre, qu'en effet j'ai lu la liste dans laquelle votre nom figurait; il y avait: Mexique, Cap-Vert, Cote-d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cuba, Congo, Algérie, Ethiopie, Venezuela; telle est la liste; maintenant nous sommes sur une liste de personnes qui n'ont pas encore parlé; tel est le problème qui se pose; et je venais justement de vous signaler qu'il y a encore une longue série de personnes qui doivent parler; il y a donc des difficultés qu'il nous faut essayer de résoudre.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Vous continuez à donner la parole à des pays qui ne sont pas dans la liste; c'est bien ce que mon pays ne comprend pas.

LE PRESIDENT: Je tiens à dire à mon cher collègue et ami du Cap-Vert que ce n'est pas vrai du tout; nous avons nommé ici la liste des pays tels qu'ils se sont présentés; comme vous êtes assis devant, vous ne pouvez pas voir les pays qui ont demandé la parole et nous vous avons inscrit sur cette liste dans l'ordre où vous vous êtes présenté. Nous n'avons pas pris n'importe quel pays avant tel autre; c'est le Secrétariat qui a noté la liste et la liste a été notée d'après le moment où les pancartes se sont levées; je considérerais cela comme une critique très vive à mon égard si vous ne me croyiez pas; nous sommes des amis; je pense que vous me croyez sur parole; d'ailleurs vous me connaissez bien et je serais tout à fait opposé à une telle procédure. Nous avons maintenant des difficultés; nous avons une liste d'orateurs inscrits et il nous est difficile de leur accorder la parole; nous cherchons une solution.

Je ne sais pas si la Norvège a un point d'ordre ou pas: j'avais cru que c'était un point d'ordre?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): It is not quite a point of order, but it is a point of procedure. I was going to ask you, if your suggestion was followed and this thing went to the Plenary, kindly to instruct that the record show that I had asked to speak here, because Norway will have to do so in Plenary, and I do not want it to be said afterwards that what I was going to state was not stated in the Commission.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. We now come back to this difficult situation in which we are placed and to which we have to find a solution. On the one hand, a vote has been asked for. I am faced with this material difficulty. The other suggestion is that the text as it is now should go to the Plenary and that the discussion should then go on in the Plenary and any votes or whatever should take place there. That is the proposal which I made first. I regret it, of course, but we are very late in the day. We are so late in the day because of our attempts in the little committee of the Friends of the Chair. That is the real reason. That is what made us so late in the day.

That being said, I would like to proceed by putting forward the proposal of the Administration which is to close the debate now and send everything to the Plenary where the discussion can then continue. This is the proposal made here by the Administration and I put it before you. Just to make things easy and to see where we are going, may I suggest that we take a vote - it is not a legal vote - on this question? Will all those in favour of that proposal raise their hands or their name plates?

There are twenty-five in favour of sending it to Plenary.

Qui est en faveur de la procédure consistant à un vote ici, si c'est encore possible, vu l'heure?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Usted está poniendo, Sr Presidente, a consideración de esta plenaria una sola alternativa, la que se vote aquí. Espero ponga otra que consista en

discutir la propuesta de Cuba, que es lo que México pidió, que se discutiera la propuesta y que si no era aceptada entonces se procediera a la votación para no dejar que las cosas posaran sin que esta Comisión cumpliera con sus obligaciones. Espero, por tanto, que ponga a consideración de esta plenaria el que se discuta la propuesta hecha por Cuba y después se tome la decisión de votar sí o no.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai pris acte de ce que vous me dites, mais comme le signale l'administration, nous avons d'abord demandé qui serait d'accord pour envoyer ce texte à la session plénière; maintenant, nous demandons qui est contre, autrement dit, qui s'oppose au fait d'envoyer ce texte en session plénière.

Par conséquent ma dernière question est la suivante: Qui est contre la proposition d'envoyer tout cela, tel que cela se présente, maintenant, en session plénière?

Merci beaucoup. Quelles sont les délégations qui s'abstiennent? Une s'abstient.

Le Secrétariat a compté 39 délégations contre le fait d'envoyer le texte en plénière; je vais demander au Secrétariat la possibilité de continuer le débat ici cet après-midi à 14 h 30.

Plusieurs délégations ont demandé la parole: pour ce qui concerne la Norvège, est-ce que c'est un point d'ordre?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): It is a point of clarification, because I am now thoroughly confused. The distinguished delegate of Mexico moved one primary proposal and one subsidiary proposal. Which one is it that has been accepted? Can you please enlighten me Mr Chairman, so that I can prepare myself for this afternoon?

LE PRESIDENT: Bien qu'il y ait eu un vote, en fait ce n'est pas véritablement un vote, mais plutôt un test pour voir quelle était la position des délégations; une majorité s'est déclarée pour le fait de ne pas envoyer immédiatement en session plénière la question qui nous préoccupe, et par conséquent de continuer notre Commission I cet après-midi.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon): Si le Gabon s'est abstenu et n'a pris position ni pour ni contre, c'est parce que nous avons le pressentiment de ne pas savoir sur quoi nous allions voter; effectivement, mon collègue de Norvège m'a précédé dans ce sens.

D'autre part, que le dossier soit examiné ici, en Commission I, ou en plénière, je ne voudrais pas être un oiseau de mauvais augure, mais de toutes façons nous passerons au vote.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense que nous pouvons conclure sur ces paroles et vous demander de revenir ici en Commission I à 14 h 30.

The meeting rose at 13.40 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.40 horas

**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/I/PV/18

Twenty-third Session  
COMMISSION I

Vingt-troisième session  
COMMISSION I

23° período de sesiones  
COMISION I

**EIGHTEENTH MEETING  
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE  
18ª SESION**

(26 November 1985)

The Eighteenth Meeting was opened at 15.05 hours  
Roger Martin, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-huitième séance est ouverte à 15 h 05  
sous la présidence de Roger Martin, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 18ª Sesión a las 15.05 horas  
bajo la presidencia de Roger Martin, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 6 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - SIXIEME PARTIE (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 6 (continuación)

7. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

7. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et l'agriculture (suite)

7. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

7.2 (the resolution) Critical situation in Africa (continued)

7.2 (la résolution) La situation critique de l'Afrique (suite)

7.2 (la resolución) Situación crítica en Africa (continuación)

PARAGRAPH 1 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION (continued)

PARAGRAPHE 1 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION (suite)

PARRAFO 1 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION (continuación)

LE PRESIDENT: Nous voilà réunis de nouveau et avant de recommencer j'aurais voulu vous faire une proposition, c'est-à-dire, je voudrais vous demander ce que nous pouvons faire pour être brefs. Je voudrais essayer d'y arriver avec votre aide. Ma proposition pourrait consister à donner la parole à ceux qui sont inscrits et qui n'ont pas encore pris la parole. Bien sûr, si parmi eux certains ne désirent plus prendre la parole, tant mieux! Pour les amener à ne plus prendre la parole, je voudrais vous annoncer ce que vous devrez faire. Nous avons constaté qu'il y a un amendement cubain. Je voudrais savoir s'il y a un consensus sur cet amendement cubain; s'il n'y avait pas de consensus sur cet amendement cubain on retomberait, automatiquement sur le texte que vous avez devant vous. On pourrait alors commencer, si c'est nécessaire, un court débat sur ce texte et éventuellement, si vous le voulez bien, vous pourriez alors voter. C'est ce que je voudrais vous proposer, et je crois bien que cette proposition est acceptable pour tout le monde. Cela est tout à fait normal, mais en tenant compte de ce que je propose, je voudrais commencer par donner la parole à ceux qui n'ont pas encore parlé, et qui sont inscrits; mais je désire rappeler ce que je viens de dire, c'est-à-dire de voir s'il y a un consensus sur l'amendement cubain et dans le cas contraire d'aborder le texte originel et éventuellement voter. Donc je répète, s'il y a des délégations qui ont demandé la parole et qui désirent ne plus parler, ils ont la possibilité de s'abstenir. Cela étant dit, j'accorde maintenant la parole au Cap-Vert.

ANTONIO RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je tiens tout d'abord à saluer l'honorable délégué de l'Inde qui à mon avis, après l'Angola et le Congo, a exprimé les sentiments de ma délégation. Je vais être très très bref.

Nous sommes d'accord sur le fait qu'il ne faut pas protéger la FAO. Mais, nous pensons que tous les pays membres de la FAO dont la plupart sont contre cette résolution ont des représentants dans les pays de ligne de front qui sont très bien informés des actions menées par l'Afrique du Sud en Angola et au Mozambique où la sécurité alimentaire est menacée et même détruite. On détruit les hangars de semences sélectionnées et on détruit les centres de formation de pesticides, on attaque les camions du PAM, les camions de l'aide alimentaire, on les brûle. Cela n'a-t-il rien à voir avec la FAO et cela n'affecte-t-il pas la sécurité alimentaire? Ma délégation souscrit pleinement à la déclaration du Congo et à celle de l'Angola.

D.K. YOMAN (Côte-d'Ivoire) : Nous sommes surpris d'entendre dire ici que cette résolution a pour effet de politiser les débats. D'abord, comme a su le dire remarquablement le délégué du Congo, ce n'est pas la première fois que l'Afrique du Sud se voit citée dans une résolution de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, nous ne comprenons pas l'attitude des pays qui refusent de voir la vérité en face, à savoir que les effets - je dis bien les effets - de l'apartheid et de l'agression de l'Afrique du Sud sont néfastes pour le développement agricole de cette partie de notre continent, notamment pour les pays de la ligne de front. Ce serait vraiment fuir ses responsabilités que de ne pas faire état ici de la partie agricole. Je dis bien de la partie agricole d'une politique générale. Il y a quelques pays développés qui bilatéralement reconnaissent cela, et ont même pris des positions assez conséquentes envers l'Afrique du Sud, ce dont nous nous félicitons. Mais qu'on ne nous oblige pas ici à faire plaisir à quiconque. Qu'appelle-t-on politique? Si la FAO s'intéresse de près et veut s'attaquer aux conséquences agricoles et alimentaires d'une politique, c'est tout à fait son devoir. Nous sommes véritablement surpris; car des délégués de pays développés, ici, dans cette enceinte, ont souvent estimé que les politiques agricoles de certains pays d'Afrique freinaient leur développement. Cela, nous l'avons entendu. Pourquoi veux-t-on maintenant nous refuser le droit de parler nous-mêmes de l'agriculture, qui se fait sur notre continent? Nous changerions notre position si quelqu'un pouvait nous démontrer ici que l'apartheid n'a pas d'effets néfastes sur la sécurité alimentaire de nos frères d'Afrique du Sud, mais nous pensons que ce serait là une chose impossible pour ceux qui tenteront de le faire.

Le texte est le fruit d'un compromis qui a d'ailleurs été laborieusement trouvé. S'il doit être amendé, cela ne peut en aucune manière se faire sur le fond de la question, car encore une fois, nous n'avons rien inventé, sauf à vous écrire ce qui est, nous ne faisons pas là référence à Nelson Mandela ou aux Bantoustans: effectivement c'est à New York que de telles références sont valables; mais, de grâce, le texte qui est sous nos yeux ne fait que parler d'agriculture et de sécurité alimentaire dans le monde, la FAO devant s'occuper de ce qui se passe dans le monde jusque, et y compris, en Afrique du Sud.

La seule concession que nous serions tentés de faire serait peut-être d'accepter l'amendement de Cuba. Mais quant aux conséquences de la politique d'apartheid sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, nous pensons que cela n'est pas négociable; c'est une vérité et les frais sont têtus.

Mrs K. TYCUS-LAWSON (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation does not wish to speak now for the moment. Thank you.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): En intervenant ce matin, nous avons peut-être bousculé les habitudes de certaines délégations; nous n'en avons pas vraiment l'intention. Nous voulions simplement rendre compte ici (et on a dit que c'était ma façon de rendre compte...) mais je pense que c'était la façon de tout notre groupe.

Nous n'avons pas dit que tout était négatif, mais nous avons rencontré le mur d'incompréhension sur les points essentiels sur lesquels nous avons eu le mandat de notre groupe; et je pense que personne ne me démentira en me disant que ce mur d'incompréhension n'existait pas à ce niveau.

Nous pensons pour notre part que nous avons suffisamment discuté de la question et tout au long des débats nous avons toujours dit que nous étions, nous aussi, contre la politisation de la FAO. Il faut que cela soit clair et net: nous sommes contre la politisation de la FAO.

Mais, vous le savez: la politique guide le monde entier; elle guide tous les aspects de notre vie quotidienne; et comment peut-on parler de l'économie sans parler de politique? C'est vraiment difficile. D'ailleurs, l'économie elle-même est une politique.

Nous devons être clairs; nous avons suffisamment expliqué que nous ne condamnons pas la politique comme on le fait aux Nations Unies, à New York ou ailleurs.

On a parlé du protectionnisme; je crois que c'est l'Inde qui l'a dit ce matin; nous avons traité ici du problème du protectionnisme, et d'ailleurs d'une très belle manière; et je ne crois pas que ce soit véritablement ici l'enceinte indiquée pour traiter de ces questions de commerce.



Nous devons être plus sérieux et voir les choses en face. Nous avons fait un projet de résolution modéré qui tient compte de tous les avis. A l'origine il était assez fort, nous devons l'avouer; mais nous avons fait toutes les concessions pour amener la Conférence à adhérer à notre texte. Et nous sommes arrivés au paragraphe 11, ce paragraphe 11 qui nous tient à coeur. En effet, comme vous le savez, la 22ème session de notre Conférence a déjà adopté une résolution sur l'Afrique. Elle ne traitait pas de l'Afrique du Sud parce que nous avions à l'époque une préoccupation: la sécheresse, le Sahel. Et nous avons tout fait pour que dans le cadre de cette résolution ces problèmes soient évoqués avec une certaine gravité.

Ici, nous nous en tenons aux documents que nous fournit le Secrétariat et dans ces documents il est clair que le Mozambique et l'Angola sont cités nommément; et on a donné les raisons pour lesquelles il y a justement cette insécurité alimentaire et c'est pour cette raison que ces problèmes nous préoccupent, nous, groupe africain. Et si nous l'avons noté ici, ce n'est pas pour faire plaisir à qui que ce soit ou pour condamner l'Afrique du Sud; on condamne l'Afrique du Sud partout et on nous a cité-ici des déclarations qui sont faites à propos de l'Afrique du Sud.

Nous savons aussi qu'ailleurs on oppose des véto, qu'ici on s'abstient, quand il s'agit de prendre des mesures concrètes. Nous le savons aussi.

Mais en ce moment, telle n'est pas notre préoccupation. Ce qui nous préoccupe ici c'est la sécurité alimentaire de certains pays d'Afrique australe. Cette sécurité est menacée et il est démontré que ces menaces viennent de l'Afrique du Sud. Pourquoi aurions-nous honte de le dire ici? Pour quelle raison? On nous dit: non, l'Afrique du Sud, il ne faut pas... Mais de l'Afrique du Sud on en a parlé plusieurs fois ici dans cette enceinte. Plusieurs voix le confirment, heureusement. Vous-même le savez: si l'Afrique du Sud est citée ici ce n'est pas une ou deux fois mais plusieurs fois. Nous avons montré des preuves. Je suis un peu surpris d'entendre que dans le groupe nous ne parlions pas en notre nom; ce n'est pas vrai, quand la France intervenait dans le groupe elle parlait au nom du Marché commun, c'est cela qui est important. Il faut que cela soit clair que quand nous prenons la parole, nous parlons au nom du groupe africain; il faut aussi le dire et le reconnaître. Donc, on ne peut pas nous dire ceci. Vous avez pris un groupe très représentatif et vous aviez estimé que ce groupe était à même de faire un travail accepté collectivement par notre Commission; je tenais à le dire.

Pour ma part, je m'en tiens à la proposition que le groupe a faite. Néanmoins, si on pense que la proposition faite par Cuba rencontre un consensus, je suis prêt à m'y rallier. Mais pour l'instant, je pense que l'on devrait s'en tenir au texte qui nous est proposé sinon nous allons nous perdre dans la rédaction des paragraphes et je crains que nous ne perdions encore beaucoup de temps.

BENATTALLAH HALIM (Algérie): Je tiens tout d'abord à vous rendre hommage et à rendre hommage à vos grandes qualités de négociateur et à votre grande habileté qui nous a permis d'avancer d'abord au sein du groupe informel des Amis du Président, puis de poursuivre cet après-midi ce débat assurément très important. Nous adhérons donc avec vous aux propositions que vous avez faites initialement de poursuivre un peu de débat.

La proposition de la délégation cubaine ne nous pose pas de problème quant à son acceptation, mais nous voudrions faire remarquer que dans une certaine mesure elle avait déjà été avancée au sein du groupe informel.

Bien sûr, nous adhérons totalement au paragraphe 11, tel qu'il est formulé actuellement; cependant, selon vos propositions, nous devons passer ensuite au vote.

Avant d'en passer directement à ce stade, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur un texte qui a déjà fait l'objet d'un consensus aussi bien du groupe africain que de toutes les autres parties. Bien sûr il n'a pas été adopté à la FAO, mais il a recueilli le consensus de tout le monde. Permettez-moi de me référer à notre travail au sein du groupe informel et de rappeler la proposition japonaise qui avait suggéré au Comité de prendre comme base de discussion le paragraphe 10 de la résolution de l'ECOSOC portant sur la dette. Ce paragraphe qui avait été accepté par tous n'a pas posé de problèmes. Nous pensions que s'agissant de l'Afrique du Sud, nous devrions demander la réciprocité;

nous avons accepté la formulation du paragraphe 10, tel qu'adopté par l'ECOSOC sur la dette; nous voudrions voir citées les propositions qui sont actuellement sur la table et font problèmes; nous souhaiterions que cette réciprocité soit appliquée et que l'on adopte le paragraphe 9 de la même résolution de l'ECOSOC qui porte sur l'Afrique du Sud. Nous faisons observer aussi que la résolution de l'ECOSOC et notamment son paragraphe 9 sur l'Afrique du Sud ne comporte aucune note en bas de page et qu'elle a été adoptée par tout le monde par consensus.

Si vous le permettez, nous donnerons lecture de ce paragraphe dont vous avez je suppose connaissance. Le paragraphe 9 de l'ECOSOC adopté par consensus dit:

"Souligne la nécessité urgente de mesures internationales concertées, visant à atténuer les effets économiques néfastes, sur les économies des Etats d'Afrique australe, des actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud."

Cela me semblerait un élément important. Si à l'ECOSOC, qui ne s'occupe pas directement de ces aspects, mais qui s'occupe indirectement de la question de la dette, on a parlé de cela, je pense que nous sommes tout autant autorisés à nous prononcer sur ces mêmes questions, bien qu'étant indirectement concernés.

ASSEFA YILALA (Ethiopia): During the year in practically all of our meetings and presently in the Conference the critical food situation in Africa has been a dominating concern of the international community and will continue to be so until this problem is overcome. In all these meetings, however, it was also indicated that the existing food shortage problem will only come to an end if problems hampering food production are tackled. Some of these causes that need attention and analysis are the result of natural calamities, socio-economic problems and political situations. We also know that policies in South Africa and apartheid, which are political and socio-economic in nature, have had a negative impact on food production and food security, mainly in the southern part of the continent. We should therefore like to indicate our support for the adoption of paragraph five of the preamble and paragraphs 11 and 12 of the second part in document C 85/I/REP/6 as presented. Furthermore, we should like to indicate our alignment of views with those presented by India, Congo, Mexico, Cape Verde, Ivory Coast and others. The African countries have seen this document and have adequately discussed the matter in their group meetings. They consider that this is one area that hampers food production in the southern part of the continent. We therefore request that those who oppose this view, kindly view it likewise. Editorial considerations that do not affect the contents are not objected to, though we do not see a need for them.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela estaba ausentándose para ir a la Plenaria, pero de todas maneras tiene que tomar la palabra; aquí me quedo para este momento en que estaba precisamente en disposición de analizar el párrafo 11 que ha sido el cuestionamiento mayor de este documento, en el sentido de manifestarme por la proposición que hizo esta mañana el delegado de Cuba de eliminar la expresión "política de Sudáfrica" y sustituirla, esta expresión por "las condiciones económico-sociales que prevalecen en ese país". Si no lo quiere nombrar, entonces que "prevalecen en el Sur de Africa incluyendo el apartheid."

Yo creo que si se cambia esa expresión que es la que parece herir la susceptibilidad de los países que están en contra del párrafo, salvamos el resto del párrafo que no tiene ninguna objeción, parece, de parte de los países que han suscrito este documento.

Y quedaría en esta forma: "Expresa profunda preocupación por los obstáculos de todo tipo que dificultan la producción alimentaria y agrícola en el continente africano; invita a la comunidad internacional a que redoble sus esfuerzos para hallar soluciones a esos problemas en los foros apropiados, y, en este contexto, señala a la atención de la comunidad internacional el hecho de la existencia de condiciones económico-sociales incluyendo el apartheid que tiene un efecto negativo sobre la seguridad alimentaria en la región del sur del continente africano." Con eso salvamos el escollo de no mencionar a Sudáfrica, de no mencionar la palabra política que parece que es lo que hiere la piel de

muchos delegados, y se dice la verdad. Porque no podemos negar la existencia de esta situación que, de todas maneras, es preocupante, por lo menos angustiada para la mayoría, y verdaderamente lamentable de que existan, en este momento en que la FAO precisamente viene realizando una campaña extensiva en sentido mundial para favorecer al continente africano, y que nosotros no podamos decir aquí que en cierta región de ese continente están prevaleciendo condiciones económico-sociales dañinas para la mayoría de los africanos que allí viven, y que desde luego, les impiden disfrutar siquiera de las mínimas condiciones humanas por razones del apartheid.

Creo, señor Presidente, que dicho de esta manera eliminamos la mención del país, la mención de la palabra política, pero dejamos constancia de una realidad que es evidente a todas luces, que es innegable y que forma parte de la lamentable historia del continente africano en el momento presente.

Gracias y me perdona que me ausente porque me están pidiendo presencia en la Plenaria.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I shall try to heed your advice, Mr Chairman, and be brief. We have participated in the Group of Friends to try and reach a consensus on this very important resolution. Unfortunately, it did not develop. Right up to the last minute things were happening, but I have been heartened by the discussion here. Different ideas are still being expressed. It might be an illusory hope, but I still maintain some hope, and until all hope is finally given up I have to inform you that I have to reserve my country's position on this resolution.

P.G. KHOJANE (Lesotho): The delegation of Lesotho has not spoken before a number of times so you will excuse us, Mr Chairman, if we go on a little longer.

It is very difficult for my delegation to understand the motives behind the negotiations, when negotiations will be entered into, compromises worked out and in the final analysis the proposals and the compromises turned down. My delegation finds the paragraphs now before the Commission mild and diluted, and we think in fact that they should be taken as they stand. However, we go along with the Cuban proposal, if that proposal enjoys a consensus. But we find no merit in going along with it if it does not attract any consensus. Even the present text which has been so diluted my Delegation could accept, though with great pain.

Therefore, we ask the OECD countries please to soften their hearts. We do not want to go into politics, but we do have to state facts. The facts stated in this resolution are socio-economic facts, and socio-economic facts are based on a political background. It is unimaginable to talk of socio-economic facts which are based on political facts, and not talk politics.

Time and time again our countries are requested to adopt policies which are conducive to economic development. Now we are mentioning a fact, which is socio-economic, and when it is recognized it will allievate some of our economic or socio-economic constraints. Therefore, we cannot find any reason to record in this language that there is a political reason which we do not know about. I think that delegations which believe that this paragraph deals with political matters are the delegations with political minds. We state facts, and those who object to those facts have their own political mind. Therefore we plead that there is no way we can deny the fact that apartheid does affect our socio-economic situation in southern Africa. Lesotho is not a memeber of a frontline State and therefore, no connotation of a frontline state can be attached to our statement or to our ideas. I am talking as Lesotho. These are facts and are not based on anything said by frontline states.

Miss Nermin Ali MOURAD (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to express my support for the pertinent remarks made by the distinguished delegate from India concerning the preamble and the operative part. We are speaking about food security. We are seeking a solution to the problem of food security and wonder whether the different practices and policies of South Africa in the region are, indeed, an obstacle to the people living in the region in attaining food security.

Therefore, in reply to questions asked, we feel our decision should refer to the situation in the region. We know that this is an obstacle, and we believe the compromise solution suggested by the delegation of Cuba is a bare minimum. I think we should accept that at least.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I do not want to add anything to what was just said by the distinguished delegate of the Congo. Brazil also has always been against the politicization, if I may say so, of FAO or any other international organization. However, we feel there is a definite case with the reference here to South African policy in connection with food security. In these circumstances, we share the views just expressed by the distinguished delegate of Lesotho and support the draft resolution as it is, unless there is a real chance of reaching consensus with regard to the Cuban proposal.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): I apologize for the delay in speaking Mr Chairman, but there was a transfer of technology from Panama to Pakistan.

I am wondering if we are not allowing this house to drift. We have carefully listened to this prolonged debate and I feel that we are allowing this august body to drift. We view it as being most unfortunate. Let us try to clinch the issue, and see it in its proper perspective.

What is that proper perspective? The hard reality is that South Africa pursues the policy of apartheid that is reality, Mr Chairman. If it were not so, South Africa would have been sitting next to us here - I repeat, would have been sitting next to us here. It would have been a member of the United Nations family. Without facing a manifestation of reality we talk of Africa; we talk of the critical situation in Africa, but it is highly inconceivable that we do not express the deep concern for its food security and fail to underline the constraint in the way of its development in agriculture.

I will not take up more of your time, Mr Chairman. To put an end to this endless debate, we propose that this Commission take a decision on the proposal put forward by the delegation of Cuba which clearly states the reality without naming the force behind the reality. It is high time we took a decision on the Cuban proposal which has already been endorsed by the delegation of Egypt and others.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Nuestra posición es conocida. Ya en su momento habíamos dicho que apoyábamos el Proyecto de Resolución tal como había sido presentado originariamente. No obstante después, aún siendo miembros del Comité de Redacción, creímos conveniente de jar esta cuestión en manos de ese selecto grupo de amigos que hizo un gran esfuerzo, y al cual le agradecemos que lo haya hecho.

No obstante, ahora nos encontramos en esta situación, para lo cual queremos decir lo que pensamos. En ese sentido, apoyamos lo que dijo la distinguida delegación del Congo de que no creemos conveniente entrar acá en esfuerzos de redacción. Lo que no consiguieron un grupo de amigos, ni mucho menos un grupo de redacción de trece miembros, no lo vamos a conseguir con ochenta o noventa que estamos acá. En este sentido, creemos que hay que pronunciarse por los papeles que tenemos ante la vista.

La distinguida delegación de Argelia trató de hacernos entrar en razón recordando un antecedente muy valioso que es que el tema ya fue discutido en estos mismos términos en el ECOSOC y fue aprobado. Si bien entiendo que el ECOSOC no es un organismo político, es un organismo donde se analizan las cuestiones económicas y sociales que luego van a ser analizadas en la Asamblea General, en la Comisión II, que es la que se ocupa de los temas económicos; no en la Comisión I ni en la Comisión V donde se analizan los temas jurídicos.

Así que de ahí a creer que éste es un tema en el que digamos que la política del apartheid, entre otras cosas, influye en la producción de alimentos en los países de la línea del frente, es algo que no excede lo económico y social. Creemos que no, y en ese sentido, el que se haya tratado dentro del marco del ECOSOC, nos da la razón.

En ese sentido, el Proyecto de Resolución, tal como está en su párrafo 11, es una buena aplicación de lo que se ha discutido en el ECOSOC llevado al plano de la seguridad alimentaria. En ese sentido, lo apoyamos y creemos debe quedar como está.

Resumiendo entonces, creemos que lo que no hemos obtenido ni en un grupo de redacción, ni en un grupo de amigos, no lo vamos a volver a discutir, a reabrir el debate desde el punto de vista de la redacción. Que el tema debe estar; lo han planteado muchos países al tratarse el tema de Africa en la Sesión Plenaria. De ello tenemos constancia en las Actas cuatro y tres de la Comisión I. Las hemos revisado; no hemos visto que ningún país de los que hoy se oponen se hayan opuesto en ese momento. No existen reservas. Acá nadie contestó cuando los países, algunos países africanos, otros de América Latina, condenaron la política de apartheid en el sentido de cómo afectaba la seguridad alimentaria de los países de la línea del frente.

Creemos que hay una secuencia lógica de hoy que debe recogerse en una Resolución. No obstante todo esto, y a pesar de que en ese momento no se haya contestado, algunos países, doce países para ser exactos en los números, han hecho reservas.

Entonces, ya no entendemos qué es lo que se está discutiendo, porque si algunos países han hecho reservas sobre un texto de Resolución, qué es lo que se discute. Podemos seguir avanzando. Ya tenemos una resolución con reservas en dos párrafos de doce países. No hay más países que se hayan pronunciado.

Entonces, aprobemos la Resolución, elevemos la Resolución a Plenaria con las reservas de esos doce países. Esa es nuestra posición así como nuestro apoyo al esfuerzo hecho por el grupo de amigos del Presidente.

L.E. WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): We think, it necessary to indicate our position in this matter, it being our view that it is one of paramount importance. We ourselves can find nothing wrong with the formulations in the paragraphs which have given rise to the present and lengthy debate. We believe, as others have said, that these statements record facts, indisputable facts; we feel sure that South African policies including apartheid, do have a negative effect, a negative impact on food security in the region. However, we also are fully conscious of the fact that the issue of politicization at UN Specialized Agencies has been raised time and time again by several countries that see instances of this in other fora, and that are determined to ensure that such politicization is not allowed to creep into FAO. We understand this very well. We ourselves do not accept that the document and the specific paragraphs reflect any form of politicization, but the fact is that some delegations think so. In our view, therefore, our main concern at this point must be to arrive at some consensus on this issue. We feel that every effort must, therefore, be made to achieve this, bearing in mind the respective positions taken in this forum. We are prepared ourselves to support the amendments directed towards the achievement of this consensus, and urge all parties to do the same.

G. de KALBERMATTEN (Suisse): J'avoue que je me sens presque un peu timide d'abuser de votre patience après ce long débat. Nous avons travaillé dans un esprit de consensus et de compromis et cet esprit peut être maintenu ici. Je n'ai pas devant moi le texte cubain mais j'ai entendu la proposition du Venezuela consistant à remplacer le terme "Afrique du Sud" par une mention générique du genre "dans la région de l'Afrique australe". J'ai également entendu avec la plus grande attention l'appel de notre distingué collègue du Lesotho. Il me semble que cette commission devrait considérer cette proposition, qui pourrait à mon avis rassembler un consensus. En tout cas, ma délégation n'opposerait aucun problème à un engagement de ce genre.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous remercie beaucoup pour votre très brève intervention. Nous sommes maintenant arrivés au second point que je vous avais proposé; ce point était de savoir s'il y avait un consensus à propos de l'amendement cubain. Je voudrais, pour faciliter les choses, dire que ce n'est pas un

vote, mais qu'il faudrait voir si vous êtes pour ou contre. Je demanderai de bien vouloir lever leur pancarte à ceux qui sont pour l'amendement cubain. Je répète que cela n'est pas un vote, c'est simplement une vérification afin de voir si oui ou non il y a un consensus. Dans le cas contraire, je devrais demander à chacun de prendre la parole. Qui est pour l'amendement ? Je vois la Gambie.

Donc je crois en fait, chers collègues, qu'il n'est pas nécessaire d'insister. Nous voyons qu'il n'y a pas de consensus sur l'amendement cubain. Cela nous amène à un troisième point qui était donc de déposer devant vous définitivement le texte que vous avez entre les mains. Il s'agit du numéro 5 de l'introduction: "Préoccupé du fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud et en particulier l'apartheid, ont un effet négatif sur la sécurité alimentaire dans les régions". Je passe au numéro 11, mais je ne vais pas le lire et répéter son contenu. Nous avons maintenant devant nous un texte et nous allons voir ce que nous allons faire. Je vous rappelle pour le reste de cette résolution qu'elle a déjà été acceptée avant. Donc, si nous continuons nos débats ce sera sur ces deux textes avec cette petite réserve que l'on avait également acceptée de la part des Etats-Unis d'Amérique qui avaient déclaré que s'il n'y avait pas de consensus sur le point 11, ils devraient revenir au numéro 13. C'était donc la seule exception. Pour le reste, tout le texte reste comme il a été accepté. Il ne reste plus maintenant que les deux textes cubains.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Le agradezco, Sr. Presidente, sus indicaciones, pero creo que hay una segunda posible propuesta que ha sometido a la consideración de esta Sala el delegado de Argelia y ha sido apoyada por otras; es decir considerar el propio texto de la resolución del ECOSOC, el párrafo 9 de tal resolución en donde se habla expresamente de la situación económica que ha generado la política del apartheid en el sur de Africa. También decía él .que podían modificarse las palabras de, las circunstancias económicas por las de seguridad alimentaria. De manera Sr. Presidente que la hagamos coincidente con nuestro debate y con el contexto técnico de nuestro foro.

Yo quería saber, Sr. Presidente, si usted tiene a bien poner a la consideración, y por esto hago esta moción de orden, si esa propuesta es aceptada; pero querría pedirle a usted que comience antes por aquellos que no podrían aceptarla antes que por aquellos que podrían aceptarla. De esa manera veríamos si se va a llegar a un consenso o no.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez donc entendu une proposition cubaine. Je vais vous rappeler que, en ce qui me concerne, j'avais proposé que s'il n'y avait pas de consensus sur l'amendement cubain (et, on l'a vu, il n'y a pas de consensus), on serait passé à l'examen du texte originel. Vous étiez d'accord avec cette proposition. Ceci dit, je répète toujours que je suis entre vos mains et que je ne suis pas très légaliste. Donc, si vraiment il y en a beaucoup parmi vous qui sont pour ce texte, de l'ECOSOC, je pourrais proposer la même formule. Je voudrais demander qu'on le relise et nous verrons si oui ou non il y a consensus sur ce texte de l'ECOSOC.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je prends la parole justement pour appuyer ce que vient de dire notre Président du Groupe des 77, l'Ambassadeur du Mexique. Nous pensons en effet que lorsque nous sommes intervenus nous avons dit que nous étions prêts, s'il y avait consensus, à suivre la proposition de Cuba. S'il y avait consensus; il semble qu'il n'y ait pas consensus sur la proposition de Cuba à mon avis. C'est pour cette raison et nous l'avions dit à l'époque que s'il n'y avait pas consensus sur le texte originel que nous avons abordé ici nous devons soumettre un texte beaucoup plus fort que notre texte originel.

Nous pensons que la discussion peut progresser dans le sens d'un consensus. Tenant compte de ce qui a été dit par le délégué de l'Algérie, je crois que pour ce qui est du problème de la dette, nous avons eu presque un consensus au niveau de nos groupes, car on avait repris les termes de l'ECOSOC, sauf que l'on avait ajouté quelques mots qui avaient quelque peu nuancé le texte de l'ECOSOC.

Mais ici, je pense qu'effectivement nous pouvons reprendre le paragraphe 9 de la résolution adoptée par l'ECOSOC et je pense qu'il n'y avait pas de note de bas de page (on l'a rappelé d'ailleurs) pour ce qui concerne cette résolution. Nous pouvons reprendre ce texte en insérant là où l'on parle de l'économie, "les effets économiques néfastes", et nous pouvons mettre plutôt "les effets sur la sécurité alimentaire". Je crois que de cette façon nous aurons réglé la question et puisqu'il y avait eu consensus à l'ECOSOC, nous supposons qu'il y aura consensus ici, voilà ce que je voulais dire. J'appuie entièrement ce qu'a dit le délégué du Mexique, c'est-à-dire que vous proposiez ce paragraphe à l'attention de notre Commission.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans ces circonstances, il serait utile de noter le texte de l'ECOSOC. Je vous propose si vous êtes d'accord de voir s'il y a consensus sur le texte de l'ECOSOC. Je pourrais demander à la délégation de l'Algérie de lire lentement le texte de l'ECOSOC.

HALIM BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Je tenais simplement à dire que je viens de communiquer le texte de l'ECOSOC à l'Ambassadeur Tchicaya qui pourrait, autant que moi, en faire la lecture.

LE PRESIDENT: Je dois dire que l'on m'a remis le texte en anglais. Si vous le permettez, je vais le lire moi-même. C'est donc un texte qui est extrait d'un document de la 52<sup>ème</sup> session plénière de l'ECOSOC du 26 juillet 1985, et c'est le document 85/80. Il s'agit du point 9 que je vais lire lentement en anglais afin que vous puissiez le noter et décider si vous l'approuvez. "Stresses the urgent need for concerted international measures aimed at mitigating the adverse economic effects on the economies of Southern African States of destabilizing acts of aggression by South Africa"

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois que ce que vous avez lu est effectivement le texte adopté à l'ECOSOC. Mais nous sommes ici à la Conférence de la FAO, et nous traitons des problèmes de l'agriculture et de la sécurité alimentaire. Par conséquent, ce texte doit absolument être adapté à notre propre situation. Voilà pourquoi je vous propose ceci, pour ce qui nous concerne. Veuillez en prendre note. "Souligne la nécessité urgente de mesures internationales concertées, visant à atténuer les effets néfastes sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire des Etats d'Afrique australe, des actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud".

Nous avons simplement changé les termes "les effets économiques néfastes sur les économies" en mettant "les effets sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire".

F. G. POULIDES (Chypre): C'est trop tard maintenant. Je voudrais vous prier de faire une photocopie de ce document. C'est trop tard, après l'intervention de l'Ambassadeur du Congo.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous voyons tous, chers collègues, que les situations avec "S" se développent comme des fleurs et nous devons donc essayer de suivre ces développements, ce qui n'est pas toujours facile. (Je vais donc encore une fois si vous le voulez bien et comme je l'avais plus ou moins annoncé vous dire que si ce texte qui était à l'origine un texte ECOSOC et que l'on vient de vous

soumettre (bien sûr, vous n'avez pas eu beaucoup de temps pour le consulter) comme il vient d'être amendé par le Congo, pourrait arriver à un consensus). Alors, si vous êtes d'accord, je vous demanderai d'adopter cette procédure. Il ne s'agit pas du tout d'un vote. Je désire simplement vérifier si oui ou non il y a consensus. Je vous demanderai donc de lever vos pancartes. Ceux qui sont pour ce texte lèvent leur pancarte. (Continue en anglais).

CHAIRMAN: I remind you this is not a vote, it is just to see whether there is consensus. Now I will ask who is against, and then I will ask who is abstaining. Who is against this text? I see, two. Who would have an abstention position? So, thank you very much. It is obvious that there is no consensus again on this text. So, with this situation I think I will try to be your servant, the situation now is that we have one text which is here before us in the document, and I think it would be quite fair now, as it is so late in the day, to see what we can do with that text. As we have all been trying and collaborating, and it is now ten past four, do you not think it would be the moment to come back to the original text, as I suggested at the beginning, which we have had time to see, not twenty-four hours, but I do not think anybody will insist on that rule because we are not obliged to keep that rule. I would propose that we would then have a vote on these two texts as they stand in the document.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous pensons qu'il est trop tard. Nous avons négocié un texte. Nous pensions obtenir le consensus sur ce texte. Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas été suivis. Nous ne pouvons plus revenir sur ce texte. Pour nous, il n'existe plus. Le texte qui est maintenant soumis est celui adopté par l'ECOSOC.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous avons entendu l'opinion d'une délégation qui dit que le texte que nous avons sur papier n'existe plus. C'est ce que nous dit le Congo. Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord? Est-ce qu'il y en a qui ne sont pas d'accord avec cette thèse?

Pedro Agostinto KANGA (Angola): Nous sommes tout à fait d'accord avec le représentant du Congo.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Juste pour appuyer l'Angola et le Congo.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce que tout le monde est d'accord avec le Congo pour considérer qu'on verrait simplement maintenant le nouveau texte qui vient de nous être proposé et de considérer que le texte écrit que nous avons devant nous n'existe pas? Cela voudrait dire que si cette thèse est suivie, nous serons amenés à avoir un vote sur ce texte qui vient de nous être soumis il y a quelques minutes.

IBRAHIM OUMAROU (Niger): Vous dites qu'il faut considérer le texte que nous avons sous les yeux comme n'existant pas. S'agit-il simplement du paragraphe 11 qui devait être amendé comme tel que l'on vient de proposer, ou bien est-ce l'ensemble du texte? On ne vous suit pas.

LE PRESIDENT: Mon cher collègue, j'ai dit, et nous sommes tous d'accord, que ce stade est dépassé, nous ne nous occupons plus maintenant que de deux parties du texte, c'est-à-dire les deux parties concernant l'Afrique du Sud: une petite partie que j'ai eue il y a quelques instants, dans l'introduction, puis le paragraphe 11 qui suit plus loin dans le texte.



BENATTALLAH HALIM (Algérie): Je tiens, bien entendu, à appuyer l'intervention du Congo, mais nous tenons aussi à dire que nous sommes un peu peiné par la tournure que l'on veut imprimer à ce débat. Nous protestons et nous ne sommes pas du tout d'accord avec la proposition que vous venez de faire pour détourner le débat. Nous nous opposons complètement à la procédure que vous voulez imposer à ce débat. Il était clair que seule une proposition était en discussion et vous avez invité tout le monde à se prononcer sur cette question; les délégations se sont prononcées sur cette question et nous n'avons pas compris votre remise en cause de cette question. Nous avons approché le consensus et vous avez demandé à tout le monde de lever les pancartes; tout le monde l'a fait et il était clair que, par rapport à la proposition précédente, nous avons fait un pas en avant et nous nous sommes rapprochés du consensus, donc nous ne comprenons pas que, pour une question de procédure, on veuille régresser, y compris sur le fond.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Gracias, Sr. Presidente.

Es para apoyar lo dicho por el Congo y por Argelia. Pensamos que con esa propuesta, aunque no haya consenso, eso no quita para que haya una mayoría, que creo que existe y por lo tanto la propuesta debe seguir discutiéndose. Es nuestro respetuoso entender. Creemos que no puede ser descartada. Pensamos que esta Comisión debe pronunciarse sobre la propuesta acerca del párrafo, o a lo más a que podemos llegar a proponer es volver al párrafo original, en el caso en que sí se logre un consenso absoluto. Pero, vuelvo a repetir, si sobre el párrafo 11 no existe ninguna reserva. Si no, que se discuta sobre la adaptación del párrafo del ECOSOC.

H. CARRION McDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Sr. Presidente. Gracias. Pido disculpas por estos problemas técnicos que he tenido con el micrófono.

En primer lugar, quiero conocer sus esfuerzos para tratar de llegar a un consenso en relación con los párrafos que tenemos ante nosotros, sobre los cuales estamos discutiendo y existe esta polémica. En este sentido quiero apoyar la intervención del Congo, cuando mencionó que estamos discutiendo una propuesta que no es la propuesta misma del Congo. Sin embargo, quiero apoyar la propuesta en el sentido de que podamos regresar al texto original, siempre que no haya alguna reserva. En el caso de que la hubiera, creo que definitivamente tenemos que adoptar el texto del ECOSOC, con la enmienda del delegado del Congo, puesto que ese texto ha logrado un apoyo mayoritario por parte de esta Comisión.

LE PRESIDENT: Comme je l'ai fait remarquer à plusieurs reprises, il n'y a eu en fait aucun vote; nous avons voulu voir si oui ou non il y avait consensus sur deux textes qui se sont suivis et il est apparu clairement qu'il n'y avait pas de consensus. Il n'est pas question d'un vote; il était bon que l'on puisse établir très vite si oui ou non il y avait consensus: et il n'y en avait pas.

G. de KALBERMATTEN (Suisse): Le texte original aurait pu obtenir l'appui qualifié de ma délégation. Nous aurions pu tomber d'accord sur le texte original, mais le texte de l'ECOSOC, même amendé, va beaucoup plus loin, dans le sens que bon nombre de délégations ne souhaitent pas: c'est-à-dire une accentuation des dimensions politiques et finalement étrangères à cette enceinte. Par conséquent, nous aurons des problèmes avec le texte de l'ECOSOC.

M. B. SY (Sénégal): J'ai suivi les négociations restreintes qui ont eu lieu autour de cette question et chaque fois que nous avons rencontré des problèmes, ce sont en principe les pays qui se sont opposés à notre position qui nous demandaient souvent de nous référer à ce qui était fait à l'ECOSOC, en nous disant que nous ne pouvions pas aller au-delà, mais que l'on pouvait toujours se ranger à la rigueur à ce qu'avait fait l'ECOSOC. Cela pour dire que l'on pensait réaliser un

consensus en observant cette recommandation, mais hélas nous avons des difficultés. Mon intervention a pour but de vous demander d'interroger le Conseiller juridique afin qu'il nous précise dans quelles conditions on peut apprécier un consensus. Je ne suis pas certain que mime à l'ECOSOC, lorsqu'on a accepté ce texte, le consensus avait été interprété de manière aussi rigoureuse que celle à laquelle nous sommes en train d'assister. Par conséquent, il faudrait que le Conseil juridique nous dise déjà ce qu'est un consensus, parce qu'en fait lorsque vous avez interrogé les délégations, certaines pancartes parmi toute la salle étaient contre, et il y avait peut-être une dizaine' d'abstentions. Que signifie une abstention à ces conditions? Ce n'est qu'après avoir résolu cette question juridique que nous pourrions peut-être nous rendre compte si oui ou non vous aviez le droit d'anticiper sur la décision, en disant qu'il n'y avait pas eu consensus.

J'espère que le Conseil juridique nous donnera les éclaircissements nécessaires.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Le point d'ordre-est une motion; je présente une motion pour que nous puissions voter le texte de l'ECOSOC, amendé par nous.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Para apoyar la proposición de ir a la votación, que ha hecho la distinguida representación del Congo.

Srta.Dra. Hilda LOPEZ DE MORAL (Colombia): Colombia desea apoyar la moción que acaba de presentar la delegación del Congo, apoyada por la delegación de Cuba.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais simplement qu'après cette motion proposée par nous-mêmes et appuyée par deux membres de cette Commission, on interroge le Conseiller juridique pour qu'il nous dise la procédure à suivre.

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand the position as it stands now, the delegate of Congo, supported by two other members of this Commission, has formally proposed that a vote be taken on the ECOSOC Text as amended by himself. I think that is the position that exists at the moment. I can see no other way out than to vote, under the circumstances, unless, Mr Chairman, you wish to make a ruling in a different way, in which case it is up to the Commission to decide.

CHAIRMAN: In order to make things clear I would like to read the text here about points of order. It is 12.20. "During the discussion of any matter a delegation or representative may rise to a point of order, and the point of order shall be immediately decided by the Chairman. A delegate or representative may appeal against a ruling of the Chairman, in which event the appeal shall immediately be put to the vote, and the Chairman's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the votes cast. A delegate or a representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion."

I would like to ask a question, too, as we all do, and ask Mr Roche if it is - because I don't know - there is nothing behind my question - I would like to know whether it is a normal procedure that a new text is proposed under the form of a motion of order. May I ask to hear from our legal advisor whether that is possible?

LEGAL COUNSEL: As I understand it, the motion was not so much the proposal of a new text, but the motion was to vote on the text. The text was submitted orally during this meeting and Rule 11, paragraph 3 says that except as may be decided otherwise by the Conference of the Plenary meeting or by a Commission or Committee, proposals shall not be put to the vote unless copies thereof have been circulated at least 24 hours before the vote. But that is unless the Commission decides otherwise. So at the moment you have a text before you and a motion by Congo supported by two other delegations that you should proceed to the vote on the matter. It is up to the Commission to decide whether, in fact, it wishes to waive the 24-hour notice, and if it does, then it should proceed to vote.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. So indeed, as the counsellor has said to us, another possibility would be, if there is any difficulty about the 24-hour question, we would have to decide eventually by vote whether or not we can forget that rule. Because, indeed, the Conference can decide. The Conference can indeed decide not to respect the 24-hour rule. That means, really, that the 24-hour rule is not an absolute thing but that the Conference can decide otherwise. But then, a decision by the Conference is necessary. You see how complicated things are getting. (Continues in French).

Afin de vous éclairer, je vais vous lire le texte de l'article 11.3.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

D.K. YOMAN (Côte-d'Ivoire): Je crois que vous êtes un éminent légiste; nous le savons ici. Le conseiller juridique de la FAO nous a dit clairement quelle procédure il fallait suivre. Nous savons également que plus on se rapproche du consensus, mieux cela vaut et le texte amendé par l'Ambassadeur du Congo, à notre sens, avait retenu un nombre de suffrages beaucoup plus élevés qu'auparavant. Nous ne comprenons donc pas que par certains subterfuges de procédure cette réunion puisse encore traîner en longueur. Nous estimons qu'il faut passer au vote si c'est cela la dernière solution préconisée par le Conseiller juridique.

LE PRESIDENT: Mon cher collègue, il faut de toute façon, avant de faire quelque chose, éclaircir la situation et je crois que vous seriez d'accord pour que je vous lise un texte afin d'essayer de le faire. Ce ne sera pas long et après, bien sûr, nous serons tous ensemble pour prendre une décision. Je crois que vous avez tous librement parlé à un certain moment et, à un certain moment, le Président peut vous demander de lire un certain texte. Après on verra bien. On voit le texte, article 11, point 3, qui dit "sauf décision contraire de la Conférence réunie en séance plénière, ou d'une Commission ou Comité, nulle proposition n'est mise aux voix si le texte n'en a pas été communiqué au moins 24 heures avant le vote. Le Président de la Conférence, ou de la Commission ou du Comité intéressé peut cependant autoriser la mise aux voix des amendements même si le texte n'a pas été communiqué ou l'a été moins de 24 heures avant le vote."

J'ai désiré vous lire ce texte pour donner un éclaircissement. L'Algérie a demandé une intervention.

I.A. HALIM (Algérie): Il me semble que vos problèmes de conscience ou votre dilemme, en tout cas les problèmes qui vous occupent, ne sont pas ceux des délégués; ce ne sont pas du tout les problèmes qui occupent les délégations qui sont ici présentes, pas celles en tout cas qui sont sur le podium. Je crois que la lecture du texte que vous avez donné n'a été demandée par personne; aucune délégation n'a souhaité davantage de clarification, aucune autre délégation ne souhaitait avoir

de réponse supplémentaire, aucune délégation n'a posé une autre question. La lecture que vous avez faite nous semble tout à fait inopportune. Si l'on résume la situation, elle est la suivante: il me semble que c'est de cette façon que l'ensemble des délégués ici la comprennent: il y avait un texte proposé et amendé par le Congo, cela était clair et c'est sur cela que l'on devait se prononcer. Sur ces entrefaites, il y a eu une motion d'ordre appuyée par deux délégations qui demandaient qu'on passe au vote. Cela a été aussi approuvé. Je ne comprends donc pas les difficultés que vous soulevez, Monsieur le Président. Il me semble que la tâche immédiate maintenant est de passer au vote.

Octavio Rainho da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): Mr Chairman, some minutes ago you tried to ascertain the consensus about the proposition made by the Ambassador of Congo. You found that there was no consensus but that there was a substantial majority in favour of the proposition. Then some minutes ago you decided to propose to us to sound the sense of this Commission about the proposition of the representative of Congo without having in fact distributed that proposition twenty-four hours beforehand according to the rules. Our conviction is that ipso facto there was already a ruling from this Commission that it accept the motion without having to read it. I really do not see the point in trying to discuss this rule about the twenty-four hours. We decided about this when we agreed to pronounce ourselves upon this matter. I am quite in agreement with the delegate of Algeria when he says that what has to be done now is for you to take a vote. I do not see the point in trying to decide upon this twenty-four hour rule. The Commission has already decided on that.

Humberto CARRION McDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Lo que yo quería razonar ya ha sido expresado tanto por Argelia como por Brasil. En este sentido, creo que la Moción que presentó el Congo de pasar a votación, que fue apoyada por Cuba y Colombia, es totalmente procedente y por lo tanto, debemos pasar en este momento, sin mayores consultas o sin mayores, digamos, tácticas por así llamar de carácter dilatorio, pasar a la votación inmediata del texto propuesto por la delegación del Congo.

Mme Laetitia OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): Je pense que j'interviens un peu tard car j'avais demandé de parler plus tôt puisque je voulais parler avant le Sénégal et c'était justement pour nous éviter une procédure qui en fait elle-même doit plaire à tout le monde, à savoir qu'on a parlé de consensus. Donc je soutiens toujours ce que le Sénégal a dit sur la teneur réelle du consensus qui a pour but de continuer ou d'arrêter la discussion, mais là vous avez vu que la majorité se dégageait et je pense qu'il faut peut-être répondre au Sénégal, ce qui me permettrait, à moi, de savoir sur quel pied danser.

Le PRESIDENT: Nous espérons toujours savoir sur quel pied nous devons danser, c'est une remarque qui est vraiment pour tout le monde; cela étant j'accorde maintenant la parole au Cap-Vert.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): C'est pour appuyer l'Algérie suivie par plusieurs autres orateurs: passons au vote.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Vous m'avez déjà donné la parole tout à l'heure mais je n'ai pas pu la prendre à la suite de la motion d'ordre de M. le Représentant du Congo. Je voulais simplement indiquer que l'application à la FAO d'une résolution adoptée par le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies ne me paraît pas pertinente même si elle a été accommodée à la sauce FAO. En effet, le Conseil économique et social des Nations Unies est un organe subsidiaire et à ce titre

il a un caractère politique que n'a pas la FAO et je voulais répéter ce que j'ai eu l'honneur d'indiquer ce matin au nom des Etats Membres de la Communauté ainsi que de l'Espagne et du Portugal, c'est-à-dire que pour nous la FAO n'est pas l'organisme approprié pour traiter des problèmes politiques. En conséquence nous ne pouvons pas adopter la proposition qui nous est soumise.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Punto de Orden. Hago una Moción de Orden porque usted no ha cumplido con lo que indica el Reglamento.

El Reglamento le indica a usted, claramente, que después de dos Mociones de Orden en favor de una Moción específica, se tiene que poner a votación tal Moción específica.

En segundo lugar, usted tiene la autoridad de la Conferencia conforme lo indica el Artículo 9, párrafo IV del Reglamento y por tanto las reglas de las veinticuatro horas que usted mismo ya había superado en el momento que puso a consulta esa Moción de someter ese nuevo párrafo, había quedado automáticamente superada.

Por tanto, usted se ve obligado por las reglas a poner en votación el texto de la Moción que ha presentado el distinguido delegado del Congo.

En cuanto a poner en votación el texto que ha sido leído y admitido anteriormente por esta Comisión, señor Presidente, hablamos de que cumpla usted con lo que indica el Reglamento y ponga de inmediato a votación el texto que ha presentado Congo.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous comprends très bien; il est certain que si une motion d'ordre est proposée, il faut réagir immédiatement. Cette motion d'ordre maintenant propose de voter sur un texte. Nous pouvons tous être d'accord sur le fait qu'il n'est vraiment pas nécessaire de se battre pour une chose aussi évidente; j'ai essayé simplement de vous lire un texte qui, en fait, indique clairement la procédure à suivre. Nous devons respecter les textes que nous avons. Parfois, ils ne sont pas clairs, parfois il n'y en a pas. En cette circonstance on essaie de trouver des solutions pratiques. Il y a donc un texte clair; nous sommes donc tout à fait d'accord qu'il faut maintenant traiter du point qui nous a été soumis, c'est-à-dire le texte ECOSOC amendé. Ce vote, tout le monde voudrait le faire très rapidement et c'est pour cela que j'ai voulu vous lire ce texte. Mais certains se sont un peu fichés, je me demande pourquoi et d'après le texte que je vous ai lu, si le Comité prend une décision dans le sens de ne pas demander le respect du délai de 24 heures, c'est tout à fait acceptable. Au stade où nous en sommes, nous devons appliquer ce texte; là aussi on peut demander un vote ou bien procéder par consensus. De toute façon nous devons voir si la Conférence ou le Comité décident de passer outre à la règle de 24 heures parce que vous comprenez bien que si vous me poussez à faire quelque chose qui n'est pas légal, je peux ne pas l'admettre en tant que Président sinon il faudrait mettre à ma place un autre Président qui ne se référerait pas au texte. C'est donc très simple, nous devons voir si le Comité ou la Conférence décident de passer outre à cette règle de 24 heures.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. BALLA SY (Sénégal): Vous savez très bien que je suis plein d'admiration pour vous, mais le vote que vous nous proposez ne peut pas, à mon sens, se dérouler pour une simple raison, c'est que le texte même nous a été distribué il y a seulement quelques heures et nous avons accepté de l'examiner.

Dans ces conditions, comment vouloir pour l'amendement d'un texte, qui lui-même n'a pas respecté la règle des 24 heures, nous interroger sur la nécessité d'appliquer les 24 heures à l'amendement? Je pense que de ce fait, nous pouvons nous passer de la règle des 24 heures. Un vote ne s'applique pas dans ces circonstances.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Como nos manejamos con el Reglamento, acá dice que un delegado que quiera formular una Cuestión de Orden debe ponerse en pie y levantar el letrero. Por eso es que lo hemos hecho.

En primer lugar, queremos manifestar nuestra profunda desconformidad con su proceder por habernos saltado en el orden de la lista de oradores. Usted mismo había dicho que primero venía Argentina después de Cabo Verde, y después Bélgica. Ha hecho pasar al país que usted representa delante nuestro. Esa es nuestra posición. En segundo lugar, propongo...

CHAIRMAN: May I proceed to try and keep order? At this moment we are listening to a point of order by the delegation of Argentina and now Cuba wants to raise a point of order. Do you have a point of order on what the delegate of Argentina is saying? - because I cannot possibly ask you to speak at the same time. There are now two points of order and the first one is not finished. As there are two points of order, the first should be finished. I think we are agreed on that. Oh, you do not agree with that, so this then is a point of order on a point of order. That is something we should have in the basic text, I think! At least I would like to be polite and ask the delegate of Argentina whether he wishes to finish his point of order or whether the delegate of Cuba can interrupt at this stage?

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Sí, estamos de acuerdo.

LE PRESIDENT: Dans ces circonstances, puis-je demander à Cuba de présenter son point d'ordre?

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): El Punto de Orden tiene un objetivo. Posiblemente un poco pronto lo presenté, pero precisamente en función de la educación y del respeto que se le debe tener a una delegación que está hablando, en el momento en que Argentina estaba hablando y que yo he presentado el Punto de Orden, usted estaba hablando con el Secretario. Usted no estaba oyendo. Usted no oyó lo que el delegado de Argentina le expresó, porque yo le estaba viendo en ese momento; y es lo que yo quisiera. Que usted oyera la inconformidad de Argentina, porque usted no estaba oyendo a Argentina. Escuche la inconformidad de Argentina. Escúchela bien. Muchas gracias.

LE PRESIDENT: C'est le summum de la courtoisie de votre part, merci. Puis-je demander à l'Argentine de continuer avec son point d'ordre?

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Sí, muchas gracias señor Presidente. Y le agradecemos a la distinguida representación hermana de Cuba que haya llamado su atención para que nos escuche.

Nosotros lo que deseábamos manifestar es nuestra inconformidad porque no nos había, entre otras, hecho hablar o llamado para hablar en el mismo orden que usted lo había mencionado. Hizo que el país al cual usted dignamente representa, hablara antes que nosotros aún cuando usted había dicho que primero venía Argentina y después Bélgica. Pero no fue así y lamentamos ese hecho.

En cuanto a la Moción de Orden es que requerimos formalmente el cierre del debate de acuerdo al Reglamento General, Artículo 12.23 tal como está en los textos básicos. Pedimos el cierre del debate y que se proceda inmediatamente a votación.

CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, but as I am not allowed any more to speak with the Secretariat when someone is saying something I am now obliged to ask you to give me a moment to myself so that I can read and speak. Accordingly, I ask for your understanding. It is either/or - either you allow me to try and find solutions while, someone is speaking, or you have to wait. It happens all the time, and I am quite surprised to have heard remarks of the kind that have been made. I think I will not quickly accept the Chairmanship again; I did not ask for it anyway, but I will not accept it any more because, quite honestly, it is difficult to work under these circumstances if one is not free even to speak with one's neighbour. What would you say if I asked you not to speak to your neighbour while I am speaking? (applause) Thank you very much for your understanding. So if you will kindly allow me, let us find a solution. When you are silent I can speak and read. Now I am very sorry, but I am going to read this text. Thank you for your understanding which has enabled me to do my work. I have just read the text and I think we should now try to find a solution. With a little goodwill there is absolutely no problem with this. I will ask all those who are in favour of discussing the new text that has been submitted immediately, without the 24-hour rule, to raise their hands or their name plates.

Veillez lever vos pancartes et les maintenir assez longtemps afin que l'on puisse les compter. Le nombre de pancartes a été noté. Est-ce que je pourrais maintenant demander à ceux qui sont "contre" de lever leur pancarte. Il y a un pays qui est contre. Je demande à ceux qui s'abstiennent de lever leur pancarte.

Bien que ce ne soit pas vraiment un vote tout à fait régulier peut-être, je pense qu'il apparaît tout à fait clairement qu'une grande majorité voudrait ne pas respecter la règle des 24 heures. C'était donc un résultat auquel nous aurions pu arriver si vous aviez écouté ce que je vous lisais car le but de mon opération était d'avoir votre opinion sur ce point. Maintenant, vous avez donné votre opinion et nous sommes dans une position où nous pouvons voter sur le texte que l'on a appelé "le texte ECOSOC amendé".

Je voudrais que quelqu'un nous lise très lentement encore une fois le texte ECOSOC amendé. Nous voterons ensuite sur ce texte.

F.G. POULIDES (Chypre): Etant donné qu'il y a des discussions et que ce texte est déjà modifié, et ainsi que le Congo nous l'a proposé, on ne peut pas modifier ce texte encore une fois car avec les paroles on fait des miracles. Ce texte ne doit plus être un texte ECOSOC, c'est un texte de la FAO. C'est un texte qui provient de nous-mêmes et non pas de l'ECOSOC.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Bien entendu, pour nous il ne s'agit plus du texte ECOSOC. Nous nous sommes basés sur le texte ECOSOC amendé pour établir notre propre texte. Cela dit, je voudrais vous donner lecture de la proposition que nous avons retenue. Donc le paragraphe 11 deviendrait: "Souligne la nécessité urgente de mesures internationales concertées visant à atténuer les effets économiques néfastes sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire des Etats d'Afrique australe et des actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud". Voilà la proposition que nous avons faite.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez lu lentement et tout le monde- a pu prendre note de ce texte. Bien entendu, ce texte remplace le texte qui se trouve maintenant à deux endroits. Afin qu'il n'y ait pas de malentendu à ce propos, je précise qu'il y a donc ce texte qui est l'introduction concernant l'Afrique du Sud et le texte du paragraphe 11. Il est bien entendu que ce texte qui est maintenant proposé remplace les deux textes précédents. Nous avons eu lecture de ce nouveau texte et je crois que tout le monde a pu le noter. Je désire simplement vous lire encore une fois ce texte, si vous le permettez. Il ne faut pas croire que c'est contre vous que j'agis... Comment "un" pourrait-il être contre tous? Il n'en n'est pas question. Il faut comprendre que je suis un ancien juriste et que je veux ici essayer de respecter les textes fondamentaux. Cela n'entrave absolument rien. Je veux simplement vous dire comment le vote se fait.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Oui, et je m'excuse car ce n'est pas pour vous interrompre, je voulais simplement dire que le paragraphe remplace bien le paragraphe 11. C'est-à-dire les dispositifs. Mais nous pensons que si le préambule ne pose pas de problème il doit rester tel quel.

LE PRESIDENT: La remarque congolaise revient donc à dire que le texte comme il était et qui ne comportait pas d'accord sur un petit texte dans le préambule, donc disais-je le Congo propose et je pense que c'est tout à fait acceptable que le texte non encore accepté au préambule reste tel qu'il est, tandis que pour le point 11 un autre texte est donc proposé. Nous avons donc établi ici que l'on ne respecterait pas la règle des 24 heures. Donc, nous pouvons voter sur ce texte. Toutefois, il faudrait alors en même temps, bien entendu, voter sur le texte qui est dans l'introduction à propos de l'Afrique du Sud et qui n'a donc pas été amendé. Pour être tout à fait clair, je vais relire ce texte qui n'a donc pas été changé: "Préoccupée du fait que les politiques de l'Afrique du Sud et en particulier l'apartheid ont un effet négatif sur la sécurité alimentaire de la région". Cela c'est le premier texte sur lequel nous devons voter. Ensuite nous avons un second texte qui vient de vous être lu et que vous avez dû voter. La seule question qui se pose maintenant, avant que je vous en donne lecture, est simplement pour votre information et non pas pour prendre du rang et vérifier si nous respectons bien ce que nous devons faire pour avoir un vote. La procédure du vote est longuement expliquée dans les textes fondamentaux et si nous voulons avoir un texte valable, je répète qu'il faut respecter les textes fondamentaux car dans le cas contraire, le texte que nous voterions pourrait être attaqué par certains qui pourraient dire que l'on n'a pas respecté les textes fondamentaux. Je tiens simplement à vous dire comment nous devons faire pour obtenir un vote en règle. Cela étant dit, je répète que nous devons voir si nous prenons les deux textes à la fois ou bien si nous prenons à part le texte du Préambule et le nouveau texte du paragraphe 11. Il y a donc deux possibilités.

B. BOUASSA-MOUSSADJI (Gabon): En un premier temps nous avons demandé la parole sur la précision que le Congo a demandée tout à l'heure et dans un second temps nous ne comprenions pas exactement les visées du Président lorsqu'il voulait dissocier la résolution. C'est une résolution sur laquelle nous sommes plus ou moins tombés d'accord et sur laquelle seulement le paragraphe du Préambule et le paragraphe 11 ont rencontré des malentendus. Nous pensons que dans la mesure où des propositions ont été faites pour que le texte, l'ancien texte ECOSOC devienne texte FAO, et qui avait été voté même par les pays qui s'abstiennent ... peut-être y a-t-il des moments où on se réveille et où on se met à voter ... toujours est-il que ce texte avait été voté et nous ne voyons pas pourquoi le Président propose deux votes: un pour le préambule et l'autre pour le paragraphe 11. Nous pensons qu'un seul vote suffit, que l'on vote le texte ou qu'on ne le vote pas.

LE PRESIDENT: Je me suis donc mal exprimé parce qu'il semble que vous ne m'avez pas compris. Ce que j'ai dit c'est que nous devons maintenant voter deux textes. L'un dans le Préambule et l'autre dans le corps même du texte. Je voulais simplement demander si vous voulez voter sur les deux textes à la fois: donc je groupe les textes du Préambule et le paragraphe 11. Nous voterions donc sur les deux textes. Ou bien devons-nous voter deux fois: une fois sur le texte du Préambule et une fois sur le paragraphe 11?



J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voudrions éviter deux votes. Je crois que l'on peut se prononcer une seule fois et pour cela je voudrais faire la proposition suivante, afin de rester conforme à l'esprit qui nous a guidé au cours des débats que nous avons eu au niveau du groupe: Essayer de mettre ce texte des "considérants" en conformité avec le texte du "dispositif". Je vous propose donc que l'on lise ceci: Considérant N° 5: "Préoccupée du fait que les actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud ont un effet négatif sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique australe". Ce serait donc le même texte qui serait repris mais il serait formulé différemment. De même que nous l'avons fait lorsque nous avons étudié ce paragraphe, je pense que nous pouvons regrouper les deux textes.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America) : On a point of order, in accordance with Rule 12, Sub.7, I would request that the vote on this, and on each of the paragraphs that remain in question, including paragraph 13, be taken by roll call vote and recorded as indicated in the text.

LE PRESIDENT: La Guinée avait demandé la parole, mais avant de lui passer la parole, je voudrais essayer d'éclaircir un peu la situation et je m'adresse à ce propos au Congo.

La délégation du Congo nous avait dit d'abord que le texte, tel qu'il figure dans le préambule, resterait tel quel, mais ce n'est pas le cas: vous avez, je crois, proposé un autre texte.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je voulais, par cette proposition, -éviter que l'on vote deux fois, mais si vous êtes d'accord de ne voter qu'une seule fois en laissant le "rappelant" tel qu'il est, je pense qu'il n'y a pas d'inconvénient à garder l'ancien texte; nous n'y voyons aucun inconvénient mais si cela peut empêcher que l'on vote deux fois, alors on pourrait retenir ce texte qui reprend celui du dispositif. C'est tout. Je n'ai pas de point de vue assez marqué là-dessus.

E.H.M. KOUYATE (Guinée): Il y a très longtemps que la Guinée avait demandé à parler et nous avons attendu si longtemps que je me suis réellement refroidi à l'écoute d'un certain nombre d'interventions, de conciliations émises par certaines délégations.

Je comprends parfaitement votre position, moi-même à votre place, je serais très préoccupé du fait que dans cette salle il se dégage trois sensibilités à mon avis: la sensibilité humaine, la sensibilité commerciale et économique et la sensibilité du coeur, mais le problème de l'apartheid, cela ébranle le coeur, on sait ce qui s'y passe. Si c'était dans le sens contraire, peut-être que les résolutions n'auraient pas eu ce ton aujourd'hui. • J'ai l'impression qu'à la suite de toutes les interventions et des mises au point, il convient maintenant de mettre les trois propositions faites par l'ambassadeur du Congo aux voix immédiatement. J'ai l'impression que vous êtes très embarrassé, mais avec le poids de la majorité vous avez une issue d'explication. Je vous prie de passer immédiatement à la mise aux voix, dans les formes requises et édictées par le Conseiller juridique, de la motion qui vous a été présentée par le délégué du Congo.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I have been trying to take the floor but I have really now forgotten what I was trying to say. However, there is something I remember: I believe that, as a lawyer you know the meaning of the word "filibuster" • Please let us go ahead and take the vote.

C.R. SERSALEDI CERISANO (Argentina): Es para solicitar, mejor dicho, para hacer una pregunta, a través de la Consejería Legal.

Nosotros no tenemos ningún problema para la votación, pues es conocido que vamos a apoyar la propuesta ECOSOC. Lo que queremos saber es si corresponde hacer votación nominal en este caso; porque tenemos aquí a la vista el Reglamento, con su artículo 127, y preguntamos a la Secretaría si la votación nominal es solamente para candidaturas.

Hacemos la pregunta por su intermedio a la Secretaría.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is a very fair question and I am sure we shall get a clear answer from the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Rule 12. 7a, which was invoked by the United States, does apply to all voting, not only for elections, and therefore a rollcall vote may be requested by a representative. Therefore, as it has now been formally requested, on those paragraphs which require a vote you must proceed to a rollcall in each case.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu la réponse qui vous a été donnée; donc il faudra maintenant procéder de cette façon-là et je voudrais simplement vous dire ce que personnellement j'avais voulu dire au début: le président annoncera le nombre de délégués ou de représentants présents pour voir s'il y a un quorum. Sachez que la règle veut que l'on compte toujours avant de voter. On pourrait déjà le faire. Je vais maintenant demander au Secrétariat de commencer à prendre les mesures nécessaires et on votera de la façon décrite par le Conseiller juridique, d'abord sur le texte des "Considérant..."

Compte tenu de tout cela, je voudrais de nouveau demander -puisque maintenant nous devons voter deux fois, cela nous a été dit- à mon ami du Congo, quel texte lui et ses amis désirent soumettre pour le "Considérant..." et pourrais-je vous demander de vouloir lire ce texte très lentement.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme le principe de voter deux fois est acquis, je pense que nous pouvons effectivement vous proposer ceci: "préoccupés du fait que les actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud ont un effet négatif sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique australe" en fait nous reprenons les termes qui sont dans le dispositif.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu ce texte proposé par Le Congo. Etes-vous d'accord pour commencer la procédure de vote sur ce texte?

Je vais consulter un instant le Secrétariat à propos de l'organisation de ce vote.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M. H. GOLDMAN (United States of America) : As I understood, the delegate of Congo read out a text for voting that is different from any we have in front of us. This could just be a translation question, but if indeed the text is different I think we had best be sure of this, and I ask that the text be read out again and that it be clarified whether this is the text that has been in front of us or if this indeed is a change in any way.

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce-que le Congo pourrait relire lentement son texte?

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Le texte que nous voulons livrer ici reprend tous les termes utilisés dans le dispositif: "Préoccupés du fait que les actes d'agression déstabilisants de l'Afrique du Sud ont un effet négatif (ou néfaste comme on veut) sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique australe".

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce-que la délégation américaine a pu suivre le texte en anglais?

Dans ces conditions le problème est résolu et nous pouvons procéder au vote. (Continue en anglais).

Thank you very much. One has just been explaining to me what is going to happen and I asked that, and I am telling you now because otherwise some of you could think maybe that it is quite a funny business. They explained to me I have to choose - I do not know what it is really. It is names of course. I thought it was balls but they are not balls. I am going to choose one of these names here - I will not look, I promise you. It is like in a lottery; I will take out one name and we will start alphabetically, starting with that name. Normally this is done by the hand of a virgin!

Well the lucky winner is Democratic People's Republic of Korea. So we will now start alphabetically with that name. Thank you very much indeed and I will now ask the Secretariat to do all the necessary things in relation to the vote.

The Secretariat has the floor.

Vote

Votation

Votación

Session of the Conference  
 Session de la Conferencia  
 Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

ROLL CALL VOTING AND ISSUE OF BALLOT PAPER REPORT  
 APPEL NOMINAL DISTRIBUTION DE BULLETIN  
 VOTACIÓN NOMINAL Y DISTRIBUCIÓN DE PAPELETAS

Vote on  
 Vote sur  
 .1st.. Votación para ..... Preambular para .5 and revised para .11 for resolution in C.85/1/REP/6.

COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR	COUNTRY	Yes	No	Abs	NR
Afghanistan				X	Germany (Fed. Rep. of)			X		Pakistan	X			
Albania				X	Ghana			X		Panama	X			
Algeria	X				Greece			X		Papua New Guinea				X
Angola	X				Grenada			X		Paraguay				X
Antigua and Barbuda			X		Guatemala			X		Peru	X			
Argentina	X				Guinea	X				Philippines	X			
Australia			X		Guinea-Bissau	X				Poland				X
Austria			X		Guyana			X		Portugal				X
Bahamas			X		Haiti	X				Qatar				X
Bahrain	X				Honduras			X		Romania				X
Bangladesh	X				Hungary	X				Rwanda				X
Barbados	X				Iceland			X		St. Christopher & Nevis				X
Belgium			X		India	X				Saint Lucia				X
Belize			X		Indonesia	X				St. Vincent & the Grenad.				X
Benin	X				Iran			X		Samoa				X
Bhutan	X				Iraq	X				Sao Tome and Principe	X			
Bolivia	X				Ireland			X		Saudi Arabia	X			
Botswana	X				Israel			X		Senegal	X			
Brazil	X				Italy			X		Seychelles				X
Bulgaria	X				Ivory Coast	X				Sierra Leone	X			
Burkina Faso	X				Jamaica			X		Solomon Islands				X
Burma			X		Japan			X		Somalia	X			
Burundi			X		Jordan	X				Spain				X
Cameroon	X				Kenya	X				Sri Lanka	X			
Canada			X		Korea (Rep. of)			X		Sudan	X			
Cape Verde	X				Kuwait			X		Suriname				X
Central African Rep.			X		Laos			X		Swaziland				X
Chad			X		Lebanon	X				Sweden				X
Chile	X				Lesotho	X				Switzerland				X
China	X				Liberia			X		Syria	X			
Colombia	X				Libya	X				Tanzania	X			
Comoros			X		Luxembourg			X		Thailand	X			
Congo	X				Madagascar	X				Togo				X
Cook Islands			X		Malawi	X				Tonga				X
Costa Rica			X		Malaysia	X				Trinidad and Tobago	X			
Cuba	X				Maldives			X		Tunisia				X
Cyprus	X				Mali			X		Turkey	X			
Czechoslovakia	X				Malta			X		Uganda	X			
Democratic Kampuchea					Mauritania			X		United Arab Emirates				X
D.P. Rep. of Korea			X		Mauritius			X		United Kingdom				X
Denmark			X		Mexico	X				U.S.A.			X	
Djibouti			X		Mongolia			X		Uruguay				X
Dominica			X		Morocco			X		Vanuatu				X
Dominican Rep.			X		Mozambique			X		Venezuela	X			
Ecuador			X		Namibia	X				Viet Nam	X			
Egypt			X		Nepal			X		Yemen Arab Republic				X
El Salvador	X				Netherlands			X		Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)				X
Equatorial Guinea			X		New Zealand	X				Yugoslavia	X			
Ethiopia	X				Nicaragua	X				Zaire	X			
Fiji			X		Niger	X				Zambia	X			
Finland			X		Nigeria	X				Zimbabwe				X
France			X		Norway			X						
Gabon	X				Oman			X						
Gambia	X													
	26		8	19		22		8	23		22	1	5	23



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

SHOW OF HANDS VOTING  
VOTE A MAIN LEVEE  
VOTACION A MANO ALZADA

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
Vote sur  
1st ..... Votación para Preamble para.5 and revised para.11 for resolution  
in C 85/1/REP/6

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	70
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	21
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	65

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	71
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	36
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ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

~~REJECTED  
REPOUSSEE  
RECHAZADA~~

Date ..26/11/85..... Elections Officer ..... B. LINLEY  
Fecha ..... Fonctionnaire électoral.....  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided on a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

En cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote au cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, desde la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

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Applause  
Applaudissements  
Aplausos

LE PRESIDENT: Nous allons passer au vote du paragraphe N° 11.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Mr Chairman, I will make a proposal, which I hope will not be misunderstood. In order to save the Commission's time, I propose that, unless anybody objects, particularly the proposer, the vote just taken should be taken mutatis mutandis to be a vote on both the next two paragraphs to be voted on and, as such, accepted.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Exactamente lo mismo. Queremos apoyar la declaración que acaba de hacer Noruega y su propuesta es tremendamente aceptable para nosotros.

M. H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): I speak in support of the suggestion made by our colleague from Norway.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. In your name, I should like to ask our judicial specialist if this is possible. A procedure like this could normally be followed if it is announced before the vote takes place, and we did not do that. I should be grateful if we could get some light on this because, if it is possible, as everybody agrees with it, I think it would be much better, but I should like to ask this question of the Legal Counsel.

LEGAL COUNSEL: This is indeed a very unusual situation but, particularly in view of the fact that the wording used in the preamble, as the delegate of Congo said when he proposed it, takes up exactly the same wording which is used in paragraph 11, I think it would certainly be acceptable and that in view of the fact that there appears to be a consensus - and a consensus in the real sense of the word - there is no formal objection whatsoever to carrying out this procedure. It is an eminently practical one and I think it would be entirely acceptable. In any event, when this comes up again in Plenary, if any delegate should have second thoughts, they will have their chance on that occasion. I would say that there will be no legal objection to this Commission's accepting the proposition which has been approved, I think, by all of you.

LE PRESIDENT: Depuis toujours le droit international se fait au jour le jour et nous sommes en train d'apporter de nouveaux éléments au droit international et je vous en remercie, tous, mes chers collègues.

Cela étant dit nous pourrions donc, après cette intervention et cet avis juridique, conclure que le vote qui a eu lieu est un vote qui est valable pour les deux éléments, c'est-à-dire l'élément introductif et le paragraphe 11. Mais la Belgique a demandé la parole.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Je voudrais simplement, avec votre accord, donner une explication au sujet de l'abstention que ma délégation ainsi que les délégations des Etats Membres de la CEE, de l'Espagne et du Portugal a émise à l'occasion de ce vote.

Au nom des pays que je viens de mentionner, nous voudrions préciser que nos gouvernements ont, à différentes reprises, condamné la politique d'apartheid de l'Afrique du Sud et les mesures répressives associées à cette politique. Cependant, la FAO est une institution spécialisée des Nations Unies qui, en vertu de ses statuts, est une organisation technique dans laquelle il n'est pas approprié de traiter de questions politiques qui sont de la compétence d'autres organes des Nations Unies, à savoir, l'Assemblée générale, le Conseil de sécurité par ordre principal. Au nom des États Membres de la CEE, de l'Espagne et du Portugal, je voudrais que cette réserve, ainsi que la déclaration que je viens de faire, soit mentionnée au procès-verbal. Je voudrais ajouter en outre, et je vous demande de faire figurer ce que je vais dire également dans le procès-verbal sous forme d'une note de bas de page, qu'en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 13 de la résolution qui vient d'être votée, pour les États Membres de la CEE ainsi que pour l'Espagne et le Portugal, le mandat donné au Directeur général de la FAO ne s'applique qu'aux questions mentionnées dans la résolution qui sont de la compétence expresse de la FAO.

D. KINZEL (Austria): (original language German): Austria also wishes to explain its abstention in the vote which was just held. Austria is fully aware of the highly critical situation in Africa, and it is highly concerned. We have tried with all our efforts to contribute to attenuating this situation. The fact that we reject and condemn the policy of apartheid is something which is well known and has frequently been clearly brought to bear at all international fora. The proposal before us here contains, in the opinion of Austria, a number of elements which fall within the purview of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

M. SAITO (Japan): My delegation abstained from voting. In other fora, such as the General Assembly or other political fora, we join the consensus in condemning the apartheid policies of South Africa but here in FAO, as a technical forum, as I explained this morning, we refrain from introducing these kinds of political issues. That is the background to the abstention of my delegation.

E. H. M. KOUYATE (Guinée): Je voudrais simplement faire remarquer que la Norvège saisit la balle au bond en tenant compte du fait qu'il y a un chiffre important de "non reply", mais que l'on tient absolument à consigner cela dans le document que nous avons adopté, que nous venons d'adopter; nous constatons que les pays du tiers monde étaient absents lors de ces débats, mais je vous donne la garantie qu'en séance plénière demain la situation sera différente et que la majorité écrasante des pays du tiers monde qui ressentent ce problème sera présente.

E. DOUEK (Israel): My delegation would like to clarify its vote concerning the issue at hand.

Israel has always been against any form of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination, and has expressed this in appropriate fora.

Our vote of abstention was solely motivated by our wish to avoid any politicization in our deliberations, which can only work to the detriment of this Organization and to the fruitful deliberations of this Twenty-third Conference.

M. H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): My delegation would also like to explain its vote. As I understand it, we have voted, in effect, on the three paragraphs, including paragraph 13. On the two paragraphs on South Africa, our problem, as I mentioned earlier, centers on the question of the proper forum for consideration of political questions such as this. For that reason, I

ask that there be a footnote placed before the two paragraphs dealing with the question of South Africa, the footnote indicating that the United States does not consider the introduction of political issues appropriate for consideration in FAO. To that, Mr Chairman, I would add a request for a footnote on paragraph 13 stating that the United States does not consider it appropriate to call upon the Director-General to implement points and resolutions inappropriate for consideration in FAO, including those referred to in paragraph five of the preamble as well as in paragraphs 8 and 11 of the operative paragraphs.

CHAIRMAN: May I again, for good order, try to clarify the situation? Maybe I misunderstood you: that is possible. We started to vote about one text in the beginning. Afterwards, we all agreed, after advice given to us, that this vote would be also for paragraph 11.

As far as I understand it, we have not been voting on paragraph 13. Of course we noted in the beginning that you said if there was not to be a sentence in paragraph 13 we would have to come back on this, which we did. You have now made a footnote to paragraph 13. So I just wanted to state clearly that really we have been voting on the introductory passage on South Africa and on paragraph 11. Now we see that you have made a footnote to paragraph 13, but we have not been voting on that. I thought you had agreed with that.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): When I made my proposal, I clearly stated that there were two items to be voted on. I think that is what was accepted as my proposal.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure most of you understood what was said by the delegate of Norway, but I really must admit that I did not. I understood him to say two items but when we accepted that, I thought that was about the wording in the introduction and about 11 and not about 130. If I am mistaken and if others understood it in another way, then it will be my mistake.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I was indeed trying to save time on the whole issue. I said two items. We had finished with one and two items were left, so I did not see that there could be any misunderstanding about it.

CHAIRMAN: So it was a misunderstanding on my part. It is now clear that that was indeed included.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Me confundí, Señor Presidente, con la propuesta de Noruega y la apoyé porque entendí que era una propuesta de buena fe para salvar tiempo en relación con la votación del párrafo 11. En este sentido creo que todos entendieron que se estaba tratando de ganar tiempo sobre el párrafo 11, ya que en ningún momento se expresaron aquí ideas específicas sobre el párrafo 13. Esta es una cuestión que está abierta en estos momentos si se desea, o es una cuestión que está cerrada porque no se plantea como votación. Sin embargo, yo quiero hacer una pregunta al Asesor legal sobre algunas declaraciones que se desean incluir en el texto de la resolución como tal. Pregunto ¿una vez que estas expresiones constan en las actas y en el informe se puede incluir este tipo de reservas o declaraciones en el texto de la resolución? Mi impresión es que no, pero querría que se me aclarara esto.



J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je souhaiterais, avant d'intervenir, écouter le conseiller juridique. Je crois que moi aussi éprouve quelques préoccupations sur cette question, je voudrais connaître la procédure légale sur les notes de bas de page, sur les réserves. Faut-il les mettre sur la résolution... Je voudrais être tout simplement éclairé.

Je pense qu' à ce stade des débats il est préférable de donner la parole au conseiller juridique. Je prendrai la parole à la suite de son intervention et je ferai mon commentaire.

LE PRESIDENT: J'ai vu plusieurs fois s'élever la pancarte de la Norvège et des USA pour des points d'ordre. Non? (Continue en anglais).

Is this a point of order? If so, you can speak.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I do not quite know. It is a point of clarification.

CHAIRMAN: It is not a point of order then. The delegation of Switzerland has a real point of order.

POINT- OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

G.de KALBERMATTEN (Switzerland): As things are getting a bit complicated I propose we follow the path already suggested and continue with the list of speakers, because some of them have a position to declare.

CHAIRMAN: There are two different proposals, but there seems to be an urgent wish to hear what our Legal Counsel has to say. Being a legal man myself, I would rather give the floor to him!

LEGAL COUNSEL: It has undoubtedly become the practice in FAO over the years to add footnotes in certain cases when delegations wish their reservations to appear clearly in the text of the report, and in particular in connection with resolutions. It is just one of the techniques for making their reservations known. Of course, all the statements will appear, in the verbatim records, but as I said before, on many occasions where items are particularly controversial or where a particular delegation feels it imperative to have their reservation appear in the footnote, it has become the practice for this to be done. There is nothing illegal about it and in fact it has been done. There are many precedents for that particular manner in which delegations express their views or their reservations regarding specific parts of a resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Nicaragua is asking to speak. Is this a point of order or not?

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Solamente, Sr. Presidente, sobre la misma explicación que hemos escuchado al Asesor legal. Si no que se me agregue a la lista que usted tiene; usted decida.

CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order?

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua); No es un punto de orden; es para pedir una aclaración sobre lo que acaba de decir el Asesor legal.

CHAIRMAN: In these circumstances, as it is not a point of order, it is better to give the floor to delegations who have previously asked to speak. The first one is Congo.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je crois qu'il était nécessaire d'avoir ces éclaircissements. Nous ne nous opposons pas à cela. Je souhaite également que l'on mette une contre-note de bas de page pour ce qui concerne la délégation de mon pays qui stipulerait que la délégation congolaise appuie bien entendu l'idée de la non-politisation de la FAO, mais que cependant elle considère que le texte qui a été adopté, notamment le paragraphe 5 des considérants et le paragraphe 11 du dispositif nous semblent conformes au mandat de la FAO et il ne s'agit pas du tout d'une politisation. Je crois que cela doit être mentionné clairement dans le texte de la résolution sous les réserves qui ont déjà été dites ici. Nous considérons, puisqu'il faut expliquer notre vote, que nous avons voté en faveur de cette résolution car nous considérons effectivement qu'il ne s'agit pas du tout de politiser la FAO. Nous l'avons dit, nous sommes contre. Nous pensons pour notre part, qu'il s'agit ici de traiter des problèmes de la production alimentaire et de sécurité.

Nous l'avons fait en tenant compte uniquement de ces aspects et non des aspects politiques qu'on prétend voir à travers cette résolution. Nous pensons que tel que c'est fait ce n'est pas du tout de la politisation, dans la mesure où le Conseil économique et social traite justement de problèmes économiques et sociaux et non de problèmes politiques, cela doit être clair, il ne traite pas de problèmes politiques. Par conséquent, il est normal que nous aussi qui traitons d'une partie de ces problèmes économiques nous puissions y faire allusion dans ce texte qui a été adopté à ce niveau.

Il faudra mettre dans le rapport que "nous nous élevons" ... de ce que les mêmes pays qui acceptent le consensus à l'ECOSOC puissent ne pas l'accepter ici à la FAO.

Je crois qu'il n'est pas possible de parler comme on nous l'a laissé entendre ici; il s'agit de problèmes techniques bien sûr mais je pense qu'à la FAO nous avons également des ambassadeurs et les ambassadeurs ne sont pas forcément les meilleurs techniciens de l'agriculture. Donc, s'il y a des ambassadeurs pour notre pays, ils traitent des problèmes de la politique de nos gouvernements, donc on ne peut pas nous parler de problèmes techniques sinon il faudrait envoyer ici des conseillers techniques ou autres.

LE PRESIDENT: Je vous ai laissé prendre la parole, mais en fait je voulais voir au niveau juridique s'il est possible et s'il est d'usage de donner des explications de vote sur un vote positif. Je croyais personnellement que ce n'était possible que dans le cas d'abstentions.

Je voudrais donc poser cette question à notre conseiller juridique. D'autre part, je tenais à vous dire - mais je pense que ça n'aurait aucune influence - que le système de réserve et de contre-réserve en fait ne sert pas à grand chose. En effet, ceux qui font des contre-réserves ont déjà exprimé leur opinion dans le texte même qui a déjà été accepté. Une réserve est faite par certains qui n'ont pas pu s'exprimer ou qui se sont abstenus par exemple et qui veulent s'expliquer. Je voudrais attirer votre attention sur le fait que nous perdons beaucoup de temps avec le système de réserve et de contre-réserve.

Je demande maintenant l'avis du Conseil juridique sur la première partie de mes remarques.

LEGAL COUNSEL: The reply to your question is that you can explain any vote, whether it is positive, negative or an abstention, because even when voting in favour of something, very often the motivation or the spirit in which a delegation votes is an important matter which that delegation wishes to make quite clear to the other members of whichever body it happens to be.

LE PRESIDENT: Le Secrétariat demande que ceux qui font des réserves ou des contre-réserves résument leur point de vue par écrit et donnent leur texte au Secrétariat.

G. de KALBERMATTEN (Suisse); Mon gouvernement regrette qu'un vote par paragraphe ait été finalement nécessaire pour la résolution ayant trait à la situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique, un sujet qui lui tient fort à coeur; et il a de tout temps et avec force condamné la politique d'apartheid en Afrique du Sud. Ma délégation a néanmoins été contrainte de s'abstenir dans le vote qui vient d'avoir lieu car les amendements proposés impliquent l'intrusion d'une dimension politique inopportune dans les travaux de cette institution spécialisée du système des Nations Unies qui a un caractère technique.

M. H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): I wanted to speak to the point raised by my colleague from Norway. As I understood his suggestion, in order to save the time of the Committee from taking roll call votes on every paragraph in question, which indeed my delegation has already requested, and which request would include paragraph 13 should it come to that, my colleague from Norway, as I understood it, asked that the same vote be shown as having been taken for each of the next two paragraphs in question, which would be paragraph 11 of the operative text, and paragraph 13 of the operative text, since obviously the vote on paragraph 5 of the preambular text would make it a requirement that we review that paragraph 13, as I had earlier indicated. As I understand it, the suggestion from Norway was strictly to save time. In that spirit I think it is a good idea. I also believe that is what we did, but if indeed it is the Chair's wish that we re-vote on it, then we can do that. It would seem to be somewhat of a waste of time, in addition to being contrary to the first ruling we had made.

CHAIRMAN: Norway, do you have a point of order?

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): It is to this particular proposition. I have here a proposition, or an explanation to make which I should make at this time if I am allowed.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is quite fair. Could you make that explanation now?

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): When I made my proposal it was in good faith. As I understood it, I heard the United States say that their Government called for a roll call vote on every issue connected with it, and that they earlier indicated that it absolutely included paragraph 13. If anybody should feel misled by that, not having understood the issue in the way that I did, I would propose, since we have already made one decision here, that somebody else re-introduces the paragraph. Then we could vote upon it and everybody will be happy. I was just trying to save time. I still think it saves time. I was not - I repeat, I was not - trying to mislead anyone on it. That is why I suggested this procedure if there should be any doubts about it.

CHAIRMAN: There is a point of order by Congo.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je n'ai aucune objection pour que nous votions sur tous les points. Je souhaite simplement dire ceci: lorsque nous sommes venus ici, c'est vous-même qui avez introduit le point 13. Et ce point 13 n'a pas fait l'objet de débats dans cette salle; dans ces conditions, je ne comprends pas pourquoi on demande un vote sur ce point alors qu'il n'a pas fait l'objet d'un débat.

LE PRESIDENT: Je crois qu'il est préférable que je donne maintenant un avis sur ce point; il est vrai que ce point n'a pas été introduit, il est également vrai qu'il y a peut-être eu quelque part un malentendu. Effectivement ce point 13 n'est pas inclus dans le vote, mais en toute honnêteté, je ne pense pas nécessaire de voter sur ce point. Les Etats-Unis ont déjà donné une réserve sur ce point; je vous propose de laisser les questions à l'état car sinon nous devons commencer une nouvelle procédure de vote sur ce point 13, donc je vous propose de ne pas voter sur ce point; nous avons déjà voté la remarque en bas de page faite par les Etats-Unis: est-ce que cette proposition est admissible?

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Je voudrais rappeler que la délégation belge, au nom de la Communauté européenne et des Etats Membres, ainsi que l'Espagne et le Portugal, a demandé qu'une mention soit faite sous forme de note en bas de page sur sa réserve concernant la paragraphe 13.

LE PRESIDENT: Cela a déjà été fait, donc il n'est pas nécessaire de revenir là-dessus.

Sra. Doña Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia pide a nuestro vecino del Congo que nos permita el honor de asociarnos a la nota del Congo, al pie de la página.

T. ISKIT (Turkey): After so many interventions I tend to agree with my Brazilian colleague. I may have as short a memory as he had when he first intervened a while ago. To be brief, I want to intervene to express our puzzlement about the content of the vote, for what we have voted. Of course, after the explanation by our Norwegian colleague, I understand now that we have voted for three things: for the preambular paragraph, for 11 and for 13. But before that explanation, our understanding was entirely different. We thought that we voted for preambular paragraphs 5 and 11, for the simple reason that when the Legal Counsel was asked whether it was possible to vote on these paragraphs, his explanation was that, since the preambular paragraph is only a kind of paraphrase of 11, it is possible. That was what he said, but, as we know, paragraph 13 has nothing whatsoever to do with the content, with the preambular paragraph and with paragraph 11. Therefore, our understanding was that the green light for that kind of voting was given only for the preambular paragraph and for paragraph 11. However, we do not have any objection, of course, to the voting, so far as my delegation is concerned, on these three paragraphs, one preambular and two operative paragraphs. But we think that the last paragraph, 13, is different in nature from the first two paragraphs. If my understanding is correct, we have voted for three paragraphs. My delegation wishes to express an explanation of positive vote on paragraph 13. Mr Chairman, I am awaiting your ruling and your answer.

CHAIRMAN: If you will kindly permit me, I will try to find a solution to this problem. I thought that all of you had already agreed upon the proposal I had just made. That proposal was that the situation did not seem extremely clear. In those circumstances I proposed that we should indeed accept - which we did - that we should vote on the preambular text and on text 11. That is what I propose. On the other hand, because I should not at all like it if the United States or any other country had any specific or special problem, I suggested - and I thought the United States accepted this - that we should consider that 13 had not been voted upon, but that the United States had made a footnote on the text of 13. So my suggestion is to keep 13 in the package. I thought you had agreed that it was accepted that we did not vote on it but that it is part of the text and the United States made a footnote on the text of 13. If my ruling makes any problem then I am afraid we shall have to vote on 13 because the situation does not seem to be clear.

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): The United States requires that there be a vote on paragraph 13. The reason is that we have the same problem with it as we would have with paragraphs 5 and 11 in terms of the appropriateness of the issue being dealt with here. Of course, I would need and would request a roll call vote, as I already have requested, on that paragraph 13, in order to proceed. What has been proposed is that, in the light of the request that I am making, and in the light of the fact that we have already taken a fair amount of time with one vote, we might save some time by recording the vote with this item. If however that causes a problem we are completely willing to re-run the vote for paragraph 13.

CHAIRMAN: Do you have a point of order, Nigeria?

S.S.O. AKPATA (Nigeria): Not quite, but I was just going to support what the delegate from the United States was saying, that it does not cause a problem. We would presume that 13 is accepted and that there is no need to go to a vote.

CHAIRMAN: Let me ask the question very clearly. Can you all accept that we consider that 13 was included in the vote, together with the preambular language and with 11? Is there nobody against it? Nobody seems to be against it. I see no flags. So we then consider that 13 was included in the vote.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décidé.

Así se acuerda.

I will now read the list so that everybody feels comfortable. I should have developed more of course but the debate was a bit difficult now and then. Cuba, Angola, Australia, Nicaragua, Turkey and Algeria. Are there any other countries that want to take the floor? This is not the case right now. Thank you.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos intervenir para hacer una aclaración y para dar una explicación. Nuestra aclaración es la siguiente. Creo que se están creando condiciones para una situación bastante irracional. Sin embargo, creo que los que crearon esas condiciones van a tener que pensar y reflexionar seriamente; porque los 70 votos "sí" tienen derecho a ser, a considerar que se les reconozca en pie de página una explicación de su voto "sí". Sencillamente porque aunque no tenemos complejo ni ningún problema de conciencia, creemos que hemos votado que sí porque estamos defendiendo la causa humana. Estamos defendiendo a los pueblos de la miseria y del hambre, y analizando la problemática socioeconómica para que pueda la FAO después informar al ECOSOC como tiene reglamentado hacerlo.

Y el problema de apartheid es un problema socioeconómico específico. Diciendo esto, quiero hacer la aclaración también de que absolutamente nadie en la sala ha dicho la palabra "contrarreserva" a no ser usted. Porque el distinguido delegado del Congo dijo que quería explicar su voto con el mismo derecho de los que habían explicado el no. Entonces, que se entienda que aquí nadie ha hablado de contrarreserva. Todo el mundo va a explicar su voto, sencillamente por el derecho que tiene. Hay reservas pero no se han planteado contrarreservas en esta oportunidad. Sencillamente se ha explicado el voto.

Diciendo esto, sencillamente quiero pedirle a la Secretaría que nos considere a Cuba también en la explicación del voto que hiciera la distinguida representación del Congo.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed. I am very happy that there are no counter-reservations. May I now ask Angola to take the floor.

R.F. DE JESUS NETO (Angola): Nous avons suivi avec beaucoup d'attention les explications données par un groupe de pays pour justifier leur réserve sur l'adoption des paragraphes 5 du préambule et 11 du dispositif de la résolution sur la "situation critique de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Afrique". Si nous avons voté pour ces paragraphes, c'est parce que nous savons que la Commission économique pour l'Afrique a identifié la sécheresse, la désertification et la politique sud-africaine de déstabilisation des pays voisins, comme les principales causes de la crise économique et sociale en Afrique. L'ECOSOC en était informé et certains des pays qui ont émis des réserves dans cette salle en ont pris bonne note et ont informé l'Assemblée générale.

La FAO s'occupe en fait des problèmes liés à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation. Nous ne sommes pas pour la politisation de cette Organisation mais nous devons savoir que la FAO, tout comme la CEA et l'ECOSOC, doit chercher à savoir les causes de la famine en Afrique. Nous, pays africains, bénéficiaires de l'aide alimentaire et des investissements dans le domaine de l'agriculture ; nous ne devons pas continuer à dépendre de l'extérieur, à dépendre de l'aide du Programme alimentaire mondial, à dépendre de l'aide alimentaire bilatérale des pays amis. Il faut que ces pays amis comprennent que les causes de la famine en Afrique doivent être reconnues et combattues. Ce n'est pas de la politique lorsqu'on condamne l'agression; tous ces pays condamnent le terrorisme et l'Afrique du Sud pratique le terrorisme d'Etat, l'Afrique du Sud attaque nos pays, ravage les plantations, les champs, tue les paysans sans défense. Cela ce n'est pas un secret, ce n'est pas de la politique. Ne peut-on pas défendre un paysan dans cette salle parce que ce n'est pas l'Assemblée générale, ce n'est pas le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies? Il faut donc que nous ayons quand même une logique des choses.

Ma délégation associe aussi sa voix à celle du représentant délégué du Congo et demande que l'Angola soit mentionné en bas de page comme l'a dit un autre ami.

J. SAULT (Australia): Mr Chairman, we would like to explain our decision to abstain in the recent vote. The Australian Government abhors the policy of apartheid and has made that position very clear in the appropriate international fora. We also fully recognize the very strong feelings, particularly from African members on this matter.

On the other hand, we do not think that political issues of this nature should be introduced into FAO, which is a specialized agency dealing with technical matters. Accordingly we abstained in the recent vote.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Yo deseo hacer varios comentarios que son distintos entre sí. El primero era en relación con lo que mencioné anteriormente de que quería solicitar aclaración al Asesor Legal sobre el problema éste de votación de la Resolución. Eso quedó contestado con una pregunta que usted le hizo al Asesor. Eso está claro.

En segundo lugar, quería comentar también que el resultado al que se llegó en relación con los párrafos 11 y 13 del Proyecto de Resolución, incluyendo el párrafo quinto del Preámbulo, que la conclusión a la cual se llegó nos ha indicado que Noruega, al presentar su propuesta inicial, actuaba en buena fe. Creo que eso lo hemos entendido todos.

En tercer lugar, cuando hablamos de politización de este foro, yo creo y tengo la impresión de que es todo lo contrario. Que no somos los países en vías de desarrollo los que estamos politizando sino que son aquéllos que se oponen a que se hagan estudios por parte de la FAO y se informe a este foro de las políticas agresivas de Sudafrica, y de los efectos que tienen en otros países africanos en su producción de alimentos y en su distribución y consumo de los mismos. Es decir, en pocas palabras, se trata más bien de proteger y evitar que se conozcan esos defectos muy perjudiciales <sup>en</sup> <sup>las</sup> poblaciones de la línea del frente en Africa. Esto lo digo con una cierta convicción porque lo he mencionado en diferentes órganos de la FAO, que Nicaragua también se ha encontrado en una situación muy particular en cuanto a agresiones comerciales, militares, etc. que afectan a su seguridad alimentaria. Pero no estamos hablando ahora del problema de Centroamérica sino del problema específico de la crisis alimentaria en Africa.

Yo me he atrevido, por tanto, a llevar adelante estos comentarios. Por último, también quería asociarme a la explicación de voto que ha hecho la delegación de Congo que ha sido incluso apoyada por Cuba y Angola y que desea ser incluida, al igual que Nicaragua, en esa exposición de voto.

Temei ISKIT (Turkey): I would like to refer to my previous intervention when I tried to explain why we thought that the vote was taken only on the preambular paragraph and paragraph 11 of the operative part, but since now operative paragraph 13 is included in the package, as you have put it, I would like to put into the record the following: Mr Chairman, we voted positively on the preambular paragraph and paragraph 11 because we fully shared the concern expressed in these paragraphs. We also support paragraph 13 but with the understanding that the monitoring, the implementation referred to in this paragraph, should not imply that FAO be implicated in any political issue.

HALIM BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Nous voulons tout simplement prier le Secrétariat de prendre note de la contre note suivante; selon les termes qui ont été retenus le texte se lira de la façon suivante: "La délégation algérienne fait noter que les paragraphes 5 des considérants et 11 du dispositif faisant l'objet de réserve de certaines délégations ont été adoptés par consensus dans la résolution 1985/80 de l'ECOSOC en sa 52ème séance plénière du 26 juillet 1985. Nous transmettrons le texte au Secrétariat.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): C'est pour appuyer pleinement la déclaration de l'Angola.

Mme L.OUEDRAOGO-GUIGMA (Burkina Faso): Nous aimerions voir le nom de notre délégation figurer en bas de page avec celle de notre collègue du Congo.

M.B. SY (Sénégal): Je voudrais appuyer avec beaucoup de force la proposition qui vient d'être faite par la délégation algérienne qui me semble très importante, parce que, en réalité, tout le sens de ce paragraphe c'est que nous avons essayé de nous référer, sans vouloir assigner à la FAO un rôle politique, à une décision d'une instance aussi importante que l'ECOSOC qui, bien qu'ayant peut-être des attributions politiques, demeure une instance qui s'occupe essentiellement de problèmes techniques et économiques, instance à laquelle du reste la FAO, dans beaucoup de domaines, doit faire souvent rapport.

Donc vous voudrez bien considérer que le Sénégal appuie fermement cette proposition de la délégation algérienne qui explicite dans quel sens ces paragraphes ont été introduits dans notre texte, surtout dans un esprit de compromis.

LE PRESIDENT: Voilà la fin de la liste des orateurs. Si personne ne demande la parole nous pourrions bientôt clore les débats. Les Etats-Unis ont la parole.

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): Just in the spirit of cooperation, I think that I should pass on to you that we have just received instructions that we will have to ask for a vote on the paragraph on debt, but we will do that tomorrow at Plenary, respecting the hour and your agreement as to how we are to proceed today. So we will put that off until Plenary.

LE PRESIDENT: Je pense qu'après les Etats-Unis personne ne demande la parole. On est donc à peu près arrivé à la fin de cette journée. Je voudrais simplement vous donner encore un ou deux éléments, le premier étant que ceux qui ont fait une réserve ou une explication de vote veuillent bien donner leur texte au Secrétariat pour qu'ils puissent être notés. Le Congo a demandé la parole.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Comme je l'ai dit tout à l'heure, le paragraphe 13 n'a pas été discuté ici. D'ailleurs au niveau de la réunion des Amis du Président, nous n'avons jamais discuté ce paragraphe. C'est pour cette raison que nous n'avons pas eu le temps d'apporter l'amendement qui était nécessaire à ce paragraphe parce que nous avons considéré qu'il fallait un amendement pour tenir compte des avis exprimés ici et là. Il va de soi que cette résolution ne peut pas demander au Directeur général tout ce qui y est contenu et c'est pourquoi nous avons dit ici: "Demande au Directeur général de la FAO de suivre l'exécution, pour ce qui le concerne, de cette résolution et d'en rendre compte à la Conférence". Je crois que les mots "pour ce qui le concerne" sont importants.

LE PRESIDENT: Vous avez entendu cette proposition du Congo. J'ai personnellement cela ne pose pas beaucoup de difficultés et que l'on pourrait trouver une solution Mais Madagascar demande la parole.

R. RABE (Madagascar): Je pense que cette précision donnée par le Congo figure déjà dans le texte. En tout cas notre texte est libellé comme suit: "Demande au Directeur général de la FAO de suivre, en ce qui le concerne ...". Donc cela figure bel et bien dans le texte.

LE PRESIDENT: Nous pensons travailler avec des textes différents parce que je dois dire que personnellement j'ai le même texte que le Congo. Pour en finir, je propose d'inclure sans vote "en ce qui concerne" dans le texte du paragraphe 13. D'ailleurs on m'informe que certains textes qui ont été distribués et qui sont entre les mains de certains collègues contiennent cet élément. Les Etats-Unis demandent la parole sur un point d'ordre.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

M.H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): I'm a bit confused, and my point of order is this: after some confusion, we have had a final ruling on paragraph 13 and its treatment in this Commission. That paragraph is closed, as far as I understand. Now in the same regard, we had a ruling on paragraph 8 which I have therefore intended to open up in Plenary rather than here, respecting your ruling. If we are to open up paragraph 13 again now and change language, after indeed countries



have not only voted on it, but have explained their votes, then I guess I would have to question that procedure and at the same time request that we re-open item 8 as well at this point in time-But I really would have to question the procedure, Mr Chairman. Things would get very sloppy.

CHAIRMAN: I have noted the nameplate of Finland, but maybe I could say a few phrases and it could eventually solve the problem, I hope.

J'avais dit que si tout le monde était d'accord, on pourrait inclure ces quelques mots dans le texte. J'avais aussi dit: "Je suis entre vos mains", donc si certains sont contre ce ne sera pas le cas. Nous avons voté et décidé du paragraphe 13. Ceci est votre décision. C'était votre décision de déclarer que l'on avait voté sur le texte d'introduction sur le paragraphe 11 et le paragraphe 13. Donc, en effet, s'il n'y avait aucune opposition, on aurait pu accepter ce que je viens de dire maintenant. J'avais dit cela simplement pour sortir du débat. Mais maintenant, je constate que quelqu'un s'y oppose et je dois dire que je le comprends parce qu'il est tout à fait exact que nous avons décidé d'avoir voté également sur le paragraphe 13. Donc, le texte du paragraphe 13 comme il apparaît dans le document officiel est en effet voté. Je crois que je peux maintenant vous soumettre ce point en constatant qu'il est voté, et ce serait difficile de faire le contraire. Si cela occasionne vraiment des difficultés, il faudrait établir un nouveau texte qui devrait alors repasser par toute la procédure. Je propose donc, afin d'en terminer, que nous devons constater que nous avons voté sur ce texte et que par conséquent, la discussion sur ce texte est terminée.

C. A. HARTMAN (Finland): Just on a point of clarification, Mr Chairman, it seems that we have been voting on two different paragraphs 13. If it is the fact that the French text includes an addition as compared to the English text, I think that the meaning of that paragraph is quite different in the French and the English versions. So could I, through you, Mr Chairman, ask the Secretariat to give us a consolidated version of paragraph 13 at the time that we are going to take up the Report in Plenary?

CHAIRMAN: This can be done, but I would anyway like to tell you that the text C 85/I/REP/6 which was distributed in French reads: (continues in French)

Demande au Directeur général de la FAO de suivre l'exécution de cette résolution et d'en rendre compte à la Conférence. (Continue en anglais)

This is the text that was distributed and this was the text which you voted upon. So it's quite clear that there was a vote on this text and that this text is now definite. It stands like that. I have been trying something else, but as one person was against it, it is clear that we have to come back to the rule, and we voted on it, so it is finished. I said if anybody else feels unhappy, then another additional text would have to be proposed. That, of course, would have as a result that we would be sitting even later here. But we are here for that.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Je ne comprends plus rien. Je pensais, pour ma part, que nous avions voté deux fois. Nous avons voté en fait une fois mais c'était considéré également pour l'autre fois et cela est tout à fait normal car c'est nous-mêmes qui avons fait la proposition et qui l'avons suggéré d'ailleurs, que l'on ne vote qu'une fois. Nous avons estimé que les deux textes étaient identiques. Pour le paragraphe 13, comme je l'ai dit, nous n'avons pas débattu de cette question ici. C'est pour cette raison que personnellement je me réservais d'intervenir. Je ne sais pas comment le Secrétariat a pu ne pas introduire cet élément essentiel sur lequel nous avons, nous, au niveau du groupe africain, déjà statué. Certains délégués effectivement nous avaient déjà contactés pour dire que le Directeur général ne pouvait pas tout faire. Pour cette raison, nous avons émis cette restriction. Maintenant, l'on nous dit que ce paragraphe a été adopté ici. Je ne sais pas à quel moment. En tout cas, pour ma part, je suis surpris par l'intervention de la Norvège. Je pensais justement qu'elle parlait du paragraphe 5 des considérants, et du paragraphe 11 des dispositifs. Donc, on ne peut pas ne pas parler du paragraphe 13. Si on estime que l'on est fatigué, alors, nous sommes d'accord.... Mais c'est une question que l'on peut rouvrir au niveau de la Conférence,

LE PRESIDENT: Je voudrais vous dire très clairement que je m'étonne aussi. Je crois que c'est mon droit; je m'étonne parce que je vous avais bien demandé très clairement, si vous étiez d'accord d'inclure le paragraphe 13 dans le complexe du vote. Tout le monde avait été d'accord. Maintenant, vous dites que vous ne l'avez pas entendu; c'est possible. Mais je l'ai dit très clairement. Je voudrais quand même dire que si on recommence sans arrêt à discuter cette question, (que l'on a déjà approuvée), cela risque de devenir compliqué. Vous dites souvent "soyons ouverts, disons ce que nous pensons"; je crois qu'ici la situation est très claire. Bien sûr, si demain vous voulez introduire un autre texte c'est votre droit. Mais je suis tout de même obligé de constater (et vous pourrez le lire dans le verbatim si vous le voulez), qu'ici tout le monde est d'accord pour considérer que le paragraphe 13 a été inclus. Ceci est absolument clair. Vous vous rappelez qu'au début moi-même j'avais mal compris et que c'est en raison de cela que j'ai encore davantage mis les points sur les "i". En ce qui me concerne, il est clair que ce paragraphe a été inclus dans le vote.

R. RABE (Madagascar): Je crois que le problème provient du fait que l'on a parlé du paragraphe 13 mais que l'on n'a pas lu le texte, sinon on aurait réagi, en tout cas pour ce qui nous concerne. Nous n'avons pas voté pour le paragraphe 13 mais pour un texte qui aurait dû être lu.

LE PRESIDENT: Je ne vais pas répéter ce que je viens de dire. Je voudrais simplement, pour des raisons pratiques, vous suggérer que ce point soit soulevé demain, si tout le monde est d'accord avec cette proposition, c'est d'ailleurs votre droit de le faire. Au lieu de continuer le débat sur ce point qui est je crois très clair pour tout le monde, si vous êtes d'accord, je vous propose d'attaquer cette question demain en séance plénière. Je crois que tout le monde est d'accord avec cette suggestion. Donc, je voudrais simplement répéter encore une fois, pour terminer, que tous ceux qui ont fait des explications de vote seront priés de donner leur texte. Deuxièmement, la séance plénière aura lieu demain matin à 9 h 30 et vous êtes tous priés de vous y rendre. C'est une séance importante.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Solamente quiero expresar, Señor Presidente, a nombre de la delegación de México y pedir que conste en las actas nuestra protesta por la forma que nosotros consideramos desordenada y confusa con que ha dirigido usted nuestros debates. Nos parece Señor Presidente, que no ha cumplido usted de forma adecuada con lo que estipulan las reglas, el artículo 9º, párrafo 4º del Reglamento general donde se dice que el Presidente en el ejercicio de sus funciones está sometido a la autoridad de la Conferencia. Esto se aplica igualmente para el Presidente de la Comisión I.

Igualmente el Artículo 11, párrafo 3 sobre la suspensión de la regla de las 24 horas dice que el Presidente resuelve sobre las cuestiones de orden

Deseo simplemente, Señor Presidente, que quede constancia en las actas de nuestra protesta por la forma inadecuada con la que usted ha dirigido nuestros debates y que nos ha llevado a esta serie de confusión y desorden y nos ha impedido tomar una solución, una definitiva en la Comisión I sobre una cuestión fundamental como es la resolución sobre la situación de Africa.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much indeed.

J. D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): My delegation would like to make it clear that we are dissociated from the remarks made by the previous speaker. Mr Chairman, we should like to congratulate you on the way in which you have conducted this meeting and the way in which you have dealt, with patience and sympathy, with a number of very difficult situations with which you were faced in the way the meeting was developing. Mr Chairman, we should like to confirm our faith and belief in the quality of your chairmanship. ,

Rainer PRESTIEN (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation, too, cannot associate itself with the statement made by the Mexican delegate. We wish to thank you, Sir, for your very patient guidance, which was also most successful. Very many thanks, Mr Chairman.

D. FERRARI (Italie): Permettez-moi au nom de ma délégation de vous rendre hommage pour la façon dont vous avez dirigé les débats.

J. POSIER (France): Non seulement, je ne m'associe pas aux propos qui viennent d'être tenus par une délégation critiquant la manière dont vous avez conduit les débats, mais nous nous en dissocions complètement. Nous considérons que vous avez fort bien mené les débats, que vous avez fait preuve d'une patience dont peu auraient été capables face à des remarques pas toujours obligeantes ni courtoises. Vous avez toute notre confiance et nous vous remercions de la façon dont vous avez conduit les débats.

T. SAITO (Japan): My delegation dissociates itself from the statement made by the Mexican delegation. I admire your chairmanship through the informal discussions in the group of Friends of the Chair, spending day and night and even part of the week end. Thank you very much indeed.

G. ANCKARBERG (Sweden): My delegation would like to dissociate itself from the statement made by the Mexican delegation and associate itself with the statement by the delegation of the United Kingdom and other speakers following. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

C. A. HARTMAN (Finland): My delegation, too, would like to dissociate itself from the statement by the distinguished delegate of Mexico. Indeed, my delegation thinks that a chairman, in his demanding task, should enjoy the full support of all delegations. Your performance, today, Sir, has certainly been followed with sympathy and understanding for your difficult position by this delegation. I want to assure you of our full support in your task.

G. de KALBERMATTEN (Suisse): La recherche d'une démarche commune qui est l'essentiel de la diplomatie multilatérale s'accommode mal d'attaques personnelles. Nous nous dissocions donc des commentaires faits par une délégation.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Mr Chairman, we should like to confirm our full trust in, and support of, you, Sir. We should like to associate ourselves with the statements made by the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom and all following speakers.

M. H. GOLDMAN (United States of America): Mr Chairman, we should like to join the long list of speakers who are expressing total support, satisfaction and gratitude for the excellent job you have performed under very difficult circumstances. From the outset, Mr Chairman, we did not envy you your task. We do envy you your success, and it is well deserved.

A. J. M. OOMEN (Netherlands): We regret very much the statement by the distinguished delegate of Mexico concerning your guidance, from which statement we dissociate ourselves firmly. We support the way in which you showed so very much patience in chairing this Commission on this very difficult item. We share the views of those delegates who have given you support.

J. E. MENDES FERRÃO (Portugal): Permettez-moi de vous rendre hommage pour la façon dont vous avez dirigé un débat si difficile avec tant de patience. Nous ne nous associons pas aux critiques qui ont été faites à votre égard comme Président de cette session.

G. STUYCK (Belgique): Je voudrais m'associer à tous ceux qui viennent de prendre la parole pour vous exprimer notre admiration pour la manière dont vous avez conduit ces débats, et alors que vous aviez à faire face à une situation extrêmement difficile. Nous souhaitons que les appréciations qui ont été exprimées par tous les délégués qui viennent de prendre la parole soient également mentionnées dans notre procès-verbal, si tel était le cas de la première déclaration dont nous nous dissociions entièrement.

I. DIAZ YUBERO (España): Gracias, Señor Presidente. Estamos de acuerdo con las palabras pronunciadas por la delegación de México; pero quiero hacer una consideración y es que me gustaría que nosotros pensásemos cuando estamos aquí en este foro que detrás de nosotros están todos los agricultores, los que pasan hambre y además los que no la pasan y que están también muchos contribuyentes, y por último tendríamos que ser conscientes de que esta forma de llevar los debates y trabajar como lo estamos haciendo aquí no satisfaría a muchas personas.

Sra. Doña Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia se asocia a la declaración de México. Gracias.

J. GLISTRUP (Denmark): Before we came here today, we knew that we were facing a very difficult task. I would like to put on record that not all delegates have today cooperated with you in the spirit which the Danish delegation would like to see prevail in this august forum. Thank you very much, Mr Chairman.

P. SKALIERIS (Grèce): Ma délégation voudrait vous féliciter de la manière impeccable dont vous avez su mener les travaux de cette Conférence.

C. DHATEMWA (Uganda): Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to compliment you on the way you have handled the debate. The issues discussed were sensitive, and you were very patient with every delegation which took the floor. Mr Chairman, you have the full confidence of the Ugandan delegation.

D. LINDORES (Canada): Mr Chairman, I wish to associate myself fully with the comments just made by the representative of Uganda.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Nicaragua no se asocia ni se disocia de ninguna delegación. Sin embargo, comprendemos los motivos que tiene la delegación de México, y esos motivos se derivan de la situación por la cual atraviesa ahora ese país.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Creemos firmemente que usted ha atravesado momentos difíciles, que usted ha tenido momentos muy difíciles. Ahora creemos que muchas, no todas, de las delegaciones que se han dissociado de la palabra de la delegación de México han ayudado bastante a que usted haya pasado momentos difíciles.

También creemos que ha tenido razón México en cuanto que ha habido desórdenes y violación del Reglamento en la discusión habida en esta Comisión.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): Mr Chairman, at the outset, our delegation has all the sympathy for you which you deserve in the very unenviable task which you have been handling for the whole day. I think all delegates share our esteem for you, but our delegation would like this Commission to recognize the points made by the Mexican delegation which referred to the total disorder which was prevalent in this Commission during the debate on the vote. Our delegation must clearly indicate that most delegates, towards the end, were unclear as to what they were voting for, and I think you were kind enough, Mr Chairman, to recognize that fact. What we should like to say is that we recognize the feelings of the Mexican delegation. Quite a lot of others shared the confusion into which this Commission brought itself in the process of voting on the simple paragraphs 5, 11 and 13. In fact the interventions of Norway and the United States created avoidable confusion because they brought in clause 13 quite clearly after clause 11. I assure you of our sympathy in the suffering which you have gone through in the last few hours.

At the same time, it would be out of place not to recognize the fact that many of us, including the distinguished delegate from Mexico, feel greatly frustrated about the manner in which they could not have an orderly vote on proposals which were very much in order in this Commission.

R. RABE (Madagascar): Pour notre part, nous reconnaissons votre courage et votre patience et vous en félicitons. Mais nous n'avons pas toujours compris certaines décisions que vous avez prises, ce qui, à notre sens, explique un peu et en partie les résultats peu satisfaisants auxquels nous sommes arrivés.

D. K. YOMAN Côte d'Ivoire): Il est impossible à la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire de ne pas faire état ici du sentiment d'amertume qu'elle éprouve. Au nom du Groupe africain, nous pensons que ce projet de résolution a été introduit ici en Commission dans un esprit constructif, et ce projet visait en fait deux buts:

Primo, reconnaître une réalité et faire état d'un constat.

Secundo, à partir de ce constat, promouvoir des mesures qui puissent arriver enfin à ce que la sécurité alimentaire dans cette partie de l'Afrique soit retrouvée.

Il est difficile, disais-je, à la délégation de la Côte d'Ivoire de ne pas faire état ici du sentiment d'amertume qu'elle éprouve, surtout concernant l'esprit dans lequel ce débat s'est déroulé. Nous pensons que la nuit portant conseil, demain, en assemblée plénière, chacun viendra l'esprit un peu plus frais et que nous arriverons à des résultats encourageants.

Mais, avant de terminer, je voudrais faire remarquer que le problème de la politisation des débats au sein de la FAO a été au centre d'intérêt de nos discussions. Cependant, en fait, combien il est difficile de tracer la frontière entre la politique, l'économie, l'agriculture, le commerce et autres. Vous avez à votre droite un monsieur qui s'occupe ici à la FAO de l'analyse des politiques économiques et sociales; à la limite, peut-être faudrait-il qu'il aille à la CNUCED ou au GATT où l'on parle d'économie ou de social, peut-être à l'UNICEF. Vous voyez qu'il est vraiment difficile de tracer une frontière étanche et rigoureuse entre ce qui est politique et ce qui ne l'est pas. Toutes les questions qu'on abordera ici au sein de la FAO auront toujours une incidence politique. Nous avons répété au cours de notre première intervention que nous n'avons pas ici fait état de problèmes spécifiquement politiques. Nous aurions pu parler de Nelson Mandela dans cette résolution,

nous ne l'avons pas fait, nous avons simplement voulu, mettre en exergue les effets d'une politique tant sur le plan agricole et alimentaire que sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire.. C'est cet esprit qui animait le Groupe africain lorsqu'il a présenté les projets de résolutions. C'est cela que nous essayons de faire comprendre à nos partenaires et je pense, encore une fois, que les uns et les autres réfléchiront cette nuit pour que demain nous arrivions en plénière avec un tout autre esprit.

J. TCHICAYA (Congo): Nous voici au terme de nos débats. Vous avez été le Président de notre Commission, la Commission I, que nous-mêmes avons dirigé quatre ans avant vous. Nous savons qu'il s'agit là d'une Commission difficile parce qu'elle traite de problèmes de politique générale et ces problèmes, justement, suscitent beaucoup d'interrogations. De plus, vous avez eu, je ne sais pas si c'est la malchance ou autre, d'avoir devant vous cette résolution que notre Groupe a introduite.

Je sais que cette résolution a soulevé beaucoup de problèmes et des problèmes qui nous tenaient à coeur, et c'est certainement pour cela que certains qui se sont exprimés ici pensent que vous n'avez pas bien accompli votre mission, parce que le projet de résolution n'a peut-être pas obtenu le consensus qu'ils voulaient. Mais je crois, pour ma part, que votre tâche était difficile, d'autant plus difficile que vous appartenez à un groupe et que, de plus, votre pays dirige ce groupe en ce moment; je sais que ce n'est pas facile de se situer au-delà de tout cela.

Mais je crois aussi que nous devons reconnaître que vous avez été rigoureux, que vous avez fait preuve de patience, et ici, comme au niveau de la réunion du Groupe de vos amis, nous avons admiré ce courage et cette patience; je pense qu'il en fallait pour pouvoir mener ces débats sur la résolution.

Cependant, vous comprendrez que, nous autres, nous soyons frustrés ce soir car les efforts que nous avons déployés avec vous pour parvenir à une solution qui puisse être satisfaisante pour tous ne nous ont pas permis d'arriver à une résolution qui obtienne le consensus que nous souhaitons.

Je dois dire que certainement le délégué du Mexique n'a pas voulu parler au nom du Groupe des 77, mais je crois que c'est dans cet esprit qu'il a pu dire ce qu'il a dit sur les débats qui ont eu lieu ici, car je crois que le Groupe des 77 également a fortement appuyé ce projet de résolution et ardemment souhaité qu'il soit adopté par l'ensemble de notre Commission.

Je crois que je vais pouvoir m'arrêter. Je dois vous dire que nous partons à la fois satisfaits du courage dont vous avez fait preuve, de la patience qui vous a animé, mais les débats ne sont pas terminés dans l'esprit et le sens que nous souhaitons. Voilà d'où vient notre frustration et vous le comprendrez facilement.

S.S.O. AKPATA (Nigeria): When we started this afternoon I was not aware we were trying to grade your performance, Mr Chairman. I presume the Mexican delegate at least did not say he was speaking for anyone else. He spoke for himself, and has every right to speak for himself as a delegate. So I am a little surprised that we are spending time associating or dissociating ourselves with his comments. However, rather than continue to dissociate or associate, I suggest we let the matter rest.

CHAIRMAN: That is a good proposal.

SAMBA MOONI te AVELELA (Zaïre): Le Zaïre, tout en appuyant fortement le projet de résolution soumis à notre étude aujourd'hui, tient à vous féliciter de la manière dont vous avez dirigé les débats.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): The interventions of the distinguished delegates of Cuba, India and the Congo reflect our views on this matter.

CHAIRMAN: I say thank you to those who had kind words for me, and even to the others, because we should always be objective. We can always learn a lot from what people say about us, and I would like to thank you all very much.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 6, as amended, was adopted  
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté  
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

The meeting rose at 19.25 hours  
La séance est levée à 19 h 25  
Se levanta la sesión a las 19.25 horas