

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION II
OF THE CONFERENCE
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION II
DE LA CONFERENCE
ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION II
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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/II/PV/1

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION IIVingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II23° período de sesiones
COMISION IIFIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(12 November 1985)

The First Meeting was opened at 10.05 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 05
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.05 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días colegas y amigos. Vamos a iniciar los trabajos de esta importante Comisión.

Me complace reconocer en los sitios de las delegaciones muchos colegas y amigos, con quienes he compartido algunas actividades aquí en la FAO y en otros foros durante muchos años.

Esta circunstancia afortunada me permite pensar que nuestras reuniones van a celebrarse en un ambiente de cordialidad, comprensión y entendimiento.

Estoy seguro de que todos ustedes comparten conmigo esta esperanza.

No obstante las naturales diferencias existentes entre nuestros países, pertenecientes a distintas regiones y con diversos grados de desarrollo, yo tengo la plena convicción de que todos nosotros coincidimos en el anhelo de sumar todos nuestros esfuerzos en pro del objetivo común de que la FAO, nuestra organización, trabaje cada vez más y con mayor eficacia en favor de todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente de aquéllos en vías de desarrollo.

Al iniciar nuestros trabajos, de la manera más cordial y amistosa, solicito la colaboración de todos ustedes para que así, todos juntos, logremos el mejor resultado de los trabajos de esta Comisión.

Como Presidente trataré en todo momento de ser objetivo, flexible y completamente independiente.

Pasamos ahora a la organización de nuestra Comisión. La Conferencia ha elegido dos Vicepresidentes para esta Comisión: Pakistán y República Federal de Alemania. Por Pakistán nuestro Vicepresidente será el distinguido colega y amigo Afzal Qadir, Embajador de Pakistán ante la FAO.

Por la República Federal de Alemania el Vicepresidente será el distinguido colega y amigo señor J. Winkel, Jefe de División de las Organizaciones Internacionales para la Agricultura, del Departamento Federal del Ministerio de Alimentación, Agricultura y Bosques de la República Federal Alemana.

Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros de esta Comisión al felicitar cordialmente a los distinguidos Vicepresidentes, cuya útil cooperación sin duda contribuirá al mejor cumplimiento de nuestros trabajos.

Como es costumbre, elegiremos más adelante el Comité de Redacción. He estado ya en contactos preliminares con los representantes de los distintos Grupos Regionales. Espero que mañana podamos proponer ya al Pleno de esta Comisión los nombres de los países que van a integrar el Comité de Redacción. Los miembros de ese Comité, al igual que en Conferencias anteriores, demostrarán - como estoy seguro que lo harán - espíritu de trabajo y cooperación, ya que se prevé una intensa labor, inclusive posibles sesiones en el fin de semana. Esto naturalmente lo iremos viendo de forma progresiva.

Como es costumbre, estarán presentes con nosotros en esta ocasión los funcionarios de la Organización, a quienes corresponda participar en la discusión de los temas respectivos. Aquí, detrás de La Presidencia, están todos los Subdirectores Generales y representantes regionales. A mi derecha, se encuentra el señor Shah, Jefe de la Oficina de Programas, Presupuesto y Evaluación.

La Comisión II es afortunada porque la Secretaría será graciosamente femenina. A mi izquierda, tengo a la distinguida y simpática señorita Kay Killingsworth, quien será una vez más nuestra Secretaria de la Comisión. Kay es bien conocida por muchos de ustedes y estoy seguro de que nos prestará muy eficaces servicios. Al lado de la señorita Kay Killingsworth está doña Claude Forthomme, que es Asistente de la Secretaría, igualmente gentil y competente.

De acuerdo con los horarios que regirán en la Conferencia, a partir de esta tarde nos reuniremos de 14.30 a 17.30; mañana el horario será de 9.30 a 12.30 y en la tarde regirá el mismo horario, o sea, de 14.30 a 17.30. Agradeceré la puntualidad a todos ustedes y yo trataré de darles buen ejemplo.

En cuanto al programa de trabajo de nuestra Comisión, sabemos que está contenido en el Documento C 85/1. Es la parte 2 de ese Documento, que comprende los temas 12 a 18.

El calendario de nuestros trabajos está en el anexo A del Documento C 85/12. Tanto el programa como el calendario fueron recomendados por el Consejo y aprobados por la Conferencia, pero, como seguramente muchos de ustedes recordarán, en cuanto al calendario, la Conferencia tomó la decisión de que el jueves 14, pasado mañana no hubiera durante la tarde sesiones de las Comisiones, para permitir que se prolongue la celebración del 40° aniversario, que empezará en la mañana del jueves 14 con las declaraciones de los Presidentes de Indonesia y Francia.

Como ustedes saben, el calendario no es un instrumento rígido, sino un marco flexible que se puede revisar y ajustar de acuerdo con las circunstancias, por lo que les ruego que vayamos viendo en cada ocasión cómo podemos seguir cumpliendo el itinerario de nuestros trabajos.

La lista de los documentos de esta Comisión está contenida en un texto que salió esta mañana: C 85/INF/12.

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION

- 12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Terra Objectives
- 12. Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme
- 12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de esta Comisión, vamos entonces, de acuerdo con el programa previsto, a iniciar nuestras deliberaciones con el tema 12: Programa de Labores y Presupuestos para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio.

En el Orden del Día de hoy están los documentos respectivos, que ustedes conocen. Sin embargo, nuestra Secretaria se los va recordar.

Ms K KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The basic document is C 85/3, the Programme of Work and Budget with its Corrigendum 1. In addition, it has two supplements, Sup. 1 and Sup.2. In addition there is C 85/LIM/9 which contains the extract from the Report of the 88th Session of the Council on this same item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Secretaria.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de la Comisión, empezaremos ahora con el tema 12, que va a ser presentado, en nombre del Director General, por el señor Shah.

El doctor Saouma me ha pedido que transmita a ustedes su mensaje, en el sentido de que el Director General concede gran importancia a este tema y él mismo habría deseado estar presente en esta Comisión esta mañana: sin embargo, no ha podido cumplir ese propósito debido a las actividades de la Conferencia, que ustedes conocen. Por eso el señor Shah, en nombre del Director General, va a presentarnos el tema 12.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): As the Director-General is unable to leave the Plenary at the moment, it is an honour to have been asked by him to read a statement on his behalf on the item now before you, the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives. The statement reads as follows, and I quote:

"The submission of proposals to the Conference regarding the Programme of Work and Budget for each biennium is one of the most important duties and responsibilities of the Director-General.

"The importance of this item would have warranted my introducing it to you personally and participating in your discussion. I greatly regret that my obligations to the Plenary prevent me from being with you at this moment. I have therefore asked Mr Shah to present this introduction on my behalf. I will, of course, follow with the closest attention the debate which you will have.

"There are basically two policy considerations which have guided me in formulating the proposals before you.

"The entire range of items on the agenda of this Conference, which are covered under the group heading of "Major Trends and Policies in Food and Agriculture", provide a comprehensive setting to permit assessment of the increasing demands made on our Organization. The food crisis in Africa, the continuing imperative to increase world food production in developing countries, the need for investment in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the requirements of world food security, are the main themes under which Member Nations address themselves to the Organization for assistance, for collaboration and for policy solutions. These demands are not alleviated by temporary improvements in food production or supply at the local level. They are determined rather by structural problems and weaknesses which afflict most developing countries, whose reliance on the Organization continues to increase.

"On the other hand, international economic and financial problems clearly limit the availability of resources. I have recognized and taken account of this factor as a constraint affecting all Member Nations.

"Two basic programme priorities, promotion of food production and increasing food security, embrace a wide range of activities which are proposed to be enhanced in the coming biennium"

"A primary objective will be to increase the availability in developing countries, particularly in Africa, of essential inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, vaccines). A large number of activities are planned to meet this objective, based especially on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

"Food crop production in Africa will constitute a focus on activities in areas covering improved land and water use, small scale irrigation, crop diversification, promotion of minor and secondary crops, strengthening of seed propagation and distribution programmes and increased action for plant health, control of pests and integrated plant nutrient systems.

"Animal health problems will receive greater attention, particularly in Africa, for rinderpest eradication and trypanosomiasis control.

"Another major programme priority is the substantial strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System, to be complemented by field activities under the Food Security Assistance Scheme.

"The promotion of access to food supplies will receive further attention through the identification of under-nutrition, improvement of urban food systems, support for improved food policies and food aid. Closely related are programmes for poverty alleviation as a part of the follow-up to the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

"The framework for programme priorities for fisheries is provided by the Strategy and the five Programmes of Action adopted by the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

"The priorities in forestry are in consonance with the recommendations of the Ninth World Forestry Congress.

"A feature common to most, if not all of these programme priorities is the emphasis on greater impact for the small producer, the involvement of women, increased training and direct impact in the field.

"As in the past, the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 is based on all the recommendations addressed to the Organization by the last session of the Conference itself, by the Council and its subsidiary bodies, by the Regional Conferences and by the statutory technical bodies which have met since your last session and offered recommendations and advice.

"The analysis of these recommendations, with a view to incorporating them in the next Programme of Work and Budget, is a process which I personally ensure.

"This process has also involved a detailed assessment of our current technical and economic programmes in order to identify every single activity which could be considered finite, completed and non-recurring, so as to streamline our programmes and respond to new demands.

"I have also pursued in this process the objective of further reducing administrative and support costs with a view to transferring resources to the technical and economic programmes which are the life-blood of this Organization. Substantial reductions are again proposed in support services. As has been recognized by the Conference itself, this is a process which cannot go on indefinitely without endangering the effectiveness of programme implementation.

"My proposals first took the form of a Summary which was considered by the Programme and Finance Committees and then by the Council at its Eighty-seventh Session in June.

"It was gratifying to find that the strategies, priorities and programme proposals were endorsed in their entirety by the Programme and Finance Committees and by the Council. The relevance of the proposals to the most needy countries, the focus on the problems of small-scale producers and the even greater emphasis on assistance to Africa were welcomed and commended by all. The priorities in our programmes, and in our means of action, were universally supported.

"A corresponding unanimity of view did not prevail as regards the related budgetary estimates. I therefore took the step, for the first time in my tenure of office, to reconsider and revise the proposals I had submitted in the Summary. The only reason for my doing so is to permit all Member Nations to reach agreement. Instead of a net programme increase of US\$ 6.2 million, or 1.4 percent over the recosted present base as envisaged in the Summary, I now propose an increase of only US\$ 5 million, or 1.1 percent.

"The technical and economic programmes of the Organization, including the Technical Cooperation Programme, represent the substantive thrust of our activities. They are the focus of the demands of Member Nations. I have not reduced my proposals in this area, which envisage a net programme increase of US\$ 9.4 million, or 3.8 percent over the present programme base.

"A renewed effort has been made to reduce the programme provision for General Policy and Direction by over US\$ 0.9 million, the provision for Development Support Programmes by US\$ 1.3 million, and the provision for Common Services by almost US\$ 2.5 million.

"The proposals result in a further reduction of the percentage of expenditure on established posts. Whereas this amounted to over 77 percent a decade ago, and 56 percent in the present biennium, it is reduced further to 55 percent in the next biennium.

"The approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 1984-85 included a provision for cost increases of some US\$ 52 million, over 14 percent of the preceding budget base. For the next biennium, cost increases have been strictly trimmed and amount to only US\$ 22 million, just over 5 percent of the present budget base. I should indicate that at the stage of preparation of the Summary, the provision was US\$ 2 million higher. On the basis of our continued attention to price trends and actual expenditures, this provision has been further reduced. These cost increases have also been reviewed in depth by the Finance Committee and endorsed by it and the Council.

"In accordance with the practice approved by the Conference, the proposals are submitted to you at the Italian Lira/US dollar rate of exchange approved for the present budget, i.e. Lit. 1615 = US\$ 1. The actual level of the effective working budget will, however, be determined by the exchange rate which the Conference will decide upon, on 20 November, when it will adopt the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 1986-87. It is evident that at the market rate of exchange of Lit. 1785 = US\$1, which was the average for the month of October, the budget level will amount to US\$ 435 520 000.

"Since the full Programme of Work and Budget was sent to press, with the possible indication of Lit. 1900 = US\$ 1, the dollar has fallen. On the other hand, this also means that while costs will rise in dollars, the cost of contributions in many other national currencies will have fallen.

"I have taken account of the possibilities of safely increasing my estimate of Miscellaneous Income to a level of US\$ 41 million. As usual, this will be set off against the effective working level of the budget before levying contributions. If the rate of Lit. 1785 = US\$1 were to prevail when the Conference approves the budget, the share of Member Nations' contributions will be US\$ 394 520 000. which compares with US\$ 394 580 000. for this biennium.

"Throughout the discussion of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget, Member Nations have had the opportunity to react to my proposals and to express their sovereign views. It was thus not unusual for some Member Nations to recall the principle of zero programme growth which they advocated for the budgets of organizations in the US System. Nor was it unusual for the majority of other Member Nations to express their preference for the budget level to be even- higher than the one proposed.

"These views have all to be reconciled by the Conference itself to permit its approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium. It represents the moment when differences have to be set aside in favour of a common action.

"I have done all within my power to formulate a package of proposals with budgetary implications which take into account the views of every Member Nation and on which they could unite. I venture to suggest that what might divide some Member Nations in regard to this programme and budget is minimal in relation to what in this programme unites them.

"This session of the Conference takes place at a time when we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of our Organization. I hope that the significance of this anniversary, which has been emphasized in the last few days at the special commemorative events, will also lead the Conference to express its continued support for our programmes by the unanimous approval of the Programme of Work and Budget."

That is the end of the quotation. Here ends the statement of the Director-General.

Mr Chairman, with your permission may I continue very briefly to draw to the attention of this Commission those aspects of the main document, C 85/3, which might facilitate its consideration. As usual, the document begins with the Introduction of the Director-General, on which I need make no comment. This is followed by the Programme Framework, a section which begins on page 7 of the English text. This section indicates the strategies and priorities for the next biennium, the nature and level of the Field Programme, because of its implications for the Regular Programme. It then gives an analysis of the proposed Budget in terms of Programme changes and analyses of changes and' objects of expenditure, and then a breakdown of the cost increases. The section ends with three pages which might be of particular use to distinguished Delegates and I, therefore, refer to them specifically. On page 32 of the English text is an analysis and a table showing the Budget levels at different Italian lire/US dollar rates of exchange. On page 33 of the English text is a comparison of the proposed Budget with the one for the present biennium, followed by the breakdown of the estimates of miscellaneous income. Then on page 34 is a Table showing the total effective working Budget and the likely Member Nations' contributions.

The bulk of the document is then preceded by a Draft Resolution for adoption by the Conference. I would like to indicate that this Draft as amended in the footnote at the bottom, provides figures at the rate of Italian lire 1615 to the US dollar. I would, therefore, urge the Commission not to pay attention to the exact US dollar amounts mentioned there, because a revised Draft Resolution will be issued for the consideration of the Conference prior to its adoption of this resolution.

The Programme Budget itself is the main part of the Document, and here there is a Table on page 38 of the English text, which again, we suggest, might be of convenient reference as it gives, for the entire budget by budgetary chapter and major programme, the present approved budget, the programme changes proposed, the cost increases and the proposed budget for the next biennium. This is related in the final columns of this Table to the estimates of extra-budgetary funds which

relate to each major programme, thus providing an indication of the total effort of the Organization under both the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary Funds.

The Document then has three Annexes. Annex I gives Programmes by Region, and again it considers not only the Regular Programme funds, but the extra-budgetary funds estimated to be channelled to each Region. Annex II gives the budget by organization and unit. Here it is possible to see the proposed budget for the present biennium and for the next one by organizational unit and by object of expenditure, together with the organizational charts for each unit. Annex III consists of some appendices which are habitually part of this document, dealing with salary scales, post adjustment schedules, Tables of established posts, and, to conclude, a comparison between standard budget Tables of the United Nations system as established by the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions.

Mr Chairman, I thank you for your patience and am fully at your disposal.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de la Comisión ruego al Señor Shah que transmita al Director General nuestro agradecimiento por su interesante mensaje. Igualmente agradecemos al señor Shah su competente y complementaria presentación.

Después de lo que ustedes acaban de oír sólo me corresponde agregar unas breves consideraciones, que podríamos decir, bajo el enfoque político a través de las experiencias que todos hemos tenido en los órganos rectores, o sea que sabemos muy bien que las propuestas del Director General se han basado en el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que fue considerado por los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas en mayo de 1985 y luego por el Consejo en su sesión de junio de este año. Después de los debates que tuvieron lugar en el Consejo, los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas revisaron de nuevo el documento en sus sesiones de septiembre de 1985; y finalmente, el Consejo en la sesión de la semana pasada volvió a ocuparse de este importante documento.

Creo, desde un punto de vista objetivo, que convendrá tener en cuenta la acción y la reacción adecuada y afortunada también del Director General a la luz de ese proceso basado en dos consideraciones, en mi opinión: la primera es el hecho de que ha habido unanimidad en las estrategias de las prioridades y programas propuestos para el próximo bienio; y la segunda es un hecho realista que sin embargo algunas delegaciones aún no han podido estar de acuerdo con la mayor parte de las estimaciones presupuestarias, y en particular con el nivel del presupuesto.

Como ya lo dijo el señor Shah, el Director General reaccionó favorablemente a esas observaciones, ha rectificado en cierta medida sus propuestas y nos corresponde ahora a nosotros tratar de lograr un consenso con pleno respeto de las posiciones de cada uno como representante de sus gobiernos soberanos.

Creo que ahora toca a la Conferencia la función final de culminar este debate que se ha desarrollado a través de los órganos rectores citados. Todos sabemos que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto debe ser sometido a una votación en la Plenaria, de manera que la función esencial de esta Comisión es tratar de presentar un informe que pueda facilitar a la Plenaria de la Conferencia la adopción de Programas de Labores y Presupuesto en las mejores condiciones posibles.

Noten ustedes que este tema se llama ahora además del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, "y objetivos a plazo medio". Algunos colegas que de tiempo atrás hayan participado en nuestras reuniones recordarán que antes los objetivos a plazo medio se publicaban en documento separado; ahora el Consejo recomendó hace ya algunos años, y la Conferencia estuvo de acuerdo, que este documento contenga una exposición de objetivos a plazo medio al principio de cada programa y uno de los objetivos a largo plazo y estrategias para cada Programa.

Tendrán en cuenta también que el examen de estas propuestas está relacionado con las revisiones de los Programas regulares y de campo, los cuales, eso sí, esos dos documentos son separados y se discutirán bajo otros temas en esta misma Comisión.

Les dije al principio que me proponía ser flexible como Presidente. Es así como quiero proponerles que para la discusión de este tema las delegaciones hagan sus intervenciones de la manera más libre

y amplia posible, que puedan referirse a la introducción del Director General, a los diversos capítulos, a los anexos que son para información, a través de los cuales podrán solicitar aclaraciones o información como lo dijo el señor Shah y, naturalmente, a nivel del presupuesto. Esto facilitaría los trabajos de la Presidencia.

En cuanto al tiempo de que disponemos para discutir este importante tema les dije antes que a raíz de las decisiones de la Conferencia un nuevo calendario va a ser distribuido en el curso del día de hoy. Sólo dispondremos de cuatro reuniones para este importante tema, o sea esta mañana, la tarde de hoy y las sesiones de mañana y tarde del día de mañana miércoles.

Sin embargo, les he dicho que éste es un marco flexible que podemos irlo revisando, y lo veremos mañana.

Sé que hay algunas delegaciones que tienen funcionarios especializados y que de manera muy adecuada y natural desearían hacer más de una intervención sobre este tema; también esto lo manejaremos con criterios flexibles y dentro de las posibilidades del tiempo a nuestra disposición.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de la Comisión vamos a iniciar ahora los debates sobre el Tema 12. Ruego a los oradores que deseen intervenir que levanten los nombres de sus países para que nuestra secretaría elabore la primera lista de oradores.

Es la primera reunión, todavía los ánimos están un poco tranquilos, vamos a ver si se animan los colegas para intervenir. Alguien tiene que ser el primero.

R. STEINER (Austria): It is a privilege for me to be the first to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and your Vice-Chairmen on the election to the function of chairing Commission II. Let me also extend my sincere appreciation to Mr Shah, Director of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, for his informative introduction and presentation of the ideas of the Director-General.

The background to any Programme of Work on a Budget, be it national or as is the case with FAO, international, must be seen against the background of three basic aspects. The first deals with the objectives of measures as defined by the policy organs of a government or in one case today, of the organization of FAO. Secondly, there is the world economic background against which a Programme of Work is to be conceived, elaborated and planned. And thirdly the Programme of Work must take due account of the finances available to the Organization and the Member States.

Let me revert briefly to these three aspects: The strategies and priorities for 1986/87 were elaborated and discussed in several fora of the Organization before the Conference. I must admit that compared with national budget exercises in which most of us participate, it is a long process of preparation or if you wish, rehearsal and examination when a first stage the Programme and the Finance Committee has before it the first outlines already in a high degree of precision of what the budget of the next biennium is proposed to be. Secondly, the Council had had the opportunity to examine the proposals as well as suggestions and comments of the two Committees. Now we are here in Commission II, the last opportunity before the final forum to comment on the Budget before it is voted upon. I can say that in preparing its programme of Work and Budget the FAO has been guided by the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Furthermore, FAO has taken account of the relationship between population and world security and the interrelationship between population and rural development as outlined in the Mexico City Declaration on Population and Development. The same is true for the forestry sector as confirmed this year by the Ninth World Forestry Congress in Mexico City. Last but not least, the global strategy has been affected by the discussion and resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. In 1984 the UN General Assembly adopted a number of recommendations on food and agriculture, most of which focussed - very rightly on the situation in Africa. The five Regional Conferences in 1984 reviewed the lack of food and agriculture in the areas concerned and made specific recommendations on FAO's programmes in the regions. The Conferences went outside the regions and looked at the situation within a worldwide context. The Harare Declaration on Agriculture was taken into account in FAO's World Plans. The two World Conferences in Rome on Fishery Development, and more recently, the Congress in Mexico City, both outlined the future developments of those two sectors in which FAO is expected to be actively engaged.

I have deliberately extended my deliberation's outline to include the lines of thought on which the FAO Secretariat and its bodies have faithfully and consistently based the Programme of Work and Budget, all solid objectives of a medium term but also to a very substantial extent, of a longer term.

To turn to the second aspect which I regard important when preparing a Programme and a budget namely the economic situation and food production in particular, our world indeed remains in a very unsettled and unstable situation. Very few countries find their economies in a state of buoyancy. Most are confronted with high rates of unemployment. It is characteristic for many that high inflation rates decline only slowly, whenever they do. And yesterday we heard in a statement by the Director-General that the indebtedness of the developing countries is approaching the unprecedented level of 1 000 billion US dollars. This is a time very difficult to comprehend. Coherent concepts of settling these debts are scarcely in sight.

It is true that last year and in 1985 crop yields generally speaking were good throughout the world and were allowed to build up long foreseen stocks. We have now reached the level of 21 percent of cereal stocks measured in terms of world annual consumption. Looking back to the World Food Congress, in 1984, this has indeed been an achievement. We must admit, however, that this achievement has largely been affected by a fortunate coincidence of favorable natural conditions that have been helpful in relieving the disastrous famine situation in Africa. But we must furthermore admit that this 21 percent is largely held, stored and concentrated in countries which by the nature of their production are surplus countries and not deficient ones. The situation in Africa which had given grave concern to the world had been brought under control to some extent; the number of disaster countries in Africa has been reduced to five. Nevertheless there is still a vast scope for relief operations. We also have to take into account that prices for many commodities are declining, leaving no room for improvement in the income earnings of those developing countries who rely on export earnings of agricultural commodities. There exists an ever-growing awareness that the rational use and management of world forestry resources is imperative to avoid degradation of a scale and nature which seriously impair the basis on which our societies have been built over many generations.

In brief, Mr Chairman the settling of the world food situation requires from the Organization in the UN system that was given the mandate to tackle issues in agriculture, fisheries and forestry a concerted and coherent Programme of Work and Budget.

Let me turn to the resources. The Austrian Delegation has followed the preparation of the biennial budget for 1986-87 closely. We recognize with appreciation the Director-General's effort and intention to further focus FAO's activities to meet needs of sectors in the world food supply even during a time when austerity has become a term frequently used during the sessions of the Programme Committee, the Finance Committee, the Council and, I am certain, also in Commission II and the Conference. The Director-General has made a particular effort to maintain levels of budget and appropriations to the budget chapters as he deemed it necessary in the light of the counsel given to him by the technical services. We are aware of the circumstances and we know the difficulties most member countries have, even with regard to their own national budget exercises. It is true that austerity is governing the preparation of our national budgets, and yet it is interesting to look in fairness at the FAO budget before us now and to try to compare it with national budget exercises.

For many countries the budget appropriations for FAO are included in national budget chapters. We have the best knowledge of how much we have increased our domestic agricultural budgets, and what we are prepared to concede and admit now to FAO.

The 1.1 percent increase in the regular budget is acceptable to the Austrian Delegation. We have taken note of exercises to shift resources from within the Organization to activities more visible in the field. We have noted with satisfaction that an exercise so far never experienced has taken place within the preparatory phase in the sense that the Director-General has made amendments and modifications at a very advanced stage to the Conference in the budget proposal submitted now.

In summary, we regard the Budget and the Programme for the biennium 1986-87 as a fair one and the Austrian Delegation will vote in its favour.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Austria ha hecho uso del privilegio de estar en primera fila y ha sido el primer orador. Doy las gracias al Sr. Steiner competente Expresidente de esta Comisión.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, at the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. Under your guidance, the Chinese Delegation will join efforts with other delegations to ensure the success of the proceedings in this Commission. Now I wish to make some general comments on the Programme of Work and Budget.

First, concerning the budget level. At the June Council this year, the budget level as proposed in the Summary Programme of Work and Budget was discussed in depth without reaching an agreement. The Chinese Delegation then pointed out at the Council Session that it was necessary to appropriately increase the budget level. However, we have noted that in the Programme of Work and Budget submitted to the Conference for the approval, the net programme increase has been cut from 1.4 percent to 1.1 percent and that the rate of "cost increase" has also been cut. As everyone can see, this is the result of the effort by the Director-General to coordinate the divergent positions held by various countries, which will facilitate reaching a consensus on the budget level at the current Conference. It is our sincere hope that the proposed budget level will be acceptable to all and be approved by consensus at the Plenary session.

We have also noted that the 3.8 percent programme increase for the Technical and Economic Programmes for the next biennium has been achieved by twice reducing the administrative costs to 4.75 million US dollars. The Chinese Delegation endorses the policy of ensuring the substantive programme growth. But as the practice of reducing the administrative costs to guarantee the priority programmes has been followed in formulating the Programme of Work and Budget in the preceding biennium, we wonder whether there should be a limit for the reduction or whether there are other alternatives. We hope that the Programme and Finance Committees will study this matter in determining the budget level.

Second, regarding the resources allocation of the net Programme increase, it is appropriate that a great portion of the resources will be earmarked to strengthen the work in Africa. Africa not only needs emergency assistance but also needs assistance, particularly in terms of funds and technology, for its medium and long-term programme of agricultural development. This is also in keeping with the policy of the Chinese Government to provide bilateral assistance to Africa for the rehabilitation of its agricultural production. Therefore, we fully support FAO's policy of using the major part of the programme increase for Africa, and at the same time taking into account the needs of other developing regions.

Third, about the Programme of Work. The Director-General established six principal aims in priority programme selection, four of which were approved unanimously at the last Conference. The remaining two aims, that is, consolidation of the information system and emphasis on training, were newly added to the current Programme of Work. We fully endorse the new additions. Nevertheless, I would like to emphasize two points. One is "ensuring impact at the field level" and the other "enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries". As everyone knows, the very value of the Regular Programme lies in the impact it generates at the field level. In the final analysis, "ensuring impact at the field level" is to promote the transfer of resources and technology to the developing regions, thus enabling a large number of developing countries, especially the low-income and food-deficit countries, to have the necessary means to develop their agricultural production through self-reliance. We think that in the process of formulating and implementing the programmes, "ensuring impact at the field level" should deserve top priority from beginning to end. As for the "Enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries", we deem that in formulating the programmes, the Secretariat should continue to try its best to make full use of the capacity of the developing countries, their experts and institutions. This is a component of the "enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" and we believe that FAO can play its due role in this field.

Fourth, concerning the field programmes. In the course of 40 years' progress, FAO gradually evolved field programmes of a considerable scale, which are an integral part of the full Programme

of Work and Budget now under discussion. Their main source of funding is from extra-budgetary resources, but the prospects of the resources from international financing and development agencies are not encouraging for the next biennium. The level of resources for the field programmes of the Organization has never returned to the highest level of 1981 and we therefore hope that the current Conference will make an appeal for this purpose. I would like to say in passing also that as concerns the second replenishment of IFAD resources, IFAD is an institution that provides concessional loans to small farmers of the low-income and food-deficit developing countries. Many rounds of negotiations have been held over the past two years but no agreement has yet been reached on the second replenishment of IFAD resources. We sincerely hope that the international community will make concerted efforts to safeguard the positive results achieved at the 1974 World Food Conference.

The formulation of the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget is an arduous and complicated task. We wish to put on record our sincere appreciation to the Director-General and his staff for the efforts they have made in accomplishing this task. Before concluding my remarks, I would make it clear once again that we support the strategies, priorities and programmes as proposed in the Programme of Work and Budget as well as the budget level for the next biennium.

K.N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): Mr Chairman, at the outset I would like to compliment you on your election as the Chairman of Commission II. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his lucid presentation of the budget.

Mr Chairman, the delegation of India supports the strategies and priorities which you have outlined in the Programme of Work and Budget. We are associated with the Programme Committee and also the Finance Committee. We also participated in the discussion in the Commission. We are happy to note that in the Programme content, the budget has been increased by 3.8 percent in the technical and economic programmes. This is a step in the right direction and we hope that this trend will continue.

With regard to the priorities, we fully support the priorities assigned to steps to increase food production. In this context, Mr Chairman, I would like to say that sufficient attention should be paid to dryland farming. This is an area which has been neglected. All of our attention so far has been confined only to irrigated areas. Our strategies and also the Programme of Action have been confined by and large to irrigated areas. I would not like to underestimate the importance of irrigated areas to food production. At the same time I would like to emphasize that we should now devote more attention to dryland farming. In this connection it is necessary to intensify the research in dryland farming. It is necessary to evolve a suitable planting material which should be location specific and which should suit various climatic conditions. It is also necessary to provide a linkage between research and extension so that whatever knowledge is available in the research stations or laboratories is transmitted to the field.

I would also urge that we should take up proper price support operations. Production has been increasing in a number of countries because of the production of farmers and national governments. In such cases there is always a crash in prices. The farmers are the victims of fluctuations in prices. It is necessary to assure a reasonable return to the farmers so that farming as an occupation is attractive. Mr Chairman, I would also like to emphasize the need for evolving proper soil and water management systems. So far these have been neglected. It is necessary to introduce scientific soil and water management so that productivity will improve.

The delegation of India fully supports the measures outlined in the Programme and also in the Budget for increasing food security. This is an area of high priority. We are seriously concerned about the situation in the African continent. Yesterday the Director-General in his Report mentioned that the number has now been reduced to five. We would pledge wholehearted support for the Programme of Action drawn up by the Director-General to support Africa and also to bring about improvement in the food situation in the African continent. We fully support the food aid programmes. We are confident that with proper support and with proper assistance from international agencies such as FAO, it will be possible for the drought-stricken countries of Africa to improve their security needs; in other words, to reduce food insecurity.

We also support the Global Information and Early Warning System which is now being perfected. We hope and trust that the Global Information and Early Warning System will improve. This system will be of assistance to the low-income and food-deficit countries in improving their food security.

The Indian delegation fully supports the Programme of Action in the fisheries sector. We were parties to the World Conference on Fisheries Development and Management held in Rome last year. We fully endorse the Plan of Action drawn up at that World Conference. We support development of Indian fisheries as a part of the food alleviation programme. We also fully support the role of fish in improving nutrition levels in rural areas as a very valid programme, and we have every hope that the fisheries sector will receive great attention.

With regard to the forestry sector, we are confident that the international community will accord the highest priority to improving the vegetative cover. The pressure on fuel and fodder is increasing all over the world. It is necessary to arrange for adequate supplies of fuel and fodder so that the deforestation which is presently going on unabated can be stopped. We" also emphasize the need for involving people in all forestry development programmes. My delegation feels that forestry is too serious a subject to be left in the hands of foresters only. It is necessary to make forestry into a people's programme; it should be made into a people's movement that would evolve a forestry development programme suitable to the local needs and local requirements, as well as local aspirations.

The Government of India has assigned the highest priority to forestry development programmes, and it has already been decided that every year it will bring 5 million hectares of waste land under vegetative cover. This programme has been given the highest priority and is being incorporated as a part of our rural development programme. We are earmarking funds for social forestry programmes, and we have every hope that the forestry programme will become a people's movement.

Mr Chairman, I would also like to emphasize the need for proper training. This is an area which has been neglected. All along we have been paying lip service to the role of women in agriculture, but we know that we have not been in a position to evolve suitable training programmes for women, or for small farmers. Our main thrust should be for the small farmers, women and other weaker sectors in agriculture. Our strategy should be focused on these weaker sections and our training programmes should be tailor-made to suit the requirements of small producers, women, and weaker sections in the rural community.

Mr Chairman, my delegation categorically rejects the approach of certain countries which insist on a zero programme growth. This is not in the interest of most of the countries represented here. The needs are increasing, the expectations are rising. It is necessary to increase our programme content. It is necessary to step up international intervention in agriculture development in the developing countries. Therefore, in this context the zero net programme growth concept is not acceptable to the Government of India. We would plead that activities should be stepped up. The Director-General has also pointed out in his introductory report that the difficulties are there and that they are being faced by the developing countries. In this context we would suggest that the Programme of Action should be strengthened and the role should be more international intervention in the agricultural development of developing countries.

Mr Chairman, my delegation fully supports the Programme of Action and the Budget for the biennium 1986-87.

V. DOBES (Czechoslovakia): Mr Chairman, at the beginning I would like to congratulate you on your election and Mr Shah for his excellent presentation of very important points of the Agenda of the Twenty-third Conference Session.

The FAO Draft Programme and Budget for 1986-87, which we have studied, is in our opinion basically a balanced one that corresponds to the requirements of FAO member states, particularly developing countries. We believe that the priorities are correct. We are gratified to know the concrete steps taken by FAO to gradually reduce non-productive costs, and we are in favour of additional

savings through their fund reduction, be they non-technical, administrative or support costs. That is why we welcome the reduction by US\$4.8 in favour of an expansion of technical and economic programmes. We may refer here to one such measure already taken the gradual reduction in the number of FAO administrative staff, despite growth by an anticipated 400 immediately after the 1984 World Food Conference. We regard the net real income increase of US\$5 million, representing 1.1 percent growth of the present recosted base, as basically favourable. We welcome the intention of the Director-General, Mr Saouma, to cover the amount from Miscellaneous Income of FAO and from changes in the United States dollar/lire exchange rate.

With regard to the volume of funds for member countries' regional programmes, I would like, Mr Chairman, as a representative of a European country to say a few words on that part of the Draft Budget that covers the area of Europe.

If we compare the volume found now in the FAO draft budget for Europe to two-year periods in the past, there is "an evident trend of their systematic reduction. I should like to point out in this connection that we are fully aware of the preferential orientation of those found in favour of other regions. If, however, the region of Europe is to play the role it is expected to play, the role in the interests of assistance to developing countries, then successive cuts in budgetary allocation for the implementation of programmes in the European region are problematic. We are afraid that should there be no extra-budgetary funds available in the future, such a situation might amount to a potential danger of stagnation in European programmes. We believe it is in the interest of the universality of FAO and in the interest of developing countries in other continents that the importance of technological cooperation in Europe, especially applied to research, should again be recognized.

As a matter of fact, the network of European agricultural research and the cooperation in the use of renewable sources of power in agriculture are financed mostly from extra-budgetary funds, and by the support provided by the European countries through their respective institutions.

I should also like to underline the high assessment given to such networks during our last Conference, especially because of intensive utilization of the output of European cooperative activity in developing countries. Over twenty non-European countries participate in the cooperative programme of the region of Europe at present. It is likewise gratifying to know that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean prepares, following the example of European cooperation, its own networks, and that achievements of science and technology might be useful for organizing similar cooperation in the region of Asia. I should like to stress, however, that we have no intention whatsoever of proposing an increase in the funds for financing FAO European programmes from the regular programme budget.

I deem it necessary, however, to draw attention also to the importance of scientific and technological cooperation of European countries with different socio-economic systems which provide a source of relative information and data needed for the solution of technical projects faced by FAO in developing countries.

At the conclusion of my speech, allow me, Mr Chairman, to assure you that the head of our delegation tomorrow is going to express in brief our position, positive on the whole, on document C 85/3 and its two supplements.

A. LOUCA (Cyprus): Mr Chairman, first I should like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair. I am sure that your vast experience and recognized ability will guide the proceedings of this Commission in the best and most effective way.

Secondly, I wish to congratulate Mr Shah for his excellent presentation of the subject under discussion. Reading through the proposals on the Budget of the Organization for the biennium 1986-87, the Cyprus delegation would like particularly to underline two important elements: first, that further cuts in non-technical, administrative and support services have been made possible in a total amount of US\$3.75 million; and second, that a programme growth of 3.8 percent in the technical and economic programmes has been achieved, largely due to the cuts referred to above. We cannot but express our full support for this approach, and commend the Director-General for his continued efforts to reduce administrative and support costs, but we hope that these reductions will not affect the Organization's capacity to deliver its programme efficiently and effectively.

We express our satisfaction that action programmes which have an immediate direct effect on the development effort of developing countries, such as the Technical Cooperation Programme, have increased their resources in absolute real terms by some US\$2.5 million, though in relative terms have remained at 13.7 percent of the proposed budget - a figure only marginally higher than that of the approved budget for the previous biennium.

We specifically express our satisfaction that the largest share of these resources is allocated to the regions in higher need and for the overall priority given to Africa.

We note also that the Director-General in drafting his proposals for the Budget of the Organization has managed to allow a modest increase in the Organization's Programme, though keeping down dollar contributions by member countries to the same level as, and probably lower than, the current biennium.

I Wish to express the satisfaction of my delegation with the strategies, priorities and programme proposals, as well as the budgetary estimates before us. We give them our full support, and we hope that the Conference will approve them unanimously.

M MOMBULI (Congo): A l'instar des délégations qui se sont exprimées avant la nôtre, nous aimerions aussi remercier M. Shah pour son exposé introductif fort complet.

Monsieur le Président, étant donné que nous intervenons pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission II de la vingt-troisième Conférence générale de la FAO, permettez à la délégation congolaise de vous dire par ma voix combien elle est heureuse de vous voir présider cette Commission. Elle vous félicite pour votre brillante élection au poste que vous occupez et elle est d'avance convaincue que sous votre houlette les travaux de la Commission II de notre Conférence aboutiront sûrement à de bons résultats.

A titre strictement personnel je dois aussi vous avouer Monsieur le Président qu'autant je me réjouis de votre élévation à la présidence de cette Commission, autant je suis navré de ne plus pouvoir compter sur votre précieux concours dont j'ai toujours bénéficié dans les moments difficiles de nos réunions antérieures, quand vous étiez "mon brave voisin de gauche". Comme l'on dit, "à quelque chose malheur est bon parfois" et même les changements les plus souhaités ont leur mélancolie. Vous allez sûrement me manquer.

Nous aimerions également saisir cette première occasion pour adresser nos vives félicitations à nos deux vice-présidents et aux autres membres qui siègent avec vous au Bureau de la Commission II, qui ne manqueront pas, nous en sommes persuadés, de vous être utiles pour le bon déroulement de nos travaux. Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à notre voisin de droite les îles Cook et aux Iles Salomon, nouveaux membres de notre Organisation.

Par votre intermédiaire, notre délégation aimerait dire combien elle sait gré à Son Excellence M. Alan Garcia Pérez, Président de la République du Pérou, pour sa brillante adresse prononcée hier matin 11 novembre dans la Salle plénière devant le Plénium de notre Conférence à l'occasion de la quatorzième Conférence McDougall. Nous l'en félicitons et sommes d'avance convaincus que ces prises de position claires et empreintes de la volonté résolue de lutter contre le sous-développement ne manqueront pas de nous inspirer pendant et après cette Conférence.

Enfin, nous ne saurions terminer ce liminaire sans féliciter et rendre un vibrant hommage mérité à M. Edouard Saouma, Directeur général de notre Organisation, la FAO, dont l'engagement résolu à soutenir les pays en développement n'a d'égal que sa conviction en l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique mondial plus juste et plus humain.

Après ce préliminaire dont il était impossible de me passer sans manquer à mon devoir, venons-en au coeur du sujet dont nous sommes saisis pour l'heure. La délégation congolaise a lu avec toute l'attention voulue le document principal C 85/3 ainsi que ses annexes, ensemble de documents tous traitant du Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 de notre Organisation, ainsi que les sections pertinentes y relatives du rapport conjoint de septembre 1985 du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier et du rapport de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil de la FAO.

La délégation congolaise dont les points de vue sur le Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 de la FAO ne sont plus un secret pour personne, tout au moins pour ceux des pays qui ont déjà eu l'occasion de siéger avec elle tant au Comité du Programme qu'au sein du Conseil de la FAO, aimerait saisir cette occasion qui s'offre à elle pour réaffirmer sa position sur la question à l'examen.

Premièrement, la délégation congolaise est résolument opposée au principe de la croissance zéro devenu nouvel artifice de certains pays développés décidés à bloquer l'évolution normale des budgets des organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Deuxièmement, les stratégies, priorités et programmes prévus par le Directeur général pour 1986-87 rencontrent notre plein agrément et, ce faisant, nous les appuyons sans réserve.

Troisièmement, devant les immenses besoins des pays en développement membres de l'Organisation, dont ceux de l'Afrique notamment, nous aurions logiquement préféré qu'il nous fut proposé une augmentation globale plus substantielle du niveau du budget pour le prochain biennium. Toutefois, pour tenir compte des efforts inlassables déployés par le Directeur général et visant à concilier les desiderata des forces en présence, nous sommes tout de même disposés à accepter les propositions de niveau de budget avancées par lui, étant assurés que les programmes techniques et économiques ont été privilégiés et nous espérons que cela nous permettra à tous d'approuver à l'unanimité ce projet de programme et budget pour le prochain biennium.

Nous espérons également que cette attitude, certes prudente mais non conséquente avec la situation préoccupante de l'heure, ne pourra en aucun cas constituer un mal-heureux précédent à perpétuer.

Quatrièmement, nous apprécions à leur juste valeur les efforts déployés par le Directeur général pour faire de plus en plus d'économies pour les dépenses d'administration de l'Organisation. Toutefois, nous nous interdisons de l'encourager à aller au-delà du seuil d'économies qui risquerait d'affecter de quelque manière que ce soit l'efficacité de l'Organisation.

Sur la base de cet ensemble de considérations, nous aimerions terminer en rappelant une fois de plus notre approbation pour ce programme de travail et budget 1986-87 de notre Organisation tel qu'il est présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO dans le document principal 85/3 complété par ses annexes et faisant nôtre l'idée que ce programme de travail et budget soit adopté à l'unanimité par une résolution pertinente.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Permettez-nous également de présenter nos félicitations au Secrétariat pour la présentation de ce document.

Brièvement, puisque nous prenons la parole pour la première fois, nous voudrions comme d'autres délégations vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission. Nous avons eu l'occasion dans plusieurs autres réunions d'apprécier vos qualités de diplomate compétent. Nous sommes d'ores et déjà convaincus que sous votre conduite notre Commission fera un travail excellent.

Nous serons brefs car nous avons eu l'occasion lors de plusieurs autres réunions de donner la position de notre pays sur le Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87. Nous approuvons les stratégies et priorités définies dans le document, particulièrement la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire, la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement. Nous félicitons particulièrement le Directeur général pour la priorité accordée à l'Afrique dans ce Programme de travail et budget. Il y a lieu de reconnaître les efforts du Directeur général pour arriver à la diminution des frais administratifs et de soutien au profit des programmes techniques.

Nous sommes d'accord avec les priorités et le niveau du budget et lorsque cet ordre du jour sera présenté à la Conférence en plénière, notre délégation lui apportera un appui total.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Contrariamente a nuestras costumbres de no prolongar las intervenciones con actos formales, deseo en esta particular ocasión expresar más allá sin embargo de cualquier consideración meramente protocolaria, y a nombre tanto de la delegación de Panamá como en el mío propio, la sincera satisfacción que sentimos por la designación de vuestra excelencia para presidir los trabajos de tan importante y decisiva Comisión de esta Conferencia.

Es para nosotros motivo de especial significado y complacencia que un tan distinguido representante de un país, Colombia, al cual nos unen sólidos y fraternales lazos históricos, entre ellos el más reciente de ser miembro prominente del Grupo de Contadora, dirija los rumbos de esta segunda Comisión, y es que nosotros, señor Embajador Bula Hoyos, conocemos, además, su inteligencia, capacidad, seriedad y honestidad por lo que su escogencia nos representa una garantía para el buen éxito de nuestras labores.

Permítanos, también, por su muy digno conducto hacer extensivas nuestras felicitaciones a los señores Vicepresidentes que le acompañarán en sus delicadas funciones, así como al señor Shah por su magnífica presentación.

Señor Presidente, deseamos iniciar nuestra intervención relativa al tema 12 del Calendario de trabajo, reiterando la posición tantas veces expresada por la delegación de Panamá, tanto en el recién concluido 88º período de sesiones del Consejo, cuando en otras oportunidades, y manifestar en consecuencia un total y firme rechazo, no sólo a la política de crecimiento cero, sino también al concepto de crecimiento simbólico propugnado por unos pocos países.

Insistimos en la antes mencionada posición, en primer lugar porque coincidimos plenamente con lo expresado por el distinguido representante de México, su excelencia el Embajador López Portillo, durante la última sesión del Consejo y que sintetiza nuestro pensamiento en el sentido que la política de crecimiento cero, y cito "simboliza un ataque al multilateralismo y congela la posibilidad de desarrollo que en momentos de crisis económica en el mundo afecta sobremanera las perspectivas principales del mundo en desarrollo".

Mantenemos nuestra posición, además, porque mientras de una parte conocemos de la reanudación de crecimiento económico con considerable vigor en gran parte del mundo industrializado, por la otra sabemos que en muchos países en desarrollo, particularmente en África, continúa el estancamiento e incluso el empeoramiento económico, el cual provoca, en consecuencia, en muchos casos y entre otras cosas, un aumento sensible de la necesidad del sector agrícola vital y de los recursos para combatir el hambre.

Creemos, por lo tanto, injustificado el aducido pretexto de la limitación del gasto público nacional en esos pocos países ricos, porque, como bien lo dijese en reciente ocasión la delegación de su país, señor Presidente, sería injusta e inhumana una tal concepción de esa política frente a las necesidades crecientes de millones de personas que padecen hambre y malnutrición. Perseveramos en nuestra posición porque nos preocupa la tendencia generalizada a reducir la asistencia internacional para el sector agrícola y en manera particular hacia aquellos organismos que como la FAO practican la acción multilateral y las consecuencias políticas que de tal tendencia se podrían derivar. La Delegación de mi país ha participado y seguido muy de cerca, tanto en las sesiones del Consejo, como en los Comités que lo asesoran y en los cuales se han examinado los aspectos relacionados con el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87. A través de dicha participación hemos sido testimonio no sólo de la actitud flexible y de profundo sentido de cooperación con que el Sr. Director General ha acogido los señalamientos planteados por los antes mencionados organismos, sino también del esfuerzo realizado para limitar al máximo el crecimiento del presupuesto en cuestión, a fin de que el mismo pueda recibir el consenso de todos los Estados Miembros. En efecto, haciendo una síntesis muy panorámica de la situación última destacamos el hecho de que el aumento neto anterior de 1,4 por ciento descendió al 1,1 por ciento; los aumentos calculados en un 14 por ciento han descendido al 5,2 por ciento, mientras que se mantendrá el aumento del 3,8 por ciento en los programas técnicos y económicos, o sea, que como se ve se han efectuado reducciones drásticas y excepcionales.

La Delegación de Panamá por lo tanto, aún insistiendo que las necesidades para hacer frente a los crecientes problemas son mucho mayores y reiterando su consenso con la preocupación del Comité de Finanzas expresada en los párrafos que van desde el 2.57 al 2.59 del documento CL 88/4, no puede hacer menos que elogiar la actitud del Sr. Director General y apoyar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87, en la forma que se nos presenta en el Documento C 85/3.

A tal propósito, estimamos oportuno manifestar nuestro apoyo total y decidido a las seis prioridades de la FAO: fomentar la producción de alimentos, mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, consolidar los sistemas de información, dar máxima importancia a la capacitación, promover la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo y conseguir resultados sobre el terreno. Apoyamos dichas prioridades porque estamos convencidos que ellas reflejan y sintetizan de manera clara, objetiva e innegable las perspectivas del mundo en desarrollo.

Apoyamos asimismo con vigor la apropiada repartición regional de las actividades ejecutadas por la FAO, manifestando dentro de este contexto la solidaridad de mi país con el énfasis, y evidenciamos énfasis, que debe brindarse a la situación del Africa y de manera especial a la del Africa Subsahariana. A este respecto, consideramos adecuadas las medidas ya adoptadas en cumplimiento de la Resolución 1/86 del Consejo, ya que la grave crisis que afecta a esta parte del mundo merece una atención prioritaria a sus necesidades de asistencia.

De la misma manera, nos manifestamos de acuerdo y por lo tanto expresamos nuestro apoyo no sólo para con los programas prioritarios, producción de alimentos y seguridad alimentaria, que consideramos básicos en la lucha contra el subdesarrollo, el hambre y la malnutrición, sino también para las prioridades en los medios de acción: base de datos y capacitación, ya que estimamos que los mismos son esenciales además de para la mejor comprensión e identificación de los problemas, también para hacer frente a los mismos de manera objetiva y capaz.

Queremos apoyar además, en principio, la disminución de gastos en los puestos de plantilla, llamando la atención sin embargo en nuestra preocupación por el hecho de que no se pueden hacer recortes indefinidamente de esta índole sin afectar a la eficiencia de la Organización. A tal propósito, insistimos que en el presente caso dichas disminuciones sean efectuadas sin que se deteriore la eficacia de la FAO.

Manifestamos nuestra complacencia por las actividades de las Oficinas Regionales de esta Organización así como por la manera que las mismas se realizan, razón por la cual las apoyamos. En relación con este aspecto, deseamos evidenciar el hecho de que no se propone ningún aumento de recursos en este renglón. De la misma manera, deseamos resaltar en el Programa de Presupuesto los aspectos relativos a la cooperación entre países en desarrollo y expresar nuestro apoyo total y prioritario a la CEPD y a la CTPD.

De igual-forma, nuestra Delegación destaca las características del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) de la FAO, reiterando su sostén al objetivo principal del mencionado Programa que consiste en dar respuestas eficaces a las .necesidades imprevistas e inesperadas de los Estados Miembros. El PCT, lo decimos por experiencia propia, constituye uno de los más valiosos instrumentos con los que cuenta la Organización para aportar beneficios rápidos y tangibles a los países en desarrollo, especialmente ahora que han disminuido otros recursos de asistencia para el desarrollo tales como el PNUD y el FIDA para el cual, recordamos, dicho sea de paso, la necesidad de que se lleve a cabo, en la mayor brevedad posible, la segunda reposición de sus recursos. Apoyamos, por lo tanto, no sólo el Programa de Cooperación Técnica sino también el porcentaje (13,7 por ciento) que el mismo ocupa dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuestos y que representa apenas un pequeño aumento durante los últimos diez años.

La delegación de Panamá, Señor presidente, cree en el diálogo, actúa siempre inspirada por el espíritu del Grupo de Contadora que cree en la solución negociada de las divergencias. Es dentro de este contexto que hacemos un apelo para que este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto sea aprobado por unanimidad, para que encuentre el consenso de todos los Estados Miembros.

Nosotros, sin embargo, sabemos que se puede dialogar con personas hasta con sordos o ciegos, pues puede bastar una señal para entendernos. Lo que resulta imposible es dialogar con paredes, con rocas, con bloques de hielo, ya que correríamos el riesgo de parecer poco inteligentes. Es por ésto que nos resultaría difícil poder justificar, en este último caso, la búsqueda de un mal interpretado consenso.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que hoy se nos presenta es el mínimo que podemos aceptar. El mismo es producto de un gran esfuerzo realizado tanto por el Sr. Director General como por la Secretaría de la FAO. El mismo recoge las prioridades dadas por la Conferencia anterior. El mismo

sigue las orientaciones específicas de las Conferencias Regionales, las cuales nos han señalado dónde debemos enfatizar. El mismo no es por lo tanto producto del capricho, ni mucho menos de la voluntad de unos pocos. El mismo es, por el contrario, de eso estamos seguros, el querer de las mayorías que sabemos cuáles son nuestras necesidades.

No podemos entender por qué se le quiere encontrar trabas, se le trata de obstaculizar, se buscan pretextos para no estar de acuerdo con él.

No entendemos cómo las prácticas nacionales de unos pocos países con sociedades prósperas, aunque sean los mayores contribuyentes, puedan estar en contra de las necesidades de millares de seres humanos que sufren los efectos del subdesarrollo y padecen el hambre y la malnutrición. Y es que no comprendemos tampoco que quienes durante el Consejo obstaculizaron el consenso, y esperamos no lo hagan durante esta Conferencia, sean precisamente aquellos a quienes, por efecto de la situación económica actual, posiblemente, en proporción y en relación con los países en desarrollo, les signifique finalmente un menor aporte relativo de sus contribuciones. No comprendemos cómo se puede negar lo que las mayorías, que conocen sus problemas, reclaman. Esto no sería justo.

Estimamos oportuno recordar las palabras del Sr. Mohamed Amin, el camarógrafo, que al agradecer, durante el día de ayer, el premio que se le otorgara, advertía de cómo la FAO señalase a su tiempo del peligro de una situación que, para usar sus propias palabras, pudo ser evitada en Africa.

A tal propósito, y para terminar Sr. Presidente, desearíamos citar las palabras de S.S. el Papa Juan Pablo II expresadas durante la celebración de la misa por él celebrada para conmemorar el 40º Aniversario de esta Organización y que dicen: "La historia dará su juicio definitivo sobre los individuos y los pueblos según cómo hayan sido llevados a la práctica los deberes de contribuir al bien de los hermanos, de acuerdo con la propia prosperidad y en una completa corresponsabilidad mundial según la justicia."

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Ce n'est pas par routine mais plutôt par devoir que la délégation camerounaise tient à vous féliciter ainsi que tous vos proches collaborateurs pour votre brillante élection au poste de président de notre Commission. Nous tenons également à féliciter le directeur des finances de la FAO pour la présentation du document qui fait actuellement l'objet de nos débats.

Lors des précédentes assises, de nombreux organes de la FAO ont étudié le document que nous avons sous les yeux, ont abattu certainement un travail important parce qu'ils nous ont livré des recommandations acceptables et nous ne devons que les en remercier puisqu'elles facilitent réellement nos réflexions.

L'examen du document que nous avons sous les yeux qui présente le programme de travail et le budget laisse apparaître que la FAO au cours du prochain biennium se propose de donner à ses interventions une dimension appréciable. Le programme de travail dégage en effet les priorités avec de grands objectifs assis sur l'augmentation de la production alimentaire et agricole, là sécurité alimentaire, le renforcement de l'impact des interventions de la FAO sur le terrain, la coopération technique entre les pays en développement, la formation et la recherche.

Pour gagner ce pari car c'est un véritable pari, un effort soutenu d'assistance technique et financière au programme visant à dynamiser les appareils de production alimentaires et agricoles dans les pays en développement apparaît comme un préalable qui requiert des ressources adéquates. Malheureusement, lorsqu'on observe la tendance actuelle de la baisse de l'aide extérieure et les ressources multilatérales, les perspectives d'avenir apparaissent très sombres.

On sait maintenant que la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA se heurte à des problèmes et que, malgré une relative expansion du niveau des dépenses se rapportant à l'exécution de projets financés par les Fonds fiduciaires, le volume global de l'activité de terrain de l'Organisation reste inférieur à celui des années 1978-1980.

De même, en 1984 la FAO a exécuté moins de programmes de terrain pour le PNUD que pour les programmes financiers sur les fonds fiduciaires. Cette situation qui ne peut se traduire que par un ralentissement dans le processus de développement des interventions de l'Organisation mérite notre attention.

La croissance zéro du budget de la FAO, souvent évoquée, ne pourrait, selon nous, faire l'objet de débats lors des présentes assises; en effet, ce débat serait inutile car cette croissance zéro est pratiquement appliquée puisque l'augmentation du budget constatée ne correspond même pas au niveau de l'inflation connue dans nos pays.

S'agissant des interventions de la FAO dans les différents problèmes et les domaines qui ont été évoqués, nous pensons que notre attention devra être apportée aux problèmes de formation à tous les niveaux, notamment dans le domaine de l'élevage, des pêches, de la recherche appliquée, de l'appui à l'identification, à la formulation et à l'exécution des projets.

Il s'agit ici de renforcer le secteur de la formation de personnel d'encadrement des paysans tant au niveau de la transformation qu'au niveau de la commercialisation, c'est-à-dire de la distribution et de la conservation des produits, en même temps qu'une formation au niveau du personnel technique, comme je l'ai dit, dans le domaine de l'élevage, des pêches, des forêts et de l'agriculture.

Ce renforcement de la formation du personnel approprié pour la transformation et la conservation des produits agricoles aboutira à la revalorisation de la qualité de ces produits et à la conception d'une stratégie de stockage et de régulation et à la réduction des pertes de récoltes.

C'est dans ce sens que ma délégation soutient en particulier le programme de coopération technique et économique proposé par le Directeur général et, il faut le dire clairement, nous appuyons totalement et sans réserve le programme de travail et budget tel que nous le propose le Directeur général de la FAO.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Gracias, señor Presidente. Siempre se ha considerado que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto marca el conjunto de directrices que rigen la labor de nuestra Organización en cada bienio. Las estrategias, prioridades y medios de acción que traza la FAO en esta materia tienen una importancia fundamental para los países en desarrollo, que soportan grandes desequilibrios en todos los órdenes.

El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto ha sido elaborado con base en las prioridades que han fijado los gobiernos a través de su participación en los órganos rectores. Las políticas de la FAO son siempre reflejo de las invitaciones prioritarias, de las necesidades y aspiraciones de los Estados Miembros.

Como lo ha expresado el Director General, los programas y prioridades han sido aceptados y aprobados por los principales Organismos y Conferencias Regionales, y no cabe duda de que con mayores recursos, mayor será el campo de acción de la FAO en una labor que se reconoce eficiente y positiva.

Si apoyamos los programas prioritarios en que se basa este documento, no podemos hablar aquí del funesto crecimiento cero. Sería ilógico e incoherente negar a nuestra Organización los medios y recursos mínimos para que siga cumpliendo su ingente y eficaz tarea.

El Director General ha presentado propuesta para atender las demandas de los países en desarrollo sin medir la sensibilidad de aquellos países desarrollados que, no obstante la recuperación económica en marcha, no están dispuestos a ofrecer todos los recursos necesarios a una Organización cuyo objetivo final, como reza en el preámbulo de su Constitución, es el de contribuir a la expansión de la economía mundial y a liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

Cabe destacar que las principales prioridades corresponden a recomendaciones de los gobiernos; producción de alimentos, seguridad alimentaria, capacitación, sistemas de información, cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo, y efectos positivos a nivel del campo.

Comparte la delegación de Colombia la especial importancia atribuida a África en los programas de la FAO, primordialmente en la grave crisis alimentaria, que todo el mundo deplora.

La delegación de Colombia considera que el Director General ha hecho un gran esfuerzo al reducir sus propuestas originales a la luz de las observaciones formuladas por los Organos Rectores. Del aumento del 1.4 se ha descendido al 1.1 por ciento, manteniendo aún así el aumento del 3.8 por ciento de los programas técnicos y económicos.

Pensamos que la buena gestión administrativa del Director General ha permitido que esas cifras se logren a base de una considerable reducción en los gastos administrativos y supresión de actividades de menor prioridad.

Posiblemente la cifra que ahora se propone ni siquiera costará un dólar más para los Estados Miembros. Sobre todo los países desarrollados podrán pagar más fácilmente sus cuotas, ya que la recuperación económica sólo se está llevando a cabo en esos países, en buena parte a expensas de los países en desarrollo.

En cambio, para los países en desarrollo será más difícil aportar las contribuciones, porque la constante revaluación del dólar en nuestros países nos impone mayores recursos nacionales para adquirir los dólares destinados a pagar las cuotas de la Organización, aparte de los recursos que necesitamos para pagar la deuda externa y sus servicios.

No podemos aceptar que el nivel del presupuesto de la FAO tenga crecimiento cero como corolario de las reducciones que algunos países desarrollados dicen estar aplicando en sus políticas fiscales nacionales, porque esos recursos de los Estados desarrollados se dirigen a las sociedades de opulencia de esos países, que todo lo tienen, que nada necesitan. En cambio, el presupuesto de la FAO está dedicado a los pueblos del Tercer Mundo, en donde millones y millones de seres humanos pasan hambre y malnutrición.

Las dos terceras partes del aumento presupuestal se destinan a Africa y, por ello, deben ser coherentes con las repetidas manifestaciones de los Jefes de Estado de los países desarrollados de apoyo a dicha región.

La delegación de Colombia hace un llamado cordial y respetuoso a aquellos pocos países desarrollados que, no obstante haber apoyado los programas y prioridades de este documento, aún mantienen reservas sobre el nivel del presupuesto; que, por favor, demuestren su solidaridad con el Tercer Mundo al acompañarnos aquí en esta Comisión y luego con su voto en la Plenaria a la aprobación unánime del nivel de presupuesto.

La delegación colombiana considera que el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 está dirigido a consolidar los logros que la FAO ha alcanzado hoy, viviendo uno de los mejores y más significativos momentos de su historia: orden, trabajo, reducción de la burocracia, menos teoría y más pragmatismo, mayor aproximación al campo, contactos permanentes con los gobiernos, seguimiento de las prioridades señaladas, atención vigilante y preocupación constantes por acrecentar el prestigio de la FAO en su contexto universal.

La delegación de Colombia estima que, superada la crisis económica por los países industrializados, éstos se hallan en posición favorable para ofrecer, en el seno de la FAO, una demostración real de la voluntad política que venimos demandando en favor de la solución de los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas del Tercer Mundo.

La delegación de mi país da su aprobación al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 que se nos propone en el documento en estudio; pero al dar nuestra aprobación a esta propuesta, que significa un aumento real neto con relación al bienio anterior del 1.1 por ciento, lo hacemos con el convencimiento de que se trata de un incremento mínimo que se puede aceptar para una Organización como la FAO, que tiene que afrontar solicitudes crecientes de los países en vías de desarrollo sólo con el criterio pragmático que se ha propuesto.

Por último, la delegación de Colombia da su pleno apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica por la índole fundamental y esencial del PCT al proporcionar los medios de respuesta rápida y eficaz a las solicitudes de ayuda urgente, en pequeña escala, procedentes de Estados Miembros y de Organizaciones intergubernamentales.

J. F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon): La délégation gabonaise voudrait saisir cette première occasion pour adresser ses chaleureuses félicitations aux nouveaux membres admis au sein de notre Organisation, j'ai cité les îles Cook et les îles Salomon.

Ces félicitations s'adressent également à vous-même, M. le Président, pour votre élection à la présidence de la Commission, Notre collègue du Congo a déjà exprimé nos sentiments à ce sujet.

La délégation de mon pays a suivi tous les débats relatifs à l'examen de l'actuel point de l'ordre du jour, qu'il s'agisse du Comité des produits, du Comité financier et du Conseil, Elle donne donc son adhésion aux objectifs et priorités dégagés par le programme, tout comme elle se félicite des stratégies retenues pour y parvenir. En cela, elle fait siennes les observations formulées par les honorables délégués de la Chine, de l'Inde et du Cameroun, notamment : le renforcement de l'impact de l'action de la FAO sur le terrain, une plus grande coopération technique entre pays en développement et une plus grande attention accordée à la femme et à son rôle déterminant dans la société rurale, ainsi que la place de secteurs tels que la formation, la pêche, les forêts, dans le développement des pays en développement.

La formation notamment devrait être entendue non seulement comme la formation de personnel d'encadrement, comme le disait l'honorable délégué du Cameroun, mais il y a également une place considérable à donner à la formulation, à la gestion et à l'évaluation des priorités des programmes. C'est un secteur qui a toujours fait défaut dans nos pays.

Mon pays est persuadé que le PCT peut et doit jouer un rôle efficace dans ces différents domaines à condition bien entendu que la Conférence lui en donne les moyens.

Pour terminer, ma délégation souhaite que soient prises en considération les plantes à racine, les plantes à tubercules les plantins et les légumes que nous avons appelés jusqu'ici légumes secondaires, en s'inspirant des orientations proposées à la réunion de Kinshasa et, j'en suis certain, à la définition qui en sera faite par la Conférence régionale de la FAO à Brazzaville.

A. EL-SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the merciful and the compassionate, I would like at the outset to extend my sincere thanks to the Director-General for the efforts he exerted in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 which is under discussion.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr Shah for his informative and overall declaration he made this morning.

We are gratified to note the true and constructive endeavour in developing the method of work and in proposing a programme that will impact and benefit the Member States of this Organization.

Within this context we welcome the priorities and strategies over the next biennium which reflect all discussions and recommendations proposed by the organs of this Organization. We also welcome the focus on technical and economic programmes in comparison with other programmes which do not emphasize economic and technical cooperation. We are sure that these programmes are capable of increasing agricultural production and the quality of food security. I shall discuss all these aspects in detail in further meetings.

We welcome also the effort to have the necessary appropriations despite limited financial resources, as well as a true endeavour to decrease the management costs of these programmes.

We accept the proposed level of the budget.

Last but not least, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, as well as your Vice-Presidents, on your appointments.

O. SALES PETINGA (Portugal): Monsieur le Président, nous voudrions tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre nomination. Monsieur le Président, nous sommes d'accord sur le Programme de travail et budget et pour cela nous lui donnerons notre approbation.

Cependant, nous aimerions faire quelques commentaires sur les divers items des documents et nous nous réservons pour présenter des déclarations plus complètes au moment que nous considérerons plus approprié.

R.F. DE JESUS NETO (Angola): M. le Président, j'aimerais avant tout vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de la deuxième Commission de la Conférence, et je remercie vivement M. Shah pour l'excellente présentation du document qu'il a faite ce matin.

La délégation angolaise a examiné avec intérêt le document C 85/3, c'est-à-dire le Programme de travail et budget pour 1986-87 présenté par le Directeur général à la Conférence.

Les organismes internationaux de la famille des Nations Unies ont tous des politiques budgétaires dont la tendance est la croissance zéro. Ma délégation rejoint la position exprimée par les distingués délégués du Pakistan et M. l'Ambassadeur de la République du Congo au Conseil, renforcée par la Tunisie, à savoir que le principe de la croissance zéro ne devrait pas être appliqué systématiquement dans nos différentes institutions des Nations Unies. En effet, ce principe ne correspond pas au régime actuel des besoins réels et prioritaires auxquels la FAO doit faire face.

Nous lançons donc un vibrant appel à la conscience humaine pour que le cri des affamés du monde soit entendu en ce quarantième anniversaire de cette Organisation. L'ampleur de la crise alimentaire dans les pays du tiers monde, et principalement en Afrique, exige de la FAO des efforts supplémentaires pour aider l'humanité à éloigner le spectre de la faim. Les stratégies et les priorités du programme en sont les preuves. Nous nous réjouissons du réalisme compétent qu'a démontré le Directeur général en révisant la croissance du budget de 1,40 à 1,14 pour la période 1986-87. Ma délégation l'appuie inconditionnellement. S'agissant de la répartition régionale du budget, nous sommes heureux de constater que la priorité a été donnée à l'Afrique.

A.W.N.I. AL-SAMURRAI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic): The delegation of my country would like to express its sincerest wishes for success to you, Mr Chairman, and your collaborators and all those who work for this Organization.

We agree on the priorities and strategies mentioned in the document under review, but we still think that there is one very important issue for humanity. We are talking here about training, its activities, its policies, as well as the role of the rural woman.

All these topics need more activities and more programmes. Moreover, this type of activity is one which could enable us to muster human will towards increasing production. Hence these topics should be highlighted, in conjunction with the activities fostered by the Organization, in alleviating the sufferings of the African peoples.

We agree also with all the training programmes for women which need greater or clearer strategies in this particular direction.

A.K. OSUBAN (Uganda): May we add our congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, and your Vice-Chairman on your election to steer the course of this Commission's discourse.

We participated in the discussions of this agenda item both at the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Sessions of the Council. It is our view that the FAO Programme of Work has been drawn up on acceptable principles. We approve of the strategies and priorities as outlined by the Director-General.

As regards the budget level, I should like to remind delegates of last Sunday's Gospel about the widow, as preached by His Holiness the Pope. In terms of budgeting, we, the developing countries, face greater difficulties in meeting the increased payments than perhaps the developed countries who are mostly our benefactors. The argument has been advanced that higher levels of contributions to FAO will mean reductions to contributions through other channels. This should not be a worry to us as long as we are convinced of the justifications for expenditure as outlined in the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget. The cause of FAO of fighting hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty is an impelling one and we do not need any excuse to support it. We support the level of the Programme of Work and Budget as presented by the Director-General.

O. AYO (Nigeria): I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election. I also wish to congratulate Mr Shah for his excellent presentation of the Director-General's speech.

The Nigerian Delegation wishes to commend the Director-General, the Secretariat and the FAO Council for the excellent quality of the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget, especially with respect to the strategies, priorities and programme proposals. We therefore endorse the giving of the right emphasis to the promotion of food production in all countries, particularly in Africa which is still in the midst of the worst food crisis in its history.

We also endorse the Director-General's reduction of administrative and support costs in favour of FAO technical and economic programmes. We support the emphasis being given to the Global Information and Early Warning System which, it is hoped, will increase food security.

Our main reservation is with respect to zero net programme growth. We feel that with the enormous problems facing the Member Nations, it is necessary to step up the Programme of Action.

Having said that, Mr Chairman, my delegation fully supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

SALMON PADMANAGARA (Indonesia): Mr. Chairman, we congratulate you on your election to the Chair, and we also congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen. We appreciate Mr Shah's clear introduction.

In the atmosphere of commemorating the 40th Anniversary of FAO, it is appropriate to reflect on relationships between FAO and the Member Countries which FAO is serving, especially in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget which we are debating now. I would like briefly to mention the relationship between Indonesia and FAO.

Indonesia has been benefitting from the assistance given by FAO through numerous technical programmes and consultancy services and projects. We appreciate the role FAO has played in contributing to the success achieved in our agricultural development, particularly in the field of food production. It should be realized, however, that the services of FAO have made an impact on the success of our agricultural development because of the consistency that exists between our political will, our national development, our agricultural plans, our budgetary appropriations and our implementation in the field. In other words, the key to success in overcoming problems is our own determination and our own serious efforts, without which no external assistance would provide the desired results.

Indonesia supports the proposed Programme of Work of FAO, which we understand has been developed to meet the needs of developing countries based on the vast experience which FAO has accumulated during the forty years of its existence.

Indonesia also supports the proposed level of the Budget, as we take into consideration and fully understand the reasoning of the Director-General in presenting it.

Finally, we support the overall priority given to Africa.

B. KOUNDIANO (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne tient également à vous féliciter pour le choix fait en votre personne pour diriger les débats. Votre expérience personnelle et votre expérience de la maison sont un garant sûr pour le succès de nos travaux.

En outre, nous voudrions féliciter M. le Directeur du Comité financier pour la brillante présentation de son rapport.

Le Programme de travail et budget qui nous est présenté met à notre avis en évidence les objectifs très réalistes, les stratégies énoncées ainsi que les programmes techniques qui tiennent compte des orientations de nos différentes instances au sein de la FAO et des Nations Unies. Aussi devons-nous adopter le programme de travail qui nous est soumis. La délégation guinéenne tient à insister sur un certain nombre de points. Il s'agit tout particulièrement de la réduction des dépenses administratives au bénéfice des actions sur le terrain, de la collaboration entre les pays en développement et du principe de la formation du personnel de l'agriculture à tous les niveaux: agriculture, élevage, forêts, etc."Le volet formation est l'un des aspects de la FAO où les plus grands efforts doivent être fournis.

Nous tenons également à féliciter le Secrétariat, qui a mis un accent tout particulier sur la priorité accordée à l'Afrique. Le Programme de travail et budget soumis à notre avis est bien le reflet de la politique au sein de la FAO. Aussi devons-nous recommander son adoption et lancer un appel aux autres Etats Membres en leur demandant de l'adopter, dans l'intérêt des Etats Membres et de l'humanité tout entière.

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/II/PV/2

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(12 November 1985)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La deuxième seance est ouverte à 14 h 45, sous la présidence de
G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

12. Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

MAINA SANDA (Niger): Monsieur le Président, honorables délégués, Mesdames, Messieurs, je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, pour avoir bien voulu m'accorder la parole en premier en ce début de notre deuxième séance de cet après-midi. Prenant la parole pour la première fois, permettez-moi de vous féliciter très sincèrement pour votre brillante élection à la tête de notre Commission. D'avance, il ne subsiste aucun doute dans mon esprit sur le fait que votre sagesse, votre compétence et votre expérience de forum de ce genre conduiront notre Commission à des résultats excellents, à la dimension de la volonté qui anime, j'en suis sûr, les honorables délégués ici présents d'effacer de la face du monde le spectre de la faim.

Je voudrais remercier M. Shah pour l'excellente présentation qu'il a faite du document qui nous a été soumis. Nous avons étudié avec beaucoup d'attention le document C 85/3, Programme de travail et Budget, pour le biennium 1986-87 de l'Organisation. Nous saluons également la sagesse et la clairvoyance de M. le Directeur général de l'Organisation pour sa volonté d'imprimer à ce budget la nécessité d'allouer de manière de plus en plus efficace des ressources qui se font de plus en plus rares.

Tout en reconnaissant cette sagesse, nous appelons cependant son attention et nous sommes confiants qu'il saura, dans les mesures qu'il sera amené à exécuter, préserver le nerf vital de notre Organisation, l'essence même de son efficacité.

Beaucoup de brillants orateurs avant moi ont pris la parole pour signaler que la croissance zéro serait une manière implicite de déclarer que nous sommes vaincus, que la fin de la lutte contre la faim n'est pas pour demain, car accepter le principe de la croissance zéro serait accepter que beaucoup d'êtres, plus qu'il n'y en a eu l'an dernier et les autres années, souffriront encore de la faim.

Tout en reconnaissant la nécessité évidente de réduire les charges administratives, nous recommandons vivement au Directeur général de préserver le nerf et l'efficacité de notre Organisation.

Le défi qui nous est lancé, Mesdames et Messieurs, nous impose de dépasser la simple rhétorique et nous invite à des actions concrètes et dynamiques. J'en suis sûr le combat n'est pas perdu, nous pouvons le gagner et j'ai confiance que la communauté ici présente relèvera ce défi. De la manière dont nos débats se déroulent, j'ai l'impression que le consensus autour de l'adoption du budget s'impose.

Pour notre part, nous voudrions vous assurer que nous soutenons et approuvons le budget et le programme de travail présentés par l'Organisation. Nous saluons aussi la place privilégiée qui a été faite à l'Afrique car c'est là que se trouve le gros des besoins.

Monsieur le Président, en vous félicitant encore une fois, je vous prie donc de conduire avec la même clairvoyance et la même sagesse la suite de nos débats.

C. THOMSEN (Denmark): My delegation wishes to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and your two Vice-Chairmen on your election. We are also grateful to Mr Shah for his introduction to our deliberations.

On the subject of the Programme, Work and Budget, we would like to make a more general statement now and reserve the right to come back tomorrow on some more particular aspects of the Programme.

As regards the level of the budget, I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Danish Delegation can support and accept the budget level as it is now proposed.

We should like again to express our appreciation of the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the full programme of work and budget for 1986-87, and of the endeavours to arrive at a proposal which should make a consensus possible. My delegation is satisfied that the net programme increase has been reduced to 1.1 percent or five million dollars, the way it has been calculated, and we would hope that the proposal as it now stands could meet with a general support.

We are, in fact, more concerned about the contents of the Programme of Work and about the role of the Organization in the longer term. In this connection we would again like to commend the Director-General for his efforts to reduce the non-technical administrative and support costs in the proposed budget. We are confident, however, that further progress could be made in this respect through increased rationalization, and would encourage continued efforts in this direction.

With regard to the overall balance of the Programme of Work - in other words, the relative importance of the various parts of the Programme - we are concerned to see that the Forestry Programme, which, for a number of reasons, we believe would deserve increased attention, has been allocated only 4 percent of the budget as compared to 13.7 percent for the Technical Cooperation Programme. In our opinion, this relationship does not properly reflect the relative importance of these two parts of the total programme, and thus an adjustment would be desirable from our point of view.

We would next like to refer to the statement in the Director-General's instruction to the Programme of Work and Budget, to the effect that the role of FAO should be that of an honest broker between donors and recipients. We should not forget that the resources of FAO form only a small part of the total amount of resources involved in the food and agricultural development in the world. The Organization has an important role to play, but it is essential, in order to get the best possible use of the limited resources, that continued attention be given to defining the proper role of the Organization as a partner in the process of agricultural development.

In view of the limitation of resources and the changing situation in countries, the necessary adjustment of the role and functions of the Organization become particularly important in the longer term. In our opinion, the Organization is at present trying to do too many things in order to satisfy all the varying demands for assistance. This would appear to lead to a certain rigidity in the structure of programmes, with little change from biennium to biennium. In the present situation we contend that there is a special need for a concentration of efforts on a limited number of well defined action priorities.

There is also a need for increasing concern about the impact of the various programme activities and about the resources deployed. The challenge is not only in the magnitude of the resources available but also the effectiveness of the implementation to be achieved. As we have stated elsewhere, we hope that the opinion is that it will be timely on the occasion of the 40 years' celebrations to pause and discuss in depth what we would wish the role and functions of the FAO to be during the next decade or two.

As it is a service Organization the FAO will naturally have to adjust itself to changes in the world which it will have to serve. This applies particularly to changes in the traditional technical cooperation activities. There is therefore a need for a technical reform albeit of a gradual nature. There is need for deliberation and discussion between all interested parties to clarify the nature of this reform. In view of the complications and difficulties involved we would here like to repeat our invitation to member countries and others interested to take part in a searching analysis and debate with the objective of using to the best standard the limited resources of the Organization in a world of change.

N. SANOGHO (Mali): Monsieur le Président, prenant la parole pour la première fois, permettez-moi de vous présenter au nom de la délégation malienne nos vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de cette importante commission de notre Conférence. Nous voudrions également présenter nos félicitations à MM. les Vice-Présidents et à M. le Directeur du Bureau du Programme, du Budget et de l'Evaluation pour son excellent exposé. Nous avons apprécié l'effort de rationalisation d'utilisation des ressources de notre Organisation. Nous appuyons donc le programme et le budget qui nous ont été présentés.

Toutefois, permettez-nous d'exprimer notre inquiétude pour la croissance du budget qui, à terme, pourrait mettre en cause le dynamisme de notre Organisation.

Nous accueillons avec intérêt la place accordée à l'Afrique dans le programme et souhaiterions que la sécurité alimentaire continue à être la priorité des priorités.

Mon pays, le Mali, est un pays désertique, confronté à une désertification très intensive. C'est pourquoi nous avons inscrit comme objectifs fondamentaux de notre développement économique et social l'autosuffisance alimentaire et la lutte contre la désertification. Aussi nous pensons qu'il est judicieux d'accorder une place plus importante dans les programmes de la FAO au programme forestier qui pour le moment représente moins de 5 pour cent du budget.

En souhaitant plein succès aux travaux de notre Commission, je réitère notre appui au programme technique et au budget du biennium 1986-87.

DATO'ABU BAKAR MAHMUD (Malaysia): As this is the first time that my delegation is making its declaration may I join the others before me in congratulating you, Sir, on your election and also those of the two Vice-chairmen. The election of Ambassador Bula Hoyos of Colombia as our Chairman this time is a tribute to his ability. I have had rare occasions in the past when I have been here to serve under such a very competent Chairman. I have no doubt that with his independent posture and great charm will help to iron out some of the problems we encounter - if ever - throughout the Session. I also congratulate Mr Shah on his very brilliant and very clear presentation on behalf of the Director-General on the Programme and Budget for 1986-87. On the whole Malaysia is in full support for the whole of this. But I have some comments on the general thrust of the Budget as well as on some specific programmes, particularly at the regional level. Having participated in the preparation of the Budget, both in Council and Finance Committees, my delegation congratulates the Director-General and his staff in establishing the six principal aims, namely promotion of food production, increasing food security, strategy for fishery and forestry systems, emphasis on training and enhancement of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (ECDC and TCDO) and also promoting impact at local level. The efforts of the Director-General and his staff to reduce the Budget from the level of US\$ 450.00 or 1.4 percent increase to a level of increase which is only 1.1 percent, deserve our commendation. My delegation feels there should not be any serious problems in getting the Budget and Programme of Work approved. The total recognition of decisions taken and the expressions of concern made at various international fore, including the Regional Conferences of FAO and those of the Programme and Finance Committees, in the preparation of the Plan of Work and Budget demonstrate the high judgement applied by the Director-General and his Secretariat in the preparation of the Budget.

On the special focus for Africa, my delegation has no reservation whatsoever with the priority given to Africa considering the poverty suffered by many countries in that continent. However, as you, Sir, are fully aware, poverty and malnutrition tend to be universal, and exist in many parts of the world. Therefore I am sure that FAO will continue to monitor these constantly and provide specific attention. On the question of individual programmes I will take just a few which may be implemented at regional level, particularly that at the Asia region. Malaysia considers that a study to the year AD 2000 is very important and timely since it would throw light on the world food situation and also the position of primary commodities in terms of prices for the next 15 years. We are therefore interested in the study since Malaysia is a major producer of primary commodities, such as palm oil, rubber, and cocoa. In the event that these commodities are not to be included in the study, my delegation would humbly request for them to be so included.

With regard to the emphasis on training, we fully endorse the programmes as outlined by the FAO in the proposed Budget. Its importance cannot be over emphasized since it has been proved to be one of the most effective means of promoting knowledge and skills as well as the transfer of technology to target groups. Training of national groups would contribute a great deal to the implementation of the various programmes of the FAO. We also lend support to the study on cropping intensity since it is part of the method of developing farming systems in my country. This is because most of the farms are of small size as are also the holdings. The study could provide help in increasing farmers' incomes in the long run. I hope that Malaysia will be included in the six countries proposed for the study.

On livestock, we would wish to endorse the programme on livestock feed. Malaysia is a heavy importer of these foodstuffs because domestic production is costly.

I would also comment on the forestry programme, including the planting of medicinal plants. It would also perhaps be helpful for the Secretariat to consider increasing the subsidy on forestry programmes to many developing countries, including my own. Based on the budgetary allocation for fishery, forestry and other support programmes in C 85/3, as well as in other supporting documents, my country sees vast possibilities of benefitting from those programmes, as it has done in the past, either directly or indirectly, by increasing food production, food security and distribution and by raising the income of the farmers and fishermen through technological improvement and institutional reforms. With these comments we lend support to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 as embodied in C 85/3 and other supporting documents.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra al próximo orador les ruego que me permitan volver a un punto relacionado con la organización de nuestros trabajos que habíamos dejado pendiente esta mañana.

Los representantes de los grupos regionales nos han comunicado los países que deberían formar parte del Comité de Redacción y que someto a su consideración. Serían los siguientes: Países Bajos, Francia, Canadá, Australia, Kenya, Argelia, México, Brasil, Líbano, Irán, Filipinas, Bangladesh, y Estados Unidos de América.

Se ha recomendado igualmente que el Comité de Redacción sea presidido por el distinguido colega y amigo Hartford T. Jennings, de los Estados Unidos de América.

Pregunto a ustedes si la Comisión está de acuerdo en apoyar la anterior recomendación.

Entiendo que unánimemente apoyamos esas propuestas. El señor Jennings, Presidente del Comité de Redacción es bien conocido, ha participado como delegado de los Estados Unidos en las últimas reuniones del Consejo, tiene experiencia y conocimientos que facilitarán su importante tarea.

En nombre de la Comisión felicito al Presidente y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción y les anticipo nuestro agradecimiento por su valiosa cooperación.

Si como está previsto esta Comisión concluye sus deliberaciones sobre el Tema 12, mañana al final de la reunión de la tarde, lo cual sería muy deseable, el Comité de Redacción se reuniría el viernes en la noche.

El Comité de Redacción en su primera reunión se ocuparía justamente de este Tema 12, todo ello dentro del plan deseable de realizar en el sentido de que el martes de la próxima semana, día 19, en la mañana esta Comisión pueda considerar la adopción de la parte del Informe referente al Tema 12, a fin de que la Plenaria de la Conferencia pueda aprobar esa parte de nuestro informe sobre el Tema 12 y realizar la votación sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Este es un plan que corresponde a la afortunada experiencia de la Conferencia pasada y estoy seguro que todos ustedes van a colaborar para que podamos realizarlo.

O. RAINHO DA SILVA NEVES (Brazil) : Mr Chairman, the Brazilian Delegation wishes to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairmen on your election. We are particularly happy to see you, the experienced and active representative of a country with very close links with Brazil, chairing this Commission. We also wish to thank Dr Shah for his comprehensive introduction to this item of the agenda.

The nature and extent of the Programme of Work and Budget is the best indication of the dimension of multilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture under the aegis of the FAO. If that is so, there is not much room for optimism. In fact, past discussions on this item, in the Council and elsewhere, have provided on the part of some developed countries clear indications of a negative attitude towards the modest proposals before us. Another sign of the ever-increasing deterioration of the will to participate in multilateral undertakings is the trend to favour bilateral funds or special "windows".

Brazil greatly appreciates the proposals of the Director-General for a modest increase in technical programmes and a reduction in administrative and support costs. FAO's budget proposal deserves our full support. We have already committed ourselves at the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council but, at this juncture, we would like to confirm it and in so doing answer the appeal made by the Director-General in his statement to the Conference.

The decision of my Government has to be considered in the light of the very heavy contribution assessed on Brazil in accordance with the esoteric UN scale of contributions. In 1985 Brazil is to contribute US\$3.3 million to the budget, a large amount if one takes into consideration our stage of development, the Brazilian debt commitments, and the unfavourable international trade environment. A casual glance at the scale of contributions shows that many developed countries contribute far less to the budget of the Organization, and that is why we intend to make a specific reservation on this matter at the appropriate time in Commission III.

My delegation fully supports the emphasis given in the Agriculture Programme to the needs of small farmers, the production of staple cereals and so-called secondary crops, the use and management of soil and water and the control of animal diseases. In the "crops" sub-programme we appreciate the activities related to the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

As far as the Fisheries and Forestry Programmes are concerned, we wish to confirm our support of the recommendations of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and the 9th World Forestry Congress. We specially support, in the Fisheries Programme, the activities of the Marine Resources and Environment Sub-programme, which aims at the improvement of knowledge on world marine fish stocks.

As we stated at the last session of the Council, Brazil has been a strong supporter of the Technical Cooperation Programme and is convinced of its relevance to developing countries. The Brazilian Delegation excludes, therefore, any thought of zero growth in the already modest levels of funds assigned to the programme. We wish as well to reiterate our support for the establishment of a new category (c) for projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation. And we hope that the percentage of resources allocated to TCDC projects will increase further, taking into account the recruitment of experts and consultants and the procurement of equipment and supplies of developing countries.

Still in regard to the TCP, we want to point out that we pay particular tribute to its universal character, which has permitted FAO to give assistance to all developing countries. In order to face the large number of demands and the real needs of the developing countries, we support an increase in the TCP's share of the Regular Programme in the budget proposals to be presented. Besides, my delegation believes that the present distribution by nature of technical assistance projects is reasonable, and as well the regional allocation for projects approved which seems to have reached a point of equilibrium that reflects quite faithfully the needs of the whole developing world. We believe, on the other hand, that extra resources should be channelled to the most stricken food-crisis areas, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, by additional contributions and initiatives through FAO.

My delegation could not avoid expressing its concern at a number of references made to the TCP at the last Council Session by a few delegations from developed countries that questioned the Programme in some of its basic and most positive features. The unprogrammed nature of the TCP, for instance, has been mentioned as a limiting characteristic of the scope of the Programme. My delegation believes, however, that the flexibility of the TCP is one of its main advantages, since it enables FAO to intervene rapidly when and wherever possible, giving the necessary relief in case of emergency and giving support to the development-oriented projects.

Others have favoured a position according to which technical aid should be only financed through bilateral contributions. My delegation believes in this respect that the engagement of FAO in technical assistance is a fundamental objective of this Organization, which is, in the first instance, established not only to fight hunger and malnutrition, but also to attack these great challenges at their roots by promoting integrated rural development.

The question of using assessed contributions in development assistance programmes has particularly troubled some developed countries, with significant shares of the Organization's regular contributions. In this connection, the Brazilian Delegation feels comfortable to support once

again the TCP in its present features, bringing our contribution which is extremely high, as we have indicated earlier on, paradoxically higher, I must say, than that of many developed countries. My delegation believes that the restriction of technical aid to programmes of a bilateral nature is not acceptable, since it would represent a serious limitation to the universal character that programmes like the TCP absolutely must have.

The Brazilian Delegation is also concerned with the expression put forward in the last Session of the FAO Council favouring the confining of TCP to emergency operations only. We believe, however, that the present rate of 25 percent of projects approved for emergency and 75 percent for technical assistance is reasonable and should be maintained. Emergency operations can be covered from other sources like the World Food Programme and the breaking of the present rates would represent a distortion of the Programme's basic nature.

My delegation cannot understand critics on a possible lack of information on the TCP. As is well known, the Director-General decided to request an external and independent evaluation of the Programme and drew the conclusions and recommendations of the consultants to the Council's attention. The need to provide adequate follow-up of TCP projects has been a permanent concern of the Director-General and we believe FAO is taking the necessary measures to meet all concern in this regard expressed by the consultants' report.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our support to the FAO Council's decision to authorize the increase of the maximum ceiling of TCP projects from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. We believe this measure will re-establish the real maximum ceiling for projects eroded over the years by inflation. The TCP should, however, avoid significant and undesirable decreases in the number of projects, trying to maintain as much as possible the present average number of projects by year in order to respond adequately to the increasing number of requests.

As regards Annex I of the Document C 85/3, "Programmes by Region", my delegation fully agrees with the analysis presented for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and supports the indicated priorities and the medium-term objectives. We wish at this point to pay special tribute to the activities developed by the technical cooperation networks established in the Region and by the FAO Regional Offices and Representatives who are of great relevance for the implementation of regional and national activities. We also reiterate our concern with the relatively lesser attention that seems to be given by the international community to the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and hope that no attempt will be made to reduce the amount of resources estimated to be channelled to the Region during the next biennium. As an example of the smallness of the Region's share in the total Budget, I would mention that the amount to be allocated for Latin America in the TCP Programme represents less than half of the resources due by the Latin American and Caribbean countries as contributions to the 1984-85 Budget.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we express our hope that member countries will take into due consideration the relevance of the task and responsibilities of this Organization and that a common understanding will be reached in regard to this balanced Budget. In our view, more time should be taken in this Commission for the analysis of the structure and priorities of the Budget itself and less time for the mere discussion on the level of the Budget.

Mr Chairman, after this somewhat lengthy intervention we reserve the right to come back later on on some specific items on specific aspects on this subject.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand) : Mr Chairman, first of all I would like to extend our warm congratulations to you on your election, and congratulate the Vice-Chairmen on their election to high posts of this Commission. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for his lucid introduction to this subject.

My delegation has attached great importance to Document C 85/3 and also to Document C 85/LIM/9. In this context I would like to reaffirm that my delegation finds it difficult to accept the zerogrowth Budget. We believe that the proposed Budget should be based on the demand and the need of all Member Governments of this Organization, both developed and developing countries. In the

present situation there are in our view great and growing needs of the developing countries which require more assistance from FAO than in the past. Thus, we are not happy to see that the proposed Budget has a net programme increase of only 1.1 percent. It should be higher than that.

Mr Chairman, like the Brazilian Delegation we also believe that the budget allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme should be higher than 13.7 percent. We are happy to note that the Director-General's final proposal indicated a decrease in the overall net programme from US\$6.2 million to US\$5 million, thereby a reduction of US\$1.2 million. Therefore, we thank the Director-General for his efforts. However, my delegation would like to propose that we add the amount of US\$91.2 million as mentioned above to the Technical Cooperation Programme. Unfortunately, little attention has been paid to this requirement so far. If this were so, then the proposed budget for TCP should be US\$52.6 million.

As a representative of a recipient nation, the Thai Delegation has always considered that the TCP is an important instrument that enables the FAO to respond promptly to urgent requests for assistance from the developing world. The TCP also helps to fill gaps in technical assistance not filled by other donors, as well as in investment programmes. This is very important to the developing states. Therefore, we would like to appeal to the Members of this Conference to seriously consider my delegation's proposal to increase the level of TCP.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation would be prepared to support the majority of the Member States represented at this Conference in approving the Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87.

J.C. JARA D. (Chile): Gracias, Señor Presidente. Reciba las felicitaciones y el agrado de mi Delegación por presidir usted esta importante Comisión, así como también felicitamos a los Vicepresidentes elegidos y al Sr. Shah por su excelente presentación de la materia que nos interesa. La Delegación chilena desea destacar la orientación dada al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87, en el sentido de reducir los gastos de gestión y apoyo liberando con esto recursos para destinarlos a programas técnicos y económicos. En esta forma, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica se verá reforzado con una mayor asignación presupuestaria.

Respecto al PCT es opinión de esta delegación que ha sido una fuente muy importante de asistencia. Mi país coincide con los esfuerzos a realizar durante el próximo bienio para disponer de una mayor cantidad de insumos especialmente en Africa, capacitar a la mujer sobre su papel en la agricultura, luchar contra las enfermedades del ganado, sentar directrices para la conservación del medio ambiente y la conservación y rehabilitación de las bases de recursos forestales y apoyar la investigación mediante estudios, cursos y becas de perfeccionamiento.

De igual forma en el ámbito de nuestra región dentro del Programa de Recursos Naturales, son importantes las acciones que se están realizando en cuanto a la capacitación de equipos nacionales de investigación y a la mejora de la productividad de pequeños agricultores, así como la atención que se prestará a la utilización más eficaz de la maquinaria agrícola.

En el Programa de Cultivos, es destacable también la labor que se desarrollaría en la región sobre redes de cooperación técnica en leguminosas, cereales y prevención de pérdidas de alimentos. En el Programa de Ganadería, interesa sobremanera el apoyo que se pueda brindar a los programas nacionales de lucha contra las enfermedades de los animales y de protección contra la propagación de enfermedades exóticas.

En cuanto al Programa de Fomento de la Investigación y la Tecnología, es importante el apoyo que se brindaría a las redes regionales de cooperación técnica sobre biogas y energías no convencionales como también las actividades de capacitación y apoyo a actividades nacionales de investigación.

Dentro del Programa de Desarrollo Rural, se manifiesta el interés para que la Oficina Regional preste colaboración a los países en todas aquellas actividades relacionadas con el desarrollo rural como también resulta interesante el fortalecimiento que pueda brindarse a la red de comercialización y a la organización de cursos de capacitación sobre sistemas mejorados de comercialización.

Respecto al Programa de Política Alimentaria Agrícola es importante la intención de la Oficina Regional para fomentar durante el próximo bienio el comercio interregional, así como la realización de estudios y prestación de asistencia técnica sobre las medidas para el fomento a las exportaciones, las empresas conjuntas y la integración subregional.

En lo concerniente al Programa de Montes, apoyamos las actividades programadas conducentes a conservar los recursos genéticos, conservar y rehabilitar las bases de recursos forestales y realizar estudios de perspectivas para mejorar las bases de datos forestales. También deseo destacar las actividades tendentes a entregar apoyo a programas forestales nacionales a través de las redes de ordenación de cuencas hidrográficas y asesoramiento sobre planificación forestal. Es importante asimismo el fortalecimiento que se desea emprender en una red regional de ordenación de la flora y fauna silvestre y los parques nacionales.

En resumen, Chile apoya al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que presenta el Director General y hace votos por su aprobación en el Plenario.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): Mr. Chairman, we should like to join the others who have expressed their pleasure at seeing you in the Chair. As I am somewhat used to hearing your voice somewhere on my right, I am not sure which way to duck now that you are in front of me.

We welcome the introduction of this item by Mr. Shah on behalf of the Director-General but we have had the opportunity of hearing the presentation a number of times since we are members of the Finance Committee and of the Council. Nevertheless, we are impressed each time by the clarity and sharpness with which Mr. Shah handles this subject, and we would like to commend him for it.

We would also like to commend the Organization for this Programme of Work and Budget in terms of its substance which outlined priorities and strategies, in terms of its presentation, which while far from perfect is a continued improvement over that of previous biennia, and in terms of its management concepts which have been largely prudent. Nevertheless, as will be of no surprise to delegates, we have continued concern at the overall budget level.

Canada joins with others in supporting the programme proposals put forward by the Director-General. As we have mentioned on previous occasions, we do not, of course, agree equally with all of the programmes put forward. Indeed, we would have hoped in some cases that certain programmes would have been given more emphasis, while there are others which we do not particularly favour. As an example, we do not particularly favour those activities related to the undertaking on plant genetic resources and its poorly conceived bodies, the Commission and the working group. On the other hand, we would have hoped for more strengthening in the proposals on emphasis on forestry and fisheries and on a general address to alleviate degradation, particularly as it is linked to agriculture, forestry and fisheries production.

Nevertheless, we support the programme as a package and would particularly like to support the themes of directing programmes at small farmers and at small-scale projects as well as at women in agriculture. More immediately, we would like to support the emphasis given to addressing the problems in Africa and to strengthening the global information and early-warning systems. We think these are excellent programmes, excellent themes, giving excellent emphasis, and are worthy of our strongest support.

In terms of presentation, the Programme of Work and Budget, as we have had occasion to mention in the Eighty-seventh Council, is very much an improvement over some of those of previous biennia. Nevertheless, we continue to express our hopes for continued improvement and transparency. In the first instance, our expectation of much more rigorous evaluation procedures requires that the Programme of Work and Budget has somewhat greater detail on programme objectives in concrete terms. In terms of transparency, we would welcome more precision in the programme descriptions and as to how those descriptions relate to the regular budget as opposed to extra-budgetary resources. We would also have preferred some greater insight into financial procedures, particularly as they may relate to non-dollar expenditures.

Similarly, in terms of management concepts our delegation commends the Director-General for his efforts in meeting the high priority development needs in agriculture while at the same time attempting to exercise financial restraint through readjustment and realignment in other programmes and sectors, so as to ensure maximum benefit from the scarce financial resources available to the Organization.

With respect to the budget level, we should like to say that we are sensitive to and acknowledge those speakers from this morning who have called for particular attention to and reconsideration

of the budget level. We have heard those who suggest some sensitivity, and that particularly on the fortieth anniversary we strive to have some consensual approach. However, we consider that the rate of the real budget growth is still high. We believe that through the elimination or scaling down of some further marginal or obsolete programmes it should be possible to implement or expand new programmes in vital areas. We believe the Secretariat is best placed to review its own proposals to ensure that the scarce financial resources available to the Organization are used to derive the maximum benefit, but we continue to question the need for the addition of sixteen permanent positions to the staff, given the high vacancy rate and the large number of vacant posts in the Organization. As a very small example, as a member of the North American group we would suggest that even those two positions that are suggested for the North American Liaison Office be given further consideration. We say that in the knowledge that there is no present office or other representation of the Food and Agriculture Organization in our country, one of the largest countries in the world and, I think, one of the few that have no such representation. Such representation as we do have is from the North American Office, but nevertheless in the interests of budgetary restraint we would put those two positions up as ones that could be looked at again.

We trust that Canada's position on the need for budgetary restraint in FAO will not be understood to be a weakening in Canada's traditional support for multilateralism or a disregard of the needs of developing countries. Indeed, in the light of some of the interventions today we are somewhat disturbed that there may be misunderstandings in this particular direction. My country remains committed to future growth in overseas development assistance levels and, indeed, growth relative to our gross national product. Through the remainder of this decade that growth is all but assured. A large part of that growth will be delivered through multilateral channels and I think that Canada's performance through the World Food Programme is an example that has been all too evident in the last year or two. Nevertheless, the Canadian public is convinced that more can be achieved within current resources.

In our view, FAO needs to be stronger, not merely larger. Resources are likely to be limited in the foreseeable future and should be concentrated on those existing and planned activities which most need them. In the view of my Government the Food and Agriculture Organization has adequate resources to perform the work that is expected of it. We do not look on our contribution to the regular budgets of United Nations agencies as direct development assistance or, indeed, a resource transfer to the Third World. Therefore, it is not an expression of Canadian compassion or our determination to solve food security alone. We consider the Food and Agriculture Organization to be foremost a technical agency, with some role as an executing agency. We do not feel that FAO is a funding agency.

Mr Chairman, we would have liked to have spoken at some greater length on a number of specific areas, not least - as perhaps anticipated by the distinguished delegate of Brazil - on the Technical Cooperation Programme, and perhaps if time permits we could return to this item later in our deliberations. Suffice it to say that we believe the TCP is now a mature programme for its stated intentions and we believe that its funding levels should level off and that further growth be directed to trust fund sources. In this connection, in addition to the staff proposals within the Programme of Work and Budget, we would direct attention to the possibility of certain funding savings with respect to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We will not speak further at this time. We would like to hear further, even at this late date, that some further budgetary reductions can be found that would lead us to a full consensus on the Programme of Work and Budget in the Conference itself.

R. RABE (Madagascar): La délégation de Madagascar se félicite, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir présider les travaux de cette très importante commission. Vos qualités, votre compétence et votre grande valeur humaine sont les garants du succès de nos travaux. Nous félicitons également les vice-présidents. Notre délégation voudrait aussi rendre hommage au Directeur général et à toute l'équipe du secrétariat pour la grande qualité des documents soumis à notre examen et la merveilleuse présentation faite par M. Shah.

Dans son examen du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation pour le biennium 1986-87, la délégation de Madagascar a pris en considération les éléments ci-après: la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, l'aide alimentaire en Afrique, le bilan des activités de la FAO. En cette année de célébration de son quarantième anniversaire, le rôle que la FAO doit jouer dans l'avenir implique des moyens à lui attribuer pour lui permettre de faire face aux tâches qui lui sont dévolues.

La situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est caractérisée par une production record pour 1985 puisqu'il est annoncé presque 1 900 millions de tonnes de céréales, soit 39 millions de plus qu'en 1984. Au regard de ces chiffres impressionnants, on serait tenté de croire que la faim a disparu dans le monde. Malheureusement, ce n'est pas le cas. Le Nord croule sous l'abondance de denrées alimentaires et cherche les voies et moyens pour se débarrasser au plus vite des excédents et pour réduire sa production, tandis que le Sud voit sa population lutter pour la survie sous l'empire de la faim et de la malnutrition et essaye en vain de vaincre le désespoir et la mort.

Nous sommes loin de l'équilibre entre les régions si cher à la FAO et figurant en bonne place de ses textes constitutifs. L'écart entre le Nord et le Sud se creuse, s'aggrave de jour en jour et devient incommensurable.

Devant ce sombre tableau, peut-on encore tergiverser sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre pour venir en aide à ces êtres humains, victimes le plus souvent d'un passé dans lequel la force et le désir de profit maximum ont dominé la raison ? Pour redresser leur situation, pour leur redonner la chance de retrouver le minimum leur permettant d'aller sûrement de l'avant, un plan Marshall s'impose effectivement, comme l'a affirmé le Directeur général dans plusieurs de ses déclarations.

La région africaine est la plus affectée, car dans beaucoup de pays de cette région, les cataclysmes naturels ont anéanti peu à peu leurs efforts louables de redressement économique. Il est vrai que l'aide à court terme fournie par la communauté internationale a permis d'éviter le pire dans certaines situations, mais un programme sérieux et vigoureux de réhabilitation et de relance à long terme et à moyen terme s'impose.

La FAO a engagé les actions d'une façon très positive, et nous tenons à l'en féliciter, mais il lui faut nettement plus de soutien et de moyens pour venir à bout de la situation.

D'ores et déjà, nous pouvons entrevoir qu'il reste énormément à faire, qu'il faut agir vite. Fort heureusement, le Directeur général dans ses propositions de programme et de budget a tenu compte de tous ces éléments. Il est naturellement exclu que le budget ordinaire prenne en charge toutes les dépenses afférentes à ces actions de redressement, compte tenu de leur montant trop important d'une part, et en raison du fait que des investigations prioritaires doivent également être entreprises dans les autres régions et à l'échelon mondial.

Par ailleurs, dans le souci fort louable du Directeur général de tenir compte de la position manifestée par certains membres d'exiger la croissance zéro du budget, et dans son effort permanent de réduire les dépenses de fonctionnement de l'Organisation au profit de programmes techniques, le budget a été fixé à un niveau qui, en vérité, est loin du minimum requis en cette période de crise, dans cette période où on enregistre des réductions des recettes d'exportation, et où les lourdes charges de la dette absorbent jusqu'à 60 pour cent des recettes d'exportation, et aussi au moment où les financements à des conditions de faveur font gravement défaut.

Nous ne citerons pour exemple que le FIDA qui connaît une diminution de 70 pour cent de ses ressources en 1985 par rapport aux chiffres moyens de la période 1980-1984 et les difficultés de l'IDA.

Compte tenu des situations pour le moins dramatiques des pays en voie de développement de l'Afrique, peut-on raisonnablement prôner la croissance zéro du budget qui est largement dépassée par les événements? Ne devrait-on pas plutôt chercher ensemble les mesures adéquates pour éviter la catastrophe? Ne devrait-on pas renforcer les moyens de l'Organisation pour lui permettre d'accélérer son programme de soutien à l'agriculture?

Pour notre part, nous pouvons relever que jusqu'à présent une activité, à notre sens primordiale pour le petit exploitant, n'a pas pu être sérieusement prise en considération. Il s'agit de la résolution du problème crucial d'enclavement des zones de production en milieu rural. Une étude de la FAO à cet effet, portant sur 68 pays en voie de développement, a démontré que les deux tiers environ de leur population, soit 1 400 millions de personnes sur 2 milliards, vivent en milieu rural. Nous sommes convaincus que l'inexistence ou le mauvais état des pistes rurales constitue

à coup sûr un frein à la production, car sans ces infrastructures de communications, ni l'encadrement ni la vulgarisation ne peuvent être assurés. Par ailleurs, l'achat de la production dans ces zones n'est pas envisageable sans voies de communications praticables, ce qui décourage le paysan producteur.

Nous souhaiterions vivement que cette question soit sérieusement examinée par les secrétariats, d'autant plus que l'amélioration des conditions de vie et d'existence des milieux ruraux a toujours constitué la priorité des actions de l'Organisation.

Dans le cadre de l'amélioration de la capacité des pays en voie de développement en général, et de l'Afrique en particulier, à promouvoir efficacement leur développement, certaines actions de l'Organisation mériteraient d'être renforcées. Pour ce faire, il faudrait intensifier la formation, la recherche et la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement.

Enfin, pour contribuer efficacement à la sécurité alimentaire des populations, les pays en voie de développement devraient être dotés d'un système national d'information et d'alerte rapide.

A l'instar de nombreuses délégations, telles que le Brésil, la Thaïlande, Chypre et d'autres qui nous ont précédées, la délégation de Madagascar, dans son examen du projet de Programme et Budget 1986-87 de la FAO a porté une attention toute particulière au programme de coopération technique, ce programme sans lequel l'assistance technique de l'Organisation demeurerait dans la plupart des cas un vœu pieux. Nous nous félicitons des efforts fournis par le Directeur général pour renforcer de plus en plus ce programme et conserver sa nature et sa spécificité stipulées par les textes en vigueur. Nous lui rendons hommage d'avoir, en 1976, eu l'heureuse initiative de proposer aux organes directeurs de l'Organisation la création de ce programme. Dans tous les pays, et notamment dans le nôtre, les exemples concrets sont multiples pour démontrer que le programme de coopération technique est vraiment indispensable et bien adapté aux différentes situations d'urgence qui prévalent dans les activités agricoles des pays en voie de développement. Nous souhaitons vivement que le plafond de chaque projet du programme de coopération technique soit porté à 400 000 dollars et que la nouvelle catégorie consacrée à la coopération économique et à la coopération technique entre pays en voie de développement soit retenue.

Nous nous réservons le droit d'intervenir à nouveau sur la question du programme de coopération technique au cours de nos travaux.

La délégation de Madagascar voudrait par ailleurs apprécier les initiatives très heureuses prises par le Directeur général concernant la mise en place et le renforcement du système international d'information, d'alerte rapide et d'intensification de la formation, la revitalisation des structures de production dans les pays en voie de développement, ainsi que le renforcement des Bureaux régionaux de l'Organisation.

Compte tenu de tous ces éléments et confiants en la volonté de tous les Etats de marquer le quarantième anniversaire de l'Organisation par une manifestation réelle de la compréhension et de la solidarité internationale, nous osons croire à l'approbation par consensus du Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87, en tout cas notre délégation lui assure son appui sans réserve.

H. OSHIMA (Japón); Antes que nada quisiera expresar mi atención a usted y a los dos Vicepresidentes por sus nombramientos.

La Delegación japonesa también desea felicitar al señor Shah por su excelente introducción. Después de este saludo, voy a continuar en inglés. (Continúa en inglés).

Please allow me first to make some general comments.

The Programme of Work and Budget now before us has shown some improvement as compared with the Summary Programme of Work and Budget presented to the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council. A net programme decrease of 1.2 million dollars from the Summary Budget is one of the main features. My delegation has duly taken note of the fact that, since the Director-General took office ten years ago, it was the first time for him to revise his original budget proposal, taking into consideration the views and suggestions expressed by many delegates regarding the principle of zero programme growth. Apart from the magnitude of the reduced amount itself, my delegation highly appreciates the positive attitude of the Director-General for having improved the budget.

Despite the above-mentioned positive aspects, however, my delegation cannot but express our concern about some elements of the proposed Programme of Work and Budget.

The first one is Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). Although my delegation recognizes the desire of FAO to have some flexible means to meet unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs of the developing countries, we are of the opinion that the financial resources for these purposes should be provided in principle by the extra-budgetary sources. Since TCP is an unprogrammed budget and since the authority of approval of TCP projects was delegated to the Director-General, member governments have practically no means of participating in the process of approving the projects, while other activities in the FAO Regular Budget follow the principle of programmed budget and are subject to consideration by the member governments.

Because of this characteristic of TCP, my delegation has not been in favour of an increase in the resource allocation to TCP and we have stressed previously that it should be preferably limited to meeting emergency situations only. This does not mean, of course, that FAO should decrease its field programme. On the contrary, we recognize that FAO, with its unrivalled expertise, is the leading agency in the field of food and agriculture. Therefore, Japan has been increasing its contribution to the FAO's Trust Fund Projects in supporting its field activities.

Another reason why my delegation has questioned the increase of TCP is the following. We believe that coordinated activities among the various United Nations agencies on the field level can be mainly achieved through effective allocation of UNDP funds. Therefore, in principle we are not in favour of the fact that each specialized agency has its own resources for field projects under the regular budget. Quite contrary to the wish which my delegation has repeatedly expressed, TCP has not been touched upon at all during the course of the revising of the original budget. The real programme growth of TCP for the next biennium has in fact amounted to 4.2 percent and ranks the highest among the seven chapters. Here my delegation expresses its disappointment and disagreement.

The second point which we are very much concerned about in the Programme of Work and Budget is the level of the net programme growth of 1.14%. While appreciating the Director-General's effort made so far in reducing the costs of low priority areas, my delegation is of the opinion that more of a reduction could have been made without jeopardizing the core activities of FAO.

We recognize the tremendous needs which FAO is currently having to deal with. However, we also believe that better targetting of the existing programmes and activities could lead FAO to meet these needs within the framework of zero programme growth.

The third point is the very recent development of the dollar/lira exchange rate which has a significant effect on the level of the assessed contributions of each member government. We know that in the past the Conference adopted as the exchange rate applied to each biennium, the rate which was prevailing at the time of adoption. This methodology, however, seems rather impractical, since we noticed that the dollar/lira exchange rate has had a tendency to move in favour of the dollar and consequently a considerable amount has remained within several chapters of the Budget. In our view, such ample provisions may be apt to give an undesirable effect on the stringent management of the Organization. My delegation, therefore, would like to suggest adopting for the next biennium a more realistic exchange rate that takes into account for example a medium-term trend of the exchange rate. In this connection, if the Secretariat has already examined some alternatives concerning this point, my delegation would very much like to hear the comments. from the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, mis felicitaciones por su buen castellano, distinguido delegado del Japón.

H. MORA (Ecuador): Quiero expresarle mi calurosa felicitación por la merecida elección de que usted ha sido objeto. Colombia es un país al que nos unen antiguos y fraternales lazos de amistad, de manera que es doble el motivo de congratulación por la dignidad que ha recaído en usted.

Por otra parte, merece nuestro especial reconocimiento la exposición realizada por el señor Shah.

Es necesario destacar el esfuerzo realizado por el Director General al presentar el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Hemos visto con beneplácito que una parte importante de los recursos de la FAO para el próximo bienio está destinada a los países más necesitados.

El incremento del 3,8 por ciento para los Programas de Cooperación Técnica, a costa de gastos administrativos principalmente, nos parece una medida muy saludable y merece nuestro total apoyo.

No queremos dejar de señalar nuestra inconformidad con la opción de crecimiento cero. La magnitud de la crisis económica, agravada por las circunstancias ecológicas desastrosas que todos conocemos, no lo permiten.

Creo que éste es el momento en que más recursos se necesitan poner a trabajar para contribuir a terminar con el hambre en el mundo. Es ésta la forma más efectiva de demostrar la solidaridad de que con tanta frecuencia se habla en estos días.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, creemos que el incremento presupuestario del 1,1 por ciento, al que la Secretaría General ha logrado llegar, es verdaderamente modesto y que puede ser financiado - con un poco de buena voluntad de los Países Miembros.

ALI ZWAIK (Libya) (original language Arabic): We are very happy with the way you are guiding the work of our Committee. This is proof of your experience and wisdom. What we would like to do at this juncture is to give our total support to the contents of the document that is before us. We wish to congratulate the Director-General and his staff and all those who helped in the drawing up of this document. We are discussing the future of the world food situation and attention is always drawn to those regions of the world which need our support and our help. So to fulfill those expectations is a humanitarian deed which is imposed upon us by our ethics, and we have to supply what we can give in order to alleviate the suffering of so many lives. Hunger and malnutrition are matters which mankind has always had to face. Those who do not have this problem now, and we do not wish them to undergo these difficulties, might have to face it in the future. So the rich of today may well be the poor of tomorrow. We are strongly in favour of finding solutions to the problems we are faced with. In other words we have to look very far ahead and create the foundations for a scientific solution and find radical solutions to these scourges of hunger and malnutrition. Drought has become something we are getting very used to in this world. Drought is spreading all over the planet and many regions have been struck by it. Many countries have had to face up to water shortages which have been disastrous to agricultural production. So, to seek new forms of irrigation, to find solutions to this problem and step-up food production in zones which are drought-prone or potentially so, is essential for the future.

This has become a prime task, and as individual we have to step-up the present food production even in situations which are less favourable, where the weather conditions are negative. So we have to develop not only traditional crops, but also crops of the future. So in my country, and despite our lack of water and the bad weather conditions, we have used everything that was available. We have cultivated the desert. The desert was what it was - impossible to cultivate, but we have managed it and managed to step-up our production tenfold. The problem which we faced has made us seek alternative solutions and it is time to try to find new water resources, and new crops which give a solution to the problem of food production in the future. We offer the experience that we have gleaned in developing useless lands, and we hope that this will help FAO in developing future efforts.

Finally, we would like to pay tribute to all those who have helped to bring about solutions to hunger and malnutrition.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): I wish to state our general position on the Programme of Work and Budget and also to refer to one particular item over which we have some concern. I hope that this approach is acceptable to the Chairman in making both points in one intervention.

Over a number of budgets we have taken a conservative stance on the question of budget growth. Our view is that the international agencies should seek to control their total expenditures with regard

to: a clear ordering of priorities, the avoidance of waste, the elimination of low-priority programmes, and the maintenance of stable starting levels. In other words, we support a growth in the efficiency of the programmes of the Organization rather than growth in the total resources committed. In this way an expanded set of objectives can be achieved from the same level of resources. This would meet the aims expressed by many countries at this meeting today. In this connection we welcome the efforts of the Director-General to meet the requests made at the 87th Council for a slower rate of growth in the budget than was originally proposed. We see this as a major guideline for budgetary control in the future. As far as Programme changes are concerned, we support the diversion of resources to technical and economic programmes, and some support programmes. It appears to be wise planning to expand the input into technical and economic programmes. In the agricultural programme we support the emphasis on agriculture, on rainfed systems and the emphasis on early warning systems. We support the increases for research and technological development, the crops programme and the livestock programme. We clearly want to see these resources diverted to the areas where the return is greatest, even though the precise areas of need are not clearly visible through the documentation.

We support the minimal increases in the fisheries and forestry programme. We note the increases devoted to fisheries information and the fisheries exploitation and utilization. In forestry we identify the very large increases for forest resources and environment and forestry for rural development. We join with others in welcoming the increased support for fishery and forestry programmes.

As far as the TCP is concerned, we look forward to the publication of the external evaluation of the Programme which has been promised for this Conference. The particular item I wish to refer to concerns sub-programme 2.1.3.2: Animal Health, the page reference in the document is 85 and the paragraph reference is 19. This concerns the activities of the combined FAO/WHO/OIE Animal Health Yearbook. For a number of years there have been on going discussions between the Animal Health Division of the FAO and the OIE on the rationalization-of the compilation of disease statistics from Member Countries. Both of the above organizations seek input from members annually and compile and publish the data separately. The FAO publish the Animal Health Yearbook and OIE publish the Zoo Sanitary Situation in Member Countries. Now our veterinary people in Wellington are of the view there is only a need for one organization to collect the statistics. They have a preference for OIE to carry out this work as it would be part of their system of disease reporting for Member Countries which ranges from immediate reports with serious diseases, for example, foot and mouth disease to annual reports of less important diseases. We see this as a possible source of saving any duplication.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic) : Mr Chairman we want to give you our most sincere and warmest congratulations on your appointment to the Chair of this Commission which will deal with matters which affect international cooperation in the areas of food and agricultural production. We are convinced that you will perform this difficult task with the highest degree of competence. Your past already proves this. The success you have had through the years has brought you the admiration and support of all, and we pray to Allah that he may guide your steps, that he may guide us all towards the successful work of this Commission.

At present we are dealing with an exceedingly important topic, a topic which I think was a sort of dress rehearsal of our work here now. I have already mentioned the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. The importance of this point is due to the prevailing world situation, both economic and social, which unfortunately declined over the past couple of years, a situation then which is continuing to have a negative, deleterious impact on food production and on the food situation in general of developing countries, and in particular of African countries.

The Programme of Work and Budget we have before us here has been prepared by the Director-General and his assistants with the greatest care and wisdom. We wish to reconfirm here that the Director-General succeeded in striking the necessary balance between the needs and the requirements which very often clash. Very often there are the urgent needs of developing countries and requests for food aid, as supplied by FAO by way of its technical programmes and, on the other hand, there is the overall crisis situation which most of the FAO Member Countries have to face up to today. We have the honour of studying the situation during the course of the meeting of the Council and during numerous meetings when we gave our total support to the Programme of Work and Budget that has been put before us at this point.

The approval by this Commission, which represents the general Conference survey of the Programme of Work and Budget, will have a very favourable psychological impact on the needy countries. It would truly be a largescale event which would highlight the fact that international cooperation is the reality, a reality which is based on the support we give to this Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium.

No one doubts that the cooperation between countries is a need which is required by all monolithic religions. The Prophet Mohammed said if a member of the human body is sick, then the whole body is sick. So the situation we are facing now, this urgent need for a food stock, compels us to approve unanimously without any hesitation or any reluctance the budget that is before us here. So on the FAO level, a specialized Agency in this area, an institution which is relevant to channel aid to developing countries through its programmes, our approval of this budget, I repeat, will make it possible to free all these possibilities and will bring about increased efficiency and provide the greatest possible usefulness. Our approval therefore will make it possible for this programme to respond in the shortest possible time to the urgent and ongoing needs which are put before the Organization by these very developing countries and will also enable it at the same time to face up in a more ongoing manner to contingencies and unforeseen or unexpected situations that may arise at any time in the developing countries.

There is no doubt whatsoever that FAO was set up on the very basis of these principles and their implementation. Talking about the many development needs, the necessary inputs to improve the food situation, some of these developing countries have already started taking the necessary measures to help step up their agricultural production but unfortunately they still need international aid -material and technological aid - at the same time.

So these developing countries know full well that FAO is one of the necessary, and possibly if not the most important, ways to achieve a solution for countries to benefit from unconditional technological assistance, unconditional, I repeat, so that an end may be brought to these countries' difficulties. These developing countries know full well that FAO, if it has the necessary support supplied by the developed countries, is the only organization that can assist them face up to their needs and give them the necessary helping hand in efforts to overcome their situation, a situation, moreover, which has worsened.

Let us not forget the crisis which has prevailed in the African continent, the effects of which are still shaking mankind - the whole planet. That was one of the greatest challenges that all of mankind has had to face up. But no one is unaware of the aid supplied by FAO even before the crisis peaked and this was thanks to international cooperation efforts of very great scope. Let us not forget that what struck Africa might well strike any other part of the world whatever its news form might be.

Mr Chairman, our approval and our endorsement of this Budget and Programme of Work in the ultimate analysis, is the minimum we can give to the developing countries in order to make it possible for them to find the ways, means and the technology needed to promote their agricultural production and to produce for themselves what they will require.

Speaking about the developed countries, some of which are against the Programme of Work and Budget. We believe these countries must be fully aware of the fact that if one member, one limb of the human, is sick, then the whole body is sick. The developed countries, Mr Chairman, will then not be safe from such a potential situation. What the developing countries ask of them, that is, to approve this Budget, is in actual fact a humanitarian gesture that would reflect the interests of developed countries in the future of our developing countries, the social and economic future of the developing countries. This, then, would be proof indeed of the fact that mankind must live in a serene manner and at ease. Mankind as a whole must be aware of the fact that the sacrifice that will have to be made in supplying a couple of thousand dollars will then be offset by herculean efforts aimed at the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, above all in developing countries. And that this then, if God wills, and if the peoples of developing countries are also willing, will make it possible to save millions of lives which at present are lost.

From this international forum and on the basis of a deeply felt concern for the role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in solving the problems mankind as a whole is faced with today, my delegation declares its total and absolute support of the Programme of Work and Budget, including the priorities contained therein.

We beseech the Almighty God to guide our steps towards the good of all and towards the establishment of a society in full development.

Ms. M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): Mr Chairman, first of all let me congratulate you cordially on your election. I hope that by no means will you be sitting on the other side of the room.

Poland fervently supports the Programme of Work and Budget for FAO for the years 1986-87 presented by the Director-General. It is based on a reliable evaluation of the situation of the world's agriculture and on a critical estimation of the achievements of FAO in the ongoing advance of food production and in technical and social changes in agriculture in rural areas. The Programme reflects the direction of the worldwide desire for evolution of functions and forms of FAO activity. It takes into account the new needs of developing countries, particularly the drastically growing need of African and Latin American countries for international assistance. It reflects the search for new forms of cooperation among countries and for non-budgetary sources of support for the development of technical regional projects, and ensures the continuation of analytic work providing the basis for exchange of economic and agricultural opinions among world organizations, as well as the dissemination of information.

The substantial planned works of FAO are sufficiently supported by publications as well as by sessions and panel discussions in consultations. It seems, however, that in the future there should be a bolder selection of initiatives in order to increase the number of analytic sessions and publications dealing with microeconomic, social and political problems for the improvement of international cooperation in the field of agriculture and food trade, while limiting analytical sessions and publications on agricultural technology, especially of narrow technical problems.

We agree with the strategy on fisheries presented in the document. We find this field of FAO activity a vital element of the campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

My delegation also believes that FAO has a great role to play in bringing to the attention of the developing countries the fruits of the new biotechnology being applied in various sectors of agriculture in order for them to contribute to the development of their own food production. Therefore, we are pleased to see in the proposed Programme the attention given to agricultural biotechnology.

Mr Chairman, the Programme of Work gives FAO the possibility of greater influence on the work and decisions of non-agricultural international organizations. However, the international community expects a bolder presentation of agricultural issues on the fora of international organizations from FAO, the decisions and activities of which determine ever more the real progress in solving world and regional agricultural problems.

The suggested Budget is a financial reflection of the desired changes in the direction and form of FAO activity. There are also visible efforts to reduce administrative expenses, as well as the decentralization of the management of technical and regional problems.

Mr Chairman, initially Poland was reluctant to support the excessive growth of the budgets of international organizations. However, the proposed Programme of Work and Budget of the Director-General for the next biennium responds to the needs of the poorest in the world. That is why our delegation will vote for the approval of this Programme of Work and Budget.

Srta. M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Tener la oportunidad de participar en este debate, bajo su dirección, señor Presidente, es para mí un verdadero placer. Conozco su capacidad, su inteligencia y su habilidad, para mencionar sólo tres de sus cualidades, y por ello mi delegación se siente tranquila y segura de que nuestros debates llegarán a resultados excelentes.

Señor Presidente, hemos seguido con mucho interés los debates que sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el próximo bienio se han llevado a cabo en esta sala, tanto en esta oportunidad como en el desarrollo de los dos últimos Consejos. La brillante presentación del mismo, hecha por el señor Shah, ha sido sumamente valiosa para nuestra delegación. La atenta lectura del documento que contiene el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto nos indica la forma en que el Director General ha tomado en cuenta las más urgentes necesidades de los países en desarrollo.

Debemos darle al Director General la capacidad real de atender esas necesidades que nosotros mismos hemos señalado. No creemos que debamos continuar con el concepto de crecimiento cero ni para la FAO ni para los demás Organismos Internacionales. Rechazamos firmemente esa política. El Director General ha hecho esfuerzos inestimables para lograr un nivel de presupuesto que permita llegar a un consenso entre los que propugnan esta política de crecimiento cero y los que estimamos que es indispensable dar a la FAO el apoyo financiero necesario para continuar con las funciones fundamentales que le han sido encomendadas. Felicitamos al Director General por esos esfuerzos.

Los programas principales, a saber: agricultura, pesca y montes, han sido reforzados adecuadamente, lo cual demuestra que el Director General ha mantenido su promesa de apoyar los programas técnicos y económicos, logrando ahorros en otros sectores no porque éstos carezcan de importancia, sino en aras de lograr una racionalización de los escasos recursos.

La estrategia que rige el programa, las seis prioridades que se nos señalan en el documento C 85/3, merecen el total apoyo de nuestra delegación. Todas y cada una de ellas han sido escogidas tomando en consideración, como ya dije anteriormente, las más urgentes necesidades de nuestro país. Estamos seguros de que, dentro de esas prioridades, el Director General no olvidará el importante papel que juega la mujer en las actividades agrícolas en todo el mundo. Principalmente deseamos resaltar la importancia de darle a la mujer una mayor oportunidad de capacitarse, lo cual le permitirá participar en forma efectiva en el proceso de desarrollo de nuestros pueblos.

En el contexto general del Programa de Labores presentado queremos señalar brevemente cuatro cuestiones que consideramos básicas. Primero, damos nuestro total apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), así como al porcentaje que dicho Programa tiene en el Presupuesto. Estimamos que los objetivos y plan de acción planteados sobre este programa, así como las modificaciones que para su más efectivo funcionamiento proponen, merecen todo nuestro apoyo.

Señor Presidente, podemos decir, sin temor a equivocarnos, que dicho Programa ha representado para nuestro país un elemento de enlace fundamental para encaminar adecuadamente nuestros esfuerzos al desarrollo. Estamos seguros de que la experiencia que El Salvador ha tenido con el PCT se ha repetido en muchísimos países en vías de desarrollo. El PCT ha permitido a nuestro gobierno llevar adelante importantes programas en momentos en que los recursos parecen faltar a todos Los niveles. Para muestra de esto último veamos el triste momento que está pasando el FIDA. Es urgente que se concluya con éxito la segunda reposición de sus recursos e instamos a los países a tal propósito.

Segundo, el fomento de la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo es fundamental, a nuestro juicio, para lograr un mayor nivel de autosuficiencia. Apoyamos las medidas planteadas en el documento para incrementar dicha cooperación. Nuestra región, señor Presidente - América Latina y el Caribe - ha dado ejemplo de los beneficios que se pueden lograr dentro de este equipo de cooperación. El SELA, SIECA y ALIDE, para citar sólo tres, son muestras palpables de ello.

Tercero, mi delegación desea enfatizar en forma especial la manera prioritaria con que el Programa de Labores afronta la crítica situación de nuestros hermanos africanos, a los cuales El Salvador brinda toda su solidaridad. Creemos que los programas y medidas encaminados a aliviar esta situación merecen el más total de los respaldos.

El último aspecto al que quería referirme es el relacionado con el tema de montes. En ese sentido, como lo dijo esta mañana el delegado de la India, también nosotros creemos que los programas de desarrollo forestal deben merecer una especial atención por parte de la FAO. Estamos convencidos, señor Presidente, como lo mencionó en su brillante alocución de ayer el excelentísimo señor Presidente de la República del Perú, Dr. Alán García Pérez, de que el sector forestal cuenta con una inmensa capacidad para ayudar a resolver los problemas políticos y sociales que resultan del desempleo y el subempleo rural, al ejecutar programas de ordenación forestal para la producción de electricidad rural, de casas rurales y urbanas y demás actividades que tiendan a resolver los problemas sociales que aquejan a nuestros países.

En resumen, señor Presidente, la delegación de El Salvador desea apoyar plenamente tanto el Programa de Labores como el nivel de Presupuestos que somete a nuestra consideración, el cual no podemos ni siquiera llamar mínimo si consideramos la magnitud de las necesidades que afrontan los países en desarrollo.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, permítame citar el párrafo final de la introducción hecha por el Director General en el documento que estamos analizando, y cito: "El hambre y la miseria pueden superarse, como demuestran los progresos realizados en algunos países. El Programa de Labores y Presupuesto es un compromiso para la acción y el medio por el que la Organización apoyará una fe común y firme en un mundo más justo, libre del hambre y de la miseria y finalmente en paz consigo mismo."

Confiamos en que podremos llegar a un consenso y que en la Plenaria este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto será aprobado sin dificultad.

D. KONAN (Côte d'Ivoire). Bien que l'espagnol ne soit pas notre langue officielle, je voudrais tenter de vous adresser à vous, M. Bula Hoyos, mes premiers mots en espagnol.

La delegación de Costa de Marfil aprovecha esta primera ocasión que usted le ofrece para felicitarle personalmente por su brillante elección como Presidente de esta Comisión.

Votre grande expérience des affaires de la FAO, votre dynamisme et aussi votre endurance physique, nous permettront à n'en pas douter de franchir cette 23ème session de façon positive, même si nous nous réunissons pendant le week end.

Nous voudrions également présenter nos félicitations à vos deux vice-présidents pour leur élection.

Permettez à la délégation de Côte d'Ivoire de dire ici d'emblée qu'elle approuve le Programme de travail et budget, texte qui nous est soumis par le Directeur général de la FAO. Le document principal C 85/3 et toutes ses annexes, brillamment présentés ce matin par M. Shah, ont retenus particulièrement notre attention. Nous soutenons le programme de travail pour plusieurs raisons:

En premier lieu il accorde une place spéciale à notre continent l'Afrique, notamment en ce qui concerne les secteurs des pêches, de la recherche et de la technologie, et aussi de la formation, secteurs qui n'avaient pas toujours retenu toute notre attention jusqu'à présent. Nous nous en félicitons tout particulièrement et nous attendons avec intérêt les conclusions de l'étude sur les obstacles au développement agricole en Afrique, étude qui nous sera présentée en septembre 1986 à Brazzaville. Le Secrétariat a largement tenu compte des observations faites par le Comité des programmes ainsi que des recommandations du Conseil en vue de privilégier d'abord et avant tout les activités de terrain, c'est-à-dire celles qui touchent le paysan lui-même pour lequel nous sommes réunis ici. C'est une preuve de réalisme et en même temps un acte de foi.

En troisième lieu, les documents soumis à notre examen ne peuvent certes pas être parfaits. Tel ou tel de nos pays, y compris le mien, aurait pu être souhaité mettre davantage l'accent sur la coopération technique dans les pays du tiers monde, sur l'aquaculture ou sur la promotion de la femme en milieu rural, etc. Nous pensons quant à nous que la FAO a fait, à partir de toutes ces exigences, une bonne synthèse et un dosage équilibré qui devraient, en définitive, être largement approuvés lors de cette 23ème Conférence.

Poursuivant mon propos, je voudrais maintenant parler du budget. Que pouvons nous reprocher à cette présentation? Peut-être de n'être pas aller assez loin, car l'Afrique, continent le plus souvent touché par la misère, a davantage besoin d'être appuyée à travers les projets de la FAO en faveur de beaucoup de nos pays, au Sahel et en Afrique australe notamment.

Mais le Directeur général, après un dur débat aux différentes sessions du Conseil, a accepté de tenir compte des suggestions de quelques grands pays donateurs en révisant à la baisse ses propositions initiales.

Mon gouvernement en dépit de la grande amitié qu'il nourrit à l'égard de nos partenaires des pays développés ne peut pas souscrire au soi-disant principe de la croissance zéro qui signifie - ce n'est un secret pour personne - une régression. Croissance zéro de la guerre, oui; croissance zéro de l'alimentation, non. Passer à 1,14 pour cent d'augmentation du budget pour 1986-87 est un minimum incompressible pour notre délégation qui tient, entre autre, à soutenir fermement le niveau proposé du PCT que tous les Africains apprécient pour sa souplesse et son efficacité. Il faut déplorer cette tendance acharnée à réduire à tout prix le budget de la FAO et d'autres institutions comme le FIDA et l'AID, c'est une tendance qui va contre l'aide au développement et

la lutte contre la pauvreté que nous nous sommes fixées au sein de cette Organisation. Nous souhaitons que nos partenaires comprennent cela et reconnaissent à la FAO sa place particulière dans le système des Nations Unies car il s'agit ici à chaque minute de la vie, voire de la survie des êtres humains.

Mesdames, Messieurs, Monsieur le Président, vous êtes vous un jour posé la question de savoir ce qu'il adviendrait de nous tous ici réunis dans cette salle, si tous les représentants que nous sommes et leur famille devaient rester le ventre vide pendant seulement une semaine? Je dis bien une semaine et, vous le savez, certains de nos frères restent un mois sans manger. C'est de cela qu'il s'agit.

Poursuivant notre propos, permettez à ma délégation de ne pas s'appesantir sur les détails de ces documents qui ont du reste fait l'objet de nos observations lors des précédentes réunions du Conseil tenues ici même.

Nous voudrions conclure en réitérant notre soutien et notre appui à tous les efforts du Secrétariat et surtout du personnel de terrain de la FAO, qui malgré un environnement toujours plus difficile, mène la seule et vraie bataille qui vaille la peine, celle de la recherche de l'autosuffisance alimentaire qui, en définitive, est un facteur de paix dans le monde.

A. RODRIGUES PIREZ (Cap-Vert): Je serai très bref, toutefois il me semble juste de vous féliciter, M. le Président, représentant d'un pays avec lequel mon pays entretient les meilleures relations, un ami, un collègue, qui avec sagesse et compétence honora nos débats dans cette très importante Commission.

Permettez-moi également d'adresser mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses aux vice-présidents qui à votre côté vont contribuer à nos travaux, et à mon ami, M. Shah, pour la façon claire et équilibrée dont il a présenté ce document qui va nous permettre de mieux l'apprécier et l'analyser.

Que faut-il dire en ce qui concerne le Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation présenté par le Directeur général, après ces éloquentes interventions?

La délégation de mon pays estime que la croissance zéro ne doit pas être appliquée à une Organisation comme la FAO qui a démontré au cours de ses quarante années d'existence sa capacité, sa compétence et son dynamisme. Cette Organisation a été créée pour lutter contre la faim et la malnutrition, pour former des hommes dans tous les continents, dans tous les pays en développement; elle ne peut devenir une organisation répondant à celui qui la sollicite "débrouille-toi, je n'ai pas d'engrais, je n'ai pas de pesticides, je n'ai pas de semences parce que je n'ai pas d'argent". La FAO a démontré en pratique son utilité.

Parlant du Programme de travail et budget, il doit être clair qu'une organisation internationale qui fait de tels efforts en dépit de toutes les difficultés que nous connaissons ne peut pas être pénalisée. Les efforts déployés par M. Saouma, notre Directeur général, et son équipe pour réduire les frais administratifs en faveur des programmes de terrain ne devraient pas être pénalisés mais doivent être soutenus.

En ce qui concerne le Programme Afrique, ma délégation est heureuse de constater que la FAO a tenu compte des réunions régionales de l'Afrique et du dernier Sommet économique des Chefs d'Etat africains de l'OUA qui a hautement apprécié le Plan d'action de Lagos, et préconisé des solutions pratiques pour le développement agricole dans le continent. Je félicite le Directeur général de la FAO et son équipe qui a tenu compte des préoccupations des Chefs d'Etat africains.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 33 et le programme préconisé aux chapitres I, II, III et IV, mettant en évidence le suivi de la Conférence mondiale pour la réforme agraire et le développement rural, je souligne la participation des femmes comme l'a fait mon ami du Salvador, et l'importance des programmes de pêche, surtout pour les pays insulaires comme le mien, ainsi que la promotion de la coopération technique sud-sud entre pays en voie de développement.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, nous appuyons sans réserve l'intervention de M. l'Ambassadeur du Brésil. Il faut s'adresser aux pays bénéficiaires pour savoir s'ils sont satisfaits de ce Programme.

Ce Programme a catalysé des millions de dollars. Le PCT tel que proposé par le Directeur général doit être soutenu. Le plafond préconisé de 400 000 dollars E.-U. mérite tout notre appui. Je joins ma voix à celle du Brésil et de Madagascar.

En ce qui concerne la décentralisation, les représentants de la FAO ont un rôle important à jouer dans nos pays en ce qui concerne la programmation et la coordination des actions de la FAO. Ma délégation apprécie que le Directeur général de la FAO ait répondu favorablement à la requête de notre gouvernement d'ouvrir une représentation FAO sur place.

Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie le Programme d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO et soutient tous les programmes régionaux visant à aider les pays membres qui désirent organiser au niveau national des programmes d'alerte rapide. J'appelle l'assemblée à approuver par consensus les propositions du Programme de travail et Budget présenté

EL PRESIDENTE: Como ustedes ven el castellano sigue extendiéndose en esta Organización.

En las dos sesiones de hoy intervinieron 37 delegaciones sobre este tema, más o menos el 25 por ciento del potencial número de miembros de esta Comisión. Para mañana hay en la lista 3 oradores: República Árabe del Yemen, Honduras y Líbano y, naturalmente, quienes deseen agregarse. Ya Filipinas, Francia y Barbados han manifestado su deseo de intervenir y todos los que ahora están alzando sus nombres serán incluidos en la lista. Se ha tomado nota de todas las delegaciones y mañana se leerá la lista a primera hora. Les ruego que sean puntuales a las 9,30. Trabajarán mañana por la mañana bajo la dirección de uno de nuestros Vicepresidentes, el distinguido Embajador Qadir, de Pakistán.

Gracias y hasta mañana, se levanta la sesión.

The meeting rose at 17.20.

La séance est levée à 17 h 20.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.20 horas.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/II/PV/3

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(13 November 1985)

The Third Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours,
A. Qadir, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15,
sous la présidence de A. Qadir, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 10.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de A. Qadir, Vice-Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)
Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I am advised by the Secretariat that a quorum exists for us to start our proceedings this morning. I therefore call the Third Session of Commission II to order.

Before I move to the substantive aspects of our deliberations, I would like to make some comments of a personal nature. I hope you will bear with me. I would first of all like to express my deep appreciation of the honour you have done to me by electing me as one of the Vice-Chairmen of this Commission. I would like to assure you that it will be my endeavour to measure up to the high standard you expect from the Chairman of this Commission. Mr Bula Hoyos, as you are aware, has been prevented from chairing the Commission this morning by circumstances which are beyond his control. While regretting his absence for those reasons, he has kindly asked me to chair this Session. In undertaking the task of conducting today's meeting I must express my inadequacies. Mr Bula Hoyos, of whom you are fully aware, is a person of great distinction, which I am not. He - is an extremely articulate man, which I am not. His association with this Organization dates back more than 10 years, I am just a newcomer. But in spite of all the differences that we have between the Chairman and myself, we are united in a common objective which is that we should ensure that this debate in this prestigious Commission comes to a close in a constructive and positive manner. I would therefore request delegates to extend the same kind of cooperation as they have extended to my predecessor, Mr Bula Hoyos, who will resume his chairmanship of this body in the afternoon.

As regards the timetable, if you have read the Order of the Day you will find an announcement which, by implication, suggests that the Commission might extend beyond this evening and go on to Friday, there being no session tomorrow. But I would like to remind you that the Chairman of the Commission, Mr Bula Hoyos, earlier asked members of the delegations who participate to complete the debate by this evening, if necessary by extending the period of our debate. I hope delegates will be prepared to do that, so that we can proceed with the task of drafting the report in time, without extending the debate on Friday.

Since I think this has the approbation of the house, I would expect the delegates to operate in maintaining the timetable which the Chairman has set before us. We have a list of speakers, and I would like to name the countries whose delegates have expressed an interest in participating in the debate. They are: Lebanon; Yemen Arab Republic; Honduras; Australia; Philippines; Netherlands; Ethiopia; Republic of Korea; Italy; Senegal; United Kingdom; Kuwait; Turkey; Guinea Bissau; Gambia; France; Jordan; Spain; Tunisia; Switzerland; Cuba; Mexico; Pakistan; Bangladesh; Finland; Bhutan; Barbados. I see that the Nordic countries have asked for the floor a second time, or Denmark has asked for the floor for the second time, they will speak after Barbados. Then Trinidad and Tobago will speak, followed by Sweden and Egypt for the second time. The last speaker on my list is Bolivia. I am not closing the list of speakers but should there be any further potential speakers who would wish to participate in the debate they should raise their hands now so that we can at least make a tentative list for today.

As I mentioned earlier, Lebanon is the first speaker for this morning, and I would like to call upon the representative of Lebanon to take the floor.

M. S. SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter M. Bula Hoyos de son élection à la présidence de la Deuxième Commission. Nous savons tous l'importance qu'il accorde à nos activités et nous connaissons tous ses compétences dans ce domaine.

Je voudrais également vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, ainsi que M. le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, à l'occasion de votre élection à la vice-présidence de cette Commission.

Je voudrais également remercier M. Shah d'avoir présenté une introduction très précise, très détaillée et complète du Programme de travail et Budget.

Nous avons étudié le Programme de travail et Budget pour 1986-87. Nous l'avons étudié longuement au Comité du programme, au Comité financier et pendant la dernière session du Conseil. Et je suis très heureux de dire que nous avons abouti à des résultats positifs concernant l'approbation de ce Programme bien que certains pays aient exprimé des réserves.

Je voudrais à ce sujet mentionner ce qu'a dit M. le représentant du Danemark lorsqu'il a souhaité que les délégations pensent à l'avenir, et à l'adaptation des programmes aux possibilités financières. Je pense que nous y avons effectivement songé lorsque nous avons présenté le Programme. Nous avons pris en compte l'aspect financier et nous sommes parmi ceux qui pensent que ce Programme est en fait le minimum acceptable. Je ne voudrais pas m'attarder sur ce sujet, mais la délégation du Liban voudrait affirmer une fois de plus son attitude concernant ce Programme de travail et Budget que nous sommes en train d'étudier actuellement, et cette position est la suivante:

Nous refusons la croissance zéro comme principe général de l'Organisation. Nous reconnaissons les efforts déployés par le Directeur général afin de diminuer la croissance du budget pour qu'il puisse être accepté par tous les Etats, bien que les besoins soient très grands. Nous appuyons pleinement les six priorités définies par l'Organisation. Nous appuyons également la répartition régionale des activités de l'Organisation en mettant l'accent plus particulièrement sur la situation en Afrique. Nous appuyons les activités des bureaux régionaux et nous voudrions souligner qu'aucune augmentation n'a été proposée concernant les crédits des activités de ces bureaux. Nous appuyons les programmes qui ont une priorité et nous appuyons les méthodes d'action prioritaire, Nous appuyons la diminution des frais concernant les fonctionnaires, à condition que ceci n'affecte pas l'efficacité de l'Organisation. Nous appuyons pleinement la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement. Nous appuyons le Programme de coopération technique (PCT) qui sera débattu ultérieurement.

Je voudrais également dire que l'approbation du Programme de travail et Budget de la part des membres de la Conférence est un élément très important, mais que l'approbation à l'unanimité confère à l'Organisation, ainsi qu'à son Directeur général, une nouvelle énergie, un nouvel élan qui nous aidera à accomplir les tâches prévues pour les deux années à venir.

Nous demandons donc aux différentes délégations d'appuyer ce Programme à l'occasion du quarantième Anniversaire de l'Organisation que nous célébrons actuellement.

A.A. AL-AKWAA (Yemen Arab Republic): (Original language Arabic): I would like to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on the chairmanship of this Commission. And I would also like to congratulate the two vice-chairmen and particularly to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, and thank you for helping us in our work this morning and chairing our activities now. I would also like to thank Mr Shah for giving us such a clear and concise introduction.

I would like to express the support of my country for the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 and we would also like to support the priority and objectives which are discussed in the strategies. However, there are certain problems which we would like to comment on. My country, as is the case for other developing countries spent millions to eradicate certain diseases and pests when these funds and resources could have been used for rural development and this indirectly leads to a limitation of production in our country. We would like the Organization to study carefully the eradication of such diseases and pests. The technologies which are used in many developing countries require training of local staff so that they are able to use the modern technologies and devices which are available. Therefore we think priority should be given to the practical and theoretical training in the field, that is at both national and international levels, of course. Therefore we think the resources earmarked for training should be increased.

We would also like to support the recommendation which would limit administrative costs, if, of course, this does not affect the efficiency of the Organization.

We would also like to support the Programmes for Fishery and Forestry. We would also like to express our support for the greater responsibility given to the regional offices and we support the enlarging of these offices because their work has always been very effective in the past. I would like now simply to thank the Director-General for his efforts in developing the work of the Organization.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. If we maintain this pace I think we will be able to conclude our deliberations of this Commission before the evening is out and I would request the delegates to keep their interventions as short as possible so that we can reach the objective which the Chairman has set before this Commission.

J. SAULT (Australia): Like other delegates we would like to congratulate Ambassador Bula Hoyos on his election as Chairman of this Commission. He may be absent from the podium but I am sure he is with us in spirit. In fact I can see him over there on the wall and his eyes seem to be directed directly at me. We would also like to congratulate you and your fellow vice-chairman on your election and we are pleased to see you here presiding over our proceedings.

I will endeavour to be as brief as possible but I feel that there are a number of issues that I must address and a number of comments that I should make. Before doing so I would like to take the opportunity to commend Mr. Shah on his opening presentation. I have known Mr Shah for a long time and never fail to be impressed, very impressed, by his lucid masterly delivery and his complete command of the details of his responsibilities.

In addressing the proposed Programme of Work and Budget, the details of which are in document C 85/3, I should make special mention of the two introductory sections of the document, that is the Director-General's introduction and the Programme framework. These are very well drafted texts and the succinct statement on the activities of FAO on page 3 is particularly useful. As it says, FAO's four principal functions are collector and purveyor of information, centre for policy analysis, forum for intergovernmental discussion, and provider of technical assistance at field level, and mobilizer of investment and aid. These are the real functions of FAO. They are important functions, but we do need to keep them in context and not confuse them with more general aspirations of solving all the problems of hunger and malnutrition of mankind.

FAO's Regular Budget and the resources available to it were never intended to have such an ambitious role. The Regular Budget is intended to finance activities which are of interest to the entire membership of the Organization. Naturally as the membership has grown and included a great majority of members from developing countries, so the focus of its activities has changed, but FAO has always been and remains a technical agency. It is not a financing agency of large development projects. It does of course execute technical assistance projects but these are primarily financed from extra-budgetary resources. I felt it was necessary to make these few remarks, as there do seem to be some misconceptions about the nature of FAO's Regular Budget, and the activities it is designed to address.

The size of the Regular Budget has been and will continue to be very modest in comparison with the problems and issues in world food and agriculture. It is therefore most important that they are employed most efficiently and effectively and in those areas which FAO because of its accumulated technical expertise has a comparative advantage. We were therefore most interested in the comments of Denmark speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries regarding a longer-term review of the future activities of the Organization. We support this as a concept worthy of further consideration and elaboration.

As regards those parts of the Programme of Work and Budget document from page 38 onwards, there is a great deal of useful information describing the major programmes, programmes and sub-programmes and programmes by regions and there are useful statistical annexes. I am pleased to see that there are some separate details on the South-West Pacific Region of which nine countries are now members of our Organization. Useful as the information in document C 85/3 is, and it does represent an improvement from previous biennia, the programme narratives do tend to be somewhat general in nature.

It would be helpful if further attention could be given to delineating more sharply such things as what the new activities will be and in expressing objectives in terms of criteria and targets against achievements which can be monitored. We do realize that there are some practical limitations on how far this process can be taken, as indicated on page xvii of the English text of the Review of the Regular Programme. However, we strongly support further efforts by the Secretariat to make the documentation on the specific objectives of FAO's programmes as well focused as possible.

We generally endorse the strategies, priorities and programme proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget, but like Canada this does not mean to say that we endorse them all equally.

We would however like to highlight two areas that have our strong support. These are the priority being given to management issues in the Fisheries Programmes, which is of particular importance to the island states of the South-West Pacific, and the Global Information and Early Warning System. These programmes are good examples of the benefits that all members derive from the work of our Organization.

Turning now to the level of the budget, on which views of members have differed. Moreover, in expressing their views some of our developing country friends have expressed apprehensions about attitudes of those developed countries calling for budgetary restraint, namely our attitudes towards the multilateral system and our concern for the plight of least developed countries. I feel I must respond to these apprehensions. As a medium sized economy with very limited bilateral leverage Australia has a vital vested interest in common with developing countries, in an effective multilateral system. This is demonstrated by our active involvement in the United Nations, its specialized agencies, the GATT, in fact in virtually all international commodity agreements and international organizations. We have had a particularly strong association with FAO. As you all know, an Australian, Frank McDougall, played a key role in the formation of FAO, and we have been active in it ever since and intend to remain so. Far from showing a lack of concern towards the plight of the least developed countries, we have increased our aid budget to over A\$1 billion annually in an environment of severe fiscal stringency and directed a very substantial increase towards Africa in view, of its special circumstances. All our aid is on a grant basis and over half of our food aid is channelled multilaterally. We have continually sought through what we feel are constructive proposals and suggestions to strengthen the role of the multilateral system and striven to ensure that the limited resources which are available to international organizations are used most efficiently and effectively. In this way we believe they will gain maximum support from the entire international community.

Our support for zero real growth in the regular, and I would stress that word, in the regular budgets of UN Agencies must be seen in this context. Zero real growth is a management tool for achieving fiscal discipline and improving efficiency. It ensures that secretariats and member countries critically appraise existing and new programme proposals and establish priorities. We do not consider that the philosophy that secretariats of international organizations must as a matter of course propose real increases in each and every regular budget as conducive to gaining support for their activities or improving their image with our national constituency. This is particularly so at a time when funds for many important areas of our national administration are not being increased even in nominal terms, in fact are being reduced.

I would also make the point that regarding the US dollar level of the budget this of course is mainly determined by the high US exchange rate. This in itself results in a very large increase in our contribution to the budget in Australian dollar terms.

Therefore Australia in the Finance Committee and at the last two Council Sessions has clearly enunciated our support for the general principle that the maximum possible effort should be taken to avoid any real increase in the level of the budget. We welcomed the Director-General's decision to reduce his proposals from those presented in his summary Programme of Work and Budget, but we consider that there is scope to make further economies without impacting adversely on programme implementation.

To name just a few areas that might be further looked at, we do not think that the need for all the new posts, staff positions, under the Regular Budget has been adequately demonstrated and that more evidence is required as to why out of some 3 000 Regular Programme established posts it is only possible to abolish five, especially when there is an ongoing vacancy rate of about 8 percent. Could the contingency fund be reduced in view of the other safety nets to cover possible contingencies which FAO has - the special reserve account, working capital fund, Technical Cooperation Programme

and ability to make transfers from areas where savings have accrued. Moreover, the Organization's financial position has been very considerably enhanced by fortuitous gains from favourable exchange rate movements and savings in staff costs. This has enabled it to bring forward to this biennium expenditure on goods and services that would not normally be incurred until 1986-87. This gives the Organization much needed elbow room, to use that North American expression, in financing the proposed 1986-87 programme.

We would therefore urge the Director-General to continue, even at this late stage, to ascertain whether further reductions in the proposed level of the budget are possible so that a full consensus may be reached when the vote is taken in a week's time.

I feel I should also make some remarks about the Technical Cooperation Programme, in view of the large number of comments that have been made about that programme. Firstly, and most importantly, I would like to stress that Australia has supported the TCP as a flexible quick action programme for small-scale unexpected and unforeseen projects. We consider it certainly has a place in the technical assistance activities of the Organization as a complement, not a replacement, for other assistance mechanisms. We also fully recognize the strong support which the programme has from developing countries and we cannot fail to be impressed by the enthusiasm and competence of the programme managers of the TCP.

There are, however, a number of aspects of the TCP which draw attention in this era of fiscal stringency and concern for full accountability and transparency in relation to government expenditure. The issue is how to respond to these concerns without impairing the essential flexibility of the programme. I would suggest that this can be done by sharper and more narrowly focused criteria, particularly so as to ensure that TCP funds are only allocated to truly unforeseen and unexpected activities which cannot be programmed in advance for consideration by governing bodies. Also there is a need for some regular ex-post monitoring of project selections by an external body, perhaps the Programme and Finance Committees, which report to the governing bodies.

The more specific issue for this item is the level of resources proposed for the TCP. The TCP has grown from 11.1 percent of the Regular Budget in 1976-77 to a proposed 13.7 percent in 1986-87. There was also the special transfer of an additional US\$ 15 million in this biennium. This growth is at the expense of other, also very desirable but programmed activities. We would suggest that now is the time for a period of consolidation and rationalization rather than further increases, at least from Regular Programme funds. But to repeat again, we support the concept of the TCP and we would urge that our concerns regarding criteria and monitoring be addressed in the spirit in which they are intended - that is to gain even more complete support for the programme.

J.C. CLAVE (Philippines): Thank you Mr Chairman, and congratulations on your being the presiding officer of this Commission today. Congratulations as well to our other colleagues who share the distinction with your country of guiding the deliberations of this body. I will be very brief. The reason for this is the fact that the Philippines is a member of the FAO Council and therefore our views, or the Philippines' views, have been fully ventilated in the proceedings of the Council. It will be my intention to recapitulate in a written form our views in the Council, which we will submit later on, in written format as I said, to this body, possibly for the consideration of the Drafting Committee.

The Philippines welcomes the efforts of the Director-General to reduce the budget of FAO. Indeed the economic conditions the world over make this an urgent measure and we congratulate him and encourage him to undertake these efforts to reduce the budget in recognition of this condition. It is the intention of my delegation to listen as much as possible to the views expressed here by our other distinguished colleagues, to be able to collaborate or cooperate in the development of a true consensus on the Programme and Budget because I share the common sentiments of our colleagues here that it is perhaps only if the Programmes are based on a genuine and true consensus that they will have really significant meaning for our people out there in our countryside.

I have listened with interest to some of these views already and I wish to mention that the views just expressed by the delegate of Australia are worth serious consideration. 1/

The Philippines does not envision an across-the-board and general reduction of different budgetary outlays. It believes that certain proposed outlays could be reduced in the meantime to give greater importance to urgent programmes. There are programmes which could stand a zero-growth or even a below-zero-growth. But there are programmes that call for greater attention and more funds.

The Philippines believes that more funds should be allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme. In the meetings of the Council, the Philippines had proposed that more funds be appropriated for the TCP, and to provide for this purpose, that savings from other programmes be appropriated for the TCP. In addition, the Philippines proposed that funds realized in the reduction of other outlays be earmarked for TCP.

In the administration of the TCP, the Philippines finds the views of the distinguished delegate of Australia worthy of our serious consideration.

The Philippines has made clear in the FÁO Council that it is in full accord with the budgetary proposal of the Director-General regarding the amount of the budget. As it appeared then, the proposal did not entail any additional budgetary contribution from my Government. I have instructions from my Government to refrain from committing it to new and additional financial obligations.

It was also clear, however, that the Philippines wanted a realignment of certain outlays to give greater emphasis to certain projects which have become urgent because of new developments in the world scene.

I wish to refer at this point to the remarks made by the Philippines delegation in the sessions of the Council.

There are two positions of the Philippines. But the Philippines is still here, notwithstanding its having joined the consensus in the Council on the programme and budget. My delegation has been endeavouring to help, even in a modest manner, in developing and establishing a consensus on the programmes of FAO - a real and genuine consensus.

The Philippines believes that the implementation of the programmes will be more effective if there is a genuine consensus on the programmes. The Philippines believes that a universal consensus on the programmes would diffuse the contentious atmosphere that has developed over the provision of funds for the various programmes of the International Food and Agriculture Organization.

I believe that many of the difficulties of the FAO are the results of the absence or lack of a genuine consensus on certain basic issues, including the role of the FAO, the extent of its authority, its purposes and consequently its activities.

We have seen clashes of national and regional interests in its deliberations, clashes between national objectives and global objectives such as those exemplified by the FAO in its committees, in the Council and the Conference.

The Director-General has described himself as an "honest broker" in the performance of his functions and duties. The Philippines wishes to join him in this role. It will study and adopt positions on certain basic issues and other matters of great concern for a majority of the Member Nations. It will, however, listen with an open mind to its co-members of the FAO.

It has expressed the hope that the Conference become in fact the foundry shops for a universal will on issues and programmes affecting food and agriculture in the world.

1/ Statement from this point on inserted in the verbatim record on request.

Sra. R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): La delegación de Honduras se une a las otras delegaciones para felicitarle a usted, al igual que a los otros miembros de la Mesa Directiva, por su elección. Asimismo, expresa nuestro reconocimiento al Director General y a su personal por el esfuerzo realizado y el enfoque dado a este documento, que consideramos de vital importancia, ya que marca los lineamientos y las pautas que la Organización seguirá en sus esfuerzos de ayuda y asistencia a los países.

Mi delegación ha analizado el documento presentado por el Director General y considera que es coherente con las estrategias fijadas por los Organos Rectores de esta Organización. Deseamos expresar también nuestra satisfacción y apoyo a los incrementos de los programas técnicos y económicos en los sectores de agricultura, pesca y bosques, y especialmente al incremento de los programas de cooperación técnica, capítulos 2 y 4 del Presupuesto.

Caben mencionar los programas de tipo productivo - por ejemplo, cultivos y ganadería - pero también son importantes los programas orientados hacia la conservación y mejor aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales, fomento de la investigación y la tecnología e información y análisis en materia de alimentación y agricultura. Asimismo, consideramos de capital importancia las actividades en política alimentaria y en política agrícola y los programas de nutrición, ya que éstos van a beneficiar a grandes sectores de la población con mayores necesidades y, sobre todo, a la niñez y a la juventud.

Consideramos que los programas de desarrollo rural son de trascendental importancia para el desarrollo de nuestro país y para mejorar las condiciones de vida de grandes sectores de la población. Consideramos también que éste es un programa bastante amplio y que está bien estructurado, ya que abarca las áreas problemáticas y prioritarias en el desarrollo de nuestros países, como es hacer la reforma agraria para lograr los cambios y transformaciones necesarios y dar así acceso a los recursos productivos a grupos hasta ahora marginados.

La colonización de nuevas tierras, que permitirán la expansión de la frontera agrícola en países que tienen estas posibilidades, la educación, extensión y capacitación agrícola, son campos que hasta ahora no han llegado a beneficiar a los campesinos y a los habitantes rurales marginados.

Consideramos que los nuevos enfoques diseñados por los países, con la colaboración de la FAO, están finalmente logrando que éstos lleguen a los grupos asignados. Materias como el crédito y el mercadeo son áreas prioritarias y decisivas en el éxito o fracaso de los proyectos de desarrollo agrario. Por ello mi Gobierno ve con satisfacción los esfuerzos que esta Organización está realizando en estos campos.

Los programas para la mujer en la producción agrícola y en el desarrollo rural son, sin lugar a duda, programas innovadores que la Institución está llevando a cabo. La mujer ha sido el campesino o el agricultor olvidado. Estamos seguros de que, con los esfuerzos que está realizando la FAO en esta materia, a la mujer se le reconocerá su papel no sólo como un agente en actividades domésticas, sino también como un agente en la producción y, además, será sujeto de las políticas, programas y proyectos de desarrollo que los países están diseñando.

En Honduras se está ejecutando un programa de apoyo a la mujer en las actividades productivas. Este programa, gracias a la ayuda recibida por el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo, la FAO y el Gobierno de los Países Bajos, está convirtiéndose en uno de los programas más importantes de América Latina. Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer al PNUD, a la FAO y al Gobierno de los Países Bajos su decidido y eficaz apoyo al Programa. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica, tal como ha sido concebido por el Director General, ha venido a solucionar problemas de emergencia, pero más importante aún es el papel que este Programa está desempeñando al iniciar e impulsar programas de desarrollo.

El Gobierno de Honduras considera que la situación actual de crisis internacional requiere un gran esfuerzo por parte de varios de los países en vías de desarrollo para cumplir los compromisos de una fuerte deuda externa, la cual se puede superar únicamente a través de acciones eficaces en materia de desarrollo.

Por este motivo; la FAO, el Organismo responsable de apoyar las actividades en materia agropecuaria, forestal y pesca, que son las actividades fundamentales de los países en vías de desarrollo, necesita redoblar sus esfuerzos; y esta demanda de un esfuerzo adicional de asistencia a los países, no puede ser atendida si se sigue la teoría del crecimiento cero. Por lo tanto, Honduras como país en vías de desarrollo, apela a los países industrializados para que consideren y revisen su posición sobre la teoría de crecimiento cero frente a sus contribuciones a los presupuestos de organismos de cooperación técnica y financiera.

K. de VEY MESTDAGH (Netherlands): The Netherlands delegation wishes first of all to congratulate you on your nomination as Vice-Chairman of this Commission and sincerely hopes that you and our own Chairman may succeed in urging our deliberations towards consensus conclusions or at least conclusions in which the view of all member countries, majorities and minorities alike, are duly reflected.

The Programme of Work and Budget which lays before us and which we studied carefully is a voluminous document that has generated in its gestation period quite a number of discussions in the various committees of our Organization. These discussions took place on the basis of what was then called the Summary Programme of Work and Budget. If I now say that we studied the document before us carefully I must add that we also studied in great detail its predecessor, the Summary. This of course was all the more important since it formed the very basis of our preparations for these Conference meetings. Therefore allow me to be for a moment a little retrospective. It goes without saying that by its nature a Summary cannot be expected to give a complete picture. Nevertheless in chewing and ruminating every word and every figure stated in it one suffered from time to time from constipation. Too often in the narrative parts we came across vague terminologies and generalizations of such a character that the meaning of the information given became obscure. This in fact gave rise to a vast amount of detailed questions in relation to the different programmes and special programmes. On this occasion we wish to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for the readiness to discuss these numerous questions and for the frank way in which answers were given.

However, we would have preferred it by far if haunting the Secretariat with questions, as it was once described in this room from the rostrum, had not been necessary. Therefore, we would like to propose to Mr Shah that he reconsider the form of the Summary Programme of Work and Budget in order to make this most important policy document more transparent - a policy document in a dual sense not only in relation to FAO's policy intentions, but also certainly in regard to policy-making within our own member countries. If the Secretariat so wishes, we are perfectly willing to share our experience with it by the time the drafting of the next Summary is taken up.

The Programme of Work and Budget itself (C 85/3) is considered by my delegation to be an improvement on the same document for the present biennium, yet some of the shortcomings of the Summary just mentioned are transferred to the full Programme of Work and Budget. Fortunately, with a back-up of Secretariat explanations on the Summary, we could handle this document far more effectively.

Coming to the present Programme of Work and Budget, I would like first of all to express the support of the Netherlands Government for the basic programme priorities - the promotion of food production and the increase in food security - support which is not only verbal, but will also be translated into continuous budget support for extra-budgetary trust fund activities. Nevertheless, "restriction shows the master", as a saying - I must say, a German saying - goes: in other words, by knowing when to restrain oneself, one proves to be an expert.

We support the idea, ventilated by our colleague from Denmark, of reviewing the role of FAO in the decade ahead in order to sharpen the ways and means with which our Organization can make maximum use of its limited financial resources. In this respect, we do fully agree that the role of FAO is, as the Director-General says, that of "an honest broker" - yet not only as a mobilizer of efforts, but certainly - and maybe foremost - to assist the governments of recipient countries in formulating and implementing integrated agricultural policies, and to make FAO's broad expertise even more applicable to local needs in rural development. In this connection, my delegation wishes to reiterate what we have said on many occasions - namely, that FAO's expertise can never be

better exploited than in collaboration with other multilateral organizations, in particular those Members of the United Nations Development System. FAO has a main role in overall rural development. However, only by a coordinated effort can the many inextricably linked developmental problems be effectively attacked.

Within the present priorities, a wide variety of tasks in the field of food in agricultural development can be undertaken by FAO - a fact which in itself urges restriction. But even if my delegation often found it difficult to discover links in the Programme of Work and Budget between the state of priorities and proposed activities, this led us to the conclusion that there is little evidence that individual activities are part of a greater whole - at least, one gets the impression that FAO is planning too many individual projects unconnected with one another. Our delegation also wishes to express some concern about the fact that in the presentation of the Budget, time-planning and implementation schedules are conspicuous by their absence.

So far as the level of the Budget is concerned, my delegation welcomes the reduction made by the Director-General after having considered requests therefore from a substantial number of countries. As we have stated as observers in the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council, the Netherlands Government considers zero growth a sound principle for managing a budget - not as an end in itself, but as a starting point in order to reconsider the aims and to set priorities against the background of the limited financial resources available. We really regret that this management tool has become an item of political and emotional controversy. In this light, we urge the Director-General once more, before we come to a vote on the Budget, to reconsider a possibility of lowering the growth level with a view to obtaining the widest possible support, or even genuine consensus, as the Ambassador of the Philippines just mentioned, for the financial backbone of our common undertaking.

As our Minister of Agriculture said yesterday in Plenary, we will judge the final proposals in a pragmatic way. Although we consider budgetary austerity inevitable, FAO should have sufficient resources at its disposal to execute its mandate efficiently.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for that statement. I am sorry to hear that in the process of assimilating and examining the budget document, the delegate of the Netherlands has developed some medical problems. However, at the end of the meeting, Mr Shah will take the floor and clarify the points he has raised, so the condition from which he is suffering will be eased! I would like to say that the delegate of the Netherlands has made some constructive criticism of the programmes and their relationship to one another and the presentation of the document and so on - I am sure the Secretariat will look into these things.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): My delegation also wants to join the other delegations in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and the other Vice-Chairman upon your election to guide the deliberations of our Commission.

The prevailing food and agriculture situation in the developing countries today, despite recent minor changes, is appalling to human conscience. People in their millions are suffering from not only malnutrition and hunger but also starvation. Our national governments have tried their best to avert the catastrophe but the overwhelming problems have remained insurmountable to their resource capabilities. Due to this they have informed the international public repeatedly of their incapacities to save human life and have asked for assistance. It now remains for the international community to help avert the human calamities in the developing countries.

My delegation would like to support the Programme of Work and Budget proposed by our Director-General on the following accounts: The budget proposed by the Director-General is quite modest when seen against the tasks to be fulfilled in the developing countries in the next biennium. US\$ 448.4 million could cover only a very minute portion of the requirements to help increase and maintain adequate levels of food production.

The budgetary increase shown is only US\$ 27.2 million at the current exchange rate and of this sum, US\$ 22 million goes for cost increases while only US\$ 5 million is meant for programme changes.

This amount is already extremely small to be of any meaning to help even one needy country. We give it importance and discuss it here as we hope it will contribute, however minutely, to the resources that we should expect to be forthcoming through other agencies as well.

The budgetary allocations proposed is also fairly distributed and balanced, with a lion's share of it going to Technical and economic Programmes. The TCP is also a very useful mechanism by which immediate action is taken to remove bottlenecks. The TCP, for which a budgetary increase of about US\$ 2.4 million is requested to bring the total to about US\$ 61.4 million, has always been a good supplement to efforts in food production because of its ready availability and quick responsiveness. The total of US\$ 61.4 million requested under the TCP falls short of the total amount requested by the developing countries.

The priority given to Africa is proper and necessary, and we therefore support it. Our people need food, peace, development, cooperation and freedom. They shun war and the waste of resources through destruction and through dumping.

Those member countries who can contribute substantially to the resources of this Organization have the responsibility, an international obligation, to avert human calamities. One way of doing this is by increasing their contributions for the production of food and by assisting needy countries in building their own national capabilities. This is the minimum expected of them by the international public.

KI-SUNG KIM (Republic of Korea): I would like to express short comments on the proposed 1986-87 FAO Programme of Work and Budget.

Firstly, the budget for 1986-87 increases the share of technical and economic projects by 0.8 percent over the previous biennium. This deserves high marks in efforts to help the developing countries battle the chronic problem of shortage in the food supply.

Secondly, in the budget, US\$ 121 651 000, or 27.1 percent of total budget, are allocated to the African regions, with the foremost priority placed on the development of agriculture. This orientation in budgeting is highly appreciable.

Thirdly, the FAO should pay due consideration to revitalize activities of the Regional Offices and other organizations at the field level, and regular evaluations of their activities should be put into practice.

U. SESSI (Italie): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection à la vice-présidence de notre Commission et pour votre présidence d'aujourd'hui. 'Par votre intermédiaire, je voudrais étendre ces félicitations à votre collègue, le représentant de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, ainsi qu'à notre éminent Président, M. Bula Hoyos, dont nous avons pu apprécier la compétence et le dévouement aussi bien à la FAO qu'au FIDA.

Nous voudrions remercier aussi M. Shah pour la présentation qu'il a faite du budget. Il y a quelques instants, on a comparé M. Shah à un médecin qui aide certains délégués à digérer les documents, peut-être un peu lourds, que l'on nous présente. Je voudrais faire une autre comparaison entre la la présentation qu'il a faite aujourd'hui et la session précédente du Conseil. Nous nous trouvons dans l'étrange situation des élèves devant le maître qui répète sa leçon. Comme le disaient les habitants de cette ville il y a quelques siècles: "Repetita juvant", c'est-à-dire les choses que l'on répète sont toujours utiles à ceux qui les écoutent, et nous sommes très reconnaissants à M. Shah pour sa clarté et sa concision.

Je voudrais présenter mes félicitations au secrétariat pour la clarté du document que nous examinons, le C 85/3, qui a été rédigé d'une manière satisfaisante, exhaustive et bien meilleure que les documents que nous avons examinés les années passées.

Nous sommes ici convoqués pour remplir une des tâches les plus importantes dans la vie de l'Organisation, c'est-à-dire l'examen du programme et budget qui peut être défini comme l'instrument technique et financier par lequel une institution, que ce soit un Etat, une entreprise privée, ou, comme dans le cas de la FAO, une institution internationale, programme et évalue les moyens nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs qu'elle s'est fixés dans une période de temps déterminée. Donc, l'examen et l'approbation du budget préparé par les organes intérieurs des institutions concernées sont, de la part des Etats Membres, ce qu'on appelle en langage juridique un acte de pouvoir-devoir.

Du point de vue économique et financier, le budget est la condition préalable à toute réalisation dans le secteur des activités de l'Organisation, dans le cas de la FAO, l'assistance au développement dans le secteur agricole et alimentaire. D'un point de vue plus général, si je puis dire plus "politique", l'adoption du budget constitue, comme le rappelle le Directeur général dans son introduction au document C 85/3: "un acte collectif et un témoignage de confiance des Etats Membres dans l'Organisation", confiance dont elle a besoin de continuer à jouir si elle veut obtenir les ressources nécessaires pour accomplir sa tâche, dans une période où plusieurs facteurs de perturbation subsistent, tant au niveau national qu'international. Pour ma délégation, cette confiance n'est pas en cause. Et je voudrais brièvement rappeler le soutien accru que nous donnons à la FAO à trois niveaux.

En premier lieu, en participant au financement régulier du budget, selon le barème attribué. En deuxième lieu, en tant que pays hôte, il suffit de mentionner l'effort considérable que mon gouvernement est en train de faire pour l'élargissement du Siège. Enfin, je voudrais citer les programmes réalisés avec la FAO sous la forme de fonds fiduciaires qui, on le rappelle à la page 18 du document, ont atteint à la fin de 1984 un niveau de 157 millions de dollars de projets et programmes approuvés.

En abordant plus spécifiquement le projet de budget, je voudrais dire que les dernières propositions du Directeur général montrent, selon nous, des aspects sans doute positifs, et j'en citerai quelques-uns: la croissance globale du budget qui est de 6,41 pour cent, soit 5,27 pour cent pour l'augmentation des coûts et 1,14 pour cent de croissance réelle. Sans préjuger des observations que je ferai par la suite, on ne peut pas ne pas souligner que la croissance globale est bien inférieure à celle prévue dans le budget précédent.

En deuxième lieu, je citerai les efforts du Directeur général qui, dans un souci d'économie, pour obtenir l'appui des Etats Membres, a effectué pour la première fois des réductions substantielles sur les premières prévisions de dépenses. Il faut encore noter une diminution, par rapport au budget précédent, de presque 10 pour cent des dépenses de fonctionnement, y compris les dépenses de soutien et la croissance modérée, il faut le noter, qui est prévue pour les dépenses liées aux consultants, en voyage officiel.

Enfin, nous avons noté avec satisfaction, au moment où la crise aiguë de la situation alimentaire de certains Etats africains inquiète l'opinion internationale, la croissance du pourcentage de l'activité des programmes de terrain consacrés à l'Afrique subsaharienne particulièrement pour les programmes de maintenance et de réhabilitation agricole. A côté de ces aspects positifs, il y a néanmoins des points qui donnent certains soucis. Certains d'entre eux ont déjà été évoqués par d'autres orateurs hier et ce matin.

Je voudrais en premier lieu citer les chiffres prévus pour la croissance réelle du programme qui, selon nous, auraient pu être encore réduits avec l'élimination de quelques programmes d'importance marginale.

Tout en reconnaissant la part décroissante du budget allouée aux dépenses de personnel et qui représente maintenant 55,2 pour cent du total, nous éprouvons une certaine inquiétude en ce qui concerne les nouveaux postes que l'on se propose de créer. Ce n'est pas seulement le nombre en soi: 14 postes en plus pour les cadres organiques compensés par une réduction de postes des services généraux, mais c'est surtout le fait que ces nouveaux postes sont tous placés au niveau le plus élevé de la catégorie professionnelle, la presque totalité étant proposée au grade P-5. Nous ne voudrions pas que la structure classique en forme pyramidale ne se transforme à la FAO en un espace géométrique très variable, passant de la pyramide au carré et du carré à la pyramide renversée. A cet égard, notre attention a été particulièrement retenue par l'examen du tableau des effectifs qui se trouve dans l'Annexe III du document C 85/3, où l'on voit clairement que les grades P-5 et P-4 représentent les deux tiers du cadre organique.

Troisième et dernière observation d'ordre plus général, nous avons le sentiment qu'à l'occasion d'un effort considérable fait par le Secrétariat et le Directeur général pour réduire le plafond des dépenses initial, si on avait aussi essayé de procéder à un remaniement rigoureux et courageux des programmes dépassés, obsolètes ou d'une utilité marginale, nous nous serions trouvés confrontés à un budget beaucoup plus agile qui aurait sans doute recueilli l'appui unanime des Etats Membres.

Nous encourageons donc le Directeur général à poursuivre son oeuvre de rationalisation des programmes et d'efficacité de la gestion. A cette fin, il faudrait, selon nous, donner une priorité aux pays les plus touchés, les plus démunis et qui connaissent les plus grands besoins, sélectionner les activités et les programmes qui ont l'impact le plus direct et le plus productif pour résoudre les problèmes des pays bénéficiaires, chercher à obtenir le maximum de résultats des programmes de coopération technique, en particulier en favorisant un usage efficient et efficace des ressources; enfin, toujours dans l'optique de la rationalisation, nous pensons qu'elle pourrait être améliorée par une décentralisation accrue et par une plus grande responsabilisation des structures locales. Toutes ces structures pourraient, selon nous, favoriser une concentration des secteurs et des sous-secteurs d'activités, la libération de ressources nouvelles et probablement des économies de gestion du personnel.

En conclusion, ma délégation peut appuyer le programme proposé par le Directeur général et ses priorités, en particulier l'effort accru pour l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire pour l'Afrique et notamment les pays subsahariens. En ce qui concerne le niveau du budget, nous attendons la suite du débat et les commentaires du secrétariat. Quant à notre attitude finale, comme plusieurs autres orateurs l'ont souligné, elle sera influencée décisivement par le taux de change lire-dollar qui sera adopté par la Conférence, qui fixera le niveau final du budget et la contribution des Etats Membres pour le prochain biennium.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): To begin with, Mr Chairman, we would like to add our congratulations to those which you have already received on your chairmanship and also add our compliments to those which have been paid to the other members of the platform, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman.

My speech will be in two parts, one dealing with the work programme and the other dealing with the budget.

On the work programme, while we support and welcome its general shape, we consider that resources could have been re-allocated to better meet the priorities which emerged at the COAG, Council and Conference. Here we echo very much the comments made on priorities by the delegation of the Netherlands.

The priorities in world agriculture are clear: help for the small farmer, soil conservation, effective farming systems for the arid and semi-arid zones, development of high potential areas in the humid zones, development of the global early warning system, etc. It therefore comes as a surprise to discover that the largest single programme in the technical and economic programme is item 2.1.8.3 Commodity Policies and Trade, absorbing over 84 man/years of work and costing nearly US\$ 7.5 million. This contrasts with the programme for water development which only receives US\$ 1.8 million, or soil conservation which receives US\$ 1.2 million. We could point to other examples: work on desertification; the semi-arid and arid zones are not given as generous an allocation of resources. Clearly, not as much is being spent on trying to make these areas productive as is being spent on studies on commodities and trade. The right balance has to be struck somewhere, and surely it has to favour the production of crops, not studies.

Having said this, in the main we welcome the shift of resources to operational programmes, particularly those which help Africa, although we consider more resources could usefully have been allocated for crop and livestock programmes in Africa.

We consider that greater priority in resource allocation should be given to those activities where FAO's multilateral role gives it a special, unique position, such as the global early warning system,

crop protection and seed production, both on a regional basis. Similarly in fisheries, international collaboration and support for regional bodies is important.

In forestry we would like to see priority given to the collection and provision of global information, regional and sectoral studies. Perhaps the time is now right to make a conscious attempt to increase the resources available to the operational aspects of forestry and FAO's programme.

Turning now to the budget, we welcome the savings which have been found since our Council Session in June. These savings are helpful, but we remain convinced more can be done and further savings can be achieved without damaging operational programmes. We support the calls from the delegate of the Netherlands for greater transparency in the preparation of the budget before us. The budget created difficulties for us when we tried to assemble the information and interpret it. We found ourselves disagreeing with "the suggestions made orally in the presentation of the budget, such as the one asking that the exchange rate fluctuation be included in the presentation of budget costs. We think that in basic planning processes the UN specialized agencies should not attempt to rely on such variable factors to predicate contributions from Members. We also believe that the choice of a base for the calculation of budget growth must be consistent and reflect figures undistorted by exchange rates and other fluctuations. We were not happy with the methodology used to calculate cost increases in the budget before us.

Turning to the question of overhead costs, we looked very carefully at the information contained in Budget paper C 85/3. Using a very conservative approach, our calculations on overhead costs, (and when I say overhead costs, I mean programme management, administration, policy planning, and the use of common services), on the Technical, Economic, Development Support and Technical Cooperation Programmes, we found that they were in the region of 27 percent to 31 percent, and this did not include the cost of the regional offices or the Governing Bodies, Council, Conference, etc. We have also treated publications as an operational programme in its entirety and not an overhead. We would expect similar overheads for a similar bilateral programme to be within 10 percent to 15 percent. We consider that a figure in the region of 27 percent to 31 percent certainly leaves opportunities for reductions, and for the redirection of resources without the need for any real growth in the overall budget.

We have heard that further reductions in overhead costs are not possible. If this is the case, then perhaps the time has come for a careful re-examination of the management structure of the FAO. It may be that the internal structure of the departments and divisions needs to be rethought and the established interrelationships between the divisions and the other components of the Organization reassessed in a manner which will enable priorities to be met in a more cost-effective way, and administrative costs to be contained at a lower level. In this connection we were very interested to listen to the excellent ideas put forward by the delegate of Denmark. We hope it will be possible for Council and Conference to fully examine these topics and others, as well as those mentioned by the delegate of the Philippines, at an early date. In particular we feel FAO would benefit from more evaluation of its activities undertaken by independent groups. We believe that we should take a closer look at the impact of FAO programmes.

At council we made a clear statement of the United Kingdom's position on the budget. Our Ministers are not prepared to support a budget which contains real growth. This remains our position. We have explained before, we would welcome an increase in FAO's operational programmes but this must, and we believe can, be financed from a reduction in overhead costs. This has consistently been our position. When we call for no growth in the budget, we are not calling for less aid and assistance, on the contrary, in practice it is likely to mean more aid and better aid. Let me explain, any increase in our contribution to FAO or other United Nations development multilateral agencies will come from our aid budget. An increase in our contribution to FAO will mean there will be less for countries under our bilateral programme. I suggest that we should all be concerned about the effects of our actions here and about how the effective cost increases in FAO affect other programmes. If we in the United Kingdom have £100 and we spend it on FAO, on the basis of the overhead costs I have referred to above, only £70 of that money will reach the operational

programmes , £30 will go into overheads. If we put £100 into an organization which has overheads of 15 percent then £85 will reach the field. We are convinced that this difference of £15 is important. It is important to poor people in poor countries and it is how the British Government would like to see its money put to use.

To conclude, I would like clearly to state my Government's commitment to provide assistance to the agricultural sector and the sphere of work being undertaken by FAO. We wish to see growth in the programmes of FAO but we cannot support any real increase in the overall budget. We believe it is possible to reduce administrative overheads and I would like to add our support to those delegations who have asked the Director-General to submit amendments to the budget through this Conference which will enable us all to come to a consensus on a budget that contains no real growth.

Mame Balla SY (Sénégal): En m'excusant très sincèrement auprès de vous de ce retard et de ce contre-temps mais, comme vous l'aurez deviné qui a été indépendant de ma volonté, je voudrais ainsi qu'aux autres vice-présidents vous présenter mes sincères félicitations pour votre désignation à ce poste, persuadé que je suis que, grâce à votre grande expérience et à votre connaissance des questions traitées, vous contribuerez efficacement au succès des travaux de notre Commission.

Quant au Président Bula Hoyos qui est absent, je vous prie de lui transmettre toutes mes félicitations. Vous voudrez bien lui dire également que je le plains plus que je ne le félicite. En effet; je comprends que s'il pouvait librement choisir il aurait sûrement préféré son siège de délégué au siège prestigieux du podium pour pouvoir avec l'éloquence et le don de persuasion qui le caractérisent mieux défendre la position de son pays. Mais en le désignant avec vous pour diriger nos travaux, nous avons voulu mettre à profit votre profonde connaissance des questions afin de parvenir, grâce à votre ouïe fine, à corriger les fausses notes qui pourraient venir tenter de rompre l'harmonie de notre mélodie.

Nous ne pouvons pas nous y tromper car vous avez, après chaque délégation, pu retenir l'essentiel et nous aider à comprendre que nombre de nos points de divergence sur le Programme de travail et de budget pour 1986-87 nous rapprochent plus qu'ils ne nous divisent.

En effet, même si certains plaident en faveur d'une augmentation des prévisions tandis que d'autres s'y opposent ou réservent leurs positions, il demeure certain que l'unanimité s'est faite autour des points suivants:

- les objectifs de stratégie, les priorités définies par la FAO;
- la nécessité de mettre davantage l'accent sur les programmes de terrain;
- l'urgence de permettre aux pays confrontés à des difficultés économiques et alimentaires de se doter de moyens nécessaires à leur développement;
- la priorité à donner encore à l'Afrique dont la situation en matière agricole s'est beaucoup aggravée au cours de ces dernières années;
- les efforts considérables consentis par le Directeur général de la FAO pour opérer des réductions supplémentaires sur les prévisions initiales, faisant d'importantes ponctions sur les dépenses administratives ;
- l'utilité et l'efficacité des Programmes de Coopération Technique.

Les seules divergences que nous avons pu entendre portent essentiellement sur la répartition des ressources entre les différents secteurs. Le parallélisme en tout cas entre le programme forestier et le programme de coopération technique a été souvent cité. Le niveau des ressources globales prévu pour le programme de travail a aussi soulevé quelques divergences. La priorité à observer dans la réalisation des actions de programme viendrait avec tant d'autres observations couronner les quelques points qui nous divisent.

Je voudrais que vous me permettiez de vous livrer quelques réflexions sur ces aspects sans préjudice d'une possibilité d'y revenir au cours des prochaines sessions. S'agissant du niveau proposé pour le Programme de travail et Budget, mon humble avis est qu'il semble traduire une modeste augmentation de 1,1 pour cent, mais la réalité est que nous sommes en présence d'une réduction effective. Comment en effet, dans un contexte international où les besoins des principaux pays bénéficiant de ce programme ont sensiblement augmenté, où le taux d'inflation est de plus en plus important, un réajustement aussi peu significatif de 1,1 pour cent des crédits votés lors du

précédent biennium peut-il soulever des réticences? S'opposer à un tel réajustement ne signifie pas à mes yeux plaider pour la croissance zéro comme certains semblent le soutenir mais vise plutôt à une réduction effective des moyens minima déjà acceptés. J'ose espérer que les pays qui hésitent encore à appuyer le programme de travail ne tarderont plus à le faire surtout que pour la plupart ils ont posé des questions, qui, j'en suis sûr, seront facilement résolues par le Secrétariat et par les réponses que nous aurons.

Concernant la priorité à donner aux actions, je pense effectivement que l'accent devrait pouvoir être mis sur les activités agroforestières en tenant compte de l'importance du rôle des forêts dans la sécurité alimentaire.

Je crois aussi que la formation, la recherche scientifique et le rôle des femmes dans la production des denrées alimentaires devraient être absolument encouragés de manière beaucoup plus significative. Je pense aussi, et beaucoup de délégations sont intervenues sur ce point, que nous devons accorder une grande importance au renforcement de la coopération entre pays en développement. En effet, comme vous le savez, lors de la Conférence régionale des Etats d'Afrique pour la FAO ainsi qu'au dernier sommet de l'OUA, il a été dit que bien que l'aide internationale soit nécessaire, les pays africains doivent eux-mêmes prendre en charge leur propre développement et consacrer une plus grande priorité à tous les problèmes agricoles et connexes.

Sous réserve de revenir sur l'ensemble des questions, je voudrais vous confirmer que le Sénégal par ma modeste voix appuie totalement ce projet de programme et budget 1986-87, et qu'il ne saurait tenir compte de toute attitude visant à instituer au niveau de notre Organisation la croissance zéro. Je pense que dans un monde où la situation alimentaire soumet des millions et des millions de populations aux humiliations et aux souffrances qu'aucune morale humaine ne pourrait accepter, il est difficile de refuser à une organisation, qui a été créée par nos ancêtres pour résoudre ces problèmes que déjà des guerres meurtrières nous faisaient entrevoir, les moyens de poursuivre cette lutte qui est encore loin d'être gagnée.

Je crois sincèrement que d'ailleurs ces pays-là n'insisteront pas parce que lorsqu'ils auront reçu des apaisements à leurs questions qui sont plus des questions que des remises en cause, le consensus que nous recherchons tous sera réalisé sans aucun doute.

CHAIRMAN: I wish to thank the delegate of Senegal for his statement. I note in his statement he has identified the areas of agreement among the speakers. I think this will help the Chairman when it comes to the responsibility of summing up the Conference debates at the end of the meeting. I thank the delegate therefore sincerely for his statement.

Abdul Rida Magid BAHMAN (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic): I wish to be brief and to the point. On behalf of my country's delegation I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Bureau of this Committee. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau also.

My delegation has so far closely followed the consultations and we wish to express our support for the targets and priorities set out in the programme of work. We endorse what was stated and what was said with a view to strengthening the Organization's work.

We welcome the strategies and priorities set out for the next biennium. We also express our full support of the programme for the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa as well as the agreed priority accorded to this continent which is in dire need of developing its abilities to exploit its rich natural resources and their distribution. We would like to stress the need to grant further attention to strengthening the food production in the needy countries, as well as the need to strengthen technical cooperation and to reduce administrative costs, providing that this does not affect the efficiency of the Organization.

We wish to pay tribute to the excellent goal pursued by this Organization in its attempt to improve the role of rural women, and in designing appropriate programmes to improve women's productivity in the agricultural field in improving their country's economy.

Finally, we hope that the major countries contributing to the Organization will also help it to overcome its financial problems and that they will not belabour the question of the reduction or increase of the Organization's budget by token percentage points, as this will impede the work undertaken by the Organization in improving agriculture and food security.

Hasim ÖGÜT (Turkey): On behalf of my delegation I would like to extend our congratulations to you, Sir, to the Chairman and the other Vice-Chairmen of the Commission on your election. Let me join here with other delegates in the belief that the excellent composition of the bureau will lead us to fruitful conclusions.

Like other member countries, we have taken the benefit of the previous occasions on which delegates were informed of the preparations for the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget to look over the strategies and priority programmes proposed. Yesterday we listened to the excellent presentation of Mr Shah on summary programmes and on the final form of the Programme of Work and Budget, which always enlightens our perceptions regarding the key aspects of the budget.

As we gladly note that the final form of the Programme of Work and Budget incorporates to a great extent the desires and recommendations of member countries, including my own, I feel I may limit my observations to only a few selected aspects of the proposed programme budget.

We are happy to note that training and extension remain one of the priority programmes of the Organization. "However, we expected that this activity would receive much greater priority in terms of Regular Budget allocations as it strongly emphasized by many member countries on appropriate occasions. We still observed that this activity continues to be largely dependent on the extra-budgetary resources whose availability cannot be regarded as regular as it is desired to be. We have observed with satisfaction that the TCP has continued in the last biennium to respond effectively to urgent technical assistance requirements of member countries. In the light of its usefulness for the recipient member countries and of the effective way with which the TCP projects are implemented, my delegation strongly endorses the biennium programme proposed for the TCP.

As regards the Regional Programmes, we would like to reiterate our position that the greatest share of the resources should be given to Africa and other developing regions. However, we believe that through the promotion of developing countries participation in some activities of the European Region, the effectiveness of the other Regional Programmes can be increased. As pointed out in the Budget document, this participation has already been achieved in certain activities of the European Region. Indeed, the cooperative research networks established under this region form a good instrument by which developing countries inside and outside the region are given access to research findings of the European countries. We believe that the role played by these networks in this area can be further enhanced by ensuring greater support of the Regular Budget. Let me, however, make my point clear that what we suggest here is the strengthening of such activities of the European Region of FAO which developing countries can participate in and benefit from.

As to the proposed budget level, we would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General for his efforts in further streamlining his initial proposals and bringing the programme increase to 1.1 percent over the present recosted base in an attempt to attain consensus. His attempts to enhance the efficiency of the Organization while keeping expenditures at a minimum level are worthy of praise and Turkey gives her support to the proposed budget.

J.A. Santos OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau): M. le Président, je tiens à vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission ainsi que le Vice-Président, qui préside aujourd'hui la Commission. Nous voudrions aussi féliciter M. Shah pour l'excellente exposition du document en discussion.

En conformité avec l'intervention de notre délégué à la plénière, nous voudrions attirer l'attention sur le fait que la FAO, Organisation des Nations Unies, créée spécialement pour s'occuper des problèmes d'alimentation et d'agriculture, ne pourra pas répondre, face à la situation actuelle de crise, surtout en Afrique, à nos croissantes demandes si son budget continue d'obéir à la théorie de croissance zéro, comme le préconisent certains pays.

Notre délégation regrette que le budget pour les deux prochaines années soit insuffisant pour la complète réalisation des obligations de l'Organisation. Malgré cela, nous appuyons fermement le montant proposé et également les stratégies et les programmes de travail inhérents au budget pour les années 1986-87.

En ce qui concerne le programme de travail dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, nous voudrions féliciter le Comité de l'agriculture pour sa contribution à la présentation de ce document. Nous voudrions relever encore une fois l'accent qu'il met sur l'approvisionnement des petits agriculteurs, sur l'enseignement, sur la formation, sur la vulgarisation et surtout sur le rôle des cultures secondaires pour la nutrition et la sécurité alimentaire.

Quant au chapitre 3 de ce document - Programmes de soutien du développement - point 3.4, nous voudrions manifester ici toute notre gratitude à la FAO pour l'ouverture du bureau d'un représentant à Bissau, ce qui a permis à notre pays d'augmenter substantiellement ses rapports avec l'Organisation.

Quant au chapitre 4 du programme - Programme de coopération technique - nous appuyons fermement le plan préconisé et nous souhaitons voir une nette augmentation des ressources de ce programme pour pouvoir répondre à nos besoins croissants. Notre délégation profite de l'occasion pour demander à toutes les délégations, et surtout à celles qui ont fait des observations au sujet de ce document, de l'appuyer à l'unanimité.

J.M. TRAVERS (France): M. le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de la délégation française, vous adresser mes plus vives félicitations pour votre élection. Mes félicitations s'adressent également au Président de cette Commission et à l'ensemble du bureau. Je voudrais aussi remercier M. Shah pour la façon remarquable dont il a introduit nos débats.

La délégation française avait déjà fait part, au cours de réunions précédentes, de son appréciation positive vis-à-vis des objectifs et des stratégies proposés au titre du programme de travail pour 1986-87. Comme le temps nous est compté, elle ne s'étendra pas sur ce point. Qu'il me suffise simplement de rappeler que nous approuvons pleinement l'accent mis sur la promotion des productions vivrières et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. La volonté de l'Organisation de se rapprocher encore plus du terrain et de ses réalités, son souci de favoriser la mise en place de politiques de prix véritablement incitatrices et la priorité accrue accordée au renforcement de la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement, les orientations retenues dans le domaine des pêches - je songe ici, en particulier, à ce volet très important que constitue l'aménagement - recueillent notre agrément, de même que l'accent mis dans le domaine forestier sur les relations entre les forêts et le développement des productions alimentaires, sur la sauvegarde des écosystèmes forestiers et sur la lutte contre la désertification.

S'agissant des aspects plus spécifiquement budgétaires, ma délégation, lors de la 87^{ème} session du Conseil, en juin dernier, avait rappelé que, compte tenu des difficultés économiques persistantes que connaissent nombre de nos pays et de la rigueur budgétaire à laquelle ils sont astreints, le Gouvernement français estimait que les budgets des organisations internationales ne devaient pas connaître d'augmentation en termes réels au cours du prochain biennium. Elle avait également indiqué que nous étions pleinement conscients de la gravité de la situation alimentaire dans de nombreux pays, et notamment en Afrique, et du rôle particulier qui incombait à l'OAA pour lutter contre cette situation. Elle s'était félicitée de l'évolution que traduisait l'avant-projet de budget en ce qui concerne la répartition des grandes masses budgétaires au détriment des dépenses administratives générales et au profit des programmes opérationnels. De même, elle avait noté avec beaucoup de satisfaction la priorité accordée aux besoins du continent africain. Ma délégation, enfin, avait lancé un appel au Directeur général pour que de nouveaux efforts soient réalisés afin de se rapprocher d'un taux de croissance nul en termes réels et, à cette fin, d'opérer une réduction supplémentaire sur les seules lignes de crédit consacrées aux dépenses administratives.

La délégation française est heureuse de constater que cet appel a été entendu. Certes, le projet que nous avons sous les yeux n'est pas sans présenter encore quelques imperfections. Il comprend une augmentation en termes réels; bien que la part des dépenses de personnel par rapport au total du budget continue de décroître, nous constatons une légère augmentation nette des effectifs et

nous notons, en outre, certains glissements catégoriels. Cependant, au stade où nous en sommes de nos réflexions et de nos travaux au sein de la Conférence, c'est-à-dire dans l'instance qui a le pouvoir de décision final dans l'Organisation, il nous semble qu'il convient de bien distinguer l'essentiel et d'en tirer les conséquences. L'essentiel, à mes yeux, est: l'effort de rigueur que traduit le projet dans sa forme actuelle et la pertinence des orientations auxquelles il obéit, qu'il s'agisse de l'accent mis sur les aspects opérationnels ou de la priorité en faveur de l'Afrique. A ce sujet, il est vrai que la situation alimentaire s'est améliorée au cours de la période la plus récente dans un certain nombre de pays africains, mais nous savons bien que cette amélioration est fragile et qu'une véritable sécurité alimentaire est acquise seulement lorsque le développement des capacités de production agricole d'un pays est tel qu'il lui assure l'autosuffisance de manière permanente. Nous en sommes encore loin pour bien des pays en développement, et pas seulement en Afrique.

Il est impératif que l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, dont c'est la tâche primordiale que d'assurer ce développement des capacités locales de production, ne relâche pas ses efforts et qu'elle dispose des moyens nécessaires pour remplir cette tâche.

L'essentiel, enfin, c'est la bonne volonté qu'a manifestée le Directeur général en opérant une réduction significative du taux de croissance grâce à des réductions réalisées, comme nous l'avions souhaité, sur les seuls postes administratifs. C'est pourquoi, tout en espérant que de nouvelles améliorations pourront être apportées d'ici la fin de nos travaux, notamment en ce qui concerne le niveau d'augmentation en termes réels, la délégation française est en mesure d'apporter son appui au projet de budget de l'Organisation pour le biennium 1986-87.

WALID ABDRABU (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman I would like to express my congratulations to you on your election to the post of Vice-Chairman. I wish you full success in chairing our proceedings today. A large number of my colleagues yesterday and today have extensively dealt with the various aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget. I do not in fact have much to add to their comments and explanations. I agree with them in principle that this Programme was carefully prepared in form and content. Mr Shah has shed further light on the general Programmes in yesterday's meeting. His introduction was clear and frank. We would therefore like to express to him our congratulations and appreciation. The message Mr Shah read out from the Director-General was equally frank and clear and in fact this requires us to make no further comments on the subject.

My first comment today deals with the priorities set out by the Director-General as a basis for the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget. It goes without saying that these priorities are vast and comprehensive enough to represent a sound basis for the preparation of programmes and budgets for many biennia to come. The Director-General did well to select training as one of these priorities as developing countries without exception have and continue to need help in drawing up their training programmes at all levels, the more so at practical and field levels. We therefore hope that the Organization in adopting these priorities will be able to provide the necessary aid to developing countries in this field.

The collection of information, data and statistics is another aspect of importance. Many developing countries lack the necessary national institutions to undertake this task, that is to say without the provision of outside help and guidance. We therefore hope that the Organization will be able to provide the necessary aid to the developing countries in this field.

The other priority adopted deals with support of field programmes and we believe that the Organization should give special priority to this. Technical support provided by the specialized divisions in the Organization and in the Regional Offices, as well as special support provided to field programmes, is vitally important. In fact the relationship between Regular Programmes and the field programme must be further supported and strengthened in the interests of field programmes. Here I would like to point out that developing countries consider field programmes as an extension of the Regular Programme. Consequently the failure or success of a field programme could have positive or negative effects on the Regular Programmes. This is as far as the priorities are concerned.

Now as far as the Budget level is concerned, we believe that better could not be done in this field. The Director-General in fact undertook his task faithfully and did introduce the necessary amendments to the Draft Budget. We therefore hope it will be approved unanimously or at least without any objections. Jordan, as other developing countries, does not approve the principle of zero growth which is advocated by a few developed countries, especially if it concerns the question of providing necessary food for individuals. Neither do we approve the reduction of the Budget at the cost of administrative and support services. I believe that we have reached a juncture in the Organization where we cannot expect any further reductions in support costs as this can adversely affect the Organization's activities and ability to implement technical programmes.

My delegation in declaring its support for the Programme of Work and Budget, and the levels as introduced by the Director-General further wishes to seize this opportunity to renew its expression of confidence in the Director-General, Mr Edouard Saouma, and his sound and wise leadership of the Organization at present and in the future.

A. BROTONS DIEZ (España): La delegación española se siente muy complacida por la designación del Embajador de Colombia para presidir esta importante Comisión, así como por la de usted, que accede a la Vicepresidencia. Sus conocimientos en estos temas presupuestarios y su experiencia lograrán, sin duda, que nuestro trabajo sea especialmente eficaz.

En esta primera intervención, queremos aportar nuestro comentario general a las líneas que han servido de base para la formulación del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87, que presenta el Director General de la FAO a la Conferencia.

En primer lugar, se observa una mejora continua en cuanto a la aportación de datos en la presentación del presupuesto sobre ejercicios anteriores, que esperamos se siga produciendo para clarificar, con mayor precisión, los objetivos de los programas y las fuentes de financiación que son necesarias para su desarrollo, con expresión de los recursos presupuestarios que no sean imputables en dólares.

La proporción de dotaciones que se dedican a gastos fijos en servicios de personal, a pesar del esfuerzo continuado de FAO por reducirlas en favor de los programas técnicos y económicos, sigue representando un alto porcentaje del presupuesto, por lo que se debe seguir en esta línea de reducción, aprovechando los avances técnicos en la información con que se cuenta en la actualidad.

España pasa como muchos otros países, por una situación preocupante, que no ve claramente la llegada de la mejora positiva en los indicadores económicos. Esto ha obligado a nuestro Gobierno a elaborar un presupuesto nacional restrictivo, con un incremento negativo para el año 1986.

En estas condiciones, es lógico que esta misma política económica se le aplique a los organismos internacionales en los que participamos, pero la FAO representa para nosotros el apoyo al Tercer Mundo y le damos un tratamiento especial. Este apoyo no implica que debemos admitir una expansión de los gastos más allá de lo imprescindible y pedimos al Director General unas medidas de austeridad en consonancia con las que se llevan a cabo en nuestro país, al menos en los gastos de dirección y apoyo.

Conocemos que los objetivos prioritarios seleccionados reflejan las opiniones de los países miembros debatidas a lo largo de múltiples comisiones y equipos de trabajo, Conferencias regionales y Conferencias mundiales en distintas áreas, suponiendo una labor muy meritoria de recopilación y síntesis difícil de realizar. En este sentido las grandes líneas prioritarias merecen nuestra aprobación, aunque, naturalmente, no puedan reflejar plenamente las prioridades de una Organización que debe atender a todos sus 156 Estados Miembros.

Apoyamos los esfuerzos dedicados por la FAO a Africa, con especial atención a la rehabilitación de la agricultura y al problema nutricional y educativo de los niños, materializado todo ello con un incremento de 3,2 millones de dólares para Africa de los cinco de aumento que el Director General detrae del Programa Ordinario y dedica a la rehabilitación de la agricultura.

Se considera fundamental el apoyo a la producción de insumos esenciales para la agricultura, sobre todo en Africa, así como la ordenación de los recursos hídricos y la mejora de la sanidad animal, dando prioridad a la producción de vacunas y la mejora de la ganadería autóctonas.

Nos parece preferente el desarrollo de las experiencias y los ensayos sobre la investigación pura en base a que a corto plazo el mundo en desarrollo podrá beneficiarse más de inmediato, mientras que de la investigación cabe esperar resultados a mucho mayor largo plazo.

España viene prestando a la FAO su pleno apoyo en temas de pesca, y colaborando plenamente en la Conferencia Mundial celebrada en 1984 en Roma y en la reunión de los Ministros de Pesca celebrada el pasado mes de octubre en nuestro país, por considerar que gran parte de los recursos alimenticios de los países en desarrollo están en el mar.

Se observan que las actividades forestales quedan por debajo del porcentaje deseable en el presupuesto de la Organización y deberían ser aumentadas con cargo a otros programas, como los Programas de Cooperación Técnica. Esto ya lo han indicado otras delegaciones anteriores a nosotros, como Dinamarca, Malí, Malasia, Brasil, Chile, El Salvador y otras, y todo ello en base a los beneficios que comporta la actuación forestal en la estabilidad de los suelos, en la lucha contra la desertización y el aumento de los recursos forestales hoy día escasos. No hay que olvidar que las actuaciones de reforestación ofrecen a los países afectados por la sequía trabajo, comida y un futuro mejor para su agricultura y la de los países vecinos.

Por último, se considera de gran interés el que la FAO pueda prestar un gran servicio a través de un banco de datos de información agraria, pesquera y alimentaria, imposible de obtener por muchos de sus países miembros, que les permita tener una panorámica amplia para la toma certera de sus decisiones.

M; S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser au nom de la délégation tunisienne nos plus vives félicitations à M. Bula Hoyos et à vous-même et à M. Winkel pour votre élection à la tête de cette importante Commission. Nos compliments vont aussi à l'ensemble des membres du Bureau.

Je tiens à remercier le secrétariat pour les grandes qualités et la clarté des documents présentés. Nous les avons examinés avec soin et nous avons écouté avec attention l'excellent exposé fait par M. Shah au nom du Directeur général de la FAO.

La délégation tunisienne approuve le Programme de travail et Budget proposé pour le biennium 1986-87, bien qu'elle le juge austère, compte tenu de l'ampleur des tâches que doit affronter la FAO pour lutter contre la faim dans le monde. En effet, la modeste augmentation budgétaire proposée permettrait tout juste de maintenir le Programme à son niveau 1984-85. Nous nous associons aux recommandations faites par la majorité des membres du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier, et entérinées par le Conseil. Nous appuyons également les amendements proposés concernant la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets de programmes de coopération technique, destinés à catalyser la coopération entre les pays.

Je voudrais confirmer ici la position prise par le Ministre de l'agriculture de la Tunisie lors de son intervention à la séance plénière, à savoir que nous approuvons le Programme de travail et Budget pour 1986-87 présenté par le Directeur général, auquel nous tenons à rendre hommage pour la stratégie appliquée et les efforts méritoires accomplis en vue de réduire les dépenses administratives au profit des programmes de terrain.

M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, permítaseme felicitarlo a usted y al distinguido representante de la República Federal de Alemania por su elección para dirigir esta importante reunión, y quiero pedirle que transmita nuestro beneplácito al distinguido Embajador de la hermana República de Colombia por su elección para presidir esta Comisión y dirigir nuestros debates, con la plena convicción de que será conducido magistralmente habida cuenta de su experiencia, inteligencia, sabiduría y cabal sentido de la justicia a que nos tiene acostumbrados. Cuento, señor Presidente, con la seguridad de que mi delegación trabajará con ahínco para encontrar las mejores soluciones y contribuir al buen desempeño de su trabajo. Me siento, asimismo, obligado con extremo placer en felicitar al señor Shah por la excelente presentación del tema, ofreciendo una base ilustrativa que con seguridad facilita nuestras reflexiones y decisiones.

Enerando en materia quiero respaldar el criterio expresado por el Director General en la introducción al documento C 85/3 que señala, y cito "el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto marca el pulso de la Organización y representa su fuerza vital". De aquí extraemos una valiosa conclusión para otorgar al examen de este tema un lugar preponderante en nuestro trabajo.

Recordamos nuestras reflexiones y deliberaciones sobre el tema en el pasado 22° período de sesiones de la Conferencia en la que arribamos a la aprobación de un presupuesto estigmatizado por un crecimiento cero, es decir sólo 0,5 por ciento y vemos que este capítulo se repite en la actualidad y tenemos que lamentar que para el bienio 1986-87 sólo se haya propuesto un crecimiento del 1,1 por ciento, que en términos absolutos equivale al no crecimiento en un momento en que el mundo subdesarrollado atraviesa por la más crítica situación de calamidad de su historia y las necesidades son extraordinariamente superiores a las posibilidades y aspiraciones de este modesto presupuesto que se nos presenta. Por consiguiente no debemos aceptar esta tendencia manifiesta al crecimiento cero porque de mantenerse tendríamos que lamentar en el futuro eventuales reducciones.

La situación presupuestaria de la Organización y su desbalance con las necesidades de los países subdesarrollados no constituye un fenómeno aislado de la profunda crisis económica internacional, de los problemas de la agobiante deuda externa y del injusto orden económico imperante. La producción de alimentos y la seguridad alimentaria requieren el máximo esfuerzo de la comunidad internacional, en particular para mitigar la terrible hambruna que azota al continente africano, reconociendo de una parte que más de 800 millones de personas padecen hambre y de otra parte tomamos en cuenta que el incremento neto propuesto es de sólo 5 millones de dólares EE.UU.; la comparación de estas dos cifras nos lleva a la conclusión de que examinamos un valor incremental del presupuesto de algo más de 0,6 centavos de dólar EE.UU. por cada persona hambrienta en el mundo. No se trata únicamente de un problema financiero, se trata de un problema de fondo que nos obliga a meditar profundamente para que encontremos y apliquemos soluciones valederas y desaparezca la vergüenza que siente hoy nuestra sociedad ante la situación de hambre y miseria que padecen nuestros pueblos en los países subdesarrollados mientras otros viven en la opulencia.

El papel que está, y seguirá, jugando la FAO como interlocutor y como organización activa en la solución de los problemas del hambre y la miseria en el medio rural merece el decidido apoyo a todos nosotros, no sólo desde el punto de vista moral, sino también en lo que hace a la parte material; esto último, naturalmente, con preferencia por parte de los países ricos con disponibilidades financieras propendiendo a hacer valer el noble principio de la equidad.

En el orden práctico el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que examinamos en su parte estructural ha mejorado con respecto al del período actual; un leve aumento de 1,2 por ciento en el Programa de Cooperación Técnica demuestra un reforzamiento de esta forma operacional reconocida por la mayoría de los países como muy fructífero y provechoso basado en los resultados alcanzados con su aplicación práctica.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica ha jugado un papel determinante en la solución de múltiples y variados problemas, no solamente en su modalidad de ayuda de emergencia, sino en la movilización de recursos locales en los países receptores con efecto multiplicador apreciable. De otra parte los proyectos de cooperación técnica en muchos casos han actuado como elemento movilizador identificando y sensibilizando fuentes internacionales de financiamiento y ayuda al desarrollo para aportar la solución de los problemas en una extensión mayor.

En nuestra opinión, el Programa de Cooperación Técnica es un pequeño motor que actúa rompiendo la inercia en que a menudo se encuentra el desarrollo de ciertos sectores o activando prioridades de la agricultura y la alimentación en nuestros países con un poder movilizador en el marco nacional e internacional que frecuentemente resulta incalculable.

La evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica indicada por el Director General y cuyas conclusiones se encuentran a disposición de todos los Estados Miembros aportan resultados altamente positivos, evidenciando el pragmatismo de esta modalidad. La transferencia tecnológica, la capacitación y el aporte de insumos especializado han permitido promover en una medida insuficiente respecto de las necesidades el desarrollo de diversas actividades de la agricultura. Por estas y otras razones mi delegación considera que el tope presupuestario de los proyectos de cooperación técnica debe elevarse de 250 a 4 000 dólares EE.UU.

Mi país acumula una rica experiencia en la aplicación de los proyectos de cooperación técnica haciendo un uso racional de los medios asignados y desarrollando el efecto multiplicador que se deriva de la aplicación de la mayoría de los mismos.

Recordamos que cuando nuestras plantaciones de arroz, principal elemento de la tierra nacional se vieron afectadas por una intensa plaga de roedores que amenazaba la pérdida total de las cosechas fue la FAO por intermedio de un proyecto de cooperación técnica quien actuó con dinamismo para ayudarnos a establecer las medidas de control y disminuir los daños.

Igualmente hemos recibido la asistencia de la FAO a través del Programa de Cooperación Técnica para apoyar los esfuerzos que realizamos en el desarrollo del Programa nacional de la producción de semillas de papa, experiencia que será de gran utilidad también para países como el nuestro con similares condiciones ecológicas.

Para no extenderme, sólo mencionaré que los beneficios que hemós obtenido por este Programa de Cooperación Técnica son múltiples y variados con gran impacto en nuestra agricultura; creo, por consiguiente, que no se puede negar las ventajas de este programa y por ello merece todo nuestro apoyo.

Para terminar quisiera apuntar que los programas regionales y la representación permanente en los países han venido demostrando su eficacia desde hace varios años; esta dependencia de la FAO permite un mayor contacto de la Organización con los Gobiernos y el personal técnico de los países, haciendo que los esfuerzos comunes tengan una mejor canalización y un mayor aprovechamiento. El establecimiento de las redes de cooperación técnica en América Latina y el Caribe, ha resultado una experiencia altamente positiva permitiendo estrechar los contactos a nivel técnico entre los agricultores de nuestros países desarrollando un interesante programa de cooperación horizontal con orientación al intercambio de experiencias, la transferencia tecnológica y disminuir la duplicación de esfuerzos en países con similar ecología y cultura agrícola. En tal sentido deseo reconocer en esta oportunidad los esfuerzos que realiza la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe para el establecimiento, desarrollo y consolidación de las redes de cooperación técnica.

Señor Presidente, permítame sumarme a quienes me han precedido en el uso de la palabra para confirmar nuestro agradecimiento al Director General por el esfuerzo realizado para presentarnos un presupuesto equilibrado orientado a responder a las seis prioridades de la Organización y estamos conscientes y seguros de que el buen entendimiento y comprensión nos llevará a la aprobación unánime del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87 el cual mi delegación apoya en toda su extensión.

A.M.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We are delighted to see you chairing this morning's important session. It is my privilege to extend to you and to Mr Winkel our heartiest felicitations on your election as Vice-Chairmen of this most important and prestigious Commission.

It is our confident hope that you will guide our discussions to constructive conclusions. We have indeed been greatly impressed by your ability and knowledge of many languages. Through you, Mr Chairman, I would also wish to extend our congratulations to Ambassador Bula Hoyos on his unanimous election. We also welcome the Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands in our midst. Our thanks to Mr Shah for his eloquent presentation of the subject.

We would like to comment in general on the whole document and reserve our right to come back to the specifics if the occasion so warrants. The current debate in Commission II is, so to speak, the culmination of a long-drawn-out process of deliberations in the various fora of FAO. As members of the Programme Committee and the Council, we participated in the long discussion diligently and minutely examining in the greatest detail the proposals put forward by the Director-General in document C 85/3. We have carefully studied the document and the Director-General's introduction. We fully recognize the grim world economic situation against the backdrop of which the Director-General has drawn up his proposals for the ensuing biennium 1986-87.

The economies of developing countries have barely benefited from the recent economic upsurge in the developed world. Commodity prices are at their lowest for 27 years, with no effective international mechanism to stabilize them. The external debt of the developing countries has attained a staggering level of nearly US\$ 1 000 billion. It is alarming to note that due to economic crisis, the developing countries between 1972 and 1982 were obliged to cut their expenditure in the vital sectors of health and education from 21 to 9 percent of their budgets. The declining trend in multilateral aid, the reluctance of commercial banks to increase their lending, high interest rates, highly unfavourable exchange rates and the export prices of agricultural products being the lowest in 27 years, have only deepened the crisis for developing agricultural economies. Besides, the world has witnessed parts of Africa shrivelling to death due to drought and famine. This is the unhappy scenario against the background of which the Director-General has formulated his budgetary proposals. We appreciate all this. We also hope that the Third World does not have to starve its children to repay its intolerable debts.

We appreciate the imaginative manner in which the Director-General has brought about a balance between the demands for austerity and his concern for maintaining the efficiency and effectiveness of this Organization's core programmes of economic and technical assistance which are truly its raison d'être. We fully endorse the strategies, priorities and the programme proposals as contained in document C 85/3. We recognize that the Director-General had to resort to cuts in the administrative and support costs, so that the vital programmes which respond themselves to the felt needs of member countries are not impaired. We would, however, like to strike a note of caution against the continued application of such a policy which may adversely affect FAO's efficiency and the effective delivery of its programmes in the years to come.

My delegation feels that the so-called doctrine of zero growth cannot be applied indiscriminately within the UN system. The application of the concept of zero growth to a unique, specialized agency such as FAO is highly inconceivable. The many successes that FAO has to its credit are reason enough for just and fair, if not preferential, treatment for it. For the many challenges that lie ahead, we have collectively and individually to lend a hand to FAO in the fulfillment of its charter. Those in the comfortable towns and villages clasped in affluence, and we, in the Conference, at least owe a thought to the poor of the world who constitute nearly two-thirds of its populace, a benign thought which might inspire us to exercise the dictates of our conscience. We owe a thought to the small farmer in the farthest corner of this planet, the poor landless man, with a pair of livestock as his only treasure in the world, the sturdy man eking his living in the forbidding and inaccessible heights of our mountains, and the poor fisherman hardly surviving on his modest daily catch. All of us present here at least owe them a thought.

Our founding fathers who keep silently looking over our shoulders in the various galleries of this Organization, at times provoking our inmost thoughts, expect a still better performance from us. The only homage we can pay to them is to nurture the Organization they built, brick by brick. Let it not be said, when we are judged by posterity, that we quibbled over some inconsequential and inconceivable concept of zero growth. We cannot shrink away from our moral duty to help one another. This was the spirit of FAO 40 years ago and this is the spirit today. The best manner to commemorate its 40th Anniversary is to pledge ourselves once again to strengthening this unique Organization. My delegation, my country wholeheartedly endorses the Programme of Work and Budget as presented in document C 85/3.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): As I am taking the floor for the first time, please allow me, Mr Chairman, to join our voice to those who have spoken before us in paying our tribute on your election as Vice-Chairman and to Ambassador Bula Hoyos as Chairman of this Commission.

My delegation also places on record its appreciation of the logically-framed remarks the Director-General made in introducing agenda item 12 which was read out yesterday by Mr. Shah. Mr Shah's own presentation of the salient features of the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87 also deserves our thanks.

The Programme of Work of any organization, and more so of FAO because of its global implications is the very reason for its existence and its budget is the fuel for its motion. FAO's massive mandate to serve humanity, its impressive track record over the last four decades of serving those countries which needed its service, and the proclaimed common concern of all nations for eradicating poverty and hunger from our earth make this Organization's Programme of Work and Budget a matter of deepest interest to all Member Nations.

Naturally, the developing member nations who are struggling to find their economic emancipation, will not like to see the efficiency and competence of FAO falter due to want of fuel. But the source of the consensus must and hopefully will come from the professed common concern for the welfare of humanity at large.

Let us not forget that the programme priorities and strategies, as set out by the Director-General in Conference document C 85/3 and its addenda were not conceived in a void or unilaterally, nor are they insensitive to the economic difficulties of Member Nations. The Director-General's programme on the major areas in promoting food production, increasing food security and consolidating information systems, emphasizing training, enhancing economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and ensuring impact at the field level emanating from and guided by advice given and demands placed by the Twenty-second Conference, together with the Conference's technical advisory bodies, Council Committees and the Council itself all contributed to the original document. In all these meetings, the member countries had an opportunity to put forward not only the parameters of programme formulation but also to examine the budgetary implications of the demands placed upon the Organization. During this process, the developing and firming up of a realistic programme took place, and the members endorsed the proposals and actions that have coalesced into the work programme and budget now before us.

Recalling this process, it would appear that reaching a consensus on it should be almost automatic; clearly in the case of some countries this is not so. Recalling that in the numerous preceding meetings agreement was not wanting, it seems ironic that in the face of the reality of unmet needs there is at the same time a forceful effort on the part of some member countries to put a lock on the growth of the programme.

The Bangladesh delegation appeals to them to defer to the historical perspective of collaborative action on the one hand and the pressing needs of the developing world on the other.

The signs of economic recovery currently point to a more hopeful picture, but we must not forget that there is always a considerable time lag for this to reach the developing countries, even more in the case of the low-income food-deficit countries. For these countries this process is rendered even slower by, interalia, depressed agricultural product prices, indebtedness, difficulties in market entry and stiff protectionism.

This being the scenario, FAO's technical input to the growth of these economies will have to continue at a high rate for a long time to come. To be fair to FAO's competence, let us not forget that it cautioned the world well in advance of the crisis that overtook Africa. FAO will have to continue to monitor the world situation effectively and efficiently, lest there be re-enactment of the African drama elsewhere. The other regions must receive adequate attention while rehabilitation of the affected African countries' agriculture continues.

One final point is that if there is a lack of managerial efficiency and effectiveness then it must be achieved, zero budget growth at times may be a means of doing this but this is not an end in itself. Over-stringency also produces inefficiency in management. One must take a dispassionate hard look at the situation to find commensurate action. Real need and its realization is the prime logic which must not be discarded for considerations beyond reality which are not one of need for FAO's effectiveness in most of the countries of the world.

While according our full support for the full Programme of Work and Budget we wish to give our strong support that we gave in the Eighty-eighth Council Session, to the allocations for the Technical Cooperation Programme. We endorsed the whole package which has in it the hallmark of

logic and experience for over a decade. With these words we call upon our fellow Member States to adopt the Programme of Work and Budget.

The Meeting rose at 12.45

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/II/PV/4

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(13 November 1985)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15 horas

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium Term Objectives (continued)
12. Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)
12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes, colegas y amigos. Vamos a empezar nuestra reunión de esta tarde. Gracias al Embajador Qadir, de Pakistán, por su valiosa colaboración.

Tenemos una larga lista de oradores. Es un tema muy importante y la Presidencia no va a tratar de ejercer presión sobre ustedes, pero sólo deseo recordarles que sería muy deseable concluir este tema al final de nuestra sesión de esta tarde, por lo que les rogaría que, dentro de lo posible, fueran breves y concretos.

Pekka ALHOJARVI (Finland): Mr Chairman this item which we are now discussing is a crucial and very challenging one. Here we should try to succeed in analyzing the role of FAO, its targets and means not only for the next biennium but also for the medium and long-term period, since the next biennium should be seen as just one step for the future in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in rural development.

The delegation of Finland highly appreciates these basic documents prepared by the staff of FAO. We consider that they fulfill the preconditions for a profound discussion. The Government of Finland has always highly appreciated the work of FAO during these four decades and we consider that FAO has played a vital role in rural development by developing the agriculture and forestry sectors all over the world. As we consider that these sectors will become even more important in the future in the socio-economic development of societies, we see the future for FAO and its Member Nations becoming more and more demanding. Very often goals and aims vary to a great extent between long, medium and short-term. It is vital that they should be flexibly connected with each other and they would objectively reflect the crises and imbalances of the world. The Government of Finland considers that the targets and aims with priority selections in the Programme set by FAO and its Director-General do reflect our present global situation. That is why we would like to give our support to their implementation.

To a great extent the Finnish delegation is satisfied with the strategy as presented in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. The main trend, with cuts in administration and in allocation of additional resources to FAO's technical and economic programmes, deserves the support of our Government. In this way, reasonable growth in real activities has been made possible. Concerning administration, our Government supports the policy of decentralization, especially of putting more emphasis and importance on the country representations. We are sure that it would improve the management of the development programmes, hopefully without any increasing costs in administration.

Improving national food production remains the key element in improving food security. The increase in agricultural production is required in the areas where the gap between needs and supplies is largest. In this connection, we would like to express our satisfaction with the efficient Global Information and Early Warning System. We note that there are plans to further strengthen it in the future, hopefully by also establishing more national early warning systems.

Rural development includes many environmental questions which become more and more important in the long term. Food production with appropriate technology preserves nature and prevents soil erosion if the farmer has sufficient means for production inputs and organized markets for his products as well as possibilities to take care of his land in the long-term. A vital precondition for this is for the importance of agricultural research work to be highlighted in the work programmes and budgets by individual nations as well as by international organizations. It is also important to support TCDC through study tours by research workers to different advanced institutions within their region to promote exchanges of experiences and research results.

The importance of the rural women cannot be over-emphasized This is too often neglected in rural development programmes , also in those planned by FAO. The Finnish delegation considers that

women's role in food production, and especially their efforts to secure sufficient nutrition for their families, must be promoted. Also, the participation of women in training and extension, both as participants and as teachers, is crucial. Particular emphasis should also be given to encourage women's responsibilities in decision-making in agricultural and economic affairs.

As we know, forest cover is decreasing rapidly under the pressure of expanding populations and hunger for land on which to grow additional crops. Any devastation of forests is relatively more dangerous in drier tropical areas, where forests play a crucial conservation role in protecting the land resource base, now affected by desertification. In the minority of cases, one has to blame indiscriminate exploitation practices, although commercial cuttings are more and more commonly under control. In temperate forests, air pollution or acid rain, a result of industrial development, has become a subject of major concern. Significant and increasing parts of the forest are being threatened. With this problem, we have noticed again how essential it is that international organizations like FAO and ECE work together, study the causes and consequences of the phenomenon deeply, and effectively coordinate between each other and with Member Nations. The success of programmes is the result, to a great extent, of the close cooperation which has been valid and active in FAO's European region already for four decades.

In view of the problems mentioned, action programmes of various types are necessary. They are duly presented in these documents, and are based on recommendations and proposals made in the report of the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics. High priority should be given to strengthening the contribution of forestry to rural development and to maintaining and expanding the support that forestry provides to food production. The Finnish delegation agrees to a large extent with the Plan of Action proposed and with its various sub-programmes - Community Forestry Development, Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Development, and Fuelwood.

Regarding the estimates of funds to be used for various programmes, forestry resources and environment need to be given priority. Within the range of action programmes, priority should be given to those which FAO is well qualified to conduct and for which there is no other comparable source of support. Emphasis should be given to providing the informational and analytical basis necessary in order to identify what needs to be done. In this respect inventory and monitoring of forestry resources, and planning based on them, is of particular importance. Attention must be paid to the critical role of forest research.

The implementation of efficient programmes requires financial and human resources. The previous 22nd FAO Conference expressed the hope that increased resources would be made available for forestry. The Finnish delegation considers that the present proposal for the Budget is not totally in accordance with a positive trend. The Government of Finland would like to see an increased share allocated for the forestry sector in the Budget.

When discussing development support programmes, we consider that the field programme planning should include a modest growth in its share of the Budget if we stress the importance of technical and economic programmes, as we do.

When speaking about investments, we would like to stress the importance of the Investment Support Programme which mainly works in the least developed countries and which most urgently needs increased capital investment and assistance in investment project formulation. We are satisfied with the fact that the number of financial institutions cooperating in the Investment Support Programme has steadily increased since 1979. In this context we would also like to stress the importance of IFAD, which has been acting in a very valuable way in the development of the least developed countries and which thus also deserves support from the Government of Finland, especially in the present situation. In this context, we also wish to stress the importance of FAO's capability to cooperate with other international organizations, both inside and outside the UN System. This is vital, particularly in the areas where support for development is most indispensable.

We would like to direct our last comments to the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 and to TCP - the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Finnish delegation considers

that this well-established, quick action programme, has proved to be successful. But, as we have been evaluating its structure and substance very carefully, we would like to stress two points in order to be able to continue to support it in the future. TCP should stick to its original purposes and functions, and its share of Budget funds should not be increased from the proposed level, otherwise it may alter its original purpose and negatively affect small, but important, sectors in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Finally, with these comments, we feel that the Director-General and the Secretariat should be given full support for the Programme of Work and Budget, and confidence in carrying it out.

Namgey NIDUP (Bhutan): First of all the Bhutanese delegation would like to congratulate you and the two Vice-Chairmen on your election in this very important Commission, and also to congratulate Mr Shah for his excellent introduction of the subject under discussion. My delegation would like to join previous speakers in stating that we are highly appreciative of the enormous efforts made by the Director-General of FAO in drawing up an active and action-filled Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

The Bhutanese delegation trusts that FAO, with its 40 years of outstanding experience, expertise, and dedication to the service of mankind, will effectively implement the programmes envisaged during 1986-87 successfully and to the mutual benefit of Member Nations. My delegation is pleased to note the priority given to Africa, as conditions in that region deserve it.

The Bhutanese delegation fully endorses and supports the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 as presented by the Director-General.

Carl THOMSEN (Denmark)(on behalf of the Nordic Countries): Thank you Mr Chairman for giving me the floor: and for giving it to me a second time. We have been authorized to make a statement about the Technical Cooperation Programme on behalf of the Nordic Countries, and, with your permission, we would like to also make a short statement on behalf of the Danish delegation. So, after the Nordic statement, I would like to pass the floor to my colleague sitting beside me.

The common Nordic statement about the TCP runs as follows:

The Nordic Countries have supported the basic concept of the TCP since its inception in 1976. We share the view that there was a need for a facility to enable the Organization to initiate small projects of short duration and of an un-programmed and flexible nature. The purpose of these projects should be to meet unforeseen requirements and unexpected needs. We were especially attracted by the idea that the projects should be of a catalytic nature - in other words that they should initiate action which would and could be carried on by others, that they would stimulate the flow of resources from other sources, whether national or international. We also considered it important that the Programme projects form an integral part of the Regular Programme of the Organization, in order to prevent an undue dispersal of efforts. The Programme should complement and not substitute for other sources of finance, and it should not compete with other forms of assistance.

The Nordic Countries still hold the opinion that the TCP has an important function to fulfill, and we are anxious that it should maintain the original intentions and objectives. It is against this background, and from this point of view, that we would like to make the following comments and observations.

Firstly, it is our opinion that the Programme has reached an adequate level in fulfilling its task, when compared to the other parts of the Programme of Work. We are furthermore concerned that additional increases may have undesirable effects on the Programme itself. To illustrate this, we would - as indicated earlier - consider it appropriate, for a number of reasons, that a higher priority within the proposed overall budget level be given to forestry, which will only cover 4 percent of the total Budget for 1986-87, compared with the proposed 13.7

percent for the TCP. It seems to us that there is a risk that the TCP is becoming what one could call "a cuckoo in the nest" for the Organization - in other words, the TCP can only live up to expectations if the Departments of the Organization have the capacity to meet the ensuing demands in a proper way. Thus, it appears from the Report on the independent Evaluation that the present magnitude of the Programme is already putting undue pressure on some parts of the Organization - this is with reference to providing the necessary backstopping to individual projects, which is of course most essential.

It also appears from the Evaluation report that it proved very difficult to identify the follow-up to the projects implemented. Although such a task may not be an easy one, it would seem very important, in view of the intended catalytic nature, to be able to ascertain or ensure the necessary follow-up. The Evaluation Team has not, in fact, been able to form an opinion about the impact of the projects implemented, as the information needed was not available.

This would appear to be the weaker part of the evaluation report and a note of caution seems justified until more light has been thrown on this aspect. Although there appears to be need for more projects, due consideration must also be given to the results obtained. Out of the desire to maintain the original intentions and the intrinsic value of the programme, we are concerned about the proposal to broaden its scope. In our view, it is essential to maintain the catalytic nature, to limit the projects to initiating action, as I said earlier, which can be carried on under other auspices.

In this connection, we find it disturbing to note that the allocation for training has been as high as 32 percent. Training is indeed important, but it is generally of a long-term nature and should therefore only in very special circumstances be based on small projects of short duration which are the typical domain of the TCP.

Again, we are concerned that a higher ceiling for individual projects may have undesirable effects on the nature of the programme and we do not think that the need for such an increase has been clearly demonstrated.

On the other hand, we would favour more latitude for the FAO country representatives, as increased decentralization would appear to be especially appropriate where quick action is needed. We would therefore be in favour of larger increases in the ceilings for the country representatives than those proposed in the Council document, that is CL 88/8.

As regards the more technical and administrative proposals contained in that document, we would limit our remarks to supporting the recommendations related to the need for all parties involved to facilitate speedy implementation, as this is of crucial importance to a programme of this nature.

In conclusion, the Nordic countries consider the Technical Cooperation Programme to be a valuable element in the total Programme of Work of the Organization, for the reasons stated. We consider, however, that the Programme has reached a magnitude where a further increase may endanger its original nature. From the same point of view, we suggest that Member Countries should be provided with better information about the special nature of the Programme and the results of its implementation. As pointed out by a number of other delegations, there is a need for more transparency, to assist both the Organization and its Member Countries in maintaining the nature of the Programme as originally intended.

Ms Sys THODEN (Denmark): In continuation of the general remarks, the Danish delegation wishes to make a few more specific comments related to the Programme of Work and Budget. We support the proposed policy of decentralization based on regional offices and the network of FAO country representatives now in 74 different countries. We continue to attach great importance to the process of decentralization because we believe that increased delegation of administrative and operational authority, from headquarters to the regional and country level to be of vital importance in order to ensure greater responsiveness to local needs and priorities.

Unfortunately, the Programme of Work and Budget only contains a little information on how the Organization will achieve further decentralization, and we would be grateful to receive further

clarification on this point. It appears to us that particularly the country offices have a great potential in terms of local knowledge which could be better utilized if they were drawn closer to the decision-making process concerning operational project activities funded through the field programme.

We also think that these offices should play a greater role in FAO's non-project related activities such as agricultural planning, food security and emergency programmes.

As far as the regional offices are concerned, we realize that these offices have an important role to play, particularly in the promotion of TCDC. We think, however, that the regional offices should increasingly focus their attention on a limited number of sectors which are vitally important to the region and supported by already existing economic and political organizations. Furthermore, we have noted with interest a long list of suggested activities in the areas of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. We would like to stress the importance of making priorities and linking the areas together to achieve development for the benefit of the local people.

The women, for example, had a heavy workload in all the three areas mentioned where FAO is involved. Therefore, the different FAO divisions must work closer together with the women and the NGOs in project planning as a follow-up to the WCARRD decisions where the importance of people's participation in the creation and implementation of programmes was strongly stressed.

By closer contacts and collaboration with the NGOs, the programmes will get the necessary grassroots input which might win greater success in terms of fulfillment of the aims of the project.

That brings us to the important issues of the possibilities of women identifying themselves with females in the FAO systems at all levels. We would also mention the importance of making the women visible in the FAO project statistics and the statistics on agricultural production, where women are important contributors.

In conclusion, we stress the importance of nutrition programmes to prevent the development of handicaps, where, for example, the intake of vitamin A by children will prevent blindness. However, when a handicap has developed, the FAO programmes should take that aspect into consideration. This is another area where cooperation with the NGOs would be very valuable.

C.E. MAYNARD (Barbados): Mr Chairman, your election to preside over the work of this Committee is surely a recognition of the important role you and your country have played in the work of this Organization for many years. I did not have the pleasure of hearing Mr Shah's introduction of the Programme of Work and Budget but having heard him on several occasions during the last session of the Programme Committee, it is indeed my loss that I missed his introduction because my presence was required elsewhere.

As a member of the Programme Committee, my delegation has made its position known in detail under various components of the Programme of Work and Budget. We would therefore wish only to re-emphasize the main points of our position at this time.

The Programme of Work and Budget must be viewed in the context of the very uncertain prospects for the world economy, especially the grave food and agriculture situation of many countries, particularly pronounced in Africa. It is generally agreed that if many of our countries are to improve living standards and to move into a more dynamic economic environment, we must seek to realize the full potential of the agricultural sector. If this ideal is to be achieved, countries must look to external sources for support. Since no other organization in the UN System is better able to help than the FAO, we must support the programme and the Organization with its unresolved agenda for action at the national and multinational levels. This being so, it is an absolute necessity, to my way of thinking, that the Organization maintains its capacity to meet requests for assistance from Member States. It must also maintain and improve the performance of its assigned roles as a source of specialized information and inter-governmental consultation in agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

My delegation, therefore, fully endorses the six principle aims which have guided the Director-General in the allocation of priorities in the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-

87. We support the priority assigned particularly to Africa. Increased food production should not only be achieved through the utilization of our best irrigated lands, but the need to develop dry areas and marginal lands should not be overlooked.

We share the Director-General's concern for strengthening the Global Information and Early Warning System and support the proposed programmes which form the core of the proposed food security action programme.

We also support his emphasis on the fisheries programme and welcome his intention to give special consideration to the requirements of developing land-locked countries and small island states. Also, the conservation and rational utilization of fisheries, agricultural development and the promotion of the rural fisheries and nutrition.

There can be no argument with the direction of the programme for forestry development. The priority must be for conservation and rehabilitation of forests, of the forest resource base, as well as for the maintenance of sound environmental conditions, soil stability for agricultural development and the containment of soil erosion. Training must also continue to be an important component of FAO's work and we note the great success achieved through group training activities funded by the TC Programme, Trust Funds and UNDP. However, a new focus must now be given to training designed specifically for women, as well as to ensuring their greater participation in all such activities.

There can also be no argument with the Director-General's proposals for development support programmes covered by Chapter III, as well as the Technical Cooperation Programme in Chapter IV.

For us it is not easy to find fault with the very balanced approach which the Organization has adopted in its advice on the development of national agricultural research and the emphasis placed on training policy advice and institution building. It has correctly stressed two-way research connection linkages thus ensuring that the needs of farmers are fully assured and they reap the benefit of such research. I cannot over-stress the need of the Organization to promote the transfer of research in countries and regions with regional offices centrally involved in this aspect of the work.

My delegation strongly supports the very clear emphasis given TCDC and TCP under this Programme. These activities can be an important part of the developmental process and the Secretariat. The interdepartmental working group on science and technology for development and the new technology development division, which coordinated FAO activities and research, should be particularly congratulated for their efforts in assisting over one hundred of approximately 164 TCDC networks in the sectors of the Organization's competence, as well as 29 economic and other international groupings. For my country, the Technical Cooperation Programme has more than achieved the original objective. It should be continued and it should be strengthened to meet the expanding needs of member states in a variety of fields in food production, as well as those of small farmers as the principal beneficiaries. It has our strong support because of its unique ability to respond quickly to urgent small scale requirements in member countries, particularly during emergencies.

With a point of view such as ours, it is impossible to support the very narrow and restrictive notion of zero growth in budgeting. It is a notion which to my view ignores the realities of the real world in which we live. No entity such as this Organization can prosper in a setting in which planned growth and expansion are denied and stagnation substituted, for the Organization will surely wither if this dubious theory prevails.

My delegation unreservedly supports the Programme and Budget as it has been presented.

Stefan de MARE (Sweden): We have been listening carefully to the debate that has been going on yesterday and today on this important subject before us. It has been an interesting debate but also one, when it comes to the question of the budget increase, that in many respects is a repetition of earlier debates that have taken place on this subject. One almost gets the

impression, listening to some delegates, that there is no end to the problems that would arise if a very limited or zero real growth should be applied to the FAO Regular Budget. As has been stated on earlier occasions, Sweden does not accept zero real growth as a principle. We see it as a rather blunt implement without manifest impact, on efficiency or effectiveness. The programmes should be judged on their own merit. On the other hand, it does not follow that the greater the real growth in the real budget, the better it is for the FAO, for the international community and for the developing countries. Sweden welcomes the efforts made by the Director-General to come down from the initially proposed real budget increase to a level of 1.1 percent and the reduction of non-technical administrative and support costs in the proposed budget. We believe, however, that even further cuts could have been made without any harmful effects on the activities of FAO. In the view of the Swedish delegation, growth too can have its problems, and can be a limitation in a given situation. For one thing, we cannot entirely disregard the general economic and financial situation in the world. Another factor to consider is whether a saturation point for certain kinds of activities exists. It appears, for instance, that such a point has already been reached with respect to meetings of committees and working groups. There are surely other fields of activities where it would be legitimate to closely examine the phenomenon of diminishing returns before embarking or continuing on a road of expansion.

A third reason to caution against too much stress on growth in the regular budget at the present stage is the relationship between assessed and voluntary financing. A dogmatic insistence on growth in the regular budget might deflect attention from the efforts to mobilize voluntary funds aimed at alleviating the very severe agricultural situation in many developing countries.

In this assembly I do not have to stress the importance of the extra-budgetary funds for the work at FAO. The Swedish delegation believes that, by and large, the real budget in real terms has reached a level that permits the implementation of mandates given by member countries. New activities could, to an increasing extent, be financed from savings derived from programmes that have been successfully completed or are ineffective or are of marginal usefulness. Marginal changes up or down from this aggregate level of financial resources do not have a significant impact on activities. The efficiency with which the activities are carried out is far more important. Improved efficiency requires a combination of restrictive budgetary policies and measures aimed at rationalization of administration and management, as well as perfecting the planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation process. Like the Danish delegation in the statement yesterday, we believe that the necessary adjustment of the role and function of FAO becomes particularly important in the longer term. Their views on this subject as presented yesterday are also ours.

Concerning the Programme of Work as presented in the document before us and the excellent introduction yesterday by Mr Shah, the Swedish delegation is in reasonable agreement with the stated aims and objectives. There are two areas of action in the FAO programme which we would like to comment briefly upon. One is forestry. Our Minister has taken up this issue in a statement and urged that within the budget a higher relative share should go to forestry. In addition to what he has said, we particularly appreciate the changed emphasis from forestry as an industrial resource to social forestry. This is exemplified, *inter alia*, in the Programme of Forestry for local community development which Sweden has been supporting for a long time. The Indian delegate, in one of the early statements yesterday, gave an eloquent and distinctive description of what forestry means and how important it is that social forestry be given increased intention in the development planning. In order to save time, I restrict myself by saying that we fully share the views he expressed.

One of the important elements of social forestry is its role in food security and particularly its role as a component of soil and water conservation activities. It is the view of my delegation that soil degradation coupled with the too rapid increase of the population is the real threat to survival in many parts of the world. FAO is already doing much in soil and water conservation. The activities in the Forestry Department are already referred to. Plant and Animal Divisions are similarly involved, but we feel that there is a need for more concerted action in cooperation between management in order to develop more comprehensive management and methodologies. This should be flexible enough to allow for adaptation to the different circumstances in different areas. What we have in mind is a programme with the same approach as the programme Forestry for Local Development. Unlike many other proposals, this proposal will not call for additional economic resources in the coming biennium. Moreover, given the global interest in this issue, it might also be possible to raise some extra-budgetary resources.

Peter WIESMANN (Suisse): Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais tout d'abord vous féliciter très cordialement ainsi que les deux vice-présidents pour votre élection à ce poste très important. Laissez-moi aussi remercier et féliciter M. Shah pour son introduction si lucide et compétente.

La délégation suisse se félicite des stratégies, priorités et accents contenus dans le Programme qui ont été si clairement soulignés par le Directeur général dans sa présentation du Programme de travail et Budget et elle y souscrit entièrement.

Pour ne pas inutilement allonger le débat et répéter ce qui a été dit par un grand nombre de délégués qui m'ont précédé, je voudrais concentrer mes quelques remarques sur le programme concernant le développement rural, le programme forestier et le PCT.

La FAO, suite à la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, a été chargée d'un rôle plus étendu dans ce domaine. Cependant, comme l'observe la FAO, les progrès sont lents. Nous voulons ici mettre en garde contre un risque de découragement devant la lenteur des progrès. Soyons conscients du fait qu'il faut beaucoup de temps pour faire progresser méthodiquement une réforme agraire, pour faire évoluer le rôle de la femme rurale et pour mener les divers développements institutionnels nécessaires. Du reste, en matière de développement institutionnel, il ne faut pas viser de manière privilégiée ceux qui se situent au niveau des institutions étatiques ou paraétatiques. Nous pensons que le Programme de travail devrait faire une plus large place aux associations et groupements de base qui mobilisent en leur sein les ultimes bénéficiaires, ceux qui ont un intérêt immédiat à ce que le processus de changement réussisse. Ce sont ces associations qui sont, à notre avis, les plus sûrs agents d'un progrès durable.

Venons-en à une autre composante du développement rural: le crédit agricole. Récemment s'est tenue à Rome la troisième Consultation organisée dans le cadre du programme de crédit agricole, le SACRED. Nous considérons cette Consultation comme un excellent exemple du rôle que doit jouer la FAO comme forum pour la diffusion des expériences positives enregistrées, par les organismes participants et pour l'organisation des relations entre ces organismes répartis travers le monde. Quant aux formes de crédit, nous voudrions ici rompre une lance en faveur du crédit groupé pour les petits agriculteurs grâce auquel les petits agriculteurs, même lorsqu'ils n'offrent pas de garanties réelles, peuvent avoir accès au crédit à des taux d'intérêt convenables, cela grâce à leur solidarité dans le remboursement. Le FIDA est l'institution financière qui voue le plus d'attention à propager cette forme de crédit, et cela à juste titre. Nous désirons ici poser une question au Secrétariat: nous aimerions qu'il nous dise comment est organisée la collaboration entre la FAO et le FIDA en matière de crédit aux petits agriculteurs et, notamment, en matière de crédit aux petits agriculteurs groupés.

Le grand programme Forêts 1986-87 prévoit une augmentation dans les deux sous-programmes, "Ressources forestières et environnement" et "La forêt au service du développement rural". L'augmentation pour le sous-programme "Ressources forestières et environnement" de plus de 20 pour cent est particulièrement judicieuse; en effet, dans beaucoup de régions montagneuses, sous l'effet du surpâturage, de la culture en pente, du défrichement pour les cultures itinérantes, de l'approvisionnement en bois de feu, les forêts ont été décimées, ce qui provoque de graves problèmes d'érosion ainsi que des inondations dans les plaines. En plus d'une dizaine de projets bilatéraux, le Gouvernement suisse cofinance deux projets de la FAO dans ce domaine: l'un à Haïti, qui porte sur l'aménagement du bassin versant, l'autre au Yémen, qui a pour objectif le reboisement pour la production du bois de feu et, du même coup, pour la lutte contre l'érosion.

En matière de ressources forestières et d'environnement, ma délégation encourage spécialement les efforts de la FAO concernant la conservation des terres par l'aménagement intégré. Il nous semble primordial de choisir une approche intégrée qui englobe des mesures visant l'agriculture, l'élevage, l'aménagement des forêts, le reboisement et la création d'emplats non agricoles.

Nous recommandons à la FAO d'intensifier la diffusion des expériences enregistrées dans la mise en oeuvre de cette approche intégrée pour le bénéfice du plus grand nombre d'intéressés.

Ma délégation note avec satisfaction que le groupe d'évaluateurs externes qui a examiné le Programme de coopération technique, le PCT, a jugé ses résultats positifs dans l'ensemble. Nous avons pris connaissance du fait qu'une part croissante du PCT est consacrée à la promotion de la coopération technique entre pays en développement et que, dans ce domaine, le rôle catalyseur du Programme s'avère particulièrement efficace pour autant que ces projets soient limités à une sorte d'injection de démarrage et qu'ils soient poursuivis sous d'autres auspices.

Quant aux projets de formation, nous pensons qu'il s'agit généralement d'une oeuvre à long terme qui ne cadre pas, ou alors très exceptionnellement, avec les projets de courte durée qui caractérisent le PCT.

Nous savons que les projets du PCT, comme les autres projets, sont soumis au système interne d'évaluation de la-FAO, au sein duquel les représentants de l'Organisation dans les pays jouent un rôle important. Cela est bien, mais quelle que soit la qualité de l'évaluation interne, rien n'équivaut à des évaluations externes périodiques pour gagner la confiance des organes directeurs.

Quant au budget, nous appelons de nos voeux un dialogue constant et concret avec le Secrétariat qui permettra aux Etats Membres d'apporter leur contribution dans l'entreprise qui nous unit tous pour faire un usage optimal des ressources de la FAO. A cet égard, il convient de saluer les efforts du Directeur général qui nous a présenté un budget reflétant notre souci de rigueur et notre préférence pour un accent mis sur les activités tournées vers le terrain, plutôt que sur les dépenses administratives. Nous sommes confiants que cette évolution productive du budget de notre Organisation se confirmera dans le futur.

T.E. KITLELI (Lesotho): Before I deliver my brief statement I wish to say how honoured I am because I am speaking with two caps on. One cap is for my delegation, the second cap as a Vice-Chairman of the African Group. So do not be astonished if I keep on saying 'my'; -I shall be referring to the African continent.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes to associate itself with those who have congratulated you and your two Vice-Chairmen on being unanimously elected in your respective positions. There is no doubt that with your long experience and dynamic leadership skills this Commission will come up with constructive and purposeful conclusions.

Mr Chairman, we miss you already on the floor and I am sure you wish that you were down here with us; all that you know because of your qualities.

We wish to thank Mr Shah for his lucid presentation of the document before us. The item on the agenda is a delicate and thought-provoking one at the same time. It is delicate because this is the most critical period of the current recession for the last 50 years, as stated in document C 85/3 presented by the Director-General of FAO. Every member of this-Commission knows the effects of economic recession. My delegation cannot emphasize enough how essential it is to apply those measures that we all agree can improve the situation. Summaries and declarations have been encouraged. Some improvements have been noted in the industrialized and developed countries, but in the developing countries conditions are not at all encouraging.

Among the factors that have contributed to leaving the developing countries in a bleak situation, my delegation immediately recalls the high interest rates, volatile exchange rates, trade restrictions, protectionism and the rest. It follows therefore that developing countries, in particular Africa, will have high debt rates.

Allow me to quote a brief sentence from document C 85/3 which says: "We must simultaneously rehabilitate the Continent" - that is Africa - "which has shut out agriculture, and rebuild Africa's ability to feed itself."

All this needs vision, courage and compassion, as the Director-General of FAO has said in this document. This can be achieved. Countries like Japan, India, Zimbabwe and others have demonstrated that this is possible.

Turning briefly to TCP, my delegation sees this as a related strategy in its totality because it emphasizes training of the local people, providing inputs to short-term projects and other related areas. We have to start somewhere at the grassroot level, and my delegation feels that TCP is the correct approach.

My delegation commends the initiative of the Director-General to contact donor countries to support the proposed rehabilitation projects. It is the hope and wish of my delegation that this proposal will be highly considered.

The day before yesterday we witnessed a hearty and brief ceremony where some of our outstanding and capable colleagues received special awards for their distinct work in portraying and making the world aware of certain parts of the African continent which suffer from the effect of constant drought.

If we were to pause and ask ourselves this question, shall we continue to carry out this job and the proposed one with zero growth, my delegation would not like to attempt to answer it. My delegation asks this Commission to address this question seriously and come up with an answer, and my delegation is positive that before we conclude this item we shall be able to have suggested positive measures essential to overcome this problem.

My delegation has read the documents before us very closely and indeed it supports the areas of concern that are clearly tabulated, these being: (1) promotion of food production by supplying inputs at the right time to the small farmers; (2) increase of food security by strengthening the Global Information Early Warning System; (3) utilization of fisheries' resources; and (4) promotion of afforestation to eliminate degradation, training, and as we mentioned earlier, including womenfolk.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to see this document fully supported and once again we appreciate very much that you have given us the floor.

Milan TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, I do not need to tell you how happy I am to see you back in this House, this very room in which your spirit, and indeed your image, is constantly confined. Our congratulations to the Vice-Chairmen as well.

We listened with great interest to the introduction by the Director-General, as read out by Mr Shah, and indeed it will be evident very clearly from my statement that this has full approval.

I have some reason to believe that the views of the Yugoslav Government on this very important subject - that is the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO for the next biennium - are broadly known, and I have to respect the ambition of the chair to complete the debate on this subject in the course of the afternoon. Therefore I will try to be very brief. I will try to confine our comments to something that we really believe is important, and I will try to reflect some of the views that were mentioned in the debate. I believe it is in our common interest to establish a dialogue and to agree on as many subjects as we possibly can.

Briefly on format we believe, as almost all others, that the format and presentation of the document for the next biennium represents some improvement on similar attempts in the past in many respects. I have no time to reflect all the improvements that I believe are very important. It is enough to say that nothing is perfect and some additional improvements are surely possible.

We have listened to certain views calling for more transparency, better presentation, and perhaps more information. We really deeply believe that though improvements are still possible, it would be very difficult to satisfy such requests. Our feeling is that the format and presentation are a fair balance between conciseness and information, and basically all relevant information is already contained.

On the Director-General's introduction, I have very little to say except to add a small word of caution. We are afraid that the world' economic situation as presented by the Director-General

could prove to be somewhat optimistic. In our view, recovery is almost fully confined to developed parts of the world. It is very weak and, very importantly, it is very uneven between this homogenous group of countries, even very uneven within the single economies, and it is very uncertain.

Let me indicate or just reiterate our full agreement with the proposed strategy and priorities. We cannot agree more on the increased concentration on Africa, given the situation in Africa south of Sahara. In our view, Mr Chairman, the strategy and priorities as reflected in the document represent yet another consistent, and we believe, very rational, step along the basic policy lines unanimously approved by the Council in 1976 and reaffirmed by the Conference in 1977. It is in our view very gratifying to note that the Director-General was able to propose quite a sizeable increase in the major technical and economic activities at the expense, of course, of some administrative and support services. We generally share, but very generally indeed, Mr Chairman, the word of caution by the Council and the bodies with regard to the continuation of this tendency. However, we are positive that the Director-General will always pay full attention - I am referring to the future of course - and will surely make sure that future cuts if any were made, will not be at the expense of the administrative and support services.

Let me just mention that we feel that the proposed increase in the costs are fully justified and that we would not like to see an FAO office in North America, as was generously offered by some of my friends from that region, given the enormous cut in some offices in the previous biennium.

Mr Chairman, I cannot but offer some comments on TCP. TCP was obviously the subject of almost all interventions. As I am now going to address the TCP I feel I have to establish the credentials of my Government vis-a-vis the TCP. I would like to stress what Yugoslavia has contributed. We have used so little TCP that it could be safely neglected. I am trying to establish these credentials, as I said, just to counter some of the views expressed, some of the views that in fact, at least informally, implied that there is a rift in FAO membership vis-a-vis TCP on the basis of contributor-beneficiary lines. We do not believe in that. My country does not belong to a group of beneficiary countries, but it will surely continue to lend its full support to TCP. We believe that TCP is very efficient if compared with its own nature and its objectives. Now we are even more sure in our belief, since we very carefully studied the evaluation report. May I also recall that in this very hall during the last two biennia we have listened to a whole chorus of voices all asking for the same thing, a so-called independent evaluation of TCP. In response to such calls, the Director-General initiated - a full external evaluation of TCP. We are aware of the evaluation report. Personally, I can speak with certain authority that I have never seen a better evaluation report because I was personally involved for many years in evaluation work - a very able team indeed. I am privileged to say that I know all three evaluators and it is difficult for me personally to see a better choice than the one made by the Director-General. The evaluation was, as I said, conducted independently, based on a large sample covering many countries and, in all respects, was more than representative. Then the report itself contained full information on all aspects - and I am underlining all aspects - of TCP. I am insisting on all this, Mr Chairman, just to say that it is a bit strange to hear again words like "accountability of TCP" and, even stranger, a suggestion going as far as to ask the Programme and Finance Committees to be involved in a sort of ex-post monitoring. I do not know, I am not clear, what it would imply, but if it really implies what I am afraid of, then with my experience in committee, which is fairly long, I would like to advise this Commission very strongly against any attempt to charge either the Programme or Finance Committee, or even jointly, to involve itself in such an exercise. I have no time to elaborate, but if we are going to discuss this matter in more detail I would feel free to present, to advance very numerous arguments which lead me to advise this body against any thought of that kind. Let me say finally, still on TCP, that after the evaluation report we strongly believe that TCP is very efficient, that it compares - and I am going to say something which is very modest - very well with similar activities in the UN System or elsewhere.

Finally a very brief reflection on the major issue, the one of the budget level. We also very much appreciate the additional efforts of the Director-General to reduce somewhat the level of resources originally required for the next biennium. I have, again, no time to go into detail. We are pleased that the reduction did not, in fact, affect economic and technical activities,

and that it is the result of further cuts in documentation and some maintenance work. While we appreciate very much the additional efforts of the Director-General, we are equally aware of the fact that many developing countries, especially the least developed countries, wanted the Director-General to propose a much more sizeable increase in the Budget given to cope with the enormous and, unfortunately, increasing needs of such countries. We feel, however, that the proposed level now is a fair balance between possibilities of the FAO membership at this very moment and increasing calls for FAO support. In that respect, we fully support and we do not believe that it is rational or meaningful to ask the Director-General again to consider further cuts. His constitutional responsibility to this Conference is very clear. He is, of course, obliged to follow very closely and to be in constant touch and consultation with the FAO membership, to pay full attention to the Regional Conferences, to the various bodies of the FAO Council and to the Council itself. But it is a clear-cut constitutional responsibility of the Director-General to present his best judgment - with regard to all the features of the Budget including the Budget level - to the Conference; and in our view, he has already made an unprecedented effort to satisfy some of the concerns, and so it really does not seem right to call him again to consider the possibility of further cuts. We do not agree that further cuts are still possible without causing further harm to the very essence of FAO activities.

Mrs Jean GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago): I thank you Mr Chairman. Allow me to join preceding speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this important Commission. Your long experience with FAO and your personal involvement with the matters entrusted to this Commission made your choice to guide our deliberations an ideal one. I would also like to thank Mr. Shah, Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, for his lucid and thorough introduction of the Agenda item.

Trinidad and Tobago followed very carefully the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget at the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Council meetings and at this Commission, and we believe ourselves to be fully apprised of the issues. We wish to commend the Organization for its well-balanced budgetary presentation and its restrained approach in the preparation of the Budget, which has taken into consideration the international economic constraints under which Member States now operate. We accept the present Budget ceiling and appreciate the reduction made in the growth level from 1.4 percent to 1.1 percent. We also applaud the reduction in expenditure on administration and support services which has now been reduced to 5.5 percent. We wish to warn, however, against further erosion of administration staff and support services to a point where they fail the critical mass required to administer and satisfactorily implement requests for programmes from Member States.

Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the Latin American and Caribbean group and is geographically located among those small island states in the Caribbean Sea. We therefore feel that there is a need to develop and intensify our activities in the fisheries industry, as a result of the creation of the Exclusive Economic Zone, and in aquaculture, and solicit your support under this programme. Forestry is another activity of importance to us. We therefore feel the allocations in fisheries and forestry as essential for the further development of these sectors. In the Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean, we wish to draw particular attention to the urgency and importance of activities in the following areas: concentration on the technologies of production of root and tuber crops in tropical and sub-tropical areas suitable for the small farmer sector; the identification of areas for germplasm production particularly for cocoa, coffee, bananas, vegetable seeds and legumes; the provision of secretariat services to the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission, and the prevention of losses for perishable foods such as fruits and vegetables in the areas of post harvest physiology and storage.

Under the livestock programme we support the following activities and view them as areas of priority: the search for low-cost fodder and the use of non-traditional feeding stuffs such as agricultural residues and agro-industrial byproducts in the formulation of livestock foods, and the prevention of exotic diseases, particularly Foot and Mouth Disease, from the Caribbean, through technical cooperation among the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean group and FAO and through the strengthening of cooperation in laboratory diagnostic capability. We welcome the support given by FAO to those countries where Foot and Mouth Disease exists.

With special reference to the TCP, my delegation wishes to restate in this forum what was indicated and supported at the last Council Session. We see the TCP as one of the most effective and efficient programmes organized by FAO for a rapid response to problems in Member Government States. We in Trinidad and Tobago have benefited from these programmes, and can commend our successes as ample reason for further support for this Programme. However, we lend our support for the increase in the maximum cost of TCP projects from US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000, inviting the Administration once again to continue its efforts to ensure that some mechanism for improved financial accountability and for monitoring is put into place for projects which will be instituted. In addition, we re-emphasize our view that the Programme should not only address emergency problems, but should also seek to accommodate other deficiencies in agricultural development which require a catalytic action to propel them into action-oriented implementation programmes.

These are some of the programmes which the Trinidad and Tobago delegation has identified for priority action. By way of ensuring successful implementation, we feel that it is desirable for us to support the Budget presented to us, if the Director-General is to be given the opportunity to meet the six cardinal principles which have shaped the proposals.

There is an additional aspect of the Budget that we wish to address. My delegation has taken account of the objective of the Sub-programme 5.2.4.2, "Recruitment Planning and Staff Development," in which attention has been given to the achievement of balanced recruitment of staff with emphasis on providing equal opportunity for women. This is in keeping with the resolution adopted at the United Nations World Conference for Women held in Nairobi in July this year. We welcome the FAO's acknowledgement of the request addressed to heads of specialized agencies to establish new five-year targets at each level for the percentage of women in professional and higher posts, and the setting up of necessary mechanisms to achieve those targets. My delegation trusts that running parallel to the new posts to be created as a result of the adoption of the Budget, a balanced view in the recruitment of women to these posts will also be realized.

P.O. RYAN (Ireland): Ireland welcomes and fully supports the Budget and Programme of Work as proposed by the Director-General. We welcome in particular the reduction in administrative and other non-technical costs, and the corresponding increases in the technical and economic programmes and in the TCP.

Among the six principal priorities established by the Director-General, we commend his emphasis on training and on ensuring an impact at field level. These two means of action will together, we feel, help to ensure in the longer term the achievement of the two primary objectives of increasing food production and strengthening food security.

Dean R. LINDO (Belize): The congratulatory remarks that have been going in your direction bear full testimony to the high esteem in which you are held by this Commission. Belize concurs fully in these remarks. We would also ask you to direct our congratulations to the rest of your Commission on their recent election, as they take on the heavy burden of this Commission.

Belize is one of the new Members of FAO, and we very much appreciate your giving us audience in these hallowed halls. We thank you, Sir.

Having analyzed the Programme of Work and Budget, we say without hesitation that we support it, and we urge its adoption.

The TCP is of particular significance to the country of Belize.

Extension services are very important in the life of the farmer, who is in very great need of technical support and assistance - because in the final analysis it is the farmer who is important.

Irrigation and drainage have perhaps real meaning to those familiar with agriculture and who have had the benefit of irrigation - which, I understand, can make the difference between failure and success in agriculture. It is almost a foreign word to my particular area, for several reasons - not the least being the cost of irrigation, which is very high for us. There is also certainly the question of the capacity and technology to build irrigation systems.

Most of the produce, particularly grains, do not reach the tables of the people for whom it is intended. Indeed, sometimes as much as 30 percent is lost to rodents, who benefit almost as greatly as the people for whom it is intended.

Then, there is the question of marketing. The farmers will not produce if they cannot market the produce. There is great need for technical assistance, technical cooperation in the field of marketing, and that in itself creates some problems. At one time, there was difficulty in identifying the market. Now when the markets have been identified, other problems appear. One could not respond to the demand situation of the market, because one did not have the technology with which to produce the quantities which a meaningful market seemed to need.

Perhaps I should say a word on forestry. I am told that Belize is supposed to be a forest country. We are told by the World Bank that it has a capacity to produce some 200 million feet of lumber annually. It is producing 8 million. I need hardly say that the timber is there, but technology obviously is not.

Some financing would be needed, but in my opinion, technology is perhaps more important. The resources are there, available to be cut, but are being left in the forests. So you will appreciate that in our position, the TCP is very important - and we therefore support it.

I have listened to the zero growth arguments, and it does seem to me, in one sentence, that natural growth has to be reflected in the Budget. The incremental responsibility and expansion must be reflected in the budgetary position - and, as I understand it, that is exactly what has been done.

Finally, at the risk of being invidious, Belize commends Mr Shah for his brilliant elucidation of what is obviously a very complicated document. Our compliments also go to the Director-General for his imaginative presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget in which he has shown great competence and compassion.

Mrs Tassia ATHANASSIOU (Greece): On behalf of my delegation I wish to congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election to this high office, and to express our conviction that under your able guidance the work of the Commission will be successfully accomplished.

As far as the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 is concerned, I would like to point out that we are fully aware of the ever-increasing demands on, and needs of, the Organization to broaden its activities. As the Director-General has stated, FAO functions (1) as a collector and purveyor of information; (2) as a center for policy analysis; (3) as a forum for governmental discussion; and (4) as a provider of technical assistance at the field level and mobilizer of investment and aid. Thus, despite efforts to halt the expenses of the Organization, the target of zero growth is very hard to achieve, because of the role which FAO is called upon to play.

The Greek Government fully accords with the targets which the Director-General has set, obviously after consultation with the various parties, in a description of the priorities and activities of the Organization. The nature of these activities makes difficult any attempt to run them and it is not only because there is an absolute need for parallel progress in various fields of the activities of the Organization, but also because there might be doubt whether this assembly is the most appropriate forum for a dogmatic discussion on the subject.

In view of the above, and sharing the opinion expressed by Dr Saouma that FAO's capacity to fulfill its functions must be reinforced by simultaneously adjusting both the approach and the contents of the Organization's programmes in light of the present changing needs of the Member Nations, my delegation endorses the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87.

Antonio GAYOSO (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I would like to express my pleasure that you are chairing our deliberations. We all know of your extensive experience and commitment to agricultural development and are certain that you will help us seek harmonious conclusions, while permitting full expression and consideration of everyone's views.

My delegation wants also to express its thanks to Mr Shah for his excellent presentation. Because of the limited time, my delegation made only general brief remarks concerning the Programme of Work and Budget during the 88th Council Meeting. Here in Commission II we would like to share with you and our fellow members our thoughts on the Programme of Work and Budget in a more comprehensive way.

The United States Government has been and continues to be a strong supporter of FAO and its mission. We believe that the FAO is the primary technical agricultural agency in the UN and a very important source of information and knowledge for all its members. We are fully aware and appreciative of the tremendous positive impact FAO has had on agriculture in the world during the last 40 years. We recognize the continuous efforts that the Director-General and the Secretariat have made in improving programme content and delivery. We know how timely and how sound FAO's warnings were in 1983 about the nature of the African food crisis. It is because we value FAO so much that we feel it our duty to share with you some of my country's concerns about the proposed Programme of Work and Budget. We believe we are all at a crossroads where we need to determine which is the best way to proceed.

During the past several years, agricultural and rural development have faltered in many parts of the world, at a time when significant and real financial constraints exist, not only in developing countries but also in developed ones. That is a fact from which we cannot hide. It is a fact that demands that we use existing resources more wisely and more effectively. The United States position favouring zero real growth is simply a manifestation, not only of a real financial constraint, but also of our firm belief that simply throwing more money at problems will not solve them.

Thus, financial discipline is a management tool which can and should be used to sharpen priorities and increase effectiveness. We who have worked in the agricultural development field are all too well aware of the waste engendered by money that is not really needed. We are all too aware of the fact that when everything is given equal priority, nothing is achieved. Selectivity and ranking are vital but not always pursued.

Let no one question our dedication to and support for multilateralism. Our support for multilateral assistance has been growing at a faster rate in recent years than the growth of our bilateral assistance programme. The United States believes in multilateralism and we prove it, not only financially but also through our commitment, as members, to make UN institutions better ones and ones that pursue in earnest and in purity the objectives for which we, the members, created them.

These are among the main reasons why the US continues to have serious reservations about the proposed budget level. We recognize and indeed commend the Director-General for his receptivity to our concern and his unusual action in reducing the level of growth in the budget proposal. However, we will believe that without any harm to the programme it is possible to achieve zero real growth. We earnestly hope that even now the FAO will find ways of making such adjustments so that all of us will be able to support this budget.

Now I would like to share with you, Mr Chairman, some comments about specific items in the budget very briefly. We believe that this budget strikes a much better balance than the one before. Among the three major programme areas in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, the trend is good. Nonetheless, we feel that it remains important to allocate more resources to forestry, a sub-sector that needs to play an increasingly important role in rural development. Increased funding in this budget for this sector still does not compensate for past reductions. It is a matter of priorities.

We also strongly support the Director-General's proposals to strengthen the Global Information and Early Warning System and we stand ready to cooperate fully in this endeavour. We are very pleased with the rapid response and increased emphasis FAO has accorded Africa. FAO has a major role to play in that region and we would like to see the willingness to do so.

On the review of the Programme of Work and Budget, we support the overall programme, although it is sometimes difficult to identify which items FAO believes are of the highest priority among them all. In some cases, such as the Technical Cooperation Programme, while the US believes the programme is sound, we do not see the need for more resources during this budget cycle, when difficulties remain

in using monies already allocated to the programmes. The Nordic statement on the TCP recently made reflects most of our concerns and we support it. We also have serious reservations regarding budgetary increases under Item 2.1.2.3 for seeds, which will, to a large degree, support activities associated with the Commission on Planning Integrated Resources. We were assured that neither the undertaking nor the Commission would require additional resources. Therefore, we fail to understand the need for that allocation.

Finally, I would like to express my Government's appreciation for the excellent work of the Liaison Office for North America, and our support for it.

Mamoudou FASSASSI (Bénin): Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de vous présenter, comme l'ont fait ceux qui m'ont précédé, nos vives félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de cette Commission qui a la difficile tâche d'aborder le Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87. Nous félicitons M. Shah pour la présentation qu'il a faite avec une nette clarté du document C 85/3. Ledit document, qui a mis un accent tout particulier sur la production de la culture ouvrière, l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire, le renforcement des systèmes d'information, la promotion de la coopération entre pays en développement - bref, les préoccupations de pays aux revenus et aux possibilités limités -, mérite de retenir l'attention de la communauté internationale.

Toutes ces actions proposées par le Directeur général tiennent compte des suggestions et recommandations faites par les Etats Membres lors de la session du Conseil de 1985. C'est pourquoi la délégation béninoise appuie le programme de budget proposé et recommande son adoption par la Conférence.

La délégation de mon pays rejette le concept de croissance zéro et souhaite que la diminution opérée ne gêne pas les actions de la FAO dans les années à venir. Il est souhaitable et même urgent qu'un accent particulier soit mis sur la promotion des femmes, ce qui permettra d'accélérer l'éducation de la population de nos pays.

Pour terminer, le Gouvernement du Bénin soutient pleinement le document C 85/3 tel qu'il est présenté.

Miss C.AMARATUNGA (Sri Lanka): Mr Chairman, since we are taking the floor for the first time let me congratulate you on your election and the Vice-Chairmen on their election. We have listened with great interest to the comments made by the delegates on this most important item on our agenda. We wish to record our deep appreciation to the Director-General for presenting this very clear document on the Programme of Work and Budget, and also for the lucid introduction made on his behalf by the Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation, both of which have provided a useful background for our discussions.

We note that in the formulation of the programme for the next biennium, the Director-General has been guided by the prevailing food and economic situation in the world. He has taken note not only of the urgent agricultural and food production problems of the developing countries, but also of the problems facing the developed countries. He has maintained a continuous dialogue with Member Nations through the various regional conferences, through official visits to sovereign states and also through discussions with his own staff at headquarters and in the field; all of which he has taken into consideration before formulating these programmes.

We note that while there are limitless demands on FAO to provide technical backstopping to developing countries, limitations placed on him because of available resources have made him follow the lines he has indicated. We can only conclude that what is being offered at this Conference is a very reasonable compromise under the prevailing circumstances.

We would, however, wish to make some remarks on a few points, both in relation to the Programme of Work and to the Budget. We had originally the proposal from the Director-General which required a programme increase of 1.4 percent for the coming biennium which he has since reduced to 1.1 percent. As always, that attempt to reduce the programme has resulted in the axe falling on

administrative costs and, while this is a favourite method of all managers who are compelled to reduce costs, we would caution that this should not be overdone, since in the long run it is bound to affect the efficiency of the Organization in effectively implementing its programmes.

One cannot provide the appropriate economic and technical backstopping unless there is adequate staff. We have already had a feedback on this from the report of the external evaluation team on the Technical Cooperation Programme where they comment that insufficient staff at headquarters dealing with technical aspects has slowed down the technical backstopping needed to implement programmes under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We also like to state, like most members of developing countries, that we agreed to a reduction in the budget level in the hope that there would be a consensus on the budget in response to our agreeing to a lower programme increase, although in fact we would have preferred a much higher programme increase.

We also note that the Director-General has made transfers within chapters, giving activities a higher priority with more funds and reducing those which do not require such a priority. This, we believe, is due to the continuing demand by the developed countries to do this whenever budget proposals are made. But we hope it is not the understanding by certain members that this has not been done by the Director-General. On the contrary, we have seen evidence of his awareness and close scrutiny of the programmes which have made him always appraise his programmes. As a result the scarce resources of the Organization are utilized in the most prudent manner.

We also wish to emphasize that the retention of the increase in the economic and technical programme at 3.8 is reasonable, given the need to apportion funds in the most careful manner.

A few members who spoke before me have touched on the Technical Cooperation Programme. We are aware of the controversy regarding this programme from its very inception in 1976. We would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the usefulness of this programme. The vast majority of developing countries who are recipients of assistance under this programme have on numerous occasions expressed their satisfaction with it, and we would firmly oppose any reduction in the resources allocated to it for the coming biennium.

The justification for the continuation of the programme has been amply demonstrated in its implementation in the recipient countries. The concepts, the criteria, the mode of operation and the impact among Member Nations have been fully discussed in previous committees which dealt with this subject. We would hope that there would be no further controversy on this issue.

Finally, on the allocation of resources to the regional offices, much as we would have liked to see an increase in the estimates, particularly in our own region, we would contend that the amounts set aside justify the Director-General's rationale for judicious allocation of resources at this stage.

The work done by the Regional Office is appreciated only by the Members of the Region. We on our part have had very close cooperation with the regional office and through the Country Representative. Their contributions to the work in the Ministries dealing with agriculture, fisheries and irrigation activities, have been both useful and relevant to the National Programmes. We do hope that this cooperation will continue and will be further strengthened.

In conclusion my delegation would repeat that we fully endorse the Director-General's proposals in the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 and the budget level proposed by him.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): The Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 as embodied by document C 85/3 is an invaluable exercise. The way in which it is presented calls for congratulations to all the staff that contributed in its preparation. When considering that the food and agricultural situation still persists in many developing countries it is obvious that FAO still has an enormous task to perform. Taking into account that only limited resources are available, it is clear that choices have to be made in relation to the need. The way in which these strategies,

priorities and programmes have been defined deserves our full approval. Therefore, my delegation can agree on the choices being made and commends in particular the absolute priority that is given to Africa.

A very important statement has been made in the introduction by the Director-General when referring to the dramatical situation in Africa. I prefer to quote as it stands in the document. "We must simultaneously rehabilitate the continent's shattered agriculture and rebuild Africa's capacity to feed itself. The primary responsibility for doing so rests squarely on the shoulders of African governments. They recognized this in the Harare Declaration..." The Belgian delegation could not express more eloquently its own feelings on this topic, in particular on the reference made regarding the responsibility aspect because it is our conviction that no single priority can be effective unless it receives full endorsement of the Government concerned and irregardless of the efforts or budgetary resources it may receive.

Now I would like to refer to the 6 principal aims that were established in priority selection. We subscribe to them completely and fully agree on the Programme priorities that resulted from this exercise. Promotion of food production and increases in food security are indicated as the two basic programme priorities and may be considered, because of their very close inter-relationship, as one overall objective in the quest for improving living standards. We appreciate even more the focus that has been put on the small farmers as the principal target group and in particular the emphasis that is given to the women in their role as producers and marketers. The availability of essential inputs has been set as a primary objective and concurs with our own development aid strategy. I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of the marketing aspect that is as crucial as the production itself.

In the context of increasing food security, we fully endorse the strengthening of the Global Information and Early Warning System in the understanding that it will be complemented by the food security assistance Scheme activities in a concrete manner.

As to the other programme priorities, I would like to insist that an even stronger support be given to forestry activities than what is provided for.

The Belgian delegation continues to be in favour of the zero growth policy and is convinced of the positive result it may generate when applied in the right way. Is it not commonly known that the most brilliant ideas are born at times of crisis and that many outstanding issues are worked out and solutions are found at times of crisis policy application? Moreover, limited resources do induce its users to be more imaginative on how to use them best and it may constitute positive real incentives for in-depth reflection before any expenditure. On the whole, it may lead to an even more efficient programme implementation and I think that especially on this occasion of the 40th anniversary of FAO, a profound examination of what has been achieved may help us in defining the most effective orientation to the role of FAO and also in selecting the priorities for its action. Therefore I would like to suggest that programme evaluation exercises be given the full weight of the important role that they have to play.

Before ending my delegation wishes to express its great appreciation for the Director-General's special efforts to keep the budget increase to a minimum level. We appreciate the fact that in particular the technical and economic programmes receive a preferential treatment in accordance with their priority place in the overall programme. Nevertheless we believe that even more reductions on budget provisions may be possible without adversely affecting the programme implementation. Therefore, I would like to refer to the sound recommendations made by several delegates and more specifically the suggestions made by the delegate of the United Kingdom.

Guillermo E. GONZALES (Argentina): Siendo esta la primera vez que mi delegación interviene en esta Comisión deseo, en primer término, felicitar a los miembros de la Mesa y en particular expresar mi satisfacción por verlo a usted, señor Presidente, presidiendo nuestras deliberaciones.

Al igual que otras delegaciones hemos tenido ocasión en el último Consejo de la FAO de expresar nuestra posición de apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización para el bienio

1986-87. Por ello trataré de ser muy breve, destacando exclusivamente aquellos aspectos que mi Gobierno estima más importantes.

Creemos que el Director General ha realizado un buen trabajo, tanto en la presentación del documento como en el hecho de haber logrado una disminución adicional en los gastos de administración para traspasar esos gastos, esos recursos en beneficio directo de los países en desarrollo a través de programas técnicos y económicos. Estamos seguros que la Secretaría y el Director General continuarán en esta línea de conducta.

Dentro de este marco, que apoyamos, el incremento de 13,8 por ciento para los programas técnicos y económicos merece un especial apoyo el Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), al que mi país le da gran prioridad ya que ha demostrado en múltiples ocasiones su utilidad.

Coincidimos, por otra parte, en las prioridades que la Organización ha fijado para el bienio, es decir fomentar la producción de alimentos, mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, conseguir resultados sobre el terreno y promover la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo.

La Argentina reitera, asimismo, su solidaridad con los países de Africa, particularmente aquellos más afectados desde un punto de vista agrícola y alimentario, es decir aquellos al sur del Sahara. Como lo señaló el jefe de mi delegación en la Plenaria, la Argentina está dispuesta a hacer un esfuerzo adicional para estudiar la forma en que podremos participar en el programa especial para el Africa.

Dicho esto no puedo dejar de señalar nuestra preocupación por una aparente tendencia a la disminución de los fondos asignados para América Latina y el Caribe.

Asimismo, y en este orden de cosas queremos dejar sentado nuestro reconocimiento a la labor realizada por la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe y solicitarles que continúen y amplíen de ser posible su apoyo para el funcionamiento de las redes de cooperación como un mecanismo efectivo de intercambio entre los países.

Dejamos también constancia de nuestro apoyo a todas las actividades de cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo, CTPD y CEPD, por el efecto multiplicador que éstas tienen en los países en desarrollo.

Brevemente quisiera referirme a un par de programas específicos. En lo que hace al Programa 2.1.3. Ganadería, en el apartado primero del documento se enfatiza a plazo medio un alto crecimiento de la producción ganadera de cada país para satisfacer sus propias necesidades sin recurrir, dice el informe, a costosas importaciones. La realidad parecería indicar otro camino más viable.

Para tratar de abreviar creo que nuestra experiencia, como ha sido demostrado en la última reunión del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos, nos lleva a considerar atinada la implementación indiscriminada de programas de desarrollo ganadero, la que sólo puede tener efectos positivos en aquellos países que tengan recursos naturales adecuados para dicho desarrollo; es decir, para ponerlo en términos más claros, que el factor costo debe adquirir una particular relevancia.

Por otra parte, en lo que hace al subprograma 2.1.5.1.2., Educación, Extensión y Capacitación Agrícola, en los programas, tanto formulados como en ejecución, las acciones de capacitación y organización de los productores y de investigación y de extensión apropiada son de central importancia.

La cooperación de la FAO, debido a su larga experiencia, puede ser muy útil para el desarrollo y capacitación de una tecnología apropiada a este tipo de productores con escaso capital y suficiente dotación de mano de obra.

En el Subprograma 2.1.5.1.2., para citar algunos de los subprogramas de los que mi Gobierno querría hacer algunos comentarios, me refiero al subprograma de comunicaciones de apoyo al desarrollo. La Argentina entiende que la participación de la FAO en la capacitación de los agentes de extensión en técnicas de comunicación interpersonal a fin de facilitar la transferencia de tecnología a los agricultores es de suma importancia ya que el personal entrenado en la utilización de técnicas

modernas orientadas al pequeño productor es muy escaso. Este grupo de productores sólo ha sido alcanzado con este tipo de tecnología de comunicación en escala muy reducida por la acción de algunos organismos no gubernamentales.

En aras de la brevedad deseo dejar constancia de nuestro apoyo a la labor que realizan los Departamentos de Pesca y Montes y reiterar una vez más nuestro respaldo al incremento presupuestario que la Secretaría nos ha propuesto.

Joachim WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany)(original language German): Allow me at the outset to thank Mr Shah for his very clear and comprehensive presentation which greatly facilitates our tackling this very complex area. As I take the floor at this stage I have a great advantage. We simplified our statement so as not to repeat what has already been said, but I would nonetheless like to make a number of points.

The difficult world economic situation of the 1970s has been improved by the individual efforts of many developing countries and by the coordinated action of large industrialized nations. The economic recovery, however, has not yet been consolidated. In the Federal Republic of Germany, a rigorous discipline in spending was, and is still, necessary so as to consolidate our financial situation. For many citizens this entailed additional, and still entails, restrictions on social allowances. Discipline in spending continues to be the explicit will of my Government as is also reflected in our draft Federal budget for 1986. The budget's growth rate is below that of the expected gross domestic product. This is the basis on which the Federal Republic of Germany pursues its fiscal, budgetary and economic policy. This basis also determines our attitude towards the budgets in the UN system. Just for this reason we welcome the efforts by the Director-General which we have noticed, to take into account difficulties which could arise for all member countries if higher annual contributions were to be made. The Director-General has stated this quite clearly in his introduction to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87.

During the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council, we appreciated that the Director-General undertook efforts, with his proposed Programme of Work and Budget, to focus the priorities in the work of the Organization still more on the technical programmes that would increase food and agricultural production as well as rural development. This was done by making cuts in overhead costs.

We also appreciate the fact that the Director-General has drawn conclusions from the discussions at the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council and has limited the real budget increase to 1.1% now by making additional cuts in the administrative sector, by updating increases in costs as well as by not increasing the budget item "Contingencies". In agreement with the Programme Committee, we endorse the programme priorities envisaged in the Programme of Work, namely the promotion of food production, the strengthening of food security, the consolidation of information systems, the intensification of training, the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and the promotion of greater efficiency by FAO in the field.

Under the major programme of Agriculture, we welcome above all the objective of FAO to support the Member States effectively in the formulation of their national policies and strategies for the development of their agriculture. This applies particularly to increased training of skilled staff. Under this Agriculture programme, it is above all the promotion of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries which we approve.

Turning to the major programme of Fisheries, we particularly welcome FAO'S activities to counteract the loss of fish and thus food losses in an important field. We also welcome the aim of utilizing fish species which have not yet been used, or are used to a small extent only.

In the major programme of Forestry we are above all impressed by the thrust of FAO's work to contribute, through afforestation programmes, to the stabilization of the ecological balance by recognizing the contribution that forests make to land and water resources.

As regards the Technical Cooperation Programme, we repeat our attitude held at the last Conference Session that this programme should not exceed the level reached in 1982-83. Like Japan, and other previous speakers, we note that the funds earmarked for this programme have not been

exhausted to a substantial extent in the last budget years or were partly transferred from one biennium to the next. We assume that such transfers should also be possible for the biennium 1986-87. For that reason, a real increase would not be necessary.

Our attitude also takes into account the fact that the Director-General through the Finance Committee, has in addition been authorized to use a maximum of \$15 million left over from other Chapters to finance projects in Africa within the framework of the TCP. The Technical Cooperation Programme has been assessed by external evaluation, following a request by us for many years. This evaluation confirmed that this programme is suitable in meeting its objectives. We would, however, have preferred it if such an evaluation had been undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit which has been set up for such tasks within the UN system.

We also have misgivings as to the establishment of 14 new professional category posts, even if these additional costs are partly absorbed by abolishing 5 posts in the General Service. We believe that through inter-organization transfers, it would be possible not to set up these new posts, or at least to limit them to a large extent.

We are grateful that the budget document shows for the first time - according to our repeatedly expressed wish - the posts for country representatives by number and grade. This improves the transparency that is absolutely necessary for the personnel sector.

An undoubtedly positive factor is that the share of personnel costs in the overall budget has decreased continuously. Nevertheless, it should not be overlooked that the number of all established posts has markedly increased in the process of decentralization, which has now been concluded. This also applies to the upgrading of posts. Our restraint towards new posts at Headquarters should thus be understood against this background.

We have highlighted these two areas in order to substantiate our claim that there are still possibilities for savings within the budget, savings which could lead to a greater economy. We believe that the priority tasks of the Organization would not be impaired by so doing. A number of speakers of other delegations have expressed the same view and stated that further cuts in the proposal before us could facilitate the adoption of the Programme of Work by consensus. This would be welcomed by my delegation.

Sankung JANNEH (Gambia): On behalf of the Gambian delegation, I wish to join other speakers before me in congratulating you on your election in the position of Chairman of this important Commission. My congratulations also go to the Vice-Chairmen. I am sure that this Commission will benefit enormously from your vast experience and wise leadership.

My delegation wishes to commend the Director-General and his staff for the high quality work that they have put into the preparation of the basic document before us, C 85/3 - that is, the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. I fully share and support the view of those previous speakers, mainly from the Third World, who see the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO as reflecting the true needs and priorities of its member states, particularly those of us in the developing world.

I need hardly state that countries such as mine, which have been afflicted by drought, crop failures and famine, have benefited immensely from FAO's support and assistance in various aspects of agriculture and food production. Now more than ever before we need FAO in our greatest hour of need. We can therefore only advocate an increase in FAO's field activities and programmes, especially in the vital areas of food production, desertification control, soil and water conservation, fisheries and technical training. Sub-Saharan agriculture is in dire need of rehabilitation and modernization, and an organization like FAO patently has a leading role to play in this endeavour. For us, therefore, zero growth in the Organization's budget is somewhat unacceptable. At the very least, we believe the budgetary increase of 1.1 percent, amounting to US\$5 million, which has been proposed by the Director-General for the biennium under consideration, should be approved without hesitation, especially when the proposed increase is to be met from cuts in overhead expenditures and from administrative and support services costs.

In conclusion, I wish to record my delegation's full approval and support for the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget. I would also wish to join other delegates in calling for urgent action in support of the second replenishment for IFAD.

Sra. Doña María Isabel CASELLAS (Venezuela): Nuestra Delegación desea felicitarle por la acertada designación como Presidente de un Comité de tanta importancia, así como felicitar a los dos Vicepresidentes y al Sr. Shah por su acertada introducción del tema que estamos debatiendo.

Hemos estudiado el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 presentado por el Director General el cual responde a las necesidades reiteradamente manifestadas por los países más pobres y que han sido reconocidas por los Estados Miembros. Apoyamos las estrategias, prioridades y actividades identificadas en los programas que se presentan para su aprobación, que aseguran un nivel de actividades de la FAO correspondiente a las necesidades antes mencionadas. Es por esto que consideramos satisfactorio el nivel del presupuesto establecido y rechazamos la tesis del crecimiento cero. Apoyamos los programas prioritarios tales como la producción de alimentos, aumento de la seguridad alimentaria, los programas de pesca y montes, la capacitación, el fomento de la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo, las actividades a nivel de campo, así como la prioridad general concedida a Africa.

Como hemos repetidamente señalado en foros anteriores, concedemos especial atención al papel de la mujer en el medio rural y a los programas de cooperación técnica del PCT con la recuperación de los mal llamados cultivos de cereales secundarios, con los objetivos de llevarlos al nivel de importancia que les corresponde.

En resumen, la Delegación de Venezuela apoya plenamente tanto el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto como el nivel del presupuesto que se presenta, el cual es el mínimo necesario para lograr las finalidades de la FAO.

Rami Yahiaoui ABDELLATIF (Maroc)(langue originale arabe): Au nom de la délégation du Maroc, je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette commission, qui, certainement, verra aboutir heureusement ses travaux du fait que vous en êtes le Président.

Nous avons écouté avec beaucoup d'attention les interventions des autres délégués; à notre tour nous voudrions appuyer les stratégies et priorités qui figurent dans le document C 85/3. De même, nous sommes favorables à ce qu'a proposé le Directeur général, à savoir renforcer le rôle de l'Organisation en augmentant très modestement le budget.

Nous sommes d'accord également sur ce qui a été proposé pour le programme de coopération technique. Notre délégation donne sur ce point un appui sans réserve. Le PCT est d'une importance capitale si l'on veut faire face aux situations d'urgence dans les zones les plus gravement touchées. N'oubliez pas que notre pays a déjà pu tirer parti de ce PCT pour augmenter la production des produits de base. Nous sommes aussi favorables à la priorité accordée à la région Afrique. Tout le monde connaît la situation critique de cette partie du monde.

Notre délégation souhaiterait faire quelques remarques qui, à nos yeux, sont importantes et dont l'Organisation devrait, à notre avis, prendre conscience. Je ne vais pas entrer dans les détails bien sûr, vous nous avez invités à être brefs dans nos interventions. Je voudrais dire que nous sommes entièrement convaincus de l'utilité des crédits à accorder à tout ce qui porte sur l'augmentation de la production vivrière dans les pays en développement. Pour cette raison, il faut bien souligner combien il importe de préserver les communautés rurales, de les protéger, d'en permettre une restructuration, de faciliter l'octroi de crédits dont cette population rurale a besoin.

Autre chose maintenant: l'importance des programmes et projets intégrés pour la région au sud du Sahara. Dans le contexte de ces programmes intégrés, soulignons le rôle de la femme dans les campagnes. Soulignons qu'il faut aussi créer dans cette région rurale des emplois nouveaux.

Troisième élément important à nos yeux: encourager une production accrue grace à une politique bien claire et bien définie pour ce qui est des techniques agricoles.

Quatrième et dernier élément important à nos yeux: il faut davantage insister sur les forêts; dans ces projets intégrés que nous visons, la forêt joue un rôle important. L'élevage aussi est un élément important qui, si on l'organise convenablement, peut se développer sans nuire au secteur forestier.

Gustavo ALIAGA (Bolivia): La Delegación boliviana se siente complacida por el informe presentado ante esta Comisión por el Director de la Oficina de Programas y Presupuestos, Sr. Shah, el cual ha realizado un análisis del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87, documento que fue presentado por el Director General de la FAO a los miembros de esta Organización. Sin lugar a dudas, la intención del Director General al presentar ante esta 23ª Conferencia un documento claro y detallado de los objetivos a plazo medio, con el fin de que la FAO cumpla y desempeñe su misión que le fue encomendada, demuestra la intención y la responsabilidad histórica que debe cumplir la Organización ante el grave flagelo del hambre y la desnutrición.

Nos encontramos ante hechos graves y dolorosos para muchas naciones hermanas que continúan sufriendo la miseria y el hambre. La dimensión de la crisis alimentaria en Africa y los problemas derivados de la pesada deuda externa de varios países nos presentan una realidad que debemos afrontar con todas nuestras fuerzas y capacidades. Esta situación requiere, igualmente, una decidida comprensión de los países desarrollados, los cuales deberán actuar con medidas profundas dentro del marco de cooperación internacional. Debemos tener en cuenta que el reforzamiento de las actividades de la FAO está ligado íntimamente a este Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Negarle nuestro apoyo sería una actitud irracional que sería negar ayuda a miles de vidas humanas.

Bolivia observa con satisfacción los objetivos principales que guiaron la selección de prioridades, las cuales permitirán asegurar en este bienio un nivel de actividades a fin de cubrir las necesidades actuales.

No entraremos a detallar los capítulos del documento, creo que todos los participantes les han dedicado las observaciones pertinentes; simplemente mi Delegación ve complacida la labor realizada y manifiesta su apoyo al Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87.

Halim BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Nous vous adressons -nos félicitations pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Commission. Nous savons que vos talents n'ont pas attendu la présente session de notre Commission pour être consacrés. Votre portrait dans cette salle illustre bien votre entrée dans la légion de la FAO depuis bien longtemps. Nous tenons aussi à remercier les vice-présidents, à les féliciter sans oublier M. Shah que nous remercions tout particulièrement pour la présentation du sujet.

Mon propos porte sur deux thèmes: le Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et le niveau du budget proposé d'une part, et sur les priorités requises dans ce programme de travail de l'autre.

La délégation algérienne appuie le Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et le niveau de budget proposé. La FAO a fait là un exercice très intelligent pour concilier des exigences contradictoires. D'un côté, un effort a été fait pour contenir la demande des ressources supplémentaires, de l'autre, pour réduire les coûts administratifs et de soutien. La résultante en est l'augmentation nette de 1,1 pour cent.

Nous apprécions également le réalisme du Directeur général qui a pu réaliser la synthèse des aspirations des Etats Membres en contournant très habilement l'écueil de la croissance zéro, mais sans céder à la tentation d'un accroissement du prix des contributions des Etats Membres dans un contexte difficile, surtout pour les pays en développement.

Cependant, nous adhérons pleinement à la remarque du Comité du programme à sa 49ème session, dont certains membres ont regretté que le Directeur général se soit senti obligé de proposer un abais-

sément du niveau du budget, cette réduction ne se justifiant que si elle devait permettre à la Conférence d'adopter à l'unanimité le Programme de travail et Budget, Nous estimons que cette attitude ne doit pas pour autant constituer un précédent à l'avenir.

Quant à l'argumentation concernant la croissance généralisée du budget soutenue par certains pays développés qui font valoir que cette attitude est le reflet de leur politique interne, elle mérite une réponse très brève en trois points.

D'abord nous récusons l'image que l'on essaie de faire accréditer implicitement présentant les pays en développement et les organisations internationales comme des agents des banquiers et que les pays développés voudraient ramener à la raison.

Beaucoup de pays en développement en effet ont engagé des réformes de structure qui n'ont pas, malgré tout, débouché sur une évolution négative de leur attitude envers des organisations internationales.

Ensuite, si ces politiques d'austérité sont perçues comme une sorte de fatalité de la conjoncture internationale actuelle, il faut faire observer, comme le signale le document 85/2 sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, que si la reprise est en cours dans certains pays développés, même si elle est inégale et fragile, elle demeure inexistante dans les pays en développement. Beaucoup de ces pays subissent de surcroît, dans des conditions très dures, le poids des ajustements imposés par les créanciers par les voies bilatérales ou multilatérales.

Malgré cela aussi l'attitude des pays en développement demeure très positive.

Cette notion de croissance zéro est enfin inconséquente parce que si les niveaux budgétaires de beaucoup de pays développés subissent en effet des coupes sombres en ce qui concerne le budget par exemple, ils enregistrent par contre une relance effrénée des programmes et des budgets militaires.

Concernant le deuxième thème, les priorités et les choix du Programme de travail et Budget, celui-ci rencontre aussi l'adhésion de notre délégation. Parmi les six critères retenus par le Directeur général dans le choix des priorités, nous accordons une attention particulière à l'impact sur le terrain et recommandons une plus grande transparence des paramètres permettant l'évaluation des actions par rapport aux objectifs retenus. ' Nous partageons aussi l'avis exprimé par le Directeur général dans son introduction au paragraphe 2.10 du chapitre IV du programme pour éviter de trop disperser les ressources de l'Organisation, l'optique régionale et la priorité générale accordée à l'Afrique, à laquelle on destine la majeure partie des augmentations nettes des ressources, soit 3,2 millions de dollars.

Nous approuvons aussi la décision de ne pas augmenter les crédits affectés aux Bureaux régionaux et aux représentants régionaux et d'opérer un rééquilibrage pour assurer une utilisation souple des ressources de fonctions et de besoins.

Concernant la priorité à la production vivrière, il est certes nécessaire d'engager des actions en direction des décideurs; ceci figure au paragraphe 2.26 de ce même chapitre. Il est également essentiel d'agir directement sur le terrain. Mais il ne faudrait pas hésiter à agir au niveau des exploitations comme on le laisse entendre dans ce même paragraphe.

Concernant les moyens d'action prioritaires, l'optique de la CEPD est traditionnelle à la FAO et nous l'apprécions. Au paragraphe 2.57, on cite la consultation CEPD dans le domaine des intrants agricoles, qui a eu lieu en juin 1985. Nous osons espérer que les recommandations de cette consultation sont prises en charge dans le Programme de travail et Budget car le rapport de cette consultation, malgré nos réclamations, n'a toujours pas été distribué aux Etats Membres. Concernant la liste des réunions présentée au document C 85/5, supplément 2, nous relevons que les quatre catégories de réunions, qui sont au nombre de 366, ont un coût de 9 035 000 dollars et nous apprécions le fait que, des 54 activités de formation, 24 se dérouleront en Afrique, conformément à la priorité générale qui lui est accordée. Cependant, nous regrettons que la liste de ces réunions ne soit pas accompagnée de commentaires illustrant leurs liens avec les priorités du programme de travail. Nous regrettons aussi qu'elle soit peu expressive dans la mesure où il n'est pas aisé de cerner le coût de chaque réunion. Nous sommes en effet hantés par le fait que la dernière consultation du

CQCJ - le comité juridique dont nous sommes membres - a coûté environ 13 000 dollars pour deux séances de 20 minutes chacune. Nous présumons que les réunions d'experts, qui sont au nombre de 83, invités à titre personnel par la FAO, ont un impact certain sur la stratégie du Programme de travail et Budget. Nous recommandons que, dans la mesure du possible, la description de ces réunions soit accompagnée du coût de chacune d'elles.

Nous relevons aussi que les activités de formation sont un parent pauvre dans cette liste et qu'elles ont bénéficié d'une faible allocation, soit, 517 000 dollars, par rapport à la catégorie 3 qui, elle, draine 3 560 000 dollars. S'agit-il de dépenses incompressibles? Concernant le chapitre "Analyse" du projet de budget, ma délégation apprécie l'augmentation des allocations aux programmes techniques et économiques et au PCT et la baisse des allocations afférentes à la politique et à la direction générale, aux programmes de soutien et aux charges communes.

Nous appuyons aussi la poursuite de la politique du Directeur général (paragraphe 4.7 de ce chapitre), la politique de réduction des dépenses de personnel permettant à l'Organisation de gagner en souplesse, et notons que les augmentations de coûts obligatoires imputables à ce type de dépense représentent encore 24,28 pour cent.

Concernant la création de nouveaux postes pour l'exercice 1986-87, nous nous associons à l'avis du Comité du programme, à sa 49^{ème} session, mais estimons que la politique générale de l'Organisation en la matière devrait, autant que possible, éviter d'être assortie d'exceptions qui constituent autant de précédents.

Concernant le PCT, nous nous réservons la faculté de nous exprimer sur ce point lors de l'examen du point pertinent de l'ordre du jour. Nous réaffirmons notre appui au Programme de travail et au niveau du budget proposé.

Pour terminer, je voulais soulever tout à l'heure une petite question de procédure et je le fais en qualité de membre du Comité de rédaction, pour la sérénité des débats qui auront lieu au sein du Comité de rédaction. Beaucoup de délégations se sont exprimées sur le PCT bien que cette question ne soit pas directement à l'ordre du jour. Nous souhaiterions, sur ce point, que les rédacteurs du projet de rapport de notre Commission fassent figurer cette question en un seul chapitre, c'est-à-dire que l'on ne fasse pas état des débats aussi bien sur le point 12 que sur le point 13 de l'ordre du jour.

Rolando Felicidade de JESUS NETO (Angola): Je vous remercie, M. le Président, de m'avoir donné la parole pour la deuxième fois et je m'excuse auprès de mes collègues qui n'ont pas encore pris la parole, pour ce dérangement.

Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation angolaise, manifester mon inquiétude quant à la position de certaines délégations sur le niveau du budget présenté à la Conférence par le Directeur général. Il est vraiment lamentable que le quarantième Anniversaire de la FAO ait coïncidé avec le désastre jamais connu dans l'histoire récente de l'Afrique, à savoir la sécheresse généralisée qui a décimé la population du continent. Le prix décerné au cameraman kényen est éloquent. Tous ces événements se sont passés au moment où l'on assistait à la reprise économique dans certains pays. Paradoxalement, les mimes pays, tout en remettant en question le niveau de 1,1 pour cent du budget que la majorité écrasante des délégations ont appuyé jusqu'ici, évoquent encore des restrictions imposées à leurs budgets nationaux respectifs.

Vous vous souviendrez qu'il y a deux ans nous avons accepté dans cette salle le principe de la croissance 0,5 pour cent qui nous avait été proposé parce qu'il y avait une réduction des dépenses nationales chez les principaux pays donateurs, et surtout parce que les péripéties de l'économie mondiale étaient pour nous l'argument de taille qui nous a obligés à accepter ce principe, tout en demandant au Directeur général d'augmenter substantiellement le niveau du budget au cours du prochain exercice. Cette augmentation est, à notre avis, mal vue par certaines délégations. Nous nous demandons alors ce qu'elles attendent de la FAO au cours du biennium 1986-87: l'échec ou le succès dans la lutte contre la faim dans le monde? Nous pensons que l'intervention du délégué de la Suède mérite toute notre attention.

J'aimerais aussi faire quelques commentaires sur le Programme de coopération technique. En effet, l'importance que mon pays attache au PCT nous a amenés à intervenir au Conseil en qualité d'observateurs pour appuyer l'augmentation du budget destiné au PCT et encourager le Directeur général à renforcer le programme par la création d'une nouvelle catégorie pour les projets destinés à catalyser la coopération entre pays, CTPD et CEPD. Nous nous réjouissons donc des efforts déployés par le Directeur général en vue d'améliorer le PCT et de garantir son efficacité. Les pays en développement qui bénéficient de projets PCT accordent beaucoup d'importance à ces projets grâce auxquels le Directeur général va au secours des pays avec plus de rapidité. Pour ce faire, la bonne compréhension des donateurs pourrait nous donner de l'espoir et aider la FAO à poursuivre son combat contre la faim dans le monde.

En ce qui concerne la CTPD, il est vrai que sa promotion dans nos pays ne dépend que de l'application de la résolution de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur les nouvelles dimensions de la coopération technique (Résolution 3405 (XXX) de 1975).

L'introduction des éléments CTPD dans les projets PCT pourra aider nos pays à obtenir très rapidement les résultats escomptés. La promotion de la CTPD pourra également contribuer à la lutte contre l'exode des compétences africaines vers l'Europe et l'Amérique. Mon pays s'est engagé envers la CTPD et demande à la FAO son aide, sa collaboration et son encouragement.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Siendo la primera ocasión en que nuestra delegación interviene, deseo expresar nuestra plena satisfacción porque usted se encuentre presidiendo los trabajos de nuestra Comisión. Usted ha constatado, como en otras ocasiones, su profesionalismo, su larga experiencia, su eficacia y también su efectividad.

Igualmente deseamos felicitar a los Vicepresidentes de nuestra Comisión, al Dr. Shah nuestro agradecimiento por la forma en que presentó nuestro tema, así como a la Secretaría de la FAO por la preparación de los documentos.

La delegación de México expresa su satisfacción plena por el texto presentado del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, ya que representa un esfuerzo del Director General por atender las demandas de los Estados Miembros y de los órganos internos de la FAO en la programación y presupuestación de las actividades de la Organización.

La delegación de México rechaza como cuestión de principio, y también de estrategia, el concepto de crecimiento cero en los organismos internacionales. Estamos dispuestos a examinar en su justo valor cualquier propuesta de análisis de los programas y su presupuestación, pero consideramos inaceptable que un grupo de países, por muy pequeño que sea, no esté en posibilidad de discutir abiertamente sobre las propuestas hechas si no se parte de la base del crecimiento- cero.

Nos parece esa una posición del todo irracional. Reconocemos y apreciamos el esfuerzo hecho por el Director General para limitar al máximo el crecimiento del presupuesto con el objeto -lo subrayo, con el objeto- de que pueda ser aceptable para todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO. Sin embargo, consideramos indispensable expresar que el mínimo crecimiento del presupuesto no está en consonancia con las necesidades reales de los países en desarrollo, que van en aumento, frente a una crisis que se agudiza.

En relación con el Programa, la delegación de México está de acuerdo con las seis prioridades de la Organización, a saber: fomentar la producción de alimentos, mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, consolidar los sistemas de información, dar máxima importancia a la capacitación, promover la cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo y conseguir resultados sobre el terreno.

Debo advertir, y esta vez lo hago señor Presidente, si usted me lo permite en nombre del Grupo de los 77, que en lo que se refiere a la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, que los Ministros y Jefes de delegación de los países Miembros del Grupo decidieron presentar un proyecto de Resolución en ese sentido.

La CEPD y la CTPD es una prioridad. Dicho proyecto será transmitido al Comité de Resoluciones a través de usted, señor Presidente, con la lista de sus copatrocinadores que en el curso de la tarde de hoy le haremos saber.

Volviendo a la posición de la delegación de México, apoyamos el adecuado reparto regional de las actividades de la FAO y reconocemos que se debe hacer especial énfasis en la situación de África.

Mi delegación está de acuerdo también en el aumento del presupuesto a los programas prioritarios: producción de alimentos y seguridad alimentaria, y a las prioridades en los medios de acción; o sea que se estimule una mayor base de datos para la determinación de políticas, como el sistema de alerta rápida, y que se fomenten las actividades de capacitación técnica que lleva a cabo la Organización y que se desarrollan básicamente en los programas técnicos y económicos dentro de las grandes áreas de la agricultura, la silvicultura y la pesca.

Por tanto, es lógico que nos pronunciemos a favor de que el incremento del presupuesto se contemple mayormente en dichos programas y se haga gran énfasis en las cuestiones relativas a la pesca y a las actividades forestales.

En relación con las reducciones y aumentos en la plantilla de personal, notamos que permiten apreciar una política de readecuación de funciones que beneficia el trabajo de la Organización. Nos manifestamos, por tanto, en el sentido de aprobar la creación de nuevos puestos en la plantilla en la categoría profesional, y creemos que es un enfoque adecuado reducir plazas en los servicios generales. Sin embargo, debemos expresar la preocupación de la delegación de México de que las continuas reducciones y limitaciones de los servicios administrativos no afecten la eficacia de las labores de la FAO.

En lo que toca a las Oficinas Regionales hemos tomado nota de que no se proponen aumentos en recursos en este renglón. Por tanto, es pertinente enfatizar la importancia de la cooperación entre organismos para lograr una utilización óptima de los escasos recursos con que contamos. La validez de las Oficinas Regionales no puede ponerse en duda. Aun cuando reconocemos que en las actuales condiciones de crisis las actividades de cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo se tornan difíciles para llevar a buen término, es preciso incrementarlas en vista del contexto económico internacional negatiti.

Los organismos internacionales en general, y en particular la FAO, pueden ser catalizadores importantes de dicha cooperación. Por tanto, una vez más, reiteramos que deseamos ver que la prioridad concedida en el PCT no sea meramente declarativa, sino que se traduzca en acciones concretas.

Es para mi delegación un tanto difícil identificar a lo largo del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto las actividades, sin duda innumerables, en que la FAO puede promover la cooperación técnica y económica para hacer posible esa cooperación, la cual, debe seguir teniendo como base el Programa de Acción de Caracas y las prioridades que de él hemos distinguido.

Por otro lado, debo enfatizar nuestro pleno apoyo a las actividades y conclusiones de la Comisión de Recursos Fito.genéticos del Grupo creado por dicha Comisión y las consecuencias presupuestarias que se deriven del establecimiento del compromiso internacional de recursos fitogenéticos.

Concluiré mis breves comentarios generales expresando el apoyo total de la delegación de México al nivel del presupuesto. En virtud de que el punto relativo al programa de cooperación técnica forma parte de este tema, deseo enfatizar que estaría faltando a mi deber como Presidente del Grupo de los 77 si no expresara en este foro, en nombre del Grupo, el apoyo total y entusiasta que todos los miembros del Grupo de los 77 le otorgan, como seguramente lo habrá usted constatado durante el largo debate que hemos sostenido.

En efecto, el PCT es un instrumento de gran beneficio para los países en desarrollo, especialmente cuando otros recursos de asistencia al desarrollo han disminuido, como es el caso del PNUD y del FIDA, entre otros.

El PCT tiene un efecto multiplicador que nos ha permitido desatar acciones tanto en las agencias del sistema de las Naciones Unidas como en las relaciones bilaterales, y también hacia dentro de nuestros países.

Consideramos muy adecuado el porcentaje que el PCT ocupa en el total del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, es decir el 13,7 por ciento, y notamos que representa sólo un pequeño incremento, a pesar de la utilidad comprobada del Programa y su transparencia, que ha quedado demostrada en el Informe de Evaluación Externa que el Director General tuvo el acierto de solicitar. Esta iniciativa merece nuestro total apoyo y especial felicitación.

Apoyamos también, en nombre del Grupo de los 77, que se aumente el límite máximo por proyecto de 250 000 dólares a 400 000, y tenemos plena confianza al hacerlo de la utilización racional que se hará de esta aprobación, como ha sido también el caso con el nivel previo, o que esperamos sea previo de 250 000 dólares.

Finalmente, apoyamos la propuesta de que se establezca una tercera categoría de proyectos dedicados a promover y catalizar la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acerca del proyecto de resolución anunciado por México éste pasará al Comité de Resoluciones.

G. H. MUSGROVE (Canada): Mr Chairman, I asked for the floor to seek clarification from you as to how we are conducting ourselves. In particular, have we concluded the debate on this item? Secondly, is it your understanding - as it was mine when I intervened early in the debate - that the subject of the TCP would largely be discussed under the next item of our agenda, that is the review of the Regular Programme?

When we intervened earlier, we drew attention to the TCP in our desire to address ourselves to it, but contented ourselves with saying that because of our concerns and because we regarded the TCP as a mature programme, we felt that a period of consolidation was warranted and that for budgetary reasons this period should not be increased beyond that in the 1984-85. But we did not go on to explain the reasons for that concern, thinking that we would be addressing this item at a later point in the agenda. Is this correct?

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre el PCT creo que la situación es clara, aparece en el Capítulo 4 del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, líneas, su plan de acción y el aumento presupuestario que se propone; entonces algunas de las declaraciones que se han hecho a ese respecto son conducentes, pero como lo ha dicho el colega del Canadá, sobre el PCT se tratará en el próximo tema de nuestra Comisión, la revisión del Programa Ordinario, y para esa ocasión la Comisión tendrá el extracto del informe del Consejo de la semana pasada sobre el informe de evaluación.

Octavio Rainho de SILVA NEVES (Brazil): Mr Chairman, I am sorry to intervene at this late hour, but I would like to be sure about my understanding of the procedure as far as the TCP is concerned. The TCP has proved itself to be an important item, at least in terms of the number of interventions at this point on the agenda. So I would like to know what we are going to do with the ideas and criticisms and everything that has been said about the TCP here.

It seems to me that we could have another solution to the TCP which would be to continue the debate on it in order to complete it at this point by giving an opportunity to those delegates who would like to talk on the TCP and to examine it in detail. This was mentioned by the delegate of Canada earlier on; it would give them this opportunity and would close the debate on this item. Or, as you have suggested, we would start all over again later on. I would like to be clear about the procedure.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como dije antes, las declaraciones que aquí se han hecho sobre el PCT creo que son procedentes y, naturalmente, es mi intención cuando presente el resumen tratar de que se refleje en nuestro informe. Naturalmente, la propuesta declarativa de Brasil es opcional, hemos convenido desde el principio que aquellas delegaciones que quieran intervenir por segunda vez podrán hacerlo, y hay algunas delegaciones que lo han hecho, hay otras que intervendrán por segunda vez y desde luego si Canadá y otros países quieren intervenir nuevamente dentro de este tema para el PCT podrán hacerlo también.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Il y a longtemps que j'avais levé ma pancarte pour intervenir et je constate, en vous entendant donner la liste des orateurs, que vous avez inscrit les délégués qui ont levé leur pancarte après nous. J'ai donc protesté de ma place.

Je voulais simplement, comme l'a fait le délégué du Brésil, avoir les idées claires sur le PCT. Le représentant de l'Algérie a fait observer qu'au plan de la procédure, au Comité de rédaction, il y aurait quelques difficultés, parce que nous pensions qu'au point 12 nous parlerions uniquement du Programme de travail et Budget. Or, nous nous sommes rendu compte que l'on a glissé vers le PCT.

Vous venez d'éclaircir les choses et vous avez bien fait.

Nous aimerions nous inscrire pour intervenir spécifiquement sur le PCT.

EL PRESIDENTE: Esto lo veremos al final del debate sobre este tema. Creo que no hay inconveniente. ¿Noruega quiere intervenir ahora o en el sitio en que está en la lista?

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): Just a point on the Speaker's List. Since I note that the representative of Congo was concerned about not being noticed for a list, I am happy to cede Norway's place to him on the list and I will speak instead at his place.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Since this is the first time for our delegation to take the floor, let me join, first of all, other delegates, in congratulating you, Mr Chairman and the vice chairman on the election to the responsible posts of the Commission.

I thank Mr Shah for the excellent introduction to the Agenda Item. After 40 years of FAO, both the importance and the value of the Organization is much more strongly felt than ever before. We believe that this is logically related to the vital role which FAO can play in finding the solution to the problem of food and agriculture. The critical situation of food and agriculture in the developing world, particularly in Africa, requires more assistance of the international community and FAO is shouldering the really heavy responsibility of promoting the global efforts of a hungry free world. On this understanding our delegation would like to make general remarks on the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986/87.

First we put on record our full support of the Programme framework and the detailed programme proposals. The Director-General based himself on the judicious analysis of the general situation faced by the international community and the problems arising therefrom in establishing the strategies, priorities and programmes, and we fully endorse them.

As for the budget level, my delegation highly appreciates the Director-General's exhaustive, hard effort in keeping the budget increase as low as possible and in maintaining the effective service of the Organization. With the hope that the Budget for the next biennium would be strong enough to give sound backing to the activities of FAO as expected in the Constitution, we regret the zero

growth concept which some developed countries would like to inject into the FAO budget. We deem that 1.1% net increase is indeed the minimal and indeed it should be acceptable to all Members. We highly appreciate the fact that the Director-General paid special attention to Africa and it is encouraging that the ECDC and the TCDC is treated as a special aspect of FAO's activities. The Technical Cooperation Programme is highly valuable for developing countries. It makes FAO's cooperation with the Member Countries increasingly felt. We support the strengthening of TCP and endorse the Director-General's proposal of raising the ceiling on projects from \$255 thousand to \$400 thousand.

In conclusion may I appeal to all Members to cooperate with the unanimous approval of the Programme of Work and Budget as proposed by the Director-General in Document C 85/3.

Alex Louis TANIS (Haïti): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais tout d'abord vous présenter mes plus vives félicitations, ainsi qu'aux deux vice-présidents, pour votre élection. Mes félicitations s'adressent également à M. Shah qui a su présenter le programme de travail avec maîtrise et compétence.

La délégation d'Haïti apporte son appui le plus entier à la planification des activités par région telle qu'elle a été définie dans le document et approuve les six objectifs qui ont guidé le Directeur général dans le choix des priorités, à savoir la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire, l'intervention en matière d'information, la formation, le renforcement de la coopération entre les pays en développement et l'impact des activités -sur le terrain.

Il n'est pas dans mes intentions de reprendre dans le détail les différentes questions qui ont été traitées avec plus de brio par les différents orateurs qui se sont succédé au micro. Aussi, je me bornerai à formuler des commentaires sur certains points, à savoir la production vivrière, la sécurité alimentaire et, en ce qui concerne le Programme et le Budget, la délégation d'Haïti a l'intention également de formuler certains commentaires sur des points qu'elle considère faibles.

En ce qui concerne la production vivrière, l'objectif primordial qui a été adopté par la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation en 1974, était d'abolir la malnutrition et la faim avant l'année 1995. Mais nous craignons que l'objectif plus modeste d'en diminuer les effets avant l'an 2000 ne puisse être atteint si les tendances actuelles de l'économie mondiale persistent, à savoir l'inflation galopante, l'instabilité persistante de la monnaie, les taux élevés d'intérêt. Tous ces facteurs ont contribué dans une très large mesure à aggraver la situation de l'alimentation et de la faim dans le monde.

Mais si cette situation est précaire pour nombre d'Etats développés, elle devient tragique pour les Etats en développement, compte tenu de la baisse des prix des produits agricoles, des termes de l'échange défavorables, du remboursement de la dette extérieure ainsi que de la diminution de l'aide extérieure qui se réduit de plus en plus.

La production vivrière, pour qu'elle arrive exactement à atteindre les objectifs fixés dans le Programme de travail et Budget, devra prendre en considération un ensemble de facteurs socio-économiques et non des facteurs purement physiques.

Quant à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, il s'agit de nous entendre sur ce terme, est-ce que cela signifie simplement une augmentation de la production ? Nous pensons qu'une simple augmentation de la production n'est pas de nature à procurer cette sécurité alimentaire si les groupes cibles n'ont pas un pouvoir d'achat qui leur permette d'accéder à ces aliments.

En ce qui concerne la formation, nous pensons que c'est un facteur essentiel du programme présenté par le Directeur général étant donné que l'amélioration de l'homme constitue le facteur primordial de tout développement économique de n'importe quel pays.

Quant au programme tel qu'il est présenté par le Directeur général, nous pensons qu'il représente un effort louable en ce qui concerne la planification et les objectifs à atteindre, mais nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de remarquer que certains facteurs n'y figurent pas ou figurent avec une

importance relativement faible, tels que la participation de la femme dans le développement rural, le nombre de paysans sans terre qui ne cesse d'augmenter. Cela signifie que l'élaboration de la planification et l'exécution des réformes précises des structures agraires et des structures de production n'ont pas été suivies selon les recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Ceci conduit à un chômage déguisé et à un exode rural qui s'accroît, ce qui provoque et qui cause pour nombre de pays un problème d'émigration plutôt difficile à résoudre. En ce qui concerne l'irrigation et la conduite de programmes, nous voudrions dire que la plupart des programmes tendant à augmenter la productivité et portant sur la production régionale et nationale s'exécutent sur les terres irriguées, alors que les facteurs pouvant conduire à une agriculture dans les zones défavorisées n'y figurent que faiblement.

Je voudrais en dernier lieu mentionner que le processus consistant à stopper la dégradation de l'environnement par l'aménagement de bassins versants dans le cadre d'un système agro-sylvo-pastoral ne figure pas dans le document tel qu'il a été présenté par le Directeur général ou figure, disons, avec une importance amoindrie.

En définitive, compte tenu des commentaires que la délégation haïtienne vient de formuler, elle reconnaît que le travail tel qu'il a été présenté et surtout les modifications qui y ont été apportées en ce qui concerne les différentes activités et en particulier la réduction des dépenses administratives font de ce document un document acceptable et devraient permettre à la Commission ainsi qu'à la Conférence de l'adopter sans grande difficulté.

Nous reconnaissons aussi que le travail n'est pas parfait; d'ailleurs, il serait osé de rechercher la perfection dans un document aussi élaboré où figurent nombre de facteurs complexes interdépendants traitant de l'agriculture dans les pays en développement et dans les pays développés. En définitive, la délégation haïtienne exprime son adhésion aux stratégies, aux priorités et aux propositions de programmes définies dans le Programme de travail et Budget présenté par la Direction générale. Elle estime que la notion de croissance zéro est inacceptable alors que les besoins ne cessent de grandir dans les pays en développement; la délégation haïtienne estime que le programme de travail ainsi que le PCT représentent un complexe d'activités appelées à satisfaire les besoins exprimés et ressentis par les populations vivant dans les pays en développement. Au plus avant la fin du siècle, 2 milliards et demi d'hommes seront en proie à la famine et à la tentation de la colère. La délégation, une nouvelle fois, appuie le Programme de travail et Budget et le PCT tels que proposés par le Directeur général.

Moses MUKOLWE (Kenya): Mr Chairman, as this is the first time that we have taken the floor, my delegation would like to join other Member Nations in congratulating you and your bureau. Your experience and ability is well known right there on the wall. We also commend the Director-General and his Secretariat and also Mr. Shah for his presentation of the Programme of Work and Budget.

It is encouraging so far to listen and note quite a number of areas of agreement which I am sure will lead to the consensus we are looking for in order to carry out those ideals and aims conceived by those far-sighted reknown thinkers who have gone before us. We commend them wherever they are and must not let them down.

Having said that, and in the spirit of the Conference depicting the 40th Anniversary of the Organization, collectively we should all focus our attention on the real constraints that face us now and in the future and devise new ideas and approaches to food production for the entire welfare of mankind.

As many delegations have stated since the debate commenced, we are all concerned about the state of food and the welfare of those who we represent here. What remains is the mobilization of the resources at our disposal and the continuation of support for the programme to be translated into action. Finding these programmes adequately and equitably to achieve the desired goals, I am pleased and I feel secure that Member Nations of FAO and the entire international community focus their attention and efforts on the sub-Saharan region of Africa. The goal is for nobody to die of hunger and in doing so, need to reintensify efforts to fight poverty and to ensure lasting security. With that in mind

my delegation supports the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. We also note the marginal increase in the budget despite the emphasis on zero growth deliberated on at length during the last biennium. We commend the Director-General for tightening his belt in a very difficult and demanding period for mankind as regards food, especially in the African continent. We should note the importance of this issue since the magnitude of the programmes themselves demand funding. Cutting down on administrative costs is a must and can affect other programmes that should be implemented in order to achieve food for all.

Rehabilitation of agriculture in developing countries, and in Africa in particular, is a noble goal, but we cannot rule out the growth and the maintenance of such programmes in the face of increasing population growth and resource base depletion. Zero growth becomes redundant. However, we support the urge to focus attention on sound management and improvement in use of resources under the care of FAO, as is the case in other organizations. We therefore fully support the TCP programme because of its immediate results. Long-term development strategies are now being designed by many developing countries, especially mine, and FAO in this case has led the way by preparing the document on Agriculture in the Year 2000.

Already, as stated in our country statement, we will soon be publishing a strategy paper to guide development efforts for the next 15 to 20 years in order to break the vicious circle of hunger, malnutrition, underdevelopment, and poverty. I fully support the views expressed by the delegation of Sweden regarding the effect of population growth on environmental breakdown. It is a chain reaction that can be broken through effective use of increased resources. FAO should be in the forefront of these efforts.

Khalil Ibrahim DURAZI (Bahrain)(original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, may I convey to you the greetings of the delegation- and the Government of Baharain and congratulate you on your election to the chair of this meeting. I should also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman who will work with you in order to make a success of the meetings.

The Programme of Work and Budget which is under discussion is a document that will be used as reference in laying down plans. My country attaches great importance to the strategy for food security, especially through the implementation of agricultural programmes. It has given priority to agriculture and to agricultural projects.

I should also like to- convey to you the support of Bahrain for the Programme of Work and Budget. We would like to greet the efforts of the Director - General and his staff in preparing this document by using this format, and would like to congratulate him on the contents and on his encouragement for research. We would also like to support the priority included in this document given to food security, training, agricultural and technological assistance and cooperation among developing countries. This requires the organization to transfer information and to enhance economic and technological assistance between developing countries.

I should like to mention the importance of encouraging small farmers to enhance their living standards by providing them with the necessary utensils and improved seeds, and by improving the soil through irrigation and improving their marketing infrastructure. Rural development programmes have to be given a major part, especially so far as women are concerned, because women shoulder the bulk of the work and they have to provide everything that is necessary to ensure rural development in the developing world. We should try to resolve the problems of food, especially in developing countries, by establishing a more dynamic working environment.

In conclusion I should like to support the Programme of Work and Budget on behalf of my delegation.

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Deseamos hacer una breve intervención sobre este tema. Como es la primera vez que hacemos uso de la palabra deseamos felicitarle por haber sido electo como Presidente de esta importante Comisión, así cómo felicitamos a los Vicepresidentes que le deberán ayudar y asistir en los trabajos de llevar esta discusión a feliz conclusión en los temas que debemos tratar aquí. También debemos un reconocimiento al Sr. Shah por su presentación del documento C 85/3 y deseamos manifestar que Nicaragua apoya plenamente el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87, así como sus objetivos a plazo medio. También deseamos hacer un comentario relacionado con el crecimiento cero, pero probablemente no habrá necesidad de ampliar en mucho los conceptos que ya hemos manifestado, y es que somos contrarios a ese proyecto que se quiere establecer en los organismos multilaterales.

Deseo recordar también que en 1985 en el Consejo de la FAO del mes de junio.pasado, el Director General presentó un resumen de proyecto de presupuesto para el próximo bienio del cual se sacaron conclusiones útiles para poder hacer modificaciones para que en esta Conferencia se presentara un documento que pudiera ser aceptado por todos. Ya se ha mencionado que este aumento del 1,1 es mínimo relacionado con las necesidades del mundo para eliminar el problema del hambre y la desnutrición.

Queremos también reconocer el esfuerzo que ha hecho el Director General y el personal de la FAO para racionalizar los recursos presupuestarios de la Organización y porque han logrado, inclusive, un ahorro significativo que permitirá ampliar los programas técnicos.

Creemos que los principales países que contribuyen al presupuesto de la FAO deberán realizar que la labor de potenciación es de una importancia estratégica para los países en desarrollo en su lucha para eliminar el hambre y la malnutrición, particularmente en una región tan castigada como es la región de Africa.

Aprovecho el uso de la palabra y tomando en consideración que se decidió que hablar sobre el TCP es pertinente en este momento, quisiera simplemente reiterar que en el Consejo pasado, en su período de sesiones del 4 al 8 de noviembre, antes de comenzar la Conferencia, como observadores del Consejo aprobamos la propuesta del Director General de hacer una evaluación independiente sobre el PCT. Apoyamos entonces la propuesta, repito, de que se eleve el nivel del proyecto de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares y también apoyamos la propuesta de que se creara una categoría del proyecto dentro del Programa. Desde el punto de vista de Nicaragua, son varias las razones que nos mueven a apoyar esta propuesta, y siendo conocidas por esta Comisión no deseamos redundar en el tema.

Harold HØSTMARK (Norway): Mr Chairman, permit me first to offer my sincere congratulations on your election to the chair. It is a responsibility that is not shouldered lightly in these difficult times, but I feel confident that your long experience, coupled with your special qualities, will give the guidance to our deliberations for which you are so well known. I must also express our satisfaction with the election of the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Qadir and Mr Winkel, both well known for their vision and their integrity. I know that there will be great support for you in the weeks to come.

Turning to today's agenda point lucidly introduced by Mr Shah, unfortunately the documents themselves are somewhat less than lucid. A budget has a dual function. It is both a tool of management in the execution of policy and an expression of the direction that a policy-deciding body has laid down for an institution. As the Director-General has expressed it, the Programme of Work and Budget determines the pulse of the Organization and it represents its life force. Just so Mr Chairman. But what are the directions to be read out of the Budget? Frankly they are difficult to find. Certainly the foreword contains statements of what the policies are and statements with which we to a large extent agree; to mention a few examples, the priority given to Africa, the role of the Organization as a purveyor of technical assistance, the continuous need for assessment of the Organization. But again Mr Chairman, to discern the policy directions from the Budget itself is extremely difficult. We know that Mr Shah is always ready to assist in explaining and elucidating. Unfortunately, the statement of policy to which the Conference is expected to give its imprimatur is the printed text, not the oral explanations. The Budget should convey a sense of established priorities for practical work to be carried out by the Organization, a feeling of concentration where efforts are tied into an analysis of the individual country's agricultural

development, and strategic planning designed in consultation between the governments of the countries concerned and the FAO with its background of stored knowledge. Isolated projects, no matter how valuable, become less relevant in the world of scarce resources if they are not closely woven into a stringent national policy framework.

The discussion here has to a certain extent focused on the percentage change of this Budget relative to the last one. To my delegation, this tends to obfuscate, and does not clarify the real issues. The expansions or contractions of the Budget will by far be more influenced by exchange rates and inflation factors than by an increase in an overall level of 1.1 percent. To be a useful analytical tool we must have different breakdowns. A significant part of the Organization's expenses are in lire and not in dollars, and a third are in different local currencies. Consequently, currency expenses must now be compared to their respective counterparts in the former budget. Only then can we give vent to informed opinions and to the overall budgetary effects of the present proposals.

Concerning the income side, the Director-General said that the burdens on the member countries may be less in dollar terms, but as most of us will have to pay more for the same dollars, this does not say much about the net effect. However, for my Government it is not how much we are to pay that is the central issue, but do we get the maximum development effect out of the resources we put in? This can of course only be finally determined by evaluation after the work is done, but we would like to have the assurance of clear policy directions and priorities, clearly readable in the figures before us, on which we can agree.

In brief, we question the transparency of the Budget and the assuredness that the Organization is working according to policies that we can support.

Permit me to take up some specific points: (i) We were disturbed to read in the introduction to the Budget that FAO has the highest lapsed deductions in the UN System for positions not filled. This we do not see as commendable. Either one needs the positions and then they should be filled or one does not need them and then they should be abolished. This actually makes us question the requests for new positions, particularly positions that are not directly linked to development work in the field.

My second specific point concerns the request for more proposed appropriations for forestry and fisheries. In the view of my delegation these are not sufficient in comparison with other sectors in the Budget.

Thirdly, I would stress the value of a policy of decentralization. But in a caveat, back-up functions must not be impaired and the sense of central direction must not be lost.

Finally, there have been many calls for a consensus on the Budget. There is nothing my delegation would like more than to see this, but through the way they are doing this, by pronouncing on the level instead of by first examining the individual blocks on which the Budget is based, I can see how it becomes difficult for those delegations which may have specific queries regarding its directions or its particular aspects. If we had had more possibility to pronounce on the individual parts, it might have been easier to accept the final result.

C.K. KONU (Ghana): Mr Chairman, let me also congratulate you and your illustrious Vice-Chairmen on your election to steer the affairs of this important Committee. We wish to commend Mr Shah for his brilliant introduction of the subject under review. The Director-General and his team have worked untiringly to present a well balanced Programme that in the view of my delegation is a proper attempt to reduce the hardships of food production in many countries in Africa, which in this age of advanced technology still face the spectre of hunger and death. We are therefore fully satisfied with the major thrust of the Programme proposals contained in document C 85/3 and the various addenda and give them our support. While we are cognizant of the current global economic difficulties, we are convinced that a budget growth of 1.1 percent at this time is indeed no growth compared to the magnitude of the job at hand. My delegation, in joining hands with all the delegations that have spoken before us, congratulates the Director-General for his dynamism and fully endorses the Programme and level of Budget so judiciously proposed by him.

EL PRESIDENTE: La situación es la siguiente: faltan cuatro oradores, que van a intervenir por la segunda vez y, entonces, con un poco de optimismo, podríamos suponer que van a ser breves.

También tenemos todavía en la lista al representante del PNUD. Si ustedes están de acuerdo, podemos oír estas intervenciones y tratar de concluir esta tarde con este tema.

Sin embargo, como algunas delegaciones, sobre todo en relación con su posibilidad de intervenir una segunda vez, se han referido al PCT, deseo aclarar aún más la situación, esperando que mi explicación no sea controvertida.

En este tema 12 sobre el PCT es lógico y consecuente que se discuta su índole, su orientación y el aumento y recursos que se proponen para el PCT. En el próximo tema que considerará esta Comisión, o sea la revisión del Programa Ordinario, el PCT figura en el Capítulo 4, que comienza con las siguientes palabras: "Los resultados de un examen a fondo de este programa principal, ..." - o sea, el PCT - "... hecho por consultores independientes, se presentará por separado a la Conferencia".

A este documento sobre el programa ordinario, como dije antes, se agregará también el extracto del informe del Consejo de la semana pasada sobre la discusión del Informe de Evaluación. Entonces, está claro que también en el próximo tema podrán ser incluidos en sus intervenciones otros aspectos del PCT. Espero que esto esté claro.

Adel Hilmi EL-SARKY (Egypt)(original language Arabic): I would like to thank you for your patience and for giving me the floor a second time to comment on the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Objectives. I would also like to apologize for arriving late to this meeting. In this context I would like to add my voice to all those who preceded me in expressing support to the strategies and priorities, to giving a high priority to Africa in the organization's programmes, to asserting the importance and efficiency of the economic and technical cooperation programme between the developing countries.

However, I would like to add some remarks on various technical and economic programmes.

My delegation would like to voice its total satisfaction with the sub-programme 2.1.1.2 on farming systems development because it concentrates on small farmers and it tries to give them all sorts of data and information that are indeed in conformity with my country's policy. We assist them because they are the backbone of production. We are in favour of extending the activities of the sub-programme 2.1.2.1 on genetic resources in order to include the germplasm collections of vegetables and fruits and the development of conservation methodology. Needless to say, the distribution of highly productive genetic resources (seeds) and the formulation of appropriate laws regulating their use and their protection from pests and parasites will lead to increasing agricultural production and will protect mankind and its environment.

In the drafting of Programme 2.1.3 livestock attention has been paid to a proper balance. We hope that all the ambitions will be achieved in eradicating rinderpest swine fever and trypanosomiasis.

There is no doubt that providing us with data will make it easier for us to forecast undesirable events and to take the necessary measures to avoid their negative effects. This is why we welcome any efforts aimed at improving the quality of the compiled data made available in the framework of the Global Information and Early Warning System. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the content of paragraph 54.2 of document 83/3 in Arabic, the reference to training and its importance to developing countries in preparing their managers for agricultural projects.

The objectives of programme 2.1.4 on research and technology development are very similar to the measures implemented by Egypt to develop and modernize its agriculture in choosing the right technology, in linking research with agricultural extension, and in distributing research documents in conformity with CARIS. We would like to pay tribute to the role played by the international and regional agricultural research networks in the exchange of experience and knowledge. Egypt was honoured to represent the Near East region twice in the international consultative committee for agricultural research, and we are also eager to do all the related follow-up work.

The programme 2.1.4.2 on agricultural applications of isotope research has been very useful to Egypt. We apply it in using azolla as a supplementary source of nitrogen for fertilizers.

The results of this project will be extremely rewarding. We also have to take into account all the assistance we received through the programme of remote sensing technology through consultative advice in the surveying and the classifying of lands with satellites and in the training of experts in aerial photographic information processing. We would also like to commend the efforts of the organization in rural development and in the implementation of WCARRD recommendations.

We would like to stress the importance of the role of women in agricultural production. A seminar was held in Egypt on the role of women in rural development and in the increase of food production. It was chaired by one of our previous ministers of agriculture who is responsible for the followup on the recommendations.

We believe in the technical and economic programme. We hope that its objectives will lead to the achievement of a better agricultural production and to an increasing food security.

We commend the activities of the TCP for their efficiency, their flexibility and for their alacrity in providing assistance. We support the share allocated to the TCP in the programme of work and budget for the next biennium and we favour the increase of cash value maximum for projects financed through this programme. We also welcome the remarks made in paragraph 52 of document CL 88/8 about the allocation of part of the funds of this programme to the technical and economic cooperation. We sincerely hope that the debates of our commission with the adoption of a resolution calling for the promotion of the TCP and the reduction of administrative expenses, would not lead to less efficiency in the implementation of the organization's programmes.

Mustafa Ibrahim (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)(original language Arabic): In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Allow me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you and to express the pleasure of my delegation on your election to the Chair of this Commission. We are confident that you will be able, through your capabilities and your wisdom, to lead us to success. We would also like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen.

The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia has spoken on this subject yesterday, but I would like to centre my comments on two points my delegation believes to be extremely important - and I shall speak very briefly.

The Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 coincides with the medium-term objectives, and we accept it as presented. We also support the Director-General's measures to enhance the Programme relating to Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries. We would also like to support the cutting-back of administrative expenses, as well as the priority given to our African brothers.

We also welcome the priority given to agricultural production through various means, especially through intensification of production and the best possible use to be made of soil, of water resources, and agricultural tools, as well as of seeds, fertilizers and vaccines to be provided to farmers. We hope that these last items may be produced locally in developing countries whenever possible. We fully agree with the saying that "there is no alternative for developing countries but self-reliance" therefore, a very high priority should be given to agricultural production, and we must work in order to achieve high levels of this production. Food should be produced in rations that exceed what is being produced now - that is, 3 percent. Despite the economic crisis that is being witnessed by all developing countries today, the highest priority has been given to this subject. However, I believe that the problem needs increased efforts on the part of international bodies.

We welcome and greet the continuation of efforts to assist the least developed countries, small farmers and agricultural workers, especially women. We welcome a solution to the problems that face developing countries today.

I would now like to move on to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which is an extremely important subject. However, after listening to your explanations, Mr Chairman, I shall respond to your appeal, and my delegation will reserve its right to take the floor on this subject when this subject is discussed later.

Joseph TCHICAYA (Congo): Dans notre première intervention d'hier au sein de cette Commission II, nous avons clairement appuyé les priorités, stratégies et programmes proposés par le Directeur général pour le prochain biennium de notre Organisation, ainsi que le niveau du budget présenté par lui pour la même période, tout en regrettant que le taux de croissance dudit budget ne soit que de 1,1 pour cent en raison de l'augmentation croissante des besoins des Etats Membres.

A dessein, nous n'avons pas expressément abordé le PCT ainsi que la question de la décentralisation, espérant pouvoir le faire au point 13, ce qui justifie notre présente intervention complémentaire à ce stade de notre réflexion.

L'acharnement de certains pays à défendre coûte que coûte le principe de croissance zéro ne nous surprend pas, d'autant plus que cette théorie dogmatique continue à nous être déversée par ces mêmes pays qui se sont particulièrement distingués à ce sujet au cours de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil. Nous n'avons ici qu'une occasion supplémentaire de constater que ces pays sont irréductibles.

Ce qui nous préoccupe sincèrement par contre, c'est la tendance prise au cours des présentes assises par certains pays, d'ordinaire constructifs, à vouloir suivre les pays industrialisés partisans de la croissance zéro. Ceux qui souhaitent que les plus pauvres continuent à sombrer dans la misère nous ont rappelé dans leurs interventions que la FAO ne doit pas être considérée comme une source de financement. Nous aimerions savoir quel mal a pu faire le FIDA, qui est une institution financière en bonne et due forme, pour mériter le sort dans lequel ils veulent le reléguer en retardant la deuxième reconstitution de ses ressources.

Ces mêmes pays nous ont dit que le PCT a été exagérément doté en ressources, qu'il est devenu le "coucou" de l'Organisation, ajoutant parallèlement qu'ils ne souhaitent pas voir l'Organisation affecter davantage de ressources à la formation et à la décentralisation. Qu'espèrent-ils au juste si ce n'est espérer nous voir continuer à demeurer dans notre statut d'éternels assistés sans formation. Peut-on penser que le transfert de technologie préconisé par ces mêmes pays pourra se faire? A notre avis, il n'y a pas saupoudrage des moyens de l'Organisation à travers les moyens du PCT. Nous tenons à affirmer notre soutien au PCT.

Nous réaffirmons également notre soutien à l'élévation du niveau plafond des projets du PCT qui doit passer de 250 000 dollars à 400 000 dollars. Nous appuyons l'idée que le financement des projets du PCT se fasse sur les ressources ordinaires et non pas, comme le préconisent les représentants de certains pays, par des ressources hasardeuses d'origine fiduciaire. Nous recommandons donc son renforcement ainsi que la décentralisation.

Nous espérons que d'ici le vote qui aura lieu sur le Programme de travail, chacun de nos pays saura faire son examen de conscience pour que les résultats soient réellement l'expression sincère et profonde de sa volonté de soulager les plus pauvres de notre monde.

G.H. MUSGROVE (Canada): I should like to express my appreciation for your clarification a few minutes ago, and in the light of that I shall not mention the TCP at this time.

The quality of debate has certainly been mixed, but has not lacked depth. We would like to say that we particularly appreciate many of the interventions, especially some made since six o'clock - there have been two or three extremely interesting and useful interventions. The thing that struck us was that some misunderstanding seemed to continue in relation to the concept of zero real growth, and perhaps we could briefly reiterate our views in that respect.

Quite a number of interventions have indicated that zero real growth represents some decline in assistance to agricultural development at a time when it is most greatly needed. It had

always been our impression that, as FAO is not a funding agency, those countries would be requesting greater and increasing levels of development assistance, and not an increase in the budgets of institutions. In that respect we feel that there has been some amount of cross-purpose in our dialogue on this particular subject.

Similarly, the concept of zero real growth does not imply stagnation, as a number of delegates have suggested. It is a dynamic policy. It suggests there should be new initiatives, new priorities, to address new problems; and, when there are new initiatives and new priorities, that these be examined in consort with existing activities to identify those which are not of the same priority and therefore can be reduced, or, in some cases, dispensed with. I have noticed that great many delegates have suggested that the concept itself is a dubious one, held tenaciously by one or two countries, or at best a very few countries, who are trying to impose their views or their will. But in fact it is a very substantive number of countries who have taken this management approach - countries who, I believe, contribute about 80 percent of the budget of this Organization. It is not an isolated viewpoint held by one or two countries, in our view, but a substantive one and one which is offered with some thought. It is not in the interests of saving national money, but in the interests of a management policy.

When we spoke earlier, we indicated a number of areas where there may possibly still be yet more reductions in the budget. We feel, of course, that such budgetary adjustment is a matter for Management itself, which can best judge how to address the priorities. But if there be need to indicate some potential, we indicated our views with respect to the TCP. We have also suggested the prospects in the area of staffing, and that is my real reason for asking for the floor at this time.

I have mentioned that we felt that the proposal for 14 new positions, of which five were being offset by reallocation of existing positions, for a net growth of 9. There is one area where possibly a further look could be taken, and we mention that in the light of the suggestion that, due to the high vacancy rate, there were a good many positions that were vacant - and some had indeed been vacant for a considerable time. I believe that that number approaches 250, or is somewhere between 250 and 300 positions. It is in this context that we feel that the nine net new positions could be addressed by reallocation of some existing positions. We were not challenging the Programme Committee or others who had looked at the 14 proposals and we are not saying that those 14 were not needed insofar as their definition or job description were concerned. While we would have differing views on that, we would agree that these have been examined by the Organization and found to be positions that were of priority in terms of their description, but feel nevertheless that they can be addressed by reallocations. In that context, I made a somewhat unfortunate intervention by saying that in the view of our own country, we were reluctantly prepared to contribute to this if it meant that new positions in the North American office that were being proposed were not found to be filled. I did not wish to imply at that time that I was being critical of the North American office and would like to hasten to reassure Mr Sorensen and the Organization that it was not my intention to be critical of that office in particular or to single it out for a cut, but merely to indicate that if there had to be sacrifices made, we for one, who had no representation at this time, would, even at the extreme, be prepared to consider those positions if that were found necessary.

With that explanation, I will conclude my very brief intervention.

EL PRESIDENTE: Siempre hemos sostenido que la Organización debe servir cada vez con más eficacia a todos los Estados Miembros, particularmente a aquéllos en vías de desarrollo. Esperamos que la Oficina para América del Norte, que sirve dos países, esté a la altura de sus funciones como lo ha auspiciado el distinguido delegado del Canadá.

Por favor, ¿está en la sala el representante del PNUD? Si no está cedo la palabra al Sr. Shah.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): At the outset of this debate on Item 12, I said that I considered it an honour to have been asked by the Director-General to introduce the item on his behalf and to deliver this statement. Not only do I mean that, but I should like to assure you, Sir, that I consider it an honour, which I view with some trepidation, to respond to this very long and substantive debate in which the Commission has engaged over the last two days. I shall try to do justice, not only in presenting the views of the Director-General, but in responding to the debate itself.

It is easiest for me to reply to some very specific questions which were raised, and if I may say so, to get those out of the way before I turn to some comments which were of a more complex nature. There was one specific question that was raised by the delegate of New Zealand about FAO's collaboration with the OIE, the Office Internationale d'Epizooties, on the subject of the Animal Health Year Book. As the representative is not in the room, I will not go into great detail but will just recall that he had asked why there was duplication or possible duplication between the two organizations with regard to the questionnaire circulated. The answer, very briefly, is that firstly the responsibilities of the two organizations vary somewhat as regards the Member Nations and as regards the scope of work. OIE has only 107 member nations, whereas FAO's coverage, of course, is much larger.

Secondly, the OIE's interest is limited to animal health statistics, whereas FAO's interest is a more qualitative one in that it asks for qualitative information as well as information on diseases which are not covered by the OIE.

But I think that the key point which would satisfy the representative of New Zealand is that the collaboration between the two organizations had led to agreement, not to duplication of evidence. That is surely the key point, and a common questionnaire has been developed which will be used from the end of this year.

Another specific question was raised by the delegate of Switzerland. I do not see him here, but may I briefly reply to his point about the collaboration between FAO and IFAD in the field of agricultural credit? There are three aspects to the collaboration: firstly, in the context of the work of our Investment Centre, any work done in the Investment Centre for IFAD, whether it is in project identification, formulation or appraisal, covers, among other fields, agricultural credit.

Secondly, there is collaboration between our Agricultural Services Division, and with our colleagues in IFAD, for example, in the provision of assistance on small farmer credits through the regional credit organizations. One example I have been given by my colleagues is that of the Near East and North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association. IFAD, incidentally, has granted a loan of just under US\$ 1 million to this Association with which we collaborate.

The third aspect is that, as the Commission may know, we work closely with IFAD in evaluation. Guidelines for the evaluation of rural development projects also covering agricultural credit are in fact jointly developed by us with our colleagues in IFAD and with other organizations concerned.

A specific question was also raised by the delegate of Japan, inquiring whether it would not be possible for the Secretariat to develop some methodology for forecasting exchange rates or for considering average exchange rates in determining what will be adopted for a biennium. Quite frankly, this is a formidable task which I would not consider very possible. Firstly, the fluctuations in exchange rates, as is well-known to the Commission, have been extremely dramatic in recent months and recent years. The average exchange rate from January to the end of September 1985 was 1844 lire to the US dollar. If we consider the variations in the month of October alone, they went from a low of 1763 lire to the dollar on 4 October, to 1810 lire to the dollar on 1 October, and the average for the month was 1752.

Aside from this, as the Commission is aware, if the Conference were to adopt the principle of taking an average exchange rate and applied it to the budget for the next biennium, there would be no guarantee that that average would be applicable for the next biennium. Thus, if the average were taken now and the rate were too low in relation to the trends in the next biennium, we would be no better off. We would be no better off if the average were higher.

Finally, on this point, this is a matter which we have referred to in our Investment Advisory Committee which consists of four distinguished advisers, including people from the IMF, the World Bank, the Banca d'Italia and the Bank of International Settlements. Their advice, which was based also on the practice of the IMF and the World Bank, is not to try and make any projections or to consider any average rates, but to apply the rate of the day or of the time when the budget is approved, in the full understanding that there will be or will likely be variations.

Member Nations are, of course, well covered for the effects of the variations through the Special Reserve Account. It may interest the Conference to note that the Special Reserve Account at the beginning of the biennium, representing 5 percent of the effective working budget, was just over US\$ 21 million; because of the gains in currency through the exchange factor, by 30 September the Special Reserve Account was some US\$ 31 million.

I estimate, with my colleagues in the Finance Division that, between September and December, at an average rate of 1770 lire to the dollar, the Special Reserve Account will increase by another US\$ 1.8 million.

Whatever the effective budget level determined by Conference, 5 percent of that will be set aside as the base of the Special Reserve Account for the next biennium and the surplus will be distributed to Member Nations in the form of a cash surplus.

There were a number of comments made about new posts. As has been recalled, most recently in the last intervention of the representative of Canada, there is a net addition of 9 posts proposed for the next biennium. It has also been recalled that the justification for these posts was very carefully gone into, not only by the Secretariat but by the Programme Committee. As the Chairman of the Programme Committee mentioned earlier in the afternoon, each of these new posts was fully accepted as regards the justification.

One aspect is that it may interest the Commission to note that the requests for new posts as well as the possibilities of abolishing existing ones have been pursued by the Director-General with his characteristic vigour. The requests for new posts received from divisions amounted to about 80 and these were not requests based on fly-by-night imagination; they were requests which were soundly made by senior managers on the basis of the work programme that they proposed and the needs as they saw them. This reduction to the net addition of 9 posts indicates, I hope, how severely the process was observed. It has also been suggested that because of vacancies in existing posts, one should not consider the establishment of new posts. The logic escapes me somewhat. There are vacancies and there will always be vacancies in established posts because colleagues of mine have a tendency to grow older and resign, or retire, for whatever reason. These posts then remain vacant until their successors are recruited. I do not see how a post which is vacant for a few weeks or a few minutes can be substituted for a post in the field. The fact that a post of a fishing technologist may fall vacant does not help us if we are looking for a plant geneticist. What is important, though, is that the budgetary provision for posts takes into account the fact that there are vacancies and that is why the budgetary provision for posts is not based on 100 percent full-time coverage of every post. The lapse factor, that the delegate of Norway referred to, the lapse factor is precisely the factor which specifies that although you may have one hundred posts that may not be occupied 100 percent of the time, you make a reduced budgetary provision for them.

A number of delegates also referred to the importance of the forestry programmes and expressed their concern that the share of forestry has not risen to a greater extent in the next budget. This was indeed the kind of comment which was also made for the present biennium. Forestry is fortunate in having a programme increase of 4.17 percent, as compared to one of 3.6 percent for agriculture and one of 3.8 percent for fisheries. The dollar amount involved for forestry is US\$ 690 000 in terms of programme change. To this, I would add that we have to bear in mind that assistance to Member Nations in the field of forestry is not only under the major Forestry programme, but it also forms part of the assistance given by the TCP. Some .6 percent of the TCP programmes in the last year were for assistance in the field of forestry. In addition to the programme under the major provision there is also the addition under the TCP that goes to forestry. The third aspect is the part of the programme that relates to budgetary funds. The Commission may have noticed that Forestry, with a Regular Programme provision for the next biennium of some eighteen million dollars, is expected to have extra-budgetary field activities of over US\$ 61 000 000, a ratio of more than three to one.

In the case of Fisheries, if we take an example, the Fisheries Regular Programme provision is proposed at just under US\$ 27 000 000 and extra-budgetary funds of some US\$ 57 000 000. And so the activities in the field of forestry have to be seen in the total of Regular Programme and extra budgetary funds, which amount to over US\$ 80 000 000. This leads me to a point which the delegate of the United Kingdom raised about the sub-programme 2.1.8.3, Commodity Policies and Trade and why it is the recipient of the substantial fund of some US\$ 7 000 000. If I recall his intervention, it implied that this was a pretty questionable programme with such significant resources and what was the use of so many studies, in relation to the importance of soil management, water development, fertilizers, programmes which really had a field impact and which had a more direct relation to increase in agricultural production and which were recipients of Regular Programme resources of 1.8 million, 2 million, thereabouts. There are several important clarifications which I would like to provide.

Firstly the sub-programme 2.1.8.3, Commodity Policies and Trade, does not deal only with studies. In fact studies are a very small part of the sub-programme. The bulk of this sub-programme is concerned with the Committee on Commodity Problems and the whole range of inter-governmental commodity groups. As the CCP only met recently and reported to the Council, and as the Council has reacted on the importance of the work done, I will not go further into this aspect. Let me, however, also mention that whereas the work on the Commodity Policies and Trade in this sub-programme has some US\$ 7 000 000, it has no extra-budgetary funds related to it. Whereas the sort of sub-programmes which were referred to in Soil Conservation, Water Development and Fertilizers all have very substantial extra-budgetary funds which are related to them. For example, soil management and fertilizers, only has US\$ 2 000 000 under the Regular Programme but almost US\$ 20 000 000 under extra-budgetary funds. This is the kind of relationship which is taken into account by the Director-General in the distribution of resources. Which leads me immediately to the point about priorities and the priorities of programme selection, scrutiny, stringency, and limited availability of resources.

I will desist from commenting on the principle of zero growth, whether it is termed as zero programme growth or zero real growth or whatever terminology is used. As this is a matter among sovereign Member Nations and their debate is clear, the Secretariat does not need to respond to it, but what I would like to emphasize is that the pursuit of any such principle has nothing to do with careful budgetary preparations and the identification of careful budgetary priorities. No matter what the increase, whether it is half of one percent as it was last time or whether it is 1.1 percent as is proposed now, the Director-General ensures the same rigid examination and a thorough examination of all Programme proposals starting from the present base, that is to say, using the principle of zero-based budgeting. The Conference has already noted that existing Programme activities have been reviewed to identify those which do not need to continue. This is the kind of principle which has been mentioned in the debate. We do not just accept a programme base for a biennium and just add on to it, but we first dissect it to see what is superfluous, to see what can be reduced, what can be cut out, and we then proceed with additional programme proposals.

Mr Chairman, in view of the late hour, and your magisterial look, I will try to limit my intervention. I believe I have replied to most of the questions which were raised. May I, however, before concluding, appeal to you for a moment more of your time and that is to say in the name of the Director-General and on his behalf as I am responding to this debate, to express our very sincere gratitude for the debate which has taken place; in particular for the comments of appreciation which have been addressed to the Director-General for the manner in which he has prepared and presented this Programme of Work and Budget; for the way he has tried to take into account the views of all Member Nations in order to facilitate approval with as much consensus or unanimity as possible. As he said in his introduction, what he hopes this Conference will recall is that what unites the Member Nations in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget is incomparably greater than what may divide them on any aspect of it.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, como ustedes saben, el resumen del Presidente no es un texto obligatorio, que trata solamente de una vía, de una orientación muy respetuosa para el Presidente y los miembros del Comité de representación, de manera que espero que lo que voy a decir aquí no sea discutido en esta Sala palabra por palabra. Si esto es válido para cualquier resumen, con mayor razón para este tema 12 en cuya discusión intervinieron 88 delegaciones y, sinceramente, les confieso que no

me siento en condiciones de presentarles un resumen exhaustivo. Sin embargo, pienso que al concluir el tema 12 la Comisión apoyó las prioridades, la política y los programas de la Organización para 1986-87. Se reconoció que las prioridades habían sido fijadas por los gobiernos, particularmente a través de su participación en los órganos rectores: Comité del Programa, Comité de Finanzas, Consejo y Conferencias Regionales. En general, la Comisión apoyó las seis prioridades presentadas por el Director General en sus líneas generales del Programa. La Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en el fortalecimiento de los programas técnicos y económicos. En particular, la Comisión apoyó los siguientes aspectos principales del Programa que destaco rápidamente, aunque alguno de ellos está comprendido en las seis prioridades a que me refería anteriormente: apoyo a la prioridad para África y, sobre todo, al Programa de rehabilitación a la agricultura africana, cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo, fortalecimiento de las actividades de campo, seguridad alimentaria mundial y sistema de información y alerta, apoyo a las actividades de pesca y montes, apoyo a las actividades en favor de pequeños campesinos y de la mujer (lástima que no esté aquí la distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela), apoyo a la investigación y a la capacitación que debe ser extendida y aplicada particularmente en el campo.

Algunas delegaciones se refirieron a la reforma agraria y a la importancia que tiene la aplicación de sus principios en los cambios institucionales. Algunas delegaciones expresaron su preocupación por la reducción progresiva de los recursos destinados a la asistencia multilateral como los casos del PNUD y del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) con la recomendación de que se pida a los Estados Miembros que hagan todos esfuerzos adicionales por contribuir a que se logre cuanto antes la segunda reposición de los recursos del FIDA.

Algunos delegados manifestaron que la reducción de recursos para la cooperación multilateral no significaba falta de voluntad de sus países, que, por el contrario, estaban tratando de aumentar en sus presupuestos las asignaciones para la asistencia al desarrollo. Muchas delegaciones, la mayoría, expresaron su apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) por considerarlo un programa rápido y eficaz con efecto multiplicador, muy conveniente para los países beneficiarios y apoyaron plenamente el aumento propuesto para los fondos del PCT.

Unas pocas delegaciones manifestaron que el PCT debería limitarse a los casos de urgencia, que sus recursos no deberían crecer en el programa ordinario, que a veces se había constatado que parte de esas asignaciones no habían sido gastadas y que, por lo tanto, en vez de aumentar los recursos en el Programa Ordinario, podría tratarse de obtener recursos de fuentes extrapresupuestarias. Opinaron que el nivel alcanzado en el PCT había llegado a un punto satisfactorio y que éste no debía competir con otra forma de ayuda.

Consecuente con la explicación que di en materia de procedimiento les ruego observar que en esta parte del resumen sobre el PCT he limitado mis observaciones al contenido del Capítulo 4 del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y les ruego que aquí en esta Sala no iniciemos el debate de cómo vamos a reflejar esto en el Informe para evitar duplicación. Esto creo que no es fácil que ustedes lo hagan ni yo tampoco, corresponderá al Comité de Redacción cuyo Presidente es el Sr. Jennings que está al fondo de nuestra sala y ellos serán los que podrán indicarnos cómo se podrá presentar en nuestro Informe de la manera más adecuada la referencia al PCT.

La Comisión reconoció los grandes esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para atender y seguir la recomendación de los órganos rectores al examinar el resumen del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Unos pocos países, aun reconociendo los esfuerzos del Director General, opinaron que sería deseable hacer todavía más reducciones hasta lograr un crecimiento cero neto en los Programas.

Opinaron esas mismas delegaciones, hubo una opinión mixta, pero podría considerarse más o menos la misma, que al elaborar los programas y establecer las prioridades debería tenerse en cuenta, entre otros factores, la circunstancia cambiante de la situación en el mundo y las limitaciones de los recursos económicos.

Unos pocos delegados expresaron reservas sobre la utilidad y conveniencia de los nuevos puestos propuestos. La mayoría de los delegados estuvieron en favor de esos nuevos puestos. La gran mayoría de las delegaciones opinaron que si bien aceptaban esta reducción con espíritu pragmático de transacción, consideraban que en el futuro sería necesario que se procediera con mucha cautela para evitar que nuevas reducciones en el presupuesto afectaran la capacidad de acción y la eficacia de los trabajos de la Organización.

Al nivel del presupuesto, la gran mayoría de los delegados manifestaron que, aunque hubieran preferido un nivel más alto, acorde con la grave crisis alimentaria mundial y la importante labor de la FAO, apoyaban el nivel propuesto del presupuesto con la esperanza de que así pudiera lograrse un consenso.

Unas pocas delegaciones expresaron, con diversos argumentos, que aún no estaban en capacidad de apoyar el nivel propuesto y que deseaban que se propusiera un crecimiento cero neto en los programas.

A la luz de las diversas opiniones anteriores, la Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en recomendar a la Plenaria que adoptara el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, sobre el cual, como todos ustedes saben, habrá una votación y esa será la instancia final para que los Estados Miembros se pronuncien al respecto.

Si no hay ningún comentario por los miembros de la Sala, me resta sólo agradecerles su paciencia y cooperación. Lamento haberles retardado, pero era muy conveniente concluir este tema importante.

The meeting rose at 19.35 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.35 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 85/II/PV/5

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° periodo de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION

(15 November 1985)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días, colegas y amigos. Vamos a iniciar nuestra sesión de esta mañana. En primer lugar voy a conceder la palabra al Representante de México que lo ha solicitado.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN COLOMBIA
HOMMAGE AUX VICTIMES DE L'ERUPTION VOLCANIQUE EN COLOMBIE
HOMENAJE A LAS VICTIMAS DE LA ERUPCION VOLCANICA EN COLOMBIA

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): He pedido hacer uso de la palabra a nombre del Grupo de los 77 para expresar nuestra profunda conmoción por los desastres recientemente ocurridos en su país, señor Presidente, en Colombia. Ya la crisis económica y la gravedad de las circunstancias internacionales y nacionales afectan a nuestros países, ya el deterioro de nuestras condiciones de vida nos hacen lamentarnos por nuestro presente y cuestionarnos nuestro futuro, pero a esto señor Presidente, todavía se suman desastres naturales que deterioran aún más nuestra situación. Recientemente mi país, México, ha sufrido las consecuencias de una dramática catástrofe que afectó a muy buena parte de nuestro territorio nacional. Ahora, señor Presidente, es su país el que sufre. A nombre del Grupo de los 77 deseamos expresarle nuestra más sincera condolencia y todo nuestro apoyo para ayudar a resolver, a solucionar, a superar, en la medida en que eso sea posible, la tragedia que se ha cernido sobre su país.

También, señor Presidente, a nombre del Grupo de los 77, formalmente pedimos a esta Comisión, y posteriormente lo llevaremos también a la Plenaria, para que la Conferencia toda inste al Director General a coordinar a la brevedad posible los trabajos necesarios para entregar la ayuda alimentaria y la asistencia estratégica para contribuir a resolver la situación por la que pasa actualmente Colombia.

El Grupo de los 77 sabe que la cooperación internacional sin duda se volcará, efectiva y oportunamente, en favor de Colombia. Estamos también seguros de que esta Comisión y la Conferencia de la FAO resolverán que se inste al Director General de la FAO para coordinar, en la medida en que el Gobierno de Colombia así lo precise indique y desee, la ayuda para solventar, para superar esta terrible catástrofe.

Señor Presidente nuestras más sinceras condolencias y toda nuestra solidaridad de amigos y hermanos.

A. GAYOSO (Estados Unidos de América): Señor Presidente, en nombre de Estados Unidos y en el mío propio deseo manifestar a la delegación de Colombia el profundo pesar que sentimos ante la enorme tragedia que aflige a su grande y hermoso país.

Los Estados Unidos desean reiterar su total solidaridad con el pueblo y el Gobierno de Colombia en esta hora de luto. Estamos listos de inmediato para apoyar a su Gobierno en los esfuerzos que realiza para salvar vidas y limitar los efectos destructivos del desastre. Señor Presidente, su país puede contar con nosotros.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): On behalf of the Nordic countries represented here at the Conference we would like to extend to you our most deep felt sympathy, our feeling of sorrow to the Government and the people of Colombia in this hour. We are deeply struck by the magnitude of the disaster. We know that this is difficult for you but it is even more difficult for your gallant people that have been hit by it.

Mr Chairman, most of the hearts of the Nordic countries go out to Colombia at this moment. We will certainly come back to it at a later stage.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): On behalf of the Member States of the European Community I would like to associate us with the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Mexico, United States and Norway and extend our sympathy to the people of Colombia. It is a tragic disaster and we share your sadness and grief.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We are indeed shocked, we are really grieved at the great tragedy that has befallen the people of your great country. My country, my people, my delegation this morning would wish to convey our very sincere condolences through you, Mr Chairman, through the Director-General to the people of your great country.

It reminds me of a couplet from John Donne,
"Any man's death diminishes me, because
I am involved in mankind; therefore
Never send to know for whom the bell tolls,
It tolls for thee.

We only feel that it has happened next door. Perhaps it is our own people; certainly, it is our own people. We join in this great tragedy.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): As a country that experiences natural calamities frequently we understand how your country must be feeling. We share your tragedy as our own. We feel that this is a tragedy that is not only of Colombia's, but also of Bangladesh's.

Our greatest sympathies, our sincerest sympathies go to your people. This tragedy binds us, but more importantly, it give us a perspective of the need to correct when tragedies strike, correct the situation that may befall us every now and then. Preparedness is necessary, which to my mind is very important that all countries take note of.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): M. le Président, c'est avec une vive émotion que nous avons suivi hier, sur les antennes de télévision, la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur votre pays.

Nous voulons vous assurer que nous nous associons entièrement à la déclaration faite en notre nom à tous par le Président du Groupe des 77 et nous tenons à vous assurer que votre peine d'aujourd'hui est également partagée par notre pays qui est, comme vous le savez, un pays ami du vôtre. Et bien que nous soyons séparés par des milliers et des milliers de kilomètres, il n'en reste pas moins qu'en ces heures très difficiles, nous partageons entièrement la peine qu'éprouve votre pays, encore que nous attendions avec angoisse les heures qui suivent parce que, d'après les informations en notre possession, il semblerait que la situation ne soit pas encore stabilisée.

M. le président, nous voudrions seulement profiter de cette petite cérémonie qui se déroule en ce moment pour vous exprimer les condoléances sincères et profondes de la République populaire du Congo devant cette catastrophe.

Bien que nous n'ayons pas été mandatés par le groupe africain, nous sommes persuadés que tous les pays membres de notre groupe partagent avec nous cette angoisse à l'occasion de la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur votre pays et nous pensons nous faire l'écho de tous ces pays, qui auraient certainement voulu intervenir successivement. Soyez assuré que les condoléances que nous vous adressons en notre nom sont sûrement l'expression de celles qu'aurait voulu exprimer chaque pays africain qui n'est peut-être pas dans cette salle.

A.Y. BUKHARI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, dear friends: On behalf of the countries of our regional group and on behalf of my Government and on my own behalf, I would like to convey to you our deep and sincere condolences for the suffering of your great people because of this terrible tragedy that has so deeply shocked and grieved us, a

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brasil): Señor Presidente deseo unirnos a todos los otros oradores y presentarle nuestras sinceras condolencias por la tragedia que abatió sobre el pueblo colombiano. Señor Presidente, presento con profunda tristeza la solidaridad del Gobierno brasileño, y hablo también en nombre de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon) : M. le Président, le Gouvernement de mon pays a suivi avec émotion les malheureux événements survenus dans votre cher pays. Le Ministre, Son Excellence Michel Achouey, aurait souhaité présenter lui-même à votre Ministre les sincères condoléances du peuple gabonais et de son gouvernement. Malheureusement, à l'issue de certaines échéances politiques dans notre pays, il a dû regagner le Gabon hier. Néanmoins, il m'a confié la charge de vous présenter les condoléances les plus attristées du peuple gabonais et de son gouvernement.

D. LINDORES (Canada): Mr Chairman, it is with great sadness that we learn that your people, one with which we have warm and growing relations, suffered yesterday such a terrible tragedy. I wish to assure you, Sir, of our deepest sympathy and that you can count on us to do what we can. But we are very mindful that in the long run the great burdens of both suffering and reconstruction fall on your own shoulders. In that case, however, you can be very much assured that our thoughts will be with you.

G.E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Señor Presidente, mi delegación comparte y hace suyas las expresiones de condolencia que se han manifestado hoy frente al terrible desastre que afecta a nuestros hermanos colombianos.

Sabemos, a través de la información de prensa, que el Presidente Alfonsín se puso en inmediato contacto con el Presidente Betancur, apenas ocurrida la tragedia, para ver la forma efectiva en que se puede materializar nuestra solidaridad.

Por último, señor Presidente, queremos unirnos a lo señalado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y otras Delegaciones, en el sentido de que daremos nuestro total y estricto apoyo en la solicitud para que el Director General de la FAO se ponga en contacto con las autoridades colombianas y vea también la forma práctica y efectiva en que se puede colaborar en la emergencia.

A. EL-SARKY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic): We have followed with feelings of great sympathy this tragedy, and on behalf of my own delegation I would like to express our deepest condolences.

Sra. Doña M. E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Señor Presidente, los particulares lazos de amistad y cariño que unen a los dos pueblos me llevan a manifestar, en nombre del pueblo y del Gobierno de El Salvador, nuestros sentimientos por la terrible tragedia que ha afectado a su querido país. Apoyamos firmemente lo dicho por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y manifestaremos, en el momento oportuno, nuestra solidaridad para su pueblo.

P. WIESMANN (Suisse) (Langue originale allemande) : M. le Président, au nom de la Suisse et en mon nom personnel, je dois vous dire que je prends part à la catastrophe qui frappe votre pays. Très sincèrement, j'espère que la solidarité internationale jouera intégralement et je suis persuadé que mon pays apportera également une contribution utile à l'allègement de ces terribles souffrances que vous éprouvez.

tragedy that we feel is a tragedy for every one of us. I would like to repeat what we said yesterday, that if one part of the human body is suffering, it is the whole of the human body that is suffering. So there is no doubt about the fact that the body of this society has suffered so much when we heard the news of this terrible tragedy.

M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Señor Presidente, en nombre de mi país y en el mío propio, permítame expresarle nuestra más sentida condolencia y pesar por la tragedia ocurrida en la hermana República de Colombia, y reiterarle la sincera solidaridad de Cuba, de su Gobierno y de su pueblo.

J. SAULT (Australia): Mr Chairman, on behalf of Australia and the other countries of the Southwest Pacific I would like to extend to you and your country our deepest sympathy at this time of catastrophe. We convey our very sincere and heartfelt condolences.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): M. le Président, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, je tiens à exprimer toute notre compassion au peuple colombien qui vient d'être terriblement éprouvé par une tragique catastrophe. Je vous prie, M. le Président, d'agréer nos profonds sentiments de chagrin devant ce terrible cataclysme.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): Je voudrais simplement appuyer sans réserve la déclaration du délégué du Congo pour vous adresser, à vous et à tous les vôtres, M. le Président, nos profondes condoléances.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): M. le Président, c'est également au nom de mon pays et en mon propre nom que je vous fais part de nos profonds sentiments et de notre chagrin devant la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur votre pays et votre peuple. Nous vous témoignons toute notre solidarité très amicale et fraternelle.

M. SAITO (Japan): As one of the countries surrounding the Pacific basin and familiar with volcanoes, we fully understand and share the feeling of sorrow of everyone. On behalf of my country and on behalf of my delegation, I wish to express the most sincere condolences to you, Mr Chairman, and the people of Colombia and at the same time expect that the international community take quick action to extend a helping hand to those people suffering from this natural disaster of such magnitude.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Faltaríamos a nuestro deber de amigos, de pueblo hermano, al cual nos unen muy especiales lazos históricos y fraternales, si no les expresásemos en este momento nuestro sentimiento, nuestro dolor, nuestra profunda emoción por la catástrofe que ha afectado a vuestro país. Deseamos manifestarle que compartimos su dolor y que, como usted bien sabe, cuenta con toda nuestra solidaridad.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (Original language Chinese): The delegation of China feels a deep sympathy for the people of Colombia who have been hit by such a tragedy. We share the statement by the Group of 77 and we feel that adequate measures must be taken to support the people of Colombia.

P. SKALIERIS (Grèce): M. le Président, de la part de mon gouvernement et de moi-même, je voudrais vous exprimer la sympathie la plus profonde devant le désastre qui vient de frapper votre noble pays.

S. SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : M. le Président, je voudrais ici, au nom du Liban, vous adresser nos sincères condoléances à la suite de la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur le peuple colombien. Nous éprouvons une très grande tristesse et nous partageons votre douleur.

Sra. Doña R. ZUÑIGA (Honduras): Señor Presidente, el Gobierno de mi país se solidariza con el pueblo colombiano en estos momentos de dolor y tragedia. En su nombre, señor Presidente, y en el mío propio, deseo expresarle nuestra condolencia más sentida. Nos unimos también a lo expresado por el Presidente de nuestro Grupo GRULA, y por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77.

T. ISKIT (Turkey): I would like to express on my own behalf and on behalf of my Government, the heartfelt and deepest felt condolences on the disaster which struck Colombia. I want also to convey the expression of solidarity of my people with the Colombian people. We are ready to support any act of solidarity and help to Colombia.

J.S. SALEK (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the countries of the South-east Asian Region, and on behalf of the people and the Government of Indonesia, I would like to convey our deep sympathy to you and to the people of Colombia on the catastrophe which has hit your country. We would like to take this opportunity to share the call expressed by the Chairman of the Group of 77 for immediate steps to be taken to overcome the suffering of our sisters and brothers in Colombia.

E. DEBABU (Ethiopia): Thank you Mr Chairman. I would like to express our grief and deepest condolence at the tragedy that has befallen the people of your country. We wish to indicate our solidarity with your people. We support the suggestion of Mexico for the Director-General to coordinate international assistance to your country. Calamities have no boundaries. The day before yesterday it was my country that faced a natural catastrophe. Yesterday it was another country. Today it is yours. The international community is developing an encouraging tradition of concern for and support to peoples in countries that face catastrophes so you can be assured of the solidarity of the international public to alleviate your problems in this time of ordeal.

W. ABDRABU (Jordan) (Original language Arabic): On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf let me express to you our deep felt sadness and anguish at the catastrophe that has struck your country. May we extend our sympathy to you hoping that your people will have the force and the resistance to overcome this catastrophe.

M. TRUKLJA (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman it was indeed with distress and shock that we learned what happened to your lovely country. Our views have already been stated by all who spoke before me especially by Brazil on behalf of the Group of 77. We are positive that the Director-General has already taken steps this very morning to provide initial very badly needed relief to the people that suffered from this major catastrophe.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): M. le Président, au nom de mon pays, au nom de mon peuple, je tiens à présenter mes sincères condoléances au peuple colombien, au Gouvernement colombien et à vous-même dans cette douloureuse circonstance. La douleur qui frappe votre peuple est également partagée par mon peuple. C'est pourquoi, à la lumière de la Déclaration du Président du Groupe des 77, nous vous informons de notre disponibilité et de notre appui total à toutes les initiatives que la Conférence pourra prendre pour exprimer sa solidarité au peuple colombien.

A. BROTONS DIEZ (España): Señor Presidente, ante los tristes acontecimientos ocurridos en su país expresamos nuestro mayor pesar al pueblo colombiano, a su Gobierno y a usted mismo. Esperamos que por su mediación, señor Presidente, haga llegar a sus compatriotas nuestra disposición de ayuda a un país tan unido a España por lazos históricos y entrañables.

K.N. ARDHANAREESWARAN (India): Mr Chairman I would like to associate myself with the sentiments expressed in this Commission. We are deeply distressed to learn of the tragedy which has hit the people of Colombia. We fully associate ourselves with the relief measures which will be taken in due course. On behalf of the people and the Government of India I would like to convey to -you our deepest sympathy. I would like to assure you Mr Chairman that we would fully support any initiative of this Conference or of the Director-General in providing relief to the affected people in Colombia.

M. SANDA (Niger): Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation du Niger, m'associer à toutes les marques de sympathie qui viennent d'être données en face de la tragédie qui frappe votre pays, M. le Président, et, avec votre permission, je voudrais demander à la salle de se lever comme un seul homme pour observer une minute de silence, en signe de notre sympathie pour le peuple colombien.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

T. Dias DA COSTA (Sao Tomé-et-Principe): Au nom de mon gouvernement, la délégation de la République démocratique de Sao Tomé-et-Principe s'associe aux autres délégations pour vous présenter, ainsi qu'au peuple de votre pays, ses sincères condoléances pour cette tragédie.

A.A. AL-AKWAA"(Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): We have learned with deep sorrow of the catastrophe that hit the great Colombian people. In view of this tragedy we share the sorrow because we know these catastrophes as they have hit Yemen before. Please accept our condolences in the name of our delegation.

B.H. KATANI (Tanzania): Mr Chairman on behalf of the Tanzanian Government and of my delegation we wish to express our deep condolences for what has befallen the Republic of Colombia. Please convey our deep sympathy to the Government and people of Colombia.

M. Balla SY (Sénégal): C'est avec une grande stupeur et une profonde tristesse que le monde entier, et le Sénégal en particulier, a appris la triste nouvelle, je dirais même la tragédie, qui vient de frapper votre pays, M. le Président. C'est donc au nom de l'amitié qui lie mon pays au vôtre, et particulièrement au nom des sentiments qui nous lient vous et moi, que je voudrais au nom de

la délégation sénégalaise vous présenter mes sincères condoléances et vous exprimer toute mon affection et mon admiration pour votre courage, malgré la tristesse et la peine qui vous frappent, de continuer à vous acquitter de la mission que nous tous ici vous avons confiée. Je voudrais vous demander également de transmettre au Gouvernement de votre pays les condoléances du Gouvernement de la République du Sénégal.

F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): We have heard with deep sorrow the news of this tragedy. I would like to express my personal sympathies to you and the condolences of my Government to your Government. We hope that this will not recur in the future in any friendly nation.

V. ISARANKURA (Thailand): On behalf of the Thai delegation and of myself may I express through you our heartfelt condolence and sincere sympathy to the Government and people of Colombia for the great loss of life and tremendous disaster caused by the sudden natural calamity. We share with you the sadness and sympathize with your Government and people in this bereavement.

A. ADELI RANKOUHI (Islamic Republic of Iran): Mr Chairman tragedy is tragedy regardless of where it happens. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply sorry about the event which has happened in Colombia. We hope the international organization will help the Republic of Colombia in order to be able to take quick action in this regard.

O. SALES PETINGA (Portugal): M. le Président, dans ce moment si douloureux pour votre pays, au nom du Portugal et de la délégation portugaise, nous vous prions d'agréer nos sincères condoléances.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): Mr Chairman in the spirit of cooperation and solidarity, and aware of others, we, the delegation from Kenya, and on behalf of the Kenyan Government, wish to extend our condolences to the people of Colombia at this very trying time through the Director-General, through you, Sir, as the Chairman of this Commission and through the statement by the Group of 77 and others who have spoken before us. It is a catastrophe that we had no control over. But the international community will do what is humanly possible in alleviating the suffering at the Colombian people.

KI-SUNG KIM (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the Republic of Korea I would like to express our deepest sympathy for the disaster in Colombia.

A. ZWAIK (Libya) (Original language Arabic): Mr Chairman we would like to express our sympathy for the people of Colombia. We express on behalf of the Jamahiriya our deepest sympathies and call upon the international community to resolutely support Colombia and all peoples that are hit by these catastrophes.

H. MORA (Ecuador): Con profundo pesar hemos recibido la noticia de la terrible tragedia que ha golpeado a su país. A nombre de nuestro Gobierno sírvase, señor Presidente, transmitir a su pueblo, al pueblo colombiano, que es nuestro pueblo a la vez, nuestra más sentida solidaridad.

A. Sheikh HUSSEIN (Somalia): Mr. Chairman on behalf of my Government and the Somali delegation I would like to express our deepest condolences to you and your Government for the tragedy which yesterday hit your country. We also share the support extended by the Group of 77.

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): On behalf of the Director-General I would inform the Commission that the Director-General has already expressed to you, Sir, and conveyed to your Government his sense of grief and his sympathy at the tragic disaster which has befallen your country. I also understand that he has taken action to contact your President to convey his sentiments and offer any response he can make within the competence, the means and the possibilities available to him.

EL PRESIDENTE: A solicitud de los colegas de Birmania, Marruecos, Mauritania, Uganda y Viet Nam se incluye en las actas el nombre de esos países con las manifestaciones de solidaridad a Colombia.

U. SEIN WIN (Burma): On behalf of the Burmese delegation and on my own behalf, we would like to convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to the people of Colombia for the tragedy that has very recently befallen your country. 1/

R. Y. ABDELLATIF (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, en mon nom propre et au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles des collègues qui m'ont précédé pour exprimer à votre peuple et à votre gouvernement mes condoléances sincères et notre appui total à tout effort visant à circonscrire les séquelles de cette dure catastrophe qui vient de frapper votre pays. 2/

A.S. OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): Monsieur le Président de la Commission II, la délégation de la Mauritanie présente ses condoléances les plus attristées et demande que l'expression de ses sentiments de solidarité avec le peuple colombien soit insérée dans le procès-verbal. 2/

C.M. DHATEMWA (Uganda): On behalf of the delegation and people of Uganda, I convey our heartfelt sympathies to you and the people of Colombia at this time of grief. 1/

NGUYEN CHI THANH (Viet Nam): Cher Monsieur le Président, la délégation vietnamienne voudrait s'inscrire au procès-verbal des orateurs manifestant leur solidarité aux sinistrés colombiens frappés par la catastrophe et, par votre intermédiaire, vous prie de transmettre nos condoléances aux sinistrés. 2/

EL PRESIDENTE: Queridos colegas y amigos, de todo corazón mil gracias en nombre del gobierno y del pueblo colombiano. Las solidarias palabras de ustedes y sus generosos ofrecimientos nos alentarán para superar esta prueba dolorosa.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

2/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Ahora, al reanudar nuestros trabajos tal vez convenga repasar rápidamente el plan de nuestras actividades. Como aparece en el Orden del Día, el Comité de Redacción celebrará su primera sesión esta noche después de la Plenaria de esta Comisión II; en la tarde de hoy nuestra Secretaría recordará esta reunión, anunciará la sala y repetirá los miembros que integran ese Comité de Redacción.

Tenemos la intención, de acuerdo con lo que habíamos convenido que en la sesión del próximo martes, día 19, en la mañana discutiremos la parte de nuestro informe sobre el tema 12, parte de la cual se ocupará el Comité de Redacción, y el miércoles, día 20, en la Plenaria en la mañana se ha previsto que se someterá a votación el proyecto de resolución sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, y, naturalmente, la Plenaria adoptará la parte de nuestro informe sobre el tema 12.

Recordarán ustedes que la delegación de México había anunciado la presentación de un proyecto de resolución sobre cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo. Ese proyecto de resolución consideramos que podría discutirse dentro del tema que vamos a considerar hoy, ya que el capítulo XI de la parte tercera de este documento justamente se refiere a los PCT y PCTD. El proyecto de resolución se ha pasado al Comité de Resoluciones y una vez que se disponga del texto en todos los idiomas, con el visto bueno del Comité de Resoluciones, podríamos entonces iniciar la discusión.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes voy a conceder la palabra al señor Shah para que nos haga la presentación del tema de hoy, que es muy importante; como ustedes saben se trata de la revisión del Programa Ordinario.

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION ('suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

13. Review of the Regular Programme

13. Examen du Programme ordinaire

13. Examen del Programa Ordinario

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): There are two documents before you for the' item on the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85, C 85/8 and C 85/LIM/17, which is the extract of the report of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council, covering the review of the Regular Programme and the Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

With reference to the second document, may I draw to the Commission's attention some small corrections? These were purely errors in typing and printing but I would like to clarify them even at this stage.

The first paragraph of document C 85/LIM/17 which is numbered paragraph 81 as it is part of the Council Report, states in the second sentence: "The additional improvements made in the Conference and the Review formed an essential element of the wider system on monitoring and evaluation in FAO". This sentence should be corrected to read: "The additional improvements made in the document were in line with the earlier suggestions of the Council and the Conference and the Review formed an essential element of the wider system on monitoring and evaluation in FAO".

Secondly, in the last paragraph of this document, which is numbered paragraph 98, in the last line there is a reference to "paragraph 59". That should read "paragraph 95". (This refers only to the English text).

May I now introduce the substance of the item?

This is the fourth Review of the Regular Programme, covering the biennium 1984-85. In preparing the Review, we have taken full account of the comments and suggestions made by the Programme Committee, the Council and the Conference on the last Review covering the 1982-83 biennium. The Conference had expressed appreciation of the additional improvements made in the Review last time, which reflected its own wishes and suggestions. In particular, it had welcomed the revised

format and structure, which substantially expanded the in-depth reviews of selected sub-programmes and special topics, cutting across programmes while reducing the performance review section in Part I without any loss of substance. It was satisfied that the Review was comprehensive, result-oriented and well balanced, serving as an essential element in the larger system of monitoring and evaluation in FAO.

The 1984-85 Review, which is now before you, follows the same structure as that of the previous one, with the performance report in Part I accounting for 40 percent of the text, the in-depth reviews in Part II, and the special topics in Part III each accounting for 30 percent. However, in all three Parts of the Review, further effort has been made to focus more sharply on the concrete achievements and results as well as on relevant issues emerging from the analysis. The Summary section has been made more comprehensive and presented in the front of the document to enhance its usefulness.

In the performance report on the Major Programmes which are covered in Part I of the Review the tables containing data on training activities, meetings and workshops, publications, support to member countries and technical backstopping of field programmes have been improved both in coverage and presentation, as specifically suggested by the Programme Committee. In particular, the timeframe for these tables has been expanded to five years to provide a better perspective of trend.

The thrust of the improvements in Part II has been to make in-depth reviews of selected sub-programmes and activities as evaluative as possible by concentrating on concrete outputs, effects and impact as well as on the issues which emerged from the last analysis. As such, the analysis treats in an integrated manner both the core Regular Programme activities and the related field activities, without duplicating the content of the Review of the Field Programme which will be reviewed later. These in-depth reviews are intended to provide not only an analytical and result-oriented assessment of selected activities, but also a set of useful feedback for future planning and implementation. In particular, in order to provide a greater coherence to the in-depth reviews in Part II, this section covers five Regular Programme activities (four sub-programmes and one programme element), all of which are especially designed to support the priority needs of the small-scale farmers/producers and the rural poor. We have given examples of activities which have had successful results, and we have analyzed the reasons for those which have been less successful. We hope that these chapters will provide the governing bodies with an informative assessment of FAO's programmes at the grassroot level in the agriculture fisheries and forestry sectors.

Part III of the Review covers two special topics which cut across the FAO programme structure: Research activities of the FAO Regular Programme was a subject suggested by the Programme Committee and activities and support of Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries form a basic policy tenet of the Organization. The two chapters provide a comprehensive analysis and review of our efforts in these major areas, covering both the Regular Programme and related field activities.

This Review is a result of progressive changes since 1979 when the first Review of the Regular Programme was prepared. Improvements and innovations have been made in this process with the participation and guidance of the governing bodies, and especially the Programme Committee. Over the years the in-depth reviews of selected programmes and special topics in Parts II and III respectively, have covered a substantial number of activities. Thus, the four Reviews, which have so far come before the Conference, have together covered 2 Programmes, 17 sub-programmes, 5 programme elements and 7 special topics. In terms of the number of sub-programmes, the coverage over these four reviews represents over one quarter of all the sub-programmes under the three technical Major Programmes of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Finally, it should be noted that the improvements made in the Review form part of an overall progress in the evolution of a system of internal monitoring and evaluation within FAO. This system is being consolidated by the recent introduction of monitoring of work plan implementation and improvements being made in the auto-evaluation process. The evaluation of Field Programme activities has also been further streamlined. In this connection, the Conference may be interested in the view of the Joint Inspection Unit, JIU, in a recent draft report entitled "The Third Report on Evaluation in the United Nations System: Integration and Use of Internal Evaluation

in Organizations in the United Nations System". This JIU report is expected to be issued shortly and will be submitted, of course, to the Programme and Finance Committees when it is formally issued.

In the meantime, there are four conclusions in the report which it is pertinent for the Conference to be aware of. In its summary assessment, the JIU Report concludes: "The ambitious and comprehensive FAO evaluation system framework which JIU reported on in 1981 has now been filled out as FAO continues to expand evaluation coverage, refine and improve operation of the system and integrate evaluation with other programme management processes. The steady progress in improving this system is shown by the greater use being made of evaluation findings and the increasing requests for evaluation reports."

In the same report, the JIU considered that FAO, together with WHO, "has gone furthest towards achieving the organization-wide scope in evaluation coverage and appropriate methodologies for systematic assessment of progress and results in the Organization's activities". The report highlights the consolidation of the auto-evaluation process with the monitoring of annual workplans, the implementation of the field projects management information system and the streamlining of the evaluation of field projects to ensure a more systematic and effective feedback to project design and implementation.

The report thirdly comments on the fact that FAO's assistance to member countries, in monitoring and evaluation, is appreciated, including support given to 14 countries at the project or national level, workshops in a dozen countries and pilot studies for the development of socio-economic indicators for monitoring and evaluation in some 50 countries.

The fourth and final point which I quote from the JIU report is that FAO and IFAD are credited with having taken a leading role in promoting joint inter-agency activities in monitoring and evaluation in the field of rural development.

We look forward to a candid and critical examination of the Review at this Conference and to the Conference's suggestions and guidance in making the next Review an even better document. I thank you, Sir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Como lo dijo el Sr. Shah los dos documentos para este tema 13 son el C 85/8, Examen del Programa Ordinario, y el C 85/LIM/17 que contiene un extracto del Informe de la reunión del Consejo celebrada la semana pasada. En la primera parte del C 85/LIM/17 están las referencias del Consejo a este documento y en la parte final, a partir del párrafo 53, está la decisión que, dentro de su autoridad, tomó el Consejo en relación con el examen hecho por consultas externas sobre la evaluación del PCT.

Muchos de ustedes me han transmitido su opinión, que yo comparto, en el sentido de que en materia de procedimiento no convendría que nuestra Comisión perdiera un tiempo que puede ser aprovechado para ocuparse de los asuntos de fondo. Con este espíritu quiero repetirles brevemente, en mi opinión, cuál es la situación del PCT en relación con la discusión del tema 13, y luego tan sólo aclarar la exposición hecha.

Es evidente que el PCT no es un punto específico en la Agenda de la Conferencia, pero igualmente es cierto que el PCT aparece en el Capítulo 4 del Documento 85/8 y, como ya dije, al final del C 85/LIM/17. Dentro de esos dos hechos, creo que, con la flexibilidad en que todos hemos convenido, todas las delegaciones podrán referirse al PCT sin ninguna limitación, de la manera que lo deseen pero, igualmente, creo que todos estamos de acuerdo en que no convendrá que se repitan las mismas declaraciones, ya extensas, que se hicieron sobre el PCT en la discusión del tema anterior y por lo tanto sería deseable que hicieran, si lo desean las delegaciones, observaciones breves, específicas y concretas. Esto es solamente una orientación, repito que ustedes tienen libertad para intervenir sin ninguna limitación.

Hay otra preocupación que también yo recojo por parte de algunas delegaciones y es que hubiera una explicación sobre el PCT al contenido del informe de esta Comisión. He estado en contacto y me mantengo en contacto, con el distinguido colega y amigo Sr. Jennings, de los Estados Unidos, Presidente

del Comité de Redacción para evitar que se produzca esa duplicación que, desde luego, está sometida a la manera cómo ustedes van a intervenir en esta discusión del tema 13. Si no hay ningún comentario, el próximo orador, Canadá.

D. LINDORES (Canada): This is an extremely important item and I would like to thank Mr Shah for his very interesting introduction. It sometimes tends to overwhelm us in view of the mass of material that is provided and the extent and complexity of the programme which it covers.

To keep my intervention within the perimeters of courtesy to the Commission, I would like to make only a few general comments on the broader review of the programme, and to take advantage of the flexibility that you have just allowed to discuss in somewhat summary form the enlightening and much appreciated review of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

On the general comments, my delegation recognizes the difficulties of evaluating technical cooperation activities. The transfer of knowledge and the upgrading of human skills cannot simply be measured in as concrete a manner as is possible, for example, with the output of a hydro dam or a thermal generating plant. We were very much impressed with the evaluation guidelines published by the FAO evaluation service in 1984. While properly drawing attention to the limitations of evaluation technology, that document clearly points out that at the design stage the objectives, the output, the results, the anticipated impact, the target beneficiaries and the measurement indicators that will be used should all be clearly defined in order that results can be properly assessed.

The purpose of evaluation should also be kept clearly in mind. Assuming that we all share the same broad objective of supporting good programmes, the goal of evaluation is not to criticize for failure nor to praise for success, but rather to adapt and adjust our activities in order to be engaged in a constant process of programme improvement.

Those of us engaged in running major bilateral activities therefore treat with considerable sympathy many of the difficulties which are raised in these documents, for we are struggling with many of them ourselves.

With this rather sympathetic approach in mind, I would add that we are nevertheless troubled if attempts are not made to assess properly programme impact. On this count, we perhaps find the Review somewhat lacking; on the whole, we find that the Review focuses a little too much on outputs such as the number of training courses, the number of meetings, the number of publications, etc., and perhaps does not sufficiently attempt the much more difficult task of assessing the impact on development of those outputs.

An additional element must always be added, that is the cost of the impact achieved. These two elements become the two tried and true concepts of effectiveness and efficiency, or, put a somewhat different way, has the programme achieved anything, and if so at what cost? Those who prepared the review document started with a rather basic problem, for their inevitable starting point must be the Programme of Work and Budget, and that document is, generally speaking, not structured in such a way as to facilitate review at the end of the biennium. The major structural problem that we see in the Programme of Work and Budget is that it is by and large presented in the form of means and not in the form of ends or objectives, which is a process which greatly complicates the assessment of results. As a result, we find that in reviewing this review document it is difficult for us to see the linkage that has been made between the review of the previous Programme of Work and Budget and how the lessons learnt from it have been applied to the development of the new Programme of Work and Budget. We recognize that there are timing problems associated with such an approach but we consider it an important area for some constructive review by the Secretariat.

The second general point I would like to make is that we find it somewhat difficult to differentiate between regularly funded programme activities and those of an extra-budgetary nature.

This is of concern not only for the Review itself, but of course, also for the Programme of Work and Budget. I think the best illustration of this difficulty is to refer to the response two days ago that Mr Shah gave to the debate on the Programme of Work and Budget. In reply to questions raised by a number of delegations about the allocation of programme resources by sector, Mr Shah presented further information on extra-budgetary funding, that, as he correctly pointed out, significantly changed the real priorities of the Programme as they might have been understood from the Programme of Work and Budget document itself. This is an area also in which we believe that this Conference and its subsidiary bodies will require a clearer presentation in the future.

As a third general point let me state that we welcomed Chapter Ten of the Review which deals with the research programme of the FAO. Canada is one of the earliest supporters and currently one of the leading contributors to the CGIAR system, and has a long history of association with the FAO in the research field. FAO itself has, of course, played a fundamental role in this system as one of its sponsoring agencies. We were, therefore, perhaps somewhat disappointed about some of the imprecision which seemed to exist in the Review of FAO's research activities and we hope that that imprecision is in fact a characteristic of the document and not of the Programme itself.

Specifically we found the FAO's long-term research objective as stated in that Chapter to be a somewhat unconvincing and weak rationale for research activities. This impression was perhaps somewhat heightened by the lack of information on the impact of research, the quantitative measures which it uses for verification and even on the target groups. Perhaps the most important question which it raised in our minds was the nature of FAO's inter-action with the CGIAR system. For us this issue has, of course, already become somewhat complicated in the field of Plant Genetic Resources. The two specific questions that we would pose are first, how does FAO see its support role for research institutions and networks, such as the CGIAR, but also for any other national and intergovernmental systems and second, what is the impact on FAO planning of the recent decisions of the CGIAR to engage to a much greater extent in work on minor crops and farming systems.

That ends my general comments and I would like now to turn for a few moments to the Technical Cooperation Programme. As you know, my Government starts from the position that in the United Nations System technical cooperation activities should be funded through the voluntary mechanisms created for that purpose rather than through the assessed budgets of the Specialized Agencies. We believe that such an approach, particularly as applied through the UNDP, ensures that limited funds are utilized in accordance with the Government's own overall priorities as it reflects those priorities through a central document, such as the UNDP Country Programme. I would add that those concerned with the diminishing share of UNDP resources channelled through the FAO should probably pursue that question, not so much with the UNDP itself but with in fact the developing countries who benefit from those programme, since it is effectively their priorities and their preferred channels which determine the utilization of resources.

Having stated that basic position on voluntary funding it is not my intention to try to turn back the hands of time ten years by calling for the abolition of the Technical Cooperation Programme, a position which would probably not lead to a groundswell of support from our friends and colleagues of the Group of 77 in this room. I must state however that the issue is still very much alive in my own capital. Canada's level of ODA is determined in advance as a percentage of GNP. The percentage of our assessed contributions to the Specialized Agencies that is recognized by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD as development assistance is then deducted from the total amount of resources which are made available to our aid agency. There are two net results of this process. Of major interest to our partner developing countries, of course, is that the process of funding development assistance through assessed budgets does not lead to an overall increase in the total funds provided by Canada. The second implication, and this time it is largely a domestic one for Canada, is that we have to deal with concerns from a variety of comparable sources, that a portion of our assistance budget is effectively removed from the priority setting activities of our Government. This situation has recently attracted considerable attention from our central financial authorities. Nevertheless I think that this problem is not beyond control within our own system if a responsible attitude is taken to budget setting within the Agencies. For this reason we have expressed our concerns about the steadily increasing percentage of FAO's total budget allocated to the Technical Cooperation Programme. In our view this trend should be halted.

I would like to discuss the document itself under three headings, that is the evaluation document on the TCP, the process followed, the results and the Director-General's response to the results. On the process, we agree with our Nordic colleagues that the document generally would have been more credible if it had been prepared by a more independent body, such as the JIU, particularly since my understanding is that this evaluation arose at least partly out of observations made originally by the External Auditors. Our concerns on the objectivity of the study were reinforced by the recommendation of the evaluators on the question of resource levels for the Programme as a whole. Such a recommendation hardly falls within the terms of reference of the evaluation. Nor is it a normal subject for evaluators to comment upon.

Still on process; we were somewhat bemused by the terms of reference as a whole and would like to know by whom they were approved and more specifically were they approved by any of the inter-governmental committees of the FAO. Most programme evaluations with which I have been associated have tended to take a somewhat more professional approach to their terms of reference by assessing the full programme cycle, the clarity of objectives, planning process, efficiency of implementation, and the control of the financial and technical parameters and the evaluation process. Such an approach would seem to my own delegation to have certain advantages to what I have read in this document where the terms of reference essentially were "to assess chiefly the recipient Government's satisfaction with the response of the Technical Cooperation Programme".

Moving on to the results of the study, let me first note that despite some of the concerns which I have just mentioned there are in fact many useful recommendations that should aid the Secretariat in the management of the Programme. We note without surprise that the Programme is well regarded by its beneficiaries. We have also noted a variety of useful suggestions on matters of planning and implementation. We would like to have seen more on the effectiveness of control on the financial and technical areas and feel that we have learned relatively little in terms of the impact of the Programme on food production.

There are several conclusions on the broader objectives and criteria of the TCP on which we would like to comment. The report commends the unprogrammed nature, practical orientation, flexibility and speed, the four basic elements of the Technical Cooperative Programme, although it does raise several concerns, particularly on the issue of speed. Flexibility, of course, is the dream of every aid administrator. It is, of course, useful in any programme to have available small amounts of project resources that can be used with flexibility to meet fast breaking situations or which may not fall easily into traditional areas of programme activity. But most governments require that such discretionary spending by its public servants normally be restricted to rather modest levels. Large projects, or a large programme resulting from the accumulation of many small projects, are expected to fall within a more programmed framework. We believe that the current level of TCP requires that we either accept that the Programme has reached an adequate level or be prepared to revisit the objective that funds remain essentially unprogrammed. We share the views expressed by our Nordic colleagues that the Programme has reached an adequate level to fulfil its task when compared with other programmes of work. Should that view on level not generally prevail then a much different approach to programming would be required.

In a similar vein we have some concern that the recommendation that budget ceilings be raised from US\$ 250 000 to US\$ 400 000. This request, combined with our assessment that most of the projects now being financed do appear to be falling into a rather stable pattern where rapid response is not the overriding comment, would indicate that a much closer look at the full activities of the TCP on an ongoing basis through the most appropriate intergovernmental committee is now required. A possibility that has already been proposed within other Committees by my delegation would be to concentrate TCP's mandate on its catalytic and emergency operations, while ensuring a more systematic though supportive approach of the mandate on a longer term nature through the grouping of extra-budgetary resources under a broader programme with its own advisory committee or group. To underline our need for such a mechanism I regret to state that my Government as a member of the Finance Committee has pursued a series of issues to which we have not yet received satisfactory replies. Despite repeated requests we have not been able to receive a statement of the financial situation of the Programme that meets normal standards. Important current issues like the recovery of costs expended for project preparation on behalf of Trust Fund donors have not been addressed. Not only have we not received answers in that Committee, but we have been prevented on occasion from even raising those and other issues in the report of that Committee to this Conference.

We were concerned by references within the report to a lack of coordination with other potential financing bodies. We considered this problem requires urgent attention since it threatens the fundamental catalytic role of the TCP. At the same time it is perhaps this factor that explains some of the problems outlined in terms of appropriate follow-up on some of the pre-investment projects that have been done. In general we found that the evaluation was rather weak in dealing with the longer-term impact of the Programme which once again takes on particular importance given the catalytic role which TCP is expected to play. A greater attempt to quantify follow-on investment flows or other benefits would have been helpful. Similarly it is with some concern that we note in the report, and we have received additional indications that project approval for the Technical Cooperation Programme tends to be concentrated very much in the latter part of the biennium. This is a dangerous practice which if not corrected can lead to the dumping of funds in less than satisfactory circumstances.

I have just received the first draft copy of the proposed resolution submitted by the representative of Mexico as Chairman of the Group of 77 on the question of ECDC and I note that paragraph 7 of that draft resolution relates to the suggestion of the evaluation report that a new category (c) be established for projects catalyzing inter-country cooperation.

My delegation has traditionally had certain reservations on this type of activity and our ultimate position will be guided by the debate in this Commission, although for the time being we would wish to express our reservation on that paragraph.

Turning very quickly to the response of the Director-General to the Evaluation Report, we have noted the action proposed on most of the recommendations and we thank him for that action.

We were somewhat surprised by one statement in the response, however, which tends to reflect in our view a less than adequate comprehension of the evaluation process. I refer to paragraph 98, where the statement is made that the confirmation of such strong support for the TCP suggests that an external evaluation was not required. My Government rejects the contention that external evaluation is essentially a "tool to justify programme funding. Evaluation, both internal and external, is a tool to improve programme quality.

To conclude, Canada places a very high priority on technical cooperation, particularly on the development of human resources. We will continue to support these activities when they are placed into the appropriate policy and managerial context. We appreciate the Evaluation Report and recognize that its broad assessment of the TCP is positive, while making many useful proposals for change. We consider that the Programme has reached a size and is of a nature where it must be subjected to a more on-going review process by governments, a review which must be supported by an open and supportive role played by the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tal vez convendrá observar, como lo dije esta mañana, que el Proyecto de Resolución del Grupo de los 77 sobre Cooperación Económica y Técnica entre países en desarrollo va a ser discutido más tarde en esta Comisión después de que el Comité de Resoluciones lo revise.

El distinguido colega de Uganda ha tenido la amabilidad de enviar una nota solicitando que su país sea incluido en las actas dentro de las manifestaciones de solidaridad con Colombia. Se procederá así.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Señor Presidente, permítame en primer lugar agradecer al señor Shah por su elocuente presentación del tema.

Al efectuar nuestras observaciones relacionadas con el cuarto examen del Programa Ordinario de la FAO mediante el cual se evalúa el funcionamiento de los programas de la Organización desde el punto de vista de sus objetivos, así como de la forma en que estos se ejecutan y de sus efectos prácticos, la delegación de Panamá desea primero referirse muy brevemente a algunos aspectos de carácter general que el mismo le merece y luego analizar más detenidamente otras situaciones que, sin desmérito a ninguna actividad o programa, consideramos en los actuales momentos de primordial importancia.

Deseamos antes que nada, y tal como lo hiciésemos durante la sesión del pasado Consejo, reconocer la utilidad y necesidad de la evaluación sistemática de los programas como un instrumento eficaz para introducir adelantos, corregir errores y de esta forma obtener mejoras progresivas en la labor de la FAO.

A tal efecto coincidimos con que este tipo de examen es el mecanismo básico que permite mantener informados a la Organización y a los organismos que la asesoran sobre la ejecución de las actividades que conciernen al Programa Ordinario, incluyendo sus logros y resultados, lo mismo que sus interrelaciones con el Programa de Campo.

Nos complace destacar a este propósito, y por ello elogiamos la labor de la Secretaría, que la presentación del documento C 85/8 responde a sugerencias y recomendaciones anteriores, tanto del Consejo como de la Conferencia. Es en este contexto que estimamos oportuno manifestar nuestra complacencia por los cambios operados en la estructura y el contenido del examen del Programa Ordinario, el cual consideramos el más informativo, analítico y orientado hacia resultados tal como fue sugerido.

Es por todo esto que expresamos en forma general nuestro apoyo al examen en cuestión.

Nuestra delegación manifiesta, además, dentro de este marco de referencias, su particular aprecio por los análisis a fondo efectuados en la parte segunda del examen, expresando en tal sentido su satisfacción porque los cuatro subprogramas y el elemento de programa considerado fuesen relacionados con la necesidad de los pequeños productores de la población rural pobre y de las mujeres en el medio rural.

En forma global, al respecto, deseamos no sólo reconocer y apoyar la función catalítica que desempeña la FAO en la prevención y erradicación de importantes epizootias, en el fomento de la producción y productividad pecuaria a nivel de pequeños ganaderos, lo mismo que en la adopción de medidas para asegurar el abastecimiento de piensos, sino también destacar y sostener la importancia que se está otorgando al desarrollo de la pesca continental, y de manera especial a la acuicultura, en su afán por mejorar tanto la nutrición humana como de aumentar los ingresos de la población rural pobre.

Una muy particular consideración nos merecen los aspectos relacionados con la promoción del papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, en especial en nuestros países en desarrollo. En efecto, aunque estimamos se han logrado algunos progresos en tal sentido, consideramos que ello no es suficiente por lo que es necesario dar nuevos y vigorosos impulsos a los esfuerzos que para tal fin se ejecutan. Para ello estimamos debe prestarse especial atención a aspectos tales como una creciente capacitación de la mujer, no sólo para mejorar sus condiciones productivas, sino también para lograr que las mismas alcancen a ocupar posiciones directivas hoy en muchas partes del mundo reservadas a los hombres; lograr un efectivo apoyo a las organizaciones que les prestan servicios y que son dirigidas por ellas, y muchos otros que sería largo mencionar.

Para mi país, Panamá, tiene un muy especial interés el Programa de Producción Pecuaria, sub-programa 2.1.3.6, sobre todo por lo que se expresa en los párrafos 6.2 y 6.3 y que se refieren a que el aumento de la producción de los pequeños ganaderos requerirá un enfoque que incluya selección de los tipos y razas, producción de animales, prácticas de producción y gestión en el contexto del medio ambiente existente, teniendo en cuenta el uso de animales para tiro y transporte. Efectivamente, a este respecto en Panamá se ha introducido recientemente y con un cierto éxito el búfalo de agua para el desarrollo de ciertas áreas y regiones atlánticas y tiene la intención de continuar impulsando un animal que en dicho ambiente ha revelado poseer óptimas características productivas además de representar un excelente medio de transporte y trabajo.

Con referencia a la parte tercera del examen y que trata de los temas especiales, informando sobre todo las actividades técnicas de la Organización, a saber: la investigación agrícola y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, la delegación de Panamá desea expresar su complacencia con los resultados del examen en tal sentido, reiterando su convicción que ambas cuestiones son elemento fundamental del enfoque de la cooperación técnica brindada por la FAO y que, por lo tanto, merecen nuestro total y decidido apoyo.

Al referirnos a las actividades de investigación previstas en el Programa Ordinario de la FAO creemos necesario destacar nuestro aprecio por la acción que ese organismo ha efectuado promoviendo y prestando su apoyo en los sectores de la agricultura, la pesca y los montes.

Asimismo, a tal propósito nos complace reconocer como la primera preocupación de la FAO sea la selección de los sectores prioritarios de investigación en los cuales pueda preverse beneficios en breve plazo.

Quisiéramos además recalcar el hecho de que los programas de investigación en nuestros países necesitan del empuje, de todo el apoyo que la FAO pueda brindarles.

Para mi delegación la CEPD y la CTPD representan uno de los mecanismos de autosuficiencia colectiva más válido que poseemos los países en desarrollo y lo consideramos una de las premisas fundamentales para la instalación del nuevo orden económico internacional. Por esta razón las apoyamos de manera firme, decidida y prioritaria en todas las actividades de la FAO.

Estimamos, sin embargo, que debe quedar claro que dicha cooperación no sustituye la cooperación Norte-Sur. Es en este contexto que manifestamos nuestra identificación y apoyo, no sólo a la exhortación dirigida por la Conferencia de Buenos Aires sobre la CEPD, sino también a los conceptos del plan de acción de Caracas, del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia mantenida sobre la reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, así como la Reunión Global de Bucarest sobre la cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo en el sector de la alimentación y la agricultura que se refieren a la cooperación en la producción alimentaria y agrícola, en la seguridad alimentaria, en la pesca, en la ordenación de los recursos nacionales, en la investigación y desarrollo, en la transferencia de tecnología en los sectores alimentario y agrícola y en la reforma agraria y desarrollo rural.

Antes de pasar a analizar los aspectos relacionados con el otro tema al cual concedemos en las actuales circunstancias una importancia prioritaria, o sea el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, queremos aprovechar la ocasión para reiterar el apoyo del gobierno de Panamá a la descentralización actuada por la FAO y expresar, una vez más, nuestra complacencia por las actividades de las oficinas regionales.

Con su venia, señor Presidente, deseamos referirnos al PCT pues entendimos que lo tocaríamos a fondo en este tema, por lo que en el tema anterior nos referimos a él en forma superficial, así pues que aprovecharemos de su gentil ofrecimiento de flexibilidad.

Mi delegación estima oportuno reiterar su total apoyo al PCT, ya que el mismo representa, a juicio de nuestras propias experiencias y las de la casi totalidad de las delegaciones presentes en esta Conferencia, a pesar de los defectos y pretextos que se le quieren encontrar, un instrumento de gran beneficio para los países en desarrollo, sobre todo ahora que existe una crisis de la acción multilateral y que tal vez por sus efectos han disminuido sensiblemente otros recursos de asistencia al desarrollo, tales como por ejemplo el PNUD, el FIDA, etc. A este propósito, respecto al FIDA insistimos, y seguiremos insistiendo en todas las ocasiones que se nos presenten, sobre la necesidad de que se lleve a cabo a la mayor brevedad posible la Segunda Resposición de sus recursos.

Queremos además expresar nuestra complacencia y por ello felicitar al señor Director General por haber solicitado una evaluación externa del PCT. Nos complace que esta segunda evaluación integral del Programa en su noveno año de existencia haya dado en forma global resultado claramente favorable al PCT. Ello no nos sorprende porque no hay mejor evaluación que la opinión autorizada de los países beneficiarios, los cuales en esta y muchas otras reuniones hemos venido expresando en forma entusiasta la flexibilidad y la acción catalítica de este Programa que ha permitido a la FAO atender mejor a los países miembros movilizándolo rápidamente los medios técnicos operativos y administrativos en momentos en que era necesario actuar sin pérdida de tiempo para hacer frente a solicitudes urgentes e inesperadas de los gobiernos.

Asimismo es innegable que el PCT ha permitido reforzar no sólo las relaciones entre los países en desarrollo y la Organización, sino también entre los propios países en desarrollo. Con relación a este último concepto, en nuestra región, América Latina y el Caribe, tenemos efecto palpable de la necesidad y beneficio de este tipo de asistencia, la cual es perfectamente canalizable a

través del PCT. Tal es el caso, por ejemplo de la solicitud para beneficiar a la empresa multinacional latinoamericana de comercialización de fertilizantes, MULTIFERT, integrada actualmente por ocho Estados de la región pero abierta a la participación de todos los otros.

Es por esto que mi delegación da su firme apoyo al establecimiento de una nueva categoría C para proyectos del PCT destinada a actuar como catalizadora en la cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo.

Por otra parte y por las razones que claramente se exponen en el párrafo 46 del documento CL 88/5, damos nuestro apoyo a las medidas propuestas y consistentes en aumentar el límite de costo mínimo del proyecto PCT de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares de los Estados Unidos.

Nosotros no hemos escuchado jamás a ningún país beneficiario quejarse del PCT; no hemos oído nunca que el mismo haya sido utilizado como instrumento de presión de ningún tipo, por el contrario, todos hemos expresado que las medidas emprendidas en el marco del PCT eran pertinentes y oportunas, que sus criterios y mecanismos respondían plenamente a las necesidades de los países en desarrollo, que el PCT aporta una contribución importante al desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación, que los mismos apoyan directamente y sin intermediarios rápidamente, en forma expedita, los esfuerzos de los países para rehabilitar su producción de alimentos. No comprendemos, entonces, porqué se trata de poner obstáculos a la mayor dinamicidad que se pretende dar al mismo.

Nuestro país, como hemos dicho en forma insistente, es un país de diálogo, toda nuestra política está basada en el diálogo. Durante el debate de este tema nos parece advertir que, cuando la mayoría de los pocos países que ponen objeciones y expresan dudas sobre las medidas propuestas, las dificultades son de tipo del enfoque del problema, de la perspectiva con que se mira el problema; por tales motivos deseamos exhortar a los países desarrollados a que traten de ubicarse en la posición de los que tenemos graves crisis alimentarias, de los que tenemos grandes problemas con la economía, y más particularmente con la economía agrícola, pero que estamos cada día más sobrecargados por los problemas que representa la deuda externa, con el constante deterioro de las relaciones de intercambio y de la inflación. Nosotros exhortamos a que traten de mirar las cosas no desde el punto de vista de sociedades prósperas, que se ubiquen en nuestras posiciones y entonces tal vez podamos encontrar mayores puntos de contacto. Nosotros conocemos de su generosidad y de sus sinceros deseos de ayudar, y de ello estamos agradecidos; sin embargo, y para terminar, deseamos recordar que la sabiduría, la verdadera generosidad no está en el dar, ni siquiera en el dar mucho, sino sobre todo en el saber dar.

A. BERGQUIST (Sweden): Like many other delegations my delegation has found the review of the Regular Programme ávery informative document. Over the years we have found that the review documents - that of the Regular Programme and the other on the Field Programme which we are to discuss on Monday present a well-balanced picture on the very diversified activities of this Organization. Its very condensed form makes it at times a bit difficult to read as it is really full of information. One can say that it is a bit difficult to see the forest for all the trees but we certainly appreciate all the work and effort the Secretariat has put into the preparation of these documents. We are especially appreciate of the "in depth" analysis of selected sub-programmes as they contain very useful information on lessons learned that could be of great value not only to FAO but also to bilateral donors. We have to realize that we can learn a lot from the experience gained by others. By sharing information, the development efforts can certainly be improved.

Having said this I would like to comment specifically on Chapter 7, Sub-Programme 2.1.5.4 Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development. In general during the last 10 years, the United Nations Women's Decade it has been not too difficult to get international organizations to adopt far-reaching resolutions and guidelines on the necessity to fully integrate women in all activities and at all levels. At least verbally during the Women's Decade much has been said to this effect but it has not been as easy as launching appeals to implement all the wise and noble declarations and resolutions, most of which have been unanimously adopted. The review in Chapter 7 does not hide the fact that women are still often bypassed and not reached by development efforts, not seen by development agents and not counted by statisticians, as if half of mankind did not exist

The chapters on the WCARRD - I think a number of delegates still remember the World Conference on Rural Development and Agrarian Reform that FAO organized in 1979, this action programme contains specific chapters dealing with the integration of women and defined objectives and strategies to improve life for women in rural areas as farmers and agricultural producers. These action programmes still have the strong support of the Swedish delegation. Different strategies according to the special circumstances have to be adopted. In Chapter 7 two strategies are specially defined. My delegation is pleased to note, however, that the strategy of close integration of work between the ESHW and other technical units is more and more applied. We think that integration of activities is the way to proceed. Women in all countries are most resourceful human beings and without it life would not be as enjoyable as it is. We are also pleased to note that a roster of women consultants has been compiled. It is imperative that this roster be further developed, kept up to date and utilized.

In paragraph 7.14 we note with particular interest and satisfaction the newest components of the programme Women in Food Systems with its emphasis on the production of items such as basic grains, root crops, dairy products and horticulture. The inclusion of the population component in rural development programmes also has our strong and full support.

As to the section on output we note in paragraph 7.25 a report on the State of Statistics on Women in Agriculture that was prepared for the 1983 Expert Consultation. Information on women's role in agriculture still seems less available for certain regions. We hope that FAO will make all efforts to improve this during the coming biennium. Available information should also be used in agricultural planning, otherwise its compilation is of rather little use. Rural women have still only modestly gained from efforts by governments and international organizations during the past 10 years. The reason for this is a sad state of affairs, and the reasons are well analyzed and defined in paragraph 7.64. Increased efforts need to be made to reach women at the village level.

My delegation fully concurs with the strategy for further actions as they are contained in paragraphs 7.66 to 7.68. Progress has been made since the beginning of the United Nations Women's Decade in 1975, but much remains to be done. We must not lose momentum. I would like here to quote what was said by the Swedish Minister for Migration and Equal Opportunity Affairs, Mrs Anita Gradin, at the Nairobi Conference on the Follow-up of the Women's Decade this summer. She said and I quote: "The UN Decade on Women has played an important role in many respects. Women have become increasingly aware of their rights and opportunities. Out of this awareness grows the self-confidence which is a pre-condition for achieving equality between women and men." This equality we want to see achieved by the turn of the century and we will continue to follow very closely what strategies FAO will use to achieve this goal.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Estoy seguro de que todos los miembros de la Comisión han admirado el gran énfasis que nuestra distinguida colega y amiga de Suecia ha hecho sobre la necesidad de reivindicar las condiciones y función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural.

M. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Quiero felicitar sinceramente al Sr. Shah por la clara presentación de este tema. Señor Presidente: Al examinar con suficiente detalle el documento C 85/8, el cual nos brinda una valiosa información que obliga a reconocer el esfuerzo realizado por la Secretaría, encontramos que las recomendaciones hechas por los Estados Miembros han sido tenidas en cuenta, en la práctica, con bastante precisión. Complementariamente, se puede decir que recoge información suficiente, hasta donde sea posible, para que seamos de la opinión de que los recursos asignados y las indicaciones dadas en nuestra pasada Conferencia han sido aplicados adecuadamente, lo que reafirma la confianza que hemos depositado en la Organización, en su Director General y en todo el eficiente personal de la FAO. Con el ánimo de enriquecer la gestión de la FAO en el futuro, quisiéramos hacer algunas consideraciones y recomendaciones a fin de que sean tomadas en cuenta y puestas en práctica en la medida de lo posible.

En el programa principal, Agricultura, que está orientado fundamentalmente a dar respuesta a las dos principales prioridades de la FAO, es decir, fomento de la producción de alimentos y mejora de la seguridad alimentaria, estas han sido suficientemente consideradas. Sin embargo, sería procedente que se intensificara un tanto más lo relativo a la reducción de pérdidas posteriores a la cosecha. Conocemos que sobre este aspecto actúan múltiples factores con variada intensidad que afectan, sobre todo, a los pequeños productores, como son los precios de los intermediarios, la acción de las empresas y los grandes productores entre otros. En tal sentido y para disminuir la pérdida de productos que ya han tenido un costo y un esfuerzo, la FAO pudiera aumentar su asistencia a los Estados Miembros para evitar o reducir la pérdida de lo que producimos.

En lo que se refiere al Programa Montes se debiera potenciar la parte relativa al desarrollo de las prácticas agrosilvícolas de manera que podamos hacer un uso racional de los recursos forestales, aprovechemos el espacio vital y apliquemos prácticas de protección del medio natural que evite su deterioro.

La formación de cooperativas de pequeños agricultores para explotaciones agroforestales en nuestros países, es una experiencia con excelentes resultados que bien pudiera aplicarse a otros países y regiones.

Se nos ha planteado una estrategia que consideramos adecuada en cuanto a la producción pecuaria que, en esencia, trata de mejorar la producción de los pequeños ganaderos, pero se debe resaltar la necesidad de encontrar soluciones técnicas y prácticas al problema de la alimentación del ganado. Ciertamente, que no basta mejorar genéticamente la masa ganadera, capacitar a las personas en el manejo y explotación y garantizar la debida atención veterinaria; para alcanzar resultados satisfactorios es necesario asegurar la base alimentaria. Muchos países subdesarrollados sobre todo de la zona tropical al proponerse un programa importante en la producción pecuaria, han tenido que depender de las importaciones de cereales para la alimentación animal.

El tema de la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural ha sido examinado en reiteradas oportunidades y se continúan realizando esfuerzos en este sentido, aunque todavía resultan insuficientes. Creemos que dentro del desarrollo rural, además de poner de relieve la importancia de la participación de la mujer, se debe incorporar un nuevo concepto, es decir, la participación de los jóvenes. Esto es una conclusión de la tercera Mesa Redonda sobre Desarrollo Rural, celebrada en octubre de 1982 en La Habana, en la que participaron nueve países de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

La FAO viene prestando atención a los problemas de la investigación y son cada vez más los países que toman conciencia de la necesidad de llevar adelante programas de investigación en áreas prioritarias. Lamentablemente, no siempre existen las condiciones y la capacidad técnica suficiente para identificar prioridades y poder ordenar los recursos humanos y materiales disponibles localmente. En tal sentido, entiendo que la FAO pudiera asistir con mayor intensidad a los países en la organización y puesta en práctica de sus programas de investigación.

En nuestra anterior intervención expresamos el criterio que tenemos sobre el Programa de Cooperación Técnica destacando una de sus bondades; me refiero al papel catalizador en la búsqueda de ayuda al subdesarrollo que juegan muchos proyectos de cooperación técnica. En consonancia con esa idea es recomendable que se refuerce la asistencia a los países en materia de identificación, preparación y evaluación de proyectos, poniendo en función la capacidad técnica local en los países.

Finalmente nos sumamos y apoyamos a quienes en sus intervenciones han formulado la demanda de fortalecer las CEPD y la CTPD, como alternativa viable para evitar duplicidad de esfuerzos y contribuir a la integración económica de los pueblos subdesarrollados que constituye una necesidad urgente y una acción inaplazable.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Avant de vous livrer l'avis de la délégation congolaise sur le sujet inscrit au point 13 de l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence, à savoir l'examen du programme ordinaire, 1984/85 de notre Organisation, permettez-moi de remercier tout particulièrement M. Shah pour la brillante introduction qu'il en a fait au nom du Secrétariat. Nous le félicitons et à travers lui tous ceux qui ont contribué de près ou de loin à la réalisation des documents dont nous sommes actuellement saisis: nous avons cité les auteurs du document principal, examen du programme ordi-

naire 1984/1985 et ceux qui ont élaboré le rapport de la quarante-neuvième session du Comité de programme et le rapport de la cinquante-sixième session du Comité financier, rapports dont plusieurs sections pertinentes ont été consacrées à l'analyse et à l'examen du programme ordinaire 1984/1985 de la FAO.

Nous remercions également les auteurs du document C 85/LIM/17 portant rapport extrait de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil. En raison de leur intérêt nous avons attentivement lu et analysé tous ces documents précités.

La délégation congolaise qui s'est profondément penchée sur l'examen du programme ordinaire 1984/85 de la FAO qui constitue le quatrième de sa série, apprécie hautement la structure, le contenu de ce document. Elle se félicite des nouvelles améliorations apportées à la présentation de cet examen par le Secrétariat conformément aux suggestions antérieures du Conseil et de la Conférence.

Notre délégation pour qui l'examen des programmes constitue une phase indispensable du processus de programmation, de suivi, et d'évaluation se réjouit de l'objectivité avec laquelle le Secrétariat a su analyser d'un bout à l'autre du document les succès enregistrés et les faiblesses rencontrées dans la mise en oeuvre du programme ordinaire de l'Organisation.

Nous nous réjouissons que le Secrétariat ait reconnu avec nous, comme il ressort de la première partie du document C 85/8, la nécessité urgente d'accroître la production vivrière et d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire. Nous notons avec satisfaction l'importance croissante accordée aux activités des bureaux régionaux de la FAO dont nous recommandons le renforcement des moyens d'intervention en vue d'arriver à une efficacité plus accrue.

C'est avec un réel plaisir que nous avons relevé que les activités du programme ordinaire de la FAO ont continué d'intéresser en 1984 et 1985 les petits producteurs, les ruraux pauvres et les femmes rurales. Nous invitons le Secrétariat à poursuivre ses efforts dans cette direction tout en recherchant un plus grand impact socio-économique de ses différents programmes pour les plus pauvres.

Concernant la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement à laquelle notre délégation attache beaucoup de prix, tout en reconnaissant qu'elle doit s'appuyer sur une identification des domaines spécifiques hautement prioritaires; nous pensons qu'elle mérite un soutien financier substantiel de la communauté internationale pour s'amorcer et la FAO qui en est l'émanation par excellence dans le domaine agricole doit lui confier une partie de ses ressources ordinaires dans le cadre de son programme de coopération technique.

A ce sujet c'est avec enthousiasme que nous appuyons l'idée visant à la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets PCT destinés à catalyser la CEPD et la CTPD. De même nous souscrivons à l'idée de voir notre "Conférence adopter au cours de cette session une résolution spécifique sur la CEPD et la CTPD.

Concernant l'évaluation du programme de coopération technique, nous aimerions dire combien nous apprécions l'heureuse initiative prise par le Directeur général de faire évaluer le PCT par une mission extérieure de trois experts de haut niveau.

Nous approuvons l'ensemble des recommandations formulées à ce sujet par cette mission extérieure des experts et nous nous félicitons des mesures déjà prises ou prévues par le Directeur général de sa propre autorité pour y donner suite. Nous approuvons en particulier les recommandations cidessous de la mission d'évaluation:

- l'élévation i du niveau plafond des allocations par projet qui devrait passer de 250 000 dollars E.-U. à 400 000 dollars E.-U. ainsi que la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets PCT destinés à catalyser la CEPD et la CTPD,

- l'invite adressée aux gouvernements bénéficiaires de réduire les délais de recrutement des experts et consultants du PCT pour des missions dont la durée ne dépasse pas trois mois,

En terminant, nous aimerions réaffirmer qu'à notre avis, le PCT doit continuer à être financé d'abord par les ressources ordinaires de l'Organisation sans que soient exclues toutes autres sources; nous pensons là aux sources fiduciaires.

Pour notre part, l'évaluation actuelle du PCT en notre possession, qui a été faite par une mission extérieure d'experts indépendants, n'a rien à envier à celle qu'aurait pu effectuer toute autre équipe; nous pensons là au CCI, par exemple. Le PCT doit continuer à garder son caractère de non programmation, sa souplesse et sa diligence, critères qui répondent pleinement aux situations d'urgence pour lesquelles il a été créé. Nous sommes d'avance persuadés que le Secrétariat continuera à bien gérer ce programme, même si le plafond de ses projets va être élevé de 250 000 dollars E.-U. à 400 000 dollars E.-U.

R. REDL (Austria) (Original language German): First of all, I would like to thank Mr Shah for his clear and precise introduction. There are a few specific comments which I wish to make.

Document C 83/8 gives an excellent introduction to activities during the 1984/85 period. During the Council Session dealing with this period, Austria said that this document presents very good resolutions. We hope "that this kind of report will be presented in the future; we are very happy with Parts I, II and III.

Concerning C 85/LIM/17: I would like to stress once again that Austria supports the increase from \$250 000 to \$400 000. We also favour the setting up of a new category for projects, which we consider necessary. We have complete trust in the proposals put forward by the Director-General, Dr Saouma, and we hope that these proposals will materialize. We have listened to the views of countries where TCP projects have taken place, and those countries well know which are the measures which are to be taken. The participation of representatives of countries in the execution of projects seems to us a useful thing - but I would like to say that TCP enables FAO to give quick assistance, and we feel that particular importance should be given to Africa within these Technical Cooperation Projects.

We have been following discussions on provision of seeds. We feel that the supply of high quality seeds to farmers is something which is essential to improve agricultural production. The initiatives taken in this context - especially the FAO Training Programmes - should, in the future as in the past, be applied on a strengthened basis. I can assure you that my country will, as in the past, fully support FAO activities in this field in collaboration with developing countries.

In my capacity as a representative of a European country, I would like to make a few comments on the work carried out in European countries. We followed with interest the work of the Commission on Forestry in Europe and of the Commission on Agriculture in Europe, and in particular the work undertaken in favour of developing countries.

Therefore I would like to speak of problems concerning energy training. These activities are supported by us. We shall also speak about the Codex Alimentarius, be it on a regional or a world level. In preparing the future report, perhaps some more specific mention could be made of these activities.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that this document concerning the coming biennium, which will be presented in 1987, is something we will examine in further detail.

M. SAITO (Japan): My delegation is very grateful for the excellent introduction given by Mr. Shah and we would like to commend the Secretariat on the efforts made in preparing this comprehensive document C 85/8. The Regular Programme of FAO activities is widely extended over many fields such as training, technical support on the improvement of research capabilities, publication studies and the gathering and dissemination of various information. We believe that it is of the utmost importance continuously to evaluate the implementation of the programmes in terms of clarity, efficiency and cost effectiveness in order to achieve the maximum results within the limit of available resources. In this connection, we appreciate that FAO has been endeavouring to strengthen its internal monitoring and evaluation system and we are glad to see that steady progress has been made to that effect.

My delegation has stated on various occasions that assistance for the development of human resources, including the development of the capability of the middle rank personnel is essential in aiding the self-help effort for agriculture development in the developing countries.

From this point of view we welcome the training related activities such as training courses, the workshops and study tours which have been promoted in recent years in the Regular Programme of FAO. We also appreciate the fact that FAO has been playing an important role in providing useful information on the food crisis in Africa, this information through FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System has been playing quite an important role in mobilizing assistance from the international community towards those African countries concerned. We hope that activities in this field will be further strengthened in the future.

In this document an in-depth study of FAO's activities in support of ECDC and TCDC has been undertaken, together with some research activities of the FAO Regular Programme. We recognize that the ECDC and TCDC can play one of the most important roles in promoting the self-help effort of the developing countries which is a key factor in encouraging agricultural development in those countries

However, we would like to suggest that in order to make ECDC and TCDC more efficient it is necessary to assess the results obtained through past ECDC and TCDC activities as indicated in paragraphs 11.09 and 11.120 in this document.

When promoting TCDC, particularly in the field of agricultural development, due attention should be given to the fact that there are many cases where the technical requirements of one country differ from those of other countries because of the difference in natural and social conditions of each country.

We would like to express our appreciation for the reports on the in-depth analysis in the special fields of the FAO Regular Programme found in the document of the Review of the Regular Programme. We would like to request the Secretariat that future documents of the Review of the Regular Programme also include an in-depth assessment similar to this one.

Finally I would like to make some brief comments regarding the "Evaluation of TCP". Since TCP is an unprogrammed budget and since the authority of approval of the TCP projects is delegated to the Director-General, my delegation has stressed on various occasions that the information on the performance of TCP projects should be provided more intensively than any other activities in the Regular Budget. In this connection, my delegation appreciates the evaluation report submitted to the last Council which contains quite a lot of information to help us grasp TCP activities.

With regard to the decisions made by the last Council for raising the ceiling of a single TCP project and the establishment of a new category, my delegation wishes to reiterate that we are not in a position to go along with this because of the following reasons: firstly, that the average cost of TCP projects approved in 1984 was around US\$ 70 000 and 90 percent of the 2 450 projects approved to date were less than US\$ 150 000, we cannot see any justification in raising the present ceiling.

Secondly, my delegation wishes to draw attention to one of the characteristics of TCP, namely a relatively small scale of assistance. In this connection, I would like to refer to the average cost of UNDP projects which was around US\$ 420 000 in 1984. Raising the ceiling to US\$ 400 000 will make this TCP's characteristic very ambiguous vis-a-vis the projects financed by other funding sources like UNDP. My delegation prefers to keep the TCP project on a relatively small scale as it is, so that the characteristics of TCP can be maintained.

Thirdly, although my delegation supports TCDC activities, we feel that such activities can be well foreseen and programmed in advance in the Regular Budget or be financed by extra-budgetary resources. Therefore, again we see no reason for incorporating these activities in TCP as long as TCP's character is an unprogrammed budget.

A.F. de SA BARBUDA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to compliment Mr Shah on the comprehensive introduction of this item and to congratulate the Secretariat on the very impressive document C 85/8 on the Review of the Regular Programme. The evaluation of the performance of FAO's programmes is an extremely useful tool for member countries. On the other hand, we agree with previous speakers that it is a very complex task and that sometimes results are not susceptible to clear and empiric measurements. But we also agree with the previous speaker that the present Review could have given greater emphasis to the effect of the programmes, to actions taken and to the actual achievements reached. We therefore ask the Secretariat to give greater attention to the approach when preparing that evaluation.

On the other hand, we want to commend the Director-General's initiative for having introduced periodical monitoring of FAO's work and his efforts to improve and adjust the Review to the Member Nations' needs and suggestions.

We also feel that some delegates were more concerned when presenting criticisms on the form and methodology than with the actual performance of the Organization which must always be in our minds. Document C 85/8 gives us an improved format and presentation, a fairly good description of the Regular Programme's implementation, identifying its progress and constraints. It provides as well a very useful coverage of FAO's performance in regard to the key activities of some of its programmes and sub-programmes and addresses itself in an extensive way to issues of particular relevance to developing countries, agricultural research and economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

We deeply appreciated as well the description of the Regional Office activities in each chapter of Part One of the document, taking into consideration their extremely relevant role, duly highlighted in the document. We join some other delegates who have, during the last Council session, regretted the decline of resources channelled to the Regional Office work. In this respect, we feel that decentralization is essential for the Organization and that the present trends should be reversed.

Part One of the document before us is very comprehensive and the programmes reported have been properly selected. We took note, with deep appreciation, of the impressive number of activities developed under the Agriculture Major Programme, and the main achievements in the sector. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, for instance, we especially appreciated the initiatives relating to soil conservation and irrigation under the Natural Resources Programme, as well as initiatives on crop storage and the establishment of the sub-regional networks under the Food Legumes Cooperative Programme. The Livestock Research and Technological Development Nutrition Programmes seem to have given adequate attention to our region. Deserving special mention is the seminar promoting animal health, the Report on the State of Natural Resources in the Human Environment of Food and Agriculture and the activities of the Latin American Network for Technical Cooperation on Biogas and the Study made on the Food Production Measures for Urban Consumers in Sao Paulo and other cities of the region.

In regard to the future programme we also express our concern in relation to the continued decline of the extra-budgetary resources. At this point we appeal to the international community to give special attention to the implementation of the programmes of action of the World Fisheries Conference which were approved by all Member Nations. We give special attention in this part of the document to the planning management and development of fisheries programmes mainly in relation to the assessment to fisheries resources and also to the inland fisheries and agriculture sub-programme, both of which are extremely relevant to the developing countries.

The major forestry programme has promoted increasing trading activities, seminars and consultations as well as technical support and policy advice to member countries, but we feel much more can be done in this sector and we hope these activities will expand as a follow-up to the Nineteenth World Forestry Congress. We pay special attention to the food sub-programme which has deserved a separate evaluation in the present Review. The problem of food deficits is a threat that must be greatly addressed by the developing world, with FAO assistance on technical solutions and the afforestation programmes.

We have extensively referred to the Technical Cooperation Programme during this Conference and when we intervened in the previous item of the agenda relating to the Programme of Work and Budget. Nevertheless we feel at this point we should reiterate some of our views. We cannot accept the views that Technical Cooperation Programme projects should be limited to voluntary contributions, that TCP has already an adequate level of resource to fulfill its tasks or that its mandate should concentrate on emergency actions. We cannot accept these views.

On the other hand the evaluation of the TCP by an independent donor of experts has been praised by most delegates to the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council. On that occasion my delegation reaffirmed its strong support to the TCP and stressed that the positive results of the Programme derived from its flexibility to meet urgent needs and short-term technical assistance.

We wish as well to reiterate our support for the Director-General's proposals which received complete and strong endorsement from most member countries present at the last Council session, which are increase of the limit for the maximum cost of a single TCP project from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000; and secondly, the establishment of a new category (c) for projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country cooperation. Other findings of the evaluation document deserve our support, such as the necessity for an adequate flow of information among the various organizations concerned and the convenience of an adequate and up-to-date followup of TCP projects. On the other hand the Brazilian Government reserves its right to pursue formal clearance in relation to the recruitment of TCP experts and consultants since our procedures have not led to delays at the beginning of projects. As already stated on the previous item we believe TCP's share of the Regular Programme is still too low to meet the needs and demands of the developing countries and should therefore be increased in the future.

With respect to Part II of Chapter 4 of the document we express our deep concern in relation to the decline of UNDP financial share in total Field Programmes which fell from 57 percent in 1981 to 41 percent in 1984. The increase of the Trust Funds should actually represent a total increase of resources and not mere compensation of the financial participation of the UNDP in the Field Programmes.

Finally we want to point out our appreciation to Part Three of this document on agricultural research in ECDC and TCDC which are key elements in technical cooperation. Both chapters give us extensive information on these activities which are present in most of FAO's programmes. A special reference must be made to the important role played in this field by the Technical Cooperation Regional networks responsible, not only by the promotion of seminars, workshops, but also by the relationships among research institutions of the same region. The TCDC chapter is a useful summary of FAO's activities in this field but we agree that we should determine priorities and create initiatives to tackle in this field. In our view the programme of activities has been too much ambitious to be faced with scarce financial resources.

EL PRESIDENTE: Distinguidos colegas y amigos: hemos sobrepasado ligeramente el tiempo a nuestra disposición para la sesión de esta mañana. Vamos ahora a terminar nuestra reunión.

The meeting rose at 12.35 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a los 12.35 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/II/PV/6

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(15 November 1985)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 15.15 horas

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMME OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
DEUXIEME PARTIE- ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

- 13. Review of the Regular Programme (continued)
- 13. Examen du Programme ordinaire (suite)
- 13. Examen del Programa Ordinario (continuación)

J. SAULT (Australia): We would like to thank Mr Shah for his usual lucid, well presented, and highly competent introduction. The Review of the Regular Programme is a most important document. It provides a basis for assessing the effectiveness and impact of FAO's Regular Programme, and -just as important - it is a means of identifying problems and weaknesses to be addressed so that improvements can be made in the future.

As the Director-General states in his excellent Foreword to the Report, it is designed to assess "the performance of the Organization's programmes in terms of the clarity of their objectives, the efficiency of their implementation and the effectiveness of their impact. This Review, together with the parallel Review of Field Programmes, provides a means for ensuring the continued relevance of FAO's activities to the needs and priorities of Member Nations".

This Fourth Review of the Regular Programme represents a further advance towards meeting those objectives although, perhaps because it is difficult to reach perfection, we feel it still falls somewhat short of them. In this respect we note, as pointed out in the document, that there are practical limitations on the extent to which the results and impact of FAO's activities can be examined in detail. But we strongly support continued efforts by the Secretariat in the future to make the review of the Regular Programme even more informative, analytical and result-oriented.

Having made those few general remarks, I would like to comment specifically on the external evaluation of the TCP. We are very pleased that the Director-General has commissioned this external evaluation and that the report has been made available to the Council and Conference. It is the first comprehensive external evaluation of the TCP which has been presented to the governing bodies. The consultants' report of 1978 was not so presented.

I would like to recall the remarks I made a couple of days ago on Australia's attitude towards the TCP, namely that we support the general concept of the programme but that there are a number of aspects of TCP which draw attention, in this era of fiscal stringency and concern for accountability and transparency in relation to government expenditure. These aspects include the adequacy of TCP criteria and the monitoring of the allocation of TCP funds to specific projects. These are particularly important considerations for an unprogrammed appropriation.

accountability and transparency in relation to government expenditure. These aspects include the adequacy of TCP criteria and the monitoring of the allocation of TCP funds to specific projects. These are particularly important considerations for an unprogrammed appropriation.

Each FAO document on the TCP mentions somewhat different criteria, but the impression is that any project up to US\$ 250 000 and up to 24 months in duration which relates to the general activities of the Organization has qualified under TCP, even if it is seed money for a larger, longer term project. It is highly debatable whether all projects approved relate to unforeseen and unexpected activities and so could not be programmed under other chapters of the Regular Budget. There is a need for sharper and more narrowly focused criteria at least for funds expended under the Regular Budget.

There is also a lack of transparency in respect of the processes for allocating TCP funds to specific projects. There needs to be some regular ex-post purview of project selection by an external body which reports to the governing bodies. A couple of days ago I suggested perhaps the Finance or Programme Committees but that seemed to give rise to some reservations. I know that this is a difficult matter but I feel it is something that must be addressed if the programme is to have our full support.

Another issue is the absorptive capacity of the Organization effectively to utilize ever increasing appropriation for the TCP. I think that some of the concern on this issue has arisen because the accounts for the TCP indicate that large sums of unexpended funds are being carried over from one biennium to another.

These are matters that we have spent a considerable time examining in the Finance Committee and the Secretariat has provided us with much useful information on the management of project approvals and earmarkings, commitments and the actual expenditure of funds. The matter is a complex one which probably requires further clarification. Suffice it to say that it is my impression that the programme managers endeavour to earmark funds against approved projects by the end of the biennium for which they are appropriated with actual expenditure extending into the following biennium.

Nevertheless, why, as the consultants note, does the rate of the earmarking always have to accelerate sharply in the second year of the biennium? Does this indicate that the availability of funds is not a major factor inhibiting greater implementation of TCP projects?

Also we should recognize that a substantial additional proportion of Regular Budget Funds is used in technical and operational back-stopping for the TCP. The TCP is a cost-intensive, resource-demanding programme which derives from the large number of diverse small-scale projects that are being identified, designed and implemented. These draw resources from throughout the Organization and seem to take up a good deal of the time of the country representatives. The actual support costs for TCP projects must be at least the standard 13 percent. Thus around US\$ 70 million, rather than the proposed US\$61.4 million of Regular Programme funds would be devoted to TCP.

Last May the Finance Committee approved a special transfer of up to US\$15 million to the TCP for the current biennium for rehabilitation projects in Africa. We would appreciate a report from the Secretariat of the funds that have been earmarked against this transfer to date and of the projects for which they have been approved.

It is obvious that we have concerns which extend beyond the matters which are encompassed by the recommendations in document CL 88/8. But in respect of these recommendations we question the need for raising the limit for single TCP projects to US\$400 000. There is a danger in departing from the small scale nature of TCP projects which is supposed to be the principal characteristic of the programme. Indexing forward a figure according to inflation is not an appropriate basis for deciding a ceiling. The real question is whether the existing limit of US\$ 250 000 is an inhibiting factor. The consultants' report indicated that virtually no projects have approached that limit.

Also, as I mentioned, we see a need for more sharply focused criteria rather than the proposed addition of extra criteria such as are suggested in paragraph 94 (b) of document CL 88/8.

In sum, we emphasize that we think that TCP is a good concept, we support it, but we have concerns about the growing absorption of scarce Regular Programme resources and the lack of transparency in the process for allocating TCP funds to specific projects and countries. We have a proposal for US\$ 61.4 million of assessed contributions to be used in an extremely flexible, unprogrammed manner and no provision for any regular, detailed monitoring of their allocation by the governing bodies. In an environment of concern about financial stringency and accountability for public expenditure, this must draw critical attention. The issue is how to respond to these very legitimate concerns without impairing the essential flexibility of the programme.

D.H.J. ABEYAGOONASEKERA (Sri Lanka): I am very sorry that since you have read out a list of 40 delegates to speak on this item, my intervention at this stage is not really on the review of the Regular Programme, properly speaking. I just wish to draw the attention of members to something that happened this morning in an intervention by the delegate of Canada to which I think I should respond. He made a statement regarding the TCP which affect the deliberations of the Finance Committee. I take the floor as Chairman of the Finance Committee to correct any misapprehensions members may have.

Secondly, I should have responded soon after the delegate of Canada took the floor but unfortunately the Sri Lankan delegation to the Conference is very small. At that time the Minister heading that delegation was also due to speak in the Plenary. Therefore, I could not ask your permission to speak then since I was not present in the Commission.

As you have given me the opportunity to do so, I think I would make a short statement on the matter that was raised. If I recall correctly the statement made by the delegate of Canada, it was more of a complaint that while they raised questions in the Finance Committee on the Technical Cooperation Programme, they did not receive satisfactory replies. He went to the extent of even saying that they were prevented from raising their concerns in the report which was adopted by the Committee.

This brings up two questions. One is on procedure. All members of the Finance Committee, including the representative of Canada, were present when we discussed this subject at length in the Finance Committee. The matter should have been raised at that stage. If there were no satisfactory replies to the questions and if they were not in agreement with what was put in the report, this should have been raised at that stage.

Secondly, the matter could have been brought up again at the Council meeting when the same item was discussed. I presented the report to the Council. It did not take place on either occasion. I think this raises the question of procedure as to whether this is the right forum to raise the question here, since the Finance Committee is the committee elected by the Council. It puts its mind to the issues raised before it in the Agenda.

The other point I wish to make is that I do recall quite clearly as Chairman and Coordinator that other issues were raised on this issue of the TCP; questions on the criteria, questions on the method of accounting, questions on the financial regulations governing the TCP. I think the questions were answered to the satisfaction of all Members. It is true that some expressed concern, as the delegate who spoke just before me, Australia, mentioned a little while ago. What I wanted to say is that at that stage we discussed this item, the Secretariat responded fully to all questions and I took it that all Members were satisfied with the answers given and the report as such was adopted unanimously. The report was there before the Council. Parts of the report are available to you. I think the intervention could thus misdirect the discussions in this meeting, if I do not bring this to the attention of the delegates.

H. BENATTALLAH (Algérie): Permettez-nous, à notre tour, de vous dire combien nous avons été consternés d'apprendre la terrible tragédie qui a affecté votre pays. Nous ressentons profondément la douleur de votre peuple, nous vous exprimons nos sentiments de compassion profonde et vous assurons de la solidarité de notre pays.

Notre intervention porte exclusivement sur le PCT, comme nous l'avions annoncé lors de l'examen du point 12 de l'ordre du jour et spécifiquement sur le rapport d'évaluation (CL 88/INF/10) établi par le groupe d'experts indépendant.

Nous voudrions faire état de notre appui à ce document dans sa totalité, y compris ses recommandations. Dans un deuxième temps, nous voudrions livrer quelques commentaires d'ordre plus général en liaison avec les arguments entendus depuis le début des travaux de notre Commission sur la saturation des activités du PCT.

Mais au préalable, nous tenons à souligner à nouveau notre satisfaction à vous voir présider cette séance et cette commission car il n'est pas inutile de rappeler que vous êtes en quelque sorte l'un des parrains du PCT puisque, à sa naissance, vous étiez président indépendant du Conseil. Votre profonde connaissance de ce point particulier facilitera encore une fois le déroulement de nos travaux.

Le rapport qui nous est présenté a plusieurs qualités qui reflètent la compétence et l'honnêteté de ses rédacteurs. Elles honorent la FAO sur les choix subtils de ses experts.

Ce document est relativement clair et objectif. D'une manière très dépouillée et très expressive, nous avons eu accès à l'essentiel, c'est-à-dire la raison d'être du PCT assortie bien sûr d'appréciations critiques.

Nous constatons, par exemple, que les statistiques sont convenablement exploitées, sans excès d'ailleurs, laissant les conclusions découler d'elles-mêmes. Elles sont à cet égard, à une exception près, concordantes avec les recommandations qui nous sont présentées.

Les auteurs du rapport ont collé à leur mandat et vérifié chacune de ses caractéristiques et chacun des critères. Nous voudrions reprendre certains d'entre eux en insistant sur l'essentiel sans omettre de noter certains dysfonctionnements inhérents à ce type d'entreprise.

D'une manière générale, il y est démontré que le PCT remplit ses objectifs tout en s'intégrant sans grincements dans le programme ordinaire, qu'il a un impact certain, qu'il a le soutien explicite des pays bénéficiaires et qu'il reste perfectible dans ses modalités d'exécution.

Concernant le chapitre relatif à l'évaluation du PCT, on note que les critères des principes directeurs sont satisfaisants. Celui relatif à l'objectif général du PCT, lequel est interprété au sens large dans certaines activités qui n'ont pas d'effet direct sur la production, demeure tout de même une marque de souplesse essentielle. Celui tenant à l'absence de programmation représente aussi un avantage important. Pour la durée des projets, il est heureux de constater que 96 pour cent du total des projets ont une durée inférieure à 12 mois et 99 pour cent pour les projets d'urgence.

Relativement au coût des projets, le constat met en relief la grande élasticité du PCT. Mais il est important de noter que la grande majorité des projets, soit 91 pour cent, ont coûté moins de 150 000 dollars E.-U. Pour l'assistance technique, le plafond de 250 000 dollars E.-U. a été atteint dans 15 projets sur 2 092. Le plafond de 250 000 dollars E.-U. représente donc moins de un pour cent du total, alors que pour les projets d'urgence il a été atteint dans 13 pour cent des cas seulement.

Nous avons pris note aussi des observations contenues dans le document C 85/5 concernant les crédits importants non engagés au titre des exercices 1980-81 et 1982-83 et adhérons aux recommandations formulées par le Comité du programme à ce sujet.

Dans ce cas spécifique, l'augmentation proposée mériterait sans doute d'être approfondie.

Quant au chapitre relatif à l'efficacité de l'exécution des projets, nous adhérons à la conclusion du rapport sur la bonne performance mais nous nous interrogeons sur le sens à donner à la préférence aux experts locaux du secteur privé et aux encouragements symboliques à des fonctionnaires pour faciliter leur participation tel que cela est recommandé.

Sur ce chapitre toujours, on note les hésitations de la FAO à acheter localement, bien qu'il soit clairement dit dans le rapport du Directeur général au Conseil sur la première évaluation qu'il fallait de préférence acheter sur place. D'autres remarques sont aussi faites sur les appels d'offres qui placent mal les sociétés des pays en développement.

Plusieurs gouvernements ont instamment demandé à la FAO de rectifier sa ligne. La mission d'experts suggère d'ailleurs à la FAO de s'attaquer sérieusement à ce problème qui a compromis le succès de plusieurs projets.

A propos des catégories, la mission estime, en ce qui concerne les services consultatifs et les investissements, que les activités qui y sont rattachées correspondent à la vocation du PCT, mais attire l'attention sur le double problème de la gestion et de la définition de ces deux catégories du fait d'un certain chevauchement entre elles. Nous notons aussi les remarques pertinentes à propos de l'assistance au développement. Il est recommandé que l'assistance relevant de cette catégorie soit examinée cas par cas pour assurer une utilisation avisée des moyens.

Un autre motif de satisfaction touche la catégorie formation. On estime que les fonds du PCT sont utilisés de façon correcte, mais on recommande néanmoins de vérifier l'opportunité de l'urgence et l'effet direct et rapide.

Enfin, concernant la catégorie des urgences, elle est très appréciée des gouvernements mais plusieurs se sont plaints des délais d'exécution. Cependant, le niveau de ressources relatif à cette catégorie doit être maintenu.

Concernant la conception des projets, et notamment les questions d'affectation des experts et la participation directe du personnel de la FAO dans les projets de préparation des investissements et les projets de formulation et de programmation ainsi que les visites de contrôle, elles

devraient être approfondies, selon nous, par le Comité du programme. Nous notons que le rôle des représentants dans les pays au niveau de la formulation, de l'approbation et de l'exécution des projets, ainsi que de la coordination avec le PNUD, est estimé par certains experts variable et souvent insuffisant. Des directives devraient être données et elles seraient très opportunes.

L'utilité du PCT est incontestable. Ma délégation appuie les recommandations du Directeur général indiquées aux paragraphes 56 à 62 du document 85/LIM/17.

Nous voudrions maintenant commenter les arguments de certaines délégations concernant la saturation des activités du PCT et qui ouvrent, selon nous, la voie à la remise en cause de ce programme.

Il faut rappeler d'abord qu'au moment de la création du PCT, la dix-septième session de la conférence en 1977 a appuyé sans réserve le nouveau PCT (par. 151) parce que la FAO était l'une des rares institutions spécialisées à n'avoir pas de PCT, bien que son Acte constitutif prévoyât l'octroi d'assistance technique par l'Organisation.

Certains membres invoquent aussi, et ont invoqué d'ailleurs dès la soixante et onzième session du Conseil, leurs appréhensions sur le risque provenant des problèmes de coordination dans le système des Nations Unies du fait des nombreuses sources de financement. Cet argument tombe donc également selon nous puisque cette deuxième évaluation montre clairement que la croissance lente et très équilibrée de ce programme lui a permis d'éviter cet écueil.

On a invoqué aussi le caractère de l'universalité de ce programme. Le rapport montre que toutes les régions sont desservies proportionnellement à leurs besoins, y compris la région Europe. Les opérations du PCT se faisant sur demande, il appartient aux pays des autres régions de mettre à contribution le PCT. Il est clair que les règles du PCT ne sont pas discriminatoires.

Mais cette remise en cause larvée du PCT ouvre la voie à des problèmes d'une autre nature; nous pensons notamment aux arguments développés avant-hier par le délégué du Danemark.

Nous partageons l'opinion que certaines activités sont sans doute arrivées à saturation et qu'une réflexion sur les fonctions de la FAO, quarante ans après sa naissance, n'est pas inutile, mais nos conclusions sont assurément opposées.

Nous avons déclaré en plénière qu'un bilan de quarante ans d'activités serait sans doute utile. Mais il doit ouvrir la voie non pour ligoter les activités de la FAO au nom de l'observation de certaines règles désormais obsolètes, mais pour rafraîchir ces règles, les adapter aux mutations qui se sont produites. En somme, il s'agit de modifier les règles et les fonctions de la FAO pour libérer les potentialités qui existent au sein de cette Organisation. Persister à geler les activités désormais fondamentales telles que le PCT, au nom de règles désuètes, est aussi une forme de gaspillage des ressources.

Le Directeur général a prononcé des paroles justes lorsqu'il a déclaré que sans le PCT la FAO serait une grande académie de l'agriculture. Nous serions partisans d'une politique de suppression progressive de cette fonction académique et de tous les rites qu'elle véhicule au profit d'un accroissement des activités de terrain dont le noyau serait précisément le PCT, avec une structure centrale allégée et une décentralisation sur le terrain poussée, ainsi que des ressources conséquentes. C'est uniquement dans cette optique que les règles de vérification et d'efficacité, que certaines délégations préconisent, auraient un sens. Qu'il y ait une mutation, mais qu'elle soit initiée à partir du point de départ, c'est-à-dire les fonctions originelles de la FAO, tout le reste, y compris les règles du jeu, en découleront.

Les aspirations des pays ont évolué. Elles ont perdu leur caractère romantique d'il y a 40 ans. Hors de cette perspective, le discours du contrôle et de l'efficacité a un caractère conservatoire.

E.V. WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): We have asked to speak to convey our observations on document C 85/8, the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85. We will wish to comment very briefly on the Technical Cooperation Programme under this agenda item, but later in the proceedings.

We consider the review to be a very comprehensive and detailed document, but consider it could be improved if it contained details of money actually spent by each programme and some attempt to assess programme impact.

I will now turn to those items in document C 85/8 which we consider to be important and I will take them in the order and under the headings in which they appear.

Agriculture, paragraphs 1.1 to 1.61: We endorse the view of the Director-General on the need for more effective international action, with high priority given to food production and food security, his recognition that this action cannot be confined to the agricultural sector alone and his recognition that this is likely to take decades to achieve.

We support greater coordination by a more integrated approach. In this connection we are particularly pleased to note the increased resources made available to African countries by reprogramming.

We support the study to better define the policy initiatives required to overcome the food crisis in Africa. It is essential that the closest collaboration with the World Bank is maintained in this most difficult area. In our view the immediate priority must be to concentrate effort on the existing, better agricultural areas, the high potential areas, where increased production can be readily achieved by improved inputs, extension and pricing policies.

We support the effort to maximize the effectiveness of publications through the move towards short, clearly presented booklets rather than lengthy texts. We should be interested to learn of any evaluations that have been carried out or are planned, to determine whether the intended target groups are being reached.

We commend the work carried out by FAO on quantifying crop and population potentials culminating in the publication of "Potential Population Supporting Capacities in Lands of the Developing Worlds" and look forward to seeing the country level analyses. This work is of the utmost importance and should be widely publicized at the highest levels.

We endorse the efforts to establish agro-meteorological monitoring to provide early information on the likely levels of crop production for the Global Information and Early Warning System.

Livestock, paragraphs 1.62 to 1.78: We consider the initial response to drought in the rangelands of Southern Africa and the Sahel should be to reduce overall numbers and to retain a nucleus herd of breeding animals. Animal feed security can have only a limited effect in such areas.

In areas where crop by-products are available there is considerably more potential. We would place a higher priority on the use of crop by-products as animal feedstuffs in Africa than on pasture improvement. The problems of improving communally grazed range land are many, and relate more to human and livestock numbers than to technical constraints.

In the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign programme we consider that the first priority is rehabilitating veterinary departments in the context of rinderpest control.

Paragraphs 1.72 to 1.77 demonstrate that increased priority is being given to milk production. Constraints to increased production in developing countries include pricing policies and cheap imports. To what extent is the International Scheme for the Coordination of Dairy Development (ISCDD) able to tackle these problems? It is unfortunate that this section does not underline the importance of milk as a regular source of cash income to the rural community.

Population, paragraphs 1.93 and 1.94: The United Kingdom approves FAO's progress in reviewing its population activities and its intention to assess the population impact of all its development programmes in accordance with the recommendations of the 1984 International Conference on Population.

There is a need to ensure that this consideration should be continued with enthusiasm in all existing programmes and in planning new projects for the indefinite future.

We believe that population considerations should be considered as an important factor in rural development planning and programmes. Where appropriate, the consequences of uncontrolled population growth and the benefit of population programmes aimed at improving the condition and standards of life of all people, especially women and children, should be included in all training programmes.

Marketing, paragraphs 1.102 and 1.103: The programme of work is very comprehensive, but we consider that, within the resources available, FAO may be attempting to cover too wide a field and feel that the Organization should concentrate on specific areas identified as having priority.

We note that within the countries covered, very little work appears to have been done in the Sub-Saharan countries. We feel that more emphasis should be placed on assessing the marketing problems of this region.

Nutrition, paragraphs 1.107 to 1.111: There appears to be relatively little emphasis in this section on food and nutrition assessment, apart from the development of a food and nutrition planning unit in Sudan, or on the areas within Africa at greatest risk of continuing severe food shortages. While all countries should have adequate nutritional surveillance capabilities, international organizations must ensure that areas of highest risk receive most attention.

Nutrition programmes, paragraphs 1.112 to 1.113: Nutrition as an important subject should be promoted as an integral part of all training and educational systems. Wherever possible, nutrition support schemes such as supplementary feeding should be integrated into existing or developing social services delivery systems, in order that they can be placed in the context of individual development, growth and preservation of health.

Food Quality and Standards, paragraph 1.114: Our scientific unit, the Tropical Development Research Institute, has been associated with a number of food quality and standards activities and we hope that such collaboration will continue in the future.

Food and Agriculture Information and Analysis, paragraphs 1.117 to 1.124: We should like to congratulate FAO on continued work on the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning all aspects of agriculture. The Organization is in an unparalleled position to establish international data bases on prices, outputs, crops, trade situation and prospects and should be supported by all Member States in its efforts to extend and improve this service.

The recent African food crisis has brought the question of early warning of famine to the fore. FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System is very highly regarded and further increases in its activities are welcomed.

Commodity Policies and Trade, paragraphs 1.125 to 1.131: Since there are other institutions, particularly the individual commodity organizations, which can tackle these questions in a much more practical way, we suggest that expenditure in this area could be cut in the future and resources redirected to areas of higher priority in the operational programme.

*World Food Security, paragraph 1.132: Plans for the study of marketing constraints, the role of the small producer and of agricultural institutions in food production and delivery are to be welcomed.

Fisheries, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.2: We place particular emphasis on Fisheries Action Programme 2 "Development of Small-Scale Fisheries" and Action Programme 5 - "Promotion of the Role of Fisheries in Alleviating Under-Nutrition". 1/

Livestock Production, paragraphs 6.1 to 6.74: We believe that in the context of rural development, cash income and draught power are the two most important aspects of animal production.

1/ Paragraphs marked with an asterisk (*) inserted in the verbatim records on request.

*Women in Agriculture Production and Rural Development, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.68: The Rationale and Objectives are in line with United Kingdom policy. We must all look upon women as agents and participants in projects, rather than as (passive) beneficiaries. The importance of the role of women in agriculture, particularly in Africa, cannot be over emphasized. Success in many agricultural programmes will depend upon the commitment of women to programme goals and objectives.

*Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, paragraphs 8.1 to 8.42: The United Kingdom has always recognized the potential importance of this sub-programme. Our own policy and programmes gives emphasis to aquaculture, and we support the FAO policy.

*We note paragraph 8.10 (page 133) and paragraphs 8.37 to 8.39. We are disappointed with the comparative failure of many inland fishery programmes, and all aquaculture programmes, sponsored by FAO, in Africa. We feel that FAO and others should be encouraged to consider sector studies on this problem and possibly the production of guidelines.

*Research Activities, paragraphs 10.1 to 10.53: We support FAO's concerns on improving National Agricultural Research. In our view there are too many changes in research administration and too great an emphasis on the construction of bureaucratic structures, at the expense of support for scientists and technicians actually attempting to do something effective. The number of missions mounted in African Agricultural Research is incredibly large and it is perhaps time donors organized, coordinated or harmonized programmes to give credibility to research effort and effective support to "doers" as opposed to "talkers".

*The United Kingdom continues to support FAO's efforts to highlight the importance of genetic conservation and encourages the Organization to become more involved in simulation of "in situ" conservation in developing countries. The Organization's efforts in encouraging better control and facilities in national germplasm repositories is a worthwhile initiative, more germplasm is "lost" from collections in development countries than is realized.

*Networks, paragraphs 10.54 to 10.67: We consider these are as good as the components, but in general are to be encouraged and we compliment the Organization on its active role in fostering them.

*Executions of Research by FAO, paragraphs 10.68 to 10.96: We are impressed by the work of the Seibersdorf laboratory. It obviously has an important training function and a scheme of turnover of staff, so that national programmes are "fed" with good technical people with experience, which is laudable. The question that has to be asked is what in the final analysis do developing countries really get out of it all? In our experience, and in particular on the plant breeding side, one can get the same or better from more conventional approaches at less cost.

*Cooperation with UN Organizations and with the CGIAR System, paragraphs 10.97 to 10.104: In our view, the interaction between the CGIAR and FAO is not so simple as suggested - the situation is much more complex. In some ways FAO could assist far more than it does in harmonizing in-country contact with the national research programmes. 1/

This has been a fairly lengthy intervention, but we have studied and analyzed document C 85/8 most carefully and the length of our statement reflects our interest and the importance that we place upon it.

SEONG-BAE SUH (Republic of Korea): According to the documents prepared by the Secretariat, the work of FAO during 1984 to 1985 has been carried out under the properly placed programme targets. It has been also recognized that because of continued efforts by the FAO Secretariat to have savings in administrative costs, it has been able to allocate an increased share of the budget to the socio-economic programmes which are directly contributing to the solution of problems in agriculture.

1/ Paragraphs marked with an asterisk (*) inserted in the verbatim records on request.

My delegation feels that the five programmes in Part Two are of great importance to the wellbeing of the rural poor because they are short of ways and means to increase their income. In this context my delegation finds that the 1984-85 Regular Programme of FAO has been properly implemented in pursuance of the established targets, and for that we would like to express our appreciation. However, in order to have full effects and more efficiency of these programmes and projects I would like to present some opinion, mainly on the implementation of the five selected programmes in Part Two.

It is my view that a concerted or integrated approach should be strengthened with great concern. For the small farmers, marketing is sometimes more important than the production technology itself. Also, it is my own view that stronger attention should be placed on the education of the programme participants in order to let them be equipped with enough experience and technology to be self-reliant. For this reason we hope that a continual review of programmes will be made to correctly identify the imminent need of the rural poor at the fields and an additional extension given to the development of ways and means to motivate the rural poor themselves.

Finally, it is my delegation's view that the role of the FAO Regional Office be further reviewed in order to fully reflect the local difficulties that each programme implementation poses.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): We must welcome the wide range of information which is provided by this Fourth Review of the Regular Programme of 1984-85. There is now so much information provided that our interventions at Conference can hardly do the subject full justice. Perhaps there is a case for developing further mechanisms whereby the views of member countries can be communicated to the Secretariat, such as perhaps inviting written submissions.

In our interventions at previous Commissions we have sought a system of review which brings out more clearly the objectives set out by the Director-General in the foreword to document C 85/8. We now note that passages in the introduction to the document discussing the practical limitations on the extent to which the results and impacts of the Regular Programme activities can be examined in detail. We note the large amount of information that is required to do the job properly which may raise the cost of the review procedures considerably. We therefore welcome the approach taken in part two of the review to cover activities at a more specific level. The sections on outlook and issues for instance are particularly useful for the five sub-programmes evaluated and the results of the evaluations appear to be conferring a wide range of benefits on the project participants. There still seems to be a lack of specific data on individual programmes though the conclusions reached seem to imply that the basic data has been collected and analyzed.

On the same general reasoning we also welcome the two chapters on research undertaken by FAO and on economic and technical cooperation in developing countries. In general we would like to state that the review process is a necessary element in the whole system of reporting back to member countries and that commendable progress has been made in developing appropriate mechanisms of reporting. We would encourage those responsible to develop the system further so that the maximum information is conveyed within the confines of the methods we have available. The results so far are encouraging

In my earlier intervention I referred to the presentation to the Conference of the report on the Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. I now understand that the report has already been considered by Council and indeed we have a copy of their views in the papers in front of us. In previous reviews of the Regular Programme at Conference details of the TCP projects and programmes have not been available. It is now very welcome that the Council report has been made available to Conference. The results confirm that recipient governments expressed strong satisfaction with the way the Programme had assisted in meeting their urgent requirements. It can also be noted that feedback from governments on completed TCP projects indicating their immediate effects as well as medium-term impact was often not forthcoming. It is nevertheless gratifying that the basic characteristics of TCP which give it flexibility and speed are confirmed by the evaluation.

I would conclude by stating that we are very well in agreement with the Director-General's proposal as regards maximum cost of projects and the establishment of a new category for TCDC projects.

Joachim WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany): (Original language German). First of all I would like to thank Mr Shah for his excellent introductory analysis. It was brilliant as was only to be expected. My delegation noted with satisfaction that document C 85/8 takes large account of the recommendations of the Twenty-second FAO Conference. This has enhanced both its information value and its clarity. In particular we welcome the fact that Part Two of the document provides an "in depth" analysis of important programmes that mainly benefit the rural poor. By and large my delegation agrees with the statements contained in the documents and the conclusions drawn.

Let me first of all make some general comments. We welcome the clear structuring of document C 85/8 in its three main parts. We particularly welcome that the evaluation of the Organization's activity under its Regular Programme has been carried out according to uniform criteria within each of the individual sections. This made the document more informative, more analytical and more result-oriented in accordance with the request of the Twenty-second FAO Conference.

Now some comments on individual programmes. In the important Major Programme - Agriculture -the activities have been increased as decided by the Twenty-second Conference. As far as we could see, overlaps were avoided in this Programme and the improved work planning and monitoring system has been introduced. We welcome the fact that under this Programme special importance was given to the rural poor and the role of women in the development process.

The recently completed computer-supported information system for fisheries will be of particular benefit for the work of the Fisheries Department as a whole and in particular for the implementation of the five action programmes to follow-up the World Fisheries Conference.

Beyond that we would like to express once again the recognition of our country for the excellent statistical basic material which - processed in the various publications - is of outstanding interest to all Member States. For the continuous and timely information and possible action to be taken the Global Information and Early Warning System for Food and Agriculture of FAO is very valuable.

A closer integration of forestry into agricultural and rural development programmes is in our view an important strategy. What was very valuable in this main programme was the support of the Ninth World Forestry Conference in Mexico City in 1985 and the International Year of the Forest.

Our basic attitude on the TCP has already been expressed in-the last Council meeting as-well as in this forum under agenda item 12, and we can therefore concentrate now on two items of the evaluation report which are of particular importance to us. Firstly we feel this report does not provide us with adequate information on the Organization's overhead costs for the TCP. This is an important indicator for us in evaluating the cost efficiency of such a programme.

Secondly, according to the consultants' views measures of this Programme were not sufficiently coordinated on a national level in all cases. This however is the pre-condition for optimum effect of all development measures carried out in a given country. We assume that the Organization will meet this recommendation of the consultants which will considerably contribute to the efficiency of the Programme.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Permítame, señor Presidente, en primer lugar felicitar al señor Shah por su presentación, su tan adecuada presentación, por lo que deja pocas dudas respecto al contenido de los documentos que la FAO nos presenta.

Nosotros apoyamos el examen que nos presenta en el documento C 85/8 y quisiera referirme al capítulo 11 sobre cooperación económica y cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Nos parece un buen esfuerzo este análisis que se nos presenta por primera vez a la Conferencia de hacer una evaluación temática de uno de los temas en los cuales la FAO ha declarado prioridad.

Estamos de acuerdo con ello y en principio compartimos el análisis aquí efectuado.

En cuanto se refiere a las actividades de Latinoamérica del PROCADES, que es el proyecto de planificación, proyectos y desarrollo rural que ejecutan juntamente FAO, CEPAL con PNUD, queremos reiterar nuestro apoyo a este proyecto que tan buenos resultados ha dado en América Latina en particular en materia de capacitación. Quisiéramos dejar acá nuestra constancia que lamentamos que otras organizaciones internacionales, en este caso el FIDA, no dé apoyo a PROCADES a través de financiamiento de proyectos que ejecuta la FAO. Me refiero a una decisión tomada recientemente por el Presidente del FIDA que decidió no financiar una solicitud que había sido hecha por los países beneficiarios de un proyecto de capacitación dentro del marco de PROCADES. Era una petición hecha por Bolivia, Perú, Chile y Argentina y era un proyecto para establecer un centro de capacitación dentro del marco de PROCADES a ejecutar por FAO. Lo lamentamos, no obstante queremos reiterar nuestro apoyo al análisis de las actividades de la FAO a través del PROCADES.

En cuanto a los problemas que detecta la FAO mencionados en la página 263 los compartimos, estamos de acuerdo con el enfoque que aquí se da y con las recomendaciones que aquí se plantean.

Lo único que queremos decir en este punto es que vemos que se subordina la solución de estos problemas a la obtención de recursos extrapresupuestarios. Nosotros pensamos que visto el origen de los recursos utilizados para estas actividades del CEPD y CTPD, tal como consta en los cuadros 11.1 y 11.3, creemos que quizá, y esto es para el futuro, la FAO podría alcanzar niveles más satisfactorios de financiamiento de los CTPD incluso con recursos del Programa Ordinario.

Respecto a qué tipos de acciones concretas puede emprender la FAO, bueno, por lo menos en los aspectos multilaterales una guía ya la tenemos en el Programa de Acción de Caracas, en la Reunión Global de Bucarest de marzo del año pasado y sobre todo en una actividad que hemos tenido acá, en la FAO, que es la Consulta organizada a mediados de este año sobre cooperación económica entre países en desarrollo en materia de insumos que, ya de paso, es una lástima que no hayamos podido en esta Conferencia contar con el documento final de esa Consulta que hubiera sido un buen documento informativo.

Con esto terminamos sobre el documento 8 y permítame referirme al C 85/LIM/7.

Los comentarios hechos por el representante de Argelia son suficientemente exhaustivos como para abundar en detalles; nos remitimos a ellos y los apoyamos. Especialmente queremos decir que reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la evaluación del PCT hecha durante el último período de sesiones del Consejo en donde expresamos nuestra opinión y creemos que el extracto del informe que se nos presenta acá entre los párrafos 53 a 62 es un buen reflejo de la discusión y creemos que mantener estas líneas no puede ayudar mucho a tener conclusiones positivas respecto a este tema.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): We are grateful as usual to Mr Shah for his customary high-level presentation of the subject to which we attach very great importance indeed. I will offer some of the main comments of the Yugoslav delegation on the review of the Regular Programme, I would underline the word Review because in the light of some interventions it appeared that we were discussing an evaluation report. We are, in fact, discussing a review or monitoring report.

First, on format and presentation, there are so many improvements that we very much welcome and improvements are indeed very visible. First may I mention in that context that some of the improvements resulted from the comments of the FAO membership at the last Conference, and then the consequential meeting of the FAO Council and the Council Committees, but the larger

part was, as it were, volunteered by the Secretariat. The final result is in our view, more positive. We specially value the composite tables provided at the level of all major programmes, showing very clearly most essential cross-sections on FAO activities in output terms. In our view, the present format has really reached a very balanced stage, particularly in volume terms, with about 40 percent devoted to a systematic, very brief, almost summary review of all technical and economic activities and support services of FAO. However, we particularly attach value and attention to Parts Two and Three - in other words, in-depth review and thematic review. I have already implied that this volume structure could in our view be very comfortably maintained or extended in the future, depending of course on the selection of thematic and in-depth reviews. We feel that even in its present form, it represents a very essential component in the overall evaluation and monitoring system of FAO. We are satisfied with the narrative. We feel that it was a very welcome novelty to list the countries in the footnotes and thus provide an excellent basis for those countries to offer their own comments and express their own experience.

I do not have time to go into details on Part One. It is enough to say that we continue to believe that it contains a treasury of information. We especially value one of its basic features, namely, that it provides perhaps a unique opportunity for all of us to see a composite picture of agro-programme activities but also the major field activities of FAO, and how they are in fact inter-related.

On Part Two, we would like to note with satisfaction that in the four last reviews, ever since the Review of the Regular Programme was re-established, about one quarter of FAO's activities in technical economic fields were in-depth reviews.

I shall confine my comment to one sub-programme that we believe is really of crucial importance. I am referring to sub-programme 2.1.5.4: Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development. We have studied the sub-programme very carefully indeed, and we believe that it demonstrates very clearly that it took some time for FAO - I am referring not only to the Secretariat, but to the membership as well - to crystallize concepts, strategies, priorities and methods in need of action in this area. We are aware of the central role of this sub-programme in coordinating the related activities throughout the Secretariat - throughout the house. We believe that the sub-programme has reached a level at which its - if I may say so - teething stage is already over, and a further relative increase is safely possible. We would advocate that now it is very well established, very well oriented, it should be given more in relative terms in the future. I am obviously referring to resources.

On research, we are very satisfied with this thematic review. Given the broad definition -and, as with any definition which one applies to a review of research support activities in FAO, perfection is not possible - we understand that the definition was narrowed down to those activities of direct support to research activities, either international or national. We are in agreement with the main findings, and we believe that the coordination of FAO activities in this area is adequate, with an inter-governmental working group and the newly-established division. We are aware that FAO has very consistently pursued cooperation with other international institutes or agencies in the same area of research, and there is no question that we would like FAO to continue along the same lines.

We want to stress in particular the institution-building aspect of research support, and we believe that TCP could play a greater morale-supportive role than in the past.

On ECDC and TCDC, this is again a very broad subject. I have already taken too much of your precious time so I shall just indicate that the Yugoslavian delegation is informed and aware of the basis of the Resolution announced by the Mexican delegation, and we would like to indicate our full support of that Resolution.

Obviously, it was not our wish to refer again to TCP. I mentioned in my first intervention that we have used every opportunity to express our views. We have always taken a very keen interest in all that was related to TCP, but in light of a number of comments, and given the fact that I failed in my first intervention to mention one of our concerns, you have kindly given me an opportunity to briefly reflect on one of the points mentioned this morning which I have already tackled in my first intervention.

In my first intervention, I wanted to confront the thesis that FAO membership is divided into two groups and divided in a very clear way, with contributions on the one and recipients on the other side. Among contributors, I have confronted the thesis with obvious facts and I believed that the facts had been so clearly demonstrated that this would not be mentioned in subsequent debates. Unfortunately, however, this morning this same thesis was again advanced and, I would say, in even more explicit form. Quite deliberately, and with certain pain, I refrained from offering any comment in my first intervention, but I need to remind you and my distinguished colleagues that this thesis implies, in a very straightforward manner, that the recipients or beneficiaries are happy with their status. They are not. They care very much about efficiency, procedures, criteria, or whatever, and the consequence is that net contributors should be very diligent. I mentioned the case of Yugoslavia as an example, but there are many countries in the same position and I feel - and strongly feel - that this thesis and its straightforward implication is really offensive to most delegations present in this Conference.

I hope that we will not return to this issue again. I trust that you, with your enormous experience, will apply the correct procedure if a similar implication is made again.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México) (en nombre del Grupo de los 77): A nombre del Grupo de los 77 y de la propia delegación de México deseo agradecer al doctor Shah por la magnífica presentación que hizo de este tema.

Deseamos agradecer al Director General por haber solicitado una evaluación externa del PCT. Al Grupo de los 77 y a la delegación de México nos parece excelente que haya recurrido a evaluadores independientes, y pensamos que esta es una práctica satisfactoria.

En este sentido subrayamos enérgicamente que no aceptamos que ciertas delegaciones pretendan dividir los órganos de la FAO entre meros donadores y meros receptores, y menos aún que insinúen que la posición de los países receptores es indiferente o irresponsable al decir que una vez satisfechos con las donaciones de ayuda recibida la eficiencia y la efectividad poco les importa a los beneficiarios; esto es inaceptable y le pedimos a usted señor Presidente que impida que estos tipos de insultos se repitan durante la discusión de nuestra Plenaria. Les recordamos a esos países que nuestros gobiernos aportan también importantes y sacrificados recursos a la FAO, e independientemente de ello a todos nuestros gobiernos les importa, como lo hemos demostrado reiteradamente, que los recursos se manejen con eficiencia y eficacia. Aquellas consignas negativas deterioran el espíritu de respeto, entendimiento y cooperación que debe privar en los foros multilaterales.

En otro sentido, los países miembros del Grupo de los 77 apoyamos plenamente el valor del Programa de Cooperación Técnica"; es decir, su eficiencia y eficacia demostrada, su efecto multiplicador en la promoción de acciones en otros organismos y entre nuestros propios países y su carácter universal.

La gran virtud del PCT es también, y de manera muy particular, su flexibilidad. Consiste precisamente en que no se programe a priori, porque responde, y deberá seguir respondiendo a las necesidades y prioridades identificadas por nuestros gobiernos. ¿Qué evaluación más autorizada que el reconocimiento unánime de los gobiernos de los países que nos hemos beneficiado con su acción, flexibilidad y rapidez de respuestas?

No se puede dudar de estas conclusiones confirmadas, y aún si nuestras voces en estos foros no fueran suficientes, la de los evaluadores externos e independientes lo han confirmado.

Esas conclusiones han sido ya destacadas por la delegación de Argelia, por la de Argentina y la de Yugoslavia, entre otras. En congruencia con ello subrayamos de nuevo que el PCT no puede surgir de aportaciones voluntarias, sino del Programa Ordinario mismo y que deben prevalecer sus características de flexibilidad, de rapidez de respuesta y de eficacia reconocida. Esto no implica que no coincidamos plenamente en su funcionamiento y promover la máxima eficiencia de efectividad posible; esto nos importa fundamentalmente, pero no admitimos que esa sea la excusa para el control por el control mismo y que niegue las características positivas y las virtudes del PCT.

También puntualizamos que el PCT no debe imponerse objetivos a priori porque esos objetivos deben responder al interés específico de cada gobierno. Ello explica también que los movimientos temporales en la asignación de recursos al PCT y que no pueden ser homogéneos durante todo el año.

Aceptamos y concordamos plenamente con las recomendaciones hechas por la evaluación externa e instamos al Director General a que responda a ellas.

El delegado de Argelia, apoyado por el de Argentina y el de Yugoslavia, mencionó varias de ellas.

Ponemos simplemente una nota de alerta en el sentido de no incrementar los costos del control en demérito de recursos preciosos que deberían dirigirse a promover la cooperación técnica. El control por el control y la administración para la administración se llama burocratismo.

Paradójicamente con lo que dicen ciertas delegaciones parecería ser esa la consecuencia práctica de sus pruritos controladores; que no se olvide que otras organizaciones como el PMA y el PNUD permiten a su Director decidir sobre proyectos de mucha mayor monta que los que actualmente tiene el PCT, sin correr peligro de ineficiencia e ineficacia porque todos los Estados Miembros estamos en alerta y se han establecido los mecanismos adecuados para su control.

Estamos plenamente de acuerdo y apoyamos que se eleve el límite máximo de los costos de un proyecto del PCT de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares; esto representará no sólo un cambio cuantitativo sino un cambio cualitativo en las características y alcances del PCT.

Apoyamos también el porcentaje que ocupa el PCT dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto que representa un leve aumento durante los últimos diez años. El Grupo de los 77 y la Delegación de México desearíamos disponer de mayores recursos destinados al PCT y pedimos al Director General hacer todos los esfuerzos para aumentar este nivel. Esto lo decimos, Señor Presidente, tomando en cuenta el gran beneficio probado para nuestros países y especialmente el lamentable hecho de que los recursos de asistencia para el desarrollo han disminuido como es el caso del FIDA, y del PNUD y de otros organismos.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, el Grupo de los 77 solicita que una parte importante de los recursos de dicho Programa de Cooperación Técnica pueden dedicarse a la promoción de la cooperación económica y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. Esto se indica en la Sección C de las propuestas de acción del documento CL 88/8 revisado por el Consejo particularmente en el párrafo 52 que apoya el establecimiento de una nueva categoría C para proyectos que catalicen la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo. Esto también se plasma en el informe del 88 período de sesiones del Consejo.

Para terminar Señor Presidente el Grupo de los 77 también apoya que la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo merezca el apoyo entre las diversas actividades de nuestra Organización. Nuestro apoyo unánime al proyecto de resolución sobre la cooperación económica y la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo que el miércoles mi Delegación, junto con los países que lo copatrocinaban, le entregó a usted, Señor Presidente.

Me he referido exclusivamente al Programa de Cooperación Técnica y le pido a usted que posteriormente me permita hacer uso de la palabra en relación a otras cuestiones del Programa Ordinario.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Venezuela lamenta no haber estado esta mañana, Señor Presidente, para haber expresado su solidaridad con la República hermana de Colombia por la tragedia que esta enfrentando con motivo de la erupción del volcán Nevado del Ruiz; por eso, cumple el doloroso deber de expresarlo por mi conducto y directamente a Su Excelencia el Embajador que preside esta reunión.

Pasaremos ahora a referirnos al tema que ocupa este Comité y vamos a empezar por expresar nuestro apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica por considerar que es, indudablemente, un programa que ha demostrado tener una gran eficiencia como se ha comprobado por la evaluación que fue realizada recientemente por un organismo externo a la propia Organización de las Naciones Unidas y asimismo porque ha prestado atención a aquellos problemas que constituyen la esencia del propósito para el cual fue creada la FAO; es decir, para atender a los problemas de la agricultura y de la alimentación, en las comunidades atrasadas en los países del Tercer Mundo y en los países en vías de desarrollo.

Las intervenciones que hemos escuchado antes de hacer uso de la palabra, en su mayoría, han sido para apoyar, para aprobar, para elogiar este Programa, pero prestamos debida atención a la intervención del Representante del Reino Unido que dijo haber hecho un examen completo del trabajo y que demuestra en su análisis que eran en su mayoría puntos positivos los que constituyen este Programa. Estamos de acuerdo con ese juicio porque consideramos que ha sido un examen hecho por personas expertas.

Nos sentimos identificados con los países del Tercer Mundo. Estamos de acuerdo con que la FAO debe prestar atención preeminente a esas comunidades atrasadas y no podemos menos que dar nuestro apoyo con relación a este Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Quisiéramos, sin embargo, resaltar algunos puntos del Programa con los cuales estamos más identificados. Me refiero en primer lugar a los Programas de Capacitación especialmente cuando esos programas están dirigidos a las mujeres del medio rural. La capacitación de la mujer, ya lo hemos dicho varias veces, cuando se dirige precisamente a entrenarla para adquirir un mejoramiento en su trabajo en relación con la agricultura, demuestra que ella puede dar un rendimiento muy efectivo, y si la FAO ha dedicado programas específicamente destinados a la capacitación de estas comunidades atrasadas, en las cuales la mujer ocupa el más alto porcentaje, esto es una inversión que produce un rendimiento inmediato, puesto que el aumento de la producción y la productividad en estas comunidades indudablemente tiene beneficio para todos. Esta obra de la FAO debe ser realmente divulgada en todos aquellos países que pertenecen al Tercer Mundo, en los cuales la mujer en el medio rural desempeña una función importante, puesto que ella participa no solamente en las labores de la familia, sino también en la labor misma de la producción, del mercadeo y de la distribución del producto. Y esto precisamente es lo que necesita la agricultura en el Tercer Mundo.

Asimismo, vamos a referirnos, destacándolo especialmente, al punto que se relaciona con las nuevas categorías del proyecto, que significan que estos proyectos deben estar realizados o tienen como finalidad establecer un nuevo criterio en cuanto a la ayuda que se proporcionan los países en desarrollo entre sí. Esto es un estímulo para estos países que pueden llegar a desarrollar por sí mismos nuevas tecnologías o sencillamente hacerse experimentados en las tecnologías que reciban de los expertos de la FAO. Los otros puntos que, para ser breves, queremos destacar, son los que se refieren al aumento del nivel de inversión de los proyectos de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares y alguno de los oradores que me precedieron se refirieron a la preocupación para que este Programa constituya una absorción creciente de los recursos de la FAO. Pero si nosotros recordamos que la mayoría de los proyectos de la FAO son imprevistos, porque obedecen a elementos y factores impredecibles en el desarrollo de la vida de algunas comunidades atrasadas, es lógico pensar y comprender que este Programa de Asistencia Técnica debe tener una inversión creciente, porque no sería posible matemáticamente predecir a cuánto debe alcanzar el montante de la inversión de la Organización para agricultura y alimentación de un período dado hacia el futuro. Deben dejar entonces un margen lógico en el que quepan estos programas imprevistos que van a ser atendidos de manera eficiente para el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de esas comunidades atrasadas.

La situación de los países del Tercer Mundo ha esperado ya bastante una atención más específica a sus problemas de alimentación, de educación, de capacitación y de salud y esos son, precisamente, los problemas a los cuales debe dirigirse la acción eficaz de la FAO en un inmediato futuro. Es cierto que esos recursos deben ser administrados de una manera racional, pero no creo que haya ninguna demostración o evidencia de lo contrario en la evaluación que ha sido hecha por este organismo externo que ha presentado un informe al Consejo y a esta Conferencia. Estamos de acuerdo con la opinión de algunos miembros que consideran que el Programa de Alimentación debe tener prioridad en el número de programas inmediatos de la FAO, y sobre todo, entre los programas que fueron elogiados aquí por alguno de los oradores, el programa lechero.

Es lógico que un programa de esta naturaleza conviene al mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de las comunidades rurales porque ello va directamente a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los niños, que son precisamente el futuro de estas comunidades. Por esa razón, porque pensamos que estos programas deben recibir una atención primordial en los años del bienio que comienza, es por lo que nosotros consideramos que ese Programa de Asistencia Técnica debe ser respetado plenamente y debe ser aprobado tal como se ha de presentar a la Asamblea. Por esa razón Señor Presidente, le damos nuestro pleno apoyo.

EL PRESIDENTE: El distinguido colega del Reino Unido ha manifestado que, con espíritu reconstructivo redujo su declaración. Nos ha hecho llegar el documento completo de esa intervención y, con la venia de la Comisión, será incluido este texto en las Actas.

M. MOUKIA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun a pris connaissance du document qui récapitule les activités réalisées par la FAO en 1985 dans les domaines de sa compétence. Il s'agit de l'agriculture, des pêches, des forêts, de la coopération technique et du soutien au développement, des services de soutien, de la production animale, du rôle des femmes dans la production alimentaire et agricole et dans l'ensemble du développement rural, des ressources des eaux intérieures et de l'aquaculture, du bois de feu, de la recherche, de l'appui à la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement.

Ce document constitue, à n'en pas douter, une évaluation des programmes de la FAO dans les onze domaines d'activité mentionnés ci-dessus.

En agriculture, nous constatons que la FAO déploie de grands efforts pour dynamiser le travail des services d'encadrement des gouvernements. Mais en raison de l'explosion démographique et de l'exode rural, nous insistons pour que la FAO persiste dans cette voie en multipliant ses interventions auprès des femmes et des jeunes des campagnes. Le rôle de ces derniers mérite d'être relevé: les jeunes constituent le fer de lance du développement des pays en voie de développement. Il ne s'agit pas seulement de se contenter de les former à différentes disciplines; il faut les installer en campagne, les équiper convenablement, les organiser en vue d'accomplir à souhait l'activité à laquelle ils ont été préparés.

Dans le cadre de la production végétale, nous souscrivons entièrement aux objectifs visés par la FAO en mettant un accent particulier sur les programmes de réduction des pertes après récolte et sur la protection des végétaux en général.

En matière de production animale, l'activité de la FAO tient compte du souci d'augmenter la production pour répondre à la demande résultant de l'accroissement de la population.

Pour couvrir les besoins en viande, en produits laitiers et en oeufs, des systèmes d'élevage doivent être mis en place pour l'augmentation de la production. Cette mise en place de méthodes d'élevage efficaces sera soutenue par le renforcement de la lutte contre les maladies animales et l'amélioration de l'alimentation des animaux ainsi que la conduite de l'élevage.

Le programme d'activités 1984-85 de la FAO sur les pêches embrasse tous ces aspects, conformément au souhait exprimé par la Conférence mondiale sur l'aménagement et le développement des pêches tenue à Rome en 1984.

Nous insistons encore une fois sur le rôle de la formation dans les disciplines concernant l'aménagement et le développement des pêches, et nous soulignons qu'une attention particulière doit être portée à la promotion de la pêche artisanale.

Nous apprécions la place qui revient à l'exploitation des eaux intérieures en Afrique (chapitre 8 de ce document).

Sans revenir sur le rôle de la forêt reconnue comme source d'approvisionnement en matière d'alimentation (produits végétaux et gibier), en matière d'énergie (bois de chauffage) et de régulation dans l'environnement, nous apprécions à juste titre les efforts consentis par la FAO pour la mise en place d'une stratégie plus efficace de la gestion forestière.

Tous les autres chapitres du document C 85/8 rencontrent notre approbation, notamment le chapitre 10, qui traite des activités de recherche telles que définies à la page 173 du présent document, au paragraphe 10.8.

La délégation du Cameroun a précisé avant-hier, lors de son intervention, son point de vue sur le programme de coopération technique. Ce faisant, elle s'était limitée à illustrer son adhésion à ce programme. Elle souhaite la réitérer en rappelant qu'il devrait être soutenu par tous ceux qui partagent les souffrances des plus déshérités. L'objectif du PCT est de donner à la FAO les moyens de fournir l'aide limitée sollicitée par des Etats ou des organisations intergouvernementales reconnues. L'agriculture en général se fait dans des milieux que l'homme ne maîtrise pas ou maîtrise peu. Elle se fait dans les conditions les plus aléatoires, soumises à des variations climatologiques les plus imprévisibles. Les calamités naturelles y sont fréquentes: sécheresses

inattendues, inondations dévastatrices. D'autres calamités naturelles peuvent être relevées: invasions acridiennes ou de chenilles défoliatrices, éclosion subite et propagation de maladies animales. L'utilité et l'efficacité du PCT étant reconnues et son maintien étant indispensable, son renforcement est plus qu'indiqué avec toutefois la possibilité d'en parfaire l'utilisation pour convaincre les pays ou groupes de pays encore hésitants à son endroit.

J. S. NIELSEN (Denmark): While appreciating the very qualified work laid down by the Secretariat in this very comprehensive review of the Regular Programme for 1984/85, I take the opportunity to underline that in supplement to the proposed Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87 this review has also inspired the Danish delegation to comment on FAO's future in our general statements this morning in the Plenary and also in this Commission.

To be noting the requests of all interested parties is part of one side of formulating a programme of work. The other side is a stricter selection in order to achieve the fullest possible impact of the limited resources available in the Organization. Only with a much clearer picture of FAO's real priorities and with better transparency with member countries be able to see if, despite the necessary selection, the general structure of their requests have been reflected in the Regular Programme of Work and in its implementation.

Mr Shah this morning informed us of FAO's comprehensive evaluation activities. Maybe it is appropriate here to underline that evaluation is not the aim in itself, it is an extremely necessary means for making Member States and FAO currently able to judge whether the different programmes are running well and whether there is a need to reorientate the activities of FAO. Only with this aim in mind will evaluation, internal or external, serve to enhance the work of the Organization.

We have unfortunately had too little time to study in depth the very interesting Evaluation Report of the TCP. However, the content of the report confirms the attitudes expressed in the joint Nordic statements made on CCP in the context of the discussion of the Programme of Work and Budget 1986/87. We are concerned about the pressure put on some parts of the Organization because of the necessary backstopping to individual project.- and we are concerned about the difficulties in ensuring the necessary follow-up. Can we say that the TCP has been truly catalytic in initiating other activities? Has it complemented and not substituted other forms of assistance? We do believe that despite the doubts pronounced, the answer is generally affirmative and we appreciate the Programme's valuable contribution to development assistance up to now. Provided that a flexible monitoring system is established we would also be ready to support the Programme in the future. We are convinced, however, that the TCP's future will be put seriously at stake if the Programme is expanded beyond its present size or if its scope is broadened beyond its original and present intentions and objectives.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): First, I pay sincere gratitude to Mr Shah for his excellent introduction of the document under discussion. While expressing our full satisfaction with the structure and content of the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85, as presented -in document C 85/8, I would like to limit my delegation's comments to evaluation and the proposals concerning the Technical Cooperation Programme.

We have noted with keen interest the evaluation and recommendations. The evaluation carried out by senior external consultants at the most timely and relevant initiative of the Director-General emphasizes the valuable role of the TCP and the need to strengthen it. TCP is the unique aspect of FAO's Regular Programme which cannot be replaced by other programmes because of its beneficial impact on the agricultural development of the developing countries. Throughout the ten years of its existence, TCP has been demonstrated to be most in keeping with the noble objective of FAO. Every member country is in favour of promoting cooperation, and cooperation is a commonly accepted premises for our discussions in seeking a solution to the problem of food and agriculture. However, the level of sincerity of words will be judged by action.

We believe that if FAO is to meet the present need of the developing countries TCP should be there with increased capacity. The importance of TCP should be stressed even more in light of the increasing concern about IFAD and UNDP resources.

We give full endorsement to the decision taken by the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council regarding the findings and the conclusions of the evaluation team and the recommendations by the Director-General. We would like to confirm our support of the increased ceiling of TCP projects to US\$ 400 000 and the establishment of a new category (c) for catalyzing TCDC, as well as the actions already taken or envisaged by the Director-General.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): My thanks to Mr Shah for his usual transparent presentation of the Review of the Regular Programme. Being members of the Programme Committee and the Council we have already time and again expressed our position in this regard. Therefore I will be brief.

We are pleased to observe that further improvements in format and presentation in the Review are along the lines suggested by the Programme Committee. We have been traditionally supportive of the importance of evaluations which highlight the success and constraints in the implementation of various technical and economic programmes. They also provide valuable feedback for the formulation of future programme activities and strategies. Such reviews are again a great help to the Organization in determining its strategies in the future years.

The document C 85/8 is quite comprehensive. The review of major programmes in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors is indeed specific and we would like to commend the Secretariat for the hard labour that has gone into the preparation of this report.

We also appreciate the emphasis on the promotion of ECDC and TCDC activities and appropriate and timely thrust on Africa where the need for assistance was no doubt urgent.

Needless to say, we commend FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, which should not only be sustained but further strengthened.

We would briefly wish to draw the Secretariat's attention to the recommendation contained at paragraph 116 of the document APRC/84/REP and in C 85/INF/10, which reads: "The Conference recognized the importance of buffalo as a source of farm power, milk and meat, and recommended that the Regional Centre for Coordinated Research on Buffalo, including nutrition, reproduction and economic feeding systems be established." FAO was requested to formulate a project and seek financial assistance for its implementation.

We have been extremely disappointed to note that in the absence of a positive response from donors no action has been possible in establishing a Regional Centre for Coordinated Research, although we welcome the location of the coordinating unit in my country under the aegis of the new FAO/UNDP Regional Project on TCDC for strengthening the regional network of buffalo development centres in Asia on a limited scale. We still hope that FAO will take all necessary steps on an urgent basis to seek financial assistance from appropriate sources so that the recommendation of the Regional Conference for a project on a large scale is implemented. The importance of the water buffalo as a source of farm power, milk and meat was also amply underlined by the delegate of Panama this morning, our dear and constant alphabetical neighbours.

As regards TCP, this is one programme which has been unanimously acclaimed as innovative, valuable and effective, besides being catalytic. We in the Programme Committee and in the Council carefully examined in great detail documents CL 88/8 and CL 88/INF/10. The unprogrammed nature, practical orientation, speed and flexibility of the TCP was universally acclaimed. The programme has no doubt given a new dimension to FAO. It is a different manner in which we may view the issues and matters with differing perceptions.

I would like to quote from the statement of my Minister and Head of the Pakistan delegation in the Plenary session this morning which reads as follows: "We particularly support the TCP, which provides timely and flexible responses to the urgent needs of the developing countries." This more than amply demonstrates my country's support to this valuable Programme. Questions have been raised with regard to its viability on the following grounds: (1) that the average cost of the projects has been under US\$ 70 000, and (2) that because it entails small-scale assistance, raising the ceiling to US\$ 400 000 might conflict with the UNDP.

With regard to (1), in our view if the average cost of programmes totals US\$ 70 000, this only shows the concern of the Organization in having as large a spread as possible and in reaching the maximum number of beneficiaries.

With regard to (2), by the very nature of the Programme, TCP cannot compete with the UNDP if the ceiling is raised to US\$ 400 000. TCP is quick, responsive and action-oriented. For assistance under UNDP, however, one may have to queue up for at least two years and within that span of time the country may pass from one emergency to another.

The TCP has stood the test of time. We believe that any dialogue in this august body should be constructive, positive and objective. We are not asking for more resources. In fact in real terms over the years there is a considerable decline in the resources made available under TCP. Nor do we say that FAO is World Bank or IMF or IDA or IFAD or a funding institution. We would only like everyone here to recognize the unique role of the specialized agency within the UN system. FAO is FAO and the TCP is not the so-called cuckoo's nest. Such allusions are not reflective of objectivity and are a cause of great concern to us. We feel in all seriousness that TCP is not a cuckoo's nest but the poor countries' security blanket against emergencies. This is our perception.

We welcome the evaluation report on TCP and endorse the actions thereon proposed to be taken by the Organization.

Alif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The document which deals with the Regular Programme, that is document C 85/8, is one that has been studied both by the Council and the subsidiary Committees of the Council and which has been welcomed by them, both for the important information and pertinent analysis included therein. This is why we would like to thank and congratulate Mr Shah for the presentation of this document and of this item of the agenda, a presentation that has been very clear and excellent indeed.

I would now like to speak about TCP. Certainly I am not going to go into details to speak about its importance, or, the technical aspects of this Programme, those technical aspects that have been clearly mentioned in the evaluation carried out by the expert consultants. Such details have been well explained by countries that are benefiting from TCP.

I am not going into details of administrative questions concerning TCP, such as the flexibility of other programmes of the Organization and the need for coordination between the other FAO activities and TCP, or the highly flexible nature of TCP because of the quick and adequate response it gives to the requirements of developing countries.

My delegation finds itself in a position to express its satisfaction with the valuable assistance of TCP which has permitted technical and economic relations to become even closer between countries. We do not agree with some of the views expressed here with regard to benefiting from it, doubts that have been raised about the evaluation of the expert consultants, or doubts about the evaluation carried out by the Organization, since we feel that the evaluation has been exhaustive and has been carried out in a timely manner. Furthermore we should also be aware of another reality which is self-evident i.e., that the recipient countries, the countries benefiting from TCP are those which know how to defend their own interests more than any other country or any other person and therefore, they are the countries that are in position to evaluate the activities that meet the interests, concerns and aspirations of their people to better achieve stable economic and agricultural development.

Any work properly carried out or any work in general finds difficulties, and obstacles along the way. This is normal, but these problems, these obstacles which the TCP may find along its way should not make some countries or some governments doubt its usefulness to developing countries. On the contrary, we should and must work in a serious manner. We should not stop because of these difficulties, but we should instead try to solve the problems and overcome the obstacles. We must try to give the most rational orientations in order to achieve our objectives because constructive reforms are always welcome. It is our duty to give our advice, but always with common sense, although sometimes this may seem difficult, and as we know it is very difficult to build but it is sometimes easier to just demolish everything.

Mr Chairman, we have listened carefully and with attention to the views expressed here concerning the financing of this programme through a voluntary fund, and therefore I would like to say that we are strongly against this approach since our policy has always been a clear one on this point. We have always been in favour of limiting the type of measures that would increase bureaucracy which prevents the achievement of the noble objectives of TCP. We would like to express the hope and we would like to appeal to the Organization for improvement to be made with relation to some of the TCP activities. We would also like to ask the Organization to evaluate these activities by taking into account the recommendations of the expert consultants' report - a report that we would like to support.

In conclusion let me say that this report of expert consultants has also been discussed in the Finance Committee of the Organization, a Committee of which we are members. I would like to assure everyone here that we have obtained all clarifications concerning this report from the Secretariat and that we have also received all information and statistics in a very precise manner, which has taken two long days of work in the Finance Committee. Members of the Finance Committee expressed their views very candidly on this report and they were included in the final report.

These are a few comments that we wanted to make and once again we would like to say that we firmly support the TCP and the recommendations of the evaluation report. We also support the recommendations that have been presented by the Director-General.

O. SALES PETINGA (Portugal): Nous félicitons tout d'abord le Secrétariat pour le document C 85/8 qui se réfère au PCT et que nous considérons très opportun. Le Portugal est un bénéficiaire ponctuel de ce programme, surtout en matière d'assistance technique et d'élaboration de projets fournis par la FAO dans le cadre de ce programme. Il tient à en souligner l'efficacité. On peut dire que ces actions ont contribué de manière décisive au démarrage de nouveaux projets nationaux ainsi qu'à l'achèvement d'autres projets qui auraient pu difficilement être menés à bonne fin.

Comme nous l'avons déjà dit, nous donnons notre approbation au document en question dans son ensemble, mais nous aimerions présenter quatre commentaires.

Au paragraphe 61, nous constatons avec beaucoup de satisfaction la préoccupation exprimée disant: "L'Organisation choisira avec le plus grand soin les experts et les consultants présentant à tous les égards les meilleurs profils pour la mission envisagée, notamment du point de vue des compétences et des connaissances linguistiques". Nous pensons que la connaissance de la langue des pays où se réalisent les programmes est très importante pour leur efficacité.

Nous acceptons la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets de PCT destinés à catalyser la coopération entre les pays.

Nous sommes aussi d'accord pour le relèvement du coût maximum des projets du PCT passant de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars, mais nous aimerions que cette modification n'ait pas comme conséquence la réduction des projets.

Sur le point 95, nous présentons des réserves. A notre avis, les pays, pour une question de principe, devront maintenir le droit d'approbation des experts et consultants du PCT.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Compartimos la satisfacción que expresó el Comité del Programa sobre el hecho de que este documento es una fuente valiosa de información y análisis en lo concerniente a las actividades y logros del Programa Ordinario y sus interrelaciones con el Programa de Campo.

Convendría registrar el hecho de que se está cumpliendo una evolución favorable en la presentación de este documento a través del seguimiento de las recomendaciones y sugerencias que se han hecho en los Comités del Programa y de Finanzas.

En esta ocasión queremos reiterar el apoyo del gobierno de Colombia para la descentralización. Esta, junto con el Programa de Cooperación Técnica, PCT, ha constituido los dos pilares fundamentales del Programa.

Pensamos que en las regiones y en los países están los problemas, allá están las necesidades que hay que atenderlas prioritariamente; las elucubraciones académicas y técnicas que se llevan a cabo en la Sede no pueden permitir a los funcionarios que desde aquí, desde el conjunto Caracalla, hagan recomendaciones o traten de asistir a gobiernos cuyos estados están muy lejos y en condiciones difíciles.

Debemos reiterar una vez más el apoyo de la Conferencia para la descentralización.

La delegación de Colombia apoya todo lo relacionado con el examen del Programa Ordinario y particularmente la parte final, evaluación del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, PTC, párrafos 53 al 62.

El gobierno colombiano coadyuva plenamente en todos los cambios favorables que se van a introducir en el PCT y entre los cuales cabe destacar: aumentar el límite del costo máximo de los proyectos del PCT de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares de Estados Unidos; establecer una nueva categoría C de proyectos del PCT destinados a actuar como catalizadores de la cooperación entre países, CTPD, que se ajusten a los criterios del Programa.

La delegación de Colombia estima que los consultores externos que evaluaron el PCT son muy respetables y que no es aceptable su descalificación formulada por alguna delegación. Los tres provienen de países muy respetables y son personas ampliamente conocidas.

La delegación de Colombia no puede aceptar la concepción del PCT de que se delimite entre donantes y beneficiarios porque los beneficiarios son también contribuyentes al presupuesto del Programa de la FAO. Si los beneficiarios estamos satisfechos con el PCT es porque realmente trabajan bien, y si los países desarrollados se oponen a esa inmensa voluntad de más de cien países están incurriendo en otro atentado a la cooperación multilateral.

Para concluir, apoyamos lo expuesto por la delegación de México y queremos solicitar a ciertas delegaciones, siempre las mismas, una actitud de mayor responsabilidad.

La delegación colombiana por principio rechaza todo intento de que los países donantes traten de hacernos sentir el peso de sus contribuciones.

R.C. GUPTA (India): My delegation had the opportunity of making our views known on this document first in the Programme Committee and later on in the Eighty-eighth session of the FAO Council so I feel that it will not be necessary for me to take your time or burden your records by repeating them. I would only like to say that we feel that this review responds to the wishes we expressed in the last session of the FAO Conference. It contains extremely useful information. With regard to evaluation, we had said in Council and also in the Programme Committee that to the extent to which information is available, the quality of evaluation can improve. But this information is not come by easily. You have to have proper systems in developing countries and it will take time. It will take more effort - but under the constraints, this is an invaluable document which gives us an idea of the work of the Organization and the extent to which its efforts have succeeded. In my experience here, I have found that when a document is too large or too bulky people criticize it for containing a lot of information which is not relevant; if it is concise it is criticized for not containing certain information. Some people cannot give their support without qualifications - but I am not going to dwell too much on this point.

With regard to the Technical Cooperation Programme, which has engaged the attention and concern of a number of delegates during our discussion here, we have again considered this matter in both the fora which I referred to just now, the Programme Committee and Council. Some of the statements made in this forum this afternoon we found offensive, containing lack of respect for equal members of the Organization and reflecting an attitude which is completely lamentable.

We were told that developing countries would take money from wherever they could. In the Council we were told we lack commitment. I believe that the developed countries have to learn - and perhaps the stage has now come - not to try to tell us what is good for us. Perhaps you know - if I may cite an instance, of a country neighbouring the country from which I come, a hilly country -experts from developed countries advised them to fell their forests to generate revenue, to have more areas for agriculture; in that country you now have mountainous deserts, and over the last

decade they have been advised to reforest the area. First, their scarce resources were used for deforestation, ravaging the base of agriculture - and now they are being advised to reforest. Perhaps we know better what to do with our resources and whatever little we can get from outside. I believe the time has come for them to understand that we have an equal commitment - or perhaps more commitment - than their concerns. We are scarce in our resources, and we want to use them most frugally; we regard assistance as an equally valuable, and perhaps more scarce, resource, and we want to use it as frugally, as carefully and as conscientiously as we can., We have absolutely no doubt that TCP is a programme which has immensely helped developing countries because of its flexibility and its unprogrammed nature.

I have heard some distinguished colleagues here saying that some of the projects, some of the subjects, or work, on which TCP funding has been expended could have been foreseen. Yes - but in an ongoing programme there are various steps which come to light as the programme proceeds. If you take broader subjects, broader topics, you certainly can say "this could have been foreseen", but a certain element in an ongoing programme cannot be foreseen, and if, at that critical juncture, some assistance is available to carry on that programme, it helps - and to that extent TCP has been useful.

Some people have tried to over-emphasize the emergency nature of TCP. If you look at the TCP projects, not more than 25 percent of them are of an emergency nature - but those projects are crucial to certain ongoing programmes; they fill certain gaps which could not be foreseen - and to that extent the unprogrammed nature, the flexibility, and the innovativeness has to continue.

Two subjects have been posed for decision by the Conference: one is raising the ceiling of individual projects from US\$250 000 to US\$ 400 000, and secondly, including another category - that is, a category of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. I believe that these two recommendations are closely interconnected. I said in the Council - and I beg your indulgence to allow me to repeat it - that if you include TCDC and ECDC as a category for which TCP funding should be available, it is absolutely essential to raise the ceiling from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. You will come up with certain projects which would need a greater amount of financing. Again-, the fact that, on the average, the funding of projects has been only US\$ 70 000 should, I am sure, assure those who have doubts that the funds are not just doled out indiscriminately, but are given according to need. We feel that the raising of the ceiling at this juncture is necessary.

Some however have even questioned including ECDC and TCDC as a category for TCP funding. I have not been able to forget the remark made by a distinguished colleague from the United Kingdom in the last meeting of the Committee on Food Aid, when he told us "These poor countries must learn not to live from the crumbs from the rich man's table, and they should try to stand on their own legs". We are used to that kind of arrogance - We have had the experience of four hundred years with these people. We have lived with them, we have taken them in our stride, we have treated these remarks with the contempt which they deserve. These people tell us to stand on our own legs - we are trying to do this with TCDC and ECDC. In this endeavour and with some timely assistance, a small amount - four hundred thousand odd, certain bottlenecks can be overcome. We fail to see the reason why these activities should not be included.

I have taken too much time. I only wish to conclude by saying that we support both the recommendations of the Council with regard to raising the ceiling for TCP projects, and also with regard to including a new category, (c), which has been recommended.

Sra. Doña María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi Delegación desea, en primer lugar felicitar al Sr. Shah por la presentación excelente que ha hecho del tema que nos ocupa, así como deseamos felicitar a la Secretaría por la calidad del documento que ha sometido a nuestra consideración. El análisis detallado y completo que se hace en él sobre la labor realizada por la FAO en el bienio 1984-85 es una prueba más de la eficiencia con que la Organización trabaja. Nos parece muy adecuado que se lleven a cabo estos exámenes del Programa Ordinario en forma sistemática, pues ello permite corregir errores y mejorar en forma constante. El examen del contenido, en nuestra consideración,

merece nuestro respaldo y del mismo quisiéramos recalcar algunos aspectos. En la primera parte que se refiere al informe sobre las actividades que se llevan a cabo quisiéramos enfatizar la labor realizada en el campo de la capacitación. Pedimos disculpas por insistir sobre ese punto, pero lo consideramos esencial. Hemos leído con mucho entusiasmo los conceptos vertidos en relación con el punto 15 y alentamos a la Organización a continuar sus esfuerzos de capacitar a las mujeres. Constituimos la mitad de la humanidad y si estamos en condiciones de luchar por igual en esta dura batalla por salir del subdesarrollo, creo sinceramente que los resultados serán más que positivos. Se han hecho muchos esfuerzos orientados a la incorporación de la mujer en el proceso del desarrollo, sin embargo, como ha dicho esta mañana el Delegado del Panamá, debemos continuar en nuestros esfuerzos y alentamos a la FAO a tal propósito.

Esperamos con interés el resultado del estudio que se indica en el párrafo 1.138. Es importante que se hagan esfuerzos coordinados para ayudar a la, rehabilitación y al desarrollo de la agricultura africana.

Queremos referirnos ahora al Programa de Cooperación Técnica. En primer lugar, permítame felicitar al Director General por haber solicitado una evaluación externa del PCT. La delegación de El Salvador apoya firmemente el Programa de Cooperación Técnica. Como lo dijimos en nuestra intervención cuando discutimos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, el PCT ha demostrado ser un instrumento sumamente eficaz para atender los graves problemas que afectan a los países en vías de desarrollo.

La evaluación externa realizada así lo demuestra. Durante el 88º período de sesiones del Consejo se examinó dicha evaluación. Apoyamos las decisiones tomadas por el Consejo a este respecto. En particular, apoyamos las propuestas hechas por el Director General a raíz de dicho informe, a saber: (a) incremento del límite máximo de los costos de un proyecto de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares; (b) establecimiento de una nueva categoría "C" de proyectos del PCT destinados a actuar como catalizador de la cooperación entre países.

Estamos completamente de acuerdo en que parte importante de los recursos del PCT puedan dedicarse a la promoción de la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo. Elementos de juicio suficientes han sido presentados por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 para respaldar estas cuestiones, y por ello las apoyamos firmemente.

Asimismo, respaldamos plenamente los conceptos vertidos esta mañana por el delegado de Panamá con relación al PCT.

Refiriéndonos ahora a la segunda parte del documento en discusión, felicitamos a la Secretaría por el examen a fondo que ha hecho de estas cinco actividades fundamentales. Queremos recalcar el subprograma 2.3.43 sobre leña. Apoyamos los objetivos y estrategia de dicho subprograma y hacemos especial énfasis en las orientaciones indicadas en el párrafo 9.9 del documento.

La delegación de El Salvador piensa que el problema de la leña debe ser resuelto en la planificación a corto plazo; es decir, como un problema de emergencia. La leña debe utilizarse en manera tal que nos permita producir una fuente de energía que elimine o disminuya la gran dependencia de nuestros países del petróleo, la cual tanta importancia tiene en nuestra deuda externa. Es decir, debe ser orientada a programas de desarrollo encaminados a la electrificación rural, a la construcción de viviendas, en fin, a programas encaminados a mejorar a las condiciones de la población rural de nuestros países.

La delegación de El Salvador saluda con mucho agrado el cambio en la orientación del subprograma encargado de los programas para la mujer, incorporando en el mismo la importante función económica que la mujer desempeña en el campo rural.

Felicitamos a la señora Finney por la forma eficiente en que desempeña sus funciones al frente de ese subprograma. Lo demuestran claramente las actividades que se detallan en el documento, en los numerales 7.17 en adelante.

Para concluir, la delegación de mi país desea manifestar su apoyo al proyecto de resolución sobre cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo que ha sido presentado por el Presidente del Grupo de los 77 y que está siendo analizado por el Comité de Resoluciones. Conocemos su contenido y podemos respaldarlo plenamente.

Abbas ADELI RANKOUHI (Islamic Republic of Iran): The delegate of the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Programme of Work and Budget for the next period of FA'O activities. We believe that the TCP programme is one of the useful means of helping those countries which need more technical assistance. Therefore the budget for this Programme should be increased in the next programme of FAO activities and we also support that programme.

R. RABE (Madagascar): Dans l'examen de ce point important de notre ordre du jour, la Délégation de Madagascar voudrait faire part de la position de son Gouvernement à l'endroit du programme de coopération technique. Dans sa déclaration en séance plénière, le Ministre de l'agriculture, chef de notre délégation, a d'une façon très claire fait part de l'appui ferme et indéfectible que notre gouvernement accorde au PCT. Ce soutien est justifié par l'excellence des résultats que ce programme a enregistrés dans tous les pays en voie de développement.

Le rapport d'évaluation ne fait que confirmer les performances plus que satisfaisantes obtenues par le PCT pendant les 10 années de son existence. Le PCT a répondu pleinement aux résultats que les Etats étaient en droit d'en attendre. Plus que jamais, notre gouvernement est convaincu que les textes régissant le PCT doivent être confirmés et consolidés dans leurs dispositions pertinentes. Sans le PCT, la FAO serait un organisme purement académique qui recommanderait des mesures mais se garderait bien de contribuer à la mise en oeuvre effective et sur terrain de ces recommandations. Nous nous opposons vigoureusement à certaines manoeuvres qui tendent à transformer la FAO en institution inefficace et pratiquement inutile.

Le PCT doit faire partie du programme ordinaire de l'Organisation et, pour pouvoir garder ses principales qualités, à savoir efficacité et souplesse, il gagnerait à ne pas être programmé. Il doit continuer à financer les opérations d'urgence mais également à aider les Etats dans la formulation et la mise en oeuvre des programmes entrant dans les catégories fixées par les textes en vigueur.

La volonté et le désir des Etats de promouvoir la CEPD et la CTPD devraient être encouragés par la création d'une catégorie afférente au sein du PCT. Aussi notre délégation apporte-t-elle chaleureusement son appui à la création de cette catégorie.

Compte tenu de la situation de crise qui prévaut dans la plupart des pays en voie de développement, et surtout dans le continent africain, le pourcentage réservé au PCT dans les programmes nous semble un minimum. Si à l'origine, ce pourcentage était de 11 pour cent, il est tout à fait logique et raisonnable qu'il soit porté à 13 pour cent dans le biennium 1986-87. A ce niveau, d'ailleurs, il ne répondrait pas encore à notre souhait car de nombreuses interventions de caractère prioritaire sont encore laissées pour compte. Dans le même ordre d'idées, notre délégation pense que le plafond de chaque projet gagnerait à être porté à 400 000 dollars.

En ce qui concerne le contrôle à entreprendre à l'endroit du PCT, nous pensons qu'un tel contrôle doit intéresser aussi bien le programme ordinaire que le programme de terrain et il ne nous paraît pas justifié d'instituer un système de contrôle plus serré particulier sur le PCT. Tous les contrôles doivent être sérieux, dignes de foi et de confiance pour les Etats Membres. En tout cas, le contrôle a priori du PCT nous semble absolument exclu car cela n'aurait qu'un effet négatif et nocif et annulerait à coup sûr la célérité et l'efficacité du programme. Les évaluations externes et indépendantes sont à encourager car elles permettent aux Etats d'assurer que les fonds sont utilisés dans le cadre des objectifs prescrits par les organes directeurs et permettent aussi de connaître les résultats obtenus.

Nous signalons que l'Organisation dispose de comités de programme et de comités financiers qui ont le droit et le devoir d'éclairer les Etats sur l'utilisation des fonds et sur les résultats obtenus. Pour notre part, nous avons pu constater que le Secrétariat a toujours fait l'impossible pour mettre à la disposition des membres de ces comités les informations qu'ils avaient demandées en leur temps, et ainsi ces comités ont pu reconnaître le bien-fondé du PCT et sa bonne gestion.

Naturellement, des améliorations peuvent être faites dans la communication rapide et exhaustive des informations par l'utilisation et la mise en oeuvre des systèmes informatiques de l'Organisation; et nous savons que le Secrétariat s'apprête à s'engager dans cette voie, ce que nous encourageons vivement.

Notre délégation a dû évoquer certains faits réels et vécus pour démontrer, s'il en était encore besoin, que le PCT est un outil performant et précieux, qu'il a toujours oeuvré dans le cadre des règlements qui le régissent et que, par conséquent, nous avons le devoir de le soutenir, pour peu que nous désirions vraiment que la crise alimentaire soit surmontée dans des délais convenables.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Avant tout, nous voudrions apporter l'appui total de notre délégation à la déclaration faite par l'ambassadeur du Mexique, au nom du groupe des 77, et à la récente déclaration du représentant de Madagascar.

Cela dit, nous remercions le Secrétariat pour la présentation claire et précise des documents. Il s'agit des documents qui contiennent une série d'informations sur les activités de la FAO. Nous savons très bien jusqu'à quel point le Directeur général attache une grande importance à l'évaluation et, justement, les documents relatifs à l'évaluation qui nous sont soumis ne se bornent pas à énumérer les réalisations de la FAO mais mettent également un accent sur les difficultés rencontrées. Il s'agit là d'une bonne initiative qui permet à l'Organisation de corriger les erreurs ou de rectifier le tir à l'avenir.

Nous apprécions le rôle joué par la FAO dans le domaine de la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement - le développement du secteur maraîcher, les pêches, la nutrition, l'aquaculture, le rôle de la femme dans le développement rural - et nous invitons l'Organisation à redoubler d'efforts dans les domaines que nous venons de citer. Notre délégation, par la voie de notre Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, a déjà indiqué l'appréciation de notre Gouvernement à l'égard du programme de coopération technique. L'absence de programmation, la souplesse et la rapidité d'intervention font de ce programme un outil irremplaçable au service de nos pays.

Mon pays, qui a bénéficié de plusieurs projets PCT, est bien placé pour indiquer à ceux qui doutent de l'efficacité du PCT, à ceux qui doutent même de sa nécessité, qu'il s'agit d'un programme efficace. Le rapport des consultants n'indique-t-il pas, à la page 3 du document CL 88/10: "Aussi bien les représentants des gouvernements que ceux des organismes estiment que le programme joue et doit continuer à jouer un rôle essentiel dans le système d'aide à l'agriculture et qu'il ne semble exister aucun autre dispositif équivalent."

C'est pourquoi notre délégation appuie sans réserve les propositions contenues dans le rapport des consultants, notamment le relèvement du plafond maximum des projets PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars et la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets dans le cadre de la coopération économique et technique entre pays en voie de développement.

Enfin, nous estimons que le PCT doit continuer à être financé par les mêmes types de fonds initiaux, c'est-à-dire de faire partie intégrante du programme ordinaire.

P. WIESMANN (Suisse): J'aimerais féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'élaboration de ce document" clairement sous-divisé en trois parties, ce qui facilite grandement la lecture et l'étude des problèmes. Mes remerciements vont aussi à M. Shah qui a si habilement introduit le sujet.

Pour des raisons de temps, il est malheureusement impossible de faire de commentaires sur un grand nombre de points qui nous semblent intéressants et prioritaires. J'aimerais, en conséquence, appuyer la proposition du délégué de la Nouvelle-Zélande, à savoir chercher une solution adéquate pour faire part des commentaires des différentes délégations au Secrétariat.

Quant au PCT, ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion de faire connaître ses commentaires dans le cadre du point 12 de l'ordre du jour. Avec votre permission, je me concentrerai sur trois points qui nous semblent être importants et prioritaires: il s'agit du programme forestier, du rôle des femmes dans le développement rural et de la campagne mondiale contre la faim (Action dans le développement).

Sur le premier point, nous constatons avec satisfaction que les objectifs à long terme de la FAO qui, d'une manière générale, visent à augmenter la production des forêts essentiellement pour le bien de la population rurale, sont conformes à la nouvelle stratégie forestière adoptée par la Conférence de

la FAO en 1981, stratégie qui cherche à résoudre les graves problèmes de l'érosion, du manque de bois de feu, etc.

Il est également réjouissant de constater que le programme des forêts au service du développement rural a avancé, du point de vue des finances attribuées, à la deuxième place, derrière le programme "Investissement et Institutions". L'évolution des dépenses extra-budgétaires est encore plus marquée: 20 pour cent des dépenses en 1984 sont accordées à ce programme comparé à 3 pour cent en 1980.

Les activités du programme ordinaire dans le secteur "Forêts communautaires" sont axées principalement sur des études socio-économiques, des études comparatives de l'expérience faite, des études qui évaluent la place que jouent les activités liées à la forêt dans les revenus et les emplois non agricoles et l'organisation de stages de formation sur la planification des projets à participation populaire, ce qui doit être jugé comme une approche adéquate et adaptée aux contraintes qui existent à l'heure actuelle dans ce domaine.

Sur le deuxième point, ma délégation est heureuse de l'attention croissante portée par la FAO à la situation de la femme. Elle aimerait la féliciter des nombreux et divers apports qu'elle fait en cette matière. Je ne citerai ici, pour les programmes propres de la FAO, que les contributions de la FAO aux travaux du groupe de travail WID (Women in development). Nous souhaiterions que la FAO continue à tenir compte d'une façon concrète et active des trois faits suivants d'importance comparable mais, pour le moment encore, inégalement reconnus:

Premièrement, le rôle joué par la femme dans la production agricole, dans le cadre de la famille ou comme ouvrière agricole. On sait que la modernisation de l'agriculture risque d'avoir un effet négatif sur la situation de la femme si cette modernisation n'est pas réorientée. La FAO s'en occupe à juste titre. J'aimerais néanmoins rappeler les conditions souvent très dures, voire franchement mauvaises, dans lesquelles la femme doit travailler ainsi que les salaires des ouvrières agricoles, qui sont souvent plus faibles encore que ceux des hommes. En collaboration avec le BIT, la FAO doit également prendre ces problèmes en compte. Doit aussi être pris en considération l'apport considérable des femmes dans la commercialisation des produits agricoles et dans leur conditionnement. Ces activités sont en général d'une très grande importance pour les femmes et pour leur famille, comme sources de revenus. Il serait souhaitable que la FAO se donne pour tâche d'aider les femmes à garder l'accès à ces revenus ou de rendre ces activités plus rentables.

Deuxièmement, il est bien connu maintenant que, dans un très grand nombre de sociétés, la responsabilité d'assurer l'alimentation de la famille revient largement, si ce n'est exclusivement, à la femme. D'où l'importance, pour elle et la famille, d'avoir accès à un revenu et, dans les régions rurales et semi-rurales, de pouvoir produire elle-même une partie des aliments nécessaires. Nous attachons de l'importance à ce que la FAO continue de suivre attentivement ces questions.

Troisièmement, un fait d'une portée particulière pour les possibilités de développement des pays et pourtant souvent négligé, est celui de la nutrition, notamment des groupes défavorisés. Il est reconnu maintenant que l'augmentation de la production et la meilleure productivité agricole ne suffisent pas pour assurer l'accès aux aliments, et je ne m'étendrai pas sur ce sujet. Ce qui est moins connu c'est que, malgré les progrès accomplis, la malnutrition des enfants reste également importante. En outre, la malnutrition de la femme - de la femme enceinte en particulier et de la mère qui allaite - est à la fois un phénomène très répandu. Une femme enceinte sur deux est anémique pour des raisons nutritionnelles. Très grave, sa santé est directement menacée ainsi que celle de ses enfants, comme le montrent des recherches scientifiques. Et pourtant, c'est un phénomène généralement ignoré par les planificateurs. L'OMS et l'Assemblée mondiale de la Santé ont attiré l'attention sur l'importance de la malnutrition des femmes et ont engagé les responsables à prendre des mesures. La FAO, elle aussi, est concernée. Elle a d'ailleurs un auxiliaire de qualité: le Sous-Comité sur la nutrition de l'OMS.

Et pour finir, sur le troisième point, je serai bref: la campagne mondiale contre la faim (Action pour le développement). Ce programme a pris son importance à la suite de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Ma délégation constate avec satisfaction la continuité de ce programme et l'élan avec lequel il est conduit en ayant pour objectif de mobiliser et de soutenir les ONG des pays en développement et des pays industrialisés. Nous sommes favorables à l'accent qui est porté sur le renforcement institutionnel et opérationnel, dans les pays en développement, des ONG et des groupements qui bénéficient de leur action. La collaboration des ONG entre elles à l'intérieur des pays d'un continent en développement est certainement un objectif

qu'il faut continuer d'appuyer. Comme le mentionne le document de référence, au paragraphe 4.26, le Gouvernement suisse apporte une contribution financière à l'ensemble du programme CMCF/AD en Amérique latine pour la période 1985-87.

Ms. K. KILLINGSWORTH (Secretaria de la Comisión II): Esta tarde, por primera vez, inmediatamente después de esta sesión de la Comisión, se reunirá el Comité de Redacción bajo la presidencia del señor Hartford T. Jennings. Los miembros del Comité son: Argelia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brasil, Canadá, Francia, República Islámica de Irán, Kenya, Líbano, México, Países Bajos, Filipinas y Estados Unidos de América.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de la Comisión deseo suerte y doy nuestro agradecimiento anticipado a nuestro colega y amigo el señor Jennings, de los Estados Unidos, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, así como a los miembros de esa importante Comisión.

The meeting rose at 18.15 hours.

La séance est levée à 18 h 15.

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.15 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/II/PV/7

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN

(18 November 1985)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours.

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 10 h.

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 10 horas.

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

EL PRESIDENTE: El Comité de Redacción trabajó intensamente 18 horas durante el fin de semana, la noche del viernes, todo el día del sábado y la mañana del domingo, y aún deberá reunirse esta noche para continuar algunos asuntos pendientes del tema 12.

El Comité de Redacción ha logrado adoptar 72 párrafos que se van a distribuir todos esta tarde en todos los idiomas. Quedan pendientes cuatro párrafos sobre este tema 12, de los cuales se ocupará esta noche el Comité de Redacción. He entrado en contacto con distinguidos colegas y amigos como el señor Jennings de los Estados Unidos, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que ha cumplido una excelente tarea y otros colegas miembros de ese Comité, rogándoles, y les insisto en ello, que utilicen el día de hoy para que adelanten con contactos acerca de la redacción de esos cuatro párrafos pendientes y se facilite la tarea de esta noche para el Comité de Redacción y se nos permita cumplir adecuadamente nuestro plan de trabajo, que como recordarán, prevé para mañana por la mañana, aquí en esta Comisión, la discusión de la parte de nuestro Informe sobre el tema 12.

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite) .
PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN (continuación)

- 13. Review of the Regular Programme (continued)
- 13. Examen du programme ordinaire (suite)
- 13. Examen del Programa Ordinario (continuación)

M. E. ABDOUL (République centrafricaine): Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom du Président de la République centrafricaine, au nom du gouvernement et du peuple centrafricain, présenter toutes nos condoléances au peuple colombien attristé.

Il convient de porter à votre connaissance que la République centrafricaine, pays enclavé, est à vocation essentiellement agricole: 80 pour cent de sa population vit en zone rurale. C'est pour vous dire que l'agriculture constitue la priorité des priorités. C'est à ce titre que nous voulons souligner que l'examen du Programme ordinaire rencontre pleinement nos préoccupations en matière d'activités intéressant les petits producteurs, les ruraux pauvres et les femmes rurales.

Nous nous félicitons, par ailleurs, que le Conseil ait mis l'accent sur le rôle catalytique que doit jouer la FAO dans les domaines de la santé animale, de la promotion des petits éleveurs et de la formulation de mesures tendant à renforcer la sécurité en matière d'alimentation des animaux. La solution d'une méthode d'approche du développement rural intégrée serait très souhaitable. La politique de création de piscicultures visant à diversifier les sources de protéines animales nécessaires à une alimentation équilibrée s'avère raisonnable pour combattre la malnutrition, et nous l'appuyons.

Ma délégation est satisfaite de constater que l'examen de ce programme a retracé certaines recommandations de la Conférence de Mexico sur le bois. Elle a réservé une grande attention au rôle que doit jouer la femme dans le processus de développement.

La dixième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, la réunion préparatoire de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et la Conférence elle-même ont largement souligné l'importance de la participation de la femme au processus de développement. Ma délégation estime que cette nouvelle décennie doit se pencher sérieusement sur ce problème car les femmes participent à plus de 55 pour cent à l'agriculture de mon pays.

En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, permettez-moi de dire très haut que ma délégation le soutient et l'appuie. Elle appuie également la déclaration du représentant du groupe des 77 qui est intervenu à la Commission.

Des élogieuses déclarations des éminents chefs d'Etat qui ont honoré cette Conférence, il convient de souligner, comme l'a déclaré le Président de la République française, que c'est de l'homme que

nous parlons, de la libération de l'homme de la faim et de la malnutrition. Par conséquent, tous nos efforts en vue d'une augmentation du PCT (Programme de Coopération technique) reçoivent le plein appui de la délégation centrafricaine.

DATO'ABU BAKAR MAHMUD (Malaysia): Mr.Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: It is with deep feelings of remorse that my delegation would like to express our profound sympathy and condolences through you, Sir, to the Government and people of Colombia for the deep suffering that afflicted your people as a result of the volcanic eruptions.

Let me take this opportunity once again to compliment Mr Shah for having given a brilliant introduction of the Review on behalf of the Secretariat.

The Review of the Regular Programme for 1984-85, as contained in document C 85/8, exhibits a vast improvement in terms of both format and content, with greater coverage of tables and discussion of programme results.

One special feature of the Review is that it gives particular attention to programmes serving the small farmers. Indeed the document provides a comprehensive source of information and analysis of activities and accomplishments of the Regular Programme of FAO and their links with the field programmes, both of which constitute major technical programmes of FAO.

My delegation does not wish to belabour the substantive details of the Regular Programme or even the TCP. More importantly, my delegation would like to express its satisfaction with the FAO Regular Programme activities covering agriculture, fisheries, forestry, technical cooperation and development support, livestock production, inland fisheries,-aquaculture and research activities.

On TCP my delegation reiterates its support that the Programme should continue to form part of the Regular budget of the FAO as it provides the Organization with a rapid response system in meeting emergencies and short-term technical assistance needs of developing countries which otherwise could not be met by other financial resources or programmes or through prevailing democratic procedures.

My delegation feels that the TCP should maintain its basic characteristics with little need for additional criteria or additional forms of control for its application and operation. I am sure that the Director-General and his highly capable Secretariat will exercise high judgement and discretion in the programme of the TCP for the needs of developing member countries.

On the need to establish a new category (c) for TCP projects, my delegation has no objection as long as it serves to accelerate and catalyze inter-country cooperation, such as promoting technical cooperation among developing countries or TCDC.

In regard to the proposal to increase the limit of TCP from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000 my delegation wishes to register its support, which we did also in the Council recently. Our support is based on the fact that the inflation rate has gone up since the inception of TCP eight years ago. For example, we have to take into account the increasing costs of consultancies prevailing now as compared with eight years ago.

Finally, on the Review as a whole, my delegation wishes to concur fully with the conclusion of the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council as stated in paragraph 88 as: "one providing a reasoned assessment of activities implemented and an indication of the lessons, both positive and negative, to be applied for future programmes".

ZHANG ZHENPING (China): The Secretariat has provided us with a very comprehensive document and the previous speakers have expressed their views from different angles. These will certainly facilitate our full understanding of the activities under the Regular Programme of FAO and consideration of ways to further improve it. Now I wish to make a few remarks in three aspects:

First. We have noted that progress has been made in the activities under the Regular Programme of the current biennium, which is reflected mainly in the following three fields: one is the agrarian reform and the rural development; another is the dissemination of agricultural knowledge and the economic and technical cooperation among developing countries; the other is the activities at the national level. As the Regular Programme of the Organization covers a wide range of activities, we believe that strengthening activities in the above-mentioned areas is in line with the character of the Regular Programme and serves as a medium for broad objectives. Therefore, it is

appropriate to direct efforts for the development of these three fields.

Second. The first chapter of the document: Agriculture, that is Major Programme 2.1, accounts for 78 percent of the regular budget and is responsible for the management of the annual field delivery of approximately US\$240 million. This constitutes the core of the Regular Programme. As paragraph 1.138 of the document points out, "The most important issues which continued to confront the Major Programme were the mobilization of assistance and the need to ensure maximum effective use of FAO's limited resources". We think that this has hit the nail on the head. And it is just for the attainment of these two purposes that the Secretariat made its efforts. This can be testified by the fact that even with the reduction of UNDP resources FAO's Trust Fund is steadily going up. Regarding the need to ensure maximum economic benefit, nobody can deny the fact that since the last session of the Conference, the Organization, with a budget of a close-to-zero growth, has conducted a greater number of economic and technical projects with more tangible effects than during the previous biennium. This shows that FAO programme management has improved and raised its working efficiency. For this, we wish to commend FAO and hope that it will continue its efforts in this direction in formulating and implementing its future programme.

Third. Regarding the reviewing period, we think that the most desirable approach is to confirm the biannual programme with the budget cycle. For instance, we are reviewing the activities in the 1984-85 biennium, while in the document a number of references are made to those carried out in 1983-84. Besides, it only contains a general summary of what has happened since 1980 without reviewing the activities in the biennial order. Though we know that the activities have their continuity and sometimes go beyond one biennium, it is therefore undesirable to separate them artificially or dogmatically since we still believe that there is room for improvement. In this way it will be convenient for the Member Nations to compare and analyze the activities under the Regular Programme. Nevertheless, we still consider that this is a valuable document with substantial information. We appreciate the work done by the Secretariat in this regard.

Finally, as for the Technical Cooperation Programme, the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council has considered it in depth. I reiterate our support for raising the limit of US\$250 000 for a TCP project to US\$400 000. At the same time we are in favour of adding a new category under TCP.

S. SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais une fois de plus remercier M. Shah pour l'excellente présentation de ce document de travail dont nous sommes saisis.

La délégation libanaise a déjà appuyé globalement et totalement le Programme ordinaire au cours de la dernière session du Conseil. Il n'est donc pas nécessaire de répéter ce que nous avons dit alors.

En ce qui concerne la position de certains pays qui s'opposent à quelques-uns des points figurant dans le Programme de coopération technique, je me dois de faire quelques observations. L'opposition qui se manifeste ne tient pas au coeur du problème, et nous aimerions remercier le délégué du Canada qui n'a pas proposé d'annuler ce programme, peut-être parce qu'il a compris qu'il était tout à fait inutile de faire une proposition de ce genre. L'opposition a donc trait à la source de financement, et au passage du plafond de 250 000 dollars à 400 000 dollars.

Pour ce qui est des sources de financement, la délégation libanaise voudrait insister sur le financement du Programme de coopération technique par le biais du Programme ordinaire, afin de garantir la continuité de ce Programme ainsi que son indépendance. Ceci est extrêmement important, étant donné que ce Programme est un Programme d'urgence qui n'est pas planifié à l'avance.

Bien entendu, nous appuyons toute source de financement extérieure qui pourrait se présenter. Cependant, nous devons être sûrs que nous sommes en mesure de satisfaire les multiples demandes qui nous arrivent quel que soit le financement disponible, fût-il extérieur ou non.

Voilà pourquoi nous appuyons le Programme de coopération au sein du Programme de travail et budget et dont la part s'élève à 13,7 pour cent.

Quand au relèvement du plafond de financement de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars, il nous semble que cette demande est formulée pour faire face à des conditions et à des circonstances exceptionnelles, permettant de donner davantage de souplesse à l'Organisation. Il n'y a donc rien à craindre parce que l'Organisation et son Directeur général ont prouvé qu'ils sont capables de gérer ces fonds de manière adéquate. L'évaluation de la "Mission Indépendance" l'a bien prouvé et les bénéficiaires qui sont nombreux l'ont prouvé également. Par conséquent, nous appuyons l'augmentation du plafond du Programme de coopération technique.

Enfin, nous voudrions qu'une grande partie des crédits du Programme de coopération technique soit affectée à la promotion de la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement.

Nous appuyons également le projet de création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets en mesure de renforcer la coopération économique et technique entre les pays en développement.

Mme M. de LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert voudrait -tout d'abord féliciter M. Shah pour la présentation du Programme ordinaire 1984-85 ainsi que le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document.

Nous nous réjouissons de pouvoir examiner ce document car il constitue une bonne source d'information et d'analyse concernant les activités et les réalisations du Programme ordinaire. En particulier, le Programme ordinaire a mis l'accent sur les activités intéressant les ruraux pauvres, les petits producteurs et les femmes rurales.

Nous souscrivons à la déclaration du Président du Groupe des 77 et aussi à la déclaration de la délégation malgache.

Ma délégation, appuyant les orateurs de Panama et de la Suède, souligne elle aussi l'importance de la formation des femmes rurales pour qu'elles puissent participer au processus de décision.

La coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement mérite tout notre appui.

De même, comme nous l'avons déjà exprimé dans d'autres instances, nous réaffirmons notre ferme appui au Programme de coopération technique qui, depuis sa création, apporte une importante contribution au développement alimentaire et agricole des pays en développement.

Pour terminer, ma délégation fait sienne la proposition autrichienne qui fait confiance au Directeur général. Nous recommandons d'appuyer les propositions faites par notre Directeur général et leur concrétisation et nous appuyons donc l'augmentation du plafond des projets du PCT à 400 000 dollars, ainsi que la mesure visant la nouvelle catégorie de projets destinés à catalyser

la CTPD.

W. DENNEY (United States of America): The document before us and its introduction by Mr Shah provides a useful basis for reviewing the effectiveness and efficiency of Regular Programme activities. In our view the document maintains the standard of quality achieved in the last review and contains an impressive amount of information on FAO's wide range of activities. Let me briefly mention a few of those which the United States believes are particularly important. These include the Global Information and Early Warning System, involvement in Africa, soil conservation and irrigation activities, Codex Alimentarius work on crop potentials, numerous training activities, focus on small farmer requirements, emphasis on women's role in producing food, agricultural price policies, forestry programmes and recent improvements in data collection and processing. Despite

our overall praise of FAO's programmes, we believe there is too much emphasis in the document on initial allocation and commitment of resources and too little on actual expenditure levels. We also agree with what Canada and others have stated regarding the necessity of including more information on the effects various programmes have on recipients' needs and how this information is used to develop new and/or adjust existing FAO programmes.

The document in Part Two provides a good picture of the projects and problems in only selected activities, as well as a general flavour of the range and depth of FAO's efforts. We believe nonetheless that the number of programmes and sub-programmes covered should be larger than it is in the review. The United States delegation encourages the recent emphasis FAO has made in the evaluation area and would like to see even more analyses or summaries of evaluations in subsequent reviews.

I would like to turn now to what we consider the most important part of the Regular Programme in that it has a direct impact on recipients. I of course refer to the Technical Cooperation Programme. TCP has received considerable attention during the past few days and I would like to describe some of my Government's views on TCP. First, there can be no doubt as to that Programme's value for meeting short-term requirements of beneficiary countries. In this context we think that the TCP focus should remain short-term and in response to urgent needs that cannot be met from already existing and efficient sources of technical assistance, such as UNDP. Additionally we believe that all technical assistance in the UN System should be funded voluntarily rather than from assessed funds and that the appropriate source for such funding is the United Nations Development Programme. UNDP, as we all know, was created as the UN central funding source for technical assistance. The United States, however, recognizes TCP as a fact of life and as a generally sound programme, but believes that it has grown beyond the ability of the Organization to use its funds effectively. Difficulties experienced by FAO in using monies already allocated to TCP illustrate the problems. For it to grow further may well result in a distortion of FAO's other important Regular Programmes. In this context we would like to request that Mr Shah provide the Commission with a detailed explanation of FAO's management structure in this Headquarters used to administer and support TCP in the design, review and implementation phases of projects. We also would like to know what criteria projects need to fulfil in order to secure funding of proposals. Is there, for example, a need for proposals to explain how projects fit in the context of overall agricultural and food policy or production objectives? Other factors also concern us. Why, for instance, is training being funded from TCP funds? Such use runs counter to the expected short-term emergency nature of the Programme and it is therefore unjustified in our view. We support FAO's role in training and believe that training is critically important. TCP, however, was not created for this purpose. These are some observations on this document we wanted to share with you and with the Commission. Again, we recognize the significant progress this document represents and wish to support the Secretariat's efforts in this regard.

J.M. TRAVERS (France): La délégation française souhaiterait féliciter M. Shah pour sa présentation du sujet et remercier aussi le Secrétariat pour la richesse du document C 85/8. Ce document nous fournit de nombreuses données actuelles sur les activités de l'Organisation. Nous notons en particulier le grand nombre de renseignements statistiques présentés.

Comme ma délégation l'avait déjà indiqué lors de réunions précédentes, elle est persuadée que l'effort d'analyse que traduit ce document, en particulier dans sa deuxième partie, sera encore approfondi dans l'avenir de manière à nous mettre encore mieux en mesure d'évaluer sur le plan qualitatif l'état d'avancement des différents programmes en fonction des principales priorités de l'Organisation.

Comme elle l'avait déjà fait, la délégation française souhaiterait manifester à nouveau sa satisfaction de voir l'Organisation montrer sa volonté de concentrer ses activités sur quelques domaines clés. Les orientations retenues, qu'il s'agisse du choix de thèmes sectoriels comme les politiques de prix ou l'étude du potentiel des terres agricoles, ou qu'il s'agisse encore de priorités géographiques - et je pense ici à la priorité en faveur du continent africain - nous paraissent tout à fait justifiées. Nous nous réjouissons que l'Organisation mette désormais l'accent sur l'emploi de techniques nécessitant de faibles apports de capitaux, de devises, comme la petite irrigation, la traction animale et les engrais organiques.

Nous nous félicitons du soutien qu'elle apporte au développement des productions qui sont le fait des paysans pauvres comme les cultures légumières et les autres cultures improprement appelées secondaires.

Nous appuyons ses efforts visant à favoriser les économies d'énergie et en particulier les actions qu'elle a entreprises dans le domaine du bois de feu.

En ce qui concerne le programme de coopération technique, la délégation française tient tout d'abord à remercier le Directeur général d'avoir pris l'initiative de faire évaluer les activités de ce programme. Une telle évaluation, après huit années d'activité, traduit une volonté de rigueur et de transparence que nous appuyons vivement et nous espérons qu'elle pourra être répétée à intervalle régulier.

En relation avec le Comité du programme de notre Organisation, cette évaluation permettra de déterminer les moyens d'améliorer encore le fonctionnement et l'efficacité du programme.

Ma délégation est consciente de la primauté qui doit être conservée en ce qui concerne le financement des opérations de terrain par les ressources extra-budgétaires. Elle n'en considère pas moins que le programme de coopération technique, seul programme permettant à l'OAA de répondre rapidement et de manière souple à des besoins non prévisibles des pays membres, a une utilité qui ne peut pas être contestée; non seulement son existence, mais aussi ses caractéristiques essentielles doivent être à nos yeux soigneusement préservées.

La proposition de relever le plafond des projets de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars, compte tenu de l'inflation accumulée pendant les 9 années d'existence du programme, ne nous paraît pas déraisonnable et ne suscite pas d'objection de notre part.

Nous avons noté avec satisfaction que la part de l'Afrique dans le montant du projet du PCT s'élève à 40 pour cent et nous espérons que cette priorité sera maintenue dans les années à venir. Nous approuvons la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets destinés à catalyser la coopération entre pays en développement et tout spécialement les réseaux coopératifs de recherche qui constituent un moyen efficace et peu coûteux de renforcer les capacités de ces pays dans ces domaines.

Parmi les mesures déjà prises ou prévues par le Directeur général, je tiens à relever particulièrement celles qui donnent instruction aux représentants dans les pays de mettre au courant des projets les représentants des autres organismes d'aide et des pays donateurs, ainsi que d'établir tous les six mois un catalogue de tous les projets en cours ou achevés.

Une telle mesure nous paraît essentielle pour renforcer de manière concrète et non pas théorique la concertation entre les organismes de financement de l'aide et éviter les risques de double emploi.

Je voudrais enfin en conclusion de cette intervention dire quelques mots à propos des bureaux régionaux. Depuis 10 ans, dans les activités de ces bureaux, la priorité aux actions de caractère technique et économique s'est nettement accentuée. C'est une évolution dont nous nous réjouissons. En revanche, des progrès nous paraissent encore souhaitables sur deux points: d'abord la répartition des responsabilités entre le siège et les bureaux régionaux devrait être définie sur des bases plus claires, notamment en ce qui concerne les projets régionaux. Par ailleurs, nous constatons que dans les domaines pour lesquels les bureaux régionaux réalisent une part importante des activités de l'Organisation, la formation par exemple, des disparités existent entre les différentes régions et plus spécialement au détriment de l'Afrique. Nous ne méconnaissons pas les contraintes auxquelles on doit faire face et notamment auxquelles doit faire face le bureau régional pour l'Afrique. Nous pensons cependant que compte tenu des besoins qu'il doit satisfaire et de l'importance des moyens qui lui sont alloués, ce bureau devrait pouvoir renforcer son efficacité.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): The views of the Bangladesh delegation on the Regular Programme have been stated at the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Council sessions as well as during debate on agenda item 12, Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1986-87. On the Review of the 1984-1985 Regular Programme, therefore, we shall concentrate on a few points of prime interest for us.

I feel it necessary to make a general comment, though its theme is not new, before I focus my intervention on specific points. As its members, what we primarily look for in FAO is its recognition of the member countries' needs and its ability to respond to those; we also look for initiative, imagination, realism and dynamism. My delegation finds these qualities reflected in the fourth Review of the Regular Programme. This Review, without doubt, is an improvement over its predecessors: it clearly states objectives, directions and the main contents of each major and sub-programme.

Further, the fact that there is no hint of complacency satisfies us, and that in the Director-General's foreword the need and scope for constant improvement is prominently recognized, reassures us that our trust is rightly placed. Of course, with wide variation in exigencies of nations, and consequently in perceptions, understandably this Review, as any other, is unlikely to meet the equal approval by all. What, however, must be recognized is the expression of satisfaction with it by the majority and the undoubted improvement acknowledged by all. Almost nothing is perfect, nor will it ever be so.

My few but comprehensive points are based on our own experience and that of other developing countries to which we have had the opportunity to be exposed. My first point relates to TCP projects. Within their approval criteria, these have, in our context, served an array of objectives: some assisted crop rehabilitation in the wake of natural disasters; some have led to investment projects; and some have given us signals of structural adjustments. The benefits derived from them in the manner that we have, were unquestionably possible because of the quick-response and unprogrammed features of the TCP. Approval of these projects is not only short at the FAO level, but also at the national level. Very recently, my Government approved a TCP project in five days. In our experience, TCP projects have catalyzed investments and bridged other on-going projects.

These arguments and experiences, seen with the decline and uncertainty of Trust Fund availability, are persuasive reasons to endorse the proposal to raise project ceiling from US\$ 250 000 to 400 000. Anyone dealing with statistics should be aware of the pitfalls of placing blind faith on averages. However, going by the 'average' arguments clearly, the US \$ 70 000 average cost is an indication of the judiciousness that is applied when approving TCP projects, and does not, in our view, argue against raising the ceiling to the proposed level.

We wholeheartedly support the proposal for establishment of category (c) for projects to boost ECDC/TCDC activities. This will be an invaluable mechanism in assisting the developing countries to install their much needed appropriate technology base, which is a crucial necessity in placing them on a self-sustaining development path.

A final point on this subject: expenditure of all allocations must be monitored as a matter of budgetary discipline. In this connection, we take this opportunity to commend the Director-General for having requested an external audit of the TCP.

My second point relates to Fisheries, i.e. Major Programme 2.2. While the socio-economic development and general direction of the programme meets our approval, we would wish to see sharper emphasis laid on inland fisheries and aquaculture. In many developing countries, including mine, inland fisheries constitute an integral part of a farming systems approach, especially situations where strong consumer preferences for sweet water fish exist. This is doubly important when inland fisheries and spawning grounds are severely threatened by the spread of high technology, of which chemical fertilizers and pesticides are an integral part. In this context we recognize with appreciation FAO assistance in the recent preparation of a two-year fisheries management plan for our country where, as in many other countries, inland fisheries development confronts formidable social obstacles.

Although, in our view, greater attention is called for in this respect, we express satisfaction that FAO underscores the need for multi-disciplinary planning, as reflected in paragraph 8.28 of document C 85/8, wherein we believe lies the solution of the problem.

Thirdly, while we endorse the Forestry Programme approach, under Major Programme 2.3 and Fuelwood, Sub-programme 2.3.4.3, we wish to point out that in very densely populated countries, such as mine, it will be increasingly difficult to protect and conserve natural and custodial forests. Consequently, supply of forestry products as sources of industrial raw material, and timber for energy

will rapidly decline. While efforts must continue to protect and conserve natural forests from indiscriminate deforestation, depredation and degradation, social, farm and homestead forestry must be rapidly promoted as a fall-back and as an alternative. This will not only help augment supplies of timber and fuelwood but also will generate rural income, directly or indirectly. Arduous research is required in this field to constantly refine strategies for implementation of projects in the relatively uncharted area of social or community forestry.

Fourthly, in livestock development, joining our voice with previous speakers, we underscore the need to promote breeding and production of water-buffaloes. Their value is great as a source of strong draught-power, especially in farm-power short countries. With high forage efficiency, their value is even greater in countries where paucity of land puts food and fodder production in ruthless competition.

I should be failing in my duty if I do not mention our appreciation for the FAOR Scheme, its effectiveness and efficacy. FAOR has worked indeed extremely well in assisting countries to help implement projects and in coordinating efforts between other donors. We are unhappy that this Scheme has been frozen to a fixed budgetary limit.

Finally, in summary, we fully endorse and value the Review. We would have liked to react to it in greater detail had time permitted us. However, we wish to make a small suggestion for presentational improvement.

In our view the sub-programmes should have followed the relevant major programmes to heighten the logical sequence. I confess I do not know the rationale for the current presentational format, perhaps the Secretariat will tell me if I have failed to see the logic behind this.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): May I begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to Mr Shah for his presentation which was both lucid and comprehensive. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the document C 85/8, Review of the Regular Programme 1984-1985. To save time, my delegation would like to make a very short comment as follows.

First, as a member of the FAO Council, my delegation would like to reiterate our support for the decision made at the Eighty-eighth session of the Council, and give our full support for the Technical Cooperation Programmes as shown in paragraphs 91, 92 and 93 of document C 85/LIM/17.

Secondly, from our experience as a recipient country of these three sources of funds, namely the Trust Fund, the UNDP and the TCP, my delegation is of the view that there is no duplication among these three sources. In fact, they are complementary.

Thirdly, although we have the Trust Fund and the UNDP fund, my delegation would like to stress that there is still a need for developing countries to receive technical assistance from FAO. We believe that the proper use of these sources of funds reflects a quick and timely response to our needs. In this connection, my delegation would like to urge this Commission, to consider keeping the TCP in the Regular Programme, as has already been successfully done during the last decade.

Last but not least, my delegation would like to point out that for our part we see no harm or no reason why the TCP should not be included in our Regular Programme since in reality it could be considered as a single source of funds where developing countries can be proud because they also can contribute something to help themselves. So why do some of the "advanced countries" wish to take this TCP from us? This is even though my delegation strongly believes that to some extent TCP would also benefit them indirectly.

We would also like to reiterate that the FAO Regional Office should pay more attention to the FAO Regional Regular Programme than in the past. More effective cooperation between the Head Office and the Regional Office should be recognized.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like to express my deep gratitude and thanks for the efforts undertaken in preparing this document and for the continued efforts in the field of the review and evaluation of the Regular Programme by FAO. This provides us with a clear indication of the negative and positive aspects of the programmes and their impact on development. I would like to join others who have expressed their views as to the difficulty of undertaking an assessment. This fourth review is a source of satisfaction and gratitude for the notable improvement in this document as compared with previous years. My country believes that the Regular Programme is the basis on which the Organization bases the ways and means to fulfil its role in servicing countries since the Regular Programme helps the Organization to determine the minimum input re-quired for development programmes. My country's delegation, after having examined this document, wishes to express its full satisfaction for the achievements of the agriculture programme and its sub-programmes, the more so as it has concentrated on serving the small farmer, by providing him with the appropriate technology, by linking research and extension, by expanding the activities of the genetic resources programmes, by increasing the distribution of seeds, and by protecting plants from diseases and pests.

We also appreciate the efforts undertaken to raise the standards of women in the rural areas, as we are all agreed regarding the vital role women undertake in social life and in increasing agricultural production.

We wish to express our satisfaction for the notable improvements achieved by the livestock improvement programme, and more specifically in combatting rinderpest and foot and mouth diseases. The reviews dealing with the research and economic cooperation between developing countries has highlighted the constructive role played by FAO in research capabilities. This has greatly improved development and productivity in this field.

My country wishes further to stress the importance of exchanging experience and knowhow between developing countries for their mutual benefit. Therefore, we here wish to endorse the efforts of FAO in the fields of technical and economic cooperation. We also fully support the statements indicating the importance of technical cooperation programmes, due to their flexibility and the speed with which they respond to the emergency., needs of countries. The aid extended within this Programme to Egypt had a positive impact on overcoming several problems impeding development in my country. We wish to stress two major points in this field. First, we support the share of the Technical Cooperation Programmes in the budget, namely 13.7 percent. Secondly, we support calls to increase the maximum funds of the Technical Cooperation Programmes to US\$400,000. We agree with what was said before regarding the need to establish a new category within the framework of these programmes to support economic and technical cooperation between developing countries.

Finally, I would reiterate what I said earlier, namely that benefit from the activities of the Organization depends, to a great extent, on the support and follow-up by beneficiary countries.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon) : M. le Président, la Délégation gabonaise, comme tant d'autres, voudrait féliciter M. Shah de la présentation du document. En effet, nous avons constaté avec satisfaction que le Secrétariat a apporté une grande amélioration tant au fond qu'à la forme de ce document Effectivement, les objectifs globaux ont été arrêtés, les secteurs vers lesquels l'action doit être orientée ont été sélectionnés avec soin, les priorités reconnues et les cibles mieux définies. C'est pourquoi, comme nous l'avons dit, nous avons pensé qu'il était effectivement de notre devoir d'en féliciter le Secrétariat.

Mon pays se félicite également de l'attention particulière accordée à la femme rurale, notamment dans la production et la commercialisation des produits vivriers, rôle qui a été rappelé avec éloquence par la délégation de la Suède il y a quelques jours.

Le Gabon, tout comme le Congo, souhaite le renforcement des moyens accordés aux bureaux régionaux, notamment à la dynamisation et au renforcement du Bureau régional pour l'Afrique qui, à notre avis, a été certainement le moins actif par rapport à d'autres - il faut le dire.

Mon pays est persuadé qu'une coopération économique et technique accrue entre pays en développement peut constituer un accélérateur du développement de ces pays. Nous sommes aussi convaincus que le PCT a un rôle de catalyseur ; et pour ce faire, il doit être beaucoup plus utile dans le renforcement de la coopération sud-sud.

Nous sommes préoccupés de la diminution des allocations du PNUD et nous pensons que cette diminution des allocations du PNUD n'a pas pour cause essentielle le manque de définition des priorités dans les programmes des pays en voie de développement. Nous connaissons des cas où l'enveloppe des programmes acceptés par le PNUD a subi des abattements considérables allant jusqu'à 30 pour cent en cours d'exécution. Du reste, la préparation en cours d'un chiffre indicatif de programmation par pays laisse peu d'espoir d'annuler la proposition du Directeur général d'augmenter le plafond des projets jets du PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars.

En raison de ce qui précède, le Gouvernement gabonais approuve toutes les propositions du Secrétariat de la FAO contenues dans le document à l'examen.

N.P. MAGANDE (Zambia): My delegation extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the Colombian people, through you, Mr Chairman, on the tragedy which has befallen your country.

Going through the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85, I found the data and details presented most useful. Although most of this information might have already been available to member countries, the Director-General must be congratulated on the format of the presentation. I also wish to extend these congratulations to Mr Shah for explaining some of the points raised in the Review.

The Review presents us with the status of achievement of various programmes and then presents the future outlook and issues still to be tackled. On agriculture, the Review reminds us that planning, awareness, efficiency and the technologies all still need to be improved. On supporting services, there is still the need to maintain high recruitment standards and the continuation of training programmes for the field staff.

On women, the Review identifies the need for policies which would reflect the important role of women in agricultural production and rural development. On fuelwood, the major focus should be on training and extension, and indeed the list of issues is long and my delegation fully supports the priorities and emphasis identified by the Director-General.

It is this Commission which will determine the capacity of the Secretariat to tackle these issues. This Commission has to make decisions on the financial proposals.

Having listened to the discussions last week and this morning, it would seem that many of us do agree with the priorities and the problems identified by the Director-General and his Secretariat. It therefore surprises me that at the same time there is such lack of faith in the same Secretariat as to propose even management structure changes. Indeed, the debate on the Technical Cooperation Programme sometimes attains such a level of inconsistency as to imply that the Secretariat and we, the beneficiaries of the TCP, are misusing the funds under the Programme. We are aware of our poverty and I wish we were accredited with the ability to solve them. The attitude of appearing to know other people's problems better has in the past led to mis-application of so-called development assistance. Indeed, it is a testimony that it has taken Mr Amin, an African, to present the Ethiopian famine and indeed the African famine tragedy to the world for the world to understand.

The Director-General has to be congratulated for having instituted an independent evaluation of the TCP. It is Member Nations who identify their major problems and request the Director-General for urgent assistance. Many recipients have indicated the effectiveness of this Programme. Zambia can testify to having benefited from the TCP by, for example, procuring empty grain bags at short notice. So why should someone question this self-admission of satisfaction? Where does inefficient administration come in? Which economist and indeed accountant would put Zambia's benefit in figures? To us the effectiveness of the Programme was in providing the number of empty grain bags which we needed and when we needed them.

FAO has a catalytic role. With the divergency of interests of Member Nations and the diverse nature of problems it would be meaningless if not futile to try to evolve a hardline system for the effectiveness of FAO's activities. The testimony of those affected should be the acid test. My delegation fully supports all the proposals on the future operations of the TCP.

We must make decisions which will continue to reflect the dynamism of the FAO whose impact is felt at the field level.

S. JELLOULI (Tunisie) : Je voudrais adresser mes compliments à M. Shah pour son excellent exposé de présentation du point 13 de notre ordre du jour. En ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, il serait superflu d'énoncer et de répéter ce qui a déjà été dit concernant son importance et son utilité. D'ailleurs l'évaluation des projets qui en ont bénéficié a mis en relief l'impact positif du Programme de coopération technique sur le développement et le rôle catalyseur qu'il peut jouer dans la coopération technique entre pays pour la promotion des investissements agricoles des gouvernements et des organismes de financement.

De par sa conception et son fonctionnement, le Programme de coopération technique fait partie intégrante du Programme de travail et budget de la FAO tel que mentionné au paragraphe 10 du chapitre 4 du document C 85/3, document que ma Délégation a approuvé dans sa forme complète lors de l'examen du point 12 de l'ordre du jour de la présente Commission.

L'efficacité des programmes de la FAO en matière de développement agricole mérite d'être soulignée et les résultats obtenus en Indonésie constituent un exemple. Son Excellence M. Soeharto a lui-même affirmé que l'Indonésie qui, jadis, importait du riz, a atteint actuellement son auto-suffisance pour nourrir plus de 165 millions d'habitants et serait capable d'exporter un surplus.

Ces succès enregistrés par les programmes entrepris par la FAO méritent d'être pleinement encouragés. Aussi la Délégation tunisienne tient-elle à réaffirmer son soutien au Programme de coopération technique. Nous approuvons dans ce sens les déclarations du Directeur général telles qu'elles figurent aux paragraphes 93 et 94 du document CL 88/8.

Ma Délégation appuie également la déclaration faite par le Délégué du Mexique en sa qualité de Président du groupe des 77, en ce qui concerne le Programme de coopération technique, la coopération économique entre pays en développement et la coopération technique entre pays en développement.

Mrs M. PIOTROWSKA (Poland): My delegation is impressed by the wide variety of activities carried out by FAO as described in document C 85/8. It is difficult to comment on individual items and we are therefore glad to see the very comprehensive and precise special chapters dealing in depth with Reviews of FAO's activities in livestock and plant production, the one on the role of women, and the chapters on research activities and FAO's support of TCDC and ECDC.

The Polish delegation is a supporter of the concept of the TCP programme and believes it is fulfilling a very important function in assisting Member States. Nevertheless my delegation has observed in many of the statements made in this Commission the express concern of the growth of the TCP as part of the Regular budget. We wonder if the Director-General considers a solution which is followed by some other Organizations in funding of Field Programmes. Instead of funding the TCP out of an assessed Regular Programme of Work and Budget, the TCP funds could be established instead by voluntary contributions whereby each Member State would be allocated a target figure for its contributions if it so desired. We are convinced that this arrangement in the long run would not reduce the funds available for carrying out a TCP programme and would not result in such differences of opinion as we are hearing now.

My delegation is very pleased with the objectives and strategies outlined in the chapter on livestock and production and with the way the support programme for the control of animal tripanosomiasis has been managed. We have further noted the encouraging results for controlling or eradicating the tsetse fly from Africa in integrated campaigns of control, including the use of sterilized insects. We are pleased to see the active role FAO has taken to follow up recommended

actions by WCARRD to improve the role of women in rural communities and in the food production cycle. We especially support the FAO's approach in taking the role of women into account at the design stage of projects.

With reference to Chapter Ten of document C 85/8, my delegation has always been of the opinion that FAO should play a leading role in agricultural research. We are pleased to see in this excellent review of FAO's role in research that the new programme of research and development is spending 76 per cent of its research expenditures on support of research, including assistance for networks.

In our part of the world, Europe, we are very pleased to see the very successful implementation of the European research networks. Coordinating research programmes carried out by the joint FAO/IAO Division could serve as a model for other sectors of the Organization in promoting research and research coordination in the developing countries and in encouraging north/south cooperation in research.

My delegation would like to commend the Director-General for the quick and decisive action he took to organize an Emergency Assistance Programme for the famine-stricken areas of the Ethiopians in the Sudan. We are particularly pleased that the FAO's approach was to strengthen the agricultural infrastructure and the irrigation systems, in building a sound basis for the future development of stable food production in the area. We are also pleased that the Organization succeeded in completing the preparation of a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and an International Code on Distribution and Use of Pesticides which we hope will be endorsed by this Conference.

While we are welcoming the Director-General's emphasis for technical support to agricultural development in Africa we would urge the Organization not to neglect serious problems of agricultural production in other parts of the world. We are particularly thinking about Latin America where animal productivity is low and grassland utilization for animal production is sub-optimal.

H. ÖGÜT (Turkey): In view of the time I will be selective in my comments. First I would remark on the review of the TCP activities as this topic has become a central issue in our debate in the review of the Regular Programme. It is encouraging to note that activities carried out under TCP continued in the last biennium to contribute to the achievement of FAO's objective in having greater impact at the Council level. Speaking from our experience, the support provided to member countries by TCP is very valuable and very well utilized by the recipient governments in meeting their unseen urgent technical assistance requirements in agriculture. There is no doubt that TCP project proposals are carefully selected by recipient countries who are aware that these projects require recipient governments' expenditures from their scarce resources. Therefore, every single dollar allocated to the TCP under the Programme of Work and Budget has great cost-effectiveness.

As to the recommendation contained in the evaluation mission's report regarding the TCP, we encourage the Organization to enhance the role already played by the TCP in promoting the technical cooperation among developing countries through the implementation of inter-country projects. In this connection while we were endorsing the establishment of a new category of projects to this effect we also agree to the raising of the ceiling of the allocation for individual projects to US\$ 400 000. In this way, as stressed by the Representative of India, we think that the Programme will be better able to meet the requirement of large-scale projects such as TCDC and ECDC.

I will now take up the functioning of Regional Offices. My delegation observes that these offices have continued, during the last biennium, to operate as extended arms of the Headquarters. The information given under various chapters of the document under Duties of Regional Offices are found by my delegation to be very useful and indicative of the important role of these offices. We would, however, wish to have some explanation as to the ways in which the Regional Programme implementations are integrated into the overall programme of the Organization. In our opinion the practice of matching priorities should not be the only way to ensure such an integration. Although it is not mentioned in the document, we are sure that FAO makes use of better practices for this purpose.

On the research activities carried out under the Regular Programme, presented in Part Three of the document, I would once again point to the fact that the cooperative research networks are effective means of promoting research collaboration among national institutions. In our opinion FAO's catalyzing role in this field can be further increased if other regional research networks are set up through trust funding arrangements.

Let me now offer our general opinion on the Review since my Government accords great importance to reviewing Regular Programme implementation at the Conference sessions. We are pleased to note that the review of the last programme implementation continued to be based on the information collected in remonitoring activities. Having said this, permit me to make a small suggestion. I am wondering whether FAO's biennial programmes could not be monitored and assessed against its medium-term objectives. After all, these objectives will, as stipulated in the 1986-87 budget, be maintained as guiding principles for some time to come in the preparation and implementation of FAO's programmes. We believe that in this way the relevance of programme performances in various sub-programme areas or the effectiveness of programme outputs in achieving medium-term objectives could be more easily reviewed and necessary corrections could be made programme objectives or resources by FAO and by the governing bodies as applicable. I believe that in the context of such a review the role of various special action programmes, integration of Headquarters and regional offices activities, as well as linkages between regular and field programmes of the Organization could better be reflected. We are also convinced that the catalytic role of the TCP could be more effectively demonstrated when the review is conducted in light of the medium-term objectives of the Organization.

A.L. TANIS (Haïti): Nous commencerons tout d'abord par présenter nos vives félicitations à M. Shah pour la compétence et la maîtrise avec lesquelles il a su, comme toujours, présenter l'examen du Programme ordinaire. Nous félicitons aussi le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 85/8. Ce document donne une claire vision des objectifs du Programme, de l'efficacité de son exécution et de l'impact positif qu'il aura.

Le critère d'efficacité prend une importance accrue à une époque où, d'une part, l'Organisation doit faire face à une austérité obligée, et, d'autre part, la promotion du développement agricole et rural devient une question de survie pour nombre de pays du tiers monde.

La délégation d'Haïti note avec satisfaction que la structure et la nature du Programme ont subi de sensibles amendements. Il s'agit d'amendements fondés sur les résultats des projets de terrain. Il contient aussi des suggestions positives formulées par les participants à la dernière session de la Conférence et à la réunion du Conseil indépendant.

L'examen du Programme montre que la FAO a cherché à résoudre les problèmes des Etats Membres dans les domaines suivants: méthodes et moyens à suivre pour faire progresser la participation des pauvres ruraux et des femmes au développement rural, amélioration de la planification en vue d'utiliser au mieux les ressources et de maintenir l'équilibre biologique, sensibilisation croissante à l'équilibre fragile entre la population, la consommation, la nutrition et le bien-être rural, renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire, utilisation des techniques à faibles capitaux et à haute intensité de main-d'oeuvre, réduction de l'écart entre la recherche et l'accès des agriculteurs à la technologie.

Toutefois, la délégation d'Haïti aurait voulu y ajouter les commentaires suivants dans trois domaines qu'elle considère prioritaires.

D'abord les pêches. De nouveaux progrès ont été accomplis en ce qui concerne l'exploitation et l'utilisation des pêches, en particulier l'évaluation des ressources et l'augmentation des prises. Toutefois, il convient de mentionner que des habitants vivant sur de nombreuses îles souffrent de malnutrition protéique, alors qu'une simple couverture technique appropriée pourrait redresser cette situation dramatique et augmenter sensiblement la production de poissons en eaux douces.

Le deuxième commentaire concerne la forêt. Nous savons tous les efforts méritoires accomplis par les responsables du tiers monde et de la FAO en vue de préserver les forêts par une exploitation rationnelle, plus particulièrement dans le programme de la forêt au service du développement rural. Les

premiers résultats des études sur la foresterie sociale seront utilisés dans les domaines prioritaires tels que l'étude des systèmes agro-forestiers comme moyen d'améliorer la culture itinérante et de créer de nouveaux emplois, et, partant, des revenus, grâce à l'exploitation de la forêt.

Toutefois, il y a un mois de cela, il m'est tombé sous les yeux un document traitant de la disparition des forêts, particulièrement des forêts dans les zones tropicales. L'auteur de cet article appuyait sa déclaration sur des statistiques précises qui ont été publiées par la FAO ainsi que par différentes entreprises privées s'occupant de l'exploitation des forêts. Ces chiffres sont alarmants sur le double plan de la destruction sauvage des forêts en fonction de l'approvisionnement en bois pour les années à venir, et du rôle régulateur de la forêt dans l'équilibre biologique de la planète.

La délégation d'Haïti suggérerait que la FAO prenne en sérieuse considération la question évoquée, étant donné que le bois reste un matériau précieux de construction et la principale source d'énergie dans les zones rurales de la plupart des pays en développement", notamment pour la cuisson.

La forêt est exploitée beaucoup plus vite qu'elle ne peut se renouveler. Si l'on ne prend pas des mesures appropriées - je parle des responsables des Etats Membres aidés par la FAO - un milliard de personnes pourraient, d'ici la fin du siècle, vivre dans des zones où manque le bois.

Le troisième commentaire concerne l'élevage. Nous pensons que le Programme tel qu'il est présenté est en-dessous du minimum que l'on peut contempler si l'on tient compte du fait qu'on n'a pas pu, exception faite de l'expérience réalisée en Jamaïque relative à la création d'une race laitière pouvant s'adapter aux conditions tropicales, empêcher que les pays en développement continuent d'importer pour leur consommation intérieure des produits laitiers pour des montants se chiffrant à des millions de dollars. Nous pensons que ces devises pourraient être utilisées dans des domaines plus importants en ce qui concerne le développement.

Ma délégation, tout en reconnaissant la faiblesse de certaines parties du projet relevée par plusieurs Orateurs qui se sont succédés, mais rien n'est parfait, rend hommage à la FAO pour le programme présenté et l'appuie pleinement.

En ce qui concerne le PCT, étant donné l'importance spéciale que les Etats Membres de la FAO attachent au PCT, ma délégation est heureuse de vous dire que le Gouvernement haïtien suit avec intérêt l'évolution de ce Programme destiné à libérer des fonds pour les interventions d'urgence et toute activité ponctuelle appelée à redresser une situation critique ou à augmenter la productivité des petits exploitants agricoles. Le Programme a été évalué par un organisme extérieur à l'Organisation, et les conclusions de l'évaluation montrent d'une façon éloquente qu'il faut procéder à son maintien et élargir son budget en vue de lui permettre de satisfaire les besoins sans cesse croissants exprimés par les Etats Membres. Toutefois, cela ne signifie nullement qu'il faille renoncer aux moyens de l'améliorer à l'avenir.

Ma délégation plaide en faveur de cette thèse car tout programme peut et doit s'efforcer sans relâche d'accroître son impact, son économie, sa célérité et son efficacité.

A la lumière de cette considération, Le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti appuie le Programme du PCT ainsi que le budget nécessaire à son exécution.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación desea remitirse inicialmente al documento C 85/LIM/17 que contiene un extracto del Informe del 88° Período de Sesiones del Consejo, reunido a principios de noviembre del año en curso.

El párrafo 81 del Informe mencionado expresa que el Consejo consideró el examen del programa ordinario de 1984-85 e indicó su satisfacción con la estructura, formato y presentación del documento. Las nuevas mejoras introducidas en él respondían a sugerencias anteriores del Consejo y de la Conferencia, y el examen era un elemento esencial del sistema más amplio de seguimiento y evaluación de la FAO.

El párrafo 82, por otro lado, expresa que el Consejo consideró que el examen era una fuente completa de información y análisis sobre las actividades y realizaciones del programa ordinario. Elogió a la Secretaría por la profundidad analítica y la objetividad del documento y le instó a que continuara aplicando el mismo criterio.

Las conclusiones eran francas y ponían de relieve los resultados y las limitaciones encontradas. En consecuencia, los resultados de esa evaluación global sólo podrán redundar en beneficio de los órganos rectores y de la gestión de la FAO.

Por último, el párrafo 88 menciona que, en conclusión, el Consejo consideró que el examen era en sí mismo un documento muy satisfactorio y también un complemento valioso del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización porque ofrecía una evaluación razonada de las actividades realizadas y una indicación de las enseñanzas, tanto positivas como negativas, que deberían tenerse en cuenta en futuros programas.

Nuestra delegación concuerda con el contenido de los párrafos referidos y suscribe plenamente el documento C SP 85/8, examen del Programa Ordinario 1984-85, particularmente los capítulos 1, 4, 10 y 11, es decir agricultura, cooperación técnica y apoyo al desarrollo, actividades de investigación y examen de las actividades de la FAO en apoyo de la cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Específicamente nuestra delegación reitera su apoyo al Programa de Cooperación Técnica, el nivel que ocupa en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para el bienio 1986-87 el aumento de 250 000 a 400 000 dólares por proyecto y la creación de una nueva categoría de proyectos del PCT que sirva de catalizadora de las CEPD y CTPD. El Programa de Cooperación Técnica ha demostrado ser un instrumento muy útil para los países en desarrollo, lo que se desprende de la propia experiencia de los países beneficiarios así como de la evaluación independiente del PCT solicitada por el Director General de la FAO y sometida a Consejo en su período 88 mencionado anteriormente.

Es todo lo que deseo mencionar, espero que haya cumplido con su solicitud de ser breve.

MS C. AMARATUNGA (Sri Lanka): We consider the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85 a very useful document as it enables us to review FAO's activities and achievements periodically. We have been told that this is the-fourth such Review carried out during the last ten years.

It is needless to say that the scope of a Review of this nature could be very vast as it would cover the whole spectrum of FAO's Regular Programme activities. We therefore appreciate the approach adopted by the Director-General in selecting major programmes such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries and special topics under sub-programmes for the present review.

Mr Chairman, the Review on the major programmes, apart from being specific, helps us to focus our attention particularly on the critical needs of small farmers, fishermen and rural artisans and enables us to identify the constraints encountered in implementing programmes designed to improve their living and working conditions.

I do not propose to go into details of the Review as many delegates have already referred at length to most of the activities. I would like, however, to comment on two points referred to in Parts One and Two of the document.

We are interested in FAO's activities relating to the role of women in rural development. May I say that while the principles of WCAARD clearly spell out the areas where FAO and national governments should assist rural women, the activities of women's involvement in food production and rural development, we agree with the comments made by the distinguished delegate of India, that more attention should be paid to eradicate illiteracy among rural women. They should be organized at the rural level to participate more actively and effectively in all programmes relating to their betterment and they should be encouraged to actively participate in the national programmes as well.

The second point I wish to emphasize is the need to encourage additional inter-country cooperation in extending economic and technical assistance among developing countries themselves. The ECDC and TCDC programmes could cover a wide range of activities. In fact, what is required is the careful selection of activities for promoting further inter-country cooperation. Obviously, training of skills is the most important ingredient in ECDC/TCDC. Information on the availability of skills and expertise should be easily available to those who may need them. The necessary focal points should be strengthened further. In this regard we would join those members who firmly support the recommendation by the TCP evaluation team to create a new category for TCP projects intended to act as a catalyst for inter-country projects.

Mr Chairman, during the debate on the TCP Evaluation Report there were some proposals to establish a monitoring system for the Technical Cooperation Programme by one or two delegations. It is not clear as to precisely what it is hoped to achieve by doing so. We feel that if the intention is to subject the approval and implementation to closer scrutiny by another inter-governmental group, such action, apart from causing extra expenditure and also delays, would destroy the very principle underlying the concept of TCP of providing quick assistance for small projects. It is our view that the TCP is already subject to the same evaluation and financial controls, auditing, as any other programme within the FAO's Regular Programme.

The external evaluators' report refers to one aspect which we would also like to emphasize. This is the strengthening of the feedback from governments on completed projects. After all, the TCP projects are not initiated by the FAO but by individual governments. In our view, such reports would indicate the intermediate or immediate impact of such projects in the recipient countries. While we agree to obtain this vital feedback on performance of TCP projects we would not support the proposal to establish a monitoring system as suggested by some.

There was also a suggestion that unforeseen or emergency projects should be funded from extra-budgetary resources. I think there is some confusion here - the concepts of emergency and unforeseen projects are being deliberately misrepresented. In the present Evaluation Report which we think is an excellent assessment of the Technical Cooperation Programme, carried so far by a team of external consultants, there is ample evidence through the research they have performed, on the need to continue the TCP by using the existing criteria, as well as on the basis of additional criteria which they have placed before us for consideration. We see that while 25 percent of the total approved projects had been for emergencies, almost 75 percent of total projects approved had been for technical assistance.

My delegation would also support the recommendations by the team which fall into three parts, namely: the improvement and changes which could be implemented by the Director-General himself; those which require the Council's approval and that of the Conference; and the third, the recommendations which have been placed for consideration of member governments. My delegation would wish to support all these proposals to be adopted without any change.

ALI B. ZWAIK (Libya) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, dear colleagues. I will not go into the matter at any great length because the Chairman has requested brevity, but we do have a certain number of comments we would like to make. First of all, our delegation supports the Programme which is put before the Committee for study. We consider that this contains a number of very valuable suggestions. Also our delegation is very much in favour of the Technical Cooperation Programme before us and would like to make the following comments. First of all, we feel it important to stress the need for this Programme and also for the TCDC, particularly the exchange of experience among developing countries in which similar conditions obtain. We similarly think it necessary for us to lend our full support to the Organization so it encourages developments of this kind. We would like to endorse the Technical Cooperation Programme, the TCDC. This is not to encourage their isolation but our delegation believes that it is very much a stimulus towards self-sufficiency and helps these countries by promoting their potential.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has been working with this Organization for many years, particularly with regard to the TCP. Let me just quote an example. The level of expenditure has gone above the US\$50 million level spent through the Organization over the past ten years on TCP. Our delegation

would like to thank the Organization for the way in which it has used these funds, which have been of great assistance to the Jamahiriya.

Our delegation would also like to say how important we consider hydrological research to be, as well as the fight against desertification and the development of research programmes to this end.

Our final comment is that some of the colleagues who have taken the floor before me have referred to the role of women and the development of women in developing societies. They have mentioned that women are an important part of the rural environment and that efforts should be devoted to development projects for them. Our delegation indeed reiterates and asserts how important the role of women is in our society and is recognized as such by our country, and we would like to say how important it is that we use the expression "development of rural societies" rather than "development of women" because it is development of rural societies that we are talking about here since underdeveloped women live in a society where men are also underdeveloped. Therefore, I think we should talk about development of human resources or development of human resources or development of rural societies in developing countries.

EL PRESIDENTE: La distinguida delegación de Kenya anunció el envío de un texto; agradecemos su actitud constructiva y ese texto se incorporará a las actas.

H. MORA (Ecuador): El papel de la mujer en la agricultura nos merece especial atención; a nadie escapa el hecho de su importante y silenciosa contribución, especialmente en los países en vías de desarrollo en la producción de alimentos.

Moses MUKOLWE (Kenya): My delegation as before would like to commend the Secretariat for improved work and also echo the Director-General's remarks - "there must always be room for improvement".

The presentation of this Review is filled with indepth analysis, but still covers a very wide field and it is not easy to attempt to satisfy everyone.

In our case we support this document in full as an adequate assessment of the situation and activities, with minor suggestions here and there. We are however conscious of the challenges that face the Organization in demand of resources and in the austerity that affects stringent control of the limited financial resources at its disposal. Monitoring and evaluation are both indispensable tools to gauge progress and carry out desirable adjustments for optimal development. Running through the outlined programmes, I wish to note the major programme: Agriculture -2.1, Part One where training continues to be emphasized and the African food crisis given the attention that it deserves. It is unfortunate that signals have been given in the past till the real "crossroads" were reached, culminating in misery and disaster - this could probably have been avoided.

It is hoped that the international community will not only give "first aid" and end there, without curing the disease. We are grateful to all who have provided - and continue to provide resources. As it has been suggested in some quarters an "African Marshall Plan" is inevitable and opportune. In our national motto "Harambee" (lets pull together) should be the international aim for the coming 10-15 years in order to contain the situation as in the case in the Asian region. Piecemeal approaches to the situation are bound to fail and aggravate the matter even further. Non-governmental organizations should be involved on the spot to augment governments' efforts so that while food production is emphasized, resource base conservation is not destroyed and so that farming systems that are sustainable may play a major role by using applied research in generating new farming technologies.

Women and youth are the target groups because of the role they play and will continue to play in food production, agriculture and rural development. Having seen women descend on Nairobi last July, I cannot help to support the distinguished delegate from Sweden and others who have spoken on the subject. Their activities need very close monitoring. They shoulder the greatest responsibilities in Africa.

On Fisheries - Major Programme 2.2 - aquaculture and even inland and deep sea-fishing by groups of small scale fishermen should be pursued by making it possible to own vessels and landing facilities. IFAD type of credit lending could bring such poor farmers into stronger organizations.

Forestry, Major Programme 2.3 is extremely important. The arid and semiarid land area that stretches across Africa is colossal and environmentally fragile with increased population and pressure on land for increased food production. Woodlots, catchment area afforestation and protection, agro-forestry, watershed planning and management are all subjects that concern us. I know Finland is very interested in these activities, and most Scandinavian countries agree that they must be supported and monitored. We must save the disappearing genetic germplasm and also alleviate food, fuel and timber requirements and, in so doing, recycle plant nutrients as nature has done over years. The work done by a non-UN agency - the International Council for Research in Agro-Forestry with its Headquarters in Nairobi should also be noted. Some good work is in progress in Burundi and other States.

Since water is a limiting factor, its conservation and utilization are of immense importance to Africa's arid and semi-arid areas. Agro-meteorology and hydrology should be fully understood through monitoring under the Early Warning System.

On Information and Documentation (Major Programme 5.1), we are grateful that publications were focused on the African food crisis and FAO has produced many more booklets for circulation. Probably the FAO Representative's office could do much in contacting local schools and institutions to widen circulation and heighten awareness.

Mr Chairman, in my previous intervention I commended the importance of TCP and it is fair that it be given the necessary increase from US \$250 000 to US \$ 400 000 in funding levels. If there is any doubt, an independent outside evaluation can be carried out for those interested (lost-effect) -with the purpose of evaluating it and of seeing how it is responding to the needs of those requesting it, rather than attempting to limit it.

Finally, Mr Chairman, massive investments are needed in the African continent as we all realize. Quick action intervention, as carried out under TCP, with possible increased funding for those areas found feasible should be pursued. Such consultancy can be carried out by local institutions and with local personnel with FAO guidance. Much more information is likely to be unearthed in assisting to draw up more realistic programmes on a long-term development basis.

We should avoid forcing projects on the people. Let us walk with them and understand their priorities so as to prescribe the right antidotes. 1/,

EL PRESIDENTE: El representante de Kenya desea agregar algunas palabras a su declaración escrita.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I have already delivered my statement in full and it will be reflected in the record, but I just wish to add that the question of food crisis in Africa, on which we are placing great attention, was signalled very early on, but it has taken us a very long time to come to it. However I am glad that this is going to receive the attention it requires. But again, if the food crisis in Africa is going to be tackled piecemeal, it is not going to help the situation. We would rather see a long-term tackling, say about ten to fifteen years, a sort of Marshall Plan for Africa as some quarters normally moot.

Women can be a burden and yet they do a lot in Africa. Their work can be great and yet we still feel that they have to produce food in the African States. I wish we could better understand them through various studies that can alleviate their situation as far as food and fuel are concerned, as well as with other items that relate to the home and rural development. I do not dwell on this point.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): We welcome particularly the analytical depth and objectivity of the document. I would like to stress the usefulness it has as a feedback for future planning. In this context I was somewhat lost when looking at the timetable of our agenda items. In our logic we would have started with discussing the review of the current biennium before starting the examination of the future Programme of Work and Budget. However there may have been some more important reasons, which I have not been able to trace, to keep it the way it was.

Now I would like to refer to the Technical Cooperation Programme on which I want to state our general appreciation. The evaluation summary as presented in document CL 88/8 has retained our full attention and I intend to limit my remarks to only one aspect. As a matter of fact my delegation has serious doubts about the justification for raising the ceiling from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000 and because of the following reasons. The first one: out of Table 1 on page 4 we learn that the average project cost does not exceed US\$45 000; another reason is the outcome of the Assessment of Field Projects where it is stated in the summary on page 12 "TCP projects were rated higher in terms of overall efficiency than larger projects supported by UNDP and Trust Funds". This seems to me reason enough to keep it small.

H. MORA (Ecuador): Señor Presidente, en vista de su pedido voy a ser muy breve en mi intervención. Luego de agradecer al señor Shah por su clara introducción, debo manifestar que hemos efectuado una atenta revisión del Examen del Programa Ordinario contenido en el documento C 85/8 y nos parece un instrumento muy útil por la abundante y calificada información que contiene.

Es claro además que han sido recogidas en él las recomendaciones hechas por los países miembros en el seno de la FAO a lo largo de todo el período.

Queremos destacar la importancia de la atención que da la FAO a la acuicultura y a la pesca. En este campo mi país ha tenido valiosas experiencias. La implementación del sistema de información computalizado para la pesca nos parece muy valioso y práctico, esperamos poder aprovecharlo eficientemente.

El papel de la mujer en la agricultura nos merece especial atención; a nadie escapa el hecho de su importante y silenciosa contribución, especialmente en los países en vías de desarrollo y en la producción de alimentos.

La producción pecuaria es otro aspecto que se destaca en el documento y que para mi país tiene igualmente gran significado, en especial por el rol que juega el trabajo de los pequeños ganaderos en la economía nacional.

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica creemos que es un valioso instrumento para el desarrollo de nuestros países, por lo tanto mantenemos el criterio de que sus fondos deben ser incrementados a 400 000 dólares.

La evaluación externa del PCT solicitada por el Director General ha puesto de manifiesto su eficiencia y potencialidad.

No queremos dejar de referirnos a la silvicultura, ya que el manejo racional de la explotación de los bosques puede ser no sólo fuente permanente de riqueza, sino un importante factor de protección ecológica.

Por último, creemos que el CEPD y el CTPD deben ser fortalecidos y el intercambio de experiencias entre los países en desarrollo ser intensificado.

M. Balla SY (Sénegal): La délégation sénégalaise tient à féliciter M. Shah pour la brillante introduction faite au document C 85 8 relatif au Programme ordinaire 1984-1985. La recherche et la cohérence des précisions et informations contenues dans cette étude constituent pour nous de réels motifs de satisfaction, sans préjudice de quelques améliorations, à notre avis assez importantes.

C'est ainsi que le renforcement des programmes visant la maîtrise de l'eau, la formation, la recherche scientifique et agricole, les activités de pêche, les activités agro-pastorales et les activités agro-forestières s'avère indispensable, compte tenu de l'impact de ces secteurs sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

S'agissant du Programme de coopération technique, ma délégation voudrait témoigner ici de son efficacité. Il est même heureux que, d'une manière générale, aucune délégation n'ait pris le risque de contester l'utilité de ce Programme. Les seules questions de divergence souvent enregistrées sont relatives à son financement et à ses règles de fonctionnement.

A ce propos, ma délégation souhaiterait faire quelques observations. Premièrement, à notre sens, vouloir financer le PCT par des contributions volontaires signifierait limiter ses activités pour progressivement les placer dans la même situation que celle actuellement connue par le FIDA, l'IDA ou le PNUD. Ces institutions, bien que très efficaces et utiles, connaissent cependant des difficultés pour disposer des ressources nécessaires. Aussi devons-nous, en ce moment où les crises économiques et alimentaires se succèdent, et souvent dans des conditions imprévisibles appelant des solutions immédiates et urgentes, éviter de placer, en tout cas, le PCT dans des conditions qui l'empêcheraient de continuer à répondre promptement aux requêtes urgentes.

Ma délégation est persuadée, en plus, que la raison finira par l'emporter de manière à ce qu'une fois fournies les réponses aux questions posées, le PCT soit maintenu dans le Programme ordinaire.

Deuxièmement, il convient de préciser que les projets financés par le PCT ne sont pas des projets préparés ou imposés par la FAO aux pays bénéficiaires. Au contraire, ce sont ces derniers qui présentent des requêtes en apportant la preuve que celles-ci s'intègrent parfaitement dans les programmes et stratégies nationaux préalablement définis. Il s'agit là d'une question de souveraineté que nous devons continuer à reconnaître aux pays bénéficiaires, notre rôle devant être de les aider suivant leurs propres besoins et non pas de sélectionner à leur place les domaines d'intervention.

Le relèvement du plafond des projets individuels de PCT de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars reçoit tout l'appui de ma délégation pour la raison essentielle que les besoins d'urgence dans les pays du tiers monde, et singulièrement en Afrique, se sont multipliés considérablement. En outre, au moment où, dans d'autres structures - et en particulier dans le programme alimentaire mondial - la liberté d'approbation des projets est laissée jusqu'à un montant d'environ 2 millions de dollars, comment refuser à la FAO un relèvement aussi peu significatif? Je n'en vois vraiment pas de raison objective, d'autant que, s'il y a un programme de coopération inter-gouvernement qui donne le plus de satisfaction aux pays bénéficiaires, c'est très justement le PCT. Les pays donateurs, sur la solidarité desquels les pays du tiers monde comptent beaucoup, ne peuvent pas ignorer, à mon sens, les souhaits de ces derniers. S'écarter d'une telle attitude pourrait être perçu comme une volonté d'abandonner l'esprit de coopération devant animer tous nos Etats au profit d'une assistance organisée et visant à soumettre les plus faibles aux plus grands, qui leur distribueraient de l'aide selon leur bonne conduite et leur degré d'allégeance.

Je suis persuadé qu'aucun pays n'entend orienter la coopération multilatérale dans une telle direction, laquelle ne risque pas de nous conduire vers la fin des maux dont souffre l'humanité.

Aussi voudrais-je appuyer la déclaration faite par le Président du Groupe des 77, avec l'espoir que, de nos débats emprunts de franchise et d'objectivité, nous arriverons à un consensus: celui de maintenir le PCT dans le Programme ordinaire avec le relèvement proposé du plafond des projets de 250 000 à 400 000 dollars.

A.J.M. OOMEN (Netherlands): Regarding the Review of the Regular Programme item, my delegation can be brief as far as our views which reflect overall frames of the Programme are concerned. We think the document presented by the Secretariat is a good one, and our general support to FAO concerns also the Regular Programme. But as you will surely know, certain developments in fact have larger spin-offs than originally thought, and that is why my delegation would like to make the following remarks in relation to the Review of, especially, the TCP and the subsequent amendments regarding the Programme which were adopted by the Council.

First of all, we wish to welcome the evaluation of the TCP as presented to the Eighty-eighth session of the Council, although we are still missing a Conference document in this respect. For several reasons, we considered that evaluation as highly necessary. In the first place, because the un-programmed nature of TCP makes review of activities by the governing bodies at certain intervals indispensable; and secondly, because the great number of projects approved each year cannot but generate considerable constraints for the FAO's support units. During the Twenty-second Conference, my delegation stated in relation to TCP: "TCP's by their nature cannot and should not replace UNDP and Trust Funds financed projects. The relatively simple and direct way through which TCP projects are approved can be justified only in our view because of the specific objectives which the TCP project aims for.

The Netherlands, as a traditional major donor of UNDP, still holds the opinion that the financing of technical cooperation projects within United Nations System should first and foremost be channelled through that Programme. That was what it was set up for, and what was recognized by the General Assembly in the so-called Consensus of 1970. It might be useful to note that FAO has for a long time been by far the largest recipient of UNDP funds. Notwithstanding this principal attitude, the Netherlands has always understood the financial restrictions of the central funding concept for the various executing agencies, therefore we have over the years supplemented the United Nations' funds with voluntary bilateral financing through Trust Fund projects. Nonetheless, FAO considers it necessary to be more flexible in its technical cooperation activities, which led in the 1970's to the establishment of the TCP. As I stated before, we supported the idea because we recognize FAO's needs, and we agreed with the restricted criteria for the Programme and the limited constraints" on the Regular Programme. However, increasing the share of TCP in the budget would mean an indefinite departure from its restricted setup, and would be in defiance of the meaning and purpose of the Regular budget. "Moreover, we fully share the views expressed by other delegations in this respect regarding the unprogrammed character of the funds in question, and the highly limited policy guidance and review possibilities of the FAO governing bodies.

In this light my delegation welcomes the evaluation of the Programme presented to this Conference, and considers it a serious effort to review the multitude of projects, their effectiveness, and their frame of reference, although one may wonder how the conclusion can be drawn that the project results were generally excellent, while at the same time it is admitted that feedback from governments on completed projects indicating their immediate effect as well as medium-term impact was often not forthcoming.

However, especially regarding the frame of reference, the criteria for the Programme, we are disappointed by the incongruity between the evaluation itself and its conclusion. TCP criteria, the Report states, "have proved valid and useful", and page 3 it continues, "Neither limits on duration nor those on cost have created problems, except where emergency projects were concerned. Here the mission felt that the ceiling somewhat constrained adequate meeting of the demand." An instruction for this somewhat vague conclusion is, however, not to be found. In the assessment of emergency projects in paragraphs 1.2.6 - pages 21 to 23, nothing of the sort is mentioned; yet in the main conclusions the mission recommends raising - in fact, almost doubling - the present limit for all TCP projects, be it technical assistance or emergency, from US\$ 250 000 to 400 000.

My delegation wishes to remind the Commission of the exact wording of the original ceiling - "be limited in cost, not exceeding the upward limit of US\$250 000 per project, and preferably much lower, and involve the most effective and least costly methods of execution."

Against the background of this stipulation and the practice of average projects, for project costs, which lay far below the original ceiling, the Netherlands delegation finds no justification whatsoever, certainly not the one of calculating inflation, for any increase.

At the same time, my delegation is hesitant to accept the conclusion of the mission that the TCP could play an active role at an inter-country and regional level, not because it could not, but rather because we feel it should not. Allow me to quote the fourth criterion of the TCP: "to complement, without duplicating, other development activities, fill a critical gap and where possible as a catalyst for a larger scale activity". With this criterion in mind, we have to recognize the predominant role of the UNDP in the field of inter-country and regional programmes. In fact, the sector of UNDP activities is widely considered as one of the most effective ones and therefore we do not consider it appropriate for FAO to embark on it at the expense of its limited

regular resources. Moreover, my delegation does not believe that even catalytic projects in the field of inter-country and regional cooperation could be effectively executed, since by their nature they could hardly be related to another criterion of the TCP, namely that financing requests must "be limited in duration, preferably from one to three months, and in no case should the overall duration of project activities exceed twenty-four months".

In conclusion, the Netherlands delegation deems it necessary to express the greatest possible concern about the two recommendations by the evaluation mission which our delegation cannot support.

DHATEMWA (Uganda): We thank the Secretariat for this comprehensive and detailed document. At this stage of the discussions I will try to be brief.

On the section on agriculture we endorse the Director-General's view on the need for more effective international action in the area of food production and food security, and we very much support the study which is described in paragraph 1.4, to define better the policy initiatives required to overcome the food crisis in Africa.

On livestock, paragraph 1.62, grassland forage and feed resources, we would support more emphasis being given to the programmes which promote better pasture management vis-à-vis pasture species, and stimulating seed management.

In paragraph 1.65, we welcome FAO's efforts to mobilize resources for the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign, though regrettably it has failed to take off and yet more outbreaks are being reported every now and then.

With regard to the role of women in development, we need to make more tangible approaches to enable them to be on a more equal footing with men. We have to educate the rural women, mobilize them and make them a force in the rural sector.

On inland fisheries and aquaculture, my delegation endorses the strategies adopted by the World Fisheries Conference. The socio-economic aspects of fishery development require careful studies, particularly with regard to inland waters, where fishing is mainly on a subsistence level. The introduction of advance techniques is bound to affect small fishing communities.

Aquaculture as such should be coordinated and schemes should be studied for commercial aquaculture. With regard to the production of the aquatic environment, the FAO efforts in assisting inland countries to set up facilities for monitoring pollution are welcome.

With regard to forestry, my delegation is of the view that we should, for the rural community, refocus our forestry programmes which give an annual return to the people so that their participation can be maintained and incentives provided.

Planting of tree species which mature in ten or more years could be undertaken by the state. In many countries, where arable land is very limited, agro-forestry is the answer. The declaration of 1985 as an International Year of the Forest by FAO is very encouraging.

Lastly, we support programmes orientated to small farmers because they present the very nub of production in developing countries, and we would also like to welcome FAO's efforts to promote and develop research at national, regional and international levels.

We greatly appreciate the catalytic role played by the Technical Cooperation Programme. Regarding C 85/LIM/17, we wish to reiterate our support for the Director-General's proposals regarding the TCP which are to increase the limits from the maximum cost of US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. We also support the establishment of a new category (c) for projects to promote ECDC and TCDC. As we have stated before, we feel the TCP's share of the Regular Programme is still too low to cater to the increasing demands.

H. ZANNETIS (Cyprus): Let me first express to you, Mr Chairman, our deep sadness at the catastrophe that has struck your country. May we extend our sympathy to you, wishing that your people will have the force and resistance and that the international community will assist in overcoming the consequences of this catastrophe.

We find the Review of the Regular Programme quite analytical and informative and we would particularly like to thank the Secretariat for its preparation and Mr Shah for his presentation.

While supporting the activities of the Organization as outlined in the present Review, I would like to limit my comments only in relation to the TCP, since this Programme has become the central theme of our deliberations. This Programme has proved to be vital to the Organization. It has been evaluated twice since its inception in 1976 and both evaluations have indicated very positive results. Only a few days ago, during the Eighty-eighth session of the Council which preceded the present Conference, the second evaluation of the programme was reviewed and members had the opportunity to praise the way the Programme is operating.

Considering the fall in resources of the UNDP and the lack of agreement on the second replenishment of IFAD, the allocation to the TCP from FAO's budget cannot be considered excessive. We welcome the proposal for the establishment of a new category for projects catalysing inter-country cooperation, ECDC and TCDC. Technical and economic cooperation among developing countries is very important but it cannot be promoted by simply stressing the important role it can play in furthering agricultural development in these countries.

This cooperation needs to be supported, assisted materially and financially by the international organizations which were instituted for this purpose. With the establishment of the new category this necessity will be fulfilled most appropriately.

The proposal for the increase in the ceiling for TCP project posts from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000 meets with our approval. This increase does not mean that all TCP projects will reach this limit, but if the need arises action should be possible.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, Mr Chairman, I should like to convey through you the sincerest condolences of the Philippine delegation to the Government and people of Colombia on account of the recent tragedy that has struck your country and has taken an enormous toll in terms of human life and property.

The Philippine delegation, being among the last speakers, does not have to repeat what other delegations, particularly the eminent representatives of the Group of 77, have stated in their support for the evaluation of the Regular Programme. I can thus be brief; indeed I shall limit my comments to the TCP.

The Philippine delegation has already expressed its views regarding the TCP during the last session of the Council. Now we just wish to reiterate that we would have wished that a greater allocation for the TCP would have been possible. We also reiterate our support for the new category and for the new ceiling proposed.

We do not believe that FAO's capabilities are being strained because of TCP projects. We believe that FAO can handle the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of more projects, higher than the present level, including TCP projects, especially in view of the decline in UNDP and other sources of funding. Indeed, we believe that the need for TCP will increase because of the greater difficulties that are being experienced by developing countries. Because of these increasing economic difficulties, developing countries will find it more difficult to provide for contingencies for emergencies. Because of the scarcity of resources on the part of governments, there will be more gaps which will have to be filled, and more emergencies and contingencies which cannot be planned for.

Therefore, we believe that there will be a greater need for TCP. That is why we expressed a wish that more funds could have been possible for TCP in the last Council, which we reiterate now.

We believe also that training can be short-term, and therefore can be faced by TCP projects. An example of such training could be a study tour by technicians or high level officials to another country to learn a technology or a packet of technologies that are already being applied in the field; for example biogas technology, the use of compost, the cycling of organic matter, small water lifting devices, and so forth. This could be learned by trained technicians in a very short period of time. Of course, the TCP should not be used to train technicians through a regular academic course of a PS, MS or Ph.D, but certainly these funds could be used to allow trained technicians to learn a technology that has been applied successfully in another area with similar conditions.

The other examples of short-term training projects and training-connected projects are quoted in document CL 88/INF/10, in paragraph 1.2. We believe that the TCP should indeed be given greater flexibility to respond to the needs of the developing countries, as indicated in its terms of reference, since these developing countries are experiencing unprecedented difficulties for reasons that have already been pointed out very eloquently and in a detailed manner in the discussion on the situation in the State of Food and Agriculture in the developing countries. Particularly because of these unprecedented difficulties, we believe that the TCP should be given greater flexibility to respond to these needs of the developing countries.

A-ELSHEIK (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat so far in preparing the document for the Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85. We believe that the document reflects in an analytical manner the activities undertaken over the past two years. The programme, generally speaking, has had a positive effect on agriculture.

We would like to express our support for TCP. This programme has been effectively used in my country over the past two years to face the negative impact of the drought which befell Sudan, as well as to rehabilitate other drought-stricken countries and to provide emergency aid to combat a certain number of animal diseases. For this reason, we wish to express our support for TCP and for an increase in financial allocations, providing that this is undertaken through the Organization's Regular budget and not from voluntary contributions, so that we may guarantee the stability and continuity of this Programme.

My country allocates a special importance to cooperation between developing countries in the exchange of economic and technical experience, so that these countries may individually and collectively serve their common goals. Therefore, we support the efforts of the Organization in supporting the ECDC between developing countries. We therefore also support programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national FAO offices, because experience has shown that these offices are in a better position to evaluate the needs of the countries concerned and cooperate with them in successfully implementing the programmes of the Organization.

Walid ABDRAHU (Jordan): I shall be very brief as most of the points I wish to raise have been in fact taken up by several colleagues. Therefore I shall simply support those statements made by my colleague from the Lebanese delegation and the very valuable comment made by the representative of France, especially the one concerning the TCP.

I wish simply to add here one comment on those views expressed by a certain number of speakers, namely that it would have been better for the Organization to have requested the JIU of the United Nations to undertake a study of the evaluation of the TCP rather than request an outside team to do so. The views of some of our colleagues in fact implicitly refer to the inefficiency of the outside team. This contradicts the truth, as we all know that the team of experts and its Chairman were highly experienced and qualified men of sound views and independent opinions. They undertook their task in an excellent manner. As for the JIU and its efficiency, this, in our opinion, is subject to some debate. A close fair look at the reports of the JIU would in fact not need any further comments. Therefore we do not agree with what was said by a few colleagues on this matter and we believe that the outside team was a sound choice and the study undertaken a highly appreciated one by all the countries of the Organization.

The Jordanian delegation fully supports the recommendations made by the Council as to TCP and more so as far as the increase of maximum costs to US\$400 000 is concerned, and despite the fact that this increase is a simple precaution and nothing else. We also support the same recommendation, namely to add a new category to the Programme to support the economic and technical cooperation between developing countries.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Thank you for granting the United Kingdom the privilege of speaking for the second time in this debate. In this intervention I will refer solely to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

In Council we have already spoken in detail on the evaluation study. We said the study was to be welcomed because we considered it provided some useful information on Programme management. We remain of this view and my following remarks should be taken within the context of that view. In this statement on the evaluation study, I would like to re-emphasize the comments we made in Council on the less satisfactory aspects of the study and in this respect I would like to associate our delegation with the criticism and improvements suggested by other delegates, in particular the delegate of the Netherlands. We remain of the view that there is a need for a truly independent evaluation of the impact of a representative selection of the Technical Cooperation Programme projects. We do not agree with the suggestion made by the DirectorGeneral at Council that it is not possible to assess the impact and achievements of small projects of the type funded under TCP. In our experience it has been possible to do this on similar bilateral programmes. The rise in the maximum ceiling for project funding makes it all the more urgent to have better information on the quality of the Programme so we may learn from its successes and see whether there is scope to improve project design and execution.

The United Kingdom has already referred to what appears to be a very high level of overhead costs on the operational programme. This also has a relevance here when we speak of evaluation. We consider that the time has come when there must be greater transparency in the presentation of TCP to Council and Conference, greater vigour in the assessment of its resource, and a greater willingness on the part of the Secretariat to share with us relevant information about the Programme.

The United Kingdom has already stated our general support for the principle of the Technical Cooperation Programme. In doing so, we have confidently placed considerable reliance on the Secretariat to formulate and manage a Programme which makes an effective impact.

We look forward to seeing the results of independent evaluation, which we are sure will vindicate the confidence we have placed in FAO.

R.C. GUPTA (India): In some of the interventions in which certain objections have been made against the TCP or certain questions have been asked or certain criticism has been voiced, we found that the main emphasis was on lack of accountability, and lack of transparency. Some suggestions were made that this kind of activity should be funded from extra-budgetary resources, but we do not find any detailed methodology being spelled out by anybody as to how the accountability or transparency of this programme is to improve. We would have liked these delegations to specify in what format, in what details they would like the Organization to inform its governing bodies regarding the activities of TCP. The only suggestion we heard was independent evaluation. Now, this certainly casts certain doubts on the integrity of the consultants who were engaged by the Organization, by the Director-General, to evaluate this particular Programme. Their credentials are impeccable and without giving any reasons for this kind of demand, it casts reflection on them.

Just one more point I wanted to refer to was the Regional Offices of FAO. In my earlier intervention I could not include that. We would like to place on record our deep appreciation and support for the work of the Regional Office. As a member of the Programme Committee, my delegation had the opportunity of having a detailed review of the working of Regional Offices and of listening to the Regional Representatives. We were fully satisfied with their work in terms of their support to the country projects, in terms of their effective backstopping of the regional projects and in furthering the objectives and medium- and long-term programmes of the Organization. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Dans sa déclaration d'il y a quelques jours sur le point 13 de l'ordre du jour, la délégation congolaise s'était déjà prononcée sur cet examen du Programme ordinaire 1984-85. Nous ne pensions pas qu'il serait nécessaire d'intervenir à nouveau sur ce même point. Mais face au tournant actuel pris par les travaux, nous ne pouvons pas rester indifférents, surtout après l'audition de certaines interventions de nature à perturber l'ordre habituel des choses.

Pour cette deuxième intervention, nous espérons être brefs, mais clairs.

Bien que nous soyons absorbés les uns et les autres par les importants travaux de notre Commission, permettez-moi de rappeler à tous les membres de notre Commission que nous sommes une émanation de l'Assemblée plénière qui a été honorée par d'importants discours dont il faut peut-être nous rappeler.

Souvenons-nous que cette vingt-troisième session de notre Conférence coïncide heureusement avec un anniversaire, et pas n'importe lequel, puisqu'il s'agit du quarantième anniversaire de la FAO, cette Organisation à laquelle d'éminentes personnalités ont consacré beaucoup de leur énergie.

Un anniversaire, c'est bien sûr un moment de réflexion pour faire le point du chemin parcouru, et esquisser à la lumière du passé les grands axes de l'action à venir. Mais un anniversaire c'est aussi une fête, et c'est précisément parce que nous tenons au respect de l'esprit de ceux qui ont tant fait pour la FAO que nous ne voulons pas que l'on tente délibérément de transformer cet anniversaire en une sorte de veillée funèbre. Que l'on se souvienne que de nouveaux membres viennent de faire leur entrée dans le concert des nations membres de notre Organisation, les Iles Salomon et les Iles Cook, portant ainsi le nombre des Etats membres qui était à l'origine de 45 à 158 aujourd'hui. C'est vous dire que la FAO est un organisme vivant et sujet à une certaine dynamique quotidienne. A son exemple, nous devons à notre tour adopter une attitude dynamique et non pas nous cantonner, comme le souhaitent certains d'entre nous, dans un immobilisme malsain.

Des éléments fondamentaux ont considérablement rehaussé l'image de la FAO auprès des paysans. Il s'agit des activités dans le cadre du PCT et l'impact créé par sa politique de décentralisation. Souhaitons-nous que la FAO soit, à l'occasion de son quarantième anniversaire, ravalée à sa simple expression et réduite à la dimension d'une simple académie des sciences agronomiques?

Bien qu'une certaine unanimité se soit dégagée pour le maintien du PCT, c'est avec une très vive préoccupation que nous avons enregistré les interventions, d'abord timides puis plus fortes, de certaines délégations exigeant davantage d'évaluations et d'analyses des structures de la FAO chargées de gérer le PCT, et la révision des critères de celui-ci.

Nous nous opposons et nous refusons la tendance visant à faire financer le PCT uniquement par des contributions fiduciaires volontaires du PNUD. Nous exigeons que le PCT continue à être financé sur les ressources ordinaires, et non sur des ressources volontaires, aléatoires, et sujettes à des pressions politiques. Au moment où la part des projets FAO financés par le PNUD connaît une grave contraction, nous ne saurions accepter qu'un Programme aussi vital que le PCT soit relégué au second plan pour être financé par des ressources volontaires.

Sans que cela ait été explicitement dit, nous avons sincèrement été touchés et vexés des allégations émanant de certaines délégations qui nous ont laissé l'impression que le PCT était ou bien mal géré par le Secrétariat, ou que nous, les bénéficiaires, n'en avions pas besoin. Si tel est réellement le cas, qu'on le dise clairement et que l'on fournisse en même temps les preuves de ces allégations.

En terminant, nous voudrions noter qu'une bonne majorité de notre commission a appuyé le PCT et les propositions d'amélioration proposées ce sujet par l'équipe d'évaluation externe et par le Secrétariat. C'est une poignée de pays, certes puissants mais minoritaires, qui s'y opposent.

Enfin, comme nous ne sommes pas au Conseil de l'entente où s'exerce le principe de superpuissance ou de droit de veto, nous devons noter que, dans sa majorité, notre Commission a appuyé le PCT et les améliorations proposées, et a exigé la poursuite de son financement suivant les modalités et les ressources en vigueur.

Abukar Sheikh HUSSEIN (Somalia): On behalf of the Somalia delegation, I would like to express our support for the Regular Programme as a whole, especially the TCP which showed great efficiency in the promotion of plant production and in controlling infectious diseases affecting animal health in Africa, like rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. The Somalia delegation suggests that the budget of the TCP programme be increased.

Ms F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for having given me the opportunity to speak today

I would like to express my general support for the Regular Programme and for the contents of the documents submitted to us. My country insists that the TCP be financed through the Regular Programme to ensure its continuity and independence.

I request that a large share of TCP credits be allocated for the encouragement of EC and TCP between developing countries. I support the creation of a new category of programmes financed by TCP. This is as far as TCP is concerned now.

As for the contents of the documents referring to the role of rural women, I believe that my colleague from Sweden adequately and appropriately dealt with this subject, and I support everything that she said on the subject last Friday. As a woman and in accordance with the dictates of my conscience, and after having attended the Nairobi Women's Conference, I urge one and all to help support and increase the role of women and urge FAO to seek to highlight their role, because we know that the economy of developing countries does not depend entirely, but to a large extent, on the work undertaken by women.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Quiero primeramente expresarle a usted, señor Presidente, que en función de la división del trabajo en mi delegación no me había sido posible participar en la Comisión con usted y quiero que reciba mi felicitación por su designación como Presidente de esta Comisión. Además, queremos expresar fundamentalmente, que hemos ido escuchando en estos días en Plenaria las declaraciones de los ministros. En ese sentido creemos que la distinguida representación del Congo ha planteado una cosa muy pertinente y es que estas comisiones son el producto de las declaraciones de nuestros ministros, porque no podemos estar aquí representando otra cosa que la línea de nuestro país.

En ese sentido quiero recordar que el Programa de Cooperación Técnica ha sido aprobado, apoyado y potenciado en la Plenaria por los ministros representantes en esta Conferencia.

No queremos utilizar mucho tiempo, creemos que se ha discutido bastante este tema, tenemos información de que la inmensa mayoría de la Comisión se ha referido a la necesidad de mantener el Programa de Cooperación Técnica dentro del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de la Organización, y de que la evaluación que se ha propuesto y que se ha presentado es una evaluación legítima; nosotros creemos que no debemos complicar la situación. Los PCT constituyen un pequeño motor, como dijo nuestro compañero Nieto aquí en su anterior intervención; es un pequeño motor que actúa rompiendo una inercia, la inercia, que a veces no se entiende de los grandes centros financieros y de los grandes centros bancarios, y el PCT constituye este pequeño motor para romper la posibilidad de adquirir la transferencia tecnológica rápida, para adquirir una transferencia tecnológica en función de nuestras reales necesidades como países. No es una transferencia tecnológica inducida para vender los productos ni para vender los equipos, sino para que esté dentro del marco de nuestros planes nacionales de desarrollo. Por lo tanto, esa evaluación es una evaluación entre la FAO y los organismos receptores. La FAO tiene todo un bagaje, una experiencia que no creo que pueda ser puesta en discusión; el bagaje y la experiencia de FAO como organismo especializado no se pueden poner en discusión por una simple palabra de transparencia, ni por una simple palabra de dependencia, ni por una simple palabra de independencia. ¿Qué quiere decir evaluación independiente? ¿Hasta dónde vamos a llegar con esa condición de desconfianza dentro de organismos de Naciones Unidas? ¿Por qué independencia? ¿De la Luna, de Marte, o de Venus?, porque cualquier ciudadano de este mundo es un ciudadano de un país, tiene un pasaporte; yo no creo que esa independencia abstracta pueda poner en tela de juicio 40 años que estamos celebrando de ejecución de una Organización hacia los países en

desarrollo; eso sí, ciertamente los estamos celebrando con gusto. Ahora, si se quiere detener esa línea hacia los países en desarrollo y se quiere poner algunas trabas a esta posición de la FAO que estamos celebrando, es posible que podamos entrar a discutir alguna de esas posiciones, si no, no la entendemos.

Nuestra representación quiere unirse a la gran mayoría de ministros que lo han expresado en la Plenaria, a la gran mayoría de delegados que lo han expresado aquí de que los Programas de Cooperación Técnica mantengan sus líneas de actuación como ahora y pueda repetirse dentro de un par de años otra evaluación, pero esta misma que ha hecho la FAO con 3 representantes, que creo que son tres funcionarios muy respetables y que cada uno tiene una nacionalidad distinta; más independencia no se puede pedir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Distinguidos colegas y amigos: hemos sobrepasado un poco el tiempo a nuestra disposición; se cierra así sobre este tema la lista de oradores, que han sido 60. Ahora vamos a levantar la sesión, nos reuniremos de nuevo aquí a las 14,30; una vez más les ruego que sean puntuales, y oiremos la respuesta del señor Shah a las numerosas preguntas que se han planteado. El Comité de Redacción se reunirá esta noche; hay sólo cuatro párrafos pendientes sobre el tema 12. He notado la actividad de nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción, señor Jennings, de los Estados Unidos, y de otros miembros que espero conduzca a una fácil solución y a un acuerdo constructivo.

Confío en que la intensa labor llevada a cabo por el Comité de Redacción sea utilizada por esta Comisión para adoptar rápidamente los resultados del Comité de Redacción y así continuar cuanto antes la discusión del tema 14, que deberá concluir mañana en la tarde.

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

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C 85/II/PV/8

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION IIVingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II23° período de sesiones
COMISION IIEIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION

(18 November 1985)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 15.00 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 15 heures
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la octava sesión a las 15.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANIZATION (suite)
PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

13. Review of the Regular Programme (continued)
13. Examen du programme ordinaire (suite)
13. Examen del Programa Ordinario (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Iniciamos nuestra sesión de esta tarde. Me permito anunciarles que el distinguido colega de Liberia ha enviado una breve declaración, cuyo texto se incorpora a las actas. Recordarán ustedes que algunos miembros de esta Comisión hicieron observaciones y plantearon preguntas, a todas las cuales va a tratar ahora de responder el Sr. Shah, a quien concedo la palabra.

D. BALLAYAN (Liberia): On behalf of the Government of Liberia, the Liberian delegation would like to associate itself with all previous speakers and to register our support for the increase in the TCP fund per project from US\$250 000 to US\$400 000. We feel that this modest increase is very necessary especially at this time when UNDP funds and IFAD resources are completely exhausted. 1/

V.J. SHAH (Director, Office of Programme, Budget and Evaluation): I would like if I may to offer the Secretariat's reply in two main categories: firstly, dealing with the Review of the Regular Programme as a whole, and then offering replies to the comments made regarding the evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

As regards the Review of the Regular Programme, in the name of the Director-General may I thank all the distinguished delegations who took the floor to express their appreciation for the Review. As you realized, Sir, it involved a great deal of work, with the commitment not only of my immediate colleagues but the substantial contributions of colleagues from the Secretariat. We are very much encouraged by the reaction of the Commission to the Review. As the distinguished delegate of Bangladesh put it, there was hardly anyone who did not welcome the improvements, and there were some who looked for further improvements. The Director-General himself said in the introduction to this Review that we constantly seek to make improvements, and I can assure the Commission that we will pursue our efforts to this end.

The distinguished representative of Bangladesh also enquired why the review of specific sub-programmes and the programme element were dealt with in a separate part of the Review, and not in Part One of the Review - that is to say, more closely related to the performance report. The main reason for this is that because Part One was a performance report, we tried to give comprehensive information in an aggregate manner, and that is why Part One - not only in this Review, but in its preceding versions - has dealt with each of the major programmes before proceeding with the in-depth assessment carried out on specific sub-programmes or programme elements or groups thereof.

The representative of China made some very important comments about the coverage for the period under Review. In particular, he enquired about the partial coverage of this biennium and the reference to earlier years. The first question is a practical difficulty. In order to present this Review to the Conference now, and in order to present it to the bodies who review it as early as December in the case of the Programme and Finance Committees, the Review has to be finalized by the early summer. Our information from divisions and departments therefore can only cover the initial months of 1985. We try to respond to this concern by giving whatever information we have for 1985, making it clear that it is only partial for the year. We make an estimate for the year as a whole, where it is possible to do so, and on the other hand we give information for earlier years in response to the Conference's own request that such a longer coverage would enable it to see more clearly the trends emerging in the implementation of the programme.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

A few delegates requested that in the future there should be more attempt to assess the impact and identify the beneficiaries. We shall certainly pursue our efforts to this end.

I realize very clearly that whatever coverage we are able to give in future reviews, it is not a question of only giving the positive side of the story. There are also lessons we can draw from programme implementation from whatever shortcomings there may be, and these lessons should be used, it is fully recognized, for even further improvement in the future. This is something which evaluators and certainly the professional evaluators, are, I believe, very conscious of. Just to give one brief example, the Federal Republic of Germany had its technical cooperation projects related to agriculture reviewed, and evaluated. The results of that were published in the quarterly Journal of International Agriculture, and these results pointed out factually that of the 24 development projects which were evaluated, 13 had achieved their output and that at the time of handover only six of these 13 had ratings showing a high degree of effectiveness, and this rating subsequently dropped to four some time after the projects had been concluded. There are other lessons. I will not go into the details of this evaluation, but we fully realize that any evaluation indicates useful results.

The representative of Sweden made some valuable comments which were echoed by some other delegations regarding women in agricultural production and rural development. All these suggestions have been very carefully noted. Several delegations called for more interdivisional cooperation and this is being pursued through our interdepartmental Working Group on Women in Development.

Recently, I am informed, a number of divisions have been cooperating in the fields of credit and marketing, statistics, nutrition and small-scale irrigation. New cooperation is planned between various divisions involved in technology related to food crops and the role of women in relation to this.

The interdepartmental Working Group on Women in Development is also emphasizing the need for extension and training to incorporate women at all levels. Case studies are being collected, and another division is developing its data on farming systems to collect and analyze the role of women in farm management.

The representative of Sweden has asked that more be done to strengthen FAO's work on women in statistics and I am happy to report that recently, at the end of October, a workshop was held on the improvement of statistics on women in agriculture. It was attended by 21 participants, many from developing countries. They discussed definitions, disaggregation of data, design of questionnaires and questions of data processing. The recommendations of the workshop will be used to review FAO's own statistical methodology in our publications, to facilitate the identification of women in agriculture and to improve the coverage and quality of statistics on women in agriculture.

The representative of the United Kingdom referred to our activities on commodity policies and trade. This reference had been made also under the preceding item but it was repeated here. The suggestion was that these activities should be or could be cut in the future and the savings so made should be diverted to more operational areas of the programme. According to this delegate, the work on commodities by FAO is, to a large extent, taken care of by a number of commodity organizations.

I will not repeat the observations I made earlier under the preceding item, but I would like to point out that this work includes an operational component which provides assistance to individual developing countries in the design and implementation of national commodity policies, including export diversification measures under the programme of commodity policy at the country level. This requires me now to clarify, in response to the query, the position of FAO's commodity policy and trade work in relation to that of other organizations. Firstly, FAO's work in the intergovernmental commodity groups focuses on those commodities for which other global commodity bodies do not exist. This is the case for rice, oil seeds -there is a commodity council solely for olive oil, which is relatively minor in global terms -bananas, tea and hard fibres. In the case of grains and meat, there are other international bodies, indeed, but these have special responsibilities only for wheat and for bovine meat.

Secondly, I would point out that in the past we have deliberately reduced to a bare minimum our work on major traded commodities for which international commodity councils exist. This is the case for coffee, cocoa, sugar, rubber and dairy products. We do, however, of course, maintain the necessary contacts with such bodies and collaborate with them. For instance, in the study of major trade and stabilization issues facing sugar, which we published earlier this year - incidentally it seems to have been widely appreciated - we enjoyed the close cooperation of the Secretariat of the International Sugar Organization. We of course collaborate closely with organizations with broad responsibilities for commodity policy and trade such as UNCTAD and GATT. We draw on their work so as to avoid duplication of effort, and whenever needed we provide technical support for their programmes. Such is the case, as a good example, with the recently established International Jute Organization.

We have recently provided technical support to this organization in the preparation of research and development projects. We are also assisting them in a joint jute research study mission funded by UNDP in order to assess programmes and activities for jute agricultural research in the main producing countries.

I have only given these as examples of the ways in which our commodity work fully reflects the competence and activities of other organizations with which we, of course, maintain links. All this-range of work is studied in depth by the Committee on Commodity Problems, and I will therefore not go into further details.

In the comments regarding the Review of the Regular Programme, the representative of the United Kingdom also made some reference, in the context of increasing effectiveness and economy, to the aspect of the cost of management.

There are a few aspects on which I would like briefly to comment. Firstly, when any representative refers to the total staffin'g of FAO, it might be helpful to distinguish between the staffing which is directly concerned with administration and that which is not. I am quoting figures which are from documents before you in the Programme of Work and Budget and figures which were provided in greater detail to the Finance Committee, as we do once a year. For example, under the Regular Programme, there are 1,087 established posts of professionals. Of this number, 80 are in all the units of the Administration and Finance Department, or 7.3 percent. If you take all the professional posts under all funds, not only the Regular Programme but those funded under support costs, the total number of professional posts is 1,538, of which 141 are in Administration and Finance, or 9 percent.

If you want to consider posts at headquarters and posts in the field, as another measure of where the direction of this Organization is concentrated, of the grand total of some 7 200 posts under all funds in all locations, 2 600 are field staff, over 1 000 are working in regional and country offices, which leaves 3 400 at headquarters.

In relation to this, I would like to draw attention to the cost of management. The Regular Budget of the Organization provides for the cost of programme management. This is given throughout in the document before you. Taking all the technical departments and all the regional offices and the joint divisions, the total provision for programme management for the next biennium is 12.5 percent of the total value of the programme managed by these units.

The representative of the United Kingdom referred to about 15 percent which had been their experience as an acceptable figure, but I am only giving the factual information in the form that I have. And if we deal now with the cost of management of the TCP, the unit which deals with the Technical Cooperation Programme in our Development Department involves a biennial cost, for two years, of \$1.1 million, for an appropriation for this biennium of US\$57.5 million; I make that 2 percent.

This gives me the entrée to the few comments I need to offer regarding the debate on the Technical Cooperation Programme. I am sure the Director-General will have noted with considerable satisfaction the many supportive comments, the widespread supportive comments made during the debate, both regarding the TCP and its evaluation. However, there were, some if I may say, relatively solitary voices which expressed the desire that the evaluation might have been more independent than it was, or that it might have encompassed more than it did. I think it is necessary for me to recall once again that this was an initiative of the Director-General's. I have before me the

Report of the last Conference. The Conference did not ask the Director-General to carry out such an evaluation. In fact, some Members - this is at the last Conference - felt the need for additional information on its implementation. "They considered" - and I am quoting from the Report - "They considered that it would be desirable to have a further independent review of the Programme. However, the majority of Members considered that such a review would be unnecessary and wasteful since the TCP, like any other FAO Programme, was subject to the wide range of financial and administrative and audit controls and evaluation applied to all Regular Programme and Field Activities." It is this basis which requires me to stress again that the evaluation undertaken was an initiative of the Director-General. It was hence entirely appropriate, I think, that he should have established the Terms of Reference and that the Report which was submitted to the Council was the Report of the Evaluation Team itself. I have noted in the debate that there was a very wide extent of comments praising the Evaluation Team's Report. There were some negative comments or some criticisms but, since they dealt with the Report of the Evaluation team, I may not attempt to answer any of the criticisms which were levelled against the Report. It is the Report by the team which carried out the evaluation. The Director-General certainly had his reaction to this Report and this he submitted to the Council in a separate document giving his reasons as to why he agreed and with what he agreed, and the proposals of which this Commission is well aware, since action was taken on them by the Council.

There were a number of other questions raised regarding the TCP. Firstly, what was the value of projects approved for African rehabilitation. If I recall correctly it was the representative of Australia who raised this question. This information has been given in Conference document C 85/20, "The critical situation in Africa" which has been considered in Commission I, but as it only gave the situation at 15 October, may I bring it up to date. The information in the document said there were 71 projects approved for, up to a total cost of US\$11.6 million; this is at 15 October. As of last week, and I regret not having had the time to report on the situation as of today, but as of last week approvals amounted to US\$13.4 million.

Questions were raised also about why the TCP appropriation was utilized more in the second year of the biennium rather than in the first year. This is certainly something that is reflected in Table 1 of the Evaluation Mission's Report. We ourselves have noticed this point. I can offer two comments; one is that the number of approvals has to be seen in relation to the number of requests submitted; and secondly, approvals in any one year also reflect particular circumstances, as in the case of projects for a significant amount of money had to be approved such as those designed to deal with the problem of rinderpest in Africa or African Swine Fever in Latin America.

A small number of observations were made about the capacity of the Technical Cooperation Programme to utilize the funds which were appropriated for the TCP. May I report the following, for the appropriations of US\$18.5 and one half million for 1976/77, the amount unobligated which was returned to Member Nations, was US\$2 023. For the 1978/79 appropriation of US\$25.6 million, the amount unutilized was \$71 and no cents. For 1980/81 of the appropriation of US\$32.6 million the amount unutilized was US\$1 590. These comments about the capacity of the Organization to utilize funds are related to comments made in the Finance Committee which call for a number of explanations. The financial regulation 4.3 states "Appropriations voted by the Conference for the Technical Cooperation Programme, together with any funds transferred to the Technical Cooperation Programme under Financial Regulation 4.5 (b), shall remain available for obligations during the financial period following that during which the funds were voted or transferred. Appropriations unutilized at the close of the financial period following that during which funds were voted or transferred shall be cancelled." In brief, what the Conference approved right from the outset for the TCP was that the funds which were appropriated for one biennium, let us say 1976/77, the first biennium of the TCP, could be utilized also during the biennium 1978/79. This went through the entire range of bodies concerned, the Finance Committee, the Council the CCLM and the Conference itself. I will not go through these records which the Conference is well aware of, but what I think is also necessary to stress is this regulation was looked at by the External Auditor many years ago, in 1980. The comments of the External Auditor were submitted to the Finance Committee which considered the matter, and the report of the Finance Committee was submitted to the Council which discussed the situation in detail. The Council considered that the regulation was valid and was applied correctly and in this connection as, if I recall correctly, one of the distinguished representatives who queried this aspect explicitly or by implication was the representative of Canada. I would like to refer to the verbatim record of the 78th Session of the Council. As the invention is very brief, may I be permitted to quote it. (Continues in French)

"Encore une fois, nos félicitations au Comité des finances pour la présentation très brève et les notes très précises qui ont été présentées dans le document CL 78/6.

Je voudrais seulement attirer l'attention du Conseil sur les paragraphes 3.48 à 3.51 qui soulèvent un petit problème d'ordre financier. On remarque que certains projets du Programme de coopération technique s'étalent sur un peu plus de temps et que certaines économies sont faites à partir de certains projets, mais que les rentrées de ces économies sont remises à l'année suivante et que de ce fait le Directeur général a penser à utiliser ces économies dans le biennium suivant.

Apparemment, qui est en dehors de la question peut se poser le problème de savoir si cela est constitutionnel ou non, si c'est contre les règlements financiers. Puisque le Comité des finances est d'accord, je crois que nous pouvons entériner cette conclusion du Comité des finances.

Le Programme de coopération technique est un des plus valables de la FAO et de la décennie actuelle. Il est inévitable, étant donné la nature des programmes de cet ordre, que les dépenses s'échelonnent sur plus longtemps qu'une période de deux ans." (continuation en anglais.)

That intervention goes on very briefly but I think the point is made. A final point about the relation of the TCP to project activities under other sources of assistance. Recently our colleagues in the Development Department carried out an analysis in consultation with the FAO Country Representatives, and covering 65 countries and a total of 298 TCP projects. And they reported from this analysis that TCP projects related to over eight programmes, constituted about 40 percent of all approvals in this sample and the remaining 60 percent were in direct support of the Government's own activities.

There are other details from this analysis. For the sake of brevity I will not go into them. But the point I wish to emphasize is that the TCP does not compete with any source of assistance, whether extra-budgetary or with the Regular Programme. This is a point which on behalf of the Secretariat I find of some puzzlement because in some interventions it has been suggested that the TCP might be an element of competition for the rest of the Regular Programme. This is not at all what was intended of the TCP from the outset, nor is it how the Director-General sees it. The TCP is an integral part of the technical and economic programmes of this Organization. There is no question of competition between TCP and other programmes. In some cases, it has been suggested that there are questions about how the TCP is managed or operated. The reply to that is, very frankly, that the TCP unit, to which I made reference earlier, receives the requests for assistance, but these requests are handled with the same care and with the same close examination as any request for assistance under any other source, including any extra-budgetary requests. Where we have FAO representatives, these requests are submitted through them so that we ensure their comments on these projects. They are submitted to all the technical and economic units involved at Headquarters in order to appraise the soundness of the project and ensure its validity before any request is approved.

Mr Chairman, I have tried to answer in as brief a time as possible what I thought were the main questions raised. I believe I have covered most of them, at least the questions which were raised by more than one delegation. I will not presume any more of your time, Sir, but I am always ready to provide more information if necessary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Shah. Espero que todos los miembros de la Comisión estén satisfechos y agradezcan al Sr. Shah las aclaraciones y respuestas que ha ofrecido.

Sobre este tema 13, han intervenido 61 oradores; voy a hacer un resumen breve. Ya conocen cuál es la intención del resumen del Presidente: indicativo y no obligatorio. Pienso que en general la Comisión opinó que el documento C 85/8 contenía un análisis muy útil y era una valiosa fuente de información sobre los éxitos y los fracasos logrados en el Programa Ordinario en los años 1984-85. Se opinó que su texto era analítico y que su presentación y contenido habían venido mejorando al

recogerse las orientaciones de los órganos rectores. Se opinó que este texto permitía evaluar la eficacia y eficiencia de las actividades para aplicar las experiencias obtenidas en la elaboración del mismo documento para los bienios futuros. Unas pocas delegaciones, si bien reconocieron los progresos logrados en la presentación del documento, pensaron que podrían aclararse otros aspectos, programas y subprogramas, que convendría evaluar el impacto del programa sobre desarrollo a la luz de los recursos invertidos; que también convendría definir mejor la función de apoyo de la FAO a otras organizaciones y a las instituciones nacionales sobre investigación y, esas mismas delegaciones, consideraron que se podía lograr una mayor transparencia en algunos de los programas.

La Comisión apoyó decididamente el mayor apoyo a la participación de la mujer en las actividades rurales hasta que a las mujeres lleguen verdaderamente los esfuerzos para su desarrollo y que las mujeres deberían tener más cabida en las Organizaciones Internacionales. Igualmente que en las regiones deberían difundirse y divulgarse más intensamente las informaciones que contribuyan a lograr todo esto a favor de la mujer, que no debe seguir siendo sujeto pasivo, sino que debe participar activamente en todo el sistema.

Se apoyaron también, entre otros, los programas sobre el aumento de la producción de alimentos, pesca, agricultura, producción pecuaria, destinados particularmente a pequeños ganaderos, sistema de información y alerta, políticas de precios y evaluación de prioridades para el Africa. La Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en la necesidad de que la investigación se lleve a efecto en áreas y sectores prioritarios con la posible intención de objetivos a largo plazo. Algunas delegaciones apoyaron las Oficinas Regionales y las redes de cooperación.

En relación con el documento LIM.17, o sea la decisión tomada por los gobiernos dentro de su autoridad sobre el informe de evaluación hecho por expertos consultores externos, la mayoría de los miembros de la Comisión apoyó esas conclusiones por considerar que el PCT tiene una gran significación para los países en desarrollo por la flexibilidad de su acción catalizadora y destacaron el hecho de que la verdadera evaluación del PCT la hacen los propios gobiernos beneficiarios. Por lo tanto esa mayoría de delegaciones se felicitaron porque esa evaluación hubiera sido llevada a cabo en consulta de expertos idóneos y competentes. Esas delegaciones apoyaron los límites propuestos para el aumento de los proyectos a un nuevo tipo de proyectos catalizadores CPTD y asimismo insistieron en que los recursos del PCT deberían seguir proviniendo de fondos del Programa Ordinario.

Otras delegaciones aún reconociendo el valor mismo del PCT y su valiosa contribución y aún apoyando el concepto global y la orientación general, opinaron que no estaban de acuerdo con las propuestas sobre el PCT en cuanto a aumento del límite de los proyectos y del nuevo tipo de proyectos. Por el contrario, opinaron que el PCT tendría que verse limitado a situaciones de emergencia, a actividades a corto plazo, a ser solamente catalizador de las actividades del PCT y debería programarse sobre bases constantes y que los recursos del PCT no deberían provenir de los recursos ordinarios del Programa sino de fuentes extrapresupuestarias.

A la luz de las diferentes opiniones, la Comisión tomó nota, repito, tomó nota de la decisión del Consejo sobre el informe de evaluación del PCT.

Al concluir este ensayo de breve resumen, con todo respeto para el distinguido Presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción me permito dirigirme a ellos para rogarles que traten de encontrar en esta redacción aproximada una fuente de acuerdo sobre las dificultades que han surgido en el Comité de Redacción, que espero no vayan a repetirse en relación con este tema 13.

He tratado de presentar dos párrafos equilibrados a mi manera pero que serán perfeccionados por el Comité de Redacción, un párrafo con lo que opina la mayoría y otro párrafo con lo que opina la minoría y la frase final que se refiere a la decisión del Consejo.

Creo, y así lo he manifestado al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y a los miembros de ese Comité, que una solución semejante podría lograrse esta tarde cuando vayan a considerarse los cuatro párrafos que quedan pendientes sobre el PCT. Ojalá que esta buena voluntad mía pueda merecer la mejor atención por parte del Presidente y miembros del Comité de Redacción.

Antes de cerrar el debate sobre el tema 13, me permito recordarles que aún queda pendiente parte del tema 13, el proyecto de resolución presentado por el Grupo de los 77 sobre cooperación técnica y económica entre países en desarrollo. Ese proyecto de resolución formará parte del tema 13 porque

se refiere al Capítulo 11 de la parte tercera del documento C 85/8. El Comité de Resoluciones, en su reunión de esta mañana consideró ese proyecto de resolución y esta tarde será distribuido con el número LIM/26. Ese proyecto de resolución será discutido en la Plenaria de esta Comisión en el momento oportuno y de todas maneras después de que se concluya la discusión del tema 14

J. Winkel, Vice Chairman, Commission II, took the chair

J. Winkel, Vice-Président, Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia J. Winkel, Vicepresidente, Comisión II

14. Review of Field Programmes 1984-85

14. Examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85

14. Examen de los programas de campo 1984-85

CHAIRMAN (original language German): Dear colleagues I would like to thank Mr Bula Hoyos, our Chairman, for his kind words and similarly I would like to thank you for the trust you have shown in me and I would also like to thank those who congratulated me. Now I think that this was in the hope that we would manage to work with despatch and indeed I shall do my best. Might I refer you first of all to the document which sets out our agenda and we are supposed to deal with other current agenda items in four meetings. We have in fact already spent one session on the concluding debate of agenda item 13, but I hope that despite that and despite the various other things that we are going to have to do in the meantime, we are going to be able to conclude our discussion of agenda item 14 by Tuesday evening. First of all I would like to give the floor to the Assistant Director-General, Development Department, Mr Lignon, to introduce this agenda item.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Les programmes de terrain exécutés par la FAO représentaient, au début de l'année 1985, environ 2 500 projets répartis dans 141 pays et ayant un coût total de 1 700 millions de dollars. Pour exécuter ces projets, la FAO a utilisé 1 500 experts sur le terrain - experts dans des postes établis - plus environ 1 000 consultants ou experts en courte durée.

Comme pour la précédente session, le rapport qui est soumis à la Conférence est un document qui se propose d'analyser la situation actuelle du Programme. Ses perspectives y sont contenues, ainsi qu'une évaluation franche et précise des projets de terrain. Ce document a déjà été examiné par le Comité des programmes et le Comité des finances ainsi que par le Conseil lors de sa dernière session. Je voudrais brièvement le présenter et souligner quelques caractéristiques importantes en vue du débat de la Commission.

Comme à l'accoutumée, ce document comporte quatre chapitres. Le premier chapitre décrit la situation, les tendances et les perspectives de ce programme et montre qu'au cours de ce biennium, les Programmes de terrain de la FAO ont enregistré une croissance modérée malgré une 'stagnation à un niveau bas des activités financées par le PNUD. Mais grâce aussi à une augmentation des ressources provenant des fonds fiduciaires qui ont montré un accroissement continu et relativement fort, cette croissance des projets exécutés sur des ressources provenant des fonds fiduciaires est le témoignage de la réponse généreuse des partenaires de la FAO et des pays bénéficiaires et c'est un encouragement pour les efforts du Directeur général visant à améliorer de façon permanente son efficacité. Cette augmentation des fonds fiduciaires provient en partie des projets financés par des ressources provenant des institutions financières internationales, notamment le groupe de la Banque mondiale, qui sont accordées aux pays bénéficiaires, et qui contiennent des composantes d'assistance technique dont l'exécution est confiée à la FAO.

Vous savez que la Banque mondiale est le plus gros fournisseur d'assistance technique actuellement puisque, tous secteurs confondus, le montant de l'assistance technique financée par la Banque s'élève à 1,3 milliard de dollars par an, soit environ 400 millions pour l'agriculture, 10 pour cent à peu près des crédits d'assistance technique fournis par les banques consacrés à l'agriculture sont exécutés par la FAO.

D'autre part, le Programme de coopération technique a contribué pour 10 pour cent au financement du Programme de terrain. D'une façon générale on peut considérer que ce Programme paraît atteindre un palier et que peut-être nous sommes dans une phase de redressement.

Je voudrais aussi rappeler le rôle du Centre d'investissement qui, malgré les difficultés de renouvellement des fonds des ressources de l'AID ou du FIDA notamment, a maintenu une activité très importante au cours de ce biennium. Depuis 1967, le Centre d'investissement a préparé des projets approuvés par les agences financières représentant plus de 20 milliards de dollars, et, dans la seule année 1984, 1,67 milliard. Il est bien évident que si ce problème de reconstitution des fonds se poursuivait, cela aurait des conséquences sur les activités du Centre d'investissement.

D'autre part, je voudrais souligner que le Centre d'investissement s'est attaché à suivre des projets financés par le PNUD et exécutés par la FAO qui présentent un potentiel d'investissement. En 1984, par exemple, 35 projets ont été identifiés et 14 ont révélé des possibilités d'investissement représentant environ 200 millions de dollars. Depuis 1979, 16 projets financés par le PNUD et exécutés par la FAO ont donné lieu à 420 millions de dollars d'investissement dont 256 ont été financés par des agences internationales de financement.

Le deuxième chapitre de ce document est un exercice d'évaluation du Programme de terrain. Comme vous avez pu le constater, cette évaluation a été faite à partir de deux sources. La première source est une évaluation faite à partir des représentants de la FAO sur le terrain qui ont analysé environ 1 200 projets sur les 2 500 qui sont en cours actuellement, c'est-à-dire près de la moitié. Ils ont examiné un certain nombre de critères qui permettent d'apprécier la conception, l'exécution et le suivi de ces projets. Vous trouvez dans ce chapitre II un certain nombre de résultats et commentaires qui nous ont été communiqués par les représentants de la FAO sur le terrain.

A côté de cet exercice, nous avons procédé à un autre système d'évaluation qui porte sur 220 projets environ et s'étale sur cinq ans. Nous avons dépassé le biennium actuel pour avoir une meilleure analyse et en tirer des conclusions plus pertinentes. Cette évaluation s'est faite au cours d'exercices tripartites, c'est-à-dire en général entre le pays bénéficiaire, l'organisme de financement - que ce soit le PNUD ou un gouvernement participant au programme de coopération FAO/gouvernement - et la FAO. Comme vous pouvez le constater, il est clair que cet exercice permet d'avoir une évaluation assez précise des qualités et des défauts que l'on rencontre dans d'autres programmes de terrain.

Il est clair que l'évaluation des programmes de terrain n'est pas une chose aisée et facile à normaliser. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons utilisé ces deux approches, ce qui nous a permis de faire une synthèse qui se trouve en conclusion de ce chapitre II.

Le point sur lequel je voudrais attirer votre attention, c'est que la participation du gouvernement et le soutien qu'il peut apporter au projet apparaissent clairement comme des facteurs essentiels de la réussite des projets. Les aspects logistiques, qui paraissent a priori les plus importants, n'apparaissent pas dans l'évaluation à laquelle nous avons procédé comme des facteurs fondamentaux de la réussite et de l'impact des projets.

Je pense que de toute façon ce qui est important c'est d'avoir des projets ayant des objectifs immédiats proches, clairement identifiés, et en outre la définition de ces objectifs étant parfaitement claire, que l'exécution du projet avec le soutien du gouvernement - parce qu'il faut rappeler que ce sont des projets du gouvernement - puisse être mise en oeuvre correctement.

Le troisième chapitre est un exemple de l'assistance technique de la FAO dans le domaine forestier. L'activité forestière a été retenue, dans le cadre de cet exercice, pour différentes raisons, notamment parce qu'il y avait le Congrès mondial forestier à Mexico, notamment parce que c'était l'Année internationale de la forêt mais aussi et surtout parce que tout le monde est convaincu du rôle de plus en plus important que la forêt joue dans les programmes de développement de l'espace rural, de la lutte contre la désertification et de la lutte contre la dégradation de l'environnement d'une façon générale.

L'analyse de ce chapitre montre clairement que le développement de l'activité forestière est de plus en plus en grand et s'élargit de plus en plus, notamment dans des secteurs qui permettent de mieux contrôler les problèmes de lutte contre la désertification et en particulier dans l'étude de la forêt comme source d'énergie et de bois de feu, et enfin aussi dans le rôle de la forêt pour la sécurité alimentaire qui a un rôle qui n'est pas négligeable.

Je voudrais dire que les activités du Programme forestier ont été financées par différentes sources: le PNUD bien sûr, notamment dans les problèmes d'inventaire forestier des ressources; les fonds fiduciaires, c'est-à-dire les projets financés dans le cadre des programmes coopératifs FAO/gouvernement, sont surtout orientés vers les problèmes de reforestation communautaire au niveau villageois. Le Programme de coopération technique pour sa part a contribué de façon substantielle pour environ 8 à 10 pour cent dans les activités forestières pour faire face à des actions plus urgentes liées par exemple à la lutte contre les incendies, la lutte contre les parasites, ou dans certains cas la préparation de semences forestières.

Le chapitre 4 de la revue est un chapitre dans lequel on essaie de voir les principales évolutions du programme. En particulier, actuellement, 40 pour cent des experts qui sont sur le terrain dans des postes affectés aux projets proviennent des pays en développement, et le rôle des institutions et des directeurs nationaux s'est sérieusement accru parce qu'il y a maintenant plus de 430 projets qui sont dirigés par les directeurs nationaux. L'évolution se fait aussi dans le domaine de la formation, parce qu'on a essayé d'adapter notre programme de formation à des activités très opérationnelles.

Je voudrais aussi pour conclure souligner que 40 pour cent des activités sur le terrain sont consacrées à l'Afrique au sud du Sahara, et que si l'on prend le continent africain dans son ensemble, en incluant l'Afrique du Nord, l'Egypte et la Libye, c'est à peu près 50 pour cent de nos activités de terrain qui sont consacrées au continent, africain.

Dernière remarque, ce programme de terrain est étroitement lié aux programmes de la FAO. Il en est le complément sur le terrain et les résultats des programmes de terrain de la FAO constituent pratiquement la mise en oeuvre sur le terrain des grandes actions et des grandes orientations politiques définies par les organes directeurs de la FAO.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous remercier de m'avoir donné la parole et je suis à votre disposition si vous avez besoin d'explications ultérieures.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): Thank you very much Mr. Lignon. I think that in the light of this very clear statement we have a very good grasp of the main features of the document before me and our first speaker for the first debate under item 14 is the distinguished delegate for Angola.

R.F. DE JESUS NETO (Angola): J'aimerais au nom de ma délégation, remercier le Directeur général pour l'avant-propos clair et concis qu'il a fait au document C 85/4, Examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85. Je remercie également le Secrétariat pour la qualité excellente du document qu'il nous a présenté et qui, croyons-nous, est plein d'enseignement.

Permettez-moi de faire les commentaires suivants sur ce document. Ma délégation se réjouit du bilan positif qui s'est dégagé de tout le volume des programmes de terrain de la FAO exécutés au cours de l'exercice biennal 1983-85 et de leur croissance modérée enregistrée à cette période par rapport au fléchissement marqué constaté en 1982-83.

Nous sommes heureux d'apprendre que l'assistance technique de la FAO financée par des fonds fiduciaires a connu un développement. Nous sommes cependant préoccupés par les réductions répétées des contributions du PNUD à l'assistance technique auxquelles nous assistons depuis 1980. Nous craignons que ce renversement de tendance crée un précédent et remette en question l'avenir même du PNUD.

En tant que citoyens d'un des 21 pays africains les plus affectés, couverts par le Programme de relèvement de l'agriculture en Afrique, nous remercions encore une fois le Directeur général pour les efforts combien louables qu'il a déployés pour non seulement sensibiliser l'opinion publique

internationale sur la crise alimentaire catastrophique en Afrique, mais aussi canaliser l'assistance de la FAO auprès des pays concernés. En effet, mon pays, la République populaire d'Angola, a bénéficié du financement de deux projets importants présentés à la réunion des donateurs à Rome, le 29 mars 1985, à savoir le projet de la réhabilitation de la vallée de Cavaco à Benguela et le projet de réhabilitation des eaux pastorales de Chibia dans la province de Huila au Sud du pays.

La répartition par programme des dépenses extra-budgétaires au titre des projets de terrain nous indique, à la page 12 du document, que plus d'un quart des allocations de l'assistance technique de la FAO (26 pour cent) ont été absorbées par le développement et l'amélioration des cultures alimentaires et qu'il y a eu accroissement du pourcentage des ressources consacrées au développement de l'élevage (17 pour cent) et de la foresterie (16 pour cent). Il y a de quoi s'en féliciter.

Le chapitre 2 du document C 85/4 nous semble le plus important et nous espérons qu'il méritera une attention particulière de nos pays qui pourront se rendre compte des efforts du Directeur général visant à améliorer l'efficacité des programmes de terrain. Nous avons beaucoup apprécié les évaluations des projets de terrain faites par les représentants de la FAO dans leurs pays d'affectation par le personnel de terrain et les missions d'évaluation de la FAO ou encore par les directeurs nationaux des projets.

Néanmoins, nous souhaitons que des efforts supplémentaires soient faits pour éviter des résultats décevants tels que ceux mentionnés au tableau 2.7, page 39.

Ma délégation réitère son appui total à l'incorporation des "nouvelles dimensions" dans les projets de terrain de la FAO, c'est-à-dire le recours aux experts et institutions des pays en développement et à la promotion de la CTPD. De l'autre côté, l'affectation aux projets des experts nationaux lorsqu'ils seront disponibles, fera partie intégrante des "nouvelles dimensions" et pourra, comme nous l'avons déjà dit dans notre intervention antérieure sur le Programme de travail et Budget, contribuer à combattre l'exode des compétences du monde en développement vers les pays développés.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): If you would allow me, I would like to make a point which occurred to me when listening to the distinguished delegate of Angola. This question of page numbers poses difficulties: could I invite you to always mention the paragraph numbers, so that even if the page numbers are not the same in the different languages we can still identify the part of the text to which the speaker is referring.

If I could make another proposal: under Item 13 we discussed TCP at considerable length and in considerable detail. I think each delegation has had the opportunity to express its thinking on the Technical Cooperation Programme; since the TCP is not of primary importance under Agenda item 14, Review of Field Programmes, might I suggest that we do not discuss TCP at any length - or perhaps even at all. However, please do not take this as any attempt on my part to over-ride any of you.

T. SAITO (Japan): First of all I would like to commend the Secretariat for the very informative and analytical introduction to document C 85/4 which is before us. Before touching upon some specific remarks on the content of the document, I would like to express my general view on the FAO field activity as a whole.

My delegation fully appreciates the important role of the FAO field projects in promoting food and agricultural development in developing countries. We are also pleased that, while the UNDP funds have been reduced, the increasing trend of the Trust Fund resources clearly reflects the importance of these activities, which are well recognized by the donor countries. We feel that in order to bring about a greater effect and impact by the field projects, it is of utmost importance to formulate projects which will be cost-effective and respond directly to the actual needs of recipient countries. Furthermore, due consideration should be given to the relationship between the field projects and activities which are implemented under the Regular Programme in the course of project formulation. In this connection I strongly hope that the Review of Field Programmes in the future will include an analysis of the relationship between the field projects and the regular programme.

Let me now touch upon the content of C 85/4. Firstly, we very much welcome the objective analysis in which the outcome and effects of the project performances have been clearly indicated in the document in such a way as to group the evaluation results into categories of "good", "satisfactory", and "not satisfactory" according to the assessments made by both the FAO Representatives and the Joint Evaluation Commission. We hope that these efforts in reviewing the FAO's field activities will be further strengthened in improving of the field projects.

The document implicitly points out a number of programmes relating to the project performance from various aspects, such as government involvement, transfer of skills, and so on. We suggest that since close inter-relations exist among all these aspects, a continuous effort is needed in order to further improve the method of project planning and designing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as described in the concluding remarks of the document.

Paragraph 29 of the document refers to the positive relationship which exists between the achievement of good output and the degree of appropriate technical backstopping. One of the advantages of international assistance through FAO's field projects, we believe, is that the technical expertise accumulated by FAO can be fully utilized. Therefore in the implementation of the project every effort should be made to assure sufficient and appropriate technical support by the experts of FAO Headquarters, Regional Offices and Country Offices. We note the fact that most projects' indicators are ranked lower than in the case of LDC's. According to the analysis, the main cause of the problem is lack of government involvement. In this connection we would like to urge the recipient governments, particularly those of the LDC's, to make a commitment in order to ensure successful implementation and impact.

With regard to the regional distribution of FAO field projects, we welcome the fact that a series of field activities in Africa will continue in the 1984-85 biennium, and we agree that priority should be given continuously to Africa in the next biennium as well, because special measures to help African countries tackle the food crisis are still required. However, at the same time we hope that due attention will be paid to various programmes in other regions.

I would like to turn now to forestry assistance, which is described in Chapter 3. We appreciate the fact that assistance in the field of forestry has recently been diffused throughout the FAO field projects. The conservation of forests and the development of forestry are quite important, not only in maintaining a favourable-environment for agricultural production, but also for improving the standard of living of rural people. We therefore strongly hope that activities in this field will be further strengthened. We also welcome the increasing trend of assistance for community forestry and fuelwood. The document reports that within the FAO's central forestry assistance, assistance for community forestry and fuelwood had increased from 3 percent in 1980 to 20 percent in 1987

We believe that the action of promoting country forestry is quite an effective way of maintaining and increasing forestry resources and forestry development in developing countries.

Finally, I would like to briefly comment on TCP, which has been considered one of the resources in FAO's field activities. Since our position on TCP was clearly stated in previous agenda items, I should not reiterate the points. However, I would like to request the Secretariat to provide us with more information on TCP performance, and periodically submit an evaluation of TCP performance at every Session of the Conference in addition to the document, Review of Field Programmes.

I would like to conclude my statement by expressing my Government's commitment to and continuous support of the FAO's field projects. Japan has been increasing its contribution to the Trust Fund for the FAO's field projects since 1980. In 1985 we plan to provide US\$2.6 million for the aid projects.

G. ERICSSON (Sweden) : First, I would like on behalf of the Swedish delegation to commend the Secretariat for another Review of Field Programmes, one in a series of Reviews, which, as the Director-General has said in his Foreword, "have always generated strong interest among Conference delegates". The document is comprehensive and very concise, but not easy to cover in a few brief comments.

However, I will take up a couple of principal issues which are based on a thorough study of the excellent document. I will start from the latter part, chapter 4, with what is said about the influence of WCARRD on field operations. In the 1983 Conference we discussed the report on the follow-up of actions by FAO and on the recommendations of WCARRD in positive terms. It is encouraging to note that the application of the WCARRD approach is further pursued in the implementation of the Field Programme. This has meant more attention and support to small farmers, artisanal fishermen and rural populations dependent on forestry through community and cooperative approaches based on people's participation. We also note with satisfaction the increased attention given to activities initiated and implemented by national NGOs. We want FAO to pursue this approach even further and we are looking forward to the next full report on the WCARRD follow-up scheduled for the 1987 Conference. Section B, in chapter 4, Specific Measures to Promote Self-Reliance, reports on measures taken to involve governments more in the management of technical cooperation projects. We have on earlier occasions commended FAO for being in the forefront in adopting a "New Dimensions" approach. We note that the number of projects with a national project director has increased and that a considerable expansion of integration of national professional staff in FAO project activities has taken place. But as clearly indicated in the careful comments in paragraph 4.18, FAO is still far from generally accepting direct government execution since it provides its professional knowledge as advisory services in project design and formulation and in technical backstopping.

The projects and programmes are still FAO projects and programmes, supported, as it is put, by the governments. This is reflected in the earlier chapters of this review, as exemplified, for instance, in paragraph 2.35 where it says: "Many FAO Reps still praised national and local authorities for the support they had provided for projects." Based on experience from our own bilateral development cooperation, we strongly argue that the technical assistance projects should be integral parts of ongoing projects within the national development plans. The technical assistance projects mean additional resources to accelerate development and should thus be government-executed. Many of the problems described in Chapters One and Two have their roots in the fact that they have not been conceived in that perspective, have not taken into account the existing institutional framework or, a point which has become so evident during recent years, have not been formulated with the full awareness of the demands on scarce government resources for recurrent costs or of the need for a continuous flow of even more scarce foreign currency. The implications of this situation on project and post-project activities are referred to in paragraph 2.33, where it is also said that "this aspect should not be ignored." We think that this is an understatement.

We would in this connection also like to comment on the role of the FAO country offices, which are closer to the field than the Rome-based headquarters. When they were established we supported that move with the understanding that this was the first step in a decentralization process. Further developments have not justified that hope; the project officers still report directly to headquarters. It is our belief that FAO field activities would be far more efficient if more resources were reallocated from the operations divisions in Rome to country offices. With more professional people at the country level, more decision-making power could also be delegated to the FAO Representatives in the implementation of the projects. This aspect is touched upon in paragraph 2.100.

Chapter Three deals with forestry. From the Swedish point of view it is gratifying that special attention has been given to forestry in this Review. The increased emphasis on village forestry is particularly welcome. As we have already dwelt on that issue in our statement under the Programme of Work and Budget, I will here only refer to that statement.

There is one more issue I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to bring to the attention of this Commission, an issue which is strongly related to future planning and implementation of field projects.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared 1983 to 1992 to be the Disabled Persons' Decade. General Assembly Resolution 3828, relating to the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, calls upon all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, through reallocation of existing resources, to continue to ensure the early implementation of this Programme.

The World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons is directed to all member countries irrespective of level of economic development. It calls for national programmes in each member state for action in support of the handicapped. Rather than emphasizing the traditional view that care of disabled persons is something left to institutions, it stresses a more comprehensive approach. Handicaps must be prevented as much as possible; those who are handicapped must be offered adequate rehabilitation, and more importantly, society must adapt to the needs of the disabled and guarantee equalization of opportunities for them. The activities within the different areas of economic and social life must be geared to give the disabled the same possibilities to participate as in given to others.

In Sweden, these views have been the basic policy with regard to disabled people for many years. Although a lot has been done, still more has to be done. As an example I would like to mention that our Prime Minister has recently appointed a disabled person as Minister of Health. This Minister, who is blind, has also been a member of parliament for a number of years.

The estimates tell us that in the world today, no less than 500 million people suffer from a disability of one form or another, of whom 350 million are estimated to be living in developing countries. This fact has given greater emphasis in our bilateral development cooperation to issues concerning disabled persons. A special task force has been set up within SIDA, the Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation, including representatives from the disabled people's own organizations, to ensure that bilateral projects and programmes take into full consideration the views expressed in the World Programme of Action and to devise ways and means to support governments in the implementation of national programmes.

We find it equally important that FAO explicitly state its response to the General Assembly Resolution mentioned and the Swedish delegation proposes that the following text be inserted as a decision by the Conference in the Report:

"The Conference urges the Director-General to intensify FAO's activities towards the prevention of disability in the rural environment, and to increase technical assistance and support to those developing countries endeavouring to create national plans and programmes in the field of disability prevention, rehabilitation, and the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons with the aim of improving their quality of life, and the possibilities for their social and economic development."

We are confident that this, our proposal, will get support from other delegations in the statements which follow.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): Thank you, I think our Swedish colleague has made a proposal very much within the context of the humanitarian traditions of his country in reminding us of the programme for the disabled. I can only recommend that we should indeed take up the Swedish statement as an FAO statement.

R.C. GUPTA (India): My delegation would like to commend the FAO Secretariat for this extremely informative and useful document. We would also like to congratulate Mr Lignon for his comprehensive and very precise introduction to this document. In fact, I felt that the whole scenario was more or less recalled, it was extremely useful to recapitulate the document, our discussion earlier in the Programme Committee and the FAO Council in its Eighty-eighth Session.

With regard to the trend of the field programmes, the document brings them out clearly, concisely and comprehensively. Mr Lignon gave us certain numbers, 2 500 field projects in 141 countries, for an investment of US\$ 1.7 billion. These figures look very impressive but in the overall context, considering the needs of the developing countries, I wish to invite the attention of delegates to the statement of the Director-General himself contained in his Foreword to the document: "The current volume of activities must, however, be considered disappointing in the face of massive needs for improvement, in food production and agricultural development in Africa and the least developed countries as a whole."

We are also worried about the stagnation in the UNDP funding of activities which are undertaken through FAO, and particularly UNDP funding of agricultural projects in general. These funds have more or less stagnated. The increase in the Trust Fund, whether bilateral or unilateral, is most welcome. We would like to place on record our concern about the fall in UNDP resources.

Another area of concern, while I am talking about Chapter One of this paper, is the recent activity or perhaps the activities undertaken by the UNDP. We had occasion to talk about the setting up of the Office of Project Execution (OPE) by the UNDP. In the last Council Session, some explanations were given as to why the UNDP considered it necessary to start undertaking the execution of projects where specialized agencies exist for this purpose, but we found the explanation rather unconvincing. We believe that the representative of the UNDP may be here and perhaps at the end of the discussion on this subject we could have further explanation as to why it was considered necessary by the UNDP to start this project operations office themselves. We recently found that they had established another unit, the human resources and project preparations facility. All of us are aware of the scarcity of funds, of finances available in the UN system or in any case with the financing agencies, and whether they are bilateral or multilateral, there is a scarcity of resources. We are not clear why these agencies are duplicating these activities when specialized agencies exist for a particular purpose, and we fail to see why this work should be undertaken by UNDP themselves. Let me indicate that we support UNDP as we support FAO and we have the fullest confidence in both these Organizations. Nevertheless, we would like to know the rationale for duplicating these functions.

With regard to Chapter 2, we find the evaluation which has been conducted by FAO representatives and by the internal evaluation of the Organization an extremely truthful exercise. It is interesting to note the candidness of the result. If I were to invite your attention for a second to paragraphs 2.43 and 2.46 of the document C 85/4, paragraph 2.46 mentions projects which were evaluated in terms of their effects or in terms of the effectiveness for which they were set out; 164 projects were evaluated for results; 33 projects were found to be categorized as good and 31 satisfactory and 36 unsatisfactory. That is, 64 percent of the total projects were either in the categories of good or satisfactory, which is a measure of the candidness with which this work is being done. I would also like to comment on the section on concluding remarks, this is paragraph 2.39 to paragraph 2.103. Certain conclusions have been drawn, particularly the conclusion in 2.102 which says "Concerning factors which can hinder project implementation, the evaluation synthesis has identified the performance of national staff and project management as crucial, along with government policy support and the quality of international experts." Now some of these remarks have given an opportunity to our colleague from Japan to call for greater support from the developing countries' governments themselves to these projects. We find no evidence in this document to come to that conclusion. This is an often repeated and baseless statement that governments do not give support to such projects. We would have liked to have had more evidence before arriving at such conclusions.

Now with regard to Chapter 3, the importance of forestry cannot be overstated. We are aware that the annual loss of forest areas is as high as 11.5 million hectares. We are happy that 12 percent of the Field Programme budget is allocated to forestry; this has increased from a percentage of 10 percent during the last biennium. This document also states that certain projects have been undertaken in our own country and we are fully satisfied with these activities.

As to Chapter 4, we commend the Organization for delivering these field projects to carry out the programme of work set out at the World Conference on Agriculture and Research Development. We are also happy to note that about 45 percent of the experts now engaged in these projects are from developing countries, and 430 project managers come from countries where these projects are being undertaken.

We fully support the help being given to Africa, particularly the area south of the Sahara where 40 percent of these projects are concentrated. Overall we would encourage the Organization to continue its useful work to improve the flow of feedback and data to bring about greater effectiveness in their projects so as to use the scarce resources available to the Organizations of the United Nations system to the utmost.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I would like first of all to commend the very comprehensive document C 85/4. This is indeed a very good and sound basis for discussion. We welcome this all the more since field programmes have been primarily directed towards the developing countries particularly in Africa and we note that there has been an increase in the Trust Funds available for which we thank the States involved. We are, however, very disturbed by the decrease in the funds made available by UNDP. We feel that this is a tendency that cannot but have negative effects and we very much hope that it will be reversed for the general good of the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries. We would also hope that there will be a greater degree of cooperation between the TCP, the UNDP, and the NGOs, as well as the institutions in the field so that optimum results can be achieved, those optimum results that we all seek. We feel it is important to strive for greater effectiveness in terms of investments and for that reason we support replenishment of the IFAD funds. Moreover, we noted with considerable satisfaction how many countries have implemented agricultural projects based on the new possibilities offered them in terms of technical assistance for development and we should like to emphasize the importance of increased training in the field, greater use of local expertise, as well as use of experts on short-term contracts. We should not overlook the importance of involving national experts in these development activities.

The delegation of Egypt warmly welcomes the new impetus which derived from the WCARRD Conference particularly with regard to all small farms and small holdings and we hope that the broadline directives for assessment in evaluation will be revised in the light of progress made and we particularly welcome the work done in forestry.

By way of conclusion we would like to thank Mr Lignon for his excellent introductory statement.

D. APANPA (Nigeria): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Director-General and his Secretariat for the efforts taken in preparing the comprehensive document under discussion, that is the Review of Field Programmes, otherwise tagged as C 85/4. Again we congratulate the presenter of the document for the brilliant way he adopted his presentation.

It is quite noteworthy that two major features are well identified on the Paper under discussion, one linking features between the Regular and Field Programmes and the other identifying the biting food crisis in Africa.

However, we think much is still expected from the FAO and other relevant financing agencies in view of the recent cutbacks from the UNDP.

Again much has to be pursued within the areas of project planning and implementation, most especially for the developing countries.

It is gratifying to note that project expenditures in Africa registered 40 percent in the outgoing biennium and that this figure will rise in the next biennium. This will certainly do much to benefit many developing countries in the African region.

The FAO has done a good job by sending evaluation and review missions to assess the field programme. This idea has enabled specialists to interact with the FAO field officials and their national counterparts. Through these endeavours, clear views of the projects are presented. Achievements are noted, logistic problems are identified, and solutions are proposed.

Lastly, the increase in the extra-budgetary expenditures, as given elsewhere in the FAO, in the Fisheries Field Programme will go a long way in the development of the sector.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Permítase en primer lugar, felicitar al Sr. Lignon por la excelente presentación del tema 14, actualmente en examen. Para nuestro país, Panamá, los programas de campo de la FAO han sido siempre motivo de gran reflexión; por tal razón, no sólo hemos prestado particular atención al alcance de las actividades operacionales de esta Organización, sino que nos hemos interesado también en forma especial en su contenido, siguiendo muy de cerca sus tendencias y prioridades. Dentro de este contexto, el contenido del examen de los programas de campo que hoy analizamos,

nos ha suscitado un especial interés, ya que, a nuestro juicio, en él se efectúa un análisis abierto y constructivo de las características, tendencias y perspectivas de dichos programas. Consideramos de manera global que se han alcanzado significativas mejoras en las actividades de campo, que se ha avanzado en aspectos tales como la calidad de los expertos y particularmente en que los proyectos parecen corresponder cada vez más a las prioridades determinadas por los propios gobiernos. A nuestro juicio, las evaluaciones realizadas han permitido reconocer las causas fundamentales de las deficiencias en la ejecución de las actividades de asistencia técnica y permitirán, por lo tanto, encontrar las medidas prácticas necesarias para corregirlas. Por todo esto, mi delegación manifiesta su complacencia e insta a la FAO a encontrar nuevas mejoras, sobre todo en lo referente a la preparación y planificación de los proyectos, así como cuando, subrayamos, ello sea posible, a la determinación de los objetivos cuantificables de producción.

La delegación de Panamá reitera su apoyo pleno a la prioridad dada a Africa en la distribución regional de los fondos de cooperación técnica-. Ello no sólo nos parece justo sino necesario. Respecto a la situación africana, deseamos evidenciar el hecho de que fue la FAO la primera Organización en dar la alerta acerca de la inminente crisis alimentaria en ese continente y, que desde entonces, su Director General, ha venido desplegando enérgicos esfuerzos para ayudar a los países más necesitados. A tal propósito, nosotros concedemos una muy particular importancia al Programa de la Rehabilitación de la Agricultura en Africa. En efecto, aunque reconocemos el enorme valor de la ayuda alimentaria de urgencia, consideramos que ambas tienen que ir coordinadas pues sólo de esta manera los países afectados pueden recuperar la capacidad de producción perdida, superar la situación de emergencia y evitar una dependencia cada vez mayor de los otros. Nos complace, y lo subrayamos, tanto la amplia gama de proyectos que para tal fin se realizan, como la rapidez con la que los mismos se ejecutan. Nos complace asimismo sobremanera, la participación de ciertos países en desarrollo en parte de las actividades de apoyo.

Mi delegación desea, sin embargo, manifestar su preocupación por la situación de nuestra región, América Latina y El Caribe, en lo que respecta a la distribución de las asignaciones para los proyectos de campo, ya que, como puede apreciarse en el Gráfico 1.4 así como en el Cuadro 1.3 del documento C 85/4, se nota una disminución progresiva de dichas asignaciones para nuestra región. Estimamos, por lo tanto, conveniente que para alcanzar el justo equilibrio regional se siga concediendo a nuestra región la asistencia que tanto necesita en materia de dichas actividades de campo.

Por lo que se refiere al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), ya nos hemos referido a él en forma amplia durante el desarrollo de los dos temas anteriores. En esta ocasión deseamos tan sólo evidenciar cómo a pesar de sus limitados recursos, de los injustos ataques a los cuales están sometidos por unos pocos y que parecieran no considerar adecuadamente nuestra participación modesta pero soberana en las actividades de la FAO, el PCT desempeña una función de suma importancia en los programas de campo de esta Organización, de manera general tal y como se viene reconociendo por la casi totalidad de los Estados que participamos en esta Conferencia.

Dentro de ese marco de referencia, no podemos dejar pasar la ocasión sin destacar el hecho que consideramos de una importancia significativa, a saber: la utilización cada vez mayor de los recursos de los propios países en desarrollo para la ejecución de sus proyectos de campo.

Destacamos un aumento de los fondos fiduciarios unilaterales financiados con recursos facilitados por los propios países beneficiarios. Tales esfuerzos, a nuestro juicio, deben evidenciarse, en efecto y aunque lamentablemente los mismos no son suficientes, y por lo tanto se seguirá dependiendo de la ayuda exterior, la cual en muchos casos se hace desear, es utilizada como elemento de presión política y económica o simplemente se niega. Tal hecho señala la voluntad de los países en desarrollo, a pesar de la grave crisis económica, de tratar de depender cada vez menos de la mencionada asistencia externa; y se da así respuesta a quienes cuestionan nuestro interés por mejorar las cosas, a quienes piensan que subdesarrollo es sinónimo de indolencia, a quienes subestiman nuestra voluntad de seguir adelante.

Mi delegación estima, asimismo, oportuno manifestar su complacencia por la expresada tendencia a contratar más directores de proyectos y expertos nacionales, en cuanto considera no sólo que tal práctica da mayores y mejores oportunidades de labor a nuestros técnicos, sino también, sobre todo, porque la misma constituye un aliento y contribuye, por una parte, a estimular la tan necesaria capacitación de los elementos nacionales de los países beneficiarios y, por otra, a lograr una participación más real y efectiva en la formulación y aplicación de modelos de desarrollo propios de tales países.

De la misma manera, expresamos nuestra satisfacción por la importancia que se da a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo, a la que consideramos como uno de los pilares del establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional. Consideramos que este es un objetivo que debe perseguirse activamente.

Nuestra delegación estima favorable el hincapié que se hace en el actual examen del desarrollo forestal. Para nosotros es importante, indispensable, acabar con lo que definimos la tendencia a fabricar desiertos. Es indispensable reconocer y hacer conocer la relación que existe entre desarrollo forestal y rural y la producción de alimentos. Es éste el mejor homenaje que se puede hacer al Año Internacional del Bosque proclamado por la FAO.

Respaldamos, asimismo, de manera decidida, la labor del Centro de Inversiones de la FAO. Nos preocupan, al mismo tiempo, las continuas dificultades con que tropieza la Asociación Internacional de Fomento (AIE) y especialmente el Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) para movilizar cantidades suficientes de recursos, por lo cual se afectará negativamente, de eso estamos seguros, la corriente de inversiones destinada al sector agrícola. A tal propósito, insistimos, como lo venimos haciendo en todas nuestras intervenciones, en que se concluyan en forma satisfactoria antes de fin de año las prolongadas negociaciones para la segunda reposición de recursos del FIDA.

Expresamos nuestra satisfacción por los importantes efectos que los criterios de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural han tenido en las actividades de campo de la FAO, ya que ellos comportan la participación de los sectores más pobres de la comunidad en los planes cooperativos, incluso en lo concerniente al mejoramiento de la condición de la mujer.

Manifesteramos también nuestra complacencia y especial interés por el considerable aumento del componente de capacitación que se imparte actualmente a través de las actividades de campo, así como de los importantes efectos del gran número de becas concedido anualmente en el marco de dichos proyectos. Y es que mientras para algunos el conocimiento significa la clave del poder, para nosotros la capacitación representa la clave del desarrollo, razón por la cual la anhelamos.

Queremos destacar en esta oportunidad la importancia que mi delegación otorga al problema de los impedidos en el mundo rural, ya que ello es parte de nuestra política nacional. Esto no sólo en el contexto de los innegables aspectos humanos que el mismo tiene, sino sobre todo por el gran significado que para el sector productivo rural significa la plena y eficaz incorporación de los mismos. Por estas razones, entre otras, es por lo que la delegación de Panamá desea expresar su más decidido apoyo a la declaración que en tal sentido nos hiciese la distinguida representación de Suecia.

Como último aspecto, la delegación de Panamá desea expresar, una vez más, su seria preocupación por las tendencias, cada vez más generalizadas, de reducir la asistencia internacional, en condiciones de favor o no, para el sector agrícola. Nos preocupa que mientras otros proclaman a los cuatro vientos su apoyo al multilateralismo, las acciones en la práctica desmientan tal hecho. Nos preocupa el hecho de que tal tendencia pareciese ir dirigida, de manera particular, hacia aquellos organismos que, como la FAO, practican la acción multilateral. Nos preocupan los fines que se persiguen con ello. Nos preocupan cuáles podrían ser sus consecuencias.

Dentro de este contexto y a pesar de la moderada recuperación experimentada durante el presente bienio, nos preocupa el volumen que las actividades programadas de campo de la FAO puedan prestar a las crecientes necesidades y demandas de los países en desarrollo, especialmente de África y de mi región: América Latina y el Caribe.

Motivo de particular preocupación, en ese sentido, son las sensibles reducciones que desde 1981 se han venido registrando sucesivamente en la cuantía de los recursos del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, PNUD, asignadas para asistencia técnica a la alimentación y a la agricultura; y es que nos preocupa también que los propios recursos del PNUD hayan ido disminuyendo.

Nuestra delegación manifiesta, dentro de este marco de referencia y a la luz de la duplicación en la atención de particulares sectores de la asistencia, tal como parece ser el caso de la Oficina de Ejecución de Proyectos del PNUD, que, a nuestro juicio, la FAO es el organismo especializado y con experiencia, dentro del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, para ejecutar el apoyo técnico y sectorial requerido. Por esta razón le expresamos nuestro apoyo.

La delegación de Panamá ha prestado particular atención a los aspectos relacionados con la importancia creciente de los fondos fiduciarios en los programas ejecutados por la FAO. A este propósito, desea evidenciar la manera con que la asistencia técnica prestada por esta Organización, financiada con dichos fondos, se amplíe. En efecto, la misma ha aumentado al punto de representar en la actualidad el mayor porcentaje de los recursos extrapresupuestarios que la FAO destina a actividades de campo. Al respecto, deseamos expresar nuestra satisfacción, ya que la disponibilidad de tal apoyo permite, por lo menos, la continuidad de la asistencia técnica, vital en muchos sectores prioritarios afectados por las reducciones de los programas FAO/PNUD y l proporciona también la flexibilidad para responder a importantes necesidades de asistencia y cooperación técnica que va surgiendo. En este contexto, deseamos destacar la participación generosa y altruista de los países nórdicos y de Italia en esos fondos fiduciarios.

Deseamos terminar manifestando nuestra preocupación, muy seria, por la carrera armamentista, que absorbe importantes recursos que debieràn ser dedicados a los procesos de desarrollo, así como los esfuerzos tendentes a la erradicación del hambre y malnutrición. Exhortamos, por lo tanto, a todos los gobiernos para que, como homenaje a este 40° Aniversario de la FAO, se comprometan nuevamente a fortalecer los órganos multilaterales y se pueda contribuir de esta forma a cumplir con el principal objetivo de esta Organización: la noble tarea de garantizar la alimentación en el mundo.

M. HJORTSØ (Denmark): Denmark has for a number of years been among the major contributors to FAO's Field Programmes through our joint multi-bilateral cooperation. On this background we have studied the Review of Field Programmes 1984-85 with great interest. This review of past experience should present us with some lessons of value for future activities. Where the financial situation is concerned, the Review states that the Trust Funds as a funding source currently represent a dynamic element in the Field Programme delivery. Judging from the experience of the past few years the Trust Funds seem to stabilize themselves at a level of approximately 50 percent of the resources available for the FAO Field Programmes. The UNDP-funded share on the other hand dropped from 90 percent 15 years ago to around 40 percent today. Denmark finds this development regrettable, since it partly reflects the precarious financial position of the UNDP which we like to see as the main funding and coordinating agency in the UN development effort.

As for our own contribution to the FAO Trust Funds, we do not foresee any real term increase in that contribution for reasons I will revert to shortly.

We have noted with satisfaction that the allocation for field projects in Africa will rise to 40 percent of the total for the biennium 1984-85. It is likewise with satisfaction that we have noted that approximately 40 percent of the funds will be diverted to LDCs. My delegation commends and supports this development.

As regards the recent development in the distribution of expenditure on programmes, we have noted with some surprise that for the biennium 1984-85, a period which has been particularly marked for its preoccupation with the food crisis and hunger situation in Africa. The only two programme areas which have experienced a nominal as well as relative decline in FAO Field Project expenditure are crop development and nutrition. The Review of Field Programmes contains an interesting synthesis and analysis of evaluation reports this year from no less than 222 projects evaluated in the years 1980 through 1984. Although the statistical methods behind the analyses of course are open to question, my delegation appreciates the frank presentation of the results. We find that the analysis and the knowledge gained from those evaluations must be food for thought for donor countries as well as recipient countries, and in particular, for the FAO itself. The analysis confirms one thing which is well known to all of us. The undertaking of development activities is indeed a difficult task. Allow me, Mr Chairman, to quote a few results from the analysis which are of a rather disturbing nature. In nearly half of the projects in LDC countries where the project effect was assessed, the effect was deemed unsatisfactory. This could be said to be not as bad as one might expect considering the difficult situation in LDCs. On the other hand, it certainly leaves ample room for improvement in project design and implementation. The unsatisfactory result should also not lead the FAO Field Programme to shy away from projects in the LDCs. Obviously the challenge and the potential is great in these countries. We also thought it disturbing that in the projects where these elements were assessed, the immediate objectives and the design of the projects were found to be unsatisfactory in more than half the cases. Even more surprising is the information that the FAO technical backstopping seemed to be unsatisfactory in 55 percent of the projects where this element was assessed.

Let me now turn to some current considerations in my country on field activities for development, based partly on our experience with our participation in the FAO trust fund programme and our cooperation with other agencies. The public debate in Denmark on development policies and principles has for the last few years been quite intensive. One recurring feature in the debate has been a demand for cost-efficiency and qualitative improvements in our development assistance, be they bilateral or multilateral. There has been and still is a broad public support for a substantial Danish contribution to the international development effort. This is evidenced by a decision in Parliament to increase the Danish ODA:GNP ratio from the present 0.76 percent to 1 percent in 1992. It is my Government's position that this quantitative improvement should be accompanied by a qualitative improvement in the aid performance. On the multilateral side this implies that our increased resources will be channelled through those organizations who work most effectively and who give due consideration to cooperation and coordination with other agencies.

In a recent statement, our Minister for Foreign Affairs singled out a few organizations who seemed to qualify in this respect, and the FAO was not among them. Consequently we do not foresee any real term increase in our contribution to the FAO Trust Fund programme.

I have mentioned the importance we attach to cost-efficiency and cooperation in the planning design and implementation of Field Programmes. Coordination among agencies at country level is of utmost importance in this connection. We wish to point to the central role in this respect given to the UNDP by so-called consensus resolution from 1970. The setting of priorities according to the needs of recipient countries is another important aspect. Concentration on priority areas is necessary when the best use is to be made of scarce resources. A close cooperation with the UNDP in connection with the country programming exercise of that organization is recommended.

Evaluation is a subject which has attracted increasing attention in bilateral, as well as multilateral, aid organizations. My Government attaches much importance to this crucial aspect of the field activities. For our Trust Fund activities we require timely and independent evaluations for projects and occasionally for whole programme areas. For the time being an evaluation of the entire FAO Fertilizer Programme is carried out. This evaluation was a Danish initiative which was only with some reluctance accepted by the FAO.

On the question of women in development much has been said and much deserves to be said. We believe that it is generally recognized that women play a very important role in agriculture in developing countries. The role of women was once again highlighted during this summer's United Nations Conference on Women in Nairobi. Still we find that the role of women and their integration in the development process is only reflected in the FAO Field Programme to a very low degree. We do not, however, call for field projects designed especially for women, but we would indeed like to see the aspect of women in development incorporated to a much higher degree in the Field Programme.

Let me make an Observation on the TCP Programme. This issue is of course dealt with under another agenda item but nevertheless the TCP forms part of the FAO Field Programme. In the review before us the FAO Country Representatives put on record that the TCP Programme is considered the most successful of the Field Programmes. There can of course be various reasons for this assessment. One reason could be that the TCP projects are usually very small, quick-delivery projects, their average size being only \$70 000. This makes them hardly comparable to other field projects and we have some doubt as to the contribution of the TCP projects towards the longer term solution of the great problems facing developing countries. Anyhow we can only take note that our multi/bilateral Field Projects with the FAO are only rated second best at the most. I wonder whether this fact should enter our own consideration on where our tax-payers' monies are put to the best use for developing countries.

Lastly let me express my Government's support for activities to the benefit of disabled persons carried out in the various UN agencies within their respective mandate + existing resources. In this spirit, my delegation can support the initiative taken by the Swedish delegation in this connection.

V. STOYANOV (Bulgaria): I shall be very brief. First of all I should like to join the previous speakers congratulating you as Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the Commission the distinguished delegate of Colombia, Ambassador Bula Hoyos, and to wish you success in the future work. I want to thank Mr Lignon, the Assistant Director-General, for his concise and clear introduction. I wish to

offer my condolences to the Colombian delegation in connection with the grave calamity that happened a few days ago.

Today we are discussing the activity on the Field Programmes for the period 1984-85. It equals about 1 170 FAO projects which are of medium-term and about 443 TCP projects. We should notice that the number of the projects included in the proposal is impressive. We are of the opinion that these programmes are very important and useful for the development of the individual countries. The observations of the Secretariat are along the same lines. On the other hand we should notice that the resources allocated for the development of agriculture are not significant and there is a need for an increase in that amount. Priority should be given to the solution of that problem in the country itself.

At the last FAO Council session we noted that TCP projects are complementary to the Regular Programme's activities. In such a way direct assistance is being given to the developing countries. For this reason we support technical cooperation programmes as a rational system of action.

I should like to express my conviction that FAO's field programmes, having accumulated a lot of experience for the last thirty years, will contribute to the improvement of the agricultural condition.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier M. Lignon pour son introduction claire et concise et féliciter le Secrétariat pour la présentation de ce document.

Au chapitre I de ce document, nous lisons: "le programme a connu une légère croissance malgré une baisse constante des activités financées par le PNUD, baisse entamée depuis 1983."

Si d'une manière générale nous nous réjouissons de l'apport des fonds fiduciaires, sûrs que les principaux partenaires ont de plus en plus confiance en la FAO, il n'en demeure pas moins que nous sommes inquiets de la réduction des fonds du PNUD. Notre inquiétude se justifie d'autant plus que les activités financées par le PNUD auraient à gagner si elles bénéficiaient de l'appui technique de la FAO.

Par ailleurs, comme l'ont indiqué le Comité financier et le Comité de programme lors de leurs sessions en 1984, il faudra à tout prix éviter que les activités de la FAO et du PNUD arrivent à un double emploi. Un double emploi qui risque de nous faire perdre de l'énergie et surtout des fonds à un moment où les besoins ne font que croître, besoins dus pour la plupart aux récentes crises alimentaires; à un moment où l'aide accordée à l'agriculture ne fait que régresser; à un moment également où le FIDA et l'IDA connaissent des difficultés très sérieuses.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre 2, nous apportons notre appui aux deux formes d'évaluation du programme de terrain, à savoir, l'évaluation des représentants de la FAO sur le terrain et l'évaluation tripartite regroupant les pays bénéficiaires des sources de financement FAO.

Nous sommes également d'accord sur la mention faite sur la participation effective des populations locales à l'exécution des projets. Nous pensons que l'organisation et la formation des populations sont des moyens privilégiés d'une transformation qualitative des individus en tant qu'acteurs et sujets de leurs développement à venir.

Chapitre 3: nous voudrions féliciter la FAO pour avoir accordé une priorité aux activités forestières, particulièrement au niveau des pays sahéliens. Nous mesurons l'importance de ces activités comme moyens de lutte contre la désertification. C'est pourquoi nous appuyons les efforts entrepris par la FAO dans ce domaine au niveau de notre sous-région, au niveau du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, CILSS.

Au niveau du Burkina Faso nous avons engagé une bataille pour la sauvegarde de notre écosystème par une sensibilisation des populations sur les effets nocifs de coupes abusives de bois et des feux de brousse. Des actions de reboisement sont entreprises sur toute l'étendue du territoire.

Enfin au chapitre 4, nous ne pouvons que féliciter la FAO pour son initiative de faire participer de plus en plus les cadres locaux à la direction et à l'exécution des projets, pour l'accent mis sur la formation et la priorité réservée au continent africain dans le programme de terrain.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): We appreciate the clear presentation of document C 85/4, particularly the suggestion of the trend and expected future development of the FAO field programmes. Our opinion is that the projects and other actual operating activities in the field are the main links in the work of the organization in the development of agricultural production, forestry and fisheries in the developing countries. Because the Council has already treated these problems in detail, I shall make only several comments.

We are glad that the document is not a mere list of operating activities. However, we think that it does not sufficiently analyze the causes of UNDP's deviation from agricultural and food development programmes, i.e. causes of lowering UNDP's contribution to the agricultural sector now when special attention has to be given to the development of agricultural production, particularly in Africa. We also assume that the data in Table I of the Annex to the Report are nominal values, bearing no relation to the growth of the prices of technical services and material caused by inflation. It would be interesting to know what is the real value of the FAO/UNDP programme in the 1970 prices, or at least in the prices as of 1981, i.e. before the start of the present third five-year programme cycle. Perhaps the Secretariat could at least now, in discussion, suggest the present and expected development in this respect.

The 32nd Session of the UNDP Managing Council decided to call its extraordinary meeting at the beginning of 1981 to evaluate Cycle IV National Programmes. We also assume that the FAO Country Representatives or, possibly, special missions, discuss with the FAO Member Governments the conception of the national programme in the field of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. My delegation is interested in what preparation to the above-mentioned extraordinary Session of the UNDP Managing Council is being secured by the FAO Secretariat.

My further remark concerns the regional FAO/UNDP programmes. Tables apply to interregional programmes, but the data on regional programmes are perhaps included in the global data according to regions. Our opinion is that the regional projects in the field, which assume an ever-increasing importance in relation to national programmes, should be analyzed separately in the next report.

We appreciate that 1 200 FAO projects have been analyzed in detail as to their results as well as their methodological aspects. It follows from what is said on pages 34 to 43 of the presented report that, as we see it, the work of experts and consultants on the preparation and implementation of every project is of very high importance. It is undoubtedly correct that when preparing a project, FAO experts seek contacts with small farmers and peasants to find their needs. However, a peasant cannot avoid determining his priorities on the basis of his own knowledge and acute needs. Further development and possibilities of choosing priorities should be suggested by an expert or consultant who thus becomes a motivating factor of the development and modernization of ineffective obsolete forms of farming.

The classification of Country Groups in Table 3 seems not to be logical enough: the LDC's are given first, followed by Europe, and the largest category receiving the largest proportion of allocations is simply denoted as "other". The terminology used should obviously be corrected. Furthermore, the list of the European countries includes some having no national UNDP/FAO programme on agriculture or those having used only a very small sum for FAO fellowships, whereas the enumeration of countries in the quoted table, including Czechoslovakia, gives the impression that all these countries have participated to an equal extent in the UNDP, TCP and TD programmes.

As mentioned by the head of the Czechoslovak delegation in the general debate in the plenary session, we are interested in improving the geographical representation of different countries as to experts, consultants and cooperating institutions. 'Our country is not represented proportionately to the high standard and long-time tradition of her technical institutions. The possibilities for education and training at Czechoslovak universities, research and other technical institutes are also insufficiently used. Hence, there remain great reserves in the cooperation of my country with the FAO and we are convinced that these reserves will be used during the preparation and implementation of the Fourth UNDP Programme Cycle.

SEONG-BAE SUH (Republic of Korea): I, first of all, would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for the work done in the preparation of documents for this discussion. Since so much work has been done by the Secretariat and the Council, my comments on this agenda item will be rather brief.

First, my delegation appreciates the increase of financial resources for field projects during the 1984/85 biennium through the expansion of Trust Fund resources, which more than off-set the decrease in the UNDP fund. At the same time, my delegation would like to register our deep concern for the continual contraction of UNDP funds both in absolute amounts and in the relative share of allocation to FAO field programmes within total UNDP fund resources. My delegation, therefore, hopes that somewhat more concerted efforts by FAO and UNDP to make changes in these undesirable trends are made. It is my view that the stability of field programmes would be seriously affected otherwise due to this financial difficulty.

Secondly, we feel that it is especially timely and appropriate to allocate more field programme resources to the African region, in meeting the deeply-felt need in that region, since most field programmes are of a quick-response nature.

Thirdly, my delegation believes that increased involvement of manpower and institutions in developing countries for the implementation of field projects, as shown in document C 85/4, is particularly of great importance to further promote the TCDC activities in food and agriculture. It is my delegation's view that such experts' recruitment and the use of institutions in developing countries will certainly make a great contribution to the betterment of project performance, primarily because of their experience in the developmental process. It is also a firm position of the Government of the Republic of Korea to fully share its agricultural development experience through various forms of technical cooperation with the developing countries, in particular, the least developed, food-deficit countries. In this context, it is my delegation's opinion that further efforts should be made to develop an explicit and closer linkage of TCDC to FAO field projects.

Fourthly, we find it is important to expand forestry projects described in the document. However, we feel that it is inevitable for the success of these projects to obtain wider and deeper integration with other inter-related programmes at the recipient countries' level to maximize the participation of available local resources.

Finally, my delegation is deeply appreciative of the evaluation works carried out by the Secretariat and FAO field representatives as presented in Chapter Two. We feel that it is very precise and comprehensive to provide useful information for the better design and the more efficient management of field projects. We therefore strongly hope that those evaluation results will be fully utilized so as to improve the programme's efficiency and effectiveness. It is our firm belief that with such a live feedback, many achievements could be made available for us, even with the same investment of resources. For this reason, it is our wish that such evaluation efforts by FAO should be further strengthened, and that feedback of such evaluation results be made accessible in the future for the development of successive projects.

Li ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): With your indulgence, I wish to make a few comments on document C 85/4.

Firstly, as is indicated in the document, notwithstanding the resumption of significant economic growth in the developed countries, economic stagnation and even decline continued in some developing countries, particularly in those African countries who are experiencing severe natural calamities. However, during the same period, the resources of UNDP, which is an important agency providing assistance in the UN system, decreased by 45% as compared with the preceding cycle. This is extremely unfavourable for those low-income and food-deficit countries where external aid accounts for a considerable proportion of their national investment for agriculture. This is a cause of concern to us.

Secondly, we are satisfied to note changes in the regional allocation of FAO resources for technical assistance, changes in areas covered as well as in the project structures. The share of assistance to Africa increased, both the relative and absolute amount of expenditure on training went up markedly, and there were relative increases in the share of resources devoted to forestry and livestock development. However, we have also noted with concern that in the past

four years in the projects funded by FAO/UNDP, the absolute value of expenditure on equipment declined from US\$50 million to about US\$20 million, that is, the proportion went down from 30 percent to less than 18 percent. Concerning the expenditure on personnel involved in the execution of projects over the past four years, though its absolute value declined because of the reduction of the total amount of resources, its share of expenditure still rose from 57 percent to 63 percent. We hope that efficiency in project execution will be further improved, and that under the pre-requisite of ensuring the project effectiveness, expenditure on international and national staff should be reduced and shifted, as appropriate, to the supply of equipment. This does not mean that we should neglect the due importance and role of technical training in the projects. At the previous session of the Conference, the Chinese delegation, in its intervention, drew the attention of the Conference to the declining share of equipment in projects. However, this tendency has not been effectively checked over the past two years since. Therefore we feel it is necessary once more to draw attention to this issue.

Thirdly, we have always held that for developing countries, self-reliance in the economy is the foundation for the consolidation of political independence. Therefore, the Chinese Government has always maintained that while recognizing the positive role of external assistance, there should be full awareness of the importance of self-reliance. As a result, we fully endorse the view expressed in paragraph 4.11 of the document, that "the ultimate aim of FAO's technical assistance and cooperation is to build up the capacities of recipient countries themselves to carry out programmes of rural and agricultural development". We are delighted to note that the "new dimensions" principles of FAO's assistance demand that in executing projects, the resources of expertise and institutions of developing countries should be tapped, national personnel should be absorbed to participate in field project operations and action should be taken to promote technical cooperation among developing countries. During the 1980-84 period national officials were appointed as project directors in a growing number of FAO-supported field projects, more local experts were recruited in field project operations, and more recipient countries were entrusted with the responsibility of executing the projects. This has resulted in expanded technical cooperation among developing countries. We wish to express our appreciation for this new development.'

FAO has provided China with generous assistance for its agricultural development, and rendered valuable support for its agricultural development projects funded by other international agencies as well as for the assistance projects it has undertaken in other countries. Most of the projects executed have achieved tangible results. This should be attributed to FAO's correct policy in providing assistance as well as to the hard work of its Secretariat and its international experts. I wish to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to them and our readiness to continue our cooperation with FAO in the years to come.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): The Belgian delegation has greatly appreciated the concise, frank and constructive analysis contained in document C 85/4.

My actual statement will be somewhat more lengthy than usual because of various reasons; first, the excellent presentation and easy reading contents of the document; second, the advantage of it being discussed after a long rainy weekend that gave us more time for reflection ; third, our special interest in the field programmes; fourth, the intimate links between Regular and Field Programmes enabling us to make further reference to aspects of the Regular Programme we may have overlooked during discussions on item 13 ; and last but not least, the field being the only place where the real impact and effect of any activity can be concretely measured.

The Director-General remembered in his Foreword that FAO was among the first to sound the alarm on the dramatic food crisis in Africa during this biennium. We note with satisfaction that quick remedial action was taken through FAO's programme for rehabilitation of food production in 21 African countries. Moreover, I am very proud to be able to mention that Belgium was the first donor to respond actively and concretely to this ARPA programme by approving four projects at the beginning of June this year. Our total contribution amounts to US\$2.2 million, and two projects should be operational by now.

Now referring to budgetary resources for the field programmes, we very much appreciate the recent recovery from the low levels during 1982-83 that were essentially conditioned by successive cutbacks in the amounts of UNDP funding. I feel obliged to mention in this respect the close relationship between UNDP funds available for food and agriculture on the one hand and the priorities put forward by the developing countries as shown in the Indicative Planning figures on the other hand. This means that corrective measures to be taken will depend mainly on recipient governments themselves.

However, the recovery has mainly to be attributed to the significant increase in the share of Trust Funds. This situation reflects the genuine commitment of Trust Fund donors in their endeavour to actively assist world food security.

Investment support activities remained strong in spite of recent constraints on concessional resources for agricultural investment. Many delegates have made a special reference to the replenishment problems of IFAD resource's. My delegation fully shares their concern.

As to the Freedom From Hunger Campaign/Action for Development Programme, the Belgian Government is very much in favour of this assistance mechanism. It facilitates the identification and formulation of projects that involve the most needy target group, the rural poor. This type of activity enables more efficient NGO donor funding. My government is actively involved in this area with a specific co-financing policy. Belgian NGOs may obtain uncorfcessional subsidies of up to 75 percent of their approved project cost propositions.

The increasing participation of FAO technical inputs for WFP projects deserves our full support, as it is our own policy that food aid can only be effective when channelled through development projects, or at least closely related to them.

Unilateral Trust Funds have become the second most important category of Trust Fund assistance, representing 27 percent of this funding in 1984, as compared to only 12 percent in the late 1970s. This very encouraging evolution shows the growing thrust being given by recipient countries to FAO's special expertise and experience. It appears that governments benefiting from international financial institutions' assistance are always responsible for the overall execution of investment projects under this assistance scheme. Therefore we sincerely hope that the many calls for increased budgetary resources may also lead to an effectively larger appeal on FAO services in the context of Unilateral Trust Fund arrangements within the international financial institutions' assistance scheme.

It is not at all my intention to add to the burden of work that is already involved in preparing the review of the field programmes. Nevertheless, I think it will be of common interest if we could have access to one more table. My delegation would find it most useful if the Secretariat could present a table comparing the basic subject matter distribution for the three major extra-budgetary fund sources. The basic subject matters I am referring to are the categories utilized in the Programme of Work and Budget, and the three major fund sources of the field programmes would be: FAO/UNDP programme, FAO/Government Cooperative Programme, and Unilateral Trust Funds.

This type of complementary information related to table 1.4 on page 14 will certainly allow for a better comprehension of the concrete signals that recipient countries on the one hand and donors on the other hand want to send out for future orientations in budget allocation. It would, moreover, be interesting to be able to assess how far they are converging.

Now I would like to make some remarks on the fertilizer programme. First of all, allow me to mention that Belgium has been contributing to this very important programme, so vital for food production improvement, since its inception in 1972. Moreover, Belgium has been one of the major Trust Fund donors ever since. Even though we consider the majority of the fertilizer projects as success stories, I would like to make some comments on two issues: first of all, my delegation would insist on more attention being given to the organic recycling activities, in such a way that they form an integral part of the package of improved production systems concentrated on fertilizer use. This aspect is our special concern because of the limited economic possibilities of the poor farmer to use exclusively chemical fertilizers and because it is also related to the second issue. The second issue I want to mention is the availability of fertilizers

for the small farmers at reasonable prices, in quantities as needed and at the right time. This, of course, presupposes an efficient distribution and credit system that is normally foreseen as one of the objectives of the project design. Nevertheless, we think it appropriate that fertilizer projects would seek and receive acceptable assurances on this issue before implementation would start.

Another aspect of our concern relates to the rural development and increased food production assistance. We detected that these activities were mainly hampered by the lack of essential inputs, in particular in African countries. Moreover, even when inputs are readily available, the credit supply system is inadequately oriented and adapted to the needs and capacities of small farmers. Of course, marketing and price policies form an integral part of these services that are equally essential for any improvement. Therefore we find it disappointing that sub-programmes like marketing (under category 2.1.5.5) and credit (under category 2.1.5.6) have been neglected. Altogether they only represent 9 percent of the budget allocation to the Rural Development Programme in the current biennium, and they stagnate at the same level for the next biennium. We would like to see that special attention be given to this aspect.

We welcomed very much the chapter on the Assessment of Field Projects and appreciated in particular the frank and objective analysis contained in it. The two ways of assessment do seem to complement one another. It was striking that project planning and design resulted in being a weakness in too many cases, in particular in the project evaluations. We therefore strongly support the idea of a more direct intervention of the FAO representatives in this aspect.

Now turning to the expanding role of forestry assistance, we very much appreciate the fact that a whole chapter is dedicated to this vital programme. The World Forestry Congress in July 1985 amply recognized the role of forestry in contributing to rural development. However, the new strategy of forestry for development did already received full support from Trust Fund donors since its inception in 1980. It is very significant that field activities focusing on community forestry and fuel wood represented 20 percent of extra-budgetary expenditure in 1984 against 3 percent in 1980.

It is commonly approved that tree planting activities have vital ecological functions in safeguarding agricultural land. Moreover, they are of major importance in meeting the ever-growing needs of expanding rural populations for fuel wood, fodder, food, farm implements and building materials. At the same time, they enable the creation of new job opportunities and additional income for the rural poor. When taking all this into account, it cannot be stressed enough that forestry development should receive an even greater support than only 4 percent of the budget allocation for the next biennium.

Moreover, we should not forget that fuel wood is for the majority of rural people the only energy source for cooking and heating, thus demonstrating its direct and vital role in feeding and nutrition.

Before ending, I would like to mention the impact of forestry on arid zones and desertification control. Paragraph 3.57 on page 75 of the document C 85/4 gives us a marvellous example of the successful results that can be obtained in marginal ecological zones when government involvement goes hand in hand with well developed techniques. I refer to the case of reforestation activities in Cape Verde where successful tree planting has been experienced, even though the major area is classified as too arid for any vegetation. I would like to draw attention to the fact that the main feature of the first phase of this project has been the development and design of a special planting technique. It is my great pleasure to be able to indicate that the major European Trust Fund donor mentioned in this context is Belgium.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): First of all allow me to say how pleased we are to see you in the Chair presiding over our deliberations this afternoon. We wish to thank Mr Lignon for an excellent review of the document C 85/4. We appreciate the format and the contents of this review which is both frank and comprehensive. As members of the Programme Committee, we had the occasion for an in-depth study of this document, therefore we will confine ourselves to only a few remarks.

FAO has indeed done an excellent job in initiating and undertaking 2,500 projects in about 141 countries to augment agricultural and food production. FAO's role in this respect is no doubt laudable and we support these activities.

We are distressed at the declining trend in resources made available by the UNDP to the agricultural sector, although the gap is more than filled by the availability of extra-budgetary resources in the shape of Trust Funds- Yet we would urge a larger allocation of the UNDP resources to the agricultural sector which is of critical importance to the economies of the developing countries. We would like to join the delegate of India in looking for a satisfactory answer with regard to the duplication of some activities by the UNDP.

We appreciate the thrust of the programme on Africa and commend the Director-General for directing the Organization's energies towards the rehabilitation and development of infrastructure in Sahelian Africa afflicted by unprecedented drought and famine.

We would also like to commend the good work being done by the Investment Centre in collaboration with IBRD. Finally, we welcome the document C 85/4 and appreciate the candid manner in which the review has been undertaken.

A. REDL (Austria): Perhaps I can start by congratulating you very warmly on your election. The Austrian delegation was interested in document C 85/4 and studied it most intensively. As is known, we have technical aid projects in developing countries. Austria helps in all fields of food and agriculture. In 1983 we had more than 3,000 such projects. We help local institutions support research and help to evolve new technologies and techniques. We are glad to see that there are many projects in which local personnel are working in such a way that when the project is terminated there can be local and national follow-up measures taken.

The initiative for the field projects lies with the countries requesting FAO help wherever the funds come from. We are glad when joint planning can be worked out. The recipient country makes its own experts available and also supports the project in other ways. Where international experts or particular apparatus are required, then wherever possible they are made available from other developing countries. This means joint efforts and exchange of technical resources. There is a great deal which this can do to promote development of agriculture. New methods, new processes and new abilities can thereby be disseminated over an area which is much bigger than that covered by a single small project.

The Investment Aid Programme, which the FAO investment aid agency operates, helps developing countries to find foreign capital - we think the foreign capital they need to develop their agriculture. It also helps donors and recipients of loans in developing planning. Austria has not only continued its cooperation with international bodies but indeed developed it.

As regards TCP projects, at the 88th Council Meeting and indeed in the course of this Conference, Austria has made its views quite clear. Perhaps by way of conclusion I can express the hope that the FAO's field programmes will in the future be developed in close cooperation with the recipient countries.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun remercie M. Lignon pour la présentation claire et précise du document que nous étudions. Il ne semble pas nécessaire d'insister sur cette clarté, mais nous devons la relever quand même puisque le mérite du secrétariat ne saurait être passé sous silence.

Nous commencerons par appuyer la déclaration de la délégation suédoise visant à intégrer les handicapés dans nos préoccupations quotidiennes et dans celles de la FAO. Les handicapés effectivement méritent toute notre attention, étant des personnes comme nous tous, mais des personnes qui attendent beaucoup de nous en raison de leur état.

Cela dit, le document que nous étudions, à savoir l'examen des programmes de terrain, fait le point des activités de la FAO sur le terrain. Il est certainement l'un des plus intéressants rapports que l'on puisse attendre d'une organisation qui s'occupe du sort des déshérités, les ruraux, hommes, femmes, jeunes et moins jeunes.

Dans le premier chapitre de ce document, nous trouvons tous les détails sur les tendances et perspectives des projets et réalisations sur le terrain. Ce qui frappe de prime abord, c'est le fléchissement des fonds du PNUD constaté depuis 1982-83, alors que le développement des activités financées par le Fonds fiduciaire de la FAO connaît une certaine expansion.

De même, l'accroissement de l'aide du PCT rencontre notre agrément et l'agrément de tous les pays bénéficiaires qui sont en fait des pays sinistrés en majeure partie, mais nous pensons qu'il n'est pas superflu de le réaffirmer.

A la page 17 du document français, on nous fournit les composantes de l'aide. On y constate que le volet "formation" passe de 5 à 11 pour cent de 1980 à 1984. Mais il n'atteint pas les proportions consacrées à l'équipement. Ceci présente un certain danger dans la mesure où la formation constitue le support du transfert de technologie qui reste un préalable à la mise en place et à l'utilisation rationnelle de cet équipement. C'est-à-dire que la FAO doit avant tout privilégier la formation essentiellement professionnelle.

C'est également avec satisfaction que nous constatons l'accroissement de l'apport des pays en développement dans la conduite des projets. Ces fonctionnaires possèdent à n'en pas douter l'avantage de mieux connaître le terrain ou de s'y adapter avec plus de rapidité que leurs homologues des pays développés. Mais ce souci ne doit en rien sacrifier à la compétence et à l'expérience indispensables. Le programme de relèvement de la production alimentaire dans 21 pays d'Afrique est alléchant, et son impact dans le cadre de ce redressement est attendu avec impatience.

Dans le Chapitre 2-, nous trouvons tous les détails sur l'évaluation-des projets. Il faut quand même une évaluation souple. Le choix des critères d'évaluation doit en tenir compte pour admettre une correction éventuelle au cours de l'exécution, tout en recherchant la poursuite des objectifs fixés.

Quant à la forêt, son rôle est indéniable. Nous devons mieux organiser la gestion forestière, car l'exploitation des forêts donne souvent lieu à des gâchis et sa revalorisation est négligée. Nous continuons à exiger de renforcer la recherche et la formation dans le domaine de la foresterie.

Enfin, la formation technique mérite d'être l'une des priorités dans les pays les moins avancés. Elle doit être dispensée sur place dans le milieu où l'opération s'exécute. Je pense essentiellement aux stages de courte durée, aux démonstrations techniques.

En dehors de ces quelques observations, ma délégation approuve le document sur le programme de terrain, et je ne peux m'abstenir de féliciter la FAO qui consacre beaucoup d'efforts au relèvement économique des pays les moins avancés.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): Thank you to all of you for your spirit of discipline today which enabled the Chair to conduct the meetings in a fairly smooth way.

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/II/PV/9

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(19 November 1985)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 10 h 45,
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la novena sesión a las 10.45 horas,
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente la Comisión II

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART I
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - PREMIERE PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE I

EL PRESIDENTE: Les presento mis excusas por el retardo, debido a ciertas consultas que espero producirán resultados satisfactorios para todos. Confío en que ahora todos los miembros de la Comisión dispondrán en sus respectivos idiomas de los dos documentos básicos para la discusión del tema de esta mañana. Se trata, como todos ustedes saben, del tema 12 "Programa de Labores y Presupuesto y objetivos a plazo medio". El primer documento es el Rep. 1 que contiene 72 párrafos; luego acaba de salir el documento que complementa al anterior REP. I Sup. 1. Como es costumbre, los textos del documento en los distintos idiomas se ajustarán, se adaptarán al texto original. Particularmente en esta ocasión parece que la linda lengua francesa, la lengua de Molière, ha sufrido algún menoscabo, pero la Secretaría está procediendo, junto con la Delegación francesa, a hacer los ajustes necesarios. También en castellano hay alguna pequeña corrección que ya algunos delegados de América Latina y el Caribe y yo mismo hemos indicado a la Secretaría. Ruego a aquellas delegaciones que en sus idiomas respectivos tengan problemas semejantes, se lo comuniquen a la Secretaría para proceder a las correcciones necesarias.

En primer lugar, voy a conceder la palabra al Sr. Hartford Jennings, Representante de la Delegación de los Estados Unidos de América, quien, como ustedes recordarán, fue elegido por esta Comisión para presidir el Comité de Redacción que está integrado por trece miembros.

H.T. JENNINGS (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As Chairman of the Drafting Committee I am extremely pleased to be able to present this first section of the report of this Commission to you covering agenda item 12. I would like to begin by recognizing the efforts of the members of the Drafting Committee. It has taken long hours and hard work on the part of each and every member of the Committee to produce the text which you find before you and the members of the Commission. As Chairman of the Committee, however, I am perfectly happy in saying that I believe the result is one that can be commended to the Commission. Certainly perhaps none of the members of the Committee is entirely satisfied with every line but I do believe that the Committee as a whole feels that the report in this forum accurately, fully and concisely reflects the discussions on this question which took place in the Commission and we therefore commend it to you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que todos los miembros de la Comisión anticiparán su agradecimiento a usted y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción. Su presentación ha sido objetiva y realista. Vamos a iniciar ahora la discusión de estos temas.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic delegations that are present in this Committee. We have very carefully studied the draft placed before us and with great interest since we were not members of the Drafting Committee and in spite of that, or maybe because of that, we do find this draft is, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee just stated, a balanced and on the whole an accurate reflection of what took place during our deliberations here in this Committee. Of course, the language in a report like this would not win a Nobel literature prize just as always, when the Committee draws a horse it comes out a camel but we are not here to win prizes; we are here to give a substantive report of our debate and I think the Drafting Committee has achieved just that. If we, the full Committee, under your leadership should start discussing each paragraph of this report we might be able to make some scholastic changes but then again we might

not. What is certain is that it would take a very large amount of time, time that to the Nordic members of the Committee could more profitably be spent discussing the more important agenda items ahead of us.

Accordingly, on behalf of the Nordic countries, I would propose that this report, C 85/II/REP/1 and Sup.1, that is paragraphs 1 through 78 be placed by you before the Committee for adoption en bloc. It goes without saying that since the only language I really understand is the English language my proposal concerns the English text and the others would be, in case my proposal is given assent by the Committee, adjusted accordingly.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany): The suggestion that has just been made by my Norwegian colleague is very interesting indeed. In order to facilitate the work we still have to do in connection with the Field Programme, and as you know I will chair that part of the Committee session, I would plead for adoption of that proposal to adopt both of these documents en bloc without starting a discussion once again. Of course, I must agree with my Norwegian colleague who said we cannot win a literature Nobel prize with this but perhaps we can get a Nobel peace prize if we manage to finish our work on time:

A. QADIR (Pakistan): As Vice-Chairman of Commission II I have an interest in seeing that the report that has emerged from the Drafting Committee should be adopted in total and with the unanimous support of the Commission. To this effect I would like to support the proposal made by the representative of Norway and the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany that the document be adopted in toto and unanimously by all members of this Commission.

The Drafting Commission headed by Mr Jennings, on which all shades of opinion were represented, has worked with dedication and devotion, often burning the midnight oil, and has produced a document that is not only balanced but commendable. I therefore hope that the Commission would endorse the report in the way the Norwegian delegate and the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany have proposed that we deal with this item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, han oído ustedes la propuesta constructiva que ha hecho nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Hostmark de Noruega a nombre de los países nórdicos, propuesta que ha sido apoyada por los colegas y amigos Winkel de la República Federal de Alemania y el Embajador Qadir de Pakistán, nuestros dos distinguidos Vicepresidentes.

Si por una vez puedo abandonar mi condición de neutralidad, como Presidente quiero sumarme a esta propuesta y sumarme así al pleno apoyo de la Mesa Directiva de esa Comisión a esa iniciativa totalmente positiva.

Si no hay ningún comentario entiendo que esta Comisión decide adoptar en pleno el C 85/II/REP/1 con suplemento.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

En nombre de toda la Comisión deseo reiterar mi más sincero y cordial agradecimiento al Sr. Jennings, del que tengo las mejores referencias acerca de la manera objetiva y dinámica como viene presidiendo el Comité de Redacción y a todos los demás miembros de ese Comité, que han sacrificado su pasado fin de semana para trabajar de manera intensa más de 24 horas en la preparación de este texto.

Las traducciones y la impresión, particularmente en casos como este, se hacen de manera muy rápida. Puedo asegurarles que la Secretaría tomará las precauciones necesarias para que los textos se presenten en versión final en todos los idiomas, de manera satisfactoria.

Quiero también agradecer muy sinceramente a todos los colegas que están en esta Sala; con casi todos ellos me he permitido entrar en contacto haciendo uso del privilegio de la amistad personal que a ellos me une. Como ya lo dijeron algunos de los que han intervenido antes, muchos de esos colegas me manifestaron que no estaban plenamente satisfechos, en uno u otro sentido, de manera que por ello quiero agradecerles sinceramente que hayan superado esas observaciones, justas desde su punto de vista, para sumarse a este consenso y rendir así un valioso servicio a esta Comisión, a toda la Conferencia y a la Comunidad Internacional.

Como es costumbre, al final de este Informe sobre el Tema 12 irá el Proyecto de Resolución sobre las asignaciones presupuestarias. Ese Proyecto de Resolución se presentará mañana en las primeras horas de la mañana a la luz de los últimos acontecimientos, cuestiones técnicas en las que yo creo que sólo la Secretaría habrá de decidir cómo va a presentar este Proyecto de Resolución, y así, les invito a que mañana en la Plenaria todos participemos en la adopción de esta parte de nuestro informe, y, en lo que es más importante, en la votación sobre el Proyecto de Resolución que contendrá las asignaciones presupuestarias.

No quiero dejar este sitio sin hacer una observación personal en contra de mi costumbre. Estoy muy reconocido al distinguido colega y amigo Harold Hostmark de Noruega. Con él he tenido muchas actividades comunes y su actitud de hoy es fruto de la experiencia, respeto y prestigio que se ha ganado como el Presidente del CPA particularmente, y además esa propuesta corresponde al espíritu pragmático y positivo que caracteriza siempre a los respetables países nórdicos.

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 1, and Part 1 Sup.1 was adopted.

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, première partie, avec son supplément est adopté.

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 1 y su suplemento es aprobado.

Joachim Winkel, Vice-Chairman of Commission II,
took the chair.

Joachim Winkel, Vice-Président de la Commission II,
assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia Joachim Winkel,
Vicepresidente de la Comisión II.

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L' ORGANISATION (suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION(continuación)

14. Review of Field Programmes 1984-85 (continued)

14. Examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85 (suite)

14. Examen de los programas de campo 1984-85 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN (original language German): We will now continue our discussions on item 14.

M. NIETO (Cuba): Deseo saludar sinceramente al Sr. Lignon y, por su intermedio, también a la Secretaría por la excelente presentación del Tema y por el completo documento que ha sido puesto a nuestra disposición.

Mi delegación celebra y respalda ese Informe en toda su extensión y sustentamos esta afirmación y este criterio al considerar que en el bienio actual, en las actividades de campo de la Organización, se han dado pasos importantes.

En la gestión prioritaria de la FAO para incrementar la producción de alimentos y en la seguridad alimentaria, encontramos muy adecuada la orientación de sus actividades. De igual forma constatamos una mayor atención a las actividades de ganadería y montes que consideramos una actuación acertada. Con el ánimo de enriquecer los trabajos en las actividades de campo, entiendo que éstas pudieran reforzarse con un aumento del seguimiento y la evolución de los proyectos en curso o concluidos de manera que una acción tomada en un momento determinado mantenga su repercusión en los países tanto en el tiempo como en el espacio, aprovechando a plenitud todo el efecto multiplicador que se deriva de la aplicación de los proyectos, a veces con el apoyo externo o a veces a partir de las posibilidades locales. Esto es posible en la medida que tanto las Oficinas Regionales como los Representantes Permanentes sean suficientemente apoyados y respaldados. Merece destacarse que el 40 por ciento de las asignaciones para proyectos de campo se hayan destinado al Continente Africano, lo que demuestra la clara interpretación de la situación crítica de la alimentación y de la región y de la necesidad urgente de socorrerla.

En otro ángulo del Informe, apreciamos la constante preocupación de la FAO por elevar el nivel y la capacidad de los expertos y consultores que participan en los programas de campo, poniendo de relieve el esfuerzo realizado para tratar de contrarrestar en parte las limitaciones financieras impuestas y que las restricciones de carácter cuantitativo sean suplidas en cierta medida por una mejoría cualitativa.

El tema del PCT, que ha sido tratado aquí en diversas oportunidades, al parecer algunas delegaciones consideran que no ha quedado suficientemente claro y por esta razón le pido que me permita referirme brevemente a este aspecto.

Como ya dije en intervenciones anteriores, nuestra experiencia en materia de aplicación de proyectos de PCT es altamente positiva y ponderamos la bondad del programa, sobre todo para los países subdesarrollados.

Continuamos lamentando que el PNUD y el FIDA no tengan una recuperación financiera como era de esperar. El FIDA sigue esperando que se le repongan sus fondos, sin que se vislumbre una solución en corto plazo. Al parecer, la predisposición de ciertos países hacia estas organizaciones de ayuda al desarrollo no les permite ver la magnitud de las necesidades en cuanto a la solución del hambre y la miseria en el campo, respondiendo a políticas que merecen nuestra censura y rechazo.

A pesar de todas las políticas y restricciones financieras, las actividades de campo de la Organización se vieron incrementadas en este bienio con respecto al anterior, demostrando la preocupación y dedicación del Director General en hacer un uso racional y eficaz de los recursos.

En contraposición a estas ideas, hemos escuchado en esta sala que unos pocos delegados han puesto en tela de juicio el trabajo de la FAO argumentando falta de transparencia en los informes que se nos presentan para su examen o cuando se ha señalado que la FAO no sobresale por su buen trabajo.

Mi delegación considera que la inmensa mayoría de los países miembros reconoce como muy encomiable la labor de la FAO, respaldándola con el otorgamiento de toda su confianza. Creemos, señor Presidente, que debemos hacer un llamado a la unidad de todos para que reflexionemos con justeza y arrivemos a conclusiones válidas, y que en este 40º Aniversario de la FAO, es decir 40 años de servicio a los nobles intereses, la Organización salga de este período de sesiones más fortalecida, más dinámica y más activa para que continúe en su noble tarea de luchar, junto a todos los países miembros de buena voluntad, por erradicar el hambre y la miseria y por el bienestar de la humanidad.

MOHD YASSIN MOHD SALLEH (Malaysia): I would like first of all to congratulate Mr Lignon for his excellent introduction of the Review to this Commission. I would like also to pay tribute to the FAO Secretariat for preparing a comprehensive Review of Field programmes for 1984-85.

The Review is well written and provides an in-depth evaluation of many field projects carried out in the different countries. My delegation notes with interest the share of field activities in Africa which reached 40 percent in terms of project expenditure. They expect an increase in the future due to the present food crisis and the increase in training projects under the FAO ' s field programmes for the biennium 1984-85.

It is also noted that the quality of the project management and performance of counterpart staff is a critical implementation factor in determining project results. My delegation is rather concerned by the fact that projects undertaken in LDC's usually produce less satisfactory results than those located elsewhere and that large-scale multi-disciplinary projects are more likely to run into difficulties. On the other hand smaller, shorter-duration projects were assessed as more efficient on the average. But then this is to be expected given the narrower and more limited objectives of such intervention programmes.

My delegation is convinced that the FAO Secretariat takes due note of the shortcomings and pitfalls of project implementation and performance that are revealed in the evaluation reports and the conclusions as contained in the Review. Nevertheless my delegation wishes to emphasize the urgent need to formulate appropriate concrete steps to ensure that future field programme activities do not encounter the same problems. Where problems are related to recipient countries steps must be taken to minimize this as situations warrant. In this connection my delegation would like to make three specific suggestions, namely: (i) the experience and expertise gathered by the FAO in the course of implementing field activities should be fully brought to bear in the planning, execution and management of ongoing projects in order to obviate any likelihood of failure; (ii) Since funding is limited proper criteria should be noted in the selection of projects and then concerted efforts should be made to ensure their success; (iii) It is to be noted that developing countries have, over the years, acquired and developed expertise in various areas covered by and related to the field programmes and this should be utilized in the context of promoting intercountry collaboration through TCP.

My last point is on the Forestry Programme. My delegation wishes to reiterate the support it has given in the Council to the emphasis on forestry development in the Review. I would also hasten to comment on the need to pay particular attention to forestry development in the tropics. The effective conservation and wise use of the highly complex tropical rain forests requires careful appraisal and management of the resources, which tend to be beyond the capability of most developing countries. Consequently FAO's comprehensive project in Brazil, notably and I quote: "the large scale attempt to manage a natural humid tropical forest on a rational scientific basis in a timely pilot Amazonian area" is of great importance and interest to other tropical countries, and there should be adequate opportunities to share the expertise developed and the information generated. FAO undertook to promote and support a similar project in the Asia and Pacific region and also to facilitate inter-regional cooperation in this endeavour, as time is of the essence in the development of the appropriate knowledge and technology necessary for the effective conservation and wise use of the rapidly decreasing natural tropical forest resources for a sustained yield of social economic benefits for the largest possible number of people.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): Without wishing to offend Mr Lignon who has given a very fine introduction, we would like to begin by referring to Mr Shah's comments at the close of yesterday's debate on the Review of the Regular Programme, in particular his mention of the position Canada had taken on the carry-over of funds for TCP. While we would leave it to the members of the Commission to judge the relevance of references to statements made five years ago, you may be assured that in view of the energy of Mr Shah's archivists we shall certainly be choosing our words very carefully today.

We would like to express our thanks to the Secretariat for this most informative and well structured document. As an overview comment may we say that we regard both the presentation and the content as an improvement over previous editions and therefore hopefully indicative of a refreshing spirit of self-examination to which my delegation, for one, will be ready to give every possible measure of encouragement.

Today we would like to address ourselves to two sets of issues raised by the document. First that of the quality of evaluation that is reflected in the document and secondly the remarks made in the document and by certain other speakers regarding the flow of concessional resources to the agricultural sector of developing countries. With regard to the quality of evaluation I would merely like to recall our points registered at the last Council meeting. At that time the Canadian delegation put forth three basic perspectives from which we felt the merits of any evaluation had to be treated. First we should be interested in the degree of candour that is evidenced in the narratives given. Second we should take note of the amount of objective, as distinct from subjective, information material contained in the assessment. Third we should examine the extent of effort that has been made to identify in a rigorous and credible fashion the areas of improvement which suggest themselves from the analysis. From the perspective of candour we very much appreciate the relatively greater willingness this year to share frankly with us information on field programme delivery including that information which indicates certain problems or deficiencies that have been encountered. With regard to the objectivity of the information presented however, we are not convinced by the arguments of some to the effect that the evaluation of technical cooperation projects cannot or should not be subject to the same measurements of economic impact as other areas of development assistance. Indeed we remain rather disappointed at what appears to be the general scarcity of such data in this document, nor even the indication or an assurance that the acquisition of such material was at least regarded as a matter of importance to those concerned. Indeed some of the criteria used to measure what is euphemistically called 'project outputs' or 'project defects' is not readily apparent from the document before us. What passes for impact assessment seems to be a sort of in-house scoring scheme, the rules of the game for which appear by their very nature to be likely to lead to judgements of a less than scientific nature.

We would find it far more useful, in coming to an appreciation of the value of FAO's programmes, to have provided to us additional information on such questions as the impact on yields, as the result of newly introduced cultivation practices, the amount of disease reduction as the consequence of certain livestock projects or multiplier effects involved by virtue of training initiatives in terms of the stock of trained manpower or the rate of adaptation of new inputs. It is this kind of thing that is surely more important than mere performance reports. We want to know that the projects really did make a useful contribution and how they did so, not just whether the expert arrived at his post on time and carried out "X" number of field trials or had "Y" number of trainees attend the workshop he conducted. We are full well aware that getting this information for every single project undertaken is not feasible or practical and also that the time frame involved in evaluation may be longer than one biennium but we do not feel that a move in the direction I have cited is unwarranted in the name of more genuinely helpful evaluation.

In connection with the third perspective, that of determining the areas where improvements might be useful, we feel the document has much to commend itself in pointing to the need to take better account of recipient country situations, particularly from the standpoint of realistic project design and prospects for follow-up. In fact we would be tempted to broaden this consideration somewhat by suggesting that the policy environment for agricultural development be taken into account in mounting projects as well as the range of activities of other donors in the sector and their respective experiences.

The second area of concern is once again the remarks made in the document and in the discussions we have had concerning the flow of concessional resources to the food and agricultural sector. In all frankness we believe there is room for a greater measure of balance in some of the comments made particularly in assessing the distinction between cause and effect in accounting for apparent changes in the level of those flows. The amount of ODA resources being put at present at FAO's disposal by extra-budgetary sources of funding can in one sense be seen as something of a scientific phenomenon. These flows can be seen to thrive in certain conditions and not in others. Accordingly FAO has been seen as a relevant and useful executing mechanism by some funding sources while it has not been so seen by a number of others - indeed I would say by most others. I am afraid in the documents and in the debate so far there has been a tendency to externalize the reasons for the so-called "unreliable flow of ODA resources to agriculture in general and to accomplish this through FAO in particular." Perhaps nowhere is this tendency so evident as in the repeated inclination to blame UNDP for such a large share of FAO's problems in delivering technical assistance to the food sector. Certainly we join all speakers in their sense of concern for UNDP's overall resource position. My Government has worked diligently towards a more secure funding base

for UNDP financing including the championing of a replenishment system that would ensure resource flows over a multi-year period. The other day we announced a very major real increase in our UNDP contribution. We will continue to work towards these goals and we therefore cannot accept the argument that whatever constraints UNDP has suffered from in the past justify a larger role for assessed budgets in assuming the functions of technical assistance funding. Additionally we are concerned that an incorrect impression is being promulgated on UNDP's alleged unwillingness to concentrate on the food sector in its resource allocations. As I understand the situation, the allocations made to one sector or another are made by the beneficiary countries themselves in drawing up their country programmes. These programmes are tied to the recipient's own economic and social development priorities. UNDP reflects the priorities of the beneficiary states, not of UNDP staff. Moreover, we are puzzled by the concern for duplication and lack of coordination which has supposedly resulted from the evolution of the UNDP Office of Project Execution (OPE).

We will leave aside the observations that we have not often found FAO in the forefront of many campaigns to roll back the scourge of duplication, except perhaps to say that the evidence of this preoccupation has been very slight indeed when it comes to ensuring for instance that TCP initiatives or objectives are consistent with UNDP country programmes. The fact remains that the UNDP Office of Project Execution has consistently enjoyed the full support of the UNDP Governing Council and the General Assembly since it was first set up.

We detect a certain contradiction in members criticizing a funding agency such as UNDP for establishing a project-executing capacity while at the same time fully endorsing that an executing agency such as FAO establish and expand a funding facility in the form of TCP. The frequently negative reference to UNDP is but one example of this tendency to externalize problems in sustaining full programme levels.

Although the document suggests that comfort is to be taken from the rapid growth of Trust Funds under FAO auspices, thereby compensating for the drop in UNDP resources, there can in fact be little comfort in such a narrow range of donors accounting for such a high percentage of Trust Fund arrangements, and with even some of those donors increasingly expressing their concern over the FAO mechanism relative to opportunities to accomplish similar ends through other agencies, or via the bilateral route.

Like the delegation of Denmark that spoke yesterday, Canada has serious doubts regarding the cost effectiveness of using the FAO, notwithstanding the highly trained and dedicated staff which the agency possesses. Canada wishes only the best for FAO's field programmes and recognizes the oftentimes excellent contribution they have made in responding to recipients' needs, as well as the potential role they could play in overcoming the bottlenecks and constraints of the development process in a large number of countries. We are concerned however that a more harmonious modus vivendi will have to be found in relation to FAO's fund resources before a greater level of stability will be established. In circumstances where FAO development projects are seen to be of highly developed impact, as evidenced from sound and objective evaluation, where the instruments of accountability and transparency are solidly in place, and finally where the implementation of projects is clearly cost effective in relation to other modes of technical assistance delivery, we are confident that the source levels could in fact be stabilized and that the facilities of FAO could be more amply utilized for the benefit of the entire community of FAO's membership.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): Nos complace intervenir bajo su dirección, señor Presidente; usted representa a la República Federal de Alemania gran país al cual Colombia está unida por gratos lazos de cooperación y amistad.

La delegación colombiana considera que este documento representa las progresivas y claras mejoras que se han venido introduciendo en las importantes actividades de campo de la Organización. Ahora los proyectos corresponden a las verdaderas prioridades decididas por los gobiernos, y los expertos han mejorado notablemente en sus capacidades y condiciones.

Apoyamos el uso creciente de consultores y expertos de los países en desarrollo, así como de nuestras instituciones nacionales porque consideramos que todo ello cumple la función de capacitar cada vez mejor al personal de los países en desarrollo y contribuye a liberarnos de la dependencia de expertos de países desarrollados a que antes estábamos sometidos.

Desafortunadamente debemos lamentar la disminución de fondos del PNUD por tercer año consecutivo; nos complace, en cambio, el aumento de los gastos con cargo a los Programas de fondos fiduciarios que en 1984 superaron casi en un 30 por ciento las actividades realizadas con fondos de la FAO/PNUD.

En los fondos fiduciarios los Países Nórdicos están a la cabeza. En el Consejo pasado oímos una declaración a nombre de esos Países Nórdicos según la cual ellos harán un alto prudente en esa generosa contribución a fondos fiduciarios.

Al reconocer y agradecer la importante función de los Países Nórdicos en este campo, la delegación de Colombia de manera muy cordial y respetuosa desearía solicitar a los cuatro nobles Países Nórdicos que no descontinúen, sino que insistan en su actuación positiva a este respecto.

En relación con la distribución geográfica de los proyectos de campo la delegación de Colombia considera que es importante que a la Región de América Latina y el Caribe se le conceda la importancia que merecen 33 países de esa área del mundo.

Pensamos que las actividades de la FAO en apoyo a las inversiones es muy importante y por ello apoyamos la labor del -Centro de Inversiones y especialmente del Program de Cooperación FAO/Banco Mundial.

La delegación colombiana apoya plenamente las funciones de los propios representantes de la FAO en los países. Conceptuamos que ese aspecto importante de la política de descentralización del Director General que comenzó hace diez años, en 1976, ha producido los mejores resultados.

Los representantes de la FAO en los países son válidos interlocutores de los gobiernos y realizan tareas de gran significación.

La delegación de Colombia considera también que las Oficinas Regionales pueden seguir prestando una valiosa cooperación en las actividades de campo no sólo a través de los proyectos subregionales y regionales, sino también mediante la cooperación de los Oficiales establecidos en la sede de las Oficinas Regionales en contacto con los gobiernos a través de los representantes de la FAO en los países.

La delegación de Colombia desea apoyar plenamente con todo entusiasmo la declaración del distinguido representante de Suecia en apoyo a aquellas personas minusválidas que por estar afectadas en uno u otro sentido merecen especial atención. Creemos que la FAO, a través de sus actividades de campo, puede ofrecer oportunidad que contribuya a la rehabilitación de esos minusválidos. La delegación de Colombia considera que la iniciativa de Suecia al respecto corresponde al sentido humano y generoso que caracteriza a los representantes de los Países Nórdicos, la cual coincide con la política social del gobierno colombiano en esta materia.

Por ello confiamos que esta Comisión apoyará plenamente el párrafo que ha sido propuesto por la delegación de Suecia para que sin debilitarlo ni alterarlo figure adecuadamente en el informe de esta Comisión.

O. LINDSTAD (Norway): We wish to congratulate the Secretariat for its clear and comprehensive document which is presented to us. We are particularly happy to see that more efforts are being made to increase food production among small farmers, and to learn that the key roles played by women in this respect are recognized and integrated in development activity to a much greater degree than they were just a few years ago. However, we still have a long way to go.

Regarding the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, it is stated that: "It in fact led to a thorough review and re-examination of both the content and modalities of all FAO's main field projects." I hope that soon this can be said about more than FAO's field programmes.

We have some comments on the Chapters on Forestry and on Training. I shall start with Forestry.

The analysis in the document shows the broad spectrum of forestry activities and the improved integration of other fields of activity. The reorientation towards community forestry and fuel-wood production must be welcomed. In this process two aspects should however be recognized; one, the multi-purpose role of forestry must be emphasized - the protective and the productive role of forests should not normally be separated in isolated areas, but increasingly combined; two, the long production cycles in forestry necessitate early investment. It seems too often to be the case that plantations are established when resources are already depleted. This creates the need for using fast growing species which are not always the best species for the actual purposes in the long run.

Turning to Chapter Four, C., Some Recent Features of Training in Field Projects, lack of knowledge need not be the major obstacle to development but very often is. FAO has for a long time recognized the importance of training and the extension services. To my delegation, it seems necessary to translate this recognition into actual efforts. I am not here thinking of increasing the quantity, but primarily of improving the quality.

In paragraphs 4.29 to 4.45, impressive information and figures are given about how many have been trained, who has been trained and how they are being trained. At the end of the Chapter some consideration has been given to the registered or assumed outcome of all this training but not very much. Large amounts of resources have readily been used on training, and this calls for thorough studies of the outcome of these allocations. We all know that it is difficult to measure real achievements in education, training and extension work - but it still has to be done. In paragraph 4.27 the document gives an overview of the previous assessment of FAO's training activities, the latest being held in 1979-80. The FAO's inter-departmental work group on training is currently following FAO's efforts in this field. In spite of all this, perhaps the time will soon be ripe for a new in-depth study of FAO's training activities with the quality and outcome of training as the focal points. In such a study substantial use should be made of evaluators from outside FAO and the UN System, here in the three apartheid groups. Experience shows that when evaluators study the work of their own or related institutions, elements of self-defense easily get into analyses and appraisals.

Finally, the Norwegian delegation wishes to support the initiative taken by the Swedish delegation concerning disabled persons.

Mme M. LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert tient à féliciter M. Lignon pour la présentation du document et le Secrétariat pour sa qualité. Ce document nous permet d'analyser l'importance, le suivi et les tendances des activités opérationnelles de la FAO pendant le biennium 1984-85.

D'après ce bilan, les programmes de terrain qui ont subi une relative amélioration par rapport au biennium précédent restent encore insuffisants face aux besoins de l'Afrique et des pays en développement en général.

Nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier les donateurs des fonds fiduciaires qui constituent la principale source de financement des activités de terrain de la FAO; en particulier ma délégation remercie l'Italie qui, dans le cadre des fonds fiduciaires, finance quelques projets en cours d'exécution au Cap-Vert, notamment le projet de soutien au service national de production animale, le projet de soutien à l'Institut national de coopération et le projet de réorganisation du service national de vulgarisation agricole.

Nos remerciements s'adressent également à la Belgique, principal donateur du fonds fiduciaire pour le projet de reboisement au Cap-Vert.

L'Afrique une fois encore a absorbé une part croissante des activités de terrain, environ 40 pour cent. D'autre part, il est préoccupant d'observer la diminution des fonds du PNUD. Nous nous réjouissons du rôle accru de l'aide aux activités forestières et de la participation nationale aux projets de terrain.

Avant de terminer permettez-moi de féliciter la délégation suédoise et d'appuyer sa déclaration à propos des préoccupations de ce pays envers les personnes handicapées.

Enfin nous félicitons la FAO pour la place accordée à la formation et à la CTPD et lui recommandons de poursuivre la même voie dans l'examen des programmes de terrain ultérieurs.

P. WIESMANN (Suisse): J'aimerais m'associer à tous ceux qui m'ont précédé pour féliciter le Secrétariat de la préparation du document C 85/4, qui est bien structuré et informatif. J'aimerais aussi remercier M. Lignon pour son excellente présentation de ce document.

Ma délégation aimerait surtout exprimer sa satisfaction de la façon honnête avec laquelle les auteurs du rapport ont présenté et commenté les résultats de l'évaluation interne des programmes. Mais nous sommes aussi de l'avis qu'une amélioration, surtout dans la direction d'une meilleure appréciation des effets des programmes pour le développement, est désirable.

Dans mon intervention, j'aimerais faire quelques commentaires sur quatre points: premièrement, sur les aspects financiers des programmes; deuxièmement, sur l'évolution de la coopération au développement; troisièmement, sur la coopération technique entre pays en développement; et quatrièmement, sur l'assistance forestière.

Sur le premier point - les aspects financiers - après avoir pris note des intéressants commentaires des orateurs qui nous ont précédés, nous pourrions être brefs. Si l'apport aux programmes de terrain de la FAO financés par le PNUD s'est contracté en termes réels, il faut signaler que divers pays, année après année, exercent une influence en sens inverse en augmentant en valeur réelle leur contribution au PNUD. La Suisse fait partie de ces pays. En 1986, elle accroîtra, en termes réels, d'environ 5 pour cent sa contribution au PNUD - ou de 8 pour cent, en valeur nominale, en francs suisses. Au cours de ces trois dernières années, la Suisse a en outre accru, en valeur réelle, ses contributions sous forme de fonds fiduciaires au bénéfice des programmes de terrain de la FAO. Cet accroissement a été d'environ 5 pour cent par an.

Deuxième point: l'évaluation de la coopération au développement, telle que nous la présente le Directeur général, nous a grandement intéressés. Elle suscite de notre part plusieurs commentaires et une question. nous sommes heureux de constater que les capacités augmentent dans les pays en développement au point qu'on en vient à parler - je cite le paragraphe 4.4 du document - dans les pays en développement les plus avancés, d'une coopération technique devenant "complémentarité technique", d'un transfert de connaissances qui est loin d'être à sens unique. Au fur et à mesure qu'augmentent les capacités dans les pays en développement, la FAO sait adapter la forme de sa coopération selon les principes de la subsidiarité de l'aide, et nous l'en félicitons. Elle fait appel à ces capacités en mobilisant soit des experts, soit des institutions des pays en développement. L'appel fait à des institutions, qu'il s'agisse de firmes d'ingénieurs, d'organisations non gouvernementales ou d'institutions scientifiques, nous paraît particulièrement profitable à trois titres:

Premièrement, tout en exécutant son mandat, l'institution choisie accumule de l'expérience et accroît encore sa capacité.

Deuxièmement, un mandat donné à une institution locale - au tarif local de rémunération, généralement beaucoup plus bas que le tarif international - a pour conséquence de permettre à cette institution de financer, avec le montant octroyé par la FAO, bien plus de services d'experts que lorsqu'on a recours à des spécialistes expatriés.

Troisièmement, cette pratique contribue globalement à réduire la fuite des cerveaux ou leur sous-emploi.

Cette même évolution de la coopération technique de la FAO, considérée sous un autre angle, relève de la place croissante que prend un certain type d'aide financière par rapport à la coopération technique directe au sein de nombreux projets. L'aide financière dont nous parlons ici consiste en transferts de fonds dans les pays en développement pour financer la composante d'assistance technique locale dont nous venons de parler et, dans une plus faible mesure, pour financer les investissements.

Disons d'emblée que nous ne sommes pas opposés à cet aspect de l'évolution. De même que les banques de développement ont des composantes de coopération technique dans leurs projets, les organisations spécialisées des Nations Unies peuvent avoir des composantes d'aide financière dans les leurs, l'objectif étant, dans tous ces cas, de maximiser les effets du financement apporté.

Mais nous souhaitons connaître la position du Directeur général sur cette modification progressive de l'importance relative des deux composantes au sein des projets soutenus par la FAO et sur ses implications à long terme.

Mon troisième point est la coopération technique entre les pays en développement (CTPD). Nous recommandons à la FAO de conserver son appui à cette forme de coopération que, soit dit en passant, nous appuyons aussi avec succès dans le cadre de la coopération bilatérale suisse. Si nous recommandons à la FAO de persévérer, c'est parce qu'il s'agit d'une approche complexe où l'équilibre des relations entre partenaires au sein d'un réseau joue un grand rôle. Remarquons aussi que certains réseaux de la CTPD sont faits pour durer et doivent donc s'institutionnaliser tandis que d'autres réseaux peuvent disparaître une fois l'objectif atteint. Ces aspects et bien d'autres exigent des partenaires beaucoup d'habileté. Nous voudrions ici leur souhaiter plein succès, d'autant plus sincèrement que nous voyons dans ces réseaux de la CTPD à la fois l'une des meilleures formes d'assistance technique mutuelle et l'une des meilleures formes d'autodéveloppement à long terme dans les domaines techniques.

Quatrième point: il est évident que des efforts considérables ont été faits pour la promotion de la foresterie communautaire, soit par réorientation de nombreux projets en faveur des ruraux pauvres, soit par le lancement de nouveaux programmes. Mentionnons les vastes projets en cours au Népal, à El Salvador et au Sénégal. Bien que des projets d'une telle ampleur posent des problèmes d'organisation, il faut reconnaître qu'ils sont nécessaires pour faire face à une situation économique et écologique extrêmement grave qui nécessite donc des interventions rapides et étendues.

Nous sommes satisfaits de constater que le nombre de projets ayant une composante portant sur le bois de feu a quintuplé de 1980 à 1985. A propos de ce secteur, nous voudrions souligner ce qui suit: les reboisements villageois qui visent la production de bois de feu sont d'un intérêt plus particulier car ils procurent en peu de temps - de quatre à six ans - des avantages tangibles pour la population concernée; ces avantages motivent les villageois et les incitent à protéger les plantations et à les renouveler. Lorsque les conditions d'une région s'y prêtent, les reboisements villageois peuvent inciter les autorités et la population à procéder à des reboisements à une plus grande échelle, avec ou sans aide extérieure. Du même coup, les programmes de bois de feu deviennent ainsi des instruments de lutte contre l'érosion et même la désertification.

Enfin, la délégation suisse tient à appuyer pleinement l'initiative suédoise concernant les handicapés.

Horst WETZEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation encourages FAO to place the evaluation of field projects on an even broader basis, if possible. In addition to the joint evaluation missions with UNDP or the Trust Fund donors as well as the recipient countries, a large number of FAO field projects have been evaluated by FAO Representatives on the spot.

We welcome the frankness with which the results have been classified as "good", "satisfactory" and "not satisfactory". These efforts to evaluate the work of the Organization carried out in the field should, in our view, be further strengthened and continue to be considered for future work. Here again, it would seem wise to resort more frequently to the Joint Inspection Unit for external evaluation, in accordance with repeated suggestions that we have made.

Mr Chairman, you will understand that we are particularly interested in learning from developing countries during this discussion how they evaluate Field Programmes. The concerns of the FAO Secretariat on the decline of UNDP funds that has been going on for years - that is to say the resources of UNDP assigned to FAO for the agricultural sector - are only part of the problem, because the point is that it is the developing countries themselves who determine which share of the UNDP funds available they would wish to use for carrying out agricultural programmes and projects. Here the Canadian delegate has just made some very wise comments. This decline, however, has been partly set off by

the gratifying development of Trust Funds. We were satisfied to note that the volume of FAO Field Programmes has slightly increased in 1984-85 as compared with the 1982-83 biennium. However, the effectiveness of both multilateral and bilateral field programmes could still be enhanced, in our view, by a better coordination, particularly on the country level.

For the Government of my country, the UNDP continues to be the central source of funds for multilateral technical cooperation. The Federal Government is providing bilateral assistance through the channel of its own development assistance agencies. In these programmes, an important share is taken by the support of rural development, a share which has continually risen in recent years from 20.6 percent of Government pledges under financial and technical cooperation in 1982 to 26 percent in 1984. The pledges for 1984 attained a volume of DM.804.5 million, DM.44 million more than the year before. Food and agriculture will also in future have priority in our fruitful cooperation with developing countries.

In conclusion let me refer to the proposals made yesterday by the Swedish delegation in favour of the handicapped. Let me stress that we fully endorse these proposals.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): We welcome the information given in the four Chapters of the document C 85/4. My brief remarks today are largely confined to Chapter Two. This Chapter continues the reporting comments in earlier conferences and meetings on the evaluation of field projects. We welcome the dual approach of combining the FAO Representatives' assessments with the synthesis of evaluation reports for the period 1980 to 1984. This approach gives an extensive review of the global activities of the many field programmes together with more detailed and in-depth analysis of the evaluation report. We look forward to further detailed evaluations along the lines suggested by the Canadian delegate. The results of these reviews are not all likely to be favourable. We do not expect them to be so. The important point is that these review procedures are in place and appear to be working. This can only be useful as project requests, project designs and project implementation can be undertaken with the ultimate need for evaluation to be fully incorporated. In this way there can be some assurance that resources are being directed to these projects that contribute to the objectives of food production, food security and growth in national income.

I believe the statements in paragraphs 2.93 to 2.103 are a worthwhile summary of this point of view, and a confirmation of the important role for the evaluation system. We support the Secretariat in this work.

Chapters Three and Four while less analytical than Chapter Two also add to our knowledge of the work of FAO in the area of forestry and other special activities. Reviews of these and other similar activities should be the subject of study in future reports to the Conference.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie-) : Au nom de la Délégation tunisienne, je voudrais vous adresser mes vifs compliments alors que vous présidez notre séance de travail.

Je tiens à féliciter M. Lignon pour sa parfaite introduction du sujet et pour ses commentaires clairs et précis. Mes remerciements vont également au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents présentés et leur distribution dans les délais.

Le document C 85/4 concernant l'examen des programmes de terrain pour l'exercice 1984-85 rencontre l'approbation de ma délégation. Il ressort de l'étude de ce document que la FAO avait exécuté, au début de 1985, environ 2500 projets de terrain répartis dans 141 pays et d'un coût total de plus de 1 700 millions de dollars. L'examen de ces chiffres est impressionnant et nous tenons à rendre hommage au Directeur général pour ce tour de force qui caractérise sa persévérante volonté de réussir avec les moyens relativement modestes dont dispose l'Organisation.

Cependant, il y a lieu de souligner que durant la période considérée le nombre des petits projets de courte durée s'est accru depuis l'exercice précédent. Ils représentent en effet 70 pour cent des projets en exécution. Ceci met nettement en évidence les possibilités et les avantages que l'on peut tirer du PCT, qui constitue de ce fait une source importante pour les programmes de terrain.

Il est également à souligner le rôle important que joue le Centre d'investissement de la FAO dans l'aide et le soin qu'il apporte à la formulation des projets d'investissement destinés à être financés par la Banque mondiale ou d'autres institutions de financement.

En parlant de financement, je voudrais signaler les inquiétudes de ma délégation en constatant que les allocations du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement (PNUD) à la FAO sont en nette régression. Alors qu'en 1970 le PNUD finançait près de 90 pour cent des activités de terrain de la FAO, cette part a chuté à 40 pour cent en 1984. Cette situation demeure préoccupante car elle affecte considérablement la coopération technique multilatérale du secteur agricole.

Dans le même ordre d'idée, nous sommes très préoccupés et inquiets à propos des problèmes survenus dernièrement concernant les difficultés de reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. Nous pensons que ce problème est grave et mérite une attention toute particulière, compte tenu du rôle que joue le FIDA; surtout en matière d'aide et de promotion des petits et moyens agriculteurs.

En ce qui concerne le rôle des femmes dans le développement, la Constitution tunisienne et notre Code du statut personnel font une large place à la femme dans la société et au sein de la famille. A cet effet, nous avons un Ministère de la famille et de la promotion de la femme. Nous appuyons en conséquence tout programme visant à l'essor économique et social de la femme rurale.

Pour les handicapés et leur participation active dans les programmes de développement, la proposition du délégué de la Suède est louable et mérite toute notre attention.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre 11 du document C 85/4, qui traite de l'évaluation et de l'efficacité et de la performance des projets de terrain, ma délégation estime que dans leur ensemble les résultats sont positifs.

Pour le chapitre III qui concerne l'assistance aux projets forestiers, ma délégation note avec satisfaction que cette assistance est en constante progression, et ceci grâce au soutien accru des fonds fiduciaires.

Enfin, l'analyse du dernier chapitre du document cité fait ressortir que la FAO entreprend des efforts louables pour faire participer les cadres nationaux à l'élaboration et à la direction des projets de terrain. Cependant, nous pensons qu'il reste beaucoup à faire dans le cadre de cette action, notamment au niveau des pays les moins avancés. En effet, ce sont les cadres nationaux qui seront appelés à assurer la relève des experts internationaux et c'est de ces premiers que dépendra la poursuite des activités entreprises et la préservation des acquis.

M.A. COMMINS (Australia): In our view the report represents a fair and frank assessment of areas of FAO's operational activities and we certainly welcome it. As mentioned by Mr Lignon in his very helpful introduction, the analysis in the report is based on two different approaches. The first of these which draws on assessments by FAO field representatives, can only provide in our view, and in the apparent absence of verifiable indicators of project performance and the necessary degree of detachment, insights into achievements and weaknesses, common problems and so on. The second approach, involving a more detailed synthesis of reports of individual evaluation missions carried out by the FAO Evaluation Service, represents, in our view, a more systematic and coherent approach to the exercise.

As acknowledged in the Review, the former and more subjective approach indicates a better catalogue performance than the latter method. Understandably, the more complex multi-functional projects are the most difficult to implement. Without wishing to labour performance figures, some of which may be of questionable value, it is apparent from our reading of the Review that there continue to be weaknesses in the field programmes of FAO. We are, however, confident that once identified they will be progressively overcome.

The basic problem which has affected all development agencies, including Australia's, is the apparent lack within FAO of an appropriate framework for project planning and implementation. As we mentioned in the last meeting of the Council, this is sometimes known as the project planning and management cycle and covers the managerial concepts and systems needed to organize multipurpose and multi-functional development programmes from the initial identification and definition stage to the final follow-up and analysis of action stage. Cost benefit or cost effectiveness is an integral part of this process and special stress is placed on proper project planning, design and close monitoring which are usually the main factors hindering the attainment of project objectives. In our view, these techniques can be applied to technical assistance activities in a cost-effective way.

From our reading of the report, it acknowledges and identifies deficiencies in a number of these inter-related parts of the project cycle but perhaps falls short in making comprehensive recommendations concerning specific ways of overcoming them. We believe, however, that the comprehensive guidelines on the evaluation of technical assistance projects prepared by the Evaluation Unit for use by Headquarters and field staff should help the Organization to deliver its field programmes in a more efficient and cost-effective way.

More than ever before, donors are facing increased and competing demands on their finite resources, especially in the field of agricultural and rural development. Donors are obliged to make difficult choices based on objective criteria relating to how their funds should be allocated. In this context and as a contributor to FAO's Trust Fund Programmes, we welcome the increased recognition that FAO is now giving to evaluation as an important means of improving the qualitative aspects of its field programmes. We join with Japan in requesting regular in-depth and independent evaluations of FAO field activities, including the TCP.

Turning now to the declining resources from the UNDP, we would like to point out that that Organization is also responsible to its governing bodies and a number of us here are also members of them.

We would also like to point out that the establishment of the OPE was carefully reviewed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and fully debated in the UNDP Governing Council in which a consensus was reached expressing support for the OPE. We feel that statements criticizing actions of another institution without perhaps knowing fully the reasons for them will not enhance the level of cooperation and coordination which we would all like to see within the United Nations System in delivering assistance to those in need.

We join with Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, New Zealand and others in requesting closer cooperation at the field level between FAO, UNDP and other UN agencies and bilateral donors.

Finally, we join with others in supporting Sweden's initiative regarding support for the disabled.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): C'est avec un vif intérêt que la délégation congolaise a analysé les documents relatifs à ce point 13 de l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence, consacré à l'examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85 de la FAO. Parmi ces documents d'intérêt, nous citerons les sections pertinentes du rapport de la 59ème session du Comité des programmes, celles du rapport de la 88ème session du Conseil, ainsi que le document principal C 85/4 qui nous a été si brillamment présenté par M.Lignon, que nous tenons à féliciter.

Ainsi que nous le rappelions antérieurement à l'occasion de l'examen du Programme ordinaire et de l'analyse de l'évaluation du Programme de coopération technique de la FAO pour 1984-85, dans le processus de programmation, de suivi et de contrôle des projets et programmes en général, l'évaluation et l'examen revêtent à nos yeux une importance capitale pour la simple raison qu'ils permettent de recenser les progrès accomplis dans l'exécution des programmes et projets, et de déceler les insuffisances et leurs causes profondes auxquelles on doit par la suite s'efforcer de trouver les moyens de déblocage. Cette façon de voir les évaluations et les examens vaut, une fois de plus pour notre part, pour ce qui concerne cet examen du programme de terrain 1984-85 de la FAO.

Nous avons pris bonne note une fois de plus de l'objectivité avec laquelle le secrétariat a su analyser les tendances actuelles des programmes de terrain de la FAO.

La baisse persistante des projets financés par le PNUD continue à nous préoccuper, bien que le niveau des activités de la FAO financées par les fonds fiduciaires ait continué à augmenter parallèlement, étant donné que ces fonds fiduciaires ne comblent pas encore totalement le vide créé par la réduction des ressources du PNUD.

Nous continuons à apprécier les activités engagées par l'Organisation dans le cadre du PCT et nous nous félicitons de l'action dynamique déployée par le Centre d'investissement en matière de préinvestissement.

Nous avons noté avec satisfaction la part importante des activités entreprises par la FAO en faveur de l'Afrique subsaharienne et qui représente actuellement 40 pour cent de l'ensemble des programmes de terrain. Nous saisissons, cette occasion pour rappeler une fois de plus l'importance que nous accordons aux programmes de relance de l'agriculture en Afrique, garants plus sûrs de la sécurité alimentaire de notre continent dont les besoins actuels en secours alimentaires d'urgence restent encore à satisfaire. Nous nous félicitons de la solidarité exprimée par les ressortissants d'autres régions d'Afrique.

Nous apprécions à sa juste valeur le processus de nomination des directeurs de projets et d'experts nationaux engagés par la FAO et l'encourageons à développer cette politique qui cadre bien avec la conjoncture de contraction actuelle de certaines de ses sources de financement, le PNUD en particulier.

Nous nous félicitons de l'importance accordée dans le présent examen au développement forestier et souhaitons qu'autant d'importance soit accordée par l'Organisation dans ses programmes futurs aux cultures appelées faussement cultures secondaires, parmi lesquelles les plantes à tubercules et la banane plantain sont dans bon nombre de nos pays les cultures de base de l'alimentation.

Comme l'ont dit plusieurs délégations avant nous, une attention particulière doit continuer à être donnée à l'épineux problème des pertes après récolte.

Pour que les priorités, politiques, programmes que nous avons tous indiqués jusqu'ici à l'Organisation se traduisent au bout du compte par des tonnes de produits alimentaires agricoles, il faut, aussi bien à la FAO qu'aux Etats, des moyens. Parmi ces moyens indispensables, nous évoquerons dans ce propos les ressources financières.

Tout en appuyant l'action du Centre d'investissement de la FAO, nous restons profondément préoccupés par les difficultés auxquelles se trouvent actuellement confrontés l'AID et le FIDA, et nous lançons un vibrant appel aux pays des catégories I et II, membres du FIDA, pour conclure sans plus tarder les négociations relatives à la deuxième reconstitution des ressources de cette institution.

Nous exhortons la FAO à poursuivre l'examen périodique de ces programmes.

Nous appuyons le principe visant à ce que notre Conférence adopte une résolution sur les handicapés physiques, telle que proposée par la délégation suédoise.

C'est avec une oreille particulièrement attentive que nous avons entendu dire que l'on doit tenir compte du rapport coût-efficacité dans les projets financés dans le cadre des programmes de terrain de notre Organisation.

Cela est tout à fait légitime, mais qu'il me soit permis de rappeler tout de même que les projets agricoles ont la particularité de ne pas être immédiatement rentables, comme le sont les projets industriels. De ce fait, on doit en tenir compte et ne pas s'attendre à appliquer aux projets agricoles la rigueur mécanique des institutions bancaires traditionnelles.

Dans leurs interventions d'hier après-midi, certaines délégations nous ont révélé que la FAO n'a pas été citée par leurs pays comme une des agences multilatérales les plus efficaces pour lesquelles il a été envisagé une augmentation de leurs contributions.

Quand nous nous rappelons par ailleurs que ces mêmes délégations sont celles-là mêmes qui sont partisans du concept de la croissance zéro du budget des organisations du système des Nations Unies et qu'elles sont opposées à l'augmentation des ressources du PCT, notre tension ne peut que monter à son paroxysme lorsque nous apprenons enfin, de la bouche de ces mêmes délégations, qu'elles ne sont pas disposées à augmenter leurs fonds fiduciaires à la FAO. Tout compte fait, c'est sur tous les tableaux que l'on veut asphyxier l'Organisation. Dans ces conditions, nous nous demandons si c'est bien la meilleure manière de nous y prendre pour faire face à notre ambitieux projet commun arrêté en 1974 lors de la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation et que nous avons récemment réaffirmé à Paris, projet visant à l'éradication de la faim et de la malnutrition de la surface de notre planète d'ici la fin du XXe siècle.

Nous y répondons par la négative et nous lançons à la place un solennel appel pour l'union de toutes nos forces des quatre coins du monde afin que se réalise un jour ce beau et noble projet, digne des nations du monde éprises de paix et de justice.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): I would like to say something concerning procedure. The delegation of the United Kingdom has asked me whether it would be possible for them to speak now because this delegation would have difficulties in taking the floor later. I would like to please ask you to accept this request. I see that no one is objecting to this. Therefore, I call now on the United Kingdom. Thank you for your understanding.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I would like first of all to express my pleasure at seeing you in the Chair and thank you for your cooperation. I would also like to thank the meeting for its kindness in allowing me to speak at this point.

Looking at the report on the field programmes we were gratified by the share of the field programme resources which is directed to Africa and we note with pleasure that the amount directed to Africa is likely to increase.

We find that Chapter Two of document C 85/4 contains some useful information which could be used to improve project design and we hope there is a system operating within FAO to ensure that the findings of evaluation are actually used in future programme design. We believe that future reviews should contain more information on evaluation procedures and methods and a deeper analysis of the results and lessons learned.

On the basis of the information contained in document C 85/4 we consider the assessment and evaluation procedures being used by FAO could be made more rigorous. For example, those closely involved with programmes should not be called upon to evaluate them.

It would also be appropriate in this item to reiterate the United Kingdom's support for the central role of the United Nations Development Programme as the main vehicle for technical cooperation in the United Nations System. We do however support the concept of Trust Funds and the Technical Cooperation Programmes run by FAO, firstly because we consider that it is necessary to have a flexible response which can quickly draw upon FAO's unique expertise, and secondly because we believe that it is necessary for an organization like FAO to run in-house programmes of this sort so that it remains aware of the real problems faced by farmers.

Having said this we do however consider some of the criticism of UNDP to be misplaced and possibly based on a misunderstanding of the way in which UNDP funds are allocated. Under the UN country programming system the level of UNDP funding for agriculture represents an aggregation of decisions taken by individual recipient countries. If the level of UNDP funding for agriculture is to increase, individual countries will have to choose to increase the priority they give to agriculture. Certainly some countries in this Commission which have called for increases in UNDP funding for agriculture have chosen in their domestic programmes to give greater priority to other sectors. This is of course quite understandable and realistic but it has to be remembered in the concept of this debate.

Finally I would like briefly to return again to the question of overhead costs. The figures given by Mr Shah at the end of our consideration of the last agenda item were only partially helpful. In our view it is not realistic to calculate programme costs on the narrow basis he chose. For example, it is not sufficient to base calculations only on the cost of professional grades. The cost of general service grades must also be included, as must a proportion of the cost of rent, heating, common services, etc. Mr Shah's comments on the TCP were very interesting. Choosing one basis of calculation we could produce a similar figure of 2 to 3 percent for a comparable United Kingdom bilateral programme but we would not consider this to be a true realistic assessment of the overheads. As we said, we calculate these on FAO's programmes to be in the region of 27 to 31 percent of the operational programmes. It appears to us that regrettably there is a conceptual fallacy in the approach used by the Secretariat which does not facilitate their efforts to present the real overhead costs to Council and Conference. This is a very important issue which has to be examined in depth. The format of our discussions in this Commission does not make this easy. Because of this the United Kingdom would therefore like to propose that the subject of overhead costs be considered and discussed in depth by the Finance Committee and that a special report on this subject of overhead costs should be prepared for consideration by Council and Conference.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I welcome the lucid preparation and presentation of the document before us C 85/4, Review of Field Programmes, and we as a delegation do support it wholeheartedly. We commend the efforts of the Director-General and his Secretariat in reinforcing linkage between Regular and Field Programmes. It is worrying to note that since 1981 FAO's share of the UNDP funds has been dwindling and yet the African food crisis continues to worsen. Surely there is an urgent need for increased funds. On the other hand it is encouraging to note that Trust Funds have increased, making it possible to fund the programme under review. We commend those multinationals who have honoured their obligations to fight malnutrition. The remarks made by Denmark and probably others who have echoed the same in earlier interventions are a bit worrying and I hope they will be reconsidered by those nationals. We commend FAO action and subsequent design of rehabilitation programmes in the 21 African countries badly hit by the previous drought. Long-term solutions in the context of rural development involving the target groups in decision-making and planning are the only hope and the principles and recommendations in the WCARRD should be echoed and followed to the letter. Project design, implementation and subsequent monitoring and evaluations are very important tools to apply and we welcome the independent evaluation mission report. However, the distinguished delegate from New Zealand and others have very much dwelt on the project management systems that should be applied, but as the distinguished delegate from Congo mentioned, there are certain areas where measurements of what the tools can apply can be very, very deceptive. But we still support the procedures. Let us also point out that' efforts should be directed to training the nationals in such procedures in order to build up local capabilities in project management.

The lower rungs, and particularly the grass roots as we refer to them, which will involve the womens' groups and women in general in developing countries, would be the targets, so that they can understand simple projects that they need to undertake in their own region, and even at the higher rungs and particularly institutions of higher learning and individuals who are engaged in agriculture should be encouraged to take part in this so that development in toto is meaningful.

The fight against desertification should be intensified on the African continent if we are to survive and I am glad this sector has been reflected fully with in the amount of money and the concentration that it should take. Food, fuel and timber are running out very fast and the environment deteriorates very fast also and we should at all costs turn our attention to this very, very important area in our survival. The cause of environmental destruction is traced to poverty and subsequently poverty is traced back to about five groups: the landless poor, the small-scale farmers, the urban poor, the poor rural workers and lastly, the handicapped. My Government has this in view and it is incorporated in our national development programmes. This prompts me to support the Swedish draft resolution on the disabled which is worth reflecting in our discussions in this Session.

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/II/PV/10

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION

(19 November 1985)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours

J. Winkel, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45,

sous la présidence de J. Winkel, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la décima sesión a las 14.45 horas

bajo la presidencia de J. Winkel, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite).
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 14. Review of Field Programmes 1984-85 (continued)
- 14. Examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85 (suite)
- 14. Examen de los programas de campo 1984-85 (continuación)

J.-P. NEME (France): La délégation française tient tout d'abord à féliciter M. Lignon pour l'excellente présentation ainsi que pour la qualité du document que nous examinons.

Nous appuyons tout particulièrement le fait que l'Afrique ait absorbé une part croissante des activités de terrain de la FAO qui s'est élevée à 40 pour cent des dépenses pour les projets en cours du présent exercice, et nous espérons vivement que ce pourcentage augmentera encore au cours du prochain exercice biennal, en raison des mesures spéciales qui ont été prises pour aider les gouvernements africains à faire face à la crise alimentaire qui frappe ce continent.

Nous avons de même relevé avec satisfaction que la part de l'Afrique dans le montant total des projets du PCT s'élève à 40 pour cent, et nous espérons que la priorité accordée à l'Afrique sera maintenue à l'avenir.

A cette occasion, je voudrais rappeler l'intérêt que présente la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets du PCT destinés à catalyser la coopération entre pays, et tout particulièrement les réseaux coopératifs de recherche qui constituent à notre avis le moyen le plus efficace et le moins coûteux de renforcer les capacités de recherche agricole dans les pays en développement.

En effet, on a eu trop souvent tendance dans le passé à privilégier les structures centralisées de recherche agricole internationale telles que les centres internationaux de recherche agricole, en sous-estimant le rôle essentiel que peuvent jouer des structures beaucoup plus souples comme les réseaux de recherche.

C'est pourquoi nous ne pouvons qu'encourager la FAO à renforcer ses activités de terrain dans ce domaine pour parvenir à un meilleur équilibre entre ces deux approches.

Ma délégation tient également à souligner ici toute l'importance que nous attachons à une mesure prévue par le Directeur général de donner instruction aux représentants de la FAO dans les pays de mettre au courant -des projets du PCT les représentants des autres organismes, dont le PNUD, et des pays donateurs, et d'établir tous les six mois un catalogue de tous les projets de la FAO opérationnels et achevés dans le pays en indiquant l'action consécutive aux projets achevés. Une telle mesure répond aux préoccupations qui viennent d'être exposées, notamment par la délégation canadienne, et montre la volonté de la FAO de renforcer la concertation entre les aides et d'éviter les risques de double emploi. Nous ne pouvons donc que nous féliciter d'une telle initiative.

Par ailleurs, nous avons noté que plus de 92 millions de dollars, sur un total de 250 millions de dollars, avaient déjà été financés par divers donateurs, dont la France, pour le programme spécial de relèvement de l'agriculture dans 25 pays africains les plus touchés par la sécheresse. Nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de ce résultat remarquable obtenu dans un délai record.

En revanche, nous ne pouvons que regretter que la part de la FAO dans les projets financés par le PNUD soit tombée de 30 pour cent à 20 pour cent au cours des dernières années, alors que le développement agricole et forestier a été unanimement reconnu comme la première priorité pour les pays en développement. Ma délégation déplore d'autant plus cette situation que le PNUD doit jouer un rôle important dans le développement agricole de ces pays, et que, de surcroît, la France a accru sa participation financière à cet organisme.

Ma délégation espère donc vivement que cette évolution s'inversera à l'avenir afin de retrouver le plus tôt possible le niveau antérieur de 30 pour cent de la part de la FAO dans les projets financés par le PNUD. A cet égard, nous recommandons aux pays en développement qui sont concernés de concentrer en priorité leur demande d'assistance au PNUD sur le secteur agricole et forestier.

En ce qui concerne le chapitre 2 , nous appuyons la remarque du document concernant la nécessité d'accorder une attention particulière à la conception et à la mise en oeuvre de grands projets multidisciplinaires car les projets plus courts et moins ambitieux s'avèrent souvent plus efficaces.

En outre, nous tenons à féliciter la FAO de s'être engagée dans une procédure d'évaluation rigoureuse et concertée des actions de son programme de terrain qui nous paraît satisfaisante. Une telle évaluation à terme permet de prendre une juste mesure des résultats obtenus, des difficultés rencontrées, et nous ne doutons pas que cela permettra de faciliter le choix des projets et d'améliorer leur efficacité.

En ce qui concerne les activités forestières, nous considérons que les projets forestiers devraient recevoir à l'avenir une priorité accrue et tout particulièrement pour la lutte contre la désertification en Afrique. Pour sa part, mon gouvernement concentre actuellement son effort d'assistance dans ce domaine en dégageant des ressources supplémentaires. En particulier dans le cadre de nos contributions volontaires aux fonds fiduciaires de la FAO, notre effort porte actuellement sur les projets forestiers, et notamment sur l'amélioration de la fixation biologique de l'azote des essences forestières.

Par ailleurs, nous tenons à appuyer vivement les paragraphes 3116 et 3117 du document qui soulignent la nécessité d'associer très étroitement les activités du Centre d'investissement avec l'assistance technique forestière assurée par la FAO. Une telle association me paraît indispensable et doit s'effectuer à deux niveaux : d'une part par l'intensification des possibilités d'investissements complémentaires lors du suivi des projets de terrain de la FAO tant au stade de leur conception qu'au stade de leur mise en oeuvre, d'autre part, par l'assistance technique apportée par la FAO dans de nombreux programmes d'investissements forestiers.

Enfin, comme vous le savez, la France est très préoccupée par les problèmes forestiers, qu'il s'agisse de la dégradation des forêts des pays du Nord et plus encore de la disparition de zones forestières entières dans les pays du Sud, tout particulièrement en Afrique sèche.

C'est pourquoi vous me permettrez de rappeler ici l'invitation lancée par le Président de la République française à des responsables politiques du Nord et du Sud à se retrouver à Paris au mois de février prochain pour examiner les moyens de renforcer par la solidarité internationale la sauvegarde de ces patrimoines forestiers.

Mrs A.C. KARNA (Finland): At first I should like to thank you, Mr Lignon, for the clear introduction of the document.

On behalf of the Finnish Government I should like to express our full acknowledgement of the Field Programme document which gives a clear review of the FAO activities and trends during the biennium 1984-85. During this biennium we have witnessed progress in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in some countries , but we have also witnessed some very alarming trends, most difficult of which is the emergency of a food crisis in Africa. In this connection we would like to commend the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System which has provided detailed forecasts and information about the weather and crop situation as well as the special programme on urgent agricultural rehabilitation projects for 21 African countries suffering severe food shortages. This rehabilitation programme has begun to materialize with support from a wide variety of resources such as financial institutions, UNDP, FAO Trust Fund and bilateral donors. My Government has allocated bilaterally 9 million dollars to be used for emergency assistance in some drought affected countries. In this particularly difficult situation we have to be extremely concerned about the shortfalls of funds available for technical assistance in food and agriculture. In this context we can be convinced that a variety of funds and channels through which aid could be directed are badly needed. We do need those through which we can react immediately and we need those through which long-term development programmes can be carried out.

During this decade the Government of Finland has been worried about the development and future of UNDP and FAO's role in it. As we consider UNDP to be indeed crucial for the socio-economic development in the world, the Finnish Government has planned and intends to increase its support for it. We also urge all other member countries to rapidly increase their contributions in order to attain our common goals in the development process, particularly in the less developed countries.

Concerning the FAO Field Programme, the UNDP-funded delivery declined in 1984 for the third year in succession. The agreement reached at the UNDP Governing Council last June on the fourth programming cycle of the UNDP covering the years 1987-1991 may hopefully reverse this trend. The Finnish delegation considers that the agricultural and forestry sectors should be given high priority in the preparation for new country programmes because, for example, the industrial development of a country can initiate from these sectors.

We have noted with satisfaction the steady growth of the Trust Funds and their increased importance for the field programmes, keeping in mind the decrease of the UNDP support which was only about 40 percent in 1984. My Government intends to continue its support through the Government cooperative programme. In this connection we should also like to draw attention to the success of the Technical Cooperation Programme initiated by the Director-General in 1976. This well established small, quick action programme has recently been evaluated and my Government gives strong support to the recommendations and proposals made in the Report, being aware of the success and value placed on this Programme by the recipients and the FAO's field representations. However, in spite of the success of the Programme the TCP's share of the Regular Programme should not in the future exceed the proposed level, as so many delegations have already stated before in this Conference.

Referring to Chapter 2 of the document, which is devoted to an assessment of the field projects, we would like to stress the importance and continuity of this activity as well as of improved project reporting. The results of the assessment process are very interesting, especially when revealing the problems occurring in the field work. When aiming at the execution of more large-scale and technically-demanding projects, more attention should be paid to careful planning and design. Quite often project implementation has been hampered by the underestimated needs for the development of human resources, such as project manpower, and the unsatisfactory design of organizational arrangements with national counterpart institutions. Especially under the present circumstances of scarce resources for technical assistance programmes, appropriate attention should be paid by FAO to develop further and to refine the methods of implementing all these stages of the project cycle in order to achieve the most efficient results. Achievements of real progress in development cooperation can, however, only be reached through the joint efforts of all parties involved, including the recipient countries themselves. We fully support FAO's efforts to increase the national professional staff in the field programmes and urge FAO to further strengthen the field offices and increase their independence. In this connection we would like to mention that, as Finnish bilateral resources for rural development are increasing, the experience of FAO in formulating, appraising and evaluating programmes, could also serve the needs of our bilateral projects.

The necessity of continuously concentrating the project activities to fewer and larger entities should also be stressed, as well as the necessity to integrate, when possible, technical assistance projects into larger development projects particularly designed for institution building and consequently having a permanent effect on socio-economic development. One vital precondition for the permanent effect, which seems to become even more important in the future, is the question of possibility and will to integrate women in all levels of participation and decision-making.

In this context I will not repeat the priorities which my Government finds to be most essential ones. I just would like to refer to our statement about the Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87. Still I would like to draw attention to the analysis of forestry projects which is presented in Chapter Three of the document. The Finnish delegation believes that the analysis very clearly proves that this sector has been developing successfully and that the trend in increasing inputs in the field programmes should also be strongly supported in the future.

Finally, our delegation would also like to support the Swedish proposal concerning disabled persons.

WALID ABDRABU (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Please allow me to present the following comments. First, the document refers to the increase in Trust Funds. This in itself is proof of the increasing trust that the donor organizations and the institutions place in this Organization, as well as on the part of beneficiary countries which accept FAO's management of these projects.

Secondly, there is also mention of a fall in the number of agricultural projects that are funded by the UNDP, which FAO is implementing. The main reason is the decrease in the resources allocated for this programme because the donor countries have effected cutbacks in them. This is why we should like to appeal to donor countries to reconsider their policy and to try to increase their assistance.

The third comment I wish to make is that we are alarmed over the fact that UNDP recently has adopted a policy which states that the programme itself should administer and manage agricultural projects instead of entrusting these projects to the FAO, this organization which has a long and vast experience in this sphere.

We have also noted that some countries which used to protest directly or indirectly against the TCP and are still doing so, alleging that FAO is a specialized institution and not a funding institution, these countries in particular are not objecting to the fact that UNDP has converted itself into a managing institution, although it is in fact a funding institution. This error that is being committed in New York, is it any different from the error being committed in Rome? This is a very strange matter and I do not believe there is a clear answer for it. It is indeed sad that international organizations that have specialized spheres should ask countries to coordinate their efforts, whereas efforts are not coordinated among the international institutions themselves. This is a contradiction, especially when the beneficiaries are developing countries.

During our previous discussions we spoke about the TCP and we said that this programme is not a funding instrument, it is a means of assisting the developing countries technically and it is also in my mind, part and parcel of the Regular Programme of the Organization and should be looked upon as such.

My fourth comment is that although developing countries are the sole decision makers as far as their agricultural plans are concerned, they have the right to distribute the allocations of UNDP over the various sectors of the economy as they see fit. There are other factors that affect the decisions of these countries and the representatives of UNDP bring pressure to bear on governments, with the following result : a fall in the allocations of UNDP to agricultural projects. These are the main comments that I wish to make.

M.S. HALIBI (Syria) (original language Arabic): I should like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr Lignon, for his concise and valuable presentation of the document on Review of Field Programmes 1984-85. My thanks also go to the Secretariat of FAO for this well-structured and well-presented document which enables us to have a better grasp of the Organization's field programmes.

The Syrian delegation fully supports the field programme which supplements the action and activities initiated by FAO in the various countries of the region. This programme has benefited also from the work of the External Evaluation Committee.

I should like to mention that Syria favours making increasing use of local experts in the implementation of local and regional projects, for this will help reverse the brain drain in developing countries and will enable us to draw on the experience of those experts in domestic affairs. We also favour giving more authority to country representatives.

I should like on this occasion to join the delegate of Sweden in giving greater attention to the disabled in rural development projects and programmes. It is worthwhile mentioning here that there is a need for coordination and cooperation between FAO and the other organizations in carrying out the different projects.

In conclusion, on behalf of my country I should like to thank the Organization for its assistance and its efforts that have helped us achieve many of the goals set out in the agricultural sector, especially as far as food security is concerned.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): First I want to join all the other speakers who have commended the document before us. The Review of Field Programmes has traditionally met with interest and provided us with constructive dialogue in Commission II. The analysis presented gives us a good possibility to discuss how to adapt development cooperation to the ever-changing situation in the countries and in the relation between the partners in that cooperation process.

First I will restrict myself to some comments of a more general nature, and secondly I prefer to make two specific comments on two field programmes to which the Netherlands Government is a major contributor, namely the Peoples Participation Programme and the River Blindness Programme in West Africa.

Chapter One of the Review deals with the current trends and outlook of the field programme, especially with the resource situation. The proportion of the UNDP resources for FAO activities has been declining during a number of years. Many delegations have already expressed concern about this stagnation in UNDP finances and we share with all speakers in their sense of concern for UNDP's overall resource position.

As you are aware, the Netherlands are, and intend to continue to be, among the major contributors of the UNDP. We regard the UNDP, with its global and multi-sectoral approach, as a very important institution for the provision and coordination of the technical assistance of the UN system. But with my colleagues from Canada we are concerned that an incorrect impression in the document is being promulgated of UNDP's unwillingness to concentrate on the food sector in its resource allocations. In our opinion the decline of the FAO share in the UNDP resources is primarily the result of a change in priorities of individual developing countries with regard to the various sectors that are unfavourable for agricultural development. With the urgent need for higher priority for agricultural and rural development there should be an active policy to achieve this, meaning regaining a larger piece of the UNDP pie for FAO activities. In this context my delegation holds the view that FAO country representatives, in cooperation with the UNDP representative, have a stimulating role in making regional as well as national authorities aware of this.

The shortfall in UNDP resources has been compensated by increasing allocations on a Trust Fund basis, and even more UNDP institutions, such as WFP, World Bank, IFAD, as well as regional development banks, contribute to rural development projects in an efficient way.

The FAO as the global focal point for agriculture and rural development with its vast knowledge, experience and professional capacity, is in a good position to solve problems and devise strategies, policy analyses and methodologies.

My delegation is concerned about the built-in inflexibility within FAO regarding its function, to donors and recipients alike, to act as technical consultant and provider of policy analyses in this role which so clearly is expressed in the FAO mandate. For that reason my delegation considers it of the utmost importance to strengthen this role of FAO; this in closest cooperation with the main executors in the UN system, such as UNDP, as well as World Bank and regional banks, so that it can play as an important and stimulating actor in agricultural development as mentioned earlier.

Returning to Chapter 1 paragraph 1.22, the TCP, I would defer to the wish of the Chairman not to make remarks on that programme; although tempted to make some remarks on TCF, I will not do so. Instead we refer to our statement on this subject under agenda item 13, Regular Programme.

Concerning paragraphs 1.67 and 1.68 under the heading "Inputs from Developing Countries", my delegation thinks that the quality of the expert should be the only criterion to select expertise. We are convinced that FAO uses the same criterion for the selection of the experts it requires. The growing share of experts and consultants from developing countries that are hired by FAO gives evidence of a continuously increasing standard of expertise that could be available in developing countries. We welcome this development since highly qualified expertise is a very important asset for a country. This however confronts a country also with a dilemma, namely the dilemma of a government which likes to make its qualified people available for developing purposes in other countries, while the same expertise is urgently required in its own country. We all know that governments rely heavily on valuable domestic expertise in follow-up projects.

Concerning chapter two, Assessment of Field Projects, my delegation felt it stimulating to see how openly and frankly the results are presented. The two-way assessment led to a good picture of the standard of field programmes. We think a commendable effort has been made and we also think these efforts should be continued, and where necessary adopted over time. We could even imagine that, possibly with some generalization, this assessment could be used in other organizations working in the development cooperation process. Nevertheless my delegation would like to underline the relevant points regarding the quality of the evaluation put forward by a number of delegations from donor countries during this debate.

Concerning the great number of missions to developing countries, this brings a general common complaint of Members of missions whether they are bilateral or multilateral. I refer to the fact that each mission is beseeching the Ministry of Agriculture to collect the same data and the same sectoral background information. Would it not be better to see it as a task of the FAO Country Representatives to collect and regularly update these figures? This would save a lot of energy both for the members of missions and for the government officials.

Referring to Chapter 3 the Expanding Role of Forestry Assistance, my delegation welcomes the review of forestry activities. As you may know the Netherlands has a keen interest in all forestry matters and is involved in some field projects, bilateral as well as multilateral. From Table 1.4, dealing with a review of the programme distribution of extra-budgetary expenditures for Field Programmes, we noted an estimated increase of 20 percent from the former biennium to the present biennium under review. We welcome this very much and since we have presented our positive views on forestry development earlier I will not dwell very long on this subject. My delegation only wishes again to stipulate the major breakthrough in the relation of forestry and agriculture. Foresters and agriculturalists should work together in development activities.

Looking at the same Table 1.4, with some concern, there is no estimated increase in fishery projects. My delegation wonders what has been done with the implementation of the Action Programme adopted at the World Fisheries Conference in 1984. My delegation cannot imagine that the Netherlands was the only donor country that responded positively. My delegation would therefore like to have some clarification on this question.

With regard to chapter 4, paragraph 4.3, my delegation is of the opinion that FAO can play an important role in stimulating the involvement of people and their organizations in project planning and implementation. When the relations between the local government and the representative organizations in the rural setting are not well developed the FAO Country Representative should play an intermediate role. In this context I would like to mention the FAO Peoples' Participation Programme. It is important that the involvement of rural people in the regular technical-oriented field programmes forms an essential element in the project cycle. According to the WCARRD principles people's participation is the effective way of work and will give more certainty for follow-up in the future. However the question can be raised if the FAO is well equipped to initiate and to monitor small-scale participatory activities and the question is: is FAO prepared to re-orientate itself in terms of manpower, financial means and internal management? Concerning the on-going People's Participation Projects, the Netherlands would prefer to consolidate these projects instead of starting new ones.

A concluding remark on the River Blindness programme in West Africa. The Netherlands Government has been contributing to a large extent during the last 12 years to this programme which is multilaterally also sponsored by WHO, FAO, UNDP and the World Bank. With satisfaction my delegation notes the successful implementation of that programme from which a total population of 16.5 million people in seven West African countries are now benefiting. For the implementation of the long-term strategy during the third financial phase of that programme the Netherlands Government would like to see a more active role for FAO. Especially, FAO involvement in the follow-up of agricultural activities in that programme is of crucial importance, and also here I have to put forward the question: is FAO prepared, and in what manner, to play such an active role?

Concerning the financing of the follow-up activities, my delegation would like to stress that funding should come from the UNDP programme group called Indicative Planning Figures and on the basis of the high priorities of the countries themselves.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon): De l'examen des programmes de terrain, il ressort que des secteurs clés ont été repérés tels que l'agriculture, l'élevage, les forêts; leurs interactions ont été soulignées; des objectifs ont été définis et les cibles ont été sélectionnées, ce dont nous voudrions remercier ici le Secrétariat de la FAO et en particulier M. Lignon.

Ma délégation se félicite de l'accent qui a été mis sur le programme de relèvement de la production alimentaire, les mesures spécifiquement destinées à promouvoir l'autosuffisance et la formation; la formation entendue ici non seulement comme perfectionnement du personnel d'encadrement mais également et surtout comme intéressant les agriculteurs et les petits exploitants pour leur permettre une meilleure réceptivité à l'innovation; formation des cadres à évaluer et à planifier, à formuler et à gérer des projets sur le terrain.

En effet beaucoup de projets ont connu des échecs à cause des insuffisances dans ces domaines. Nous regrettons toutefois, comme l'a dit tout à l'heure l'honorable délégué des Pays-Bas, que les recommandations de la COPACE et d'autres conférences régionales des pêches n'aient pas été pleinement prises en considération. Mais nous notons avec satisfaction que l'impact des projets et programmes aux plans quantitatif et qualitatif s'est considérablement amélioré sur le terrain.

Nous notons aussi que 40 pour cent des activités de la FAO sont réalisées en Afrique. Cette charge devrait avoir pour corollaire la mise à disposition du Bureau régional de l'Afrique des moyens lui permettant de faire face à ces suppléments de charge.

Nous avons également noté une amélioration dans les rapports et la coopération interagences.

Ma délégation recommande de privilégier la coopération technique entre pays en développement.

Pour ce qui concerne l'aspect financier, ma délégation remercie tout d'abord tous les pays membres donateurs des fonds fiduciaires. Les bénéficiaires, c'est-à-dire nous autres, pays en développement, apprécions à leur juste mesure l'importance de ces fonds dans la réalisation de nos programmes de développement agricole. Les donateurs de leur côté ont la possibilité de vérifier l'utilisation des fonds ainsi mis à notre disposition par des missions sur le terrain.

S'agissant de la contribution du PNUD, notre intention n'est pas d'intenter un procès contre cet organisme, mais de reconnaître que ses ressources connaissent une baisse sensible d'un exercice à l'autre, alors qu'elles devraient plus que jamais soutenir voire renforcer l'action de la FAO sur le terrain. Comme je l'ai dit hier, en 1983, le programme sous-régional de l'UDEAC financé par le PNUD avait connu en cours d'exécution une diminution de 30 pour cent; cela veut dire que même si les Etats intéressés, les Etats en voie de développement, avaient arrêté leurs priorités en commun accord avec le PNUD, cela n'est pas une garantie suffisante pour se baser sur les fonds du PNUD. Je l'ai dit hier, les chiffres indicatifs de programmation du PNUD actuellement en cours de préparation - ce sont là les nouvelles que nous avons reçues - ne donnent pas entière satisfaction, c'est-à-dire que les ressources du PNUD continueront toujours à diminuer.

C'est pourquoi nous voudrions insister pour que l'on accorde une place de plus en plus efficace et de plus en plus active au rôle du PCT.

Telle est la contribution que le Gabon voulait faire à l'examen du point 14 de notre ordre du jour.

N.P. MAGANDE (Zambia): The Review is indeed comprehensive, and some of us have been greatly assisted in understanding because of the explanation by Mr Lignon. My delegation is most pleased with the report, in that it highlights areas of emphasis. We are delighted to see the increased share of funds being allocated to Africa. If this trend continues, Africa should be able to overcome her food shortages. We need a long-term solution to the current food crisis.

An assessment of FAO Trust Fund and UNDP-supported field projects (Table 2.2) offers some interesting details. It is indicated there that government involvement and the transfer of skills continue to rank lowest. One can only assume that governments feel that these are FAO and UNDP projects, and not theirs. This situation is indeed most regrettable. The low-ranking

of transfer of skills could indicate a lack of proper appreciation of the prevailing conditions during the project design. The new dimension principle of involving experts from a developing country would seem to be the ultimate answer, and the Director-General is to be congratulated for this development.

The Review identifies the role of counterpart staff and project management as critical in project implementation. It is therefore most gratifying to note the attention being given to training of local staff. Unless there is a good pool of trained local people, the FAO and UNDP experts will continue to work in isolation with little hope of project continuation once they leave.

My delegation strongly supports the role of FAO in long-term assistance for training and in its programmes to strengthen local institutions. We hope that this assistance will enable us to manage our food and agricultural sectors better.

On the relationship between FAO and other international organizations, my delegation wishes to observe the argument that when TCP funding increases it is not because of the wish of recipients, but when UNDP funding decreases it is due to the priorities of the recipients. I think there is a problem in understanding what is being brought to our attention here.

Finally, I wish to associate myself with other distinguished delegates who have supported Sweden for introducing the discussion on the disabled. We need a comprehensive programme to fully integrate the disabled in our development efforts. Indeed, Sweden continues to be one of the major contributors to development funds whether they be by TCP-or UNDP, for the developing world and we fully appreciate this concern for the less privileged.

A. Y. BUKHARI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia): The report indicates the programmes and activities of the FAO, as well as its field projects in member countries. It shows that in some way there has been stagnation in developing countries for a long time, in spite of changes in the economic situation and the upturn in industrial countries. As for our Organization, FAO, one of the causes for concern has been the decline in UNDP resources: the deficit has reached 45 percent of the necessary expenditure for UNDP funded FAO projects. These projects have therefore gone through highs and lows and many difficulties in their implementation.

We are very satisfied to note that trust funded programmes have been increased, thanks to the increased support, both bilateral and, multilateral, for field projects. This evident and clear support was mainly from industrialized donor countries. Moreover we should stress the supplementation in funding by the recipient countries themselves, and assisted by the World Bank, by regional banks and development funds.

Here, we welcome the cooperation between FAO and my country where the Trust Funds are funded by Saudi Arabia. This is the best proof of our trust in this operation and the role that it is destined to play.

We are very pleased that field programme resources for Africa have increased. This is thanks to special measures taken by governments to cope with the food crisis on the African continent. To help Africa overcome her problems, increase and improve crops, and protect livestock and forestry resources, the Investment Centre of FAO has pursued these activities in the joint programme, with the World Bank, UNDP, IFAD and the Regional Development banks. Special attention has been given to those investments, and to vocational training, in the realization of investment projects.

During the same period, a special emergency programme was launched by FAO for agricultural rehabilitation for starvation stricken countries in Africa. We have firmly supported - and we are still firmly supporting - this new trend.

It is clear that the evaluation of field programmes by FAO representatives in member states notes that there are strengths and weaknesses in the implementation and viability of projects during the financial period.

Generally speaking, programmes and projects are well designed and their objectives are quite clear but unfortunately the same does not apply to the transfer of know-how. It is now very clear that the objectives we must achieve have to be clear and realistic for immediate implementation.

We also believe that the quality of management of projects and the competence of the managers are crucial factors in the success or failure of projects. We also note that major projects and multi-objectives and multi-discipline programmes are more exposed, more vulnerable to problems than others - particularly when they are carried out in the less developed countries, because of course these LDCs have far less skills and management potential. Smaller and shorter-term projects are generally very successful.

FAO field projects are continuously monitored through systematic follow-up reports sent by the project directors that show execution of plans as they evolve and are deployed. Thanks to the computer data, we have a better insight and understanding of the operations in the field and we can make immediate rectifications if necessary.

We note that there has been a great evolution in technical assistance and in technical cooperation. Some of the beneficiary countries have made great improvements in their food and agriculture sector and they only need a little support now - even if some African countries are still in need of a large variety of supporting activities in the field.

After the WCAARD Conference in 1979, a number of field projects have been carried out by our Organization. The multidisciplinary approach has been adopted to help developing countries achieve additional self-sufficiency, to help the poor in the rural areas, and to improve the management of the food and agriculture sector.

Vocational training is considered a key element in field programmes, and we note with satisfaction that about 75 000 people have received direct vocational training under field programmes in 1983. Women's professional training, particularly in Africa, has clearly been increased. The different project managers have also profited from the training.

As for research, we note that in the distribution of field projects, there has been a drop in research expenditure.

Even though research projects are limited, there are many Field Programmes with research-related activities. We are satisfied to see that the service for agricultural research by the FAO provided the necessary technical support for more than 100 projects during the present financial period. Attention has been given to strengthening the national research programmes and to the creation of regional research networks.

We have also noted that there are joint cooperation projects between the World Bank and FAO on agricultural research and extension; this cooperation includes all other aspects of agricultural development.

On this occasion, let me stress the importance of research for developing countries because it need not be said that the report before us merely touched upon the problems of research. The research subjects themselves have not been dealt with. The various field programmes have been very well presented with their financial and administrative aspects.

We would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared this outstanding document with a very clear and instructive presentation of all we need to know about work in the field.

K.M. EJAZUL HUQ (Bangladesh): My delegation is pleased to see you in the Chair, Mr Chairman, and in response to your request we shall be very brief.

We wish to express our thanks to the Secretariat for producing a highly informative and analytical review of the Field Programmes and we congratulate Mr Lignon for his fine introduction of it. This

candid document C 85/4 records programme spread, successes and failures. We note with satisfaction the improvements made since the last review. We are happy to note that FAO field activities are increasingly managing to reach the small farmers who constitute the bulk of the farming community and are the more efficient food producers in most of the developing countries.

In certain countries, paucity of reliable data and access to information are sometimes difficult. The socio-economic situation is sometimes such that the impacts of projects are not discernible immediately, especially when components of project outcome are regrettably not readily quantifiable. Impact evaluation in such complex circumstances is indeed very difficult. Even so, the progress made in project evaluation, through the employment of improved methodologies by FAO, deserves our appreciation and helps our Governments.

We expect further improvement. This improvement and sustained emphasis on training is strengthening the infrastructure for the more efficient implementation of larger investment projects. For a long time to come, FAO will have to continue human resource development orientation of its field projects. TCP projects complement these efforts.

The technical skills of developing country officials for project identification, preparation, appraisal and implementation, are growing more slowly than deemed desirable. But efforts to upgrade this skill must continue. In the interim, the FAO Investment Centre is performing its task excellently. It usually labours hard to capture the country's development concerns and various administrative constraints through in-depth interaction with country officials. The use of local consultants is of invaluable assistance in this regard.

I must emphasize that in our experience FAO Country Representatives perform a very useful task, not only to keep the pressure for timely implementation of projects, but also to maintain coordination between the UNDP and other multilateral donors.

We appreciate the FAO policy of decentralization and would like to see Country Representatives receive more authority, if their performance calls for it.

I shall not touch upon the points covered by other delegates, but my delegation wishes to associate itself with those who have welcomed the emphasis placed on community forestry. In our statement on the Review of the Regular Programme, we have dealt with it in detail.

In respect to a point raised by the delegate of the Netherlands, I would like to mention that Bangladesh, among many countries, realizes the importance of integrating the activities of forestry and agricultural officials. Thus we have tried institutionally to integrate the activities of forestry and agricultural extension officials in Bangladesh.

Finally, we wish to renew our appeal for effecting the replenishment of IDA and IFAD funds and for reversing the UNDP funding trend.

A.L. TANIS (Haïti): Je vous remercie, M. le Président, de m'accorder la parole. C'est un plaisir pour moi que celui de prendre la parole sous votre présidence avisée.

Nous remercions également M. Lignon pour la compétence et la sérénité avec lesquelles il a su présenter le programme à cette assemblée. Nous félicitons la FAO pour la qualité du dossier qu'elle nous a soumis. En effet, le document est très informatif et bien structuré et il nous permet d'avoir une claire vision des programmes de terrain.

En ce qui concerne son financement, nous constatons avec une certaine amertume un fléchissement du flux budgétaire du PNUD. Sans vouloir jeter la pierre à personne, ma délégation pense que cette réduction est la conséquence logique de la politique pratiquée par le PNUD, à savoir l'exécution directe de certains projets et financement, après accord du Ministère du Plan, de projets non prioritaires dans d'autres domaines de l'activité socio-économique des pays en développement. Dans ce contexte, c'est avec satisfaction que ma délégation apprécie l'effort fait par la FAO pour compenser cette réduction du PNUD par l'apport de fonds fiduciaires et d'autres organismes internationaux de financement tels que le FIDA, la Banque mondiale, les banques régionales et également par le niveau du PCT que nous souhaitons voir augmenter.

Ma délégation apprécie le fait que la FAO, une fois de plus, a accordé une importance tout à fait particulière à l'Afrique en proie à des difficultés et que ce continent a absorbé une part croissante des activités du budget des programmes de terrain.

En ce qui concerne l'examen des programmes de terrain, afin de ne pas prolonger outre mesure cette séance de la Commission, ma délégation n'a pas l'intention de répéter les observations qui ont été formulées à ce micro par d'autres délégations mais elle se borne à faire des commentaires dans les domaines suivants:

Evaluation et suivi des projets: ce chapitre représente un succès indiscutable par rapport à ce qui a été fait jusqu'ici car cette double évaluation donne une idée exacte de l'évolution des projets s'exécutant sur le terrain. Les conclusions des rapports de l'évaluation doivent être utilisées en vue de réformes des structures et d'orientation nouvelle des projets. Elles peuvent également servir à mieux élaborer le document des nouveaux projets. Toutefois, ma délégation pense que la planification et la conception de l'évaluation restent faibles car elles ne vont pas jusqu'à insister pour que les gouvernements mettent en place les infrastructures, les cadres et les crédits voulus en vue de continuer les différentes activités du projet à la cessation de l'assistance technique et financière.

En ce qui concerne les engrais, ma délégation note que l'utilisation des engrais représente une arme à double tranchant étant donné que, d'une part, il est très difficile pour les petits exploitants de les avoir en temps voulu et, d'autre part, ils coûtent cher ; et de plus, leur utilisation optimale dépend de l'amélioration d'autres facteurs de production difficilement contrôlables par les petits exploitants. Tout en recommandant l'usage que la FAO fait de l'engrais, ma délégation suggère que l'Organisation accorde une plus grande importance aux déchets organiques et organise même une grande campagne de recyclage de ces déchets.

La forêt: hier encore, ma délégation plaidait en faveur du rôle de la forêt dans l'équilibre biologique de la planète et dans l'approvisionnement de bois de construction et de bois de chauffage en tant que source d'énergie pour la cuisson car, si les tendances actuelles de dégradation de nos forêts continuent, un milliard de personnes risquent de se retrouver dans les zones où le bois manque.

A côté de ce problème de la préservation de la forêt, je voudrais que la FAO envisage d'une façon toute particulière l'organisation d'une agriculture de conservation en montagne, puisque la plupart de nos pays sont montagneux, dans le cadre d'un schéma agro-sylvo-pastoral.

Et pour finir, ma délégation partage la préoccupation de la Suède à l'égard des handicapés, étant moi-même un handicapé qui a su s'adapter harmonieusement aux civilisations en développement et industrialisées.

A.F. DE SA BARBUDA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to thank Mr Lignon for the very useful introduction of this theme and congratulates the Secretariat on the preparation of document C 85/4 on the Review of Field Programmes.

The present review is very comprehensive, it covers a very wide range of issues of common interest and provides a frank evaluation on an impressive number of projects. The findings of the assessment will undoubtedly lead to even more positive results in future activities in the field. Also contributing to these positive results is the computerization of field project information and the continuing process of monitoring, evaluation and reporting followed by FAO.

The review before us reaffirms, in our view, the importance of the role of FAO as the primary and leading agency in the planning and implementing of agricultural projects. This has already been recognized in the last biennium when donor countries showed their confidence regarding the Organization's activities in the field through the increase of the Trust Fund resources. We hope that this trend will persist and we also hope that bilateral programmes on the proliferation of international organizations will not be used as excuses for eventual reductions of voluntary contributions.

We also regret the serious decline of the UNDP financial share in total Field Programmes and reiterate that the increase in Trust Fund resources should not represent a mere compensation for that reduction.

The continuing decline of UNDP's contributions to FAO's field programme can be as well a very strong argument against any attempt to reduce the already reduced funds allocated to TCP. In this respect, we are very pleased to learn from document C 85/4 that TCP projects were rated higher in terms of overall efficiency than projects supported by other sources. This finding fully confirms the confidence in TCP and the necessity of increasing the resources allocated to it. We deeply support, on the other hand, the priority given to Africa where 40 percent of the field projects have been implemented.

In regard to TCDC, we wish to reiterate our support for the appointment of national project directors and the recruitment of national staff for the implementation of projects in the field. A special reference should also be made to the role played by the technical cooperation network. Forty percent of these existing networks are all allocated in Latin America and the Caribbean and therefore the region offers the best example of these positive activities. Brazil actively participates in this work and six of these networks are currently coordinated by Brazilian institutions.

Finally, the Brazilian delegation wants to present its endorsement to the proposal by the Swedish delegation in relation to the handicapped.

M. PIOTROVSKA (Poland): Poland considers the changes made in the field programmes presented in the document submitted to the Conference favourable. The efforts aiming at mobilizing funds for the financing of field programmes especially deserve appreciation. Because of considerably increased contributions of Trust Funds and minor increases in the TCP budget, which is supported by Poland, the renewed increase of the general value of FAO technical cooperation could be resurrected, after its breakdown in the years 1982-83, despite persisting low levels in UNDP Funds. We should try to find possibilities of permanently maintaining these favourable trends. That is why Poland suggests establishing a Trust Fund and TCP in kind in addition to the levels proposed in the document in order to facilitate a wider participation in those programmes by countries which have limited possibilities to make contributions in convertible currency, but which do have a specified technical and staff potential available.

It is favourable to permanently increase the share of Africa in field activity of FAO and to expand the spectre of goals which to an ever greater extent cover animal production, fisheries and forestry. Poland will support the efforts of the Director-General designed to further increase Africa's share in the projects and, wherever possible, will provide its contribution in kind.

We fully support the food security programme which should include on the one hand increase of feed production and use of wastes for feeding purposes, and on the other hand should help African countries in adjusting the level of animal numbers to the ecological capacity of a single country.

Poland participates ever more actively in the field programmes in Europe. We are deriving advantages from this cooperation for modernization of our agriculture, particularly from scientific technical cooperation. We propose to widen this cooperation and believe that its results will ever better serve the developing countries as well.

We appreciate the ever greater care attached to the effectiveness of the projects. The appraisal of projects' effectiveness, taken up on a wider scale in recent years, should be continued, and should take the form of improving the rules and of preparing and managing the projects.

Poland also supports an ever growing involvement of FAO in forest field programmes. The problems of afforestation and forest protection become a vital issue of all mankind. Poland is one of the few countries which has increased its afforested area in the past two decades. At the same time, there occurred, as in all Europe, a great menace to forests by harmful industrial substances. These threats call for intensive action. Therefore our participation in this work may and will occur in both fields.

One way to increase the FAO role in technical cooperation programmes could be to win the support of countries interested in bilateral cooperation efforts for those programmes. The first step in this direction might be for the FAO Representatives to take up efforts to coordinate undertakings, wherever possible, initiated in the area of a given country.

A. GAYOSO (United States of America): The United States delegation is pleased with the document under discussion and appreciates the clear presentation made by Mr Lignon. The Review of Field Programmes for 1984-85 is a significantly improved document on the one before, and that was also an improvement over the one before, not only because of its coverage and its structure but also because it is clear and pleasant in its exposition.

The Review contains a wealth of data and information on the FAO Field Programme. We are particularly pleased that a separate and very comprehensive section has been used for forestry. We are pleased also that the evaluation continues to receive increasing attention inside FAO. The US believes that this process is highly commendable and highly supports it. It is our view that these efforts be further strengthened, not only to learn about what worked in the past but also to apply this knowledge in the design of better programmes in the future. Therefore it is critical that more emphasis be made on clearly analyzing and emphasizing the actual impact on intended beneficiaries while continuing to assess product inputs and throughputs. Obviously because of the tripartite nature of the relationship in the case of the UNDP funded projects and the interests of the developing countries, the evaluation of these projects must assure the full participation of both the UNDP and the recipient countries.

As in years before, my delegation wonders why we always see repeated here assertions on UNDP funding that could lead a novice to blame, as it were, UNDP for increases in FAO execution of projects funded by that programme. Reality has been explained by my delegation and others in yester years and by many of us again today. In fact this is my third time at three Conferences. It is the Member Countries here represented themselves who decide on and tell UNDP which UN agency they choose for the execution of agricultural or other projects. It would be better in our view to appeal to the Members themselves to please choose FAO for execution of UNDP projects in agriculture.

As you know the United States continues to strongly support the consensus of 1970 accepted by most Members here that identify UNDP not only as the central UN funding mechanism for technical assistance in the United Nations, but also as the central coordinator of the United Nations' activities in the field. I must confess that in informal talks with many UNDP recipient representatives, I have heard many good words about the calibre and character of the FAO Resident

Representatives and I commend the Organization for this. In practice, however, the UNDP role as central coordinator is frequently ignored, to the detriment, I might add, of recipients. This is illustrated, for instance by the lack of explicit links between TCP projects and UNDP country programmes to which FAO frequently, if not always, contributes over this or over the agricultural sector. That TCP projects are small and not programmed in advance are really not sufficient reasons for not making sure such projects are consistent with the country programme. In fact, most UNDP projects themselves are as small, as it were, as TCP projects.

As you may know, the UNDP is now engaged in implementing a number of very important reforms that will provide the country programme with a much better framework that recipients can use to define priorities for extending technical assistance and to do their own coordination. Such a beneficial outcome will require that we all do our part, and that includes not only the UNDP, but also recipients, specialized agencies, such as FAO, and bilateral donors. Coordination, Mr Chairman, should be our common intermediate objective; equitable agricultural development our final one.

I do not want to conclude without very warmly commending the FAO for a very rapid and well-prepared response to the Africa crisis. I had the personal opportunity to review most project proposals for Africa developed by FAO's staff last Spring and was very well-impressed with their quality and general consistency in country needs. FAO's collaboration with the Office for Emergency Operations for Africa has been in the finest tradition and we look forward to a second fruitful year of work. Again, in this Africa work, we should all not only learn from the lessons of experience to avoid future errors, but also keep our eyes and ears open to learn from the wisdom of the African farmer the maxim of adaptation and survival.

F. FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): El análisis de los Programas de Campo representa para nuestra delegación una de las partes más interesadas de esta Comisión.

El documento C 85/4 es a nuestro entender uno de los mejores documentos utilizados en este Conferencia y aun en el Consejo, tanto por los datos que facilita como por la exposición de los mismos, y esto lo decimos porque solemos ser parcos en alabanzas y nos gustaría actuar ponderadamente en el uso de las mismas. Al señor Lignon nuestro reconocimiento por la presentación, y a la Secretaría nuestra felicitación por el documento presentado.

Entrando en materia nos preocupa la tendencia al estancamiento y a la baja que refleja el documento de ciertos recursos de los Programas de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo, dado que el momento es crucial para la rehabilitación de la agricultura, en gran parte del mundo en desarrollo, y si no funciona el motor incitativo de estos recursos difícilmente llegaremos a poner en marcha la economía agraria de los mismos.

Estas tendencias que pueden observar en el gráfico 1.1. demuestran el incremento de los fondos fiduciarios y de los del PCT mientras decrecen los recursos del PNUD.

En conjunto, los Programas de Campo, a pesar de todo, descendieron en 1984 en un 15 por ciento con respecto a 1981, a pesar del apoyo creciente de FAO a los mismos.

En esta línea de apoyo está el Programa de Cooperación con los Gobiernos que se nutre de los fondos fiduciarios y que casi se ha triplicado en los últimos años.

Nos complace enormemente el poder constatar que en los proyectos del fondo fiduciario unilateral se han ejecutado por la FAO y financiado por los gobiernos beneficiarios; esto es un claro exponente de la calidad de trabajo técnico de la FAO y de la acogida que su labor tiene en estos países prestando los jóvenes del Plan de Expertos Asociados un gran apoyo a los mismos.

En el apoyo al PMA los Proyectos de Campo prestan un importante papel aportando los insumos técnicos para su elaboración y ejecución; aquí la simbiosis entre ayuda alimentaria y ejecución de un proyecto reporta claros beneficios para los países necesitados de las mismas.

En la distribución geográfica de las asignaciones para proyectos observamos que las cantidades destinadas a América Latina y El Caribe han vuelto a descender en este bienio justificándolo en el hecho de la diversidad de situaciones con que se enfrentan los países. Nos gustaría que la Secretaría nos explicara este hecho ya que estos proyectos sólo llegan al 7 por ciento del total del Programa.

Por sectores, se estima que el Programa de Montes puede alcanzar un 12 por ciento de los recursos extrapresupuestarios para proyectos de campo, y a nuestro parecer esta cantidad resulta poco adecuada e insuficiente dada la importancia que estos proyectos tienen en el conjunto del Programa y en la proyección de los mismos sobre las sociedades a que van dirigidos.

Nos parece muy interesante los comentarios sobre los proyectos de investigación, que nos siguen gustando que se les llame de "ensayos y experiencias", la lucha contra plagas y enfermedades de cultivos, los proyectos sobre semillas y sus mejoras, los programas de mecanización y desarrollo pecuario, etc. Todo esto viene claramente expuesto mientras se mantiene un lazo de unión en sus finalidades y sus recursos, facilitando la evaluación del documento.

Está claro que para llegar a una completa evaluación del mismo tendríamos que visitar in situ estas realizaciones que aquí se mencionan y ponderar de esta forma completamente la labor realizada; ya sabemos que esto es imposible.

Dentro de los componentes generales de los proyectos vemos que el gasto de personal es el más importante y que el tema de capacitación se ha incrementado ampliamente en los últimos años; a eso damos nuestro apoyo.

En el tema del uso de expertos quisiéramos apoyar la proposición portuguesa que ha realizado en temas anteriores en esta Comisión sobre el uso de personas con un buen conocimiento de la lengua, y nosotros añadimos del sistema de vida de las sociedades a las que se pretende servir.

Para no prolongarme más en estos comentarios quiero finalizar dándole nuestro apoyo a los temas de montes en la convicción de que una buena labor forestal debe per se estar claramente encuadrada en el medio humano y natural del territorio en el que se está realizando, y por ello aportar a los países en vías de desarrollo las bases para llegar a la mejor rehabilitación de su agricultura.

Fuera del documento en discusión quisiéramos apoyar la propuesta de la delegación sueca sobre minus-válidos dirigida al Director General con el fin de que la FAO intensifique su actuación en este problema en el mundo rural en aquellos países en vías de desarrollo.

S. SARRAF (Liban) (Langue originale arabe): Il m'est agréable de vous voir présider cette session de la Commission 11. Je voudrais être bref comme vous nous l'avez demandé.

Je voudrais d'abord remercier M. Lignon pour nous avoir présenté d'une manière claire et précise les programmes de terrain contenus dans le document C 85/4. Nous avons au cours de la dernière session du Conseil exprimé notre appui aux programmes de terrain, mais permettez-moi d'ajouter quelques observations.

Nous ne pensons pas qu'il soit nécessaire de procéder à une évaluation extérieure de ce programme des projets de terrain, tel que cela a été avancé par un des collègues, surtout que l'Organisation vient de procéder à une évaluation avec les gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires, le PNUD, et les autres donateurs. Le résultat de cette évaluation peut bien sûr qu'il y a certains points de faiblesse, mais démontre aussi les succès et la réussite de ces projets de terrain en toute objectivité.

En ce qui concerne la diminution des ressources du PNUD, tout en comprenant le point de vue de certains pays à ce sujet, nous ne pouvons qu'exprimer notre regret de voir que la part qui revient à la FAO dans l'exécution des projets financés par le PNUD diminue de plus en plus, surtout à un moment où les pays en développement ont besoin de plus de ressources pour financer des projets dans le secteur agricole.

Par ailleurs, nous appuyons l'initiative du Directeur général qui vise à recommander aux représentants de l'Organisation dans les pays bénéficiaires du PCT d'entrer en contact avec toutes les organisations et notamment avec les représentants du PNUD, pour les mettre au courant des projets que l'Organisation envisage de mettre sur pied afin d'éviter les doubles emplois dans les domaines de l'agriculture.

Enfin je voudrais dire ici que nous appuyons tout ce qui est contenu dans ce document et notamment les grandes lignes directrices des programmes de terrain.

N. SRISURAK (Thailand): My delegation welcomes the document C 85/4 before us which highlights the main points clearly. Field Programmes 1984-85 is one of the programmes to be delivered to the budget, all that it has cost. Moreover, Field Programmes reflects in our opinion future FAO field activities, namely funding being used, sectoral or classification of programmes being expanded and the regional cover.

Even though it is clear to some extent, my delegation would like to make the following remarks. The first is the balance of assessment of the field programmes. In our opinion, there is not only a need for monitoring and evaluation of the projects in terms of finance approach, but there is also need for an early approach.

In our view the figure in Table 1.3 and Table 2.2 does not indicate in the balanced position. If the Table 1.3 indicated to us coincides with Table 2.2, then we would be happy to know what projects have been good, satisfactory or poor in each region, and also how a region can help us effectively. The second is the field programmes considered to be suitable to alleviate the food problem facing the poor. Even though paragraph 1.36 has mentioned the small-scale projects, it is not clear to us.

The third is the link of national policy and approach implemented. This is very important.

Allow me to say a few words about the projects in our country. We are not happy to see any project terminated before its full implementation. It is desirable to have effective objectives and targets for any project. We believe that the objectives should be flexible enough to fit the dynamic condition of the country concerned. If the project objectives should be kept as they were, despite changing conditions, we do not agree with this philosophy. Because of this undesirable idea some of the projects being carried out in our country were terminated before full implementation.

The fourth is the problem of the so-called experts. The problems are often minor. The experts are supposed to work with the poor - their main function, but provide us with ideas only. If this is the case we are not happy to see them, but I would like them to work with us in the field. We are concerned about this.

My delegation fully supports the project being carried out to help the small-scale farmers, which in our opinion, are at the root of the problem of the developing countries. However, we would also like to see FAO continue its assessments of the Field Programmes as before.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, I will strictly follow your advice and be brief. I will even escape mentioning Mr Lignon and his fine presentation.

We continue to believe that the document on the review of field activities continues to serve its basic purpose. It provides the FAO membership with concise information and assessment of the major tendencies in volume and structure of FAO's extra-budgetary resource base. It contains very frank - and we share in this regard the opinions already expressed - assessment of the performance of FAO's field activities, and finally it brings out some major conceptual issues. We believe that in its entirety it provides very valuable feedback.

I will confine my comments to Chapter One and Chapter Two. With regard to the resource base it is of course gratifying to note a slight increase in FAO's delivery despite a very hostile, sterile environment. But we have to be fully aware that it was largely the result of the steep increase of unilateral Trust Funds.

In the same context we continue to be very much concerned with the declining share of agriculture, and the declining share of agriculture is our major concern in the UNDP funds and delivery.

In theory we agree fully that it is in essence the result of the decision taken by governments but let us not pretend it is wholly true as we all know that it is not. May I just recall that Yugoslavia very emphatically supported the joint action of the Director-General and the UNDP Administrator in their letter to FAO and the UNDP Country Representatives, asking them to work together and in close cooperation with the governments in an attempt to ensure that agriculture is given adequate priority and its very well deserved share in UNDP resources which is, we believe, much higher than it is at the moment.

Our secondary concern is with the declining share of FAO in UNDP delivery. I am referring, of course, to the funds allocated to agriculture and we have followed with great interest the debate of this Commission, and may I mention that the Yugoslav delegation has very closely followed and actively participated in all recent debates related to the FAO/UNDP relationship. It is definitely not our feeling that there has been a tendency in FAO to distort the picture of UNDP, particularly not with reference to the declining share of FAO in the execution of funds allocated by UNDP to agriculture.

I will not spend much of your very precious time but I have to make reference to, and highly commend, to some of colleagues, to everybody who is really interested in UNDP on execution of projects, the UN document produced by JIU, the best that I have ever read, produced by two of the very best inspectors. I am referring to the document 8/39/80 from February 1984 on the Office of Project Execution of the United Nations Development Programme. May I just mention that we fully agree with the thorough analysis given by JIU, as well as with the recommendations, and you know that the basic recommendation is that OPE should be scaled down in a transitional period of three years and should be confined to strictly non-technical projects. So in the light of this very unbiased analysis and very well documented analysis of JIU, I do not think we can seriously speak about distortion of the UNDP picture in this hall, or any major inconsistency of the same governments here and in the UNDP.

Very briefly on chapter two, we continue to especially value very much the frankness of the assessment, based on the FAO country representatives and on the evaluation missions, though we fully realize something which comes very clearly from para. 2.2 that the evaluation missions mostly assessed large multidisciplinary projects which already encountered some operational or implementational difficulties.

I have no time to go into rating. We are encouraged to see a very small improvement in recent years. We would like FAO to pursue and intensify its efforts to increase the rating in all of its execution, especially UNDP-financed field activities.

Finally, let me also add our voice to many that supported the proposal of Sweden with regard to the very important issue of disability in rural environments.

MAINA SANDA (Niger) : En prenant la parole, je voudrais tout d'abord vous dire, M. le Président, combien je suis heureux de vous voir présider nos travaux ce soir. Je voudrais aussi présenter toutes mes félicitations à M. Lignon pour l'excellente qualité du document préparé et, à travers lui, remercier aussi les membres du secrétariat qui ont mis tout en oeuvre pour présenter un document de qualité excellente.

Nous prenons note de la place privilégiée, et nous nous en réjouissons, qui a été faite aux programmes de terrain en Afrique. Nous prenons note également qu'il a été tenu compte du nécessaire équilibre interrégional, c'est-à-dire que les fonds ont été répartis dans un souci de les affecter aux zones qui en ont le plus besoin, sans pour cela négliger les autres.

Cependant, une grande emphase semble être placée sur la régression du niveau de la contribution du PNUD. Je ne voudrais pas que cela soit poussé au-delà du nécessaire. Il ne faudrait pas amener les pays membres à cautionner l'idée que le PNUD s'acharne contre nous. Je ne pense pas que ce soit le cas, ni qu'il veuille asphyxier la FAO. De toute façon, nous ne nous laisserions pas faire. En effet, un examen du graphique No 1.2 nous fait apparaître que les dépenses d'exécution de la FAO ont représenté moins de la moitié des allocations du PNUD au début du deuxième cycle de l'Organisation, et que dans le troisième cycle 5 à 7 pour cent, voire 10 pour cent, des allocations n'ont pas été dépensées. Il est certain que le graphique 1.1 montre une régression nette indiscutable. Mais cela, comme l'ont dit certains délégués, serait dû au fait que le PNUD, aussi bien que la FAO et que les fonds fiduciaires, sont financés par les Etats Membres. Donc, si l'on constate une augmentation d'une part, en l'occurrence les fonds fiduciaires, il est tout à fait logique qu'il y ait une régression d'autre part. Néanmoins, comme l'ont dit certains éminents orateurs, il n'y a pas lieu d'en faire une "querelle de maison". Il faudrait que les représentants de la FAO se mettent en rapport avec les représentants résidents du PNUD pour dégager les priorités et savoir qui doit exécuter quoi.

J'ai remarqué au paragraphe 1.11 que la FAO semble se plaindre que le PNUD confie la réalisation de certains projets aux Etats, alors même que la FAO offrait de le faire. Cela ne me paraît pas opportun. Les Etats peuvent peut-être exécuter leurs projets.

Donc, je ne voudrais pas que l'on parle davantage de cette question du PNUD qui réduit ses fonds et qui en voudrait à la FAO. Je pense qu'il faut plutôt rechercher une plus grande coordination entre représentants sur le terrain.

Je voudrais maintenant évoquer un autre point concernant le graphique 1.6 à la page 17, où l'on constate de façon significative l'accroissement en personnel. Nous avons quelques inquiétudes que l'inadéquation entre la population d'experts et le matériel mis à leur disposition pour induire le changement souhaité n'entraîne une contribution marginale, sinon nulle, peut-être négative, de ces experts parce qu'on atteint vite le seuil d'inefficacité. Il faut rappeler en fait que l'agriculture de beaucoup de nos pays souffre d'un sous-équipement et surtout d'une sous-consommation d'intrants à haut coefficient de rentabilité, tels que les machines et les engrais adaptés aux conditions socio-économiques et écologiques des différents environnements.

C'est pourquoi, pour éviter que les projets de la FAO ne se transforment en projets d'experts dont il ne resterait que des tonnes de papier dû à l'inadéquation matériel-personnel, nous recommanderons vivement qu'un examen d'une substitution expert-matériel soit faite de manière à ne pas déséquilibrer ce rapport.

M. Shah, dans un de ses exposés, nous disait que les dépenses de personnel au Siège étaient inférieures à 13 pour cent. Certains orateurs ont émis un doute sur la base de ces calculs. Je ne voudrais peut-être pas demander que les projets de terrain reflètent ces "ratios", mais 70 pour cent me paraît énorme. Soixante-dix pour cent en personnel! Je passe, parce qu'en fait on nous a montré que la part de la formation est passée de 5 à 11 pour cent, mais on ne nous dit pas combien il y a dans cet accroissement de personnel. On ne nous dit pas qui a été formé, où, en quoi, quels ont été les résultats de cette formation. Bien entendu, ce sont là des informations qu'il serait très difficile de réunir et il en résulterait l'élaboration d'un document volumineux. Mais, pour l'information des Etats Membres, des annexes pourraient dire qui, où, quand, comment et avec quels résultats cela a été fait.

Je ne terminerai pas mon intervention sans me réjouir de la place privilégiée qui a été faite au secteur forêt et, d'une manière générale, à la lutte contre la désertification et à la préservation de l'environnement. Comment pourrait-il en être autrement ?

Le Niger, pays sahélien, au coeur de la zone sahélo-saharienne, a fait de la préservation de l'environnement son cheval de bataille. Depuis pratiquement 15 ans, la journée du 3 août et tout le mois d'août sont consacrés à la plantation des arbres. Avec le peu de pluies que nous recevons, chacun, à partir du 3 août et pendant tout le mois, doit planter au moins un arbre. Cela fait 6 à 10 millions d'arbres qui sont plantés tous les ans, sans compter les programmes et sans compter aussi que l'année 1984 au Niger a été l'année de l'arbre.

En mai 1984 s'est tenu un important séminaire sur la désertification au cours duquel les grandes directives de lutte contre la désertification ont été définies. C'est donc pour nous un motif de joie de voir que les programmes de la FAO, aussi bien au niveau du budget ordinaire qu'au niveau du programme fiduciaire, donnent une importance remarquable à ce secteur.

Sra. M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): El Salvador no pensaba intervenir en este tema de nuestro programa. Sin embargo, hemos pedido la palabra únicamente para apoyar la propuesta hecha por el distinguido delegado de Suecia. Le felicitamos por su iniciativa y respaldamos plenamente el proyecto de resolución. El Gobierno sueco ha demostrado nuevamente su gran sensibilidad hacia los problemas que afrontan los sectores débiles, por así llamarlos, de nuestra sociedad, tal como lo hizo evidente la delegada de Suecia al referirse a la mujer cuando analizamos el tema 13 de nuestro programa.

E. BONEV (United Nations Development Programme): I can assure you that I have listened extremely carefully to all deliberations on this item, which is of great interest to UNDP as UNDP is financing - on a lower level now but still bearing a large share of - the programme in the field of FAO. If you will allow me, I shall try to shed some light on a somewhat longer period of cooperation between UNDP and developing countries.

UNDP has been spending around US\$ 500 million per annum on average in the last decade of its development programme, and by far the largest sectoral share of UNDP's sources goes to agriculture. The agricultural sector has received around US\$ 150 million in the last 5 years. In comparison, less than US\$ 90 million annually has been spent on average in the same period on each of the next-largest sectors, which include general development, natural resources, industry, transport and communications. Thus in 1984 agriculture accounted for 23 percent of UNDP's expenditures, while those next-largest sectors accounted for between 11 percent and 13 percent each. Notwithstanding this data, which verifies the continuing predominance of the agricultural sector in the UNDP's overall programme, it is possible to discern a slight reduction in agriculture's share of total UNDP expenditures in the past 13 years, in the period between 1972 and 1984 inclusive, for which relatively complete computerized data are available. Agriculture's share has fallen marginally from 27 percent in the early 1970s to 23 percent in the last two years.

Other sectors have suffered from a more marked reduction in their share of total expenditures: most especially education, whose share has been more than halved. The major sector with a consistently increasing share has been the general development sector, while industry, science, technology social conditions and trade finance have also increased their shares. The reduction in agriculture does not reflect any centralized policy decision by UNDP but rather the aggregation of many decentralized decisions made primarily by the recipient governments concerned.

It must also be pointed out that the agricultural sector as defined by the ACC - Sector of Classification - "partially or wholly excludes some related activities such as planning and statistics which may be undertaken from within . Broader multi-sectoral or macro-economic projects are therefore classified as general development, or activities concerned with land-water use, including reclamation, irrigation, land use assessment and planning, conservation, water shed management - which are classified under the natural resources sector.

To the extent that the shares in total expenditures in both the general development and natural resources sectors have increased, it is conceivable that their components relating to agriculture might also have increased, and such increases may affect the apparent decline in the agriculture sector as classified by the ACC. Changes in sectoral shares in the UNDP's total expenditures also reflect changes in other allocations of UNDP's funds between countries and regions. The major change here has been the substantial increase of the share of Asia, from 23 percent of total UNDP expenditures in the early 1970s to around 35 percent in 1984, reflecting, among other changes, China's joining UNDP. UNDP's programme in China, reflecting the government's priorities for its utilization, allocates around 15 percent to agriculture, and China's programme is one of the largest in the world. The incorporation of this programme, with its relatively low weight to agriculture, into UNDP's total world-wide programme, has reduced the share of agriculture in total world-wide expenditures.

I should mention some other programmes also in the same region. I have in mind for instance the programme of India, one of the largest in the world, which allocates 57 percent to industry development, but the share to agriculture is much less than that. Agriculture's share of UNDP's expenditures has also markedly fallen in Latin America and Europe, where industry, science and technology have gained, and in the Arab states, where the general development sector has increased its share. On the other hand, agriculture's share of the total has been more or less maintained in Africa, whose share of the total UNDP resources has increased slightly to around 32 percent in 1984, and markedly for inter-regional and global projects in which agricultural projects have comprised around 50 percent of expenditures in recent years. This is important, as UNDP's expenditure on inter-regional and global projects has increased five-fold in the past decade and now accounts for over 5 percent of UNDP's total worldwide expenditure.

Since 1972 some 3 780 projects have been improved by UNDP for agricultural development out of a total of just over 22 000 projects. Agriculture's share here is lower than for the value of approvals for expenditure, because the average size of UNDP-funded agricultural projects between 1982 and 1986, at US\$ 523 000 is large relative to that for most other sectors and compares with an average size for all UNDP projects of US\$ 370 000. Of the total value of projects approved in the agriculture sector - US\$ 1 700 million out of US\$ 7 billion UNDP assistance since 1972 - one third has been for Africa, 31 percent for Asia, 14 percent for the Arab States, 12 percent for Latin America, 8 percent for global and inter-regional projects and 2 percent for Europe. Around a quarter of the total expenditures have been spent on agricultural support services and about 20 percent on land and water development throughout the period. Expenditures on crop development have generally increased to around 20 percent of the total in recent years, while livestock's share has decreased from about 15 percent to just over 10 percent in the last 2 years. Fisheries and forestry have each accounted for around 10 percent throughout the period.

In the period 1972 to 1984, in the other regions, major trends have been the following. In Asia, an increasing proportion of UNDP's funds for agriculture has been allocated to land and water and forestry development, now accounting for about 45 percent, and reflecting the concern on environmental and energy issues.

In the Arab countries, the increasing focus of UNDP funds has been on fisheries and forestry development, both having almost tripled their share of allocation to the agriculture sector. In Latin America, there has been the increasing use of UNDP funds on agriculture support services

accounting for about 45 percent of UNDP's expenditure on agriculture in recent years, while livestock has consistently required more funds than the crops sub-sector, unlike all the other regions.

In global and inter-regional projects, increasing attention has been placed on land and water agriculture support projects. About 60 percent of UNDP's worldwide expenditures on agriculture are for personnel, 20 percent for equipment, 6 percent for training and the balance for subcontractors and miscellaneous costs.

This is just to shed a little more light on how UNDP's resources are being spent in the sector of agricultural development. This is once again perhaps to demonstrate and to quote to delegations that it is not UNDP which is establishing the priorities and objectives for the government, The UNDP Resident Representatives and the representatives of other organizations and agencies are at the service of the sovereign governments in following the objectives and the priorities established by the latter. I think it will be a kind of insult, on our part, if we said that we establish their programmes. We are there to advise and to assist the governments - both the UNDP Resident Representative and the Country Representatives fo FAO. But we are not there to interfere or impose our views. That is absolutely impossible and I should reject any allegation in this matter as far as UNDP is concerned.

If there is any particular case in a country where a slight attempt of that kind has been made, I would love to hear from the delegation itself that this or that Resident Representative did act in such a way. I assure you that I will report this back to the Administrator and I also assure you that measures will be taken immediately in order for there to be no repetition.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to continue my statement. This is perhaps a little more optimistic. As delegates may be aware, in June this year UNDP's Governing Council took important decisions with respect to the forthcoming UNDP Fourth Development Cycle. IPFs for the five year period from 1987 to 1992 have been computed on the basis of an assumed yearly growth in voluntary contributions of 8 percent, commencing with a base of US\$ 700 million in 1986. The total volume of resources to be disbursed over this period is accordingly estimated at US\$ 3 166 million. I can report with some real satisfaction that in the light of the results at the Joint United Nations Pledging Conference in New York this month, very recently, the following amounts have been pledged for the UNDP, plus the estimated sums from some countries who could not pledge due to their legislative rules: around US\$ 736.million. This is about 5 percent over the target established by the Governing Council of the UNDP for 1986. I would like to express my warmest gratitude to all governments, major donors and recipients for their participation, for their gestures, for their contributions to the UNDP.

Preparations for the Fourth Cycle therefore are going forward on an encouraging note and delegates will, I know, approve of the emphasis that UNDP is giving to the poorest countries in its new IPF allocations. By the Governing Council's decision, 80 percent of country IPF resources will go to low-income countries. A substantial 41.4 percent of all the distributed country IPFs is allocated for the 36 Least Developed Countries, 26 of which are in Africa. Fifty new country programmes for the forthcoming Development Cycle are in the process of preparation and are expected in the next 18 months to be finalized and presented to the Governing Council for approval.

We all - governments in the first place and UNDP and sister organizations,(I have in mind the executing agencies) - all those concerned will be witnessing, and will work together to make sure that the priorities established by the governments are incorporated into those programmes and that we will not hear in the future statements blaming one or the other organization for reducing resources in one or another sector.

I once again repeat the statement which was made by me at the very beginning, that it is only the governments, it is their sovereign right to decide and to establish their priorities and formulate their programmes. It is not the UNDP Programme, it is not the FAO Programme, it is not the Unesco Programme, or any other agency's programme. These are programmes of sovereign governments and we are there to assist them.

Mr Chairman, please allow me to make some additional comments. I am sorry to take so long but the UNDP was mentioned by almost every delegate and I believe you will forgive me for taking a little longer. I would like to turn to some of the comments of the delegates here participating in the debate.

CHAIRMAN: Please excuse me, I really do not like to interrupt but everybody in this assembly has been very disciplined this afternoon; we must finish our work. Thank you very much, I would be most grateful if you could finish now.

E. BONEV (UNDP): Thank you very much, Mr Chairman, I am at your disposal, I shall be here until the end of the Conference and I shall be at the disposal of every delegate here to explain, if necessary, or clarify, if necessary, some of the points which you have raised. But once again I would like to thank you all for the indulgence you have shown me in listening to me for such a long time.

I would only like to say one more thing. I have attended conferences of this kind for three or four years in the whole UN System and I am sorry to say that this is the first conference where I have not heard one word of appreciation for the UNDP.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): Ladies and Gentlemen, I think I shall be acting in the interests and on behalf of all of you if we tell the Representative of the UNDP that we thank him for his contribution which was inspired by a personal commitment. None of the speakers here meant to deny or denigrate the valuable work of UNDP. All of this criticism had a lot of positive understanding underlying it. At any rate, I would like to thank you on behalf of this gathering.

R.F. DE JESUS NETO (Angola): Après avoir écouté le Délégué du Gabon, les paroles du représentant du PNUD et le petit commentaire que vous venez de faire, M. le Président, je suis obligé de me résumer. Je serai donc très bref.

Ma Délégation ne peut pas rester indifférente devant l'appui massif donné la proposition suédoise par beaucoup de délégations. Nous sommes disposés à adopter toute résolution visant à intégrer les handicapés physiques dans le processus de développement rural. Il faudra donc que cette main-d'oeuvre ignorée et sans occupation soit encadrée, occupée et assistée.

Quant à la proposition faite par le Portugal et mentionnée dans la déclaration de l'Espagne concernant l'utilisation, dans le projet, d'experts qui connaissent la langue, le système de vie et les habitudes des populations, je dirai, au nom de ma délégation, que dans mon pays l'utilisation ou encore le recrutement d'experts est fait selon le profil défini par le gouvernement lors de la formulation des projets par la FAO.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne regrettons pas d'intervenir après le représentant du PNUD, puisque justement l'un des deux sujets que nous voulions aborder dans cette enceinte concerne le PNUD d'une part, et d'autre part nous voulions également parler de la proposition faite par le Royaume-Uni ce matin demandant que le Comité financier se penche sur les problèmes de frais généraux de la FAO.

Concernant les problèmes liés au PNUD, nous souhaitons préciser que nous avons autant besoin des services du PNUD que de ceux fournis aux pays bénéficiaires par la FAO. Pour mieux aborder le sujet, il faut rappeler que les projets de l'agriculture financés par le PNUD mettent en jeu la

responsabilité de trois catégories d'acteurs au moins à savoir, les Etats membres demandeurs de financement, les pays donateurs et enfin les organes d'exécution dont notamment la FAO et les bureaux d'exécution des projets du PNUD.

A aucun moment il n'est venu à notre esprit la tentation de critiquer le PNUD en tant que tel dans son essence ou de le blâmer. La préoccupation des pays bénéficiaires qui est d'ailleurs légitime face à la contraction des ressources du PNUD touche en fait les trois catégories d'opérateurs précités .

Comme certaines délégations l'ont indiqué, en effet, les Etats Membres bénéficiaires des ressources du PNUD pour les projets agricoles sont en partie responsables de par leur choix de priorités d'une part des difficultés de la situation actuelle du PNUD.

De même, l'on ne saurait se cacher que par la limitation de leurs allocations, les pays donateurs limitent considérablement les possibilités d'action du PNUD car rien ne nous dit que toutes les demandes faites par les Etats demandeurs ont été systématiquement satisfaites, ou qu'il y ait excès de ressources par rapport aux demandes formulées.

Enfin le PNUD lui-même qui a créé son bureau d'exécution des projets n'est pas sans oublier l'existence de la FAO qui a entre autres vocations celle d'assurer l'exécution des projets agricoles financés par lui, et le PNUD devrait donc en tenir compte pour ne confier à son bureau d'exécution que des projets sortant des compétences de la FAO pour éviter les doubles emplois.

C'est à ces trois niveaux que nous voulions exprimer notre préoccupation quant à la contraction des ressources du PNUD. Nous souhaitons que le PNUD et la FAO continuent à coopérer dans l'harmonie actuelle.

A propos de la proposition du Royaume-Uni demandant que le Comité financier se penche sur les problèmes des frais généraux de la FAO, nous aimerions dire que cela rentre dans le cadre normal du mandat du Comité financier. Ce faisant et à moins qu'une présomption d'une mauvaise gestion par la FAO ait été ressentie, ce qui reste à démontrer, nous ne voyons pas le fondement d'une telle demande si insistante et à laquelle nous ne saurions souscrire.

BRAH MAHAMANE (Observateur du Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, CILSS): Je voudrais au nom du Comité inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel, le CILSS, qui, comme cette auguste assemblée le sait, est l'Organisation sahélienne chargée de lutter contre la sécheresse et la désertification au Sahel, présenter le soutien du Sahel au programme conséquent que la Direction générale de la FAO a soumis à l'Assemblée, Programme dont l'essentiel, au-delà des observations faites par les Etats, tourne autour des projets précis sur le terrain depuis le PCT jusqu'aux actions importantes de relance de l'agriculture des Etats sahéliens.

Je dois dire que l'expérience de coopération entre le CILSS et la FAO est une expérience qui mérite d'être évoquée ici rapidement. Comme vous le savez, la région sahélienne a connu un traumatisme jamais égalé et jamais connu sur la surface de notre globe terrestre, traumatisme causé par une sécheresse endémique qui a duré plus d'une décennie.

Dès 1973, à la création du CILSS, la FAO a été une des premières organisations à apporter sa contribution à l'ensemble de ces Etats sahéliens afin qu'ils puissent d'abord s'organiser sur le plan sous-régional pour lutter ensemble et conjuguer leurs efforts, rechercher la synergie des actions des Etats sahéliens et des partenaires de la communauté internationale, pour relever le défi de la sécheresse et de la désertification et assurer la subsistance alimentaire de la région.

Depuis 1973, nous avons mené avec l'Organisation mondiale chargée de l'ensemble des questions de lutte contre la faim dans le monde, la FAO, des actions assez précises au plan régional touchant à la sécurité alimentaire, mais aussi au plan national, c'est-à-dire au niveau des Etats, grâce à des programmes d'action précis.

Je voudrais demander, au-delà des discussions assez passionnantes que je viens d'écouter concernant les rapports entre la FAO et le PNUD, à cette assemblée, de faire en sorte que l'aspect coordination de programmes de lutte contre la faim ne soit pas un aspect multidirectionnel, qu'il y ait un seul centre d'action, et nous croyons très sincèrement que l'Organisation la mieux indiquée ne peut être que la FAO.

Il est donc important, tout en gardant la souveraineté des Etats et tout en reconnaissant qu'il y a des actions particulières dont chaque Etat est libre d'obtenir les financements par voie bilatérale ou multilatérale que la coordination du défi de la faim et de la malnutrition dans ce monde soit assurée et que cette coordination ait un seul centre de gravité.

Nous savons que depuis 1974, depuis la Conférence mondiale sur l'alimentation qui s'est tenue ici à un moment où le monde connaissait des excédents, le monde connaît un niveau de stock céréalier assez faible et qui a inquiété l'ensemble de la communauté internationale. En 1979, ici même, à l'initiative du Directeur général de la FAO, une conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural a formulé des propositions, des programmes, de politiques pour relever le défi de la faim et de la malnutrition dans le monde. Nous sommes en 1984 et nous sommes encore devant des paradoxes où dans les pays développés il y a des récoltes records et même dans les pays en développement, alors que dans d'autres parties du monde, notamment en Afrique, au Sahel en particulier, il y a des déficits alimentaires certes mais également d'autres difficultés de relance de l'agriculture de ces Etats.

On peut donc dire que le défi de l'autosuffisance alimentaire demeure encore devant nous et il est donc souhaitable qu'au-delà de la discussion, assez intéressante certes, l'attention soit portée sur la nécessaire coordination et la nécessaire focalisation des énergies en faveur de la lutte contre la faim, la sécheresse et la désertification. Nous pensons que la coordination de ces actions doit absolument avoir un centre de gravité et nous croyons qu'au sein du système des Nations Unies, la FAO semble être l'Organisation la mieux indiquée pour piloter l'ensemble de ces questions.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): You drew our attention in a committed way to the point you made and we listened to it with great care and we have indeed taken note of what you have said.

Now after some fifty statements from delegations we have come to the end of our study of this agenda item and we shall try to draw some conclusions from the many contributions, suggestions, ideas you put forward but first of all on behalf of you all I would like to thank the Assistant Director-General, Mr Lignon, and Mr Beringer. I would like to thank them on behalf of all of you, and indeed Mr Lignon as you have appreciated from the statements made by the delegates, the quality of the report that you have put before us has been greatly appreciated by all delegations. I think we can say that it was valued for its clear structure, for its brevity and succinctness and before I draw some conclusions, I would like to give you, Mr Lignon, the opportunity of answering some of the questions that have come up in the debate.

R.S. LIGNON (Sous-Directeur général, Département du développement): Tout d'abord je voudrais au nom du Directeur général remercier l'es nombreuses délégations qui ont pris la parole au cours de ce débat extrêmement intéressant et je dois dire que la satisfaction qu'ils ont exprimée sur la concision, l'objectivité ou la franchise de ce document sur le programme de terrain est un grand encouragement pour nous, pour les efforts que le Directeur général poursuit sans relâche pour essayer d'améliorer l'efficacité du programme de terrain.

Je vais essayer de répondre aux nombreuses questions qui ont été posées au cours de ce débat, peut-être pas à chacune en particulier, mais en essayant de les regrouper pour raccourcir les réponses que je voudrais donner aux délégués.

Tout d'abord je dois dire que nous avons pris bonne note des suggestions qui ont été faites par de nombreux délégués pour améliorer la présentation, le contenu de ce document, en particulier améliorer la qualité, la clarté des tableaux comme par exemple l'a suggéré le délégué de la Tchécoslovaquie, pour fournir davantage de détails sur les différentes sources de financement, qu'il s'agisse du PNUD, du programme coopératif ou des fonds fiduciaires bilatéraux comme l'a demandé le délégué de la Belgique.

D'autres délégués ont souhaité aussi que les liens entre les programmes de terrain et le programme régulier soient plus clairement montrés. Je pense que le délégué du Japon en particulier a posé cette question. Je dois dire que ces liens sont très étroits et à double sens en ce qui concerne les rela-

tions entre les programmes de terrain et les programmes réguliers de la FAO. Notamment, dans le cadre des fonds fiduciaires, je dois dire que très souvent ce lien à double sens est extrêmement utile pour les partenaires qui sont engagés dans des opérations de développement puisque quelquefois les pays donateurs sont venus pour mettre en oeuvre les programmes qui sont situés dans le cadre des grands programmes d'action de la FAO et que d'autres fois un certain nombre de projets qui ont été mis en oeuvre sur le terrain sont remontés pour devenir de grands programmes de la FAO, et je pense que dans ce cas-là, on peut voir que des grands programmes comme la lutte contre les pertes après récoltes, les programmes semences, les programmes de production de viandes et de production de lait sont des exemples particulièrement intéressants des relations entre le programme de terrain et le programme régulier de la FAO.

De nombreuses questions ont été posées à propos du chapitre II relatif à l'évaluation des programmes de terrain et je voudrais m'y arrêter un certain temps. Tout d'abord, je voudrais dire qu'il est clair que l'évaluation des projets d'assistance technique est toujours une affaire particulièrement difficile.

Je pense que lorsque l'on aborde cette question les professionnels savent très bien qu'il n'est pas facile d'évaluer l'impact sur le développement d'un pays de projets d'assistance technique où les calculs de coûts-bénéfices et notamment en matière financière sont difficiles à évaluer. Comment peut-on évaluer un programme de formation? Nous serions très heureux au Secrétariat de connaître et d'examiner avec les délégués qui ont eu des succès dans ce genre d'évaluation les méthodes qu'ils ont employées parce que tout progrès dans ce domaine sera un progrès important. Je cite les programmes de formation, mais je pourrais citer de nombreux exemples. Cependant je ne voudrais pas trop m'attarder sur ce point.

Je dois dire aussi qu'il est clair, et beaucoup d'entre vous l'ont signalé, que la conception et la formulation des projets tenant compte de la situation dans les pays et des institutions de contrepartie sont des éléments particulièrement décisifs dans la réussite d'un projet. De ce point de vue, nous avons déjà entrepris beaucoup de choses puisque nous organisons régulièrement des cours de formation en matière de perfectionnement et de préparation de formulation des projets. Nous avons demandé au représentant de la FAO d'avoir un rôle toujours plus grand dans une sorte de préévaluation de la requête qui nous parvient des gouvernements. Nous avons établi, et cela est mentionné dans le document, des nouvelles directives pour l'évaluation - c'est mentionné dans le paragraphe 252 du document - qui doivent nous permettre d'améliorer encore, d'une façon incessante, les résultats de l'évaluation.

Je crois que d'une façon générale ce souci de perfectionner constamment l'évaluation ne doit pas nous faire perdre de vue que l'évaluation n'est pas un but en soi et qu'elle n'a de sens que dans la mesure où il y a un retour qui nous permet de perfectionner le système et je dois dire que de ce point de vue à la FAO nous sommes particulièrement bien équipés puisque l'unité d'évaluation de la FAO est une des plus anciennes unités créées au sein du système des Nations Unies. Nous avons des revues tripartites constamment organisées, que ce soit avec les donateurs, avec le PNUD ou avec le pays bénéficiaire et ces missions d'évaluation se font de façon très régulière.

Enfin nous avons le Comité de programme de terrain qui se réunit régulièrement pour essayer d'une part de faire le bilan de l'expérience qui résulte de ce processus d'évaluation et d'autre part pour essayer de trouver les ajustements qu'il convient de prendre pour que les prochains projets bénéficient des erreurs ou au contraire des réussites des précédents.

Je crois, de ce point de vue, qu'il est très important de considérer que ces problèmes d'évaluation, d'une façon générale, ont un impact qui est de plus en plus clair sur la base de cette évaluation. Par exemple, nous avons perfectionné les programmes de terrain en établissant des programmes de travail très serrés et très sérieux. Dans le cours de l'exécution des projets, nous améliorons constamment tout le système de rapports sur les projets. Je sais, bien sûr, que le résultat d'un projet n'est pas un rapport. Mais je sais aussi que si le projet ne donne pas aux gouvernements les grandes lignes des résultats qui ont été obtenus, cela n'est pas très satisfaisant pour le pays qui a demandé l'aide de la FAO.

Je voudrais vous dire aussi, toujours concernant le chapitre II, et parce que le Danemark a soulevé cette question, quelle est la différence entre les projets du Programme de coopération technique et les projets de fonds fiduciaires. Je ne vais pas rappeler tous les détails de fonctionnement du PCT,

mais il est bien clair que les projets du PCT ont des objectifs qui sont complémentaires des projets des fonds fiduciaires ou des projets du PNUD. Je voudrais dire à ce propos, pour répondre aux questions qui ont été posées, que 40 pour cent environ des projets du PCT sont des projets qui ont, soit prolongé des projets du PNUD qui avaient dû être interrompus pour des questions financières, soit comblé un fossé entre deux phases d'un projet parce que les problèmes de financement n'étaient pas résolus, soit préparé des projets du PNUD parce que les gouvernements n'étaient pas toujours à même de présenter au PNUD un document ayant la forme et le contenu requis. Je crois que cette relation qui existe entre les projets du PCT et le PNUD est suffisamment importante pour que je la souligne et montre aussi qu'il n'y a pas ignorance des représentants résidents du PNUD à propos des projets du PCT puisqu'au moins dans 40 pour cent des cas ces projets ont été liés.

Je crois aussi - pour répondre au délégué du Royaume-Uni qui avait souligné la question - que les projets des programmes coopératifs ne se substituent pas aux projets du PNUD. Si on regarde attentivement les tableaux, on constate qu'il n'y a pas les mêmes objectifs qui sont poursuivis dans les deux cas. Dans les programmes de fonds fiduciaires, disons que globalement les pays donateurs sont surtout intéressés par les pays qui sont le plus dans le besoin d'une part et c'est la raison pour laquelle, malgré la diminution de la participation du PNUD dans d'autres programmes, nous avons maintenu notre programme en Afrique à un niveau élevé: c'est parce que l'Afrique bénéficiait des donateurs traditionnels, mais aussi de nouveaux donateurs importants, comme l'Italie ces dernières années, notamment dans le cadre des pays du Sahel. Par conséquent, je ne crois pas que l'on puisse parler d'une concurrence entre ces deux types d'activités.

D'autre part, je voudrais ajouter, pour répondre à une question posée par le délégué de la Suisse, que la participation des projets de coopération technique financés par les composantes d'assistance technique des projets est financée par la Banque. Je crois qu'il est très bon que les programmes de coopération technique, le Programme de terrain de la FAO soient financés par plusieurs sources. Je crois que la diversification des sources permet de mieux s'ajuster aux besoins des pays dans lesquels la FAO apporte son soutien. Je pense que s'il n'y avait que le PNUD, que les fonds fiduciaires, que les fonds unilatéraux, ou que le PCT, il y aurait de graves lacunes dans le système. Je crois que cette diversification est très importante, et je crois que dans le cadre des composantes techniques de prêts financiers, la participation de la FAO montre que nous sommes étroitement liés aux programmes d'investissement. D'une part, très souvent, ces composantes techniques font partie de projets qui ont été préparés par le Centre d'investissement lui-même qui a contribué à l'élaboration de cette composante technique. En second lieu, cette composante d'assistance technique, au moins lorsqu'elle est confiée à la FAO, est une composante d'assistance technique qui se réfère surtout à la formation et au renforcement des institutions locales. En réalité, pour que le prêt soit effectif, pour que le prêt soit productif, il s'agit de renforcer l'institution qui est chargée de gérer ou de mettre en oeuvre le prêt, par exemple une institution de crédit agricole, ou une institution de formation et de recherche. Ce lien entre le financement et l'assistance technique est un lien très important qu'il faut conserver comme une composante et non pas comme une exclusivité.

Je voudrais dire à ce propos qu'il est bien clair qu'une organisation comme la FAO ne prétend pas exécuter l'ensemble des composantes d'assistance technique de ces prêts. Je voudrais dire que la Banque est le gros bailleur d'assistance technique puisque c'est 1 milliard 300 millions de dollars par an, par rapport aux chiffres qui ont été donnés pour le PNUD. On voit que la Banque est devenue une institution très importante.

Je crois aussi qu'une grande partie de cette assistance technique est exécutée par les bureaux d'études mieux spécialisés, probablement mieux équipés que les agences des Nations Unies pour la construction de barrages et que, par conséquent, cette part de fonds fiduciaires unilatéraux ne sera jamais très grande, même s'il faut y ajouter les pays qui ont des ressources suffisantes pour demander à la FAO d'exécuter des programmes chez eux, comme l'a cité par exemple le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite.

Voilà comment se situe le financement des programmes de terrain.

Je voudrais aussi revenir à ce propos à un certain nombre de questions évoquées notamment par le délégué du Danemark à propos de l'évaluation des programmes d'engrais.

Je voudrais clarifier un malentendu dans la mesure où la FAO a particulièrement apprécié la proposition DANIDA d'évaluer le Programme en engrais. S'il y a un temps qui s'est écoulé entre la requête du Gouvernement de l'Agence de coopération danoise et la réalisation de la mission, c'est tout simplement parce qu'il y avait plusieurs donateurs et plusieurs pays bénéficiaires, et lors de la réunion qui s'est tenue au mois d'octobre 1984, il avait été décidé que le démarrage de l'évaluation se ferait en juin 1985, et les membres désignés par DANIDA sont arrivés le 2 juin 1985 à la FAO.

Je voudrais faire aussi un autre commentaire, repris par plusieurs personnes, à propos d'une remarque du délégué de la Belgique demandant que l'on utilise les matériaux organiques dans le cadre du Programme engrais, et demandant de vérifier que le système de distribution et de crédit agricole soit bien en place avant que le projet ne soit mis en oeuvre.

Je voudrais assurer le délégué de la Belgique que le recyclage et l'utilisation des matières organiques font partie intégrante du Programme engrais. Ceci est particulièrement vrai lorsque les matériaux sont disponibles comme les engrais, les compostes, les résidus, les ordures ménagères ou autres, et qui sont inclus par exemple dans des projets au Burkina Faso, au Burundi et en Tanzanie.

D'autre part, je voudrais rappeler que nous avons un programme de fixation biologique de l'azote qui est en train de prendre un essor considérable puisqu'il se développe dans 10 pays où les projets du Programme engrais sont opérationnels.

Je crois qu'en ce qui concerne la disponibilité, la distribution des engrais et le crédit, tout cela est évalué dans le cadre des projets si je puis dire presque comme une routine. Cela rentre dans le système de préparation du projet. Concernant le prix des engrais, ceci rentre dans la politique des Etats et il est bien évident que dans ce domaine nous ne pouvons pas intervenir, si ce n'est de donner des avis.

Je voudrais aussi répondre à une autre question qui avait été évoquée par les délégués de la Hollande et du Gabon qui concerne les pêches. Je voudrais dire que le Programme pêches en 1985 s'est élevé à 30 millions de dollars, et que le suivi de la Conférence mondiale des pêches, qui a approuvé cinq programmes d'action, a permis de mobiliser cette année seule 15 millions de dollars. Parmi les donateurs, je citerai la Hollande, la Norvège, le Danemark, la Suède, les Etats-Unis, le Japon, l'Australie, le Canada, l'Italie. Si j'en oublie quelques-uns vous voudrez m'excuser.

D'autre part, je voudrais me référer à une question qui a été évoquée par le délégué de la Hollande à propos du rôle de la FAO dans le programme oncocercose. Depuis le démarrage de ce programme, la FAO fait partie du Comité de patronage des agents qui patronnent ce programme avec l'OMS, le PNUD et d'autres agences encore. M. Nicolas est le représentant de la FAO dans ce Comité et il est en étroite relation avec les différentes agences multilatérales et bilatérales, les pays donateurs et les organisations non gouvernementales pour explorer le potentiel de production qui est libéré grâce au contrôle de la mouche. Je crois par conséquent, si l'on regarde le programme de la FAO dans l'ensemble des pays touchés par l'oncocercose, qu'on s'aperçoit que ce programme est extrêmement important. Je ne voudrais pas entrer dans les détails. Si vous prenez la liste des 13 pays qui sont concernés par l'oncocercose, vous vous apercevrez que le programme de la FAO, par ses trois sources de financement, est extrêmement important.

Je voudrais aussi m'arrêter un instant sur la proposition de la Suède concernant les handicapés. Cette proposition, et c'est bien normal, a reçu un appui considérable de la part de votre Commission et c'est tout à fait logique. Bien sûr, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer une telle proposition et notre Secrétariat a déjà essayé de faire quelque chose en faveur des handicapés. Je ne m'arrêterai pas sur ce point parce que dans le document C 85/9 qui se réfère aux faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies intéressant la FAO, vous verrez ce que fait la FAO notamment en matière de prévention au cours de la Décennie des handicapés qui s'étend de décembre 1983 à 1992. Je peux vous dire qu'il y a deux ou trois ans, nous avons préparé quelques projets destinés à favoriser l'insertion des handicapés mais que malheureusement en ce temps-là nous n'avions trouvé aucun donateur pour financer ce projet. Nous sommes disposés à repartir sur de nouvelles bases et peut-être trouver des donateurs, que ce soit des organisations non gouvernementales ou des gouvernements, pour favoriser ce type d'activités.

Je voudrais dire un mot aussi sur une question qui a été soulevée par plusieurs délégués, notamment d'Amérique latine, Panama et Colombie, au sujet de la décroissance de la région d'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes dans le Programme de terrain de la FAO. Je crois que c'est là un exemple typique des risques que l'on court lorsque l'on n'a qu'une source de financement. En réalité, si notre programme en Amérique latine est faible, c'est parce que la part de l'Amérique latine dans le PNUD est relativement faible. Par conséquent, si nous voulons renforcer notre programme en Amérique latine, je crois que nous n'avons que deux voies. La première - c'est celle à laquelle nous nous employons déjà - c'est de trouver des pays donateurs qui s'intéressent à l'Amérique latine, et je pense que dans la prochaine conférence on pourra vous donner quelques résultats de l'effort entrepris. La deuxième voie, c'est d'être peut-être plus novateur dans le rôle que l'Agence de la FAO joue dans cette région du monde, en essayant d'employer tous les instruments que nous avons, notamment des instruments de catalyse comme le PCT pour la promotion de réseaux de transfert de technologie, qu'ils soient au niveau régional ou au niveau sous-régional. Par exemple pour les Caraïbes ou pour certains pays d'Amérique latine, comme certains délégués l'ont noté, je crois que ces réseaux de transfert de technologie ont été particulièrement fructueux, la FAO n'ayant joué qu'un rôle minimum en termes financiers, mais important en termes de capacité technique pour assurer ce transfert intéressant, au point que maintenant ces réseaux prennent des contacts avec d'autres réseaux qui se trouvent dans d'autres régions et notamment dans la région asiatique. Je crois que cette voie qui permet d'évaluer le rôle de la FAO et l'impact de la FAO, sans le rattacher directement à un montant financier, est quelque chose qu'il ne faut pas négliger.

Il reste une autre approche encore et, là aussi, nous revenons à une diversification des sources: ce sont les relations que nous essayons de renforcer avec la Banque Mondiale et la Banque Interaméricaine pour l'exécution de projets d'assistance technique dans cette région du monde. Je pense que l'on peut en bénéficier encore en Amérique latine, d'autant plus que, dans les domaines où nous sommes particulièrement compétitifs, - notamment la formation et le renforcement des institutions - pour lesquels les bureaux d'étude privés sont souvent moins bien équipés que la FAO, je crois que nous pouvons apporter une contribution qui n'est pas négligeable. Je pense que cette démarche que nous faisons pourra porter ses fruits dans un délai relativement proche.

Sans trop m'attarder, je voudrais faire une remarque, qui sera peut-être la dernière, au sujet de la coopération entre institutions et de l'évaluation. Je tiens à dire qu'en aucune manière le document que nous vous avons présenté n'est une critique du PNUD. C'est une présentation des faits. Nous étions obligés de vous expliquer que la part du PNUD dans les programmes de terrain de la FAO avait diminué. Cela ne veut pas dire que nous n'avons pas une coopération étroite avec le PNUD. Cela veut simplement dire que la réalité est celle-là. Mais comme l'ont souligné plusieurs délégués - et je remercie notamment la Délégation américaine, des observations qu'elle a faites elle-même - je pense que les représentants résidents du PNUD sont satisfaits de la coopération sur le terrain. Je crois que la coopération qui s'est établie entre représentants de la FAO et représentants résidents du PNUD est fructueuse pour tout le monde. Je ne voudrais donc pas que l'on s'imagine qu'il y a des conflits de compétence. Il y a coordination, chacun essayant de respecter l'autre et de bien accomplir sa tâche dans le domaine qui est le sien. Nous estimons que c'est le rôle des gouvernements d'assurer la coordination. A ce propos, il est bien vrai que les gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires ont un rôle à jouer et une responsabilité dans la part que le PNUD consacre à l'agriculture. C'est bien clair. Seulement, ce qu'il faut peut-être dire aussi, c'est que, malheureusement, l'interlocuteur du représentant du PNUD n'est pas toujours l'interlocuteur du représentant de la FAO et qu'au sein d'un gouvernement, les choses ne sont parfois pas très claires, un ministère essayant de défendre son secteur et pouvant gagner sur un autre ministère. Dans ce domaine, je pense donc que nous n'avons pas cherché à rejeter les responsabilités; nous avons fait état de la situation.

A plusieurs reprises, le Directeur général et l'administrateur du PNUD ont souligné conjointement l'importance que l'on doit accorder au secteur agricole dans les programmes du PNUD. Je vous disais tout à l'heure que la richesse des programmes de terrain de la FAO résidait justement dans leurs différentes sources de financement. Je crois que la FAO souhaite vivement que le PNUD consacre à l'agriculture les ressources nécessaires pour assurer le développement rural des pays, et, quand le PNUD ne le peut pas, nous sommes très heureux de pouvoir le faire avec les fonds fiduciaires.

Sans entrer dans le détail, je voudrais également dire que cette coopération s'établit aussi au niveau de l'information. Je rappellerai quand même que c'est, grâce aux informations du système

d'alerte rapide en existence que les Nations Unies dans leur ensemble et les représentants résidents du PNUD sur le terrain ont eu le maximum de résultats dans les pays les plus sévèrement affectés en Afrique. Je pense que c'est grâce à ces informations qu'un certain nombre de ressources ont pu être mobilisées, ne serait-ce que par les programmes que nous avons pu préparer sur la base de ces informations.

Il y a également un autre domaine dans lequel nous sommes tout disposés à coopérer: ce sont les tables rondes. Chaque fois que nous sommes invités, chaque fois que nous le pouvons, nous sommes très heureux de participer aux tables rondes. Ce que nous souhaitons, c'est d'être invités le plus souvent possible et qu'à aucun moment on ne tienne la FAO à l'écart de ces tables rondes. Chaque fois qu'on nous le demande, nous répondons très ouvertement et très rapidement.

Je voudrais maintenant faire allusion à quelques remarques faites par le Délégué du Danemark. Tout d'abord, je tiens à dire que le Danemark est l'un des plus anciens et plus généreux donateurs du programme de coopération de la FAO. Cette année, par exemple, nous avons signé pour 25 millions de dollars de projets financés par le Danemark. Alors, quand le Délégué du Canada nous dit qu'il craint que les donateurs s'épuisent de donner de l'argent à la FAO, je suis content de relever que, cette année, le Danemark a signé avec la FAO un ensemble de projets s'élevant à environ 25 millions de dollars. Nous avons donc un très bon programme de coopération avec le Danemark dans le domaine de la laiterie, des engrais, des pêches, des semences. Nous avons de nombreux projets qui fonctionnent très bien et j'ai donné quelques explications sur l'évaluation des programmes d'engrais. En ce qui concerne les préoccupations du Délégué danois relatives au problème d'évaluation, ce délégué est très bien placé pour savoir comment fonctionne l'évaluation des programmes de terrain de la FAO, au moins lorsqu'il s'agit de programmes financés par son propre gouvernement.

Un certain nombre d'autres remarques ont été faites au sujet desquelles je pourrais très brièvement dire un mot. On a parlé de la chute des programmes de production végétale et de nutrition dans nos programmes de terrain. Je pense que - et certains délégués l'ont fait remarquer - il s'agit là de classifications qui, malheureusement, ne sont pas toujours adaptées au caractère multidisciplinaire que prennent les projets de développement rural, c'est-à-dire une approche globale de développement rural intégré, et que les tableaux statistiques ne traduisent pas toujours une réalité parfaite. Entre 26 et 29 pour cent d'un biennium à l'autre, je ne sais pas si l'on peut tirer des conclusions très claires. Ce que l'on peut dire, c'est qu'il s'agit de tendances. Mais de là à penser que ce programme diminue! Peut-être que, dans le biennium prochain, la tendance sera renversée. Par conséquent, il faudrait une longue période pour voir comment évoluent les programmes dans les différents secteurs qui sont mentionnés dans ce tableau.

Par ailleurs, certains délégués, et notamment le Danemark, ont fait quelques observations au sujet du soutien technique donné aux programmes de terrain. Je pense que, d'une façon générale, l'exemple qui a été étudié est assez satisfaisant puisque, sur les 220 cas étudiés, on a montré que le soutien technique donné par le Siège ou par les bureaux régionaux avait été insuffisant dans 29 cas. Il est bien évident qu'il n'est pas toujours facile de répondre à une période déterminée, à un moment précis. Mais nous essayons d'améliorer constamment ce soutien technique.

Je pense avoir répondu à toutes les questions; au cas où j'en aurais oublié, je vous prie de m'en excuser auprès des délégués. Je suis tout prêt à leur répondre s'ils ont des questions importantes.

CHAIRMAN (original language German): I would like to thank Mr Lignon for having been available to put his knowledge and experience at our disposal at so late an hour. His extensive explanations in reply to the questions that arose during the debate have been noted with considerable interest, and I would like to thank him on behalf of the members of the Commission.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will all have realized that the interpreters have enabled us to work in our many languages and fortunately they are still available to us.

I shall now attempt to pick out the salient features of our debate and the points that have emerged from this document. I certainly do not see myself, and you certainly do not expect me to give you

an exact picture of our debate - this, I think, would not be appropriate, and indeed the drafting committee will deal with these matters. I shall therefore confine myself to some points which I consider to be fundamental, and I would like to structure my conclusions in a way similar to that in which the document we have been discussing has been structured, C 85/4.

In general terms, the decline in UNDP funding has been regretted by some countries. The governments of the recipient countries themselves do have an opportunity to make a choice of priorities in programmes so that they can try to match these to the priorities in their countries. The Trust Funds were welcomed, and I believe reference was made to the generosity of donor countries - I am here quoting one of the speakers - and that these have increased. On the question of funding, I am sure that the Drafting Committee will be working closely on their statements and I shall not go into this at any length.

That fact that Africa has been the main focus of established priorities was very warmly welcomed. Other priorities were mentioned: the importance of the small farmers, the seed programmes, and the role of women. Some expressed concern that their region might not in the future be considered as an area for particular focus of efforts. There was some discussion of the potential available in the developing countries themselves, and the importance attached to this was welcomed in the debate.

Regarding project evaluation, some countries addressed this point and I think that the evaluation results were generally supported.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of the role of FAO Representatives. Analysis of the problems and the difficulties were, in general, seen in positive terms, and in this respect there were a number of constructive criticisms formulated which cast the net quite widely. In particular, importance was attached to sound programme evaluation and to appropriate feedback and the constructive criticisms that were expressed went hand in hand with suggestions as to how certain weaknesses might be overcome.

The evaluation results before the Commission were generally dealt with. Some would have wished that these results be more concretely directed towards projects and more transparently related to projects.

Considerable interest and very broad support was expressed regarding the Secretariat priority for forestry, and this was seen as particularly important for tropical rain forests and for drought-affected areas, particularly in Africa. The importance of the policy programme in combatting the encroachment of the desert and in enhancing food supplies was also mentioned.

Further positive development of field programmes was also welcomed by the Committee as a whole, and in this respect the follow-up to WCARRD and to the development of women was touched upon by some delegates. Other delegates touched upon the importance of TCP and the network activities. A whole series of delegations expressed appreciation for the participation of national experts and the people themselves in field programmes, and regarded this as being of particular importance.

In general, the emphasis expressed in the document on training, on education and fellowships, met with considerable support. Some delegates commented that the quality of the persons involved was of great importance.

As usual the document was seen as a very thorough and valuable piece of work undertaken by the Secretariat.

Sweden put forward the proposal relating to the promotion of the disabled and this met with considerable support in this Commission.

The statement made by the representative of the UNDP was also heard with interest by this Commission.

Ladies and gentlemen, if these somewhat succinct conclusions meet with your approval - and it would appear that they do - may I once again thank the Secretariat and all those who have contributed to the success of our work.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of our work. Thank you, members of the Commission, for having made this responsible and interesting Chairmanship as rewarding as it has been.

I would remind you that there will be no meeting of the Commission tomorrow morning, we shall resume our work tomorrow afternoon. Our report on the Programme of Work and Budget will be discussed in the Plenary tomorrow morning. I thank you, the meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Sa levanta la sesión a las 18.30 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/II/PV/11

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
11ª SESION

(20 November 1985)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours

C. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15,

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission 11

Se abre la 11ª sesión a las 15.15 horas,

bajo la presidencia de G. Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 14. Review of Field Programmes 1984-85 (continued)
- 14. Examen des programmes de terrain 1984-85 (suite)
- 14. Examen de los programas de campo 1984-85 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Ayer al final de la tarde nuestra Comisión concluyó la discusión del tema 14, examen de las actividades de campo bajo la competente y eficaz dirección de uno de nuestros Vicepresidentes, el distinguido colega y amigo señor Winkel, de la República Federal de Alemania.

Con el consentimiento de nuestro Vicepresidente, señor Winkel, quien en todas sus actuaciones goza del pleno apoyo de todos ustedes y del mío como Presidente, les propongo que reabramos brevísimamente el tema 14 para que, de acuerdo con los Reglamentos, pueda ser incluida en las actas la parte final de la larga declaración que ayer hizo el representante del PNUD. Si no hay ninguna objeción entiendo que a la luz de los Reglamentos vigentes se procede de conformidad.

E. BONEV (UNDP): In conclusion, allow me to turn to some important comments and questions concerning UNDP, raised by delegates during the debate on this agenda item:

In regard to the concerns expressed on the fall of UNDP resources in the past three years, I should like to thank all the delegations as this concern is very much in our hearts in UNDP. I would like to believe, however, that this concern will be translated into a firm will, recorded in an appropriate decision of the member governments represented at this august Conference, to substantially increase their contributions to UNDP in the future, and to assure the necessary resources for agricultural development projects, recognized by all here as a first priority sector of the socio-economic development of the developing countries.

As to the criticism addressed to OPE of UNDP, I should like to state that the latter was established by the Governing Council of UNDP, ECOSOC and the General Assembly of the United Nations, which are accordingly, its governing, legislative bodies and to which the Administrator of UNDP, under whose administration OPE acts, is accountable. Thus, the right place for all matters concerning this entity to be discussed or raised are the abovementioned bodies.

As regards the question raised by the distinguished delegate from India about the establishment of a focal point for short-term advisory services in UNDP, I should like to give him a copy of decision 85/13 of the Governing Council of UNDP, as it is too long to take your time in summarizing it and, in addition, it was raised only by this delegate.

As to the JIU report on OPE of UNDP, mentioned by the distinguished delegate of Yugoslavia, the latter was submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations at its thirty-ninth session under cover of a note by the Secretary-General (A/39/80). The related comments of the Secretary-General are contained in document A/39/80/Add.1. a) In his comments on the Inspectors' report (A/39/80/Add.1) the Secretary-General stated that he was not able to accept the second part of the recommendation 1 of the report, for reasons set out in his comments, b) By its decision 84/6, the Governing Council of UNDP did not accept recommendation 1 made by the Unit.

Recommendation 1 reads: "The GC of UNDP should provide new terms of reference for UNDP direct execution, limiting such execution to projects that require general management and direction and to projects of a non-technical nature. The staff and other resources of OPE would be correspondingly reduced over a three-year transitional period."

In connection with recommendation 2 of the JIU, which reads "ACC, assisted by the Inter-agency Task Force at UNDP headquarters, should examine the procedures used by OPE with a view to recommending,

for the use by all organizations those that have proven their worth in the delivery of technical cooperation to governments," the Secretary-General, in his comments, welcomed this recommendation and proposed that the CCSA (Ops) should include in its Programme of Work a study on the applicability of the procedures of the OPE to other organizations. ^{1/}

13. Review of the Regular Programme 1984-85; (continued) Draft Resolution on Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC and TCDC)
13. Examen du Programme ordinaire 1984-85: (suite) Projet de résolution sur la coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement (CEPD et CTPD)
13. Examen del Programa Ordinario 1984-85: (continuación) Proyecto de Resolución sobre cooperación económica y técnica entre los países en desarrollo (CEPD y CTPD)

EL PRESIDENTE: Ahora, de acuerdo con lo que aparece en el orden del día y con el programa de trabajo de nuestra Comisión vamos a pasar, o vamos a volver mejor, al tema 13, concretamente a estudiar el documento C 85/LIM/26, C 85/LIM/26 repito, que es el cuarto informe del Comité de Resoluciones. Tal vez como ésta es la primera Resolución que considera esta Comisión, convendrá que juntos recordemos los procedimientos, el mecanismo, que rige, para la consideración y adopción de los Proyectos de Resolución.

Una vez que se ha presentado un proyecto de Resolución a la Comisión respectiva el texto pasa a la consideración del Comité de Resoluciones, el cual no se ocupa del fondo del proyecto de Resolución, sino que se preocupa esencialmente de que su contenido se encuadre adecuadamente dentro de los criterios que rigen para los proyectos de Resoluciones, criterios que aparecen como anexo en el documento C 85/12.

Una vez que el Comité de Resoluciones ha dado luz verde al proyecto de Resolución, éste vuelve a la Comisión donde se originó y entonces hay un debate breve, o amplio, depende de las circunstancias, sobre el texto mismo del proyecto de Resolución. Si durante ese debate se logra definir el contenido mismo del proyecto de Resolución, pues mejor y así se envía al Comité de Redacción para que haga parte del informe del tema respectivo. En el caso de que no hubiera acuerdo completo sobre las palabras, sobre la redacción misma del proyecto de Resolución, ésta puede enviarse al Comité de Redacción con la consideración de aquellas opiniones que hayan expresado los miembros de la Comisión.

Nuestra Secretaría aprueba este procedimiento, de manera que creo que ha quedado claro.

Me permito llamar la atención sobre el documento C 85/LIM/26. Noten que en la primera página el Comité de Resoluciones anuncia una acción que fue tomada por ese Comité dentro de las funciones que describí antes, o sea que ha fundido los anteriores párrafos 4 y 5 en un solo párrafo 4. Ahora que aparece ya con la nueva redacción resumida en el texto mismo del proyecto de Resolución esa fusión de esos dos párrafos en uno no afecta al contenido de la Resolución, simplifica y mejora el texto.

Después de decir esto creo que ahora podemos iniciar el debate sobre este proyecto de Resolución que ustedes recordarán fue presentado por el Grupo de los 77.

Si no hay ninguna declaración por parte de ustedes creo que podríamos, naturalmente, discutir la parte dispositiva.

^{1/} Final part of statement - delivered on 19 November - inserted in the verbatim record on request.

H. ÖGÜT (Turkey): My Government accords special importance to strengthening our cooperation in the technical and economic fields with other developing countries. In this context, efforts are now being made to share our experiences in agricultural development with other developing countries under a technical cooperation programme. In addition, as a result of shifts in priorities, our trade with developing countries has been increasing in volume and value.

Despite the willingness of all developing countries to intensify cooperative activities among themselves, the expected results have not yet been attained in a satisfactory degree. Developing countries, in their attempts towards this end, need the catalyzing support of international organizations. In this connection, we are pleased to observe that the promotion of TCDC and ECDC has been adopted as a priority action in the 1986-87 Programme of Work and Budget of FAO.

In the light of the above mentioned remarks, my delegation strongly supports the resolution presented to the Conference on TCDC and ECDC. There is no doubt that this resolution meets the requirements of the criteria established for Conference resolutions and does not have implications for the proposed budget level. We hope that in the light of these facts, it will meet the approval of all delegates present here.

Let me conclude by saying that not only does this delegation support the resolution, it also wishes that the name of Turkey should be included in the list of countries sponsoring the resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma nota del apoyo de Turquía.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My country attaches particular importance to TCDC and ECDC, especially in the agricultural field, Egypt is prepared to give all possible training opportunities to developing countries in this field specially since in our country we have a major Training Centre, where we already welcomed a great number of persons from sister countries. Therefore, we are very happy to support this resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se toma nota del apoyo de Egipto.

A fin de ordenar un poco nuestros trabajos les propongo, como trataba de decirlo hace poco, que la parte dispositiva la consideremos párrafo por párrafo, y por ahora me permito someter a la consideración de ustedes los cuatro párrafos que hacen parte del preámbulo y que generalmente no ofrecen dificultades.

Si no hay ninguna objeción por parte de los miembros de la Comisión vamos a adoptar los cuatro párrafos del preámbulo y pasar al artículo primero de la parte dispositiva.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): I welcome your proposal to accelerate our discussion on this by taking individual paragraphs. In the third paragraph, however, there is a reference to the Caracas Plan of Action and also to the Bucharest Global Meeting. Some FAO Member States did not attend those meeting and it will be rather difficult for them to recall them if they were not present at all. Since those two meetings were not directly part of FAO meetings, I wonder if we really need to mention them.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bueno; regresamos entonces a los cuatro párrafos del preámbulo y entiendo que el distinguido representante de la República Federal de Alemania se ha referido al tercero de esos párrafos que empieza por la palabra "recordando", y ha propuesto que se suprima la referencia al Programa de Acción de Caracas y a la Conferencia de Bucarest.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): It was those two particular references which I felt we should drop, since not everyone can recall them because not everyone was there. That is a practical point.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿No hay ningún otro comentario sobre la propuesta de la República Federal de Alemania?

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): A la delegación de México y al Grupo de los 77 les es particularmente importante el que se haga mención a estas cuestiones que hacen referencia concretamente a la cooperación económica y a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Tanto la Reunión Mundial de Bucarest sobre Cooperación Económica entre países en desarrollo como el Programa de Acción de Caracas y el Programa de Acción de la CMRADR dan específicas recomendaciones al respecto, sin cuyo contexto difícilmente se entendería el alcance de esta Resolución.

Ciertamente coincidimos con el distinguido delegado de Alemania que quizá no todos conocen estos resultados, pero quizá se podría obviar este problema incluyendo una copia en un anexo de los párrafos específicos de estas reuniones en donde se hace mención de los mandatos sobre la cooperación económica y técnica.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais d'abord vous remercier pour avoir bien voulu rappeler à l'attention des membres de notre Commission la procédure à suivre pour les projets de résolution. Ceci étant, je voudrais dire que par rapport à l'observation de la RFA, l'ambassadeur du Mexique m'a plus ou moins coupé l'herbe sous les pieds en ce sens que nous aussi nous pensons qu'il est des réunions dont on ne peut pas ne pas faire mention dans des résolutions du type de celle qui nous est soumise actuellement.

En effet, pour nous autres, quand on parle de la CEPD et de la CTPD, la première chose qui nous vient à l'esprit c'est le programme d'action de Caracas et la grande réunion qui a eu lieu en 1984 à Bucarest. Je comprends parfaitement la difficulté qu'éprouve la délégation de la RFA; en effet, si nous citons ces deux textes, si effectivement les membres de cette délégation n'ont jamais eu l'occasion d'en prendre connaissance, on peut comprendre leur réaction. Mais je voudrais aussi rappeler que lors des sessions antérieures du Conseil de notre Organisation ce même argument avait déjà été formulé et nous avons à des occasions antérieures demandé que pour contourner la difficulté, étant donné qu'en ce qui nous concerne nous tenons absolument à ce que l'on fasse mention de ces textes et que par ailleurs certains d'entre nous n'ont pas eu l'occasion d'assister à ces réunions, nous avons demandé qu'on puisse annexer, comme l'a proposé le Mexique, au projet de résolution les libellés des paragraphes de ces textes pour permettre à ceux qui s'engageaient avec nous ici de savoir à quoi ils s'en tenaient lorsqu'ils acceptaient comme nous qu'on fasse mention de ces différentes réunions.

Je suggère que nous adoptions cette position constructive parce que j'avoue que pour nous c'est une difficulté majeure que de ne pas voir figurer ces deux textes.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): We too share the same sort of difficulties as the delegation for the Federal Republic of Germany about having a reference in the text to a document with which we are not familiar. We are very much attracted by the very sensible suggestion made by the delegate of Mexico that perhaps relevant parts of the text of these documents referred to in the third paragraph could be included as an annex to the resolution. It would, however, we think, be very helpful if we could see these before we adopt the resolution. This does not mean we have to see them before we consider the rest of the text, but certainly we feel it would be helpful if we could see them before the resolution is put to us for adoption.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a un orador que todavía está en mi lista, me permito anunciarles que el distinguido colega de la República Federal de Alemania, con ánimo constructivo, me ha manifestado que él aceptaría la sugestión de México.

Ms M. RAVN (Norway): I wanted to seek clarification because my delegation also shares some of these procedural problems, referring to this text. I was wondering whether any of these texts have previously been circulated as FAO documents. In that case, I think this could help us all and in this way FAO members would have had the possibility of looking at them. However, I think the Mexican proposal is very sensible and might help us out of this difficulty.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo como Presidente entiendo perfectamente las observaciones objetivas que han hecho algunas delegaciones acerca de las dificultades en que se encuentran. Naturalmente, son actividades que se han realizado en el seno del Grupo de los 77, pero que, como este debate mismo lo demuestra, tienen repercusiones de importancia en toda la comunidad internacional. De manera que agradezco la actitud constructiva de aquellos colegas que han aceptado la sugestión de México y será el Comité de Redacción el que tome una decisión definitiva en relación con la parte de esos informes o disposiciones que deban figurar para que se clarifique la situación y todo sea más fácil de comprender a todos los miembros de esta Comisión. Les agradezco su ánimo de cooperación, adoptamos así los primeros cuatro párrafos del preámbulo, si no hay objeciones, y pasamos al párrafo primero de la parte dispositiva.

Si no hay ninguna objeción entiendo que la Comisión adopta el párrafo uno de la parte dispositiva. Párrafo dos.

P. PIOTET (France): Ma délégation n'a pas de problème particulier avec ce paragraphe mais elle considère que le texte de cette résolution pourrait être enrichi si l'on mettait l'accent de façon plus précise sur les problèmes de coopération économique entre les pays en développement. C'est un point sur lequel ma délégation, et surtout le Président de la République, avaient insisté lors de la commémoration du 40ème anniversaire de notre Organisation. Pour cela, je vous proposerais de compléter le paragraphe 2 par la formule suivante:

"La Conférence invite les pays en développement à coopérer sur une base régionale ou sous-régionale pour harmoniser leur politique agricole et développer les échanges de produits vivriers."

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que ahora todos hayan podido tomar nota de la propuesta de Francia dirigida, según entiendo, a reemplazar el actual párrafo 2 de la parte dispositiva.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos apoyar la proposición de la distinguida Representación de Francia. Me parece que este párrafo, en la forma que lo hemos oído, podríamos oírlo después más detenidamente, en su parte central es una complementariedad a este párrafo 2 en cuanto al desarrollo a la cooperación. Nosotros estamos dispuestos a apoyar en todas sus partes esta propuesta de la distinguida delegación de Francia.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Solamente para reiterar lo que ya ha mencionado el distinguido colega de Cuba en cuanto a la propuesta de Francia que, para nosotros, es plenamente aceptable.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): We too believe that the paragraph proposed by France is useful, but it should not replace the present paragraph 2. If at all, it should be an additional paragraph.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I am perfectly prepared to support the suggestion made by the representative of France. I think that it is a useful suggestion and that it clarifies the kind of efforts mentioned too in other paragraphs of this Resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a dos oradores que todavía están en lista, creo que debo señalar a la atención de la Comisión la propuesta de Filipinas, que consistiría en que la redacción propuesta por Francia no reemplazase el actual párrafo 2, sino que fuera otro párrafo que posiblemente podría ir inmediatamente antes del actual párrafo 2.

J. R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Una aclaratoria, Señor Presidente. Nosotros lo que entendimos es que el distinguido colega de Francia adicionaba este párrafo al párrafo 2 existente, no que lo reemplazaba de ninguna manera. Eso es lo que entendimos y en ese sentido lo apoyamos y, si es así, confirmamos ese apoyo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que ahora el Delegado de Francia asiente. La situación es muy clara: Habrá un primer párrafo con la redacción de Francia y luego seguirá el actual párrafo 2 que está en perfecta concordancia con las ideas de Francia que son en parte más generales, mientras que el párrafo 2 actual especifica más en detalle.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): La Tunisie accorde une importance particulière au renforcement de la coopération technique et économique entre pays en développement. Ma délégation appuie le projet de résolution sur la CEPD et la CTPD, présenté par les délégations du Groupe des 77 ainsi que la formule complémentaire proposée à son paragraphe 2 par le délégué de la France.

H.T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation has no substantive comment to offer in this discussion. However, I would wish to enquire, Sir, of you whether the Commission might consider it a better use of its time if delegations were asked to indicate which paragraph they may have amendments to and ask to submit those amendments to the Drafting Committee, which then could bring back the text to the Commission for consideration. I hesitate to suggest more work for the Drafting Committee, but my delegation is not quite sure that this discussion is putting the Commission's time to best use.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que el Sr. Jennings tiene razón en buena parte sobre las observaciones siendo Presidente del Comité de Redacción pero, como dije al principio, en el debate trataremos de avanzar y oír las opiniones de los miembros de la Comisión hasta donde sea posible y estoy de acuerdo con el Sr. Jennings en que el Comité de Redacción será capaz de poner de acuerdo a sus trece miembros sobre el texto, si es que no se lograra aquí. De manera que vamos a continuar nuestro debate y su desarrollo hasta la solución final. Entiendo que no hay ninguna objeción de la Comisión para adoptar la propuesta de Francia como un nuevo párrafo que irá inmediatamente detrás del párrafo 2 cuyo texto quedó adoptado, y, para facilitar el orden de muchos trabajos vamos a continuar con el mismo orden que aparece en el texto. Si es así podemos pasar ahora al actual párrafo 3. Aprobado el párrafo 3. ¿Párrafo 4?.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): Excuse me, but the stress of yesterday's meeting has made its mark on my reflexes and I failed to keep UP with you. In the third paragraph there is a brief drafting comment I would like to make. The English says "urges". That sounds a bit harsh in my ears. I would be grateful if you could agree to replace this with "requests" - "requests the developed countries to provide" - and then delete "the" to provide appropriate support and financial assistance" - and then to add "to the extent possible", and then otherwise leave the paragraph as it stands. So start with "requests": "requests" then delete "the" after "provide" and after "financial assistance" add "to the extent possible" or "to the possible extent". I leave that to those linguists whose mother tongue is English, because it is not mine.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han de tener en cuenta que este texto pasa al Comité de Redacción y luego vuelve a la Plenaria, de manera que tal vez convendrá atender la sugerión del Comité de Redacción sobre todo en este párrafo 3. Tomamos nota de la sugerión de la República Federal de Alemania. Si no hay ninguna objeción intensa de parte de los miembros de la Comisión y repito, en la Plenaria, la Comisión volverá a ocuparse del texto cuando se presente la parte objetiva del Informe.

¿Párrafo 4? Pasa como está al Comité de Redacción. ¿Párrafo 5? Ningún comentario. ¿Párrafo 7?

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): In fact, we have already said this on several occasions, the Federal Republic of Germany has already said that we are not in favour of additional TCP capacity and I would be in favour of deleting that paragraph.

H.T. JENNINGS (United States of America): My delegation can associate itself with the view just put by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

K. de VEY MESTDAGH (Netherlands): Our delegation as well in Commission II the other day expressed its serious concern about the widening of the scope of the capacities of the Technical Cooperation Programme, so we also do support the idea of deleting this paragraph.

K. SHIOZAWA (Japan): For various reasons which my delegation expressed during the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council and in this Commission II, my delegation has difficulty in supporting the establishment of a new category of TCP. Accordingly, I would like to express that my delegation entirely supports the suggestion made by the Federal Republic of Germany.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would like to state that it opposes very strongly the deletion of this paragraph and I believe many other delegations are opposed to the deletion of this paragraph.

M.A. COMMINS (Australia): We also would like to join the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America, Netherlands and Japan in proposing the deletion of paragraph 7. Our views on this subject have already been expressed in this Commission and just to confirm, we could not support the inclusion of paragraph 7.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): Como ha expresado la Delegación de Filipinas nos oponemos firmemente a que este párrafo se suprima ya que es el corazón de la Resolución. Debo recordarles a todos que en el Informe del Consejo, en su 88º período de sesiones, quedó aprobado por parte del Consejo la constitución de esta nueva categoría, y en ese sentido, el Informe recoge también que ciertos miembros, una parte minoritaria del Consejo, rechazaron el establecimiento de esta nueva categoría. De manera que si estos miembros desean reiterar el rechazo y sus argumentaciones lo podrían hacer en nota a pie de página.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous ne sommes pas étonnés que ceux qui n'ont pas appuyé le PCT pendant les discussions puissent saisir cette occasion pour réaffirmer leur opposition. Cela est tout à fait légitime. Mais ceux-là sont minoritaires. Ceux qui, comme nous, ont appuyé le PCT sont la majorité. C'est la raison pour laquelle dans le rapport que nous avons adopté ce matin nous nous sommes exprimés au nom de la majorité. Il serait malsain de faire disparaître le paragraphe 7. La seule solution qui reste à la minorité est de faire une note en bas de page disant qu'elle ne s'est pas associée au contenu du paragraphe 7.

O.R. da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I hope we are not going to have a general debate on the merits of the TCP again. I think that paragraph 7 is a fundamental feature of this resolution and to some extent paragraph 7 gives support to paragraph 6 in the sense that it gives more meaning to the requests by the Director-General. So both paragraphs are linked. We consider that paragraph 7 is an essential paragraph and we think that it should be retained.

J.S. NIELSEN (Denmark): We consider this paragraph to be a rather unfortunate one, because it combines on the one side a couple of elements which I think everyone can support, that is the catalytic function of the TCP and TCDC. But on the other side it supports and recommends the establishment of an additional new category which quite a few member countries cannot support and it goes for Denmark too, as we said the other day based on a joint Nordic statement some days earlier. I think the easiest solution would be to delete this paragraph and I would actually go against the encouragement that we have had recently for a proliferation of footnotes. I think it is a bad tendency in this Commission.

Srta. M. E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Atendiendo a su solicitud seré muy breve. Nosotros nos unimos a lo que expresó el Delegado de México y nos oponemos firmemente a que ese párrafo no sea considerado en el Proyecto de Resolución. Mi Delegación, igual que otras muchas delegaciones, cuando analizamos el PCT apoyamos la creación de esta nueva categoría y al incorporarla en este punto 7 de la Resolución estamos dándole vida, asimismo, a la solicitud que nosotros hicimos.

R.F. DE JESUS NETO (Angola): Je prends la parole pour réaffirmer la position de mon pays qui a été exposée en séance plénière, c'est-à-dire que nous donnons notre plein appui au paragraphe 7.

P. PIOTET (France): Je crois que ce paragraphe 7 est important. Il a donné lieu à des discussions approfondies et je ne pense pas qu'on puisse purement et simplement le passer sous silence. Je pense qu'il faudrait surtout maintenir la substance de ce paragraphe. Peut-être est-ce une question de rédaction. Je ne me hasarderai pas à faire ici une proposition de rédaction mais on pourrait dire, dans un premier temps, que le Comité "prend note de la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets" et qu'il "encourage la coopération économique et technique" - la suite sans changement.

El PRESIDENTE: El delegado de Francia, que además es miembro del Comité de Redacción, ha hecho una propuesta, que naturalmente se anota.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Tal como lo hemos venido manifestando en innumerables ocasiones, la delegación de Panamá considera que el CEPD y el CTPD es uno de los principales pilares en el establecimiento de un nuevo orden económico internacional y que, en este orden de cosas, el PCT desempeña un papel primordial y básico.

Además, mi país apoyó firmemente la nueva categoría, por lo cual no podemos aceptar que se quite este párrafo.

Por esta razón, apoyamos lo manifestado por Filipinas, México, Congo, Brasil y El Salvador.

EL PRESIDENTE: Es mi deber conceder la palabra a diez colegas que están inscritos todavía, pero les ruego que tengan en cuenta lo que hemos convenido: que será el Comité de Redacción el que luego nos presente una versión definitiva.

Les ruego que sean breves, por favor.

M.A. QADIR (Pakistan): In my brief intervention I would like to state that my delegation is totally opposed to the deletion of paragraph 7, as suggested by certain delegates in this house.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Je serai extrêmement bref. Je prends la parole tout juste pour dire qu'à l'instar d'autres délégations, nous nous opposons fermement à la suppression de cet article, qui est d'une grande importance.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Nosotros queremos expresar que comprendemos la preocupación de algunos delegados que se oponen a este párrafo. Sin embargo, queremos coincidir específicamente con México y Brasil en dos cosas muy importantes que se han dicho aquí.

La categoría de proyectos PCT está aprobada ya por el Consejo. Luego, entonces, puede incluirse perfectamente aquí. Además, creemos que este párrafo es la consecuencia directa y complementaria del párrafo c), como dijo la delegación de Brasil. Creo que no podemos eliminar este párrafo de esta resolución porque le quitaríamos sentido total a la última parte de la misma.

S. SAKO (Côte-d'Ivoire): Comme les délégués membres du groupe des 77 qui m'ont précédé, je m'oppose à la suppression du paragraphe 7.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Ma délégation, au cours des discussions antérieures, a donné son point de vue sur le Programme de coopération technique. Nous sommes pour le maintien du paragraphe 7 tel qu'il est formulé dans le projet de résolution contenu dans le document C 85/LIM/26.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Our delegation also supports the statements by Mexico, Brazil and Cuba. We are strongly opposed to the deletion of the new category and we support the present form of paragraph 7.

Sra. M. BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Como vemos, nuestra delegación, al igual que otras, se opone a la supresión de este párrafo. La mayoría de los estados miembros hemos apoyado la creación de esta nueva categoría de proyectos en el PCT. Por lo tanto, consideramos el párrafo 7 un párrafo esencial, que debe continuar en la última parte de la resolución.

H. MENDS (Ghana): It is rather surprising that in paragraph 3 where we were urging the developed countries to assist financially in the attainment of ECDC, TCDC and TCP objectives the words sounded rather harsh. Some funding must be sought somewhere and I believe this can best be done in paragraph 7 and it is here that we are being requested to drop. So if we drop paragraph 7 we might as well forget about the resolution. I therefore strongly oppose the deletion of paragraph 7.

R. MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Colombia): La delegación de mi país considera que el párrafo 7 es un párrafo fundamental al autorizar una nueva categoría de proyectos del PCT, que no debe suprimirse. Apoyamos lo expuesto por México y por otras delegaciones, pero, por otra parte, nuestra delegación quiere hacerse eco de lo expuesto por Francia de conservar la sustancia del párrafo 7, y propone la siguiente enmienda que ojalá satisfaga las inquietudes de los países desarrollados.

La enmienda sería la siguiente: En lugar de "apoya el establecimiento de una nueva categoría de proyectos en el PCT ...", "acoge con beneplácito la decisión del Consejo de crear una nueva categoría de proyectos".

Someto a la consideración de la Comisión esta enmienda.

A. EL-SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I wish to' add my voice to those who have requested the maintenance of this paragraph aiming at the promotion of TCDC and ECDC and especially that my country had supported the creation of this new category.

S. SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je serai également bref. Nous nous opposons totalement à la suppression du paragraphe 7, compte tenu notamment du fait que le Conseil a appuyé la création d'une nouvelle catégorie de projets. Le paragraphe 7 est donc le paragraphe le plus important de ce projet de résolution.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): In common with a number of other delegations the wording of paragraph 7 as it stands causes us some difficulties. We did not consider that the case for the use of TCP funds had been approved in the documentation that we had been given. However, the substance of this paragraph is important. The activities referred to have an important role to play in institution building. We hope it will be possible to find a text which will avoid footnotes and we can certainly see that it is undesirable - repeat, undesirable - to drop this paragraph altogether. We certainly could support a text on the lines proposed by France or alternatively a text which supported the provisional funding by FAO without any reference to its source. I suggest that such a text could strengthen the resolution in that it would give much broader scope for action rather than simply limiting it to the TCP. It would also recognize implicitly the decision that had been taken about TCP but at the same time recognize that there are other sources of funding which could equally well be applied to this very vital activity.

Mme Maria de LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation de mon pays, qui s'était déjà déclarée favorable à ce paragraphe, s'oppose elle aussi à la suppression du paragraphe 7 de la présente résolution.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): The Austrian delegation has already expressed the Austrian view on the creation of a new category of TCP quite clearly both at the Council meeting and here and we are against deletion of this paragraph.

J.I. JIJON-FREILE (Ecuador): En verdad el consenso es lo ideal. Asimismo, es ideal que no existan pies de páginas, ni notas aclaratorias, ni reservas, pero no por esto podemos sacrificar la esencia de la resolución.

El Ecuador se manifiesta por el mantenimiento del párrafo 7 y porque no sea alterado en su sustancia de ninguna manera.

H. HRISTOMANOV (Yugoslavia): Our delegation supports the suggestion of Mexico and many other delegations to have paragraph 7 in the document.

Ms F.H. JAWHAR HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): I would like to say that we are against the deletion of this paragraph. It represents the very quintessence of the activities referred to. Of course all this has been elaborated on at length elsewhere, and some delegations it is true have already highlighted the need to keep paragraph 7. Perhaps an answer would be to amend the text slightly. If anyone has any other amendments to propose they could always put them in writing and these could be studied without of course tinkering with the essence of the paragraph.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): Paragraph 7 is of fundamental importance to this resolution and we therefore support the Philippines, Mexico and others who have opposed the deletion of the paragraph.

M-A. FREDETTE (Canada): To be consistent with the position my delegation took at the Council and earlier in this Commission we would like to join many other delegations who have expressed concern with paragraph 7. I would like in particular to refer to the remarks of the representative of Denmark in that we too have a little difficulty with some of the ultimate objectives to be served by this paragraph, but are mainly concerned with the fact that it concerns the TCP and its disbursement. We have expressed our views at length I think on this earlier on other items of the Commission and that is what we would like to repeat.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): Para que la última voz del tema no sea una voz que se oponga al párrafo 7 o al artículo 7 de esta resolución, queremos reiterar nuestro apoyo a la resolución en su conjunto y en particular a este artículo 7 que consideramos vital para el apoyo a la CEPD dentro del marco de la FAO. Si nosotros no pusiéramos este tipo de articulado en una resolución sobre CEPD y CTPD, estaríamos cometiendo el error que siempre estamos criticando y que es el de no hacer propuestas concretas sobre el PCT.

Reiteramos en este sentido nuestro apoyo a la resolución y en particular a este artículo 7.

H. ÖĞÜT (Turkey): As was mentioned by Brazil and others, paragraph 7 is the most fundamental one in the resolution. It is an action oriented paragraph and therefore we are against its deletion from the resolution. After having seen the position of some delegations, however, and in order to avoid any footnotes to this end, we suggest that we consider a new beginning to the paragraph along the lines proposed by France, but we also propose that the new wording should be found by the Drafting Committee so we should defer the job to the Drafting Committee.

Mlle F. BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Je prends juste la parole pour signifier notre totale adhésion au paragraphe 7 et pour dire que l'Algérie appuie totalement ce paragraphe et est contre cette suppression.

A.L. TANIS (Haïti): Je n'ai pas l'intention de répéter ce que j'ai eu à dire lors de mes interventions antérieures. A l'instar de beaucoup d'autres délégations, la République d'Haïti s'oppose à la suppression de ce paragraphe 7 qui constitue l'essentiel du texte.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, para conocimiento y manejo posterior del Comité de Redacción, a la Presidencia le parece evidente el hecho de que la mayoría de los miembros de la Comisión está a favor de que se mantenga el actual párrafo 7 o por lo menos su contenido esencial.

Estoy igualmente seguro de que todos deseamos mantener el espíritu de cooperación en que hemos venido trabajando y, por lo tanto, sería deseable que se lograra un acuerdo sobre este punto.

A la luz de esas consideraciones, creo que lo más conveniente es dar traslado de este asunto al Comité de Redacción, teniendo en cuenta algunos elementos fundamentales que fueron señalados, tales como el hecho de que aquí se trata de una decisión del Consejo y también de que hay propuestas, sobre todo de Francia, Colombia y Reino Unido, cuyas orientaciones podrían contribuir a lograr un acuerdo en el Comité de Redacción. Estoy seguro de que, una vez más, esta Comisión confía en la habilidad y competencia del señor Jennings y de sus compañeros miembros de ese Comité.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de ustedes, vamos así a concluir esta parte final del tema 13.

15. Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83: Plant Genetic Resources

15. Suites données aux résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 de la Conférence: Ressources phylogénétiques

15. Aplicación de las resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83 de la Conferencia: Recursos fitogenéticos

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Document C 85/24 submitted to the Conference on the follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on Plant Genetic Resources is in line with Article 11 of the undertaking requesting regular reporting on the achievement of its objectives. The document before you briefly records the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and reviews the results of the First session of the Commission as well as the recommendations emanating from it. The follow-up action of these recommendations is briefly described and the document at the end discusses developments with respect to the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources. I would also like to draw your attention to the report of the first session of the Commission, FAO document CPGR/85/REP. The membership of the Commission has been growing steadily and has now reached 77 Member Nations. The Commission notes in the report of its First session that the membership today provided a positive basis upon which to begin its work, but considered the participation of additional countries - especially those holding important genetic resources - to be urgently needed. I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the work of the Commission has proved to be very useful and effective in facing the various issues raised, in a proper perspective, and in identifying steps for further progress. Consequently on behalf of the Director-General I would like to urge Member Nations that have not yet done so to become members of the Commission.

As recommended by the Commission the Secretariat is currently conducting a study on the reservations expressed by certain countries with respect to adherence to the undertaking. The results of the study will be submitted for discussion and advice to the Working Group of the Commission which will meet in February 1986.

On the other recommendations of the Commission, follow-up activities have been initiated. Of special importance is the in-depth review of the legal status of base collections, in particular with respect to the free exchange of plant genetic resources. It should be noted that the various institutions contacted have generally offered their full cooperation to the study.

While most of the plant genetic resource activities by the Secretariat are carried out within the Agriculture Department, matters dealing with in situ conservation are handled by the Forestry Department. Activities on in situ conservation are carried out in close cooperation with other international bodies such as UNESCO and UNEP. Work on the International Information System will intensify if the Director-General's proposal for this in the Programme of Work and Budget is approved, as you have just done this morning.

Finally, document C 85/24 also informs the Conference about developments with respect to the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources to up-date the information contained in the document, I have to report that the Committee of the Consultative Group in International Agricultural Research met in September and accepted with some reluctance the argument put forward by the Technical Advisory Committee that the IBPGR should be restructured into a small but fully autonomous institution separate from but in close association with FAO. The mandate of the restructured IBPGR should be flexible enough to enable IBPGR to provide any required technical support to FAO and particularly to the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources.

The Chairman of the CGIAR saw the Director-General in mid-October to seek his views on these recommendations which would be discussed in the CGIAR meeting preceding this FAO Conference. The Director-General reiterated that he had continuously insisted on the need for close links between IBPGR and FAO and in his opinion the present arrangements served this purpose best.

The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in its First session has urged that FAO and the bodies involved give particular attention to the formal and working relationship between FAO and the IBPGR, the role which the latter could play in implementing the Undertaking, and the manner in which any duplication and overlap with FAO activities could be avoided. The Director-General therefore requested the CGIAR to let him have their proposals for further development in writing to enable him to consult on the required changes with the FAO governing bodies. The CGIAR further discussed this matter during its meeting on 28 October to 1 November and requested its Chairman to prepare a respective proposal to be submitted to the Director-General. This proposal should provide for flexibility in order to arrive at the most productive solution and to ensure closest collaboration of the IBPGR with FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias al doctor Bommer; a través de su excelente disertación usted no solamente ha hecho referencia a estos dos documentos, sino que también ha actualizado y medido adecuadamente los últimos acontecimientos, todo lo cual espero que sea de utilidad para la participación de los miembros de la Comisión en este debate.

J.R. LOPEZ PORTILLO ROMANO (México): En primer lugar deseamos agradecer al Dr. Bommer la presentación que ha hecho del tema.

Se ha reconocido universalmente que los recursos fitogenéticos son un patrimonio de la humanidad y que deben estar libremente disponibles para ponerse al servicio y para el beneficio de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

El amplio apoyo que ha merecido el Compromiso Internacional y la extendida membresía de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, así como las importantes recomendaciones y programas de trabajo establecidos representan un buen inicio. Lamentamos que varios países no se hayan unido todavía a los trabajos de la Comisión y no se hayan adherido al Compromiso Internacional. Los invitamos a que con toda honestidad intelectual nos indiquen en forma concreta los puntos oscuros y los de divergencia. México está dispuesto a colaborar para superar tales inconvenientes y promover la participación de todos en este altruista esfuerzo.

La Conferencia debe reiterar su llamado a los Estados Miembros a que se adhieran al Compromiso y se unan a la Comisión. Asimismo, instamos a la FAO a que nos presente las alternativas para que en un futuro se puedan unir a las labores del grupo de trabajo de la Comisión estados no miembros de nuestra Organización y que eventualmente se puedan adherir también al Compromiso Internacional.

Históricamente las diversas civilizaciones han dependido o han creado cientos de miles de especies y de variedades vegetales para su sustento diario, para su salud y su higiene, para su vestido, para su habitación, para su iluminación y energía, para la obtención de sus colores y sus químicos, para su magia y religión, para sus industrias y sus guerras, para sus símbolos y su progreso en general. En suma, para la armonía y estabilidad entre su geografía, su sociedad y su cultura.

La diversidad genética ha permitido amortizar cambios en el medio ambiente, resistir a enfermedades y plagas y elevar la productividad. Constituye, por tanto, una pieza insustituible para poder alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria presente y futura. Sin embargo, el concepto de civilización y desarrollo occidentales y fundamentalmente el avasallamiento económico y cultural que ha implicado el proceso de modernización de la agricultura y los hábitos alimenticios, inclusive desde hace varios siglos, han inducido a que actualmente se reduzca de manera muy importante el número de especies y variedades cultivadas.

En el caso de plantas comestibles, por ejemplo, de decenas de miles de especies cultivadas históricamente, en el presente prevalecen apenas poco más de cien, de las cuales doce proporcionan casi la totalidad de la alimentación humana y sólo cuatro constituyen más de las tres cuartas partes.

El avasallamiento cultural y económico ha inducido cambios estructurales en el consumo de alimentos y plantas y, en consecuencia, en los cultivos, ha expulsado población rural y ha marginado zonas de agricultura tradicional o de producción estable en favor de aquellas de alta producción ligadas al comercio de exportación o urbano.

En muchos casos, en la actualidad ello ha inducido el deterioro general de la producción agrícola y aumentado aún más la dependencia y el déficit alimentario.

Por otro lado, la abrumadora desaparición de los hábitat de muchas especies, así como los procesos de desertificación y deforestación y la propia presión socioeconómica y demográfica han contribuido también a la erosión de la diversidad genética. Cuántas veces los bosques tropicales de los países en desarrollo se han reducido en forma que no se ha podido detener; inclusive quizás en este último siglo hemos perdido más de la mitad de dichas reservas.

En este contexto las especies y las variedades que han sido fundamentalmente rescatadas y conservadas, los lugares donde se ha decidido ubicarlas y aun los procesos de selección, evaluación, multiplicación y mejora han respondido prioritariamente a intereses comerciales globales a costa de los de interés local y social.

En este sentido, el sistema prevaleciente ha tomado decisiones que tienen un carácter político dadas sus consecuencias económicas, esto es así, al ubicar la mayor parte de las colecciones base ex-situ en países desarrollados, a pesar de que la abrumadora mayoría de germoplasma proviene de países en desarrollo que contienen las zonas de diversidad genética y de que resulta mucho más costoso mantenerla en países industrializados. Además ha concentrado su atención principalmente en la multiplicación y conservación de las especies y variedades de interés comercial.

El área que el CIRF abarca se refiere fundamentalmente a colecciones base ex-situ y a plantas comestibles, fundamentalmente las más comercializadas. Cabe mencionar que en el caso de México no existe una oferta adecuada de semillas para la agricultura de temporal y las que existen requieren de un obligado paquete tecnológico de alto costo. En efecto, las variedades mejoradas, las nuevas semillas al ser promovidas y aplicadas por las grandes empresas semilleras en los países en desarrollo, conllevan muy frecuentemente la necesidad de depender de fertilizantes, plaguicidas, sistemas de riego, de cosecha, de procesamiento, maquinaria agrícola y de procesos de industrialización, inclusive de mercadeo y consumo que por lo general está en manos de intereses extranjeros y compañías transnacionales.

Por otra parte, subrayamos que los recursos fitogenéticos colectados en cualquier país del mundo y almacenados ex-situ pasan a ser propiedad legal del centro o del país en que se encuentra el banco de germoplasma, donde se almacenan, independientemente de su procedencia original. Las colecciones almacenadas en centros nacionales están bajo jurisdicción nacional y no pueden garantizar la libre disponibilidad, a pesar de las declaraciones de buena fe. También las colecciones almacenadas en los centros del Grupo Consultivo de Investigaciones Agrícolas Internacionales, parecen ser propiedad de cada centro y estar bajo la jurisdicción de su Consejo de Administración.

Es por ello indispensable el estudio jurídico sobre dicha propiedad, como lo recomienda la Comisión. También es necesario precisar las alternativas legales que hagan operativas las ofertas debancos de germoplasma y de duplicados en una red internacional de colecciones base de germoplasma bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO, como lo precisa el artículo 7/1/a del Compromiso Internacional.

Es indispensable fomentar el que voluntariamente el mayor número posible de bancos de germoplasma acepten ser custodios y no propietarios de las colecciones base depositadas bajo su responsabilidad por la Comunidad Internacional. Creemos conveniente también que la FAO impulse el establecimiento de Comités Nacionales que coordinen las actividades relativas a los recursos fitogenéticos dentro de su territorio, así como que cree Comités Regionales tales como el del Sudeste Asiático constituido por el CIRF.

En estas circunstancias el camino que estamos emprendiendo en la FAO no busca afectar, duplicar, competir o sustituir lo que ya se ha hecho internacionalmente, sino incorporarlo en tanto sea en beneficio de todos. Abarca áreas complementarias y diversas. No se limita a ciertas plantas y variedades para la alimentación, con una preferente orientación comercial, ni sólo a colecciones base ex-situ. Por el contrario, consiste en un esfuerzo cualitativamente distinto, comprensivo, y cuyo primer objetivo es la preservación y conservación del tesoro de la humanidad que representan los recursos fitogenéticos a través de colecciones base ex-situ e in-situ. Ese esfuerzo y las decisiones respectivas corresponden a todos los países por igual, así como sus beneficios. Recordemos que los países en desarrollo somos donadores de la mayor parte del germoplasma.

El camino que hemos emprendido busca, además, extender la capacitación a los países en desarrollo, no sólo para el mantenimiento de colecciones base ex-situ e in-situ, sino para el uso y aplicación de los recursos genéticos. Busca, asimismo, hacer disponible información y promover la investigación sobre especies y variedades que respondan mejor a la geografía, economía, sociedad y cultura de todos los países, particularmente del mundo en desarrollo. México le otorga toda la importancia a la conservación in-situ de los recursos fitogenéticos y a su utilización con respaldo en los conocimientos técnicos y científicos requeridos. Apoyamos, por tanto, y conforme al artículo octavo del Compromiso Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos la constitución del Fondo Internacional de Recursos Genéticos que promueva la consecución de estos objetivos, e instamos al Director General a que estudie las posibilidades de su establecimiento en el seno de la FAO.

Dicho Fondo debería estar basado, así lo pensamos nosotros, en contribuciones libres y voluntarias de parte de gobiernos, empresas, institutos, organizaciones internacionales, organizaciones no gubernamentales e individuos. Las aportaciones podrían ser también deductibles de impuestos.

Por otra parte, la excelencia técnica y científica del CIRF, sus objetivos declarados y su carácter asesor lo deben hacer un aliado de las mejores causas de sus propios postulados. Esperamos que se unan plenamente a los trabajos de la Comisión. Pedimos al Director General de la FAO que estudie, en virtud de la recomendación de la Comisión en cuanto a las relaciones FAO/CIRF, la posibilidad de que el CIRF en su carácter técnico y científico forme parte de la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en tanto órgano asesor. Al decir esto subrayamos la importancia de que el CIRF modifique sus actividades a fin de que, además de sus trabajos relacionados con el mejoramiento de plantas y la creación de semillas comerciales, se dedique a los recursos fitogenéticos de alimentos básicos y haga extensiva la investigación, evaluación y utilización de recursos genéticos. Esto permitirá un trabajo más cooperativo del CIRF con la Comisión.

Por otro lado, los problemas de la conservación e intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos nativos, silvestres, semidomesticados y domesticados merecen, a la luz de las actuales circunstancias y resistencias, un examen más detallado. Si bien es a todas luces deseable y conveniente para todos que el intercambio sea completo y gratuito a través de la red internacional de bancos de germoplasma, no debemos descuidar ni olvidar el hecho de que hasta ahora los mayores y casi exclusivos beneficiarios de todo este proceso han sido las empresas transnacionales. Esto nos lleva a la necesidad de impulsar programas de conservación y de aplicación o uso en los países en desarrollo. Hoy por hoy los países dueños originarios de los recursos fitogenéticos nos vemos obligados a pagar por nuestro material genético que viene de los centros de los países industrializados.

Dadas las circunstancias prevaecientes, estamos urgidos, por tanto, de una precisa evaluación y alternativa de carácter legal que permitan fijar los términos en los cuales se otorga el uso de los recursos fitogenéticos de los países de origen para el desarrollo de variedades comerciales.

D. MARSICO (Argentina): Con referencia a este tema tan debatido y sobre el que se han vertido opiniones a veces discordantes por diversos países, especialmente por algún aspecto de mayor interés y repercusión futura, nosotros consideramos que al tema le corresponde un análisis objetivo y en profundidad que contemple claramente los derechos, las obligaciones, y las

consecuencias de cada proyecto. Debemos tener en cuenta que algunos países poseen ya a este respecto legislaciones más o menos complejas que intentan salvaguardar los recursos fitogenéticos existentes o en vías de creación. Debemos señalar que entre los recursos hay que considerar por ejemplo que el compromiso incluye también materias de ciertas características que difícilmente podrán encontrarse en un futuro para libre disposición y esto debe ser tenido en cuenta para evitar resistencias y acortar los pasos. Doy como ejemplo algunos puntos y especialmente el que se refiere, en el compromiso, del punto 2.1 a 5 que tiene su influencia en distintos países. Para afianzarnos en las directrices correctas, correspondería analizar con sumo cuidado las observaciones presentadas por los países y las reservas hechas por quienes, en principio, han decidido apoyar el compromiso. Esto creo que sería de interés para todos. Hace falta disponer de una nómina actualizada de países que aceptaron el compromiso y de las observaciones y reservas efectuadas. Solicitamos que la Secretaría lo prepare, a la brevedad posible, y lo distribuya entre los países. Esto es una posibilidad que ya se había solicitado en reuniones precedentes sobre el tema de recursos genéticos.

Asimismo es importante, según nuestro punto de vista, que se logre acercar e incorporar también a los países que tienen gran significación en el manejo de recursos fitogenéticos.

La labor de la FAO en cuanto a recursos fitogenéticos debiera continuar en estrecha colaboración con el CIRF, evitando cualquier tipo de duplicación innecesaria sobre creación de comisiones.

Finalmente, deseamos señalar que para nosotros es muy importante que la FAO siga muy de cerca las actividades del UPOV, que funciona en Ginebra, y establezca estrecha colaboración con esta entidad y con el OMPI en cuanto a la evolución que deben seguir las propias instituciones en la producción y creación de variedades. Ello puede tener suma importancia y significativas derivaciones para este programa de recursos fitogenéticos de la FAO y sus respectivos compromisos.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): At the outset, the Bangladesh delegation wishes to congratulate Dr Bommer for his brilliant and concise introduction of this important item on the follow-up of Conference resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on Plant Genetic Resources. Our delegation would also like to express its sincere appreciation to the Director-General and the Secretariat of FAO on the expeditious follow-up action already taken and progress made in the implementation of these two Conference resolutions on Plant Genetic Resources.

My delegation took an active part in the discussions and the final adoption of these two resolutions by the Conference at its 22nd Session. Further, in response to the invitation by the Director-General, our country immediately subscribed to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and also became a Member of the Commission and Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources. We also actively participated in the proceedings of the First Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and contributed to the decisions taken in that session. We therefore reiterate our full support for the decisions and recommendations of the First Session of the Commission and the Programme of Work of the Commission. We also give our full support to the Programme of Work of the Working Group established by the Commission.

As is well known to all of us, plant genetic resources are the heritage of mankind and should be used for the welfare and benefit of all mankind. Therefore the adoption of the resolutions on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was a historic decision. Their follow-up and implementation, with the cooperation of all countries and all organizations, will ensure the proper conservation, development and utilization of plant genetic resources for the benefit of all humanity and for the improvement of world food security.

In this connection, my delegation would like to state that although the response of a number of countries who have actually subscribed to the International Undertaking and who have joined the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is quite encouraging, nevertheless universal participation in that

undertaking by all countries and organizations concerned in the matter is essential to ensure the comprehensiveness of the global system of the undertaking for the well-being of mankind. We would therefore ask all those countries who have not yet subscribed to the Undertaking and not yet joined the Commission to do so as soon as possible.

My delegation is pleased to note and welcomes the establishment of the Task Force within FAO to undertake the coordinated follow-up actions on the recommendations to the Commission. We also fully agree with the views that the legal aspects of the matter should be studied, to ensure that plant genetic resources are made available to all those who require them and to determine the ownership of the base collections stored in the International Agricultural Research Consultative Group Centre (CGIAR).

We also support the view that under the supervision of FAO a network of base collections of germplasm should be established as early as possible. The Bangladesh delegation also reiterates its full support for the establishment of an International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources, as suggested by Mexico. In this connection, my delegation, while recognizing the valuable work and contribution of the IBPGR in the area, strongly feels that the scientific and technical nature of the work will complement the efforts of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. In order to ensure complementarity and effectiveness and to avoid overlapping, it is essential that the IBPGR remains within FAO and continues to cooperate closely with the work of the Commission and, if necessary, the related agreement may be amended for this purpose.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Permítame antes de nada agradecer al Dr. Bommer su valiosa presentación de este tema.

La insistencia de nuestro país en la conservación, preservación y libre distribución de los recursos fitogenéticos del mundo no se debe al capricho o consideraciones de tipo sentimental. Ello, por el contrario, obedece a razones extremadamente prácticas a las cuales concedemos una importancia prioritaria. Yes que, en efecto, mientras de una parte conocemos las valiosas características que poseen muchos de los mencionados recursos, su inmenso potencial genético, su enorme valor intrínseco y lo que los mismos seguramente representan para el futuro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial, por la otra, las consideramos herencia común de la humanidad, patrimonio de la misma, razón por la cual estimamos que debe asegurarse su acceso sin restricciones y para fines agrícolas a todos los países, independientemente de dónde dichos recursos se encuentren.

Es debido a tales razones, entre otras, que nuestro país, Panamá, no sólo apoyó y acogió la Resolución 8/83 emanada del 22º período de sesiones de la Conferencia, por la cual se adoptó el Compromiso Internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos sino que también aceptó, de manera rápida y entusiasta, la invitación del Director General para ser miembros de la Comisión que el Consejo había establecido mediante su Resolución 1|85, tal como le fuese solicitado por la Conferencia a través de la Resolución 9/83.

Asimismo, Panamá es uno de los países que integran el Grupo de Trabajo de la antes citada Comisión. Es dentro de este contexto, y por la gran importancia que se le concede a este tema, que la delegación de Panamá desea, en primer lugar, destacar su participación entusiasta y optimista en la primera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y, en este marco de referencias, reiterar su apoyo firme y decidido, no sólo a las recomendaciones emanadas de la mencionada reunión, sino también al programa de trabajo de la Comisión en cuestión, lo mismo que a su Presidente, el distinguido Embajador Dr. Mottola Balestra, de nuestra hermana y vecina República de Costa Rica.

Deseamos, asimismo, expresar todo nuestro apoyo a la creación de actividades concernientes al Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, al cual, como ya hemos expresado, tenemos el honor de pertenecer.

A nuestra delegación le resulta difícil comprender el porqué importantes y decisivos Estados Miembros, la presencia de los cuales en estas actividades, a nuestro juicio, sería

importante, no se han adherido al Compromiso o, por lo menos, no hacen parte de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos; aunque sea para - como manifestara en reciente ocasión el distinguido Embajador Dr. Mottola - participar en el diálogo, y cito: "Para decir que no están de acuerdo, pero explicando el por qué no lo están". Nosotros estamos convencidos que dichos países cumplen funciones fundamentales en el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos, por lo que se hace necesario que se unan a trabajar con nosotros, con la seguridad de que sabríamos apreciar muy sinceramente sus contribuciones positivas.

La Delegación de Panamá, como siempre hemos manifestado, cree en el diálogo, estima que todos los conflictos o motivos de disidencia, por difíciles o extremos que parezcan, pueden solucionarse con el diálogo sincero y honesto. Por tales motivos, invitamos a esos países a dialogar, a que se nos explique de manera clara, precisa, sin ambigüedades o sutilezas, cuáles son los motivos de su disidencia. Así, estamos convencidos que encontraremos las soluciones que les permitirán asociarse cuanto antes a estas actividades de manera, de eso también estamos seguros, positiva y constructiva.

Nuestra Delegación desea hacerles un cordial y respetuoso llamado para que se asocien a nosotros y podamos dialogar. De lo contrario, de no aceptar ese diálogo, y con el ánimo de ser realistas, no sólo lamentaremos que el Compromiso no será lo completo que deseamos, sino que tendríamos que manifestar nuestra preocupación por las oscuras causas de tal negativa. Somos, sin embargo, optimistas y estamos convencidos de que ello no será así y que pronto estaremos dialogando para eliminar las causas que hoy nos ubican en posiciones diferentes, tal como se ha logrado con otros países.

A este respecto, mi Delegación desea manifestar su sincera satisfacción por el hecho de que al momento de la celebración de la primera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, el número de adhesiones o de expresiones de apoyo al Compromiso Internacional había aumentado de 74 a 76 y de que, desde la celebración de la citada reunión a hoy, el número de miembros de la Comisión se había incrementado de 67 a 79. A tal propósito, acogemos con complacencia el ingreso en la Comisión de las distinguidas delegaciones de Italia y Trinidad y Tabago. Estimamos que éstas son actitudes positivas -que deben imitarse, razón por la cual invitamos a otros Estados a seguir su ejemplo.

Deseamos también expresar al Sr. Director General nuestro reconocimiento por la labor que realiza a fin de que se adhieran al Compromiso aquellos países que todavía no lo han hecho, y le instamos a que continúe haciéndolo con su habitual dinamismo. Exhortamos asimismo a los países que han formulado reservas a partes concretas del Compromiso a que comprendan y aprecien los esfuerzos que en tal sentido se realizan y que, al encontrarse soluciones a sus preocupaciones, puedan adherirse al mismo sin reservas.

De la misma manera expresamos nuestra esperanza de que puedan encontrarse lo más rápidamente posible las alternativas que permitan la participación de países no miembros de la FAO.

Por lo que respecta a los aspectos relacionados con el Consejo Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos (CIRF), mi delegación considera importante el promover la participación técnica y científica del CIRF en el programa de trabajo de la Comisión, evitando toda duplicación o superposición de actividades con la FAO. A este respecto, estimamos oportuno apoyar, ya que compartimos plenamente dicho concepto, cuanto expresase en reciente ocasión la distinguida delegación de España en el sentido de que tanto el CIRF como la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos son totalmente complementarios, por lo que no existe un riesgo de duplicación, ya que el uno es un cuerpo técnico y la otra un cuerpo político.

La delegación de Panamá desea también en este contexto, apoyar la opinión de la FAO en relación con el hecho de que no conviene que el Consejo Internacional se convierta en un centro plenamente independiente, ajeno a la Organización, ya que consideramos correcto que la FAO siga apoyándolo, en el marco del acuerdo existente.

Estimamos oportuno, además, apoyar la iniciativa tendente a la realización de un estudio de carácter jurídico, con la finalidad de tener elementos y criterios para poder, legalmente, garantizar la libre disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos y determinar la propiedad de las colecciones almacenadas en el Centro del Grupo Consultivo sobre Investigación Agrícola Internacional (GCAI).

Nuestra delegación concede un muy particular interés tanto a la creación de una red de colecciones base de germoplasma bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO, tal como se recomienda en el Artículo 7.1.a) del Compromiso, cuanto al establecimiento de un fondo internacional para la preservación y conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos, razón por la cual apoyamos tales sugerencias.

Para terminar, deseamos apoyar en todas sus partes la declaración de la delegación de México.

M.A. FREDETTE (Canada): My delegation first wishes to emphasize and put on record that, despite the impression created by the report on the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council, I am referring here to paragraphs 26 to 31 of document CL88/REP/1, there is no consensus in either the Council or the Conference on FAO's activities and initiatives in this area.

Neither Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 nor Council Resolution 1/85 were adopted by consensus, as several governments expressed reservations concerning both the International Undertaking and the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

My government, for one, has formally notified the Director-General that it was not joining the Undertaking or the Commission. In this respect and in response to the invitation by our colleagues from Panama and Mexico to explain why we are not joining, my delegation wishes to explain once again the motives underlying this decision. Firstly, the government of Canada has consistently expressed the view that, while it fully supports the principle of conservation and free exchange of plant germplasm, the Undertaking was simply not needed since the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources is already providing an effective system for germplasm research, conservation and exchange. Secondly, with respect to the Commission, apart from additional costs and the risk of duplication with the IBPGR's work, much of the work of the new commission could have been done by the existing FAO Committee on Agriculture.

I am afraid one simply cannot deal intelligently with this issue without a brief review of history and science. I will only take a moment to review the highlights of this complex background and then I would like to outline the Canadian view of the substantive and institutional issues which this Conference now has to deal with in the light of these facts.

Much of the misunderstanding which led to the politicization of this issue comes from an abundance of opinions and a scarcity of factual information on plant breeding. Fact No. one: nature accounts for 90 percent of all plant breeding to this day and most of the balance is the result of movement and manipulation of germplasm by millions of individuals from countless cultures for thousands of years. The work done in research laboratories during the last two centuries accounts for far less than one percent of all plant breeding.

The term "germplasm" itself was only coined by German scientist August Weismann in 1883, and the first attempt to deliberately search for, classify and preserve wild plants and primitive cultivars from around the world goes back to the pioneering work of Nikolai Vavilov as recently as the 1920s.

Fact No. 2: plant germplasm conservation was a prime example of interdependence and apolitical international cooperation. That was precisely the spirit which led the FAO and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research to establish the IBPGR in 1974 as, and I quote from the latter's mandate, "the lead agency in the coordination of efforts to preserve crop germplasm around the world".

Fact No. 3: most of the improved seed distributed in developing countries is from one of the CGIAR's eight crop research centres, all located in the Third World. And it must be noted in this respect that the budget of the CGIAR has increased from US\$ 9 million to US\$ 180 million or 2000 percent between 1971 and 1984. Surely there is here some evidence of good will and support from which agriculture in the Third World has benefited greatly over the past decade.

Despite all this, we now have to deal with the fact that a domain which had been essentially a scientific concern heretofore has become irrevocably politicized. What are the implications? And, where do we go from here?

Despite our objection to certain elements in the Undertaking, Canada agrees to the concept of an internationally coordinated network of base collections and preserved areas. No one objects to the proposition that global gene stocks are the common heritage of Humanity. Indeed, we are very concerned by what the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation has termed "Genetic Erosion". We have always acknowledged the need to protect and preserve the world's gene stocks and diversity, and in fact we see an important role for FAO in this area, particularly as regards in situ conservation.

But the issue for us is essentially an institutional one. The question we ask ourselves is the following: what is the best, the most neutral, the most scientifically adequate mechanism to serve this ultimate interest all countries share? In this respect, surely we all commend, as the FAO Secretariat itself has done, the IBPGR for its scientific accomplishments since its creation, particularly its efficiency and the non-politicized manner in which it has fulfilled its objectives.

The question of legal ownership of germplasm and of base collections, which has been referred to by other delegations, could have serious implications for all the International Agricultural Research Centres which currently act as custodians of much of the germplasm of major world crops. And we are all aware of embargos on certain types of plant germplasm of commercial interest among developing countries themselves.

My delegation believes that it is not too late, however. While we recognize that the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is going ahead with its work despite our reservations and those of other members, we believe the Commission should focus its activities in areas complementing the work of the IBPGR. We are indeed encouraged by the first part of paragraph 12 of document C 85/24 which emphasizes the need to avoid duplication and overlapping between IBPGR and the Commission. On the other hand, paragraph 24 of that same document might indicate a certain lack of cooperation on FAO's part in this matter. Incidentally, if the Director-General feels the need to consult his governing bodies on this matter we will be happy to respond through the Council and the Conference. It must be emphasized, however, that the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and its Working Group cannot be considered governing bodies.

Should the FAO Secretariat find it impossible or undesirable to accommodate the IBPGR's requirements for an independent board with sufficient authority and management flexibility, however, my country would have little choice but to support the conversion of the IBPGR to a small, fully autonomous institution outside of FAO. Even if this came to pass, we would like to see FAO and the IBPGR continue their close association at a technical level.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reaffirm its full support for the CGIAR's current efforts to ensure that IBPGR can continue to address its mandate effectively while hopefully arriving at an understanding with FAO which will serve the mutual interests of all countries both in terms of cost effectiveness and long-term preservation of, and access to, plant genetic resources.

Srta. M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Agradecemos al Sr. Bommer la presentación excelente del tema que nos ocupa.

Sobre la importante cuestión de los recursos fitogenéticos, la delegación de mi país se ha manifestado siempre en forma positiva. Recordará usted que El Salvador formó parte del grupo de trabajo creado por el Comité de Agricultura en su séptimo período de sesiones de marzo de 1983. Somos miembros de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos creada por el Consejo en su 85° período de sesiones y formamos parte ahora del grupo de trabajo establecido por la Comisión en su primera reunión, al que se hace referencia en el párrafo 13 del documento C 85/24.

Nuestra delegación desea ratificar en esta cuestión su total apoyo a las recomendaciones hechas por la Comisión, así como al Informe de la misma. Respaldamos firmemente las actividades pasadas y futuras de esta Comisión, las cuales deben ajustarse a la armonía entre las instituciones existentes y al respeto de los derechos de todos, incluidos los fitomejoradores.

Nos alegra la noticia de la restauración del CIRF a que ha hecho referencia el doctor Bommer en su introducción. El CIRF debe ser un organismo de carácter técnico y científico, complementario a los trabajos de nuestra Comisión. Debemos evitar que se dupliquen el esfuerzo y los recursos.

Deseamos enfatizar el apoyo de nuestra delegación a la realización de un estudio de carácter jurídico que permita contar con elementos y criterios tendentes a garantizar jurídicamente la libre disponibilidad de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Asimismo, la delegación de El Salvador estima que la creación de una red de colecciones a base de germoplasma, bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO, sería un paso positivo, y por ello respaldamos la recomendación sobre la necesidad de darle contenido práctico al artículo 7.1.a) del Compromiso Internacional.

Haciendo eco asimismo a los acuerdos tomados dentro del Grupo de los 77, y con base en el Artículo 8 del Compromiso, instamos a que se estudie la posibilidad de establecer un fondo internacional para la preservación y conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Quisiéramos aprovechar esta ocasión para hacer un firme llamado a los países que aún no forman parte de la Comisión para que participen en sus trabajos. Esta será la única forma en que obtengamos resultados realmente positivos de nuestros esfuerzos, como lo ha dicho anteriormente, el Dr Bommer. Ello permitiría a estos países conocer nuestra posición, nuestras razones, y daría a conocer asimismo sus puntos de vista. Hablando se entiende la gente. Ello permitiría que lograríamos que el Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos sea un verdadero compromiso entre todas las partes -y recalco todas las partes- directamente interesadas en este complejo asunto.

Para concluir, permítame darle el apoyo de la delegación de mi país al contenido del documento C 85/LIM/18, así como a la declaración hecha al inicio de nuestro debate por el distinguido delegado de México.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voulons dire combien nous sommes reconnaissants à M. Bommer de son introduction fort brillante du point 15 de notre ordre du jour. Nous le remercions de ses informations complémentaires aux documents pertinents C 85/24 et C 85/LIM/18, qui portent sur la suite donnée aux résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 de la Conférence sur les ressources phylogénétiques.

Nous nous associons à la déclaration faite par l'ambassadeur du Mexique, qui a repris, en fait, les points de vue de notre Groupe des 77. Nous sommes entièrement solidaires de tous ceux qui ont appuyé les résolutions que je viens d'énoncer.

Nous avons pu, en notre qualité de membre de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques, prendre part à la première session de ladite commission dont les recommandations nous sont soumises, pour l'examen de leur suivi, lors des présentes assises.

Au stade actuel de l'évolution de ce précieux dossier et pour éviter de rouvrir un débat inopportun, nous avons délibérément choisi d'être brefs. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous ne nous arrêterons que sur les principes directeurs de notre position sur cette question.

Nous appuyons les recommandations de la première session de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et nous appelons la Conférence à les faire siennes. Nous réitérons en particulier la recommandation d'exhorter tous les Etats Membres de l'Organisation qui ne sont pas encore membres de la Commission à adhérer massivement à la Commission et à l'Engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques.

Nous estimons que les bases juridiques qui régissent les rapports entre le CIRPG et la FAO - et qui datent, il faut le rappeler, de 1974 - doivent être revues pour tenir compte de la récente création de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et de l'engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques dont l'objectif fondamental vise à garantir à tous Etats le libre accès au patrimoine que sont les ressources phylogénétiques, dans le souci d'éviter le double emploi.

Nous sommes d'accord avec la proposition logique visant à créer un fonds international pour la préservation et la conservation des ressources phylogénétiques en vue de la promotion de la catégorie des activités les concernant.

Nous remercions vivement notre collègue du Canada pour les rappels historiques fort précieux qu'il a bien voulu faire gracieusement aux membres de notre Commission; mais malgré ses aimables précisions, nous persistons à croire que les pays en développement que nous sommes ne trouvent pas encore leur compte, dans le cadre du fonctionnement actuel du CIRPG, en leur qualité de sources d'origine de certaines végétales, car ils ne sont pas bénéficiaires des bienfaits de celles-ci.

Nous nous félicitons de la réaction de la FAO quant à la façon d'envisager ses futures relations complémentaires avec le CIRPG.

C. di MOTTOLA BALESTRA (Costa Rica) y (Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos): Quisiera alegrarme por la brillante presentación que de este tema ha hecho el señor Bommer y, al mismo tiempo, complementarla en la medida de lo posible en mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión, expresando también algunas ideas como delegado de mi país.

La Comisión, como ustedes saben, se reunió en marzo y tenía en aquel tiempo 67 miembros. Desde aquel entonces se han adherido al Compromiso muchos más países. Sólo a fines de julio se acercaban a los 80.

Durante la reunión de la Comisión se acordó la creación de un grupo de trabajo que fue confiado al suscrito, después de consulta con los grupos regionales. El grupo de trabajo comprende veintitrés miembros y su período de sesiones está previsto para fines de febrero. Durante este período la Secretaría está llevando a cabo, de acuerdo también con nosotros, una labor muy intensa de preparación.

Durante el primer período de sesiones de la Comisión se aprobaron numerosas recomendaciones. Hemos acordado con el Sr Bommer dividir el diario del grupo de trabajo en cinco argumentos fundamentales; o sea, las recomendaciones han sido divididas de acuerdo con el contenido. Hay temas de carácter jurídico que son tal vez los principales; otros de carácter técnico; otros relativos a la información; otros relativos a la capacitación y, en fin, está el problema del "follow-up".

Los dos problemas principales frente a los cuales nos encontramos aquí, pero a los que se tendrá que enfrentar el grupo de trabajo son: Primero, la forma de adhesión de países miembros de la FAO. Esto ha sido puesto de relieve por el Embajador de México y no necesita comentarios. Tenemos que estudiar fórmulas alternativas que permitan la adhesión a la Comisión sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos de todos los países miembros de Naciones Unidas. Hay varias fórmulas que serán estudiadas en detalle y después sometidas al Consejo.

El segundo punto, de gran importancia también, son las reservas formuladas por los países que hasta ahora se han adherido al Compromiso. Es muy importante conocerlo para ver en qué forma se puede llegar a obtener por parte de estos países una adhesión completa, lo que deseamos. El compromiso es algo dinámico y puede ser enmendado, interpretado, de manera que solucione las reservas de los países que lo han estudiado. De todas maneras, lo importante es que todos los países que tienen dudas sobre el compromiso se adhieran por lo menos a la Comisión para expresar sus dudas.

Durante la primera parte de esta Conferencia hemos escuchado con mucho interés la intervención del Ministro de Agricultura de un gran país, que quisiéramos muchísimo que se adhiriera al compromiso por la grandísima experiencia que tiene en el sector de recursos fitogenéticos. El expresó sus dudas sobre la actividad de la FAO en el sector de recursos fitogenéticos porque, de acuerdo con su punto de vista, esta Comisión, esta actividad, afectaría a la investigación privada, sobre la cual se basan los principios de este país.

A nosotros nos parece que la investigación privada está alentada, está favorecida por los principios que guían el Compromiso sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y la Comisión, porque el concepto de la libre disponibilidad de estos recursos, y por lo menos de la existencia de un ejemplar en cada país de origen, creo que tendría que alentar, y no desalentar, la investigación privada. De todas maneras adhiriéndose por lo menos a la Comisión, podrían explicarnos estos países que formulan dudas de qué forma y por qué la actividad de la FAO apenas afectaría a la industria privada.

Hemos escuchado con interés la intervención del representante de Canadá, que me está observando en este momento; estamos de acuerdo completamente con él que hay interdependencia entre los países que se dedican a recursos fitogenéticos y que debe haber una colaboración apolítica, pero yo quisiera asegurarle que lo que busca la Comisión, lo que se quiere obtener con la adhesión al Compromiso es la apolitización, o sea el carácter de apolítico de toda la actividad de recursos fitogenéticos. Es un principio que hemos venido sosteniendo en la FAO y es la razón por la que se ha llegado a esta estructura, o sea la creación de la Comisión y la creación del Compromiso.

En cuanto a las relaciones entre la FAO y el CIRF queremos manifestar el convencimiento que las actividades son complementarias, estamos completamente de acuerdo que la FAO tiene que ofrecer una actividad de animación, de empuje, mientras el CIRF tiene un carácter exclusivamente técnico; se trata de actividades absolutamente complementarias y entonces es bueno que en el próximo futuro se tenga en cuenta esto al negociar las relaciones entre la FAO y el CIRF.

Ms A. BERGQUIST (Sweden, on behalf of the Nordic countries): On this agenda item I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Though I speak for four countries, I shall try to be brief.

At the last Conference the Nordic countries took an active part in the discussions on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The Governments of the Nordic countries have also, with certain reservations due to domestic legislation, decided to adhere to the Undertaking and to participate in the institutional arrangements set up by the Twenty-second Conference and the Eighty-fifth Council. We note that FAO now is analyzing such reservations which we share with other countries. We hope that solutions, perhaps along the lines suggested on earlier occasions, will be found which will allow us and others to withdraw such reservations.

The Nordic countries were not entirely happy with the institutional arrangements that were decided upon at the Conference and the Council, since these arrangements exclude some non-FAO members with important plant genetic resources from fully participating in the activities. We are pleased, however, that the possibility of these countries participating in the Plant Genetic activities of FAO is being looked into.

As to the future work of the Commission and the Working Groups established at its first meeting, a number of important issues have to be dealt with. One important issue to look into is to clearly define which material is relevant gene bank material. In our mind and in the minds of the Nordic gene bank, which is our common Nordic institution, there still seem to prevail some conceptual misunderstandings that need to be clarified.

Another important issue is to clearly define the work to be undertaken by FAO as compared to activities implemented by the IBPGR in order to ensure complementarity and to avoid excessive use of scarce resources. The IBPGR has an important mandate within the CGIAR system. It is essential that IBPGR be in a position to fulfill its function. What is most important for the Nordic countries is that IBPGR be given acceptable working conditions. In our view this can most effectively be done by giving the IBPGR greater flexibility while maintaining a close relationship with FAO. Hopefully this will be the result of the on-going consultations between the Director-General and the Chairman of the CGIAR.

We take it for granted that the Director-General will do his utmost to see to it that a timely and satisfactory solution is achieved on the future of FAO/IBPGR relations.

Finally, as to the suggestions to establish a special fund for the financing of plant genetic activities, the Nordic delegation feels that these needs can be met within existing funding arrangements. We are therefore not in favour of creating a special fund for this purpose.

Srta. M. HURTADO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia desea apoyar en general los principios expuestos por la delegación de México.

Nos complace que progresivamente haya venido aumentando el número de miembros de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Creemos que actitudes positivas como ésta deben ser buen ejemplo digno de imitar por todos los Estados. Esto confirma el interés de los gobiernos por vincular a estas actividades que deben estar dirigidas principalmente a preservar los recursos fitogenéticos y asegurar su libre distribución, ya que esos recursos son patrimonio de la humanidad y deben de estar a la libre disposición de todos.

Lamentamos que algunos importantes Estados Miembros aún no hayan podido entrar a ser parte de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos ni se hayan adherido al Compromiso; su presencia en estas actividades sería importante ya que son países que desempeñan funciones esenciales en el campo de los recursos fitogenéticos y cuya contribución positiva todos apreciamos sinceramente.

Estamos reconocidos al Director General, quien ha seguido insistiendo ante aquellos-países que aún no lo han hecho para que se adhieran al Compromiso. Pensamos que se debe apoyar ese esfuerzo del Director General e instarlo a que siga haciendo llamados a esos países.

La cifra al 31 de julio de 1985 de 83 Estados Miembros es significativa y debe incrementarse.

La delegación de Colombia apoya particularmente la recomendación de la Comisión que aparece en el párrafo 12 de este documento sobre la necesidad de tener sumo cuidado para evitar la duplicación o superposición de actividades y para lograr una complementariedad entre la labor del CIRF y de la Comisión en la aplicación del Compromiso.

Creemos que esta cooperación debe estar delimitada dentro de los marcos y las funciones respectivas. Opinamos que si esa concepción clara y definida ha de regir la cooperación entre el CIRF, la FAO y la Comisión podrían disiparse las dudas que se han expresado al respecto.

Consecuentemente, apoyamos la opinión de la FAO en el sentido de que no convendría que el Consejo se convirtiese en un centro plenamente independiente ajeno a la FAO.

Apoyamos el párrafo 24 en el sentido de que nuestra Organización debe seguir apoyando al CIRF en el marco de los acuerdos existentes. Tenemos la esperanza de que el grupo de trabajo pueda reunirse en 1986; auguramos los mejores éxitos a su Presidente, el Embajador de Costa Rica.

La delegación de Colombia reitera el llamado a todos los países para que se adhieran a este importante Compromiso.

Finalizo esta intervención citando uno de los postulados de una Organización mundial de líderes que dice: "La hermandad de los hombres trasciende a la soberanía de las naciones, y servir a la humanidad es la mejor obra de una vida."

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): First, let me congratulate Mr Bommer on his concise introduction of the item. In our view both documents before us have been prepared in an altogether qualified manner and provide on the whole a good review of the development in the field of plant genetic resources. On behalf of our delegation, I would like to express appreciation of the fact that the question of plant genetic resources has been receiving continued attention in the overall work of FAO and that the range of those specific questions has been constantly improved and expanded. This procedure is fully in accord with the importance and mission of genetic resources which are to be, inter alia, conserved for future generations.

I would like to inform the Commission that we attach great importance to this question in our country. This is documented by the fact that more than 110 specialists from more than 20 scientific and research institutes of our branch deal with a series of questions related to the programme. Coordination of works has been entrusted to the Plant Production Research Institute in Prague which many experts - members of this Commission - visited. There they had an opportunity to become acquainted with the high standard of work and with the results we have achieved in this field in my country. I wish to add that we have begun the construction of our own gene bank where all progressive technical and technological elements currently known will be applied. We expect the gene bank to be put into operation in 1987, and it will have a capacity of approximately 50 thousand collections of samples, with their registration to be connected to a computer.

In this work we highly appreciate broad international cooperation, both between individual states and within specialized organizations. Our country is in its cooperation basically oriented to countries who are members of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance; the cooperation has been developing in this field practically over the last 20 years and has resulted in much valuable information.

Since 1980-81, when we joined this programme, we have been collaborating with FAO. Thanks to this collaboration we have managed to gain a great deal of valuable information. Moreover, our specialists have had possibilities to become acquainted with top technology and standards applied in other countries at selected workplaces. We, on our part, are likewise ready to make our achievements and experiences available.

I would like to document our approach to and our cooperation in this field with the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources by informing you that this year we have prepared in our capital a session of the Committee of the Gene Bank EUCARPIA, with broad international participation, on questions pertaining to genetic resources and with a symposium on raising the standard of genetic resources studies.

Further, I would like to inform the Commission that next January the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is going to be the venue of a meeting, within the FAO/IBPGR European Programme of Protection and Exchange of Plant Genetic Resources, which will deal with the development of the improvement of onion-type vegetables of the genus of *Allium*. Our Vegetable Research and Improvement Institute has also assumed responsibility for establishing and maintaining a genetic collection of vegetatively propagated types of the *Allium*. A number of scientists from the FAO member countries are expected to participate in the meeting.

It is evident from the above that great importance is attached by my country to the cooperation with the FAO/IBPGR. We would appreciate it if the experience and long years of practice of our specialists could be taken into consideration and if they could be delegated to a broader extent to expedition groups for plant collection, formed on FAO initiative, in a number of developing countries.

Our experts, I am sure, could also contribute to the desirable standard of work of such expeditions and their results.

I would like to inform you, Mr Chairman, that we have notified the FAO/CPGR Secretariat of our decision to become active members of the Commission as of this year. The proposed programme of the CPGR, which provides for conditions of cooperation of organizations dealing with genetic resources and also embodies principles for international cooperation in this field, especially the free openings of the Plant Genetic Resources for States, can, in our opinion, be fully endorsed.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (Original language German): I would like to start by thanking ADG Bommer for the excellent way in which the Secretariat's catalyst role has been expressed in this Conference, and for his very interesting introduction. Ever since the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources was agreed to, my delegation has noted with interest the progress reported in this document. We welcome the fact that so many FAO Member Nations have already expressed their intention to take part in this very important international task. On the other hand we regret that no non-member nation of FAO has yet formally declared itself prepared to cooperate in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. For that reason we welcome the statements in paragraph 11 of the document which call on the FAO Secretariat to examine how the participation of non-member nations of FAO in the work of the Commission can be rendered possible. The need to avoid duplication of work and overlapping with the activities of the IBPGR, as outlined in paragraph 12 of the document, reflects one of our concerns as well. Our view is that the IBPGR, with which we cooperate very closely, has performed qualified work in the last few years and thus merits our support. In this connection, we would have been grateful to the FAO Secretariat if the document had contained their ideas regarding possibly necessary changes to the agreement between the FAO and IBPGR. In our view the arrangements which have proved their purpose in governing the relations between the IBPGR and the FAO should not be changed, nor has my delegation been able to descry any cogent arguments in the papers submitted to date for changing the IBPGR's legal status or its relations with FAO. We would, therefore, be grateful to the FAO Secretariat if they could report more thoroughly on this question in the event of any new findings becoming available.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos en primer lugar felicitar al Dr. Bommer por la exposición y explicación que nos dio sobre esta materia y a la Secretaría y a la Comisión que nos han presentado los documentos.

Sr. Presidente: esta materia o este tema de recursos fitogenéticos, desde la primera oportunidad en que se comenzó a discutir -si no recuerdo mal fue alrededor del Comité de Agricultura del año 82/83-ya en esa Comisión de Agricultura se reconocía toda la complejidad del tema. La complejidad del tema por los intereses que estaban dentro del mismo; porque, tenemos que reconocer que nosotros podemos constatar y apoyar en todas sus partes la declaración hecha por la distinguida representación de Costa Rica, como Presidente de la Comisión, cuando nos hablaba de los esfuerzos realizados para evitar y eliminar la politización de la discusión en la Comisión. Lo que no podemos es negar que ese tema está insertado en una gama económica que es muy difícil de separar. Por ejemplo, si hablamos de especies y variedades que han sido conservadas, el lugar donde se decidió ubicarlas y los procesos de selección, evaluación, multiplicación y mejora, corresponde fundamentalmente a intereses comerciales. Eso no se puede negar. Porque nuestros países han comprado, han tratado de comprar y han vendido y tratan de vender recursos fitogenéticos. Nosotros somos muy pequeños; no tenemos muchos recursos fitogenéticos, somos una isleta bastante desprovista de recursos fitogenéticos, pero hay países, muchos países poderosos que tienen terreno y potencial de venta de recursos fitogenéticos y otros que comercian y cambian.

Este problema de redes comerciales que existe detrás de los recursos fitogenéticos no puede negarse. Por lo tanto, creo que fundamentalmente la implicación económica que tiene es la que le ha dado un carácter político. Quien le ha dado un carácter político son los intereses económicos y quiero que aquí quede muy claro que desvinculamos todo esto que decimos de intereses económicos de la labor técnica, tecnológica y científica que necesitan estos recursos. Nosotros queremos desvincular esto de nuestra intervención.

Queremos expresar que nuestra Delegación, en relación con la aplicación de las resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83 de la pasada Conferencia, manifiesta su apoyo en primer lugar a las recomendaciones de la primera reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, que considero que comenzó a trabajar con muchas dudas, con mucha inquietud, porque dentro de la Comisión faltaban países con una capacidad técnica, tecnológica y, diríamos, autoridad en el tema, por lo que pudiera ser muy importante su criterio, independientemente de que fueran criterios discordantes con la mayoría, pero son criterios importantes a la hora de discutir el tema dentro de lo que nosotros concebimos como la comunidad internacional que debe reunirse para eso, para discutir y analizar. Sin embargo, como hubo discrepancias de conceptualización y de enfoque del trabajo, es por lo que hubo estas reservas que lamentamos y les instamos a que rectifiquen y vengan a esta Comisión.

Esta Comisión tuvo una primera reunión, esperamos la segunda con renovados deseos de seguir el diálogo en esta materia.

Queremos apoyar también la creación del Grupo de Trabajo que se constituyó en esta Comisión porque confiamos que ésta es una de las vías por la cual la Comisión puede demostrar su interés de profundizar en el tema: con grupos especiales.

Además, consideramos muy necesario también que se concluyan los estudios que se vienen realizando para encontrar fórmulas jurídicas que permitan, con plenas garantías, realizar el libre intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos. Este es un punto importante, porque realmente se puede probar que no hay libre distribución.

Nuestra delegación Señor Presidente, considera oportuno también, en relación con el Compromiso Internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos, hacer un llamado para apoyarlo a todos aquellos países que no lo han hecho, en función de poder comenzar a trabajar. Asimismo Señor Presidente, creemos que se deben definir ya las condiciones para la participación de todos los miembros del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, sean miembros de la FAO o no. Nosotros reconocemos la labor técnica realizada por el CIRF, la reconocemos. Desde el punto de vista técnico es válida, y consideramos que sería realmente aún más positiva para todos los países si esa labor técnica válida que realizan, se uniera complementariamente a los trabajos de la Comisión, y, de esta forma, si claramente están juntos, podríamos evitar la duplicidad y cada uno tendría un cometido específico dentro del marco de un trabajo conjunto. Ello es perfectamente realizable porque no se va a supeditar el apoyo a una cosa u otra, sencillamente se va a discutir internamente.

No creo que en el seno de esta reunión haya temor a una duplicidad porque queremos reiterar que son completamente compatibles y diferenciables: uno es técnico y otro promotor de una política nueva sobre los recursos fitogenéticos.

Además nosotros estamos persuadidos del gran nivel técnico que tienen los países. Sin embargo, estamos también persuadidos de la necesidad de capacitación. Estamos también persuadidos de que el nivel tecnológico nuestro necesita tecnificación. La verdad técnica absoluta no la podemos aceptar; es más, la verdad técnica absoluta no es de nadie, sino de la voluntad de tener esta técnica y de tener un aval de trabajo anterior.

Entre los temas tratados por la Comisión, en su primera sesión, y que mi Delegación consideró muy importante en particular, fue el sistema internacional de información sobre recursos fitogenéticos, porque va a permitir desarrollar y mantener actualizados los distintos sistemas y subsistemas de redes existentes y, además, va a ayudar a la ampliación de la capacitación y conocimiento sobre estos recursos. Otro tema de significativa importancia es el referido a la necesidad - para nosotros siempre ha sido de mucha importancia en los trabajos de la FAO - de la capacitación y el fortalecimiento de todo el personal dedicado a estas materias en nuestros países. También puede incluirse a los agricultores ya que hay que desarrollar a todos los niveles y especialidades por ser la única garantía de eficacia en todos los terrenos, tanto en los trabajos *in situ* como *ex situ*, tanto en el mejoramiento de plantas como en la producción de semillas. En este sentido, consideramos que los gobiernos deberían prestar más atención a estos programas, sobre todos los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo, para poder salir a la palestra internacional a buscar los recursos.

Finalmente creemos necesario considerar que los trabajos futuros deben ser apoyados, así como la propuesta sobre la necesidad de darle contenido práctico al Artículo 7.1 relacionado con la creación de una red de condiciones base bajo la dirección de la FAO. Igualmente apoyamos la creación de un fondo internacional de recursos fitogenéticos.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): I thank Dr Bommer for this very interesting and important document. The Austrian delegation has been following the discussion and has read the document C 85/24 and C 85/LIM/18 with great interest. I would remind you that Austria has often stated its support of Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on plant genetic resources. Therefore, Austria has become a member of this Commission. We are very interested in the follow-up which will be given to these Resolutions.

We feel it is essential to stress the important role of the Undertaking and we would like to see new seed varieties introduced, and an improvement of efforts in the future. The production and supply of seeds should be one of our major areas of concern.

Importance should also be attached to the seeds of native plants, such as the development of cassava and yam seeds and material. In the area of seed improvement, FAO should avail itself of its Early Warning System, and further expand it to see to what extent seeds are available.

SEONG-BAE SUH (Republic of Korea) : It is my pleasure to recognize that, as noted in documents C 85/24 and C 85/LIM/18, much work has been done or is under way in the follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on plant genetic resources.

First of all, my delegation would like to express its appreciation of the recent developments, an increased participation in the Plant Genetic Resources Commission, and also increased adherence to the Undertaking.

It is my delegation's strong wish that further participation be realized soon with due recognition of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Secondly, as to the facilitation of a free exchange of *in situ* and *ex situ* plant genetic resources, it is my delegation's view - as the head of my delegation has already stated - that the establishment of research institutions, by regions and crops, under the initiation of FAO would provide us with the most practical ways and means. I, therefore, would like to express my view that such actions should also be taken into account in the course of review by the task forces.

Thirdly, we feel that continual and active participation of IBPGR in the work programme of the Commission is of great necessity. For this reason we hope that constructive results can be made available soon in a review of the relationship between IBPGR and FAO.

Fourthly, I feel that the earliest possible conclusion of the on-going study on an information exchange network should be given a higher priority with far stronger emphasis. Fifthly, I would like to support the possibility of establishing an international fund for genetic resources within FAO.

Finally, it would be of invaluable interest to most of the developing countries to establish a strong and intensive training scheme under the FAO Regular Programme. I consider that wider participation and practical cooperation among Member States would be greatly facilitated through this training expansion.

In closing, I would again like to express my delegation's wish that more positive and deeper international cooperation be made available for us.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation finds document C 85/24 on Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on Plant Genetic Resources very interesting and would like to reiterate its position on the subject.

Our stand concerning the preservation and distribution of plant genetic resources was made plain at the Plenary of this Conference by the Minister of Agriculture of Ethiopia. We wish to indicate that position at this Commission as well.

This subject interests us very much because Ethiopia is a centre of genetic diversity of several major crop and plant species. The agroclimatic conditions of Ethiopia favour the domestication and diversification of many important crop plants and this makes the country a major source of germ-plasm of many useful plant species.

But many of our important crop species are in serious danger of extinction due to changes in agricultural practices, such as in land use and in the preference for high-yielding varieties, drought and so on. Therefore it interests us to save plant genetic resources from extinction and to conserve them for the use of existing and subsequent generations. On this account, we appreciate the concern and all the international efforts to conserve these resources for mankind.

Ethiopia has, through its Gene Bank, been cooperating so far with many countries and international bodies in the effort to conserve plant genetic resources. We shall continue to do so in the future.

Genes are a valuable resource for a country. We think it is the sovereign right of that country to make use of them by any means it deems necessary and anybody who would like to acquire a genetic resource should agree on the mode of its acquisition with the proprietor. This approach prevails in the world today in transactions in every resource and we fail to understand why plant genetic resources should be considered any differently.

The jurisdiction of all affairs relating to policy on genetic resources belongs to the country concerned. The same applies to sovereignty over germplasm resources. Therefore, Ethiopia has reservations on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and cannot go along with it until the relevant articles are adequately amended to accommodate Ethiopia's interest.

Otherwise, we are entirely in agreement with the international concern to conserve, preserve and develop dwindling genetic resources for mankind.

J. M. BOLIVAR SALCEDO (España): En primer lugar, la Delegación española desea felicitar al Dr. Bommer por su clara presentación del tema.

Tal como tuvimos oportunidad de manifestar en las recientes sesiones del Consejo, nuestra Delegación considera que las Resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83 han marcado un hito en la historia de la FAO que culmina un largo proceso, ya que no podemos olvidar que las primeras discusiones sobre recursos fitogenéticos tuvieron ya lugar al año siguiente de su creación. Creemos que una excelente conmemoración de ese 40° Aniversario sería que en este 23° período de sesiones de la Conferencia recibiesen la consistencia y el impulso definitivos las citadas resoluciones, que deberían ser piedras angulares para construir la seguridad e independencia alimentarias del futuro.

Somos optimistas y creemos que se pueden encontrar vías de entendimiento que disuelvan las reservas de los países que todavía no se han integrado en el Compromiso Internacional y en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Conviene quizás recordar que, sin perjuicio de su importancia, los recursos fitogenéticos son una materia prima, una fuente de diversidad genética utilizable exclusivamente para la mejora genética de las plantas y para fines científicos, tal como se recoge en el Artículo I del Compromiso Internacional.

Los recursos fitogenéticos por ser el primer eslabón, necesitan ser manufacturados para desarrollar todo su potencial-y así transformarse en nuevas variedades que permitan hacer frente a los retos del desarrollo agrícola. Los recursos fitogenéticos son pues, el primer eslabón en la cadena de la producción de alimentos. El segundo eslabón es la obtención del producto manufacturado con una variedad susceptible de ser utilizada por el agricultor. El tercer y último eslabón es la multiplicación, comercialización y puesta del nuevo producto, con las necesarias garantías, a disposición del usuario. Todos estos eslabones los contempla la FAO. La Dirección de Producción y Protección Vegetal de la FAO incluye unidades que se ocupan de cada uno de ellos. El Centro de Recursos Fitogenéticos se ocupa de promover la presentación, caracterización y documentación de los recursos fitogenéticos. El Servicio de Cultivos y Pastos se ocupa de la promoción, evaluación y mejora genética que lleva a la producción de nuevas variedades. Por último, el Servicio de Semillas se ocupa de promover la obtención, multiplicación y comercialización de semillas con las necesarias garantías.

Como decía en su alocución inicial sobre este tema de los recursos fitogenéticos en el pasado Consejo su Presidente, Sr. Swaminathan, la seguridad de los genes es importante para la seguridad de los cultivos y, por consiguiente, para la seguridad alimentaria. Señalaba cómo hay especies que se están extinguiendo; la importancia de la conservación in situ como método importante para la conservación de poblaciones; y llamaba la atención sobre las oportunidades hoy existentes para preservar el material genético, incluso a nivel molecular.

Hay, pues, posibilidades de conservar el material genético, pero los esfuerzos para evitar su pérdida deben ser de todos. Nuestra delegación cree firmemente que el Compromiso Internacional establece el marco idóneo para que la comunidad internacional realice esta labor de preservar los recursos fitogenéticos, que es un interés común a todos los pueblos. El marco del Compromiso Internacional permite armonizar los intereses comunes y los particulares de cada país.

Mucho material genético se ha extinguido ya en sus habitats naturales. Según datos del PNUMA, veintiún millones de hectáreas se transforman en desierto anualmente, y este proceso no es ajeno a la erosión genética. Afortunadamente, muchos de estos recursos están recogidos en bancos de genes. Unos países son los centros de origen de estos recursos; otros han aplicado sus conocimientos científicos y técnicos, y sus esfuerzos humanos y económicos, para coleccionarlos y conservarlos. Muchos de los primeros no han tenido posibilidad de realizar esta labor. Han dado lo que tenían: sus recursos fitogenéticos. Justo es que unos y otros puedan beneficiarse de ellos llegado el momento. Por ello es necesario asegurar la libre disponibilidad de estos recursos, y la garantía de esta libre disponibilidad sólo puede ofrecerla el sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

La institucionalización de las relaciones internacionales en esta materia es la única forma de lograr un progreso que redunde verdaderamente en beneficio de todos y evitar la politización de este

tema. Se trata de que mediante un sistema global todos los países puedan utilizar, en el presente y en el futuro, este material genético para, mediante sus propios esfuerzos, conseguir nuevos cultivares adaptados a su ecología y a sus necesidades y peculiaridades alimentarias. Quizás a alguien le pueda parecer esto lejano, pero, en cualquier caso, es imperativo asegurar que cualquier país pueda acceder a los recursos genéticos que pueda necesitar.

Por todo esto mi país ha venido prestando un continuado y ya largo apoyo a la creación de un sistema global de recursos fitogenéticos en el seno de la FAO. Nuestra delegación considera que es totalmente necesario dar contenido e implementar el artículo 7 del compromiso internacional, en sus partes 1 y 2; que para esta segunda se establezcan los cauces jurídicoadministrativos que permitan situar, bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO, las colecciones base de los bancos de germoplasma que así lo deseen. Recuerdo aquí también lo dicho por el doctor Swaminathan al Consejo: "A diferencia de los bancos financieros, en los que el valor de la moneda siempre se deprecia, en los bancos de genes éstos siempre se revalorizarán porque el gene pool (acervo genético) ideal del mañana será muy diferente del de hoy. Sea en cuanto a enfermedades, sea en términos de procesamiento o en términos alimentarios, enormes cambios se presentan en el horizonte y es por esto por lo que es importante que conservemos estos genes". Por esto sería prudente canalizar todos los esfuerzos posibles hacia este objetivo fundamental de la seguridad alimentaria del futuro. Además de los recursos gubernamentales -nos decía el doctor Swaminathan- existe un enorme potencial para atraer recursos no gubernamentales.

Insistimos, pues, en que es necesario dar cauces jurídicoadministrativos y, como decía el señor Embajador de México, fomentar que voluntariamente -y subrayo lo de voluntariamente- el mayor número posible de bancos acepten ser custodios y no propietarios de las colecciones base, y que los que no acepten esté status acepten donar duplicados de sus colecciones a los que se ubiquen bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO.

No queremos terminar sin referirnos, siquiera brevemente, al CIRF. No comprendemos los temores de que las acciones en el seno de la FAO signifiquen una duplicación o una contradicción de sus actividades. Es mandato de CIRF "impulsar el estudio, colección, preservación, documentación, evaluación y utilización de la diversidad genética de las plantas útiles para beneficio de todo el mundo". Esto es parte del mandato de la FAO, que naturalmente es más universal y completo.

El CIRF cubre una parte técnica y científica del mandato global de la FAO. No cabe duda de que la FAO tiene que encontrar los cauces adecuados para cubrir el resto de su mandato, incluyendo los aspectos legales y políticos. El CIRF, a través de un grupo de prestigiosas personas de muy alta cualificación ciertamente, coordina sus actividades en materia de recursos fitogenéticos, pero en estas decisiones deben tener también un peso importante elementos no meramente técnicos o científicos, tales como son los aspectos sociales, económicos y, en definitiva políticos, que no es lo mismo que politización, que están detrás de toda actividad técnica.

Por esto creemos que es imprescindible la existencia de la Comisión Intergubernamental de Recursos Fitogenéticos de la FAO, en la que están representados tanto los países de fondos como los donantes de genes. Una vez más, nuestra posición pretende ser conciliadora y realista; y este realismo es el que determina que abogemos decididamente por que se dé contenido y consistencia a las resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83.

Esperamos que se logre una solución que permita estrechar los vínculos entre la FAO y el CIRF.

A. EL-SARKY (Egypt): (original language Arabic): My country's delegation wants to welcome the two Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83 on Plant Genetic Resources and wishes to thank Mr Bommer for his comprehensive and useful introduction of document CL 85/24.

My country has adhered to the original undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources with the reservations on cotton planting seeds in view of the various UAR legislations which govern dealings with cotton seeds on the world market. Egypt has also joined the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the Working Group of the Commission because of its conviction of the vital role which genetic resources play in agricultural activities and on the update of which will be planned various other activities.

Moreover, my country's delegation supports in principle the establishment of the Special Fund on Genetic Resources within FAO and we are in agreement with the main objectives of the fund in question.

H. MORA (Ecuador): Nuestro reconocimiento a la excelente presentación realizada por el doctor Bommer. Nos alegra conocer que el número de miembros que integran la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos se está incrementando paulatinamente y es que, en verdad, se va reconociendo la importancia que tienen estos recursos. Esperamos que otros Estados continúen adhiriéndose.

Poco tendría que abonar a las declaraciones hechas por quienes me han precedido en el uso de la palabra apoyando la Comisión y especialmente la hecha por el distinguido representante de México. Es así que su propuesta tiene el absoluto apoyo de nuestra delegación.

Con el afán de no repetir lo ya expresado, y dado que es muy avanzada la hora, sólo quisiéramos enfatizar que consideramos fundamental que se estudie la posibilidad de crear un fondo que financie tanto la creación de bancos genéticos internacionales, como el constante desarrollo de sistemas de producción de plántulas y uso de recursos genéticos.

P. PIOTET (France): La conservation des ressources génétiques est l'un des enjeux les plus importants du développement agricole. Source de progrès indispensables pour l'amélioration des plantes cultivées, la conservation du patrimoine génétique est assurément l'un des facteurs déterminants de l'avenir de l'humanité. Dans ce domaine, le Centre international des ressources phytogénétiques réalise un travail dont la qualité est reconnue. La France se félicite de ce que la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques ait décidé, en mars dernier, de travailler avec lui dans un esprit de complémentarité et avec le souci d'éviter les doubles emplois.

La question essentielle en la matière est de disposer d'une structure capable d'organiser la collecte et la conservation des ressources génétiques avec un maximum d'efficacité. De l'avis de la France, cela suppose que soient remplies cinq conditions. La première est d'avoir la capacité et la crédibilité scientifiques nécessaires. La seconde est d'avoir une aptitude suffisante à mobiliser les moyens financiers nécessaires. La troisième est de disposer de franchises, immunités et laissez-passer qui permettent la libre circulation des agents de l'organisme et du matériel végétal. La quatrième condition est de ne pas être suspect d'être l'instrument d'un groupe particulier d'intérêts. Enfin, la cinquième est d'avoir une bonne souplesse de fonctionnement.

Aussi bien dans le cadre du Groupe consultatif pour la recherche agronomique internationale qu'ici, à l'OAA, la France a soutenu que l'application des cinq critères que je viens de rappeler ne conduisait pas nécessairement à faire du CIRPG un organisme autonome par rapport à la FAO. Au contraire, le double rattachement du CIRPG à l'OAA et au GCRAI apparaît comme la solution optimale car les soutiens que l'OAA et le Groupe consultatif apportent au Centre sont, de notre point de vue, parfaitement complémentaires. Il est clair, cependant, que la situation actuelle nécessite un réexamen. Il serait opportun, en particulier, de définir de façon précise les rôles respectifs de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, d'une part, et du CIRPG, d'autre part. On peut très bien concevoir un partage des tâches, la Commission traitant plus particulièrement des aspects politiques et juridiques de la conservation et de l'utilisation des ressources génétiques, et le CIRPG, de son côté, restant chargé principalement du soutien à la collecte des ressources, de la mise en place de banques de gènes et des problèmes scientifiques que pose la conservation à long terme.

Comme M. Bommer l'a indiqué à notre Commission dans son excellent exposé introductif, le GCRAI présentera prochainement des propositions écrites à l'OAA. Ma délégation ne doute pas que ces propositions seront étudiées et discutées dans un esprit constructif afin d'aboutir à un consensus lors de la réunion de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques, en février 1986.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): I am very grateful to the delegate of Spain who has extensively quoted from our past Chairman of the Council, Dr Swaminathan, to reiterate the commitment of the Conference and its member countries to the need for preservation of plant genetic resources in the larger interest of agricultural development and food security.

India has always been cooperating with the various agencies in this task both bilaterally, as well as multilaterally, and we propose to do so in the larger interest of our nation as well as that of the international community. It is in this spirit that we have accepted the membership of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources as well as the membership of the Working Group of the Commission which will go into further details on this subject.

I would like to endorse the suggestion made by the representative of France that it should be possible to evolve a working relationship between the International Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources under the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research and the efforts of the Commission. The technical work relating to the development of appropriate methodologies for preservation of germplasm and for duplicating and sharing these resources may be continued to be looked after by the International Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources. Recognizing that there is a need for the political will, which alone will allow us to make these exchanges meaningful, the political and legal aspects of these exchanges could be coordinated by the Commission which has been set up by this Conference. I do not believe that there should be any fear in the minds of any of the member countries that this voluntary cooperation to be promoted by the activities of the Commission will in any way bridge or restrict the rights of member nations or the rights of plant breeders in member nations "to their access to any particular material which they might have bred or generated from basic material available to them from genebanks. I think the distinction has to be made between the primitive material which is collected and preserved in genebanks and the planting material which is developed by plant breeders. While the former should continue to be national property and should become international property by common consent, it will be the latter, the planting material especially bred by breeders, for which certain defined legal rights may have to be provided to meet the objections raised by some of the member nations.

I also do not believe that there is any problem nor will there be any conflict between the IBPGR and the work of this Commission. I do not see any reason why the technical work of an international system of research institutes should not be supplementary to the extension and promotion of the concept of preservation of plant genetic resources which will primarily be the task of the Commission and this Working Group.

We would therefore like to continue to work closely on a bilateral and on a multilateral basis through the research institutes and through the Commission to propagate this very important concept of preserving the genetic material so that posterity will not suffer in evolving newer and better high yielding varieties of various crops because of its unavailability. The more important task of the Commission in my mind will be to ensure that all these efforts are properly coordinated, that plant genetic material is preserved in an appropriate way and that the genebanks which will be established by various countries are financially and technologically supported under various programmes, including the Technical Cooperation Programmes sponsored through the FAO. I think it is very necessary that sound management of genetic resources, in particular the in situ conservation, as well as the dissemination of information for this purpose, is given the highest priority in the work of the Commission. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the need for the dissemination of technology. Biotechnology has become a very important input for breeders as well as for conservationists of genetic material. We in India have recognized this and we have therefore linked our National Plant Genetic Material Bank to the National Board for Biotechnology so that breeders may use modern technology for producing better varieties of seed material from whatever genetic material has been stored in the genebanks.

I think that the FAO can play a very important role in transferring the high level technology which the International Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources might develop. This training which will be, imported by FAO and its agencies, would be a very important input for ensuring that the work of the IBPGR is translated into genebanks of an adequate and efficient nature in the participating countries. We look forward to an understanding between the two systems that will lead to an efficient handling of this very difficult task by the Member Nations under the overall guidance of the Commission and its Working Group.

We would support the idea of proceeding with the Commission's task subject to ensuring that the problems raised here regarding the legal issues in relation to sharing of genetic material, the legal issues in relation to the rights of plant breeders, the legal issues in relation to the exchange of genetic material, both at the national and international level, are kept in mind while finding solutions to these problems. But our delegation would caution against the Commission getting caught up in issues of a legalistic nature and forgetting its primary task of promoting voluntary cooperation between Member Nations in preserving the genetic resources of the world.

We fully support the Commission and Member States in generating such a mutual cooperation system in this very important area, and in this task I am sure we should all unhesitatingly draw upon the expertise which has already been developed under the CGIAR system for better access to the genetic resources and for using them in promoting the development and the use of appropriate cultivars in the various regions of the world.

T. KAJIYA (Japan): First I would like to thank Dr Bommer for his introduction of this agenda item.

My Government recognizes the need to enhance international activities related to plant genetic resources where many valuable plant genetic resources are disappearing from the earth. From this point of view Japan has been participating and supporting the voluntary activities of IBGPR and we believe that the activities of IBPGR have been fully satisfactory in terms of the international exchange and protection of plant genetic resources.

We welcome the fact that the first session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, which my Government attended as an observer, recommended that, as mentioned in paragraph 12 of the document, special attention be given to avoiding duplication or overlapping of activities and that the letter of agreement between FAO and IBPGR be reviewed. I would like to reiterate at the same time that the approaches which may weaken the current activities of IBPGR should be refrained. As the CGIAR is also reviewing the future activities of IBPGR, as mentioned in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the document, closer exchange of views between FAO and CGIAR is needed in order to make the activities of both organizations run more effectively and efficiently.

My Government honestly hopes that the Working Group which was referred to in paragraph 13 of the document will thoroughly consider a way of finding a solution to the following questions relating to the implementation of the Undertaking.

First, optimum effort to avoid duplication of activities and to ensure better cooperation between IBPGR and FAO should be made.

Secondly, my Government believes that the exchange of plant genetic resources in principle should be made by the countries concerned on a peremptory basis. Therefore we are afraid that any legal binding of these activities is not acceptable for many countries.

Thirdly, plant genetic resources defined in the Undertaking includes even the newest varieties which a breeder has managed to create; thus fact must be exercised not to infringe upon the right of the breeders.

H. de SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): Let me first thank Dr Bommer for the presentation of this agenda item. My country attaches high priority to the study, development and preservation of genetic resources and in this connection considered very positively the adoption by Conference Resolution 8/83 of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. As a clear expression of the interest of my Government in the subject, Brazil decided to become a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and closely followed the deliberations of its first session last March. We look forward to continuing to work in close cooperation with the Commission.

The question of the adherence to the International Undertaking, however, was carefully studied during this time in order to express in this FAO Conference the clear position of my Government on the matter. Brazil has always been favourable to a policy of free exchange of plant genetic resources destined for research and genetic breeding.

Brazil also thinks that the basic principles contained in the International Undertaking reflect this position. I am pleased to say that Brazil decided to endorse in principle the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. However, the Brazilian Government considers that the definitions and the wide scope of the International Undertaking go beyond the concepts universally accepted for different categories of genetic resources. In this connection the Brazilian Government wishes to express the following reservation on the International Undertaking as it has been adopted.

First, the cultivated varieties now being used as well as the breeders' lines and mutants mentioned in items 2.1.a(i) and 2.1.a(v) involved commercial interests beyond the control of the Brazilian Government, which is hesitant to include them in international exchange arrangements like those provided by the Undertaking.

Second, in relation to the exploratory missions referred to in Article 3, my delegation wishes to explain that any activities involving the exploration and/or collection of plant genetic resources in Brazil is subordinated to the present Brazilian legislation which does not foresee undertakings of such a nature, and has well-defined priorities for collecting plant genetic resources through special programmes devoted to their conservation. We share in this regard the concerns expressed by the delegation of Argentina.

Third, as regards the availability of plant genetic resources based on mutual exchange agreements, as contained in Article 5, it seems to be in conflict with the basic principle of Article 1, which entails the availability of plant genetic resources without restrictions. Although the Brazilian Government agrees in principle with the spirit of Article 1, it reserves its position as to the free availability, since it considers that the exchange of germplasm based on mutual agreement, as mentioned in Article 5, has proved to be perfectly satisfactory.

Finally, fourth, the implementation of the International Undertaking will involve extra financial resources from the adhering Member States, as mentioned in Article 8. We believe that countries which have invested considerable amounts of financial resources in the promotion of their plant genetic resources will hardly be in a position to carry out new commitments.

To conclude, my delegation considers that the exchange of genetic resources between Brazil and international organizations and governmental bodies has been very active and extremely fruitful. In this connection we take this opportunity to commend the excellent work that IBPGR has been performing, particularly encouraging the complete cooperation between countries on a voluntary basis.

As regards recent developments with respect to IBPGR, the Brazilian delegation believes that IBPGR should not become a fully independent centre outside FAO. The current statutes of this institution are still valid and we urge FAO and IBPGR to continue to work in close cooperation at the present management structure.

F. MONASTRA (Italie): La delegation italienne confirme l'intention de participer à la Commission.

En principe le programme est valable. Notre adhésion à l'engagement dépendra d'un examen approfondi du programme.

Dans notre pays nous avons d'importantes ressources phylogénétiques et ce matériel peut être mis à la disposition de tous les pays sauf pour le matériel patenté. Par ailleurs, nous espérons . recevoir du matériel génétique existant dans les autres pays.

The meeting rose at 18.30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levante la sesión a las 18.30 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

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C 85/II/PV/12

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª SESION

(21 November 1985)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 10.05 hours
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 05
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 10.05 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANIZATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 15. Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83: Plant Genetic Resources (continued)
- 15. Suites données aux résolutions 8/83 de la Conférence: Ressources phytogénétiques(suite)
- 15. Aplicación de las resoluciones 8/83 y 9/83 de la Conferencia: Recursos fitogenéticos(continuación)

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): In discussing this item with which I am afraid I have been fairly closely associated since its inception at the previous to last Conference, I think it is probably salutary to recall that at the last Conference the issue of plant genetic resources was a contentious one. I think the Undertaking itself, at least in certain parts, represents an attempt to incorporate quite a number of diverging, or even opposite views.

In that respect, the way it stands at the moment it is perhaps a less than satisfactory document. Details continue to raise questions and we found at the meeting of the Commission this year that those details continue to worry certain countries. I think they worry some countries to the extent that they have not, to date, joined the Commission or acceded to the Undertaking, either one or other or both. As I have said before, but I think it is important to say it here, it is our view that ultimately changes will be necessary in the terms of that document, to achieve the widest possible acceptance. Quite frankly, we do not think that the Undertaking will work effectively without it.

I know that many countries who have agreed to the Undertaking have done so with reservations on certain articles - and I think in the long term we should try to have the minimum number of reservations possible. A large number of these inconsistencies are on technical grounds, some related to other issues. It would certainly be my hope that in the longer term this would happen. I do not see it as unrealistic, I think many of these undertakings, codes of agreement and so forth have to respond to changes over time. It seems to me quite realistic that that should happen, although I certainly have no proposals about the time-frame.

Similarly, I think we have a problem with the Commission itself. We have to recognize that it was rather hastily established, in the belief at the time that it would begin its work immediately. But, of course, these things take time and the Commission itself did not, I think, meet for some 16 months after the last Conference. The haste with which we established it has meant that we probably have less than the full participation that would be desirable, particularly by some very important countries who are potentially substantial contributors in this field. I mean contributors in terms of the resources they have, plant genetic resources - contributors, if you like, to the intellectual status and work of the Commission.

As far as Australia is concerned, I think many will know that we joined the Commission. We have not acceded to the Undertaking, but the Minister for Primary Industries in Australia, my Minister, indicated in relation to the Director-General's invitation on the Undertaking that there was broad support among the federal and state authorities in Australia for the principles embodied in the objectives of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Australia was not at that stage in a position to become a signatory to the Undertaking, principally because the Government had not finalized its own domestic policy on several significant aspects of plant breeding, including the issue of plant variety rights. But we indicated that as an active member of FAO, we would like to participate in the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and also quite clearly that we shall continue to support the principles expressed in Article 1 of of the Undertaking.

There are a number of domestic reasons why we have had problems in finalizing our position on the Undertaking. Perhaps I should also note that the Australian system is a federal system, and has a long-established consultative mechanism between the Commonwealth and State Governments. There are mechanisms for consultation that have gone on for many, many years.

Plant genetic resources, being a technical area, is largely the responsibility of the States as well as of the Commonwealth Scientific Research Organization, which is a Commonwealth Government body.

So my government has been, I think it is useful to say, concerned that in relation to some work that has been requested as a result of the Commission's deliberations, there has been an attempt to contact various of the State bodies concerning the legal status question. We are asked to look at the question of the legal status of ex situ plant genetic resource-based collections, and I understand that FAO has written separately to a number of the bodies involved in Australia. We are concerned about this because we believe that the Department of Primary Industry is the Australian coordinating body. That approach fails to take account of the fact that most of the States and some of the tertiary institutions involved have a direct interest in the storage of plant genetic resources. We would certainly be concerned if this protocol consultation with Australia were not observed in the future.

Concerning the question of plant genetic resources, I must reiterate also that these resources held in collections throughout Australia are freely made available to bona fide research organizations worldwide, and the Australian Government has embarked on a programme to upgrade plant genetic resource collection facilities which form the Australian network of plant genetic resource centres. In fact, it has proposed to spend some Australian dollars 1.25 million over the next five years for this purpose. It is impossible to discuss the issue, of course, without referring to the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. Now this is a technical body; Australia funds this body. We believe it should operate efficiently and effectively and with the necessary autonomy to discharge its functions. The value of the body is its technical capacity. We also believe there exists considerable room for close and continuing cooperation with the FAO Secretariat and as we noted at the last Council, we would urge the FAO, that is the Secretariat, and the IBPGR to cooperate to the utmost extent and to acknowledge together that the need for cooperation in conservation of plant genetic resources goes far beyond the resources of the two institutions combined. They are both required with their respective skills to complement each other to the utmost. We do recognize that consultations are taking place through the CGIAR mechanisms and the FAO concerning the IBPGR and we will be interested to see the outcome of these discussions. I do not think that Australia would be opposed, or would not be opposed at the end of the day, if that is the only alternative available, to see the IBPGR set up as an independent and fully autonomous institution. However, even if that became necessary, we would still wish to see it working closely with FAO in every professional sense.

There is also the question of the relationship of the IBPGR to the Commission and I think at the last meeting of the Commission that body had observer status. A number of members suggested quite widely towards the end of the meeting that the IBPGR had made a very valuable contribution and recognized the special status that it had. I do not know how that can be accommodated in the future work of the Commission, But I think we do all recognize that. I think it is obvious that the IBPGR contributed substantially to the quality of the meeting. If I might say so, it injected some technical reality into some of the politically contentious issues. I think it will be interesting to see how the Commission develops. I personally have high hopes of achieving balanced discussions and reports which are respected and which achieve the widest possible interest in its results and I think it has to achieve that respect and that status, if you will, and if it does that I am sure it will have the maximum impact which those who led to setting it up were keen to establish. And I wish to refer to our comments made at the Council that the working group, of course, is only a sub-group of the Commission. We would hope that the sub-group does not try to force on the Commission issues which are not capable of achieving the widest possible consensus.

As I said at the beginning, I have been fairly intimately concerned with all this work until now. I will not continue to be involved in it, but I certainly do wish the Commission great success in their future work.

Finally, I recognize this as a somewhat lengthy intervention, but I think the issues are important. There has been some suggestion, I think at the Council, about establishing a fund and I think at the moment the Australian position is that we cannot lend our support for any establishment of any extra-budgetary fund.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais en premier lieu féliciter le Dr Bommer pour son excellente présentation du point 15 de notre ordre du jour ayant pour objet la suite donnée aux résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 de la Conférence sur les ressources génétiques.

Vous avez demandé que l'on soit bref afin que notre Commission puisse clôturer ses travaux dans les délais voulus, je tacherai de l'être. Ma délégation joint sa voix à celles des délégués qui ont soutenu les résolutions et recommandations concernant les ressources génétiques. Elle appuie la déclaration faite au nom du Groupe des 77 par le délégué du Mexique.

Mon pays attache une importance particulière à la question que nous sommes en train de discuter. En effet, la Tunisie, est membre de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et elle fait partie de son groupe de travail.

Les documents C 85/24 et C 85/LIM/18 qui sont soumis à notre attention rencontrent l'approbation de ma délégation.

Nous constatons avec satisfaction que le nombre des pays membres de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques est en constante augmentation et qu'il en est de même du nombre des pays ayant adhéré ou exprimé leur soutien à l'engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Ceci démontre que l'on est sur la bonne voie et du parfait travail accompli suite aux résolutions 8/83 et 9/83 de la Conférence.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): My country supports the Conference Resolution 8/83 and that of the Council 9/83; we all support the creation of plant genetic resources.

We are also members of the Commission as well as the Working Group.

As other speakers have already spoken on this subject I do not want to labour this. Plant genetic resources are very important and we, as developing countries, are very much interested in this field. This is why we have taken this particular opportunity to provide our support for it.

However, we note with great appreciation that other developing countries, as the delegate from Australia has mentioned, have internal problems which they need to look into. This should not, however, take a very long time since we have to move very fast to sustain self-food sufficiency, particularly in developing countries. It is only through an organization like FAO that this particular call for us to unite and save all the material that is actually going to be lost in various other areas can be supported. I hope that every assistance be given to Ambassador Carlos di Mottola Balestra of Costa Rica so that his Secretariat can move and function as stipulated in the terms of reference provided to them.

My delegation feels very strongly that FAO Member Nations should particularly support this course and stand so that FAO can be the global body for information gathering, documentation storage and dissemination. This is why the Commission is charged with the review of legal status, evaluation, network and training.

We are aware that the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources has been doing a lot of work since 1974 and we value this very much, but still, as FAO is the main body that is impressing us, we feel very strongly that there could be some areas of agreement so that there is no duplication of functions, as various other members have indicated.

The developing countries, as was stated particularly by the neighbour and delegate from Ethiopia, who discussed the genetic material found in their area, as well as in other developing countries, there are many contributions and all that we need is to bring such genetic materials into use for food production and other uses, such as medicinal and plant nutrient recycling through multiplication through various places, so that we can reinhabit the area which was once covered with rich resources, instead of having desertification threaten the area.

We host the UNEP headquarters and we hear of endangered species, not only plants but also animals and micro-organisms, etc., and all these are of great concern to us. We feel very strongly that we should give the support that is needed.

I wish to support the Article 8 of the International Code of Plant Genetic Resources and also the agreement reached by the Group of 77, of course, being represented by Mexico, that the International Fund for Genetic Resources within FAO be established to help in keeping ex situ and, most important, in-situ basic resources in developing countries. As we have been emphasizing, the importance of training and research in developing countries are areas that would enhance that particular operation.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): Document C 85/24 was discussed at the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council prior to the Conference. We agree with the reflection in the Council's report of the deliberations on plant genetic resources. In March this year, China attended the First session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources in an observer capacity. We are in favour of the decisions to establish a working group consisting of 23 member countries and an ad hoc group in the Secretariat. The implementation of the "International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources" requires unremitting efforts by the international community. The "Undertaking" will lose its true value without the broad support and adherence of the member countries. Therefore we consider that the two above-mentioned decisions made by the First session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources are essential to the further implementation of Conference Resolution 8/83 and Council Resolution 1/85.

Regarding the relationship between the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, delegates might still remember that at the Twenty-second session of the Conference, divergent views were expressed during the discussion on the establishment of a Commission on Plant Genetic Resources under FAO's Council. However, we are pleased to note that at the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council, the delegates unanimously held that these two bodies should complement each other. We are also pleased to see that finally a common footing has been identified for the relationship between these two bodies. We sincerely hope that they will coordinate their activities through consultations in an effort to benefit all the member countries.

A.J.M. OOMEN (Netherlands): The Netherlands welcomes the importance that FAO has given to this subject under discussion. Plant Genetic Resources form an indispensable part of agricultural development. The Netherlands is very aware of this, since it depends so strongly on basic genetic material for breeding of so many products that play a major role in our national economy. But not only in our country, are we dealing with the practice of making technical inputs available in this field for other agricultural scientists and for most agricultural producers. For instance, our country works closely with, among others, the International Rice Research Institute. So we think that plant genetic resources form an indispensable part of agricultural development. Consequently, the Netherlands adheres in a realistic manner to the objectives of the International Undertaking and participates in the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. The work of the International Board on Plant Genetic Resources, as part of the consultant group on international research receives, the full support of the Netherlands Government. We also appreciate the good cooperation with FAO. It is in our opinion an essential condition for an Organization such as FAO to have the possibilities on the one hand to make use of results of the highly qualified work of IBPGR and on the other hand to inform the IBPGR on specific needs and developments related to the FAO mandate.

A close balanced relationship between IBPGR and FAO remains essential. Both organizations have, however, by their very nature distinctive different terms of reference which need to be reflected in the organizational structure. Therefore it seems useful to my delegation to pay attention to some recommendations on IBPGR made by an independent Commission at the beginning of this year. Here we will refrain from giving a complete review but only stress three points. IBPGR should give more attention to scientific research. Housing and management should be equitable to the specific needs of an organization such as IBPGR. IBPGR should not have to serve two masters at the same time.

It seems to the Netherlands delegation that the proposal of the IBPGR to give this organization a more independent status, like other institutions such as the International Rice Research Institute, is preferable to the actual situation, and our delegation would like to know FAO's views in this regard.

Mr Chairman, if you will allow me a second question, how can the dividing of the responsibilities and functions between FAO and IBPGR within CGIAR be realized? Also here, could we please have your views, Mr Chairman?

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): First I must emphasize that New Zealand fully supports the principles of conservation and exchange of plant genetic resources. We were originally concerned about the scope of the Undertaking in that it provided for free exchange of plant genetic resources including elite and current breeders' lines and mutants. However, we have since communicated to the Director-General our support in principle for the Undertaking with a commitment to implement it to the extent possible, but subject to exceptions relating to certain aspects of breeders' rights.

As regards membership of the Commission, we have been concerned in ensuring that there is a clear role for the Commission which does not conflict with or duplicate the work of other organizations, particularly that of IBPGR.

With this in mind we observed the proceedings of the first session of the Commission held earlier this year. As observers we were concerned with the emphasis given by the Commission to legal matters and the difficulty it appeared to have in establishing a clear role and programme of work. To some extent I must say this uncertainty was reflected in the need to establish a working group. This uncertainty has also continued, I feel, in this discussion.

Some delegations have suggested that the issue must not be politicized, while others say the Commission should focus on political and legal issues. Some have said the Commission should be involved in technical aspects of conservation, while others have argued that these technical aspects should be left to the IBPGR.

The delegate from India presented last evening perhaps the most convincing case for the Commission when he suggested that - and I hope I am interpreting him correctly - the Commission should be involved in extension, promotion and coordination of plant genetic resources and their conservation. He said it should refrain from getting entangled in legal matters and that technical aspects should be left to IBPGR. Whatever happens it would seem to us premature to consider funding methods before the role of the commission has been clearly established.

On a more positive note, we support the Commission's recommendation in paragraph 12 of document C 85/24, that special attention be given to the avoidance of duplication or overlapping of activities in ensuring complementarity between the work of IBPGR and the Commission. We note that Council further highlighted this need in paragraph 35 of their latest report.

I have already said that New Zealand supports the principle of conservation and the exchange of plant genetic resources. There may well be a need for a truly international body which can ensure in particular that developing countries benefit from plant genetic resources in the rapidly developing technology in this field. I can say we are currently considering membership in the Commission and we look to positive results from the Working Party over the next twelve months to assure us that the Commission will indeed play a positive and complementary role.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): To begin I would like to confirm our support for the activities outlined in paragraphs 15 to 19 in document C 85/24. In particular we would wish to emphasize the importance of the site conservation guidelines referred to in paragraph 17. We are all aware of instances in which material in situ has been lost, for example by accidents which could have been avoided by better site management.

We would also like to highlight the importance of training and underline the value of the work referred to in paragraph 19 of document C 85/24.

Turning now to the IBPGR, we are among those delegations which support the conclusion of the Technical Advisory Committee that the IBPGR should become a fully autonomous institution working in close cooperation with FAO.

Finally, there have been suggestions that there is a need to establish a new International Fund for Genetic Resources within FAO. In common with a number of other delegations, we believe that activities in this sector should be financed from within existing funding arrangements. We do not consider that there is any justification for a new fund. In our view its creation would not generate any new additional resources. We do feel however that it could very well distort priorities and generally weaken assistance to the very area it is trying to help.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): We are very much aware of the importance of safeguarding the plant genetic resources. Our active contribution to IBPGR demonstrates our real concern for it. Even though the Belgian Government did not adhere to the International Undertaking my Government did declare its intention to do so while making various reservations. Now the fact that the Undertaking has been approved during the formal Conference, and we do not doubt the genuine intentions that may have led to the adoption of Resolution 8/83, we still keep our reservations on the priority dedicated to an undertaking that constitutes much similarity with an existing organization like IBPGR.

The reference made to the avoidance of duplication or overlapping of activities in paragraph 12 of document C 85/24 seems to me enough expression of the real concern that exists in this context.

As regards paragraphs 16 to 19 inclusive, we wonder what financial implications are arising or will arise for FAO by implementing all the activities stated in those paragraphs.

Concluding, I want to emphasize the importance that we attach to the safeguarding of IBPGR's prerogatives.

Ms J. GEORGE (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation also wishes to thank Dr Bommer for his introductory remarks on this item.

First I would like to support the statement made by Mexico on behalf of the Group of 77. In earlier statements made by my delegation that led to the establishment of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, we recognized that this issue was one of the clearest examples of an almost evenly yoked technical political matter facing the FAO. That is why we are very interested in the statements we have just heard by Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and others.

Given the trend of the debate which has so far evolved on these two considerations, my delegation is of the view that the organized and synchronized action to be undertaken by the Commission on the matter of germplasm, identification, preservation, distribution and availability is of the utmost importance and significance to a small developing country like Trinidad and Tobago.

There is a great body of agricultural research in Trinidad and Tobago which was started at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, now the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of the West Indies, on tropical crops such as cocoa, coffee, sugar cane and bananas, among others. Several new genetic lines were developed in these species which are resistant to tropical diseases, and which have been adapted for mechanical harvesting. The value of these genetic lines cannot be underestimated. The need for adequate storage protection and further development of these lines is most important to us. The development of these genebanks through an International Network on Plant Genetic Resources ensuring that material in the base collections would be available to all by unrestricted mutual exchange gives small nations an opportunity to tap underprescribed conditions for usage, genetic technological advances in other countries.

Trinidad and Tobago like many other countries of our region and elsewhere does not have the technical expertise and infrastructural development required to develop, conserve and protect genetic resource base on crops and other plant material that are vital to our agricultural development and economic survival.

We are not unmindful of the special concerns of various countries, nor of the scientific and political as well as administrative concerns which we anticipate will be satisfactorily resolved between the IBPGR and the FAO. We recognize the swift developments in technology with gene-splicing and bio-engineering. We trust that paralleled by proper legislation, and taking into account acceptable provisions for the rights of plant breeders, the proper delineation of the activities of the Commission will bring about a kind of global commitment on sharing access and exchange of germ-plasm where food for mankind is concerned.

My delegation wishes to indicate its support for the recommendations on follow-up activities outlined in the report to the Conference document C 85/24.

Finally, since we have already indicated our intentions of becoming a member of the Commission, Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to its participation in the future work of the Commission.

J. GAZZO, F.D. (Perú): Señor Presidente, en mi calidad de miembro de la Comisión me he permitido hacer una reflexión y un estudio exhaustivo del problema. Nadie puede negar sin embargo que con una población mundial creciente y, actualmente, altamente subalimentada, la introducción de variedades mejoradas y uniformes es mucho más productiva y, hoy más que nunca, esencial para el desarrollo y justamente para la lucha contra el hambre. Entonces, tenemos que darnos cuenta que mediante la mejora genética el hombre es capaz de modificar los genotipos de las plantas cultivadas, introduciendo en ellos genes responsables de los caracteres que se desean o que se buscan.

Ahora hablemos un poco sobre conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos. Conservar los recursos fitogenéticos va bastante más allá de salvar las especies, cuya desaparición no se debe consentir. El objetivo es conservar suficiente diversidad dentro de cada especie para asegurarse de que su potencial genético pueda ser utilizado en el futuro. Hay un caso típico, por ejemplo, en el arroz, cuando se encontró un gen resistente al "grassy stunt" en una sola población de oryza nivara.

Señor Presidente, en la Comisión hemos trabajado con amplitud de criterio y con voluntad de que se adhieran todos los países del mundo. Hemos encontrado que hay países no miembros de la FAO y que deberíamos encontrar el mecanismo legal para que participen en ella, quizás cambiando las regulaciones de la FAO para las Comisiones, quizás invitándoles al Grupo de Trabajo, quizás creando una subcomisión que dependiera de las comisiones integrantes por los mismos países y que se reuniera contemporáneamente a la Comisión.

Hemos encontrado que hay países que no aceptan el Compromiso en lo que respecta al derecho de los fitomejoradores. Yo creo que esto se puede discutir, señor Presidente. El derecho de los fitomejoradores se puede discutir y se pueden reconocer si están encuadrados dentro de un marco de equidad y justicia, porque es un derecho inalienable de la mente humana creativa. Hay algunos países, que los podríamos llamar países ligeramente tibios, que están indecisos porque no conocen a fondo el problema y habría que explicárselo, quizás preparar un folleto, etc.

Es necesaria la creación de un fondo internacional para la preservación de los recursos fitogenéticos. El argumento más lógico sería el siguiente, señor Presidente. Todos los países son donantes: los ricos en germoplasma ponen su germoplasma y los ricos económicamente ponen los fondos para su preservación y la utilización de estos productos por toda la humanidad.

Hemos encontrado, señor Presidente - y ésta es la parte que nos preocupa un poco - que en el sistema actual los recursos fitogenéticos colectados en cualquier país del mundo y almacenados *ex situ*, o sea fuera del lugar donde se han colectado, pasan a ser propiedad legal del centro o del país en que se encuentra el banco de germoplasma, donde se almacena independientemente de su procedencia. Este es el punto que - digamos - universalmente no lo encontramos justo. Yo creo que lo justo sería que estos dignos bancos, a los cuales les debe la humanidad tanto, fueran custodios del material, pero no dueños exclusivos. Y ¿por qué, señor Presidente? Porque estas colecciones, almacenadas en estos centros nacionales, están justamente bajo la jurisdicción de sus países y, por consiguiente, no pueden garantizar jurídicamente la libre disponibilidad por parte de los otros países por depender de la voluntad política de sus gobiernos; y como sabemos que en muchos países los gobiernos son cambiantes, puede haber un Parlamento que decida cambiar algún sistema y, desgraciadamente, hemos conocido por escrito que ha habido algunos bancos que han dicho que el material, algunas veces por razones políticas, no se da a determinados países.

Esto es lo que nos ha preocupado, y existe un grupo de catorce centros que son los del GCIAl, que es un grupo consultivo de investigaciones agrícolas internacional, que también tiene bancos de germoplasma, pero ellos son propiedad de cada centro y están bajo la jurisdicción de su Board of Trustees (Consejo de Administración). Por consiguiente, podrían no estar a disponibilidad.

Señor Presidente, la implementación del Artículo 7.1.a) haría posible el depósito de duplicado bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO. Es lógico, ya que se trata de un patrimonio de la humanidad, recolectado con dinero internacional y cuya propiedad internacional debería mantenerse.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, nos preocupan - y esto a título llamémosle oficioso, no oficial - las relaciones FAO/CIRF. No debemos olvidarnos de que la FAO tiene un mandato mundial de promover la preservación y utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos y que esto va por encima de todo lo que se creó después. Este mandato internacional está en la Constitución de la FAO.

Sabemos que la FAO lleva a cabo una parte de su programa a través de un monto fiduciario, creo que es el 91.50, que es del Consejo Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Hemos oído por ahí - y esto oficiosamente - que el CIRF podría abandonar la FAO. Si el CIRF abandonase la FAO, ésta debería asumir la parte del programa correspondiente y hacer, obviamente, las previsiones financieras que fueran necesarias. Desgraciadamente, por ser oficioso, el tema de las relaciones FAO/CIRF no fue discutido por nuestra Comisión porque no estaba en el programa. Esperábamos que para la fecha de esta Conferencia se pudiera saber - digamos - la decisión de este divorcio o del mantenimiento del matrimonio FAO/CIRF, que no sabemos cómo está ahora, porque eso podría darnos muchos mayores elementos de juicio para una decisión.

Finalmente, quiero mencionar algunos problemas técnicos con implicaciones políticas. Habría que ver la importancia relativa que existe de los cultivos de interés local, versus los cultivos de interés global. Debería contemplarse igualmente la importancia relativa de los cultivos de interés económico, versus los de interés social.

Esto lo digo porque cuando se apeló a que se hiciera investigación sobre cultivos andinos, preincaicos e incaicos, se dijo que no tenían interés económico, pero sí tienen interés social y pueden ser importantes cuando, superando el presunto no interés económico, se vuelva socialmente aceptable y pueda adquirir interés económico.

Consideramos también la importancia de que en lugar de multiplicación y evaluación tenga características similares a las del lugar de recolección. O sea, si recolectamos en un ecosistema y lo queremos mantener ex situ en un ecosistema artificial costoso, es una cosa que debe tenerse en cuenta.

Pensamos, inclusive, que la erosión genética en banco de germoplasma pueda ser superior a la erosión genética del campo. Estamos, pues, ante un problema entre la conservación ex situ, versus la conservación in situ.

Yo creo, señor Presidente, y pido disculpas al distinguido auditorio, que se pueden dar cuenta de que en la Comisión hemos trabajado conscientemente, hemos trabajado a fondo, hemos evaluado el problema en la mayoría de sus implicaciones y consideramos que, por mandato de la FAO, la FAO no puede tirar por la borda esta responsabilidad que tiene muy clara constitutivamente, ya que justamente tiene un mandato mundial de promover la utilización y conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Estamos de acuerdo en que en el aspecto técnico el CIRF está trabajando eficazmente, debe seguir y deberemos apoyarlo, pero son dos aspectos diferentes que no deben mezclarse. Nadie piensa, o por lo menos nadie debe pensar, que queremos que este centro de conservación de semillas bajo la FAO es ^Men lugar de", sino que es "además de". No es duplicación.

Con esto, señor Presidente, agradezco, y mi país, como ya lo dijo nuestro Presidente en su discurso y nuestro Ministro, se adhiere fervientemente a la creación de este fondo y cree que la buena fe de los países desarrollados, cuando estudien a fondo el problema y lo miren con los ojos con que ellos saben mirar, les van hacer apoyar la creación de este fondo, y tengan la seguridad de que - digamos - los derechos del plant breeder, o sea del mejorador, deberían, a mi modesta opinión, ser respetados y se debería encontrar algún sistema legal que aclare esta opinión.

M. MAHI (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun remercie d'abord M. Bommer pour sa présentation magistrale des documents relatifs aux ressources phytogénétiques.

La délégation du Cameroun a été très attentive aux déclarations faites par les éminents délégués qui nous ont précédés. Elle note que tous ces délégués reconnaissent l'importance et le bien-fondé des ressources phytogénétiques en même temps que de l'Engagement international sur ces ressources. En fait, tous ces délégués sont unanimes à reconnaître que les ressources phytogénétiques engagent le devenir de notre agriculture. Ces ressources constituent, en fait, un patrimoine de l'humanité tout entière.

Les divergences notées dans les diverses déclarations résultent des intérêts des uns et des autres dans le cadre de l'exploitation et de la circulation de ces ressources phytogénétiques.

La délégation du Cameroun, qui a adhéré à l'Engagement international sur les ressources phytogénétiques, pense que ces divergences seront surmontables. Elles le seront certainement dès que le groupe de travail de la Commission aura défini la répartition des tâches entre elle et le CIRPG.

La délégation du Cameroun note donc la pertinence des observations faites par divers délégués à ce sujet. Ces observations permettront tout simplement à la Commission d'effectuer un travail beaucoup plus fouillé en laissant à la FAO le soin de rester maître d'oeuvre.

La délégation du Cameroun soutient que, s'agissant d'un patrimoine de l'humanité, les ressources phytogénétiques doivent rester accessibles à tous. Il s'agit d'une solidarité qui marque nos échanges d'informations et nos actions de recherche. Nous les admettons dans bien des domaines. Il faut tout simplement que, par tous les moyens, nous sauvagions le patrimoine de l'humanité, surtout pour les générations à venir. Il faut faciliter l'accès de tout le monde à ce bien commun, que nous avons trouvé et que nous devons laisser.

Ma délégation appuie sans réserve les recommandations de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques. Elle appuie essentiellement la déclaration faite par le délégué du Mexique à ce sujet. Elle demande donc à tous les délégués d'en faire autant. Le Cameroun a d'ailleurs demandé d'être membre de la Commission.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon): Je me permettrai de rappeler que ce point de l'ordre du jour a fait l'objet de discussions approfondies et d'échanges de vues très forts lors de la première réunion de la Commission sur les ressources phytogénétiques. Les conclusions des travaux de cette Commission ont été examinées par le Conseil.

Ma délégation fait siennes les positions exprimées par le Président du groupe des 77 et par celui du groupe africain au sujet notamment des compétences de la Commission et du CIRPG, des rapports organiques qui doivent régir ces organismes et de la mise en place d'un cadre juridique régissant les échanges de matériel végétal tant *in situ* que *ex situ*. Ce cadre, naturellement doit veiller à sauvegarder les intérêts des uns et des autres, comme l'a dit tout à l'heure le délégué du Cameroun.

Je m'en voudrais si, au passage, ma délégation ne remerciait pas M. Bommer pour la présentation précise, claire et concise qu'il a faite du document.

Mon pays a adhéré dès le départ à l'Engagement international, répondant ainsi à la résolution 8/83. Je suis heureux de vous annoncer que j'ai reçu instruction de mon gouvernement pour que le Gabon fasse partie de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques.

A.GAYOSO (United States of America): Once again we have been asked to support a thrust - the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources - that our scientists and our Government firmly believe will be of detriment to what has been to date the most productive and successful international scientific cooperative endeavour in human history. As our actions and our words have been reiterated over and over, the United States is fully in favour of having the complete free exchange of germplasm in the world. Such free exchange is essential - I repeat, essential - for agricultural production in the United States, as well as for the maintenance and further development of germplasm varieties and

stocks of benefit to the world. We submit again that the operational sections of the Undertaking would have a profound negative impact not only on free exchange but also, and most importantly, on the work of an international system that, while not perfect, has proven itself time and time again in supporting genetic conservation and diversity, free exchange, and the need for increased food production in the world.

We note the expression by many delegates of the need to recognize and honour the legitimate rights and roles of the private breeders. We also note the views of many delegates that IBPGR has been, is, and should continue to serve its very legitimate, useful challenging purpose.

Several delegates have asked for those who do not support the Undertaking to state their reasons. We have done so in unambiguous terms before; however, it is in our view such an important issue that it is useful to again submit our position.

To start with, I must tell you that the Undertaking is inconsistent with the United States laws concerning patent rights, intellectual property and plant variety protection. This is not a legalistic argument, although it does, in and of itself, prevent our accession to the Undertaking.

What is more important is the fact that the Undertaking, if implemented as written, will work as a powerful disincentive to private breeding. Private breeding has been a major source of new varieties to feed the world, while negating that initiative would have serious detrimental effects to farmers and consumers worldwide. In the United States alone, close to 80 percent of plant breeding in maize is conducted by the private sector; in vegetables, it is 50 percent or more. That the private sector is so committed, given the proper incentives, has the effect of releasing government resources to focus on other basic efforts, such as truly basic research in the developing sciences and on collection, storage, preservation, evaluation, training, education, and information systems on plant genetic resources. From a technical standpoint, the inclusion of breeder lines and mutants in the Undertaking makes the proposed system even more impractical and detrimental, as millions of plant populations undergoing research are most often transitional or intermediate in nature and, as such, of unproven value. Classification and storage of these lines by the international network would be wasteful and impractical.

My country is committed to free germplasm exchange that recognizes private rights. We intend to continue to do so, and agree with the delegate of Brazil that certain provisions of the Undertaking are in conflict with that commitment.

We, with the FAO, are major supporters of the CGIAR and the IBPGR. It is useful to recall that it was the joint initiative of the US and Mexico Governments that led initially to the establishment of CIMMYT. It is also useful to recall how immensely successful CIMMYT and the centres which followed under CGIAR have been in providing developing countries with the technical means of dramatically improving their food production.

The US has a strong resolve to further that process, through both multilateral and bilateral cooperation. It may be of interest to you, Sir, that it is for precisely those reasons and consistent with the philosophies stated herein that the US and Mexico have recently signed an accord to cooperate on germplasm preservation and improvement. And it may be of interest to you that part of the US - Mexico cooperation includes improvement in the preservation and evaluation of the valuable stocks at CIMMYT, an effort which is financed in part by non-governmental funds.

The success of the CGIAR and later of the IBPGR are due in large part to three major factors: first, the total technical support the system has had underlined by strong financial support; second, the technical and apolitical nature of the system; and, third, open international participation in the governance of the system.

The US believes that any actions that tend to minimize the integrity of that system, be they the CGIAR or in particular the IBPGR, will serve to undermine the very objectives the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources purports to expouse.

In consequence, my country is prepared to support proposals that ensure that the technical and scientific integrity of the IBPGR will be maintained, and this may be by establishing its autonomy and by keeping a close working relationship with FAO.

In closing, we wish to share the concerns expressed by the Nordic group regarding the institutional arrangements which have been put in place after the last Conference. We also support points raised by Canada in their presentation. The United States believes that the legal and technical flaws in the Undertaking make it unworkable. Therefore, the US cannot accept it, and will not sign it. We cannot be part of actions that we believe will damage international germplasm conservation and diversification efforts while wasting, unnecessarily, valuable financing sources. We also believe that the creation of an international fund is both duplicative and unnecessary in light of existing funding mechanisms both inside and outside the United Nations.

O. SALES PETINGA (Portugal): L'expérience que nous avons eue au cours de quelques années de collaboration avec le CIRPG nous permet de conclure à un travail efficace et fécond.

Ainsi nous pensons que l'association du CIRPG avec la FAO se fera dans le bon sens, c'est-à-dire dans le sens de la complémentarité. Celle-ci permettra de renforcer l'établissement d'un réseau international de "collections de base" dans des banques de gènes.

Mon pays pense que l'on devra intensifier et étendre la collaboration entre les banques de gènes existant dans les différents pays.

Le Portugal a collaboré de façon intensive dans ce domaine et a cédé une grande partie de son matériel génétique, considéré dans quelques cas comme ayant une haute valeur ainsi par exemple ce qui concerne les Lupinus, les Secale, les Trifolium. C'est généreusement et avec la plus vive satisfaction qu'il apporte cette collaboration entre centres de recherche.

Nous acceptons dans un esprit très ouvert les échanges de matériel génétique en souhaitant qu'il y ait possibilité que les échanges se fassent de manière facultative.

Nous pensons que le problème de la collecte et de la manutention des ressources génétiques, incluant le phytoplasme, constituent un travail de grande importance mondiale actuellement et surtout pour l'avenir de l'humanité.

Comme nous le savons, il existe déjà un nombre très important d'espèces végétales qui ont disparu surtout dans les zones où les incendies, le surpâturage et l'érosion éolienne et pluviale ont provoqué la destruction pratiquement totale de la végétation.

Nous considérons qu'il est nécessaire de recueillir et de maintenir les collections de gènes car ceci est indispensable pour l'amélioration des plantes cultivées.

Cette tâche est aussi importante qu'onéreuse et de ce fait il est nécessaire de disposer de ressources techniques et financières très élevées.

D'autre part, nous considérons également que la concentration de tout le matériel génétique dans un même endroit est un système non souhaitable parce qu'une calamité imprévue peut détruire un ensemble de matériel impossible à trouver ailleurs.

C'est pourquoi nous avons déjà défendu la création d'un réseau international dont les centres localisés dans différentes zones du monde pourraient assurer les duplications de matériel.

H. CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Un elemento fundamental para mejorar la producción biológica lo constituye la potencialidad genética de las plantas sobre las cuales se aplican insumos necesarios para obtener los niveles de productividad deseables para satisfacer requerimientos alimenticios y nutricionales del hombre.

Este concepto es válido en la medida en que se determinen mecanismos efectivos de manejo y su reproducción, selección y evaluación en diferentes ambientes.

El intercambio de estos recursos entre pueblos y gobiernos hacen posible amplias oportunidades para garantizar actividades de mejoramiento genético de producción de semillas mejoradas y desarrollo tecnológico a fin de cumplir con los requisitos de producción y alimentación nacional de los distintos países. Por este motivo el gobierno de Nicaragua ha considerado los recursos genéticos vegetales como fundamentales para el desarrollo económico y social de los países que integran la comunidad internacional. Como un esfuerzo propio desde hace un año desarrollamos un programa nacional de recursos genéticos para coleccionar, conservar, evaluar, seleccionar y multiplicar materiales de utilidad nacional y mundial.

Estos recursos están a disposición de todos los países que lo requieran.

Nuestra delegación considera que el Compromiso Internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos constituye un gran avance en la normación de las relaciones internacionales que aseguran un adecuado aprovechamiento y distribución de dichos recursos para todos los países de la comunidad internacional.

Nicaragua en este sentido reitera su apoyo a la Resolución 8/83 que contiene el Compromiso Internacional sobre recursos fitogenéticos y pone a disposición de todos los países los recursos genéticos con que cuenta.

Asimismo reiteramos nuestro apoyo a la Resolución 9/83 que constituyó la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y la recomendación del informe de su primera reunión de marzo del año en curso.

Nicaragua participó en aquella ocasión como observador, pero nos integraremos como miembro en su próxima reunión.

Por último, deseamos expresar nuestro apoyo a la creación de un fondo internacional para la conservación de recursos fitogenéticos y también, de manera específica, apoyamos el artículo 7.1 del Compromiso Internacional que trata sobre la creación de una red de colecciones base de germoplasma bajo la jurisdicción de la FAO para complementar los trabajos realizados por el CIRF. También apoyamos la realización de estudios de carácter jurídico por parte de la FAO con el objetivo de tener elementos para poder garantizar la libre disponibilidad de los productos fitogenéticos y determinar la propiedad de las colecciones almacenadas en el GCIAl.

Abdul Wahab Naji Ismail AL-SAMURRAI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): In my country, we are fully aware of the importance of plant genetic resources. The international heritage in this field must be preserved; it can be of considerable help to agriculture and my country has taken action in this field. Since 1977 there are a number of actions we have undertaken in this field bearing in mind how important this question is. Iraq endorses the IBPGR and the regional project for the collection of the Region's Plant Genetic Resources. We equally endorse the creation of a working group in this field. I think training programmes are needed in this respect. We need to coordinate the results obtained so as to develop agriculture and boost food productivity in meeting food needs and, indeed, in developing plant genetic resources which can serve the interests of humanity as a whole. This can have considerable potential also for the economies of individual countries.

Horatio M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The views of the Philippines have already been expressed in the previous meetings of the Commission. We believe that there is now a greater urgency to conserve plant genetic resources, as there is a greater danger of genetic strains disappearing forever, as a result of the greater use of high-yielding varieties and the destruction of the natural habitats of many strains.

The Philippines endorses the recommendations and conclusions of the Council on plant genetic resources. In particular, I should like to stress the importance of promoting the technical and scientific participation of the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, IBPGR, in the work of the Commission in establishing complementarity and in avoiding duplication.

We believe that the discussions between the Director-General and the Chairman of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, CGIAR, regarding the relationships between IBPGR and FAO should continue. We are hopeful that these consultations can produce useful results.

With regard to the establishment of the International Fund on Genetic Resources, we are aware that there are many who support this idea. There are others who are not in favour of it. But as you know, Mr Chairman, nothing can be done without funding, and since it is clear that we cannot arrive at a consensus regarding the establishment of this fund during this Conference, I believe that the most practical conclusion that we can deduce is to request that the Director-General make a study on the modalities, possible sources, and mechanisms of such an international funding, and present this study to the next session of the Commission.

I think this is indeed the most practical conclusion that we can arrive at, otherwise we do not know where we will be heading. I hope that this proposal will meet with the approval of the Commission.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): Today at Geneva Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbaciov are not discussing plant genetic resources. Neither, I guess, would this subject be troubling the minds of the more ordinary people in other parts of the world. The reason is that in this day and age of perpetual crises of one sort or another, everyone in the world at all levels, whether in Geneva, Africa or elsewhere, is occupied with what may be termed "crisis management" - the very immediate needs or the immediate and narrow interest. The issue of plant genetic resources perhaps does not seem to qualify in this respect. But needless to say, it is a matter involving the long-term interest, and the global interest, of all mankind and of all countries collectively and individually, since it has to do with the long-term stability and sustainability of the global food base and therefore the very survival of our species.

Given this fundamental fact, all countries of all denominations, whether developed or underdeveloped, hyper-developed or mal-developed, have a common stake and a common interest in the work of FAO's newly established Plant Genetic Resources Commission. This mutuality of interest over a vast global scale on a matter of such vital and long-term interest should, in our view, have been sufficient to attract the membership of all countries to the Commission, and their subscription to the Undertaking. More specific issues such as what the Commission would be doing exactly, how it would be related to this or that body, how the interests of this or that group of workers or scientists would be safeguarded, what would be the source of funds, etc., are matters of detail which, in our view, do not detract from the fundamental need for such an intergovernmental body and are matters which can be resolved in the due course of time.

Such specific issues become insignificant before the overall spectre of the genetic erosion of the cultivated plant life on this earth, whether they are the apples of the supermarkets of the developed world - of which, one is told, only a few dozen varieties are now actually seen in North America out of the scores of varieties that were there only a few generations ago - or whether they are the traditional staple foods that make up the meagre diet of a peasant in the Third World.

Therefore the first thing to say and do is for the FAO, and all of us here who are members of this Commission to urge and invite once again the countries who have not yet joined the Commission, countries whose presence or absence makes all the difference, to join this new intergovernmental body and present their points of view from within.

We, for our part, support this body, its sub-committee their mandates and programme of work. We also welcome and support the follow-up action already undertaken and the studies that are proposed to be undertaken under its auspices, as referred to in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the document.

We are conscious that many issues remain to be understood and resolved. It is clear that many things are not clear. There are informational gaps, conceptual gaps and decisional gaps. Where are the new gene collections to be located? Are the existing ones adequate? What is the existing stock in these, both absolutely and as a proportion of the total living stock?

How free is the access? Should the genebanks be the owners or the mere custodians? Is ownership an academic question? Are or should plant breeders' rights to be safeguarded? Given, in fact, a hierarchy of breeders' rights ranging from a chance discovery of a mutation to deliberate genetic engineering, which right in this hierarchy is an acceptable right and which is not?

Given the long chequered history and legal philosophy of such rights, and of patents and intellectual property concepts in general in all the developed countries over the last 100 years or more, the existence of these admitted problems in our information, in our perception and in our understanding do not in our view detract from the fundamental need for the undertaking and the Commission. In fact, the work of the Commission should be the starting point for reaching an understanding and a consensus on these issues. Questions have been raised and doubts have been expressed about the relationship of - FAO its Plant Genetic Resources Commission with the International board for Plant Genetic Resources and the possible duplication in the work of the two bodies. We do not see any conceptual or practical problem in this respect. On the face of it as the system might best evolve, we see no danger of duplication between FAO, an inter-governmental policy-making body, and the IBPGR, which is a technical body. There is no duplication, just as there is no duplication between, say, a railway engine and an engine driver. An engine can be a highly efficient and effective machine but should not choose its own direction without a driver. The IBPGR can in our view continue its commendable work but should ultimately be subject to some overall inter-governmental control covering overall policy matters such as: which portion of the food genetic chain, from collection to documentation, to information, to storage and exchange, should it be concentrating more on at any particular junction of time; should it be emphasizing direct breeding programmes or devoting time and attention to expanding the genetic base; which category of crops should it be more concerned with, and so on. Such far reaching decisions lie within the purview of the international collectivity of nations, of which FAO and its newly-constituted Commission happens to be the most appropriate body at present. The execution of such broadly-defined mandates would then be the task of the IBPGR.

In principle, therefore, we find no irresolvable conflict of function, or overlap, or duplication, between FAO and the Commission on the one hand and the IBPGR on the other. Any transitory ambiguities, overlaps, etc., can be resolved through appropriate consideration and indeed, as is stated in paragraph 15 of the document, FAO would study and ensure "complementarity between the activities of IBPGR and the Commission". In working out such arrangements, it should be emphasized that the technical independence and the research competence of IBPGR should be jealously guarded. Having said that, we think it is evident that FAO and the IBPGR have to have the closest possible working relationship. Any proposal to move IBPGR out of FAO as a fully autonomous centre needs to be carefully justified and the Commission and the FAO governing bodies should be fully apprised of any such decision and the reasons for it.

In view of the fact that we are now running short of time and our statement has already become somewhat long, I would only briefly further state our support for the view that the genes bank and the collection centres should be under some sort of international auspices and jurisdiction; that the present imbalance in the location, that is the concentration of the location, of the world genetic stock should be gradually rectified through conscious measures and that the IBPGR should continue with its collection work along with its documentation and evaluation work. The IBPGR should complete a proper inventory of the exact size, quality and location of the world's genetic stock so that the free exchange of information regarding genetic materials may be ensured.

Finally, to close, we support the idea of an International Gene Fund.

Hussein AL-AHMAD (Syria) (original language Arabic): I will be very brief in my word. Let me only say that the delegation of my country joined the international convention on genetic resources. With other countries during the Twenty-second session of the Conference, my country worked hard to adopt the two resolutions relative to the International Convention and the Commission on Germplasm.

We also support all recommendations of the genetic resources as well as well activities to be implemented in the future. We also support document C 83/24 and the statement delivered by Mexico. 1/

EL PRESIDENTE: Las Delegaciones de Chile y Siria han enviado sendas declaraciones sobre este tema, declaraciones que, con la venia de la Comisión, se insertarán en las Actas.

Julio César JARA D. (Chile): La Delegación de Chile reitera su apoyo tanto a las recomendaciones de la primera Reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, como a su Programa de Trabajo.

Muestra su preocupación por la creciente tendencia de apropiación de recursos fitogenéticos.

Desea conocer las reservas jurídicas que algunos países han sentado respecto a algunas partes concretas del Compromiso.

Destaca la importancia de contar con un sistema de información.

Reitera su apoyo al Compromiso Internacional e invita a los que no lo han hecho, a que se suscriban.

Adhiere a la iniciativa de establecer un "Fondo Internacional para Recursos Genéticos". 2/

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like on behalf of the Director-General to say we appreciate very much the very interesting debates and the comments made by the various delegations to the subject under review, item 15, Follow-up of Conference Resolutions 8/83 and 9/83: Plant Genetic Resources.

It was gratifying to note that during the debate five countries had expressed their interest to become members of the Commission which now brings membership up to 82 countries.

The debate clearly emanated renewed commitment by all governments concerned to the importance and to the value of plant genetic resources. Many underlined the importance of in-situ conservation, which has lacked sufficient support in the past and needs to be developed much more strongly in the future.

Some comments which have been made in relation to this threat to local varieties through the introduction of high-yielding ones is certainly not to be interpreted as discouragement for further intensification of agricultural production, which we certainly greatly need. Without this intensification, it would not have been possible for the Indonesian delegation to attend this Conference and to present, on FAO's 40th Anniversary, 100 000 tons of surplus rice which had been produced from IR 36, a variety which has reached the widest distribution and which has been developed by the International Rice Research Institute. Certainly, because of the introduction of this variety, the traditional varieties on the Island have been wiped out. In the meantime other varieties are in storage in the International Rice Research Gene Bank to be used in additional breeding programmes. The striking difference, the production of six tons of rice with the improved variety, as opposed to the former one ton of rice with the previous variety, is certainly enough justification to foster this development.

1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim record on request

2/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

The debate provided valuable information by various delegations for the preparation by the Secretariat of an analysis of reservations made by various countries to particular aspects of the Undertaking. Through the statements by the developed as well as the developing countries it is clear that national legislation in countries govern the degree to which they are able to adhere to the Undertaking. A full understanding of these conditions still has to be evolved. It is evolving in this debate and will allow the Secretariat to formulate recommendations for alternatives as proposed by one delegation in order to achieve the widest possible adherence to the Undertaking. All delegations more or less referred to the IBPGR and there was general full support as in former meetings for the important achievements the IBPGR has made. At the same time the necessity to avoid wasteful duplication or overlapping between the work of IBPGR and the FAO was expressed. There is a strong desire for the strong collaboration, as it has existed over 10 years of the existence of the IBPGR, would continue with FAO. The Director-General certainly fully shares this view and even all the delegates that have been heard so far in the CGIAR have supported the need for closest collaboration and liaison with the further evolvement of the IBPGR and FAO's programme in this field, and in reality there is no difficulty to assure this. These are actually minor points which are under discussion and the Director-General still waits the clearly formulated view from the CGIAR on the desire of its donors, who are still undecided among themselves as to which way they must say, for the closest collaboration between IBPGR and FAO, and this is certainly our own belief also.

It was clear from the debate, and I think it was said very clearly by Australia, that the resources in hand are much too small for all organizations concerned with the subject to really fully support the needs that are there in all countries of the world. Much stronger mobilization of such resources is needed. In this context the proposal to study the possibilities of a funding mechanism is under consideration, but it can only certainly be a study. We have heard from various delegations that it might not be the right moment to go any further in this. It underlines, however, the general desire to see many more resources mobilized for the conservation and use of genetic resources for agricultural development.

Sra. Doña Mercedes RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Muchas gracias Señor Presidente. Considero indispensable volver a hacer uso de la palabra porque veo que después del debate sigue habiendo cierta confusión sobre el significado real del Compromiso, su alcance y sus efectos posibles.

En primer lugar Señor Presidente, quiero asentar la satisfacción de mi delegación por el interesante debate que se ha realizado y sobre todo por el ánimo positivo que ha prevalecido. Me parece que se ha expresado amplio apoyo al Compromiso y a los trabajos de la Comisión y de su subgrupo, y al mismo tiempo se han expresado las preocupaciones de algunos países sobre puntos concretos del mismo.

También es necesario reafirmar que los trabajos emanados de la Resolución no pretenden entrar en ningún tipo de controversia con el CIRF como muy bien ya ha expresado el Dr. Bommer. Reafirmo que lo que se pretende es trabajar de forma complementaria con el CIRF y que, repito, considero que deba participar en la Comisión o formar parte de su secretariado técnico. En segundo lugar tampoco se pretende hacer desaparecer los centros regionales como el CIMYT, cuya función como muy bien ha dicho el Representante de los Estados Unidos ha sido y es muy útil; ni tampoco sustituir los acuerdos bilaterales que, estamos seguros, serán de gran importancia en la investigación y en el intercambio. Se trata de que todas estas diversas instancias estén orientadas al beneficio común, no a intereses particulares, ya que abarcan áreas complementarias y diversas.

En cuanto al derecho de los fitomejoradores es obvio que este es un tema que sería competencia del subgrupo de trabajo. Sin ideas preconcebidas, creo que deberíamos analizarlo con espíritu abierto y creo que cada vez más es indispensable contar con el estudio jurídico sobre la propiedad de las especies y los derechos correspondientes.

Finalmente para aclarar también la cuestión sobre las propuestas de un fondo para financiar las actividades en materia de recursos fitogenéticos, creo que igualmente el Sr. Bommer ha expresado muy bien que se trata de solicitar al Director General un estudio sobre la posibilidad del establecimiento del mismo y no de establecer el fondo en este momento por la Conferencia.

EL PRESIDENTE: En nombre de la Comisión agradezco al Dr. Bommer su declaración que facilita la tarea del Presidente al tratar de presentar un resumen sobre este tema que comprende aspectos políticos y técnicos y en cuya discusión intervinieron 43 delegaciones.

Creo que se reconoció en principio, que los recursos fitogenéticos son patrimonio de la humanidad y que deben preservarse para las generaciones futuras.

Se destacó la labor altamente calificada que lleva a cabo el Consejo Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos (CIRF) y se estuvo de acuerdo en que las actividades de la FAO y del CIRF en materia de recursos fitogenéticos deberían definirse respectiva y adecuadamente, a fin de evitar duplicación y de lograr que se complementen en estrecha colaboración de trabajo. A ese respecto, se sugirió que posiblemente el CIRF podría dedicarse a ampliar las colecciones, los bancos de germoplasma existentes en los países y, en general, ocuparse de los aspectos técnicos; mientras que la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos de la FAO podría atender a aquellos asuntos de alcance político y jurídico. En general se subrayó la necesidad de que esto se realizase dentro de un espíritu de mutua colaboración.

Se estuvo de acuerdo en que era necesario que todas las actividades en materia de recursos fitosanitarios deberían tener carácter apolítico.

Se subrayó también la necesidad de hacer esfuerzos para encontrar soluciones adecuadas para que se incluya una amplia participación de todos los Estados Miembros de la FAO y, posiblemente, de aquellos Estados que no son miembros de nuestra Organización. En tal sentido, la Comisión reconoció los esfuerzos del Director General por su insistencia ante los Gobiernos para que se adhieran al Compromiso y participaran en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, y se pidió que continuara en esa dirección. Algunas delegaciones anunciaron el ingreso de sus países en la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. La Comisión tomó nota de que se están adelantando consultas entre el Director General y el Presidente del Grupo Consultivo de Investigación Agrícola Internacional -es una sigla difícil de pronunciar para algunos de nosotros- (GCIAI) que es el grupo de trabajo elegido por la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos que se reunirá en febrero de 1986 bajo la Presidencia del Presidente de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Algunas delegaciones reiteraron las reservas con que se han adherido al Compromiso, las cuales se basan en sus legislaciones domésticas. Otras delegaciones anunciaron que no podían adherirse al compromiso porque ciertos principios de ese compromiso eran incompatibles con las legislaciones de sus países.

Algunas delegaciones insistieron en la necesidad de crear un fondo que podría establecerse mediante las contribuciones voluntarias de los gobiernos, organizaciones, o instituciones. Otras delegaciones opinaron que no era necesario crear ese fondo y que esas actividades podrían realizarse con los recursos existentes. Soy consciente, y estoy seguro de que ustedes están de acuerdo conmigo en que este es un tema controvertido en el cual subsisten opiniones divergentes.

Se plantearon otros asuntos entre los cuales el más señalado fue la necesidad de capacitación pero hasta aquí llega mi buena voluntad, el resto lo hará el Comité de Redacción.

D.M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Yo quisiera agradecerle por su resumen, el cual podemos suscribir casi en su totalidad, sobre cómo se realizó el debate, cuáles fueron los puntos más importantes que se tocaron, y sobre todo, cuáles fueron los puntos de coincidencia y de divergencia.

Solamente para poder orientar mejor al Comité de Redacción, en cuanto a la última parte, que es la que se refiere al establecimiento de un fondo, me parece que no fueron algunas delegaciones y creo que es muy importante dejar sentada que fue la gran mayoría de los miembros de esta Comisión los que se pronunciaron a favor del fondo. Incluso creo que sería importante dejar claro desde ahora que no se trata de establecer el fondo en estos momentos -repito-, sino de pedir al Director General que haga los estudios precedentes para ver la posibilidad de que en el futuro se establezca. Este estudio se presentaría a la próxima sesión de la Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que mi distinguida colega y amiga, la Sra. Ruíz, de Mexico, conoce muy bien el carácter del resumen del Presidente, indicativo y no obligatorio.

Además, México es parte del Comité de Redacción, de manera que creo que ahora no convendrá prolongar más estos debates, sino enviar todo el material de que disponemos a ese Comité, en el que seguimos contando una vez más, con nuestro Presidente, colega y amigo, el Sr. Jennings de los Estados Unidos, al fondo de la sala, muy dinámico Presidente de ese Comité.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, sólo para precisar que estamos totalmente de acuerdo con su resumen, que creo que ha sido muy abarcador y muy interesante. Sería una buena base de estudio para el Comité de Redacción.

Solamente quisiéramos precisar que cuando usted dijo "la ambición que tenemos de que puedan participar en la Comisión todos los países, inclusive los no miembros de FAO", creemos que debe referirse a "miembros de Naciones Unidas". Creo que debe precisarse que son miembros de Naciones Unidas, no miembros de FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: En aras de la brevedad, mis referencias son siempre muy limitadas, pero la observación de Cuba tiene valor y se tendrá en cuenta.

Deseo agradecer al doctor Bommer y al señor Brader, quien le ha acompañado esta mañana, su valiosa participación en la discusión de este tema.

TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN COLOMBIA (continued)

HOMMAGE AUX VICTIMES DE L'ERUPTION VOLCANIQUE EN COLOMBIE (suite)

HOMENAJE A LAS VICTIMAS DE LA ERUPCION VOLCANICA EN COLOMBIA(continuación)

O. R. DA SILVA NEVES (Brasil): Señor Presidente, con su permiso, la delegación del Brasil quisiera y presentar un proyecto de resolución con relación a un evento excepcional y de mucha gravedad.

Señor Presidente, en nombre de las delegaciones del Congo, Dinamarca, India, México, Venezuela y Brasil, tengo el honor de someter a la consideración de la Comisión un proyecto de resolución sobre la excelsa Colombia con motivo de las pérdidas humanas y materiales sufridas por la erupción del volcán Nevado del Ruiz.

Estoy seguro de que a muchos otros países les gustaría asociarse a este proyecto de ayuda al país hermano que usted, señor Presidente, representa de forma tan competente.

Además, estoy también seguro de que este proyecto traduce el sentimiento de la Conferencia, ya manifestado por todos los miembros con ocasión de las primeras noticias del grave siniestro.

La situación de emergencia provocada por el referido siniestro, por su naturaleza, debe contar con la asistencia de esta Organización.

El proyecto de resolución, que paso a la Secretaría, es el siguiente:

"LA CONFERENCIA,

Profundamente conmovida por la importancia de las pérdidas en vidas humanas y destrucciones materiales que Colombia acaba de sufrir con motivo de la erupción del volcán Nevado del Ruiz,

Sensible al dolor de millares de personas siniestradas, sin víveres ni medios de subsistencia, consciente de la amplitud de las labores de reconstrucción que el país deberá afrontar sin retraso;

Expresa su solidaridad al pueblo y al Gobierno colombiano;

Nota con satisfacción los esfuerzos desplegados por las autoridades y por el pueblo colombiano para hacer efectivo un programa urgente de asistencia a las zonas afectadas;

Ruega encarecidamente a todos los Estados Miembros, a las Organizaciones competentes de las Naciones Unidas y a la comunidad internacional, todos juntos, aportar al Gobierno colombiano toda la asistencia posible para ayudarle a responder a las necesidades humanitarias y críticas de los pueblos víctimas de ese desastre y a las labores de reconstrucción;

Invita al Director General a tomar las medidas indispensables, a fin de aportar la asistencia necesaria al Gobierno colombiano de la forma más apropiada para permitirle afrontar, en los sectores alimentarios y agrícolas, las necesidades de los pueblos afectados."

L.P. DUTHIE (Australia): We too in the Australia delegation would like to give consideration to the Resolution when it comes to hand. But I thought the Conference would be interested to know that the Australian Government has only just made a decision to contribute \$ 2 million for the Colombian disaster relief.

L. ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, queremos asociarnos a la resolución presentada por Brasil, Presidente de nuestro Grupo Latinoamericano y del Caribe. Nuestro país considera muy oportuna la solidaridad efectiva y material en estos momentos hacia la hermana Colombia, su pueblo sufrido.

Ratificamos, señor Presidente, con esta declaración la posición adoptada por nuestro Ministro, al hacer su intervención en Plenaria, de solidaridad y apoyo al pueblo colombiano.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra a dos oradores que la han solicitado, la Presidencia considera que, después de las generosas manifestaciones de solidaridad que se han hecho aquí en la Comisión, y también en la Plenaria, tal vez no sería conveniente que se hicieran otras declaraciones, para utilizar el tiempo limitado de que disponemos, y que más bien convendría que, como ya se conoce el sentimiento de todos los representantes de gobiernos, este proyecto de resolución pasara directamente al Comité de Resoluciones y luego al Comité de Redacción.

H. MALTEZ (Panamá): Solamente, señor Presidente, era para manifestar nuestra adhesión al proyecto presentado por el distinguido delegado del Brasil. Solamente para eso.

H.M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippines would just like to associate itself with those who support the Resolution.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): We also wish to be associated with the Resolution to be placed.

Y. MINTCHEU (Bulgaria): Just to associate also my country with the Resolution just proposed by my Colleague from Brazil.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Je voudrais dire que ma délégation désire également s'associer au texte de résolution présenté par le délégué du Brésil.

M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Hubiéramos querido atender su solicitud, señor Presidente, pero no podemos menos que expresar nuestro total apoyo al proyecto de resolución presentado por Brasil. Esperamos que el mismo sea aprobado rápidamente por el Comité de Resoluciones y después por nuestra Comisión.

Mme Maria DE LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert voudrait, elle aussi, s'associer au projet de résolution qui vient d'être proposé par la délégation du Brésil.

Hugo MORA (Ecuador): Nosotros ya nos hemos hecho presentes en cuanto a expresar nuestra solidaridad a Colombia por la desgracia que le ha sucedido. Hubiéramos querido hacernos presentes en el proyecto propuesto por Brasil. Ahora lo apoyamos con todo gusto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que la Comisión está de acuerdo en que este proyecto de resolución se envíe al Comité de Resoluciones y luego directamente al Comité de Redacción.

Si no hay ningún otro comentario, hemos concluido así la discusión del tema 15.

M. Afzal Qadir, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, took the chair.

M. Afzal Qadir, Vice-Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia M. Afzal Qadir, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished representatives, now that we have completed our deliberations on item 15 we now move to item 18: Relations and Consultations with International Organizations and I would like to invite Mr Regnier, Directeur, Bureau des Affaires Institutions, to give us an introductory statement.

18. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations:

18. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales:

18. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales:

18.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO

18.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO.

18.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): C'est pour moi un privilège d'introduire, au nom du Directeur général, le point de l'ordre du jour relatif aux faits nouveaux survenus dans le système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO. Pour cet examen, la Conférence dispose de deux documents. Le premier, C 85/9, a été présenté au Conseil à sa 85ème session, en juin 1985. Les observations de ce dernier sont consignées dans son rapport, aux paragraphes 176

à 183. Le deuxième document, C 85/9 Sup. 1, est relativement à jour puisqu'il fait état des développements survenus jusqu'à fin septembre de cette année. Il a été brièvement examiné par le Conseil lors de sa session préparatoire à cette Conférence. Il me suffira donc, dans cette présentation orale, de le compléter par un rappel des tout derniers événements.

Au préalable, cependant, je voudrais rappeler que ces documents ne prétendent pas être exhaustifs. Tout d'abord, ils ne traitent pas de sujets évoqués dans d'autres documents ou dans le cadre d'autres points de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. Ainsi, par exemple, les délibérations du GATT concernant une nouvelle série de négociations commerciales ou la situation du fonds commun des produits de base de la CNUCED ont été évoquées ailleurs. Le rapport du Comité des produits, en particulier, s'y réfère. Aussi, également, les questions relatives au PNUD entrent pour l'essentiel dans le cadre de l'examen des programmes de terrain; elles n'ont donc pas été évoquées dans les documents sous considération sous ce point de l'ordre du jour.

D'autre part, le système des Nations Unies abordant presque tous les secteurs de l'activité humaine, les documents sont nécessairement sélectifs. Ils se concentrent sur les principaux événements et ont une incidence sur les activités de l'Organisation, surtout dans les domaines économique et social. La concertation peut prendre des formes variées, depuis la participation à des réunions interagences, la présentation de rapports et les contributions aux conférences mondiales jusqu'aux analyses de programmes à l'échelle du système, ce que l'on appelle les COPA, ou la mise au point d'activités conjointes.

Examinons ensemble les deux documents qui vous sont soumis. La Commission bénéficiera d'un aperçu synthétique, certes, mais, je crois, révélateur de l'étendue de la coopération entretenue par l'Organisation avec l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. Pour les délégations qui souhaitent connaître davantage dans le détail la façon dont s'articule la consultation au sein des Nations Unies et le mécanisme de coopération interagences, je leur signale qu'elles peuvent se reporter au rapport annuel du Comité administratif de coordination, l'organe suprême de la concertation où siègent tous les chefs d'agence, sous la présidence du Secrétaire général. Pour 1984, ce rapport porte la cote E 85/57. Par ailleurs, le document C 85/PG/10 dresse également l'inventaire de tous les organes subsidiaires du Comité administratif de coordination qui concourent à cette consultation interagence. Cette étude montre que la FAO participe à 42 des 60 mécanismes de coordination mis en place au sein du système des Nations Unies, se classant ainsi la première parmi toutes les organisations du système. Les délégations seront peut-être intéressées de noter qu'au cours des onze premiers mois de cette année, la FAO a été invitée à plus de 50 réunions de la part d'autres organes des Nations Unies.

Elle a en outre préparé plus de 120 contributions à des rapports et documents préparés par le Secrétariat des Nations Unies. Il serait évidemment fastidieux de passer en revue le contenu des documents qui sont soumis à votre considération; permettez-moi à titre d'illustration des propos que je viens de tenir de mentionner quelques exemples significatifs.

Tout d'abord un secteur clé pour la FAO: le développement rural.

L'équipe spéciale du Comité administratif de coordination sur le développement rural dont il est fait mention dans le document C 85/9 est en effet un exemple typique de concertation avec les organisations concernées du système. Elle rassemble 16 organisations sous la conduite de la FAO à la suite de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, mais également d'un véritable mandat reçu de la part de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Son programme de travail s'attache à trois domaines prioritaires: action conjointe au niveau des pays et des régions, participation populaire, surveillance et évaluation du développement rural.

Ce rapport a été examiné par le Comité du programme et de la coordination des Nations Unies qui l'a approuvé. Le Comité économique et social des Nations Unies a également reconnu que l'équipe spéciale travaillait dans la bonne direction et l'action de la FAO dans ce secteur a ainsi reçu l'aval du système dans son ensemble.

Les activités du sous-comité sur la nutrition sont un autre exemple de coopération étroite visant une approche concertée en matière d'alimentation et de nutrition. Parmi les objectifs du sous-comité, je citerai l'engagement du système des Nations Unies de lancer une stratégie- de lutte contre l'avitaminose A et la carence en iode; il s'agit d'un effort concerté de toutes les parties en cause.

Le paragraphe 37 du document fait référence au rôle de la FAO dans les travaux de l'équipe spéciale du Comité administratif de coordination sur la science et la technologie. L'Equipe spéciale dont la FAO a assuré la présidence en 1983-1984, a approuvé un certain nombre d'activités conjointes du système des Nations Unies au profit des pays en développement. La FAO est ainsi l'Organisation chef de file pour trois de ces activités conjointes, à savoir, le projet interrégional de réévaluation et de renforcement des techniques d'application de la télédétection dans les pays en développement, l'amélioration des matériaux de construction traditionnels peu coûteux et la revalorisation et l'utilisation efficace des techniques traditionnelles de conservation et de transformation des aliments.

La FAO assure en outre la codirection avec l'OIT du projet de réseau régional africain pour les outils et le matériel agricoles.

La coopération économique et technique entre pays en développement est également l'objet de consultations entre les différents organes intéressés du système. La FAO a participé étroitement à la préparation de l'analyse des programmes à l'échelle du système des Nations Unies, le COPA, demandée par le Comité du programme et de la coordination des Nations Unies. Cette analyse a montré que les activités de la FAO avaient représenté 25,6 pour cent des ressources totales utilisées par le système dans ce domaine et que la FAO se classait en tête de toutes les organisations s'occupant de cette question.

A l'occasion de la deuxième conférence internationale sur l'assistance aux réfugiés en Afrique dont il est fait mention au supplément 1 du document, la FAO avait soumis 40 propositions de projets agricoles pour 94 millions de dollars E.-U. dont 23 totalement préparés et évalués et prêts pour l'exécution; à ce jour malheureusement aucune ressource n'a été allouée à la FAO sur les fonds fiduciaires créés par cette conférence.

Je souhaiterais également faire mention du Comité consultatif sur l'organisation des systèmes d'information aux travaux duquel la FAO prend une part active.

Le programme du travail du Comité comprend la préparation d'un répertoire des activités de développement, répertoire qui serait géré par une unité d'information centrale à New York. Elle est destinée en priorité aux services gouvernementaux des Etats membres et aux unités de planification, de programmation et d'exécution des institutions du système. Un prototype est maintenant en voie d'examen.

Je mentionnerai un dernier domaine de coopération relativement récent, mais d'une actualité hélas brûlante et dramatique, je me réfère à la lutte contre l'abus des stupéfiants. La FAO s'est fait un plaisir d'accueillir ici à Rome en septembre dernier une réunion interinstitutions sur cette question. Un des principaux points à l'ordre du jour y était la substitution des cultures pour réduire l'approvisionnement en substances illicites pour lequel la FAO avait préparé un document de référence.

Comme le document du supplément le mentionne au paragraphe 86, le Secrétaire général a proposé de provoquer, en juin 1987, une conférence ministérielle sur ce sujet. Un des thèmes majeurs y sera précisément la substitution des cultures.

Nous avons donc proposé que le document de la FAO, après l'amplification nécessaire, serve de base aux travaux de la Conférence mondiale sur ce sujet. Le Directeur général a confirmé cette offre en octobre dernier au Comité administratif de coordination lors d'une concertation préalable au sein du système.

Je pourrais parler de l'environnement, de l'industrialisation avec la nouvelle ONUDI, de la télédétection, de la décennie de l'eau potable, mais les quelques exemples que je viens de donner suffiront sans doute à illustrer la place, le rôle et la coopération de la FAO dans le système des Nations Unies. De fait, pratiquement tous les sujets abordés dans les deux documents qui lui sont présentés témoignent d'activités au sein du système auxquelles la FAO d'une manière ou d'une autre s'intéresse.

Permettez-moi maintenant d'en venir à certains développements trop récents pour avoir pu être rapportés dans le document: en particulier la présente Assemblée générale, la réunion annuelle à Séoul du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale et la réunion de haut niveau sur le nouveau programme substantiel d'actions pour les pays les moins développés.

La quarantième session de l'Assemblée générale a commencé en septembre dernier et se prolongera jusqu'à la fin de l'année; il est donc trop tôt pour faire rapport à ce sujet. J'aimerais cependant mentionner que l'Assemblée générale a déjà examiné la situation économique critique en Afrique. On se souviendra que le Sommet de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine à Addis-Abeba en juin dernier avait adopté une résolution demandant la convocation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale pour discuter des conditions d'un développement interne de l'Afrique. Une proposition en ce sens a été soumise à l'Assemblée générale par Son Excellence le Président Diouf du Sénégal, Président en exercice de l'OUA. L'Assemblée générale devrait prendre sous peu semble-t-il une décision positive sur cette proposition.

Je souhaiterais ajouter que le Directeur général, comme il l'a lui-même indiqué à la Commission I la semaine dernière, s'est à nouveau adressé le 28 octobre à l'Assemblée générale à l'occasion du débat sur la situation critique en Afrique. Sa déclaration intitulée "Pour une relance de la production vivrière en Afrique" a été bien accueillie et la Commission voudra peut-être noter que le Directeur général dans son intervention a offert l'entière collaboration de la FAO pour préparer le volet alimentaire et agricole d'une telle session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale si celle-ci est convoquée.

Me référant à la réunion annuelle du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale tenue à Séoul du 8 au 11 octobre, je voudrais d'abord dire qu'une de ses principales conclusions est l'affirmation selon laquelle les politiques d'ajustement structurelles étaient insoutenables en l'absence d'une croissance régulière.

Le Comité intérimaire du Fonds monétaire international a d'autre part décidé d'octroyer à des conditions favorables, sur les remboursements effectués à son fonds fiduciaire, quelque 2,7 milliards de dollars des Etats-Unis entre 1985 et 1991 aux pays à bas revenus, particulièrement d'Afrique subsaharienne, afin de les aider à surmonter leurs problèmes de balance des paiements.

Comme vous le savez sans doute les ressources de ce fonds fiduciaire proviennent de la vente d'or du Fonds monétaire international. Des prêts avaient été octroyés par le Fonds monétaire sur ce fonds et les remboursements commencent maintenant à rentrer, d'où ces possibilités nouvelles d'intervention du Fonds monétaire.

Par contre aucun accord n'a pu être atteint sur l'augmentation des droits de tirage spéciaux au cours de la période 1982-1986; cette question sera examinée à nouveau en avril 1986.

Le Comité du développement de la Banque mondiale, pour sa part, s'est mis d'accord en principe sur une nouvelle série de négociations pour la huitième reconstitution de l'Association internationale de développement. Ces négociations devraient commencer en janvier 1986 et être achevées avant septembre 1986. Il n'y a pas de décision spécifique concernant l'augmentation générale du capital de la Banque mondiale, mais consensus pour que la Banque augmente ses opérations de prêts et joue un rôle plus grand dans la croissance à long terme des pays en développement.

Le Comité du développement a demandé que la Banque prépare une étude sur les besoins en financement de l'Afrique subsaharienne pour examen à la prochaine session du Comité.

Enfin la réunion annuelle du Fonds monétaire international et de la Banque mondiale a également approuvé la création d'une Agence multilatérale de garantie des investissements appelée déjà MIGA, au capital d'un milliard de dollars des Etats-Unis. L'Agence aurait pour objet d'accroître le courant des capitaux et des technologies vers les pays en développement par une couverture des risques non commerciaux. La Convention relative à l'établissement de cette nouvelle Agence est maintenant ouverte à signature. La ratification par un minimum de 15 pays en développement et de 5 pays développés est requise pour que l'Agence puisse commencer ses opérations. A ce jour trois pays en développement ont déjà signé la Convention.

Le document C 85/9 fait également référence aux paragraphes 22 à 31 du Programme substantiel d'action pour les années 1980 en faveur des pays les moins avancés. Ce programme est issu de la Conférence de Paris sur les pays les moins avancés, et ainsi que l'Assemblée générale en avait décidé en 1984 une réunion de haut niveau du Groupe intergouvernemental de la CNUCED sur les pays les moins avancés s'est tenue à Genève du 30 septembre au 11 octobre. Afin de procéder à un examen global à mi-parcours des progrès réalisés dans l'application du programme, la FAO avait préparé pour cette réunion une évaluation du secteur agricole et du développement rural dans les pays les moins avancés, indiquant les ajustements qu'il pourrait être utile d'apporter au programme d'action de la deuxième moitié de la décennie.

L'alimentation et l'agriculture ont fait l'objet d'un examen prioritaire de la part des experts et une importante résolution a été adoptée à ce sujet. Elle incite les pays les moins avancés à consacrer un pourcentage approprié de leurs ressources au développement rural. En même temps, elle demande aux donateurs d'appuyer les efforts des pays les moins avancés dans ce secteur jugé prioritaire. Les participants ont estimé que les résultats atteints jusqu'à présent par une table ronde du PNUD en vue d'accroître les courants de ressources n'étaient pas satisfaisants.

Dans le cadre des nouvelles dispositions adoptées depuis la fin de 1984, les agences normalement ne seront pas invitées aux futures tables rondes; elles participeront toutefois aux consultations relatives à l'examen des programmes sectoriels de ces pays.

Le Groupe intergouvernemental a enfin pris note de ce que l'objectif du programme d'action visant à consacrer 0,1-5 pour cent de l'aide publique au développement des pays les moins avancés n'avait pas été atteint; l'objectif a cependant été réaffirmé. Les participants ont aussi insisté pour que les aides publiques bilatérales aux pays les moins avancés soient pour l'essentiel accordées sous forme de dons et les organismes multilatéraux de développement ont aussi été priés d'accorder des crédits aux pays les moins avancés à des conditions très favorables.

Enfin la réunion a recommandé que l'Assemblée générale décide d'un nouvel examen global au niveau de la mise en oeuvre de ce programme en 1986.

Avant de terminer je souhaite mentionner également qu'en application de la Résolution 3986 de l'Assemblée générale, une Conférence des Nations Unies sur le droit des traités entre Etats et organisations internationales ou entre organisations internationales elles-mêmes se tiendra à Vienne du 18 février au 21 mars 1986. La Conférence examinera un projet de convention qui a été préparé par la Commission du droit international.

Le Directeur général, qui, en vertu de la pratique et des textes fondamentaux de l'Organisation conduit les relations de la FAO avec les autres organisations, prendra les arrangements nécessaires pour la participation de la FAO à cette Conférence à laquelle elle espère contribuer d'une manière constructive.

Avec cette présentation, je me permets de soumettre les documents C 85/9 et C 85/9-Sup.1 à la considération de la Commission et je me tiens, bien entendu, à votre disposition pour vous fournir toute information ou clarification que vous désiriez recevoir.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank M Regnier for his statement introducing the item under discussion -even more so, because his statement has brought out very clearly the wide-ranging activities in which his organization, FAO, has been engaged, in evolving and forging relations between various organizations under the United Nations System. Again, I thank him.

I would now like to give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Venezuela who has asked for the floor in order to present a resolution.

Sra.Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela tiene el honor de presentar ante esta Comisión un proyecto de Resolución sobre la mujer en el medio rural.

Reconocemos que hasta ahora la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación ha desempeñado un papel pionero en muchos países en materia de ofrecer oportunidades a la mujer del medio rural y tenemos ante nosotros un boletín, número 5, distribuido ayer en esta Conferencia sobre el desarrollo rural en donde hay información acerca de las muchas actividades que las Naciones Unidas desarrollan en muchos países del Tercer Mundo, y sobre los países en vías de desarrollo relacionadas con la mujer en el medio rural. Sin embargo, no podemos dejar de reconocer que la situación de la mujer en el medio rural, considerada globalmente la población mundial y la proporción de mujeres que ellas representan en la mayoría de los países del Tercer Mundo y especialmente en los países en vías de desarrollo, está todavía lejos de considerarse como satisfecha en las posibilidades que la mujer necesita para poder contribuir de una manera eficiente a las tareas que ella está llamada a desempeñar en sus comunidades.

Nosotros por experiencia conocemos en nuestros países de América Latina, como en los de otros continentes, cuán dura es la vida de la mujer en el medio rural que debe desempeñar a la vez el papel de madre, el papel de asistente y sostenedora del hogar y, al mismo tiempo, trabajar como el hombre en los campos, en las faenas de la agricultura, de la pesca, de las actividades forestales en iguales condiciones que el hombre.

Consideramos que esto estaría en la posibilidad de lograrse si la mujer tuviera iguales oportunidades que el hombre para su educación, para recibir un entrenamiento adecuado que le permitiera aliviarse de estas tareas muy duras y poder facilitar así su cooperación en el progreso de sus comunidades.

Conocemos algunos proyectos que hemos sido testigos de su apoyo; por ejemplo, en el FIDA, un proyecto a desarrollarse en Indonesia en donde más de 700 000 familias van a recibir lo que yo llamaría una ayuda que significa la emancipación de la mujer de las tareas más duras que puede realizar en el campo, cual es la de conducir ella misma el arado como si fuera una bestia de tiro. En ese proyecto estas 700 000 familias irán recibiendo progresivamente esas bestias de tiro para desempeñar el trabajo de arar la tierra y ese proyecto irá directamente a aliviar la condición de otras tantas mujeres que hasta ahora han desempeñado ese trabajo por sí mismas.

Es con proyectos como éstos que yo considero que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación puede ir desempeñando un papel de mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de la mayoría de las mujeres que en el medio rural todavía se debaten en dificultades para poder atender a sus hijos y a su hogar.

Yo conozco la realidad de las campesinas que en mi país, por ejemplo, deben comenzar el día a las tres o cuatro de la mañana ayudando a sus maridos en las tareas de riego de los campos porque es esa la hora en que les conviene hacer el regadío para evitar la evaporación rápida que se produce mientras el sol está presente. Estas tareas las desempeñan las mujeres que se levantan a esa hora y que, desde esa misma hora comienzan a trabajar en las tareas agrícolas, continúan después en el resto del día con las tareas del hogar y la preparación de la comida, para volver al campo a llevar el almuerzo a su esposo y regresar a atender a los hijos. Es decir, la mujer del medio rural desempeña esa triple tarea para poder salir adelante de la triple exigencia que le demanda su condición de esposa, madre y trabajadora.

Si pudiéramos abusar de su tiempo, hay otros muchos ejemplos. En estos mismos boletines que publican las Naciones Unidas encontramos hechos contundentes que demuestran cómo es de necesaria la ayuda que deben recibir las mujeres del medio rural si quieren siquiera llegar al nivel humano de condición que las capacite para poder desempeñar con eficiencia sus tareas. Por esa razón, la Delegación de Venezuela ha estado preparando este proyecto de resolución, que tiene como intención aliviar la situación de la mujer en el medio rural y ha buscado el apoyo de algunas otras delegaciones, contando hasta ahora, como patrocinadores de la resolución, con las delegaciones de Canadá, México, Panamá, Colombia, Brasil, Checoslovaquia, Suiza, España, Filipinas, Nigeria, y Gabón. Estoy segura de que muchas otras delegaciones también estarán dispuestas a respaldar este proyecto y me voy a permitir dar lectura ahora a la resolución tal como la hemos preparado, a pesar de que podemos escuchar y recibir las modificaciones que se deseen realizar aquí, en la Comisión, para poder ser luego presentada la resolución que se apruebe ante la Comisión de Resoluciones y posteriormente ante la Plenaria donde recibirá la verdadera aprobación.

El proyecto dice así:

LA MUJER EN EL MEDIO RURAL

LA CONFERENCIA,

Reconociendo el papel fundamental de la mujer en la agricultura, nutrición, bienestar de la familia y el desarrollo rural, así como las condiciones adversas que le afectan directamente en su condición de trabajadora, de madre y de responsable del hogar.

Considerando que la mujer no ha sido debidamente atendida con oportunidades para su educación a fin de que pueda participar de manera más efectiva en el desarrollo agrícola y en el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida de la comunidad a la cual pertenece,

Consciente de que la capacitación de la mujer en el Medio Rural reforzaría el aumento de la producción y estimularía el trabajo por alcanzar los objetivos económicos y sociales que persigue la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación,

Habiendo estudiado los programas de la Organización que expresan la preocupación de la FAO por la situación de la mujer de los países del Tercer Mundo en relación con la Agricultura, la Alimentación y el Desarrollo Rural,

Tomando nota de las conclusiones de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural (CMRADR) realizada en 1979, la Resolución 35/136 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, de las Resoluciones 1982/50, 1983/78, 1985/46 del ECOSOC, de la decisión núm. 1984/101 del mismo,

Respaldando el párrafo 16.c de la 11ª Sesión Ministerial de CMA, el párrafo 26 del documento CL 88/REP/5 del Consejo de la FAO, además de la Consulta Gubernamental sobre el papel de las mujeres en la producción y la seguridad alimentaria, llevada a cabo en Harare, Zimbabwe (10-13 julio 1984) y el tema 8 de la Agenda de la Conferencia Mundial de las Naciones Unidas para revisar y evaluar los logros alcanzados en la Década de la Mujer, en cuanto a igualdad, desarrollo y paz (Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 julio 1985),

1. Pide al Director General que continúe prestando atención especial en las actividades de la Organización al estudio de los problemas de la mujer, particularmente en aquellos programas destinados a la capacitación;
2. Exhorta a la FAO a que siga dedicando especial atención a la mujer campesina, a la mujer trabajadora del medio rural, a aquellas que desarrollan tareas en la agricultura y la pesca, de suerte que en todos los programas relacionados con estas actividades encuentre la mujer múltiples oportunidades para su capacitación, cuando sea necesario, o para su colaboración directa, cuando ello sea posible.
3. Solicita del Director General mantener informados a los Estados Miembros acerca del seguimiento de esta Resolución.

Esta propuesta de resolución la dejo en manos de la Directiva de esta Comisión para que luego sea presentada al Comité de Redacción a fin de que sea llevada más tarde a la Conferencia.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the representative of Venezuela for presenting the resolution; I think it is appropriate for me to recapitulate the settled procedure for dealing with such resolutions. In accordance with this procedure, the resolution which has been read out by the delegate of Venezuela should now go to the Resolutions Committee. The transmission of this to that Committee will preclude the resolution being discussed or debated until the Committee has referred it back to us, so for the time being we shall have to take note of it having been tabled by the representative of Venezuela.

M. A. FREDETTE (Canada): Je voudrais tout d'abord renouveler l'appui de ma délégation à la résolution présentée par Mme l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela, pour la résolution qu'elle vient de présenter.

Je voudrais aussi remercier le Directeur général et le Secrétariat pour les deux rapports qui nous sont soumis sur les faits nouveaux intéressant la FAO survenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Comme par le passé, ma délégation porte un grand intérêt à ce point de l'ordre du jour et ce, parce que nous voyons là une occasion de situer la FAO dans une perspective systémique des activités des Nations Unies dans le domaine du développement.

Nous notons d'abord la multiplicité et la grande diversité des interactions entre la FAO et le reste du système des Nations Unies. Cela va de soi, compte tenu d'une part de la taille de notre Organisation et, d'autre part, du caractère interdisciplinaire de son mandat. Nous nous réjouissons de l'ampleur de ces interactions et sommes confiants qu'elles enrichissent autant la FAO que ses interlocuteurs.

Ma délégation aimerait attirer l'attention des délégués sur 3 points précis de l'énumération d'événements que contiennent les documents C 85/9 et C 85/9-Supp.1, et que nous jugeons dignes d'une mention toute particulière.

Premièrement, le rôle actif et constructif de la FAO dans les travaux de l'Equipe spéciale du Comité administratif de coordination, le CAC, sur le développement rural, surtout pour ce qui a trait aux principes directeurs concernant l'évaluation des projets de développement rural élaborés conjointement avec le FIDA, de même que la participation de la FAO aux activités du Sous-Comité de ce même CAC sur la nutrition.

Deuxièmement, la référence faite à la Conférence récemment tenue à Nairobi sur les résultats de la Décennie des Nations Unies pour la femme. Nous notons le travail excellent accompli par le Secrétariat de la FAO dans les préparatifs et les délibérations de cette Conférence. Force est d'admettre cependant qu'il reste beaucoup à faire, et à la FAO d'abord, pour refléter le rôle et les besoins des femmes rurales de façon plus tangible à travers des programmes opérationnels. C'est dans cet esprit que ma délégation appuie les démarches dans ce sens, entamées par la délégation du Venezuela au cours de la présente session.

Troisièmement, les activités reliées à la situation critique en Afrique qui a dominé nos préoccupations depuis la vingt-deuxième session. Les interventions de la FAO et de plusieurs autres éléments du système des Nations Unies en réponse à cette crise ont déjà fait l'objet de plusieurs expressions de gratitude auxquelles nous nous joignons, mais nous voulons saisir cette occasion pour signaler tout spécialement le rôle du Bureau des opérations d'urgence en Afrique qui a su mobiliser et coordonner de façon exemplaire des ressources à la fois immenses et dispersées.

Dans un deuxième temps, ma délégation admire le souci de concision que le Secrétariat a démontré dans la préparation de ses documents, mais souhaite néanmoins souligner deux omissions notoires.

D'une part, aucune mention n'est faite des activités du Groupe de travail sur les relations entre la FAO et le PAM. Je fais référence aux remarques de M. Régnier notant qu'il y a un autre point de l'ordre du jour sur cette question. Il reste quand même qu'il eût été utile d'avoir une brève référence aux derniers événements dans ce domaine dans les documents qui nous sont soumis.

D'autres omissions notoires sont à signaler. Plusieurs activités importantes du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement ont été soit ignorées soit présentées sous un jour qui ne leur rend pas justice.

Plusieurs délégations, de même que le Secrétariat, sont intervenues au cours des derniers jours à propos des activités du PNUD qui sont pertinentes à celles de la FAO. J'aimerais maintenant m'étendre un peu sur ce point. Certes, cette pertinence découle non seulement des questions mentionnées dans les documents qui sont devant nous, mais aussi et surtout des cinq observations qui suivent.

Première observation: la FAO est la principale agence d'exécution du PNUD et le PNUD demeure de loin le principal contributeur aux ressources extra-budgétaires de la FAO. Il est important de rappeler à cet égard que les programmes du PNUD ne sont pas définis par les donateurs mais par les gouvernements récipiendaires et reflètent les choix et priorités de ces derniers.

Deuxième observation: pour compléter l'information contenue dans les paragraphes 58 à 66 du document C 85/9, on doit ajouter que la situation financière du PNUD montre nettement des signes encourageants, notamment une croissance de 9,2 pour cent en 1986 par rapport à cette année.

Troisième observation: il y aurait lieu d'avoir un chapitre consacré aux décisions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD, qui, d'une part, est un forum majeur pour les débats sur le développement et, d'autre part, est l'organe de direction de l'institution responsable pour le financement centralisé des activités de coopération technique des Nations Unies. Le Canada attache la plus grande importance à la collaboration des agences spécialisées dans l'exercice de ce mandat confié au PNUD.

Par ailleurs, et à titre d'exemple, lors de sa 32ème session, le Conseil d'administration du PNUD, dans sa décision 85/3, a encouragé les institutions multilatérales à aligner leurs activités de coopération technique sur les besoins prioritaires établis par les pays récipiendaires.

Quatrième observation: le processus des tables rondes a récemment fait l'objet d'améliorations importantes dont le but n'est pas d'écarter la FAO, comme y faisait allusion M. Lignon cette semaine, mais bien de rationaliser le dialogue entre donateurs et récipiendaires.

A cet égard, je cite le paragraphe 64 du document CL 86/12: "Les conseils divergents de différentes institutions extérieures risquent de compliquer la tâche ardue des gouvernements qui s'efforcent d'appliquer leurs politiques avec plus de cohérence et d'efficacité."

Cinquième et dernière observation sur le PNUD: ce n'est pas par hasard que tous les coordonnateurs résidents des Nations Unies sont aussi les représentants résidents du PNUD. Cela reflète non seulement l'esprit mais la lettre des résolutions 32/197, 34/213 et des nombreux rappels qui ont suivi chaque année à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies.

A cet sujet, je cite le paragraphe 31 des Conclusions et recommandations adoptées par le Conseil mondial de l'alimentation à sa 11ème session ministérielle tenue en juin dernier, et qu'on trouve à la page A6 du document C 85/9-Supp. 1: "Une meilleure coordination des efforts des bénéficiaires et des donateurs est indispensable pour améliorer l'efficacité de l'aide. Mais il ne s'agit pas seulement d'intensifier la coordination, il faut aussi en améliorer la qualité en la dotant d'une autorité accrue."

Ceci m'amène à la conclusion de mon intervention sur le thème de la coordination, chère à mon gouvernement, et qui est d'ailleurs repris par le Premier Ministre du Canada, M. Brian Mulroney, dans l'entrevue qu'il a donnée pour l'édition spéciale du magazine de la FAO, CERES, à l'occasion du 40ème anniversaire.

En réponse aux multiples résolutions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD, de l'ECOSOC et de l'Assemblée générale, ainsi qu'aux recommandations du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation, ma délégation souhaite que le Secrétariat fasse état plus clairement, à cette session et aux sessions suivantes de notre Conférence, des activités de suivi par la FAO dans ce domaine.

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/II/PV/13

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13^a SESION

(21 November 1985)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

A. Qadir, Vice-Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de A. Qadir, Vice-Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 13^a sesión a las 14.50 horas

bajo la presidencia de A. Qadir, Vicepresidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 18. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations (continued)
- 18. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales (suite)
- 18. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales (continuación)
- 18.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 18.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (suite)
- 18.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I now call on the distinguished delegate of Egypt.

A. EL SARKY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of God the Merciful and the Compassionate, Mr Chairman, the contents of paragraph 7 of this document in the Arabic language gave rise to great concern, in particular regarding the decline of per capita output. Interest payments on external debt have exceeded new lending to developing countries and this has a negative impact not only on relations with developing countries, but also with all other countries. But we are pleased to see that developed countries reaffirm their desire to increase their aid to developing countries to speed up the pace of development, all the more so since these countries have undertaken to provide 0.7 percent of their GNP to ODA.

Egypt would like to reaffirm the vital role of women in social and economic life, especially in the agricultural field. We endeavour to provide them every opportunity for training so that they can play a major role in the field of food security. Egypt held a national seminar on the role of women in agricultural production and it was chaired by an outgoing Minister of Agriculture who was also in charge of the follow-up action. We have also attempted to facilitate Egyptian women's access to senior level positions, including ministerial or diplomatic posts, and Egypt took part in the United Nations World Conference on Women held in Nairobi in July 1985. The Egyptian delegation to that conference was a high level one, and it took part in all the debates at the conference. The delegation provided the conference with a review of national programmes for the promotion of Egyptian women.

My country would like to thank the international community and the international organizations for all their efforts exerted to solve the problem of famine in Africa, but we urge the international community to step up this assistance, in particular for development activities in the African countries.

For our part, we have set up a fund for technical cooperation in Africa in order to provide, upon request, the necessary technical expertise to solve their development problems. During previous meetings, we have affirmed the importance which we attach to ECDC and TCDC. We are firmly convinced that we can make our contribution thereto by providing opportunities for training of all nationals of our brother countries in the agricultural field because we have a Centre for Agricultural Training which has all the necessary facilities and which, in fact, has received trainees from Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Furthermore, my delegation is delighted to see the constructive echo given to the Remote Sensing System for Agriculture by FAO, in particular for the Satellite Monitoring Programmes. FAO is implementing in my country a survey and classification of land with remote sensing techniques to determine soil fertility. This has been extremely useful, and has made it possible to train a large number of officials to enable the reading of the satellite mapping.

We would like to refer to the importance of investment in agriculture. We are in favour of the setting up of an investment centre in the region to identify and prepare projects, but paragraphs 59 to 61 give rise to some concern, in particular because of the mention made of a decline in financial institutes, loans and in concessional lending.

We would like to say that IFAD's activities are extremely important to serve agricultural development and we hope that the second replenishment will be carried out in the very near future so that IFAD can continue its most useful task.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, quisiéramos agradecer al Sr. Regnier su presentación del informe, y manifestar nuestro agrado por el mismo, ya que siempre nos trae agradables novedades sobre las actividades de la FAO en el conjunto de la comunidad internacional y de las Organizaciones Internacionales.

Respecto al Documento C 85/9, ya nos habíamos pronunciado en el 87º período de sesiones dando todo nuestro apoyo al mismo, por lo cual no vamos a referirnos más que al Documento 9-Sup.I. De él nos interesan particularmente tres cosas: la primera, la cuestión africana. Vemos que en el Documento C 85/9-Sup.I, se analizan todas las actividades de la FAO y otros organismos entre los párrafos 49 a 54, y también se reproduce la Resolución del período de sesiones del ECOSOC de julio en el Anexo D. Esta resolución nos parece muy importante y también nos parece fundamental la tarea de la FAO para paliar la crisis que actualmente sufre el África, especialmente por la sequía. Estamos convencidos de la necesidad de integrar todos los esfuerzos tanto en materia a cortísimo plazo, como son las ayudas de emergencia, como la rehabilitación prevista a medio y largo plazo que se hace en África. En este sentido, entendemos que el estudio de la agricultura africana o estudio de fondo como se le llama en el documento, anunciado por el Director General en la Comisión I, cuando se introdujo el tema de África y en el párrafo 53 de este documento, va a ser muy útil para este fin, máxime ante la convocatoria, o eventual convocatoria, de un período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General para estudiar esta cuestión. En este sentido, aunque las actividades para ayudar al África son muchas, nosotros las que más conocemos son las que surgen del Programa de Rehabilitación, al cual damos todo nuestro apoyo. Lo que sí quisiéramos es que, como acá en la Resolución 1985/80 del ECOSOC se habla, en el Artículo 8, sobre el fondo Especial de Asistencia de Urgencia contra la Sequía y el Hambre, lo que sí quisiéramos es saber cómo se integra y cuál es la participación de la FAO en este fondo, que esperamos sea mucha y sirva para orientar el trabajo que ya se viene haciendo en este Organismo desde tan larga data en este tema.

Respecto a la cuestión sobre cooperación económica y técnica entre países en desarrollo (párrafos 60 a 64) nuestra intención es instar a la FAO a que continúe realizando actividades en este terreno de acuerdo con los exámenes del PCT.

En cuanto al Comité de alto nivel del PNUD encargado de examinar la cooperación técnica entre los países en desarrollo, a nosotros nos parecen muy acertadas las indicaciones de este alto Comité tal como constan en el párrafo 70 de este documento.

En el caso de las asignaciones de fondos mencionadas en el párrafo 71, sería también para nosotros muy útil conocer o tener más información sobre las actividades previstas según este párrafo 71, en cuanto a los programas especiales del PNUD y a los fondos asignados. ¿Por qué pedimos nosotros esta mayor información? Porque nosotros en repetidas oportunidades hemos puesto a disposición de la FAO la capacidad del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria de la República Argentina, para que, a través de la FAO misma participe en la investigación, extensión y capacitación en materia de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y, particularmente, con países africanos. Sería interesante ver qué actividades conjuntas se pueden hacer.

En materia del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación sobre el que acabamos de conocer un informe de la reunión de París, nos parece muy útil la difusión de la recomendación de los Ministros que está sobre todo, en el párrafo 48 en el Anexo .A. Esperamos que esta difusión masiva sea una ayuda para la implementación de las mismas.

Un último tema que queremos mencionar es sobre la relación FAO/PNUD a la que ya alguna delegación anteriormente se ha referido. Para nosotros, las relaciones FAO/PNUD eran un tema que había quedado, al menos desde nuestro punto de vista, saldado en el 87º período de sesiones del Consejo, me refiero al párrafo 182 del Documento CL 87/REP., donde se instaba a que se aplicaran en todo momento los procedimientos de consulta ya convenidos entre el PNUD y la FAO. Nosotros creemos que ahí están las reglas del juego, claras y lo suficientemente discutidas, de cómo seguir trabajando entre estas dos importantes Organizaciones.

En cuanto a cuál es el papel del consejo de Administración del PNUD en la aplicación de las políticas en materia de proyectos o en sus relaciones con la FAO, nosotros creemos que la FAO lo que principalmente debe hacer es responder a los mandatos de la Conferencia y del Consejo de la misma FAO. Y, en todo caso, en lo que hace a las relaciones con el Consejo de Administración del PNUD, existen estos mecanismos de consulta entre la FAO y el PNUD, a los cuales nos referíamos en el 87º período de sesiones; pero vuelvo a repetir que la FAO responda a los mandatos de su Consejo y de la Conferencia, donde nosotros, los Estados Miembros, le decimos lo que creamos más conveniente.

Una última cuestión. Si nos referimos al documento C 85/LIM/17 sobre relaciones con otras organizaciones intergubernamentales, lo haría ahora; si no pediría la palabra más tarde.

CHAIRMAN: I would request the distinguished delegate from Argentina to defer this item until we come to that item after the discussion on Item 18.1 is completed. We are running behind schedule, and we will therefore have to move in a brisk and businesslike manner. I would appeal for brevity in your presentations.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Referring to document C 85/9-Sup.1 my delegation would like to make brief remarks on paragraphs 47 to 54, Critical Economic Situation in Africa. In the light of the deteriorating emergency situation in Africa, the Secretary-General last year, on the basis of a General Assembly resolution on Africa, took the initiative to establish a special unit to coordinate the response of the United Nations and mobilize the international community. This unit is called, as you can read in this paragraph, the Office for Emergency Operations in Africa (OEOA). My delegation would like to emphasize that the objective of OEOA is that it shall not take on the functions of other United Nations organizations. Rather, it is meant to help them to mobilize additional resources and strengthen their capacity to perform their functions more effectively within the framework of the African emergency response system. We are glad to note that OEOA provides a unique and encouraging example of how the United Nations family can move in unison.

Regarding the internal structure, OEOA is supported by an inter-organizational task force composed of senior staff, primarily from United Nations organizations such as FAO, relating to the Office of the Secretary-General, including UNDRO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and WFP. Now, after almost a year, OEOA is in operation. The Netherlands Government has heard alarming voices saying that the participation of FAO in OEOA has been minimal, and we are very eager to hear FAO's comments on these matters. May I pick up two alarming observations? First, the FAO senior officer in New York was only present three times in the Task Force meeting, while other United Nations agencies concerned participated on a rather permanent basis.

Secondly, concerning FAO project proposals sent to OEOA for financing, it became obvious after a thorough discussion in the Emergency Group in the capitals of the recipient countries - and I would like to emphasize that this Emergency Group is composed of representatives of multilateral agencies and bilateral donors - that those project proposals were not well adjusted to the immediate emergency aid activities in the country itself. It is not my purpose to go into further details. What remains is the concern of the Netherlands Government that the cooperation between FAO and OEOA gives room for further improvement.

It is true that FAO has a vital and important role to play in the solution of the critical situation in Africa, but it is not realistic to think that FAO has the monopoly of solutions, thereby denying the urgent need for a multi-sectoral approach.

For the coming period, in which the transfer of emergency aid to rehabilitation is essential, the involvement and participation of FAO is very much needed. My country thinks that in order to coordinate and monitor this process, it would be valuable and necessary that this process should be done by organizing round tables and consultative groups to which FAO should be invited.

Furthermore, allow me to say something about the relationship with intergovernmental and governmental organizations, Item 18.2 on the Agenda. As my delegation said in an earlier statement under the item on Field Programmes -

CHAIRMAN: May I request the delegate of the Netherlands to defer this subject until we come to the item at a later stage? We are now on Item 18.1 and the topic he wishes to raise belongs under Item 18.2. Would he like to take the floor when we come to discussions on that?

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): Yes, if you wish.

Mrs A. BERGQUIST (Sweden): I will restrict my intervention to a few items that are of particular importance to my delegation. The items I would like to address are contained in document C 85/9-Sup.I. My first remark relates to the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. The Strategy was reviewed and appraised earlier this year and an agreed document is now before the 40th United Nations General Assembly. Sweden took an active part in this review exercise.

My Government continues to give strong support to the Development Strategy and hopes to see it implemented-by the United Nations, its organs and organizations of the United Nations System, as the international community as a whole.

My second remark relates to the UNEP, United Nations Environmental Programme. At its 30th Governing Council in May a number of resolutions of special interest to FAO covering a wide range of subjects such as soil, desertification and anti-water toxic chemicals etc. were adopted. We strongly support close cooperation between UNEP, FAO and other concerned organs and agencies of the United Nations System in the implementation of these resolutions.

The UNEP Governing Council also adopted the so-called SWMTEP which stands for System-wide Mid-term Environmental Programme. This Programme is of interest not only to UNEP but to the whole of the United Nations System, and it contains a number of joint UNEP/FAO activities. The work on the new SWMTEP programme for the period 1988-89 will soon start and we have called for intensified cooperation between UNEP and FAO in the process of elaborating this new Programme.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Permettez-nous tout d'abord de remercier M. Régnier pour sa brillante introduction des documents C 85/9 et C 85/9-Sup.I traitant des faits nouveaux intéressant la FAO survenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Nous l'en félicitons.

Etant entendu que les faits rapportés ici concernent les autres agences du système des Nations Unies au sein desquelles nos gouvernements sont également représentés, c'est à titre d'information que nous recevons les faits portés à notre connaissance. Ce faisant, nous en prenons bonne note sans chercher à les commenter outre mesure.

Toutefois, nous aimerions remercier vivement le Secrétariat qui a bien voulu se faire l'écho des diverses initiatives entreprises de par le monde en faveur de l'Afrique, spécialement depuis le 21ème Sommet des chefs d'Etat et de gouvernement de l'OUA, sommet qui a adopté une résolution demandant la convocation d'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies sur la situation de crise alimentaire de l'Afrique et sur sa dette extérieure.

A ce sujet, nous tenons à rappeler que la Commission I de notre Conférence, qui s'est penchée sur la situation alimentaire critique de l'Afrique, a déjà saisi la Commission des résolutions de notre Conférence, dont la session a lieu en ce moment, d'un projet de résolution auquel nous espérons que toutes nos délégations pourront souscrire sans difficultés.

Beaucoup de sujets abordés dans les documents mis à notre disposition concernent des thèmes dont nous avons déjà abordé certains des aspects, et sur lesquels nous ne souhaitons pas revenir. Ceci pour faire gagner du temps à notre Commission. C'est le cas de la CTPD et de la CEPD, que nous avons fermement appuyées, ainsi que les rapports PNUD/FAO abordés par la délégation du Canada une fois de plus ce matin.

Nous aimerions d'ailleurs, au passage, répéter que nous nous félicitons objectivement des rapports actuels existant entre le PNUD et la FAO et ne blâmons ni l'action de l'un ni celle de l'autre. Nous avons exprimé notre préoccupation devant la baisse de la part des projets FAO financés par le PNUD, baisse imputable selon nous aux pays bénéficiaires par le jeu de leur propre choix de priorités, mais baisse aussi imputable aux pays donateurs qui, par la réduction de leur participation aux fonds fiduciaires du PNUD destinés à l'agriculture, ont limité les moyens d'intervention.

Enfin, cette baisse, nous l'attribuons au PNUD lui-même, qui, dans l'attribution de l'exécution des projets financés par lui au Bureau d'exécution des projets qu'il a lui même créé, doit tenir compte du domaine prioritaire de compétence de la FAO.

Nous regrettons que l'objectif demandé aux pays développés donateurs de consacrer 0,15 pour cent de leur PNB pour l'aide publique au développement des pays n'ait pas encore été atteint, et nous nourrissons l'espoir que des efforts appropriés seront faits prochainement pour y parvenir.

Nous appuyons l'idée lancée par la délégation du Venezuela, proposant à notre Conférence d'adopter au cours de sa présente session une résolution sur la participation des femmes et leur intégration au système de développement économique de leurs pays respectifs.

Nous nous félicitons des nombreuses relations fructueuses qu'entretient la FAO avec d'autres organisations du système des Nations Unies. Dans ce cadre, nous voudrions, pour terminer, attirer l'attention de notre Conférence sur les paragraphes 42 et 43 du document C 85/9-Sup. 1 pour dire combien nous souhaitons que le PNUE, dans la préparation de ses rencontres futures sur l'environnement et touchant l'agriculture, associe non seulement l'OUA et la CEA dans la préparation de ces rencontres, mais aussi la FAO, dont les compétences touchent la gestion des terres, des mers, des ports, des bassins hydrographiques, des engrais etc.

SRA. G. SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Señor Presidente, ante todo, la delegación de Cuba agradece a la Secretaría la preparación del Suplemento 1 al Documento C 85/9 que se analizó en el 87° período de sesiones del Consejo y especialmente al Sr. Regnier por la presentación de este tema.

Mi delegación considera que este tema de la coordinación entre agencias de sistema de Naciones Unidas nos parece muy importante. Reiteramos nuestra consideración de que la FAO ha jugado un papel muy destacado en materia de coordinación. Esta coordinación, en realidad, la lleva a cabo la FAO cumplimentando el mandato que le otorgan sus órganos rectores, es decir el Consejo y la Conferencia, lo cual se traduce en que son los propios países quienes dictan la política de coordinación. Para nosotros coordinación quiere decir cooperación entre las distintas agencias, pero sin la supremacía de una agencia sobre otra.

En este momento nos referiremos específicamente al Suplemento 1. En primer término no podemos menos que lamentar el incumplimiento de las metas de la estrategia internacional del desarrollo para el tercer decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo. Sin embargo, consideramos dignos de elogio los esfuerzos desplegados por la FAO en lograr los aspectos de la estrategia referidos al mejoramiento de la agricultura y la alimentación, en términos generales, habiéndole dado prioridad a la crítica situación económica de Africa.

En lo que se refiere a la participación de la FAO en la Conferencia de Nairobi para la evaluación de los logros del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer, consideramos que la FAO jugó un importante papel y nos pareció muy acertado el que se hiciese hincapié en los aspectos que sobre el papel de la mujer en la agricultura está contenido en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, y que se subrayase la necesidad de apoyar con carácter prioritario la participación de la mujer en la producción de alimentos y en la seguridad alimentaria, y elaborar en consecuencia planes específicos al respecto.

La delegación de Cuba apoya el proyecto de Resolución sobre la situación de la mujer en el medio rural presentado por la distinguida embajadora de Venezuela y espera que dicho proyecto pase rápidamente al Comité de Resoluciones y posteriormente a esta Comisión y a la Plenaria de esta Conferencia para su aprobación.

También mi delegación considera que debe mantenerse la estrecha relación de trabajo que existe entre la FAO y la ONUDI, mucho más ahora que dicha agencia se ha convertido en una agencia especializada del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Entendemos que esa relación, en particular en el sector de las industrias de base agrícola, es fundamental para el logro de los objetivos de la FAO. En tal sentido mi delegación solicita a la Secretaría que, de ser posible, nos ofrezca alguna información sobre aspectos específicos en los cuales se prevé la colaboración inmediata entre ambas agencias, tales como ejecución de proyectos en común, talleres, seminarios u otros aspectos que hayan sido identificados.

En cuanto a la recomendación de la 11ª reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación mi delegación considera que la FAO ha contribuido ampliamente al cumplimiento de los objetivos perseguidos para la eliminación del hambre.

Sobre el 13º período de sesiones del Consejo de Administración del PNUMA, la delegación de lucha considera muy pertinente el programa que se señala en el párrafo 43 del documento que analizamos, específicamente los acápites d) y e); solamente quisiéramos llamar la atención al hecho de que no se efectúe duplicidad en la ejecución de estas acciones.

Sobre la situación económica crítica en Africa, la delegación de Cuba ya ha expresado que las acciones de la FAO para eliminar la misma, particularmente en la distribución de recursos alimentarios y en la rehabilitación de la agricultura en este continente, son dignas de elogio.

También quisiera referirme con satisfacción a la constante preocupación de la FAO por el seguimiento del Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires referido. a la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo. El hecho de que en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto; tanto en el actual bienio como en lo propuesto para el próximo bienio, se ha considerado que estos aspectos son un ejemplo patente de la importancia que la FAO da a este tema de la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo.

Asimismo quisiera referirme a las actividades de la FAO sobre el Decenio Internacional del Agua Potable y de Saneamiento Ambiental. Consideramos que, efectivamente, los proyectos de la FAO ofrecen excelente oportunidad para promover en los países programas relacionados con este decenio.

También el hecho de que recursos del Programa Ordinario de la FAO y del Programa de Cooperación Técnica se han dedicado a acciones relacionadas con la vinculación entre la agricultura y el fomento de las aguas son buen ejemplo, si bien esperamos que la FAO tenga en cuenta las preocupaciones expresadas por el ECOSOC y que aparecen en el párrafo 81 de este documento, a fin de dar la mejor utilización posible a los recursos destinados a las actividades del decenio.

Finalmente, mi delegación quisiera reiterar su preocupación por la falta de recursos para la segunda reposición de los fondos del FIDA por la importancia que representa ese fondo para el desarrollo de la agricultura y la alimentación en los países en desarrollo.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): At the outset the Bangladesh delegation wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the FAO Secretariat for presenting the two excellent documents which are comprehensive and informative. We also thank Mr Régnier for his excellent introduction and for the information in the document. Our delegation particularly commends FAO for its increasingly accurate and constructive cooperation with all the agencies of the United Nations system in order to complement, coordinate and reinforce the activities amongst each of them. We endorse and encourage FAO to continue this role in the future also.

The Bangladesh delegation particularly notes with great satisfaction the leading role played by the FAO in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development. We fully support these activities of the FAO in close collaboration with other agencies in the follow-up of WCARRD. The holding of regional inter-agency meetings is very useful as it provides the opportunity for discussing and sharing experiences on rural poverty and rural development problems at the regional and country level. The work of the Task Force and of its sub-committees in the field of nutrition, control of vitamin A and iodine deficiency and in other areas is also particularly praiseworthy.

FAO's cooperative action with other international agencies in connection with meeting other critical and economic and food shortages in Africa are of special importance. FAO's contribution to preparation and deliberation of the World Conference on Women held recently in Nairobi also needs special mention.

My delegation is particularly pleased to note FAO's active participation in the preparation of the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the least developed countries. It is a matter of serious concern to my delegation, as to all others, that the situation in the LDCs, instead of improving has further worsened since the adoption of the SNPA in 1980 in the Paris Conference. In view of this, the mid-term global review of the implementation of the Substantial New Programme of Action was very important. In this connection my delegation has listened with interest to Mr Régnier's recommendations which came out of this review.

We would urge the donor countries and aid-giving agencies to fulfill their commitments, made under SNPA and renewed recently, to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to increase their food production, agricultural and economic improvement.

At the present time of worsening economic conditions and deteriorating food situation in most of the developing countries, and particularly in the LDCs, the drop in the concessional aid commitments to agriculture is a source of serious concern to my delegation. We would therefore urge for an early agreement on the secondary replenishment of IFAD at an adequate level, as well as for the provision of adequate resources to other soft-lending agencies, like IDA and Regional Development Banks.

In conclusion, we lend our full support to all the excellent and increasing cooperative activities which are being performed by FAO. They should extend this work in the future.

Srta. M. HURTADO (Colombia): Felicítamos al Sr. Regnier por su excelente presentación del tema. En todas las oportunidades el Gobierno de Colombia ha expresado su opinión según la cual la FAO progresivamente en los últimos diez años ha alcanzado un puesto prominente de prestigio y respeto en el contexto de las Naciones Unidas. Los documentos que se nos han distribuido confirman que la FAO se mantiene en permanente actividad a través de las relaciones y consultas que lleva a cabo con las demás agencias del Sistema.

La delegación de Colombia ha podido constatar que todo esto lo realiza la FAO dentro de un marco de plena coordinación y mutua cooperación con aquellas agencias que en alguna medida realizan actividades vinculadas a los sectores de la agricultura y la alimentación.

La delegación de Colombia reitera su más pleno apoyo a esta nueva actitud que ha asumido la FAO mediante la cual nuestra Organización ha salido de la torre de marfil en que antes se encontraba para ponerse en pleno y activo contacto con otras organizaciones.

Nosotros apoyamos plenamente toda esa actitud de la FAO porque consideramos que hoy en día los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación no pueden considerarse ni resolverse aisladamente, sino dentro de la necesaria e inexorable interdependencia que debe existir entre todos los Estados del mundo.

Por las consideraciones anteriores, la delegación de Colombia piensa que esta Comisión debe apoyar plenamente la labor valiosa de contacto y coordinación que lleva la FAO e instar al Director General a que prosiga por ese buen camino.

La delegación de Colombia desea destacar un aspecto fundamental de los logros obtenidos a través de las relaciones y consultas que la FAO está realizando. Se trata de que los problemas, las necesidades y las aspiraciones del Tercer Mundo en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación han adquirido una nueva dimensión al proyectarse en el más alto contexto de las Naciones Unidas.

A.M. QURESHI (Pakistan): We will first of all like to thank Mr Regnier for his clear and comprehensive introduction of the documents regarding recent developments in the United Nations system of interest to FAO. We strongly support FAO's collaboration with other agencies in the United Nations family. We are, however, disconcerted to observe that the indicative targets set forth in the International Development Strategy have not been met and that the per capita output in the developing countries has declined considerably. We also observe the unfortunate phenomenon of a net transfer of financial resources from developing countries to developed countries in 1984, and that the prospects for 1985 are not the least promising. We urge the affluent members of the United Nations community to achieve the target of .7 percent of their GNP for overseas development assistance as soon as possible, and certainly before the end of the decade. We would also wish to express our confident hope that the negotiations with regard to the second replenishment of IFAD would be accomplished with satisfactory results.

We appreciate the valuable work being carried out by FAO in Africa. We commend the initiatives taken by FAO to prepare an in-depth study on Africa. We would wish to express our support to FAO's agricultural rehabilitation programme and also underline the importance of its Global Information and Early Warning System which has been universally acclaimed by all.

The information furnished to us with regard to FAO's multiple activities on cooperation and collaboration with its sister organizations within the United Nations family is indeed quite comprehensive. We are also very satisfied with the up-to-date developments furnished to us on GATT's involvement in the agricultural sector contained in the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

As regards the UNDP, we fully discussed this item under the agenda of the field programme and Mr Lignon in his all-embracing introduction presented an up-to-date panorama of development in this regard. We feel that FAO's coordination and collaboration with the other bodies in the United Nations system is commendable.

D.R. GREGORY (Australia): Since perhaps this is the item that covers commercials, can I also add our voice. Some information we provided at the recent Council session, I am referring to the paragraph that referred to UNEP and its activities and, in particular, since it also relates to the activities of this Organization, it might be useful to indicate that Australia, at the request of UNEP, is organizing an international conference on economics of dry land degradation and rehabilitation.

The key objective of the programme is to assist developing and developed countries and aid agencies to complement the UN Plan of Action in combatting desertification. Broadly, the programme for meeting this objective comprises an international Conference to be held in Canberra in March 1986. This will consider draft executive management guidelines, an outline of the technical guidelines and a series of case study reports from projects in nine global regions affected by dryland degradation. I understand there are some 43 nations and 15 international organizations attending the conference.

The second stage of the programme will involve a revision of executive management guidelines which will be developed following the conference, and a review by the international organizations and by regional workshops in China, India, Africa, and South America during the period April to October 1986. Thirdly, the executive management guidelines are to be presented as a report by the executive director of UNEP to the UNEP Governing Council meeting in 1987.

Finally I should say that it is my understanding that the funding support for the programme has formally or informally been agreed by UNEP and the Commonwealth Secretariat, USAID, SID, and the Australian Government.

A. RODRIGUEZ PIRES (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord, je voudrais dire que ma délégation accueille favorablement le projet de résolution proposé par l'Ambassadeur du Venezuela. Nous aussi, nous sommes convaincus de l'importance fondamentale du rôle des femmes dans le secteur agricole. Les documents C 85/9 et C 85/9-Sup. 1 sont, à notre avis, très clairs. Nous n'allons pas nous étendre sur nos commentaires. Ces documents sont clairs, précis, objectifs et très utiles pour suivre les développements au sein des Nations Unies. Je voudrais en féliciter le Secrétariat.

Le tour d'horizon auquel a procédé M. Régnier avec tant d'éloquence dans son introduction montre de manière convaincante l'importance, la qualité et la valeur des efforts de concertation - je dis bien de concertation - entrepris par la FAO au sein du système des Nations Unies. Nous sommes impressionnés par la place que la FAO occupe au sein du système interagences, comme en témoigne, par exemple, son rôle de chef de file dans le secteur rural.

Quand on parle de monopole de la FAO, nous sommes préoccupés parce que la FAO est une organisation spécialisée des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et elle doit donc jouer son rôle. Je crois que cela doit être très clair. Il ne s'agit pas de monopoliser les actions d'autres agences, mais de répondre aux objectifs que, nous, les Etats Membres, lui avons confiés. Nous voudrions l'encourager dans ce sens. On sait que la coordination n'est pas une fin en soi, qu'elle ne peut se faire en sens unique et qu'elle doit rester effective. Mais de toute façon, ma délégation pense que la responsabilité de la coordination reste avec les récipiendaires, les pays bénéficiaires - nous-mêmes, ici - qui ne doivent pas seulement s'inquiéter de coordonner l'aide multilatérale, mais aussi celle d'origine bilatérale.

Pour ma part, je ne m'attarderai pas à discuter des relations avec le PNUD car ces questions ont déjà été amplement débattues lors de la discussion du programme de terrain. Il n'y a donc pas de raison de les inclure dans le document préparé sur les questions interagences.

Permettez-moi de me référer au document C 85/9-Sup.1 et à la page 9 qui a trait à la situation économique critique en Afrique, et en particulier aux paragraphes 47 à 49. Il n'est pas douteux que le FAO a accordé une attention particulière à ce problème tenant compte de la situation qui prévaut sur le continent africain. Nous encourageons la FAO à oeuvrer dans ce sens.

Nous avons pris note avec satisfaction du contenu des paragraphes 65 à 67 sur la participation de la FAO à la quatrième session du Comité de haut niveau pour l'examen de la coopération technique entre pays en développement qui s'est tenue à New York; dans ce contexte la FAO a souligné et répété qu'elle accordait la priorité à la CTPD dans son programme de travail et budget.

Nous croyons aussi, comme l'a très bien dit le délégué de Cuba, qu'une coopération étroite et fructueuse entre la FAO et la nouvelle ONUDI qui vient d'être transformée en institution spécialisée mérite une attention particulière de notre Organisation et je tiens à donner mon accord au contenu du paragraphe 28 du document C 85/9-Sup.1.

Pour terminer je voudrais appuyer le contenu du paragraphe 17 en ce qui concerne la suite donnée aux conférences mondiales pour la réforme agraire et le rôle des femmes en particulier.

D. MANCZYK (Poland): I will limit my short intervention to two comments only. The first point I would like to make is that, as can be seen in the document which is before us, there are many developments within the United Nations which are of interest to FAO. One can have even an impression that the problems of food and agriculture are in the focus of the UN activities. The reality, however, is different. In the opinion of my delegation these problems seem to be underestimated at the UN forum, or at least they have a status of one of many problems. Such an attitude reflects the reality, as the development process is by its nature multi-dimensional. We think that food and agriculture should have a real priority not only in the development planning of many developing countries but also in the UN forum. Therefore we postulate that FAO enhance its efforts so that there is more understanding as to the importance of food and agriculture problems at the UN. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to assure you that Poland will act in this very spirit.

My second point, somehow related to the previous one, is that the image of the Organization depends also on its top members who are represented at various fora. This summer I had the privilege of participating in the session of ECOSOC where food problems figured prominently on the agenda. I was very impressed by the statements and answers to many questions made by the FAO observer who, as the only one among many observers from other UN agencies and bodies, took the floor and did it in a very qualified manner. This practice should be continued.

J. WINKEL (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): There must be some mistake, because I did not want to speak on this agenda item, but on another.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): I too would not like to speak on this agenda item, so this may save you some time, Sir.

P. PIOTET (France): Ma délégation a pris connaissance avec un vif intérêt des documents concernant les faits nouveaux intéressant l'OAA survenus dans le système des Nations Unies. Ces documents et les indications complémentaires fournies à notre Commission par M. Régnier apportent des informations claires et précises sur les travaux entrepris dans les différentes enceintes des Nations Unies.

Cette information présente un intérêt tout particulier dans les domaines où risquent d'apparaître des lacunes ou des doubles emplois. Je pense notamment aux questions concernant la protection de l'environnement qui, nous le savons ici, sont très liées aux activités agricoles et surtout aux activités forestières et au secteur de la pêche. Le développement de ces activités est en effet directement tributaire de la qualité du milieu naturel.

A cet égard, la délégation française note avec satisfaction la tenue en décembre prochain au Caire, d'une conférence sur l'environnement en Afrique. Elle exprime aussi le souhait qu'à cette occasion il soit tenu pleinement compte des compétences de l'OAA et des travaux qu'elle réalise en particulier dans les domaines des pêches et des forêts.

Dans la période de rigueur que nous traversons, les divers organes des Nations Unies concernés par les problèmes qui seront traités dans le cadre de la conférence du Caire sauront, nous en sommes persuadés, coopérer pour utiliser au mieux les compétences de chacun et éviter tout double emploi. Il s'agit là d'un exemple; M. Régnier a cité trois autres exemples qui montrent bien, je crois, toute l'importance d'une telle coordination.

Tout en félicitant l'OAA pour les efforts qu'elle réalise dans cette voie, la délégation française l'encourage à poursuivre la coopération fructueuse qu'elle a engagée avec les autres membres de la famille des Nations Unies.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): Under previous agenda items we have affirmed our view of the central role of UNDP in relation to the specialized agencies. In this intervention we would like to stress the importance of coordination between UN agencies, both in terms of emergency operations and the regular development assistance programmes.

The United Kingdom welcomed the establishment of the OEOA. We considered it was necessary to have this sort of coordination of the UN effort for Africa. Because of the nature of FAO's sectoral expertise it is important that its work is well coordinated with that of the other agencies. We were therefore extremely concerned to hear the comment of the delegate of the Netherlands relating to FAO's participation in the work of OEOA. We look forward to hearing the comments of the Secretariat on this issue.

Within the UN system mechanisms have been developed to facilitate close coordination between agencies. At a country level this coordination revolves round the UN Resident Representative.

The United Kingdom considers that it is very important that FAO should, as a matter of course, fully coordinate with other agencies at a country level, but this inter-agency coordination should also take place on a regular basis at all levels in the Organization.

The UK considers that the Director-General should continue and strengthen his efforts to ensure that FAO works in the closest possible collaboration with other agencies. Looking at the documents we find it slightly surprising that we could find no mention of the United Nations' FAO Task Force and WFP. We would just like to mention this and add our support for the work of the Task Force.

Finally I would like to add our support to the resolution on the role of women in the rural world, proposed so eloquently by the distinguished delegate of Venezuela. For many years the crucial role of women in much of the world's agriculture has been undervalued or not recognized. But we feel that by recognizing and supporting the role played by women in agriculture, especially in Africa, we may in fact find one of the single most effective ways of increasing agricultural production.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): De una manera breve mi Delegación quiere simplemente manifestar en este tema, que tiene que ver con la relación de las consultas de la FAO con otros organismos internacionales, la importancia que concede también a la coordinación entre todos los Organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, pero en el pleno respeto de las funciones de todos ellos.

De la misma manera, queremos expresar nuestra preocupación por la disminución de recursos de las instituciones internacionales de crédito, especialmente aquéllas del sector de la agricultura. En

este sentido, deseamos recalcar la situación del FIDA y hacer un llamamiento para que pronto pueda efectuarse la segunda reposición; es un llamado a los países donantes, incluidos los países en desarrollo.

Quisiera también señalar la importancia de establecer una cooperación íntegra entre la FAO y la ONUDI, en estos sectores que pueden resultar beneficiosos para ambas.

Sra. M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi Delegación querría saber en qué punto trataremos la resolución sobre la mujer en el medio rural para poder manifestar nuestra posición a este respecto.

CHAIRMAN: With regard to the questions raised by the distinguished delegate of El Salvador, I am not in touch with the resolutions Committee but I would expect it to be brought back to this floor maybe tomorrow evening or on Monday. If there are no more interventions then I will proceed to give the floor to the representative of the UNDP.

E. BONEV (United Nations Development Programme): I am very much encouraged and impressed by the interest shown and in the attention attributed to this very important problem, if not problem actually objective: coordination at the field level and at all levels possible among the UN organizations. It needs no arguing that improved coordination as an instrument of required aid efficiency calls for the observance by all development partners of the -rules of common sense. Amid present day constraints, wasteful duplication of scarce material resources and the encouragement of isolated sectoral approaches are unlikely to sustain the support of the international community. This was the essential theme of the Governing Council of UNDP debate and it is now incumbent upon concerned commentators of the United Nations family to act on this recognition by demonstrating their ability to work more harmoniously at the country level. The high-level segment of the Thirty-second Session of the Governing Council of the UNDP dealt, among other matters, with the subject of coordination of external technical cooperation at the country level and examination of the steps taken by the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen coordination in practice.

The Governing Council of UNDP adopted two decisions related to this important subject: Decision 85/3 and Decision 85/12. The latter deals specifically with the strengthening of the response to the crisis of Africa, while the former is of a more general and more long-term nature. With its Decision 85/3 on coordination the Governing Council reaffirmed the exclusive responsibility of the developing countries in formulating their national development plans or priorities and objectives, reaffirmed their responsibility to coordinate development cooperation, including the determination of local coordination arrangements, recalled the provisions of the General Assembly Resolution 39/197 recognizing the broad and continuing consensus within the entire United Nations system about the need for improved coordination of development efforts and called for a renewed commitment of all parties to this process, noting that improved coordination contributes directly to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of development activities, including technical cooperation and so on. In its operative part the Decision of the Governing Council, among others, invites developing countries to take all measures that may be necessary to ensure the best possible coordination of all external technical assistance, including the establishment of national programmes for the identification of priority technical cooperation needs and when necessary the strengthening of consultative arrangements with a view to promoting common understanding of the priorities and strategies established by the recipient country and thereby more effective external technical cooperation; requests the Administrator to give priority attention to ensuring the UNDP is responsive in assisting developing countries, if so requested, to strengthen their capabilities in coordination, including that of national technical cooperation programmes, and welcomes the steps being taken by UNDP to that effect, as outlined in the relevant paragraphs of the document which was prepared for the Council by the Administrator; invites governments to continue their efforts at coordination of national election with regard to operational activities for development, thus making it possible for concerted policies to be pursued by the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system and so facilitate the implementation of this decision; reaffirms the responsibility of the Resident Coordinator on behalf of the United Nations system with respect to coordination of operational activities

carried out by the United Nations system at the country level in accordance with Resolutions 32/197 and 34/213, including activities arising from co-financing arrangements and urges all the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Resident Coordinator in this regard.

Finally, the Governing Council requests the Administrator to report to the Governing Council, at his Thirty-Fourth Session, on the results achieved in the implementation of this decision.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions) : Je voudrais avant toute chose remercier les distingués délégués qui ont bien voulu prendre la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour. Je pense qu'ils ont tout à la fois apprécié la valeur informative des documents présentés et ont été sensibles à l'importance et à la diversité des engagements de coopération interagences dont il est fait état. Je peux vous assurer, M. le Président, de la volonté de la FAO de continuer dans cette voie.

Comme je l'avais d'ailleurs indiqué dans mon introduction ce matin, cette coopération se déroule à des stades divers, depuis la consultation préalable jusqu'aux activités conjointes. En tout cas, il faut à chaque moment tenir compte du coût-efficacité des activités de coordination. C'est ce que nous faisons et, encore une fois, c'est notre intention de poursuivre dans cette voie.

Je ne voudrais pas me substituer à la présidence pour résumer les débats. Vous me permettrez donc de borner mes remarques à la réponse à quelques observations ou à quelques questions qui ont été soulevées durant les débats.

Les questions d'abord. Le distingué représentant de l'Argentine, se référant à une résolution de l'ECOSOC en annexe au document devant vous, a demandé comment la FAO souhaitait participer à ce Fonds spécial de secours d'urgence pour la sécheresse et la famine en Afrique qui est issu de l'Organisation de l'unité africaine. A ce sujet, je voudrais dire que la FAO est en constante collaboration avec l'Organisation de l'unité africaine. Comme vous le savez, la FAO a largement contribué à la préparation du chapitre agricole du Plan de Lagos. Elle a également participé avec ses experts et ses connaissances techniques à la préparation du Sommet d'Addis-Abeba.

En ce qui concerne plus spécifiquement le Fonds, je voudrais rappeler ce que le Directeur général de la FAO a lui-même déclaré en Commission I, lorsqu'il a introduit le point de l'ordre du jour relatif à la crise en Afrique, à savoir que la FAO appuie ces initiatives, y compris le Fonds spécial d'assistance d'urgence, et je le cite : "La FAO 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."

Je pense donc pouvoir rassurer le distingué représentant de l'Argentine en répétant la totale disponibilité de la FAO pour aider à la mise en oeuvre de cette très grande initiative.

Il a également posé une autre question concernant la coopération technique et économique entre pays en voie de développement, notamment l'utilisation de l'allocation d'un million et demi de dollars accordée à l'Administrateur du PNUD pour des opérations de secours.

Nous pensons qu'il s'agit-là d'un élément extrêmement important. -En général, il s'agit de projets qui seront sans doute de petite taille, mais qui pourraient avoir une nature catalytique importante, qui sont financés sur cette allocation. Les représentants de la FAO dans les pays ont été informés de cette possibilité. Ils ont reçu l'instruction de se tenir à la disposition des gouvernements pour la préparation et pour la détection des projets qui pourraient être financés sur cette allocation du PNUD.

Certaines délégations ont posé la question de notre collaboration dans le cadre des efforts pour surmonter la crise africaine avec le Bureau des opérations d'urgence en Afrique.

Les paragraphes 47 à 54 du document décrivent ces activités dans un certain détail, en particulier le paragraphe 51. Il est de fait que nous collaborons avec le Bureau des Opérations d'urgence, notamment au niveau central, en fournissant les informations reçues de notre système d'information et d'alerte rapide, de nos missions d'évaluation des récoltes que nous envoyons dans les pays africains, des missions également multidonateurs que la FAO organise, et de nos publications en général.

Vous savez que le système d'information et d'alerte rapide publie sur la situation en Afrique un document mensuel. Ces informations bien entendu sont prises en considération par le Bureau des opérations d'urgence à New York dans ses propres publications, ce qui est tout à fait évident puisque ce Bureau, de nature temporaire, ne peut pas disposer des informations techniques et de la capacité d'analyse nécessaires pour le faire seul. Nous collaborons bien entendu au niveau local avec le système des Nations Unies, puisque nous avons donné comme instructions à nos représentants dans les pays de participer selon que de besoin au Groupe des Opérations d'urgence que le Bureau de New York sur les urgences a constitué sous le leadership du représentant résident du PNUD.

Par ailleurs, le distingué représentant des Pays-Bas a parlé de la présence de notre représentant au BOUA à New York. Je dirai que pour être efficace, notre représentant à New York a autant besoin d'être à Rome pour consulter nos services techniques, et en particulier notre système d'information et d'alerte rapide qui reçoit tous les jours des informations venant du terrain et les analyses, que d'être en permanence à New York où il serait coupé de la base. Notre coopération ne peut pas être jugée par la seule présence de notre représentant à New York. En réalité, c'est un système de navette qui a été décidé en plein accord avec le Bureau des Opérations d'urgence en Afrique (BOUA).

En ce qui concerne les projets de relance, je voudrais signaler, et c'est mentionné dans les documents que vous avez sous les yeux, que lors de la réunion convoquée à Genève par le Secrétaire général en mars dernier, la FAO a soumis un ensemble de projets, en fait, le même ensemble qui a été soumis ici à une réunion à Rome des donateurs. Par conséquent, l'ensemble de la communauté internationale a été mis au courant de ce projet d'activités de relance agricole qui avait justement pour but de permettre une reprise aussi rapide que possible, avec un impact aussi large que possible, de la production agricole.

Je dirai également qu'en ce qui concerne le plus long terme, nous nous réjouissons qu'une session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale soit maintenant considérée. Le Directeur général de la FAO avait fait cette proposition il y a plus de deux ans déjà. Comme il l'a dit lui-même en Commission I, il a officiellement proposé aux Nations Unies que la FAO soit associée à la préparation du volet agricole et alimentaire d'une telle session spéciale. Par conséquent, là aussi, dans le domaine de la relance du développement à long terme, la FAO est disposée à collaborer avec l'ensemble du Système.

La distinguée représentante de Cuba, et d'autres délégations s'y sont référées, a souhaité avoir quelques informations additionnelles sur les relations entre la FAO et l'ONUDI, d'autant plus que c'est devenu une institution spécialisée. Je ne peux pas entrer dans le détail. Mais il s'agit là d'un processus continu, qui se base d'abord sur un Comité intersecrétariats FAO/ONUDI qui se réunit chaque année et qui est aidé par un certain nombre de groupes de travail, comme le Groupe de travail sur les industries agricoles et le Groupe de travail sur le machinisme agricole, le Groupe pour les produits forestiers et le Groupe sur les industries de la pêche.

Je signale qu'en ce qui concerne les produits forestiers, le bois, la FAO et l'ONUDI ont conjointement organisé il y a peu une consultation sur ces produits. Par conséquent, la coordination existe, et c'est bien entendu l'intention du Directeur général de la FAO de maintenir cette coordination avec l'ONUDI devenue Organisation spécialisée.

Je ne m'étendrai pas sur les problèmes relatifs au PNUD. Cela a été l'objet de débats dans d'autres points de l'ordre du jour et je n'y reviens pas. Nous avons pris note de la suggestion d'informer dans le futur document des délibérations et des décisions du Conseil d'administration du PNUD, pour autant bien entendu que ces décisions aient une incidence pour la FAO et que ces questions ne soient pas traitées dans d'autres documents de la FAO.

Avant de terminer, je voudrais remercier le distingué délégué de la Pologne pour les paroles aimables qu'il a prononcées au sujet de la participation de la FAO à l'ECOSOC. Nous en avons pris bonne note et c'est certainement un vif encouragement pour le Secrétariat de la FAO que nous apprécions.

J'espère ainsi avoir répondu aux observations et aux questions qui ont été posées par les distingués représentants des Etats Membres au Secrétariat. En terminant, je voudrais remercier une fois encore tous les représentants des délégations pour leurs déclarations et leur appui.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank Dr Regnier for his remarks. We have now come to the end of our debate on item 18.1. It is now my duty to sum up the debate but before I do this I would like to say that the true test of a Chairman's ability to chair a session competently lies in how effectively he sums up the debate that has gone on. Having said this, I would like you to listen to my summing up with some degree of patience, bearing in mind what Ambassador Bula Hoyos said last night when summing up, that the summary rendered by the Chairman is to be considered indicative, rather than an exhaustive review by the Chairman of all that has gone on. With those words, I would like to give my summing up of the debate.

With respect to the discussion on item 18.1 on our agenda, I would like to offer a very brief summing up of our debate, on which 17 delegations intervened. The most up-to-date information was provided by Mr Regnier in his introduction. This complemented what was contained in the two documents before us C 85/9 and C 85/9-Sup.1.

First of all, I would like to say that those members who participated in the debate recognized and supported the wide range of activities in which FAO cooperates with other organizations and bodies in the United Nations System. It was noted in particular that FAO participates in 42 of the 60 mechanisms which exist in the United Nations System to promote coordination. On the recent developments in the United Nations System covered by these documents, members took particular note of the outcome of the Nairobi Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women. In this connection the delegation of Venezuela, supported by a number of other delegations, announced a draft Resolution which will return to this Commission for discussion after it is considered by the Resolutions Committee.

During the debate, great stress was also placed on the critical situation in Africa, on FAO's initiatives, and on FAO's participation in initiatives in other bodies in the United Nations System. Particular attention was also paid to the Office of Emergency Operations in Africa.

Members placed emphasis on FAO's leading role in the ACC Task Force on Rural Development and the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. Several members also referred to FAO's work with international funding institutions, with particular emphasis on IFAD, and concern was expressed regarding the fund's second replenishment.

The Report on the Review of Technical Cooperation Amongst Developing Countries elicited attention from members, and the importance of TCDC and ECDC was reiterated.

Support was expressed for the document entitled Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the International Development Strategy. Mention was made of many other activities and bodies such as the United Nations Environment Programme, UNIDO and the World Food Council, and initiatives such as the Drinking Water Decade.

Concern was also expressed about the decline in the commitment of resources to agriculture and the transfer of resources from the developed to the developing world.

Reference was also made to FAO's collaboration with UNDP. I shall not go into this in detail, as I believe that the Drafting Committee will ensure that the points made are reflected in the most appropriate way. A considerable discussion on this subject has already taken place under item 14.

That concludes my summing up. Should there be any comment by any delegate, I should like them to take the floor; if there is none, I shall give the floor to Director Regnier for an introduction of item 18.2.

- 18.2 Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations
- 18.2 Relations avec les organisations intergouvernementales et les organisations internationales non gouvernementales
- 18.2 Relaciones con organizaciones intergubernamentales y organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales

A. REGNIER (Director, Office for Inter-Agency Affairs): The Conference has before it for this agenda item document C 85/17, entitled Relations with Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. It provides information on important selected aspects of relations between the FAO and the international community of IGOs and INGOs during the recent biennium. I would also like to call your attention to document C 85/INF/17, reporting on the informal meeting of international non-governmental organizations held on 12 November.

The main document under consideration does not - and indeed could not - include an exhaustive list of all of the forms of cooperation which have taken place during this period, nor does it include information on ongoing activities of a permanent nature. It limits itself, as mentioned in paragraph 1, to a number of the most significant developments during 1984-85. The document is submitted for your consideration but no action is necessarily requested of the Conference in this connection. Allow me a few introductory remarks on the content of the paper. We are fully aware of the importance of close cooperation with international organizations. As you know, the rules regulating arrangements for cooperation with international organizations are embodied in the FAO Basic Texts. The regulations provide, inter alia for the establishment of formal relations with those international organizations which are qualified and have made the necessary requests. In the past biennium, formal relations have been established with 22 international organizations, of which 13 are IGOs and 9 international NGOs, bringing the total to the respectable number of 268.

A register of international organizations that have formal relations with FAO has been published and is regularly updated. Formal cooperation between FAO and intergovernmental organizations is established through either a formal agreement or, in most cases, through the more flexible procedure of an exchange of letters. It provides for the exchange of information, documents, publications, invitations to meetings, etc., and also enables joint action to be undertaken.

In trying to select a few examples of cooperation between FAO and intergovernmental organizations, I would like to stress the excellent cooperation FAO has received from regional and sub-regional economic groupings. These include formulation of development strategies, preparation of agricultural and related projects, as well as preparation and implementation of emergency operations. In this critical period of the African crisis, our cooperation with OAU and several sub-regional groupings has been particularly important.

As another example of successful cooperation with IGOs, I would mention the World Fisheries Conference held in Rome in June last year in which specialized regional organizations, such as those from Latin America and the Caribbean, played a prominent role.

Regional and sub-regional integration in economic and other fields is being intensified today in many parts of the world, and I am confident, therefore, that FAO cooperation with these regional and sub-regional groupings will grow further through an extension of our existing cooperative arrangements and maybe through new ones.

Allow me now a few words about our collaboration with INGOs. FAO is also well aware of the importance of close cooperation with international non-governmental organizations. According to the FAO Basic Texts, formal relations with these organizations take one of the three following forms: consultative status, specialized consultative status or liaison status, according to the importance of their field of activity in relation to the activities of FAO. Formal status enables the INGOs to participate in meetings organized by FAO, and to receive documentation and information. INGOs having consultative and specialized consultative status, may, under the authority of their governing bodies, submit written statements to the Director-General who may communicate them to the Council.

Over the 1984-85 biennium, cooperation with NGOs has been intensified, and ways and means to strengthen further the collaboration between INGOs and various technical units of FAO is under review. In reporting some examples of cooperation, I would like to mention the field of rural

development in which NGOs play an increasing role. The follow-up to the WCARRD Plan of Action remains here the main framework for collaboration, and the activities which are carried out for its implementation by trade unions, farmers' groups, womens' organizations and other NGOs merit our full support. As successful examples of FAO/NGO cooperation I would like to mention regional consultation on the role of agricultural trade unions in rural development held in Arusha, Tanzania, in October 1984, organized jointly by FAO and the Pan-African Federation of Agricultural Trade Unions in which leaders of 32 agricultural trade unions from 14 African countries discussed the participation of rural workers in rural development planning and the execution of projects at a national and local level.

Another example is a joint mission of FAO/ILO and the International Cooperative Alliance to various African countries for the preparation of the Cooperative Development Decade, 1985-95. The ten-year action programme developed in support of the Cooperative Development Decade includes several important activities such as cooperative legislation, education and training, and manpower development and FAO/ICA cooperation in these sectors will certainly develop further.

Last but not least, I wish to mention and commend the cooperation from NGOs in the celebration of the World Food Day and the 40th anniversary of FAO. These peoples' organizations in various ways have called the attention of millions of their members to the goals FAO is pursuing in the fight against hunger. I am sure that the role of NGOs as partners in development will increase in the coming year, they will certainly find an appropriate place and become more involved in activities which aim at the development of the rural world. With these few words, I submit the document for your consideration.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Regnier for the excellent introduction he has given on Item 18.2 which we are about to commence debating.

C.R. SERSALE DI CERISANO (Argentina): En primer lugar, volvemos a agradecer al Sr. Regnier su presentación y nos referiremos al párrafo 19 del documento C 85/17 que se refiere al Comité de Acción sobre Seguridad Alimentaria Regional del Sistema Económico Latinoamericano. Queremos actualizar la información que ahí se da. En primer lugar, los miembros ya no son 10, sino 13 los países que componen el Comité de Acción de Seguridad Alimentaria Regional.

La otra información adicional es acerca de las actividades del CASAR que han sido aprobadas recientemente en su segunda reunión. El plan para el próximo bienio del CASAR se va a centrar en solamente tres áreas muy específicas: la primera es el apoyo a los planes alimentarios nacionales de emergencia; la segunda va a atender el objetivo de profundizar las actividades referidas al comercio interregional e intrarregional de alimentos; y la tercera área es el establecimiento de un programa regional de asistencia en especies o a través de mecanismos financieros para graves emergencias agrícolas. Es un programa modesto pero creemos que focalizando en pocas cuestiones el Comité de Acción podrá tener objetivos concretos a pesar de su corta historia.

Permítame, Sr. Presidente, volver a agradecer el apoyo que hasta ahora ha dado la FAO a esta Organización que nació recientemente, en 1983; ello se manifestó en un programa de cooperación técnica que ya ha concluido entre la FAO y el CASAR y queremos en este foro expresar nuestra esperanza de que este tipo de cooperación va a continuar existiendo entre la FAO y el CASAR con las nuevas actividades que han salido de esta reunión reciente del Comité Ordinario del CASAR.

M. LENSTRA (Netherlands): We appreciate the action taken by FAO, as elaborated on by Mr Regnier in his introductory statement. However, the Netherlands Government would like first to encourage FAO to strengthen the participation of NGOs in FAO, in the work of FAO, especially on a local level. The emergency situation in Africa has given ample proof of their expertise, knowledge and flexibility. We would also plead for consultation of NGOs by FAO and other United Nations agencies in policy matters on a regular as well as an ad hoc basis.

When my delegation is speaking about NGOs, we also think of trade unions and we also support the need for a focal point in FAO to cooperate more closely with NGOs, and this need was stated in document C 85/17. In this context, may I ask you to give your attention to the statement made by the representative of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in Commission I this morning.

A. RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ce document est riche en valeur informative et la présentation qu'en a faite M. Régnier, pour le Secrétariat, est très claire. Permettez-moi d'emblée de féliciter la FAO pour sa coopération fructueuse avec l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine (OUA). Nous souhaitons que cette coopération soit renforcée, surtout en ce qui concerne le programme dégagé par les Chefs d'Etat, lors de leur sommet à Addis-Abeba, en Ethiopie.

En ce qui concerne l'aide que la FAO apporte dans le cadre de la coopération sub-régionale, permettez-moi aussi de citer la coopération avec la Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. Notre pays constitue un exemple de coopération très positive.

Avant de terminer, compte tenu du fait que mon pays est membre du 'CILSS, Comité permanent inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel, nous tenons à remercier la FAO et le Secrétariat pour toute l'aide qu'ils ont fournie à notre organisation sub-régionale, surtout en ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire et les projets relatifs à cette sécurité alimentaire dans la région sahélienne.

En ce qui concerne le document C 85/INF/17, nous tenons également à demander à la FAO de continuer à coopérer avec les organisations non gouvernementales qui, pensons-nous, constituent d'excellents partenaires.

J.S. NIELSEN (Denmark): We have studied with great interest the report on this item, including the recommendations in Part IV of document C 85/INF/17. In particular we would draw attention to paragraph 22, mentioning improved arrangements for a more meaningful and active participation of the INGOs. People's participation and great involvement of NGOs and INGOs has, in recent years, been advocated. It was our advice at the WCARRD Conference and it is also an important section of the proposed Compact on Food Security where these ideas are strongly supported.

We are all responsible for assuring the closest possible relationship between NGOs and public administrations, be they national government administrations or international organizations, as for instance the United Nations system. We constantly have to demolish all ivory towers around public organizations and the NGOs, or professional organizations, also have to combat their mixed feeling of fear and reservations towards civil servants. This applies to developed and developing countries as well. In Denmark and in several other countries, or country groupings, as for instance the EEC, we have been trying to develop close contacts on a formal or an informal basis with professional organizations or NGOs. Thereby we substantially enhance the quality of our exploratory studies and analyses and even more importantly, we facilitate the political decision process by removing technicalities from the agenda of decision makers at the policy making level.

As to how the FAO should strengthen its links with NGOs, we believe that this should mainly be in an informal way and on an ad hoc basis and within the existing economic resources of FAO. To give an example, in preparing the study on price policies dealt with in Commission I this morning, it is essential that the FAO draws rather heavily on data and experience gathered in an organization like the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, and other similar private organizations, as these organizations emphasized this morning. On other matters the main emphasis should be placed on other NGOs, for example NGOs representing rural workers or consumers. I can just mention the importance of cooperating with NGOs specialized in emergency relief, that is NGOs who have a very substantial support and sympathy in the public opinion.

With your permission I would just mention something which belongs to the previous item on the agenda. It is that we wholly support the efforts by FAO to have a closer cooperation with the other international organizations and we think that, given the result from the joint Task Force from the United Nations and FAO on the country food programme matters, we have come on a good track.

In finishing let me reiterate my appeal to demolish all ivory towers in order to benefit concurrently from all signals from the external environment. Thereby we can adapt ourselves to the challenges of the outside world and currently restructure the priorities in our programme of work. This does not only concern FAO. It applies to all of us, national administrations and NGOs alike.

R. SEVCOVIC (Czechoslovakia): At first permit me to congratulate the director of the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs for his comprehensive introduction of this item. According to our views both documents we have before us are of worth in a qualified manner. We regard the FAO cooperation with non-governmental organizations as an integral and important element of FAO's overall activities and we wish their further strengthening.

I would like to come back very briefly to the paragraph 48 of document C 85/17 and to part four, the recommendations of the document C 85/INF/17. As to the WCARRD follow-up, allow me to express from this rostrum our appreciation for all efforts aimed at FAO collaboration in training programmes and other economic projects in favour of rural workers.

As a representative of the host country of one of the international trade union organizations, I would like to express our sincere interest in establishing a focal point in FAO to provide it with support services, and in expressing our support for ITU cooperation at the local and national, regional and international levels from the point of view of quality, consistency and continuity. In this context we welcome and support the paragraph 48 of the above-mentioned document.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): I would like to start by thanking the Director-General and his staff for producing document C 85/17 and C 85/INF/17 which is precise and informative. I would also like to thank Dr Regnier for the clear presentation of both documents. My delegation would endorse the contents of the document and would like FAO to give special attention to FFHC which is the official NGO window on NGOs within FAO.

Over the last five years my government has witnessed considerable progress in the work of Freedom From Hunger and Action for Development, particularly in the area of training. In these areas, many training programmes have taken place, particularly in Africa where the NGOs have been developing programmes on participatory project formulation. We think this is a very, very important area as the NGOs work is assuming a greater proportion of our development in Africa. My government recognizes the role of NGOs in my country and indeed is working very closely with the national and various local NGOs in promoting rural development. In our delegation for this meeting, the NGO's representatives are included as part of the delegation. This attests to the importance of NGOs in my country.

I would like to call upon the Director-General to give special consideration to Freedom from Hunger Campaign and Action for Development, work particularly in Africa where there is considerable need for training among the NGOs that are already involved in promoting rural development through participatory approach. This approach has been mentioned in various documents here without reference to the serious implications that are involved in implementation. A number of NGOs are currently experiencing problems in implementing this approach. The implementation requires that one goes practically through the process. One should not assume that the participatory approach can be something that can be picked from textbook; it has to be experienced.

I would like to refer to section twelve of document C 85/INF/17 where Freedom from Hunger projects were then identified-, this was from the Coordinator. Regarding the Early Warning Systems I believe NGOs have an important role to play here in informing FAO of some of the problems that involve food production in various countries. This is so because NGOs work at the grassroots level with farmers, and we have learned from experience that most of our farmers are quite aware of many of the problems, such as climate. These factors have always been ignored because most of the information that is sent to FAO takes a bit of time to collect at the government level. Since the NGOs are working at the community level, however, it is possible to send Warning Systems based on regions, even based on communities, as opposed to national governments. I would therefore like to call on the Director-General to strengthen the activities of this particular section because it is very clear that in the next few years time there will be more

and more NGOs that will be calling upon the Freedom From Hunger section for backstopping, particularly in the areas of training. We wish to request in the future that a report from FFHC be included as part of the various documents because for the last three years much work has taken place from this area. I believe that most of the participants would like to share their work with you because during the last consultation with FFHC, work results were made available and we found them particularly valuable to the governments of Africa. Therefore, we suggest that this document be made available, even in very brief form, and that the subject be treated more seriously instead of giving it a quarter page in the whole document.

Mrs S. PILLAY (Observer for the International Alliance of Women): I am taking the floor particularly as the Chairman of the NGO Group in FAO, the NGO group that are observers here at the FAO Conference, in order to reiterate the support of the NGOs that they are prepared to give the FAO in its unique task of eliminating hunger from the world. As Mr Regnier said the NGOs observers' representative here at the Conference met with the representatives of FAO on the 12th to consider ways to further the collaboration and cooperation of NGOs when realizing the objectives of FAO programmes for work 1986-87.

A summary of our deliberations is set out in document C 85/INF/17 which I am sure has been distributed to all of you and which I shall therefore not repeat now. Nevertheless I would like to stress that there is far more room for practical actions in the field of people's participation at the grassroots level by actually involving rural people in the planning stages of the small farmer and community development programmes that are meant to benefit them; It is important not to tell them what to do for their benefit but to ask them what kind of benefit they wish for their own betterment and developing programmes they propose to suit their requirements. A somewhat different approach is required to suit different situations and, indeed, in development thinking on the whole.

At the end of the Decade for Women very little has been achieved to alleviate the social economic position of women who form part of this world's population and contribute to more than 50 percent of its total food production. It has been fashionable to speak of development programmes for women but in actual fact there has been very little benefit for us. By and large, women have still no ownership to land, no credit facilities, no specialized training, -and no relief from the traditional drudgery of every day; this in spite of the fact that governments speak of having special ministerial departments to deal with women's affairs.

On behalf of the NGOs therefore I would like to congratulate the delegate of Venezuela for introducing a draft -resolution this morning on rural women and their multiple roles as agricultural women, mothers and spouses. We also thank the other delegations that supported the resolution and would like to record here the NGOs' full support for that resolution. However, we would like to stress that training and participatory opportunities for rural women should be provided in all three of these cases, for field workers, mothers and spouses, since they need training and assistance not only in the fields of food production but also in family and infra-nutrition, family planning and child care, improved food preparation, preservation and storage, and other related home economics areas.

Furthermore, we recommend that men in all countries could also benefit from exposure to information and training in these fields so that they could better understand the roles and potential contribution of women to rural development.

Ms A. SAMAD (Observer for the Associated Country Women of the World): I would like to underline, as has already been done by Mr Regnier and other delegates, the important role that NGOs and women's organizations can play in economic development and, particularly, in the rural development. It is common knowledge that one of the causes for the little success in development projects is poor implementation. It is here that NGOs can be of significant importance.

First I would recapitulate the strong points which put NGOs in a comparatively advantageous position in improving project implementation. The NGOs can address microlevel needs and variations, they can mobilize private resources, they can stress capacity building at local level, and their low profile insulates them from political battles. They emphasize the informal process and local role in decisions. However, there are quite a number of factors which so far have prevented them from playing an effective role. They often lack legitimacy and are viewed with suspicion. They have little leverage and are limited to small areas. They have little access to top level decision makers. They often have no technical qualifications and have little effect on formal systems. Therefore, I consider a very constructive effort that will greatly contribute to agricultural and rural development is to try to remove these weaknesses. I do not propose to suggest the solutions now, which are complex and lengthy and over-ridden by administrative details and trivia. I would conclude in the hope that the Member Governments and the FAO will act to remove these weaknesses.

Ms G. PELA (Observer for the International Federation of Agricultural Producers): IFAP has actively participated in the preparation and operation of the INGOs' Meeting which was held on 12 November and fully shares its conclusions and representations as reported in document C 85/INF/17. IFAP concerns and activities are closely related to those of FAO. Our aims are the same; FAO at the Government level and IFAP at the farmers' level. We all strive for the same objectives.

Document C 85/17 does not mention IFAP. Permit me to say that this does not mean, as Mr Regnier noted before, that there has been no collaboration or interaction in the last biennium. The FAO register of international organizations issued in April 1984 clearly reports that among the 17 international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with FAO, IFAP maintains contact with a large number of FAO divisions and services, and the list is not complete.

In addition to the working relationship we maintain with many sectors of FAO and the reciprocal attendance at meetings, I would like to mention that IFAP has collaborated with FAO on a two-year study on pricing policy.

The FAO cooperation on agricultural pricing policies basic strategy for farmers' organizations is not only considered to be of considerable help to farm leaders in developing countries, but is also used by FAO staff, both at Headquarters and in the field, as well as by other international organizations to develop a more effective approach and better technique. More than 40 percent of IFAP members are from developing countries and their number is growing. The majority of producers in developing countries are small farmers, and most IFAP members represent the interest of this important group. Small farmers and their organizations have a key role to play in the sound economic and agricultural development of their country. It is surprising how little reference is made to farmers' organizations in FAO documents. Indeed over the past forty years the farmers and the organizations have received little encouragement to actively participate in FAO in shaping policies and in implementing programmes.

We call on governments to encourage the FAO Secretariat to bring the farmers' organizations and their farmer members into the FAO policy-making and development process. Governments can facilitate this process by coordinating more closely with the farmers' organizations in their own countries and by creating a climate which encourages the self-help effort of farmers. It must be clear that when I talk about farmers, I mean men and women farmers. Farmers' organizations exist in many developing countries but only in very few of these has their potential been adequately developed to serve their members effectively.

IFAP is actively building up a programme to help strengthen farmers' organizations in developing countries through a farmer-to-farmer approach. In this context we are very pleased to report that FAO and IFAP are jointly planning a project to analyze the functions and functioning of farmers' unions in Africa so that ways and means can be explored to promote this type of organization in as many countries as possible. These activities are also mentioned in document C 85/INF/17 on page 5 in paragraph 10.

In Commission I this morning, IFAP made reference to a proposal for a procedure to enable farmers' organizations to participate in and contribute to the work of FAO, especially as it relates to commodity policies and programmes, and I thank the delegate of the Netherlands for having mentioned this just a few minutes ago.

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne) : Bien que parlant dans une enceinte spécialisée des Nations Unies, après l'Association internationale des femmes, l'Union mondiale des femmes rurales et la FIPA, je voudrais préciser que je m'exprime bien au nom de la Communauté économique européenne, importante organisation intergouvernementale qui collabore avec la FAO.

Je voudrais à cet égard me féliciter des excellentes relations de travail entre la Communauté économique européenne et la FAO et nous souhaiterions que cette collaboration se renforce. Je peux vous assurer que les services de la Commission des Communautés européennes réfléchissent à l'heure actuelle sur les moyens appropriés qui permettraient un tel renforcement.

Je voudrais maintenant me référer au document C 85/17 et à son paragraphe 19 qui rapporte la coopération entre la FAO et la CEE en matière de pêche. Si nous nous félicitons de cette collaboration, j'aimerais que nos relations ne se limitent pas à ce secteur.

En effet, je me permets d'indiquer les actions de sensibilisation auprès des gouvernements et de l'opinion publique que la Commission des communautés européennes a organisées dans le cadre de l'Année internationale de la forêt. Lors de la récente Commission européenne des forêts qui s'est tenue à Budapest, la CEE a présenté un bilan des actions en la matière.

De plus, d'autres formes de coopération existent. Ainsi, au Rwanda, la CEE a financé un projet de sécurité alimentaire de stockage identifié par le Programme d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire de la FAO. De même, au Bangladesh, la CEE a mis en oeuvre le projet stockage avec la FAO. Enfin, et cette énumération n'est pas exhaustive, je citerai le projet du Sri Lanka, mis en oeuvre par la CEE et la FAO.

Je voudrais également rappeler que, dans le sens souhaité par le Directeur général de la FAO, et, sans attendre la mise en oeuvre concrète de LOME III, la Communauté économique européenne va lancer un plan de réhabilitation et de relance des pays africains les plus affectés par la sécheresse. Dans sa session plus récente du 4 novembre 1985, le Conseil des Ministres des Communautés européennes a fixé les grandes orientations de ce plan dont l'objectif final est fixé à hauteur de 200 millions d'écus, soit environ 180 millions de dollars. Cent millions d'écus sont immédiatement mobilisables au titre du Fonds européen de développement selon les procédures de décision propres à ce fonds.

Les projets de relance de la production vivrière en Afrique de la FAO ont le même objectif que le plan de la Communauté économique européenne. Dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Plan de la CEE, qui sera déterminé par la Communauté, en collaboration étroite avec les pays concernés, il est évident que la FAO sera associée aux consultations, notamment avec les représentants de la FAO dans les différents pays concernés.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to thank the distinguished representative of the EEC; apologies are called for, I deeply regret the oversight and omission that caused the Chair to put him after the NGOs, I agree he should have spoken before the NGOs. I want to assure the distinguished representative of the EEC that it was unintentional that we have placed him at the end of the list of speakers. We have all very high regard for the Organization that he represents. I hope that with this he will be satisfied. Thank you.

I would now like to ask Dr Regnier if he would like to respond to some of the questions raised during the debate.

A. REGNIER (Directeur, Bureau des affaires interinstitutions): Le Secrétariat a pris note avec grand soin de toutes les observations qui ont été présentées par les distingués représentants qui ont pris la parole dans ce débat.

Il n'a pas eu, me semble-t-il, à proprement parler, de questions spécifiques auxquelles je doive répondre. Mais je voudrais sincèrement remercier les délégations pour l'encouragement qu'elles nous donnent à poursuivre dans la voie, je crois bien engagée, de la coopération entre la FAO et les organisations internationales et les organisations non gouvernementales.

Nous avons en particulier pris note de la suggestion de faire un rapport à l'avenir sur les activités de la campagne mondiale contre la faim dans le document qui vous est soumis à la Conférence ou de toute autre manière, et je pense que le Secrétariat réfléchira à cette proposition.

Nous avons également noté les remarques des distingués représentants du Danemark et du Kenya concernant le rôle que les organisations non gouvernementales pourraient jouer en cas de catastrophe et, à cet égard, je voudrais dire que nous reconnaissons le rôle que les organisations non gouvernementales peuvent jouer en fournissant des informations utiles dans la mesure où elles sont au plan local, et même sur le plan opérationnel. Je voudrais rappeler que des contacts ont déjà été pris avec un certain nombre d'organisations non gouvernementales, en particulier pour renforcer la collaboration avec le Système d'information et d'alerte rapide. Ces organisations sont disposées à collaborer plus étroitement avec le Système mondial d'information et d'alerte rapide de la FAO. D'autres organisations non gouvernementales seront approchées dans les mois à venir afin de susciter leur intérêt. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit là d'un point important et que la collaboration avec le Système pourrait utilement se développer.

Je voudrais faire une dernière remarque. Le représentant de la FIPA et le représentant de la Commission des Communautés européennes ont mentionné que le document sous référence ne contenait pas toutes les informations, toutes les collaborations qui se développent entre la FAO et ces deux organisations. Nous le reconnaissons bien volontiers, mais la période de référence de ce document a été précisément indiquée dans le document et dans mon intervention, nous nous sommes bornés à rappeler les principales interventions qui se sont développées au cours de la dernière période biennale. Il se peut qu'en ce qui concerne les Commissions européennes un projet forestier, par exemple, la contribution de la Commission des Communautés européennes à l'Année internationale de la forêt ait été oubliée. Nous nous en excusons. Les projets de stockage au Bangladesh ou au Sri Lanka sont eux beaucoup plus anciens que la période examinée. C'est la raison pour laquelle ils ne sont pas mentionnés.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the Director for his intervention in clarification of some of the points which were raised during the debate. I would like to ascertain if there is anyone who would like to make any comments whatsoever. There being none, I now proceed to sum up the debate on this item 18.2.

The Commission again noted - when I say again I refer to the previous item 18.1 - that the documents before it were very informative and that the introductory statement by Mr Regnier added further insight into FAO's collaboration with inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations. . Six delegations participated in the debate and full support was expressed for the on-going work of the Organization with numerous inter-governmental bodies, at regional and sub-regional levels. In particular collaboration with organizations in Africa was mentioned and endorsed. Concerning the non-governmental organizations, delegation after delegation noted the report of the recent informal meeting and their support for developing new flexible and dynamic mechanisms for cooperation between FAO and various types of non-governmental organizations. It was stressed that these organizations were well placed to promote the people's participation in rural development. The work of the FFHC was supported in this connection.

Finally, I believe I speak for all the members of the Commission when I say that the statements made by the observers were noted by the Commission with deepest interest.

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, took the chair

G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

16. Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides

16. Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides

16. Código de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a continuar ahora con el tema 16. Esta tarde sólo podremos sesionar hasta las 6 o máximo hasta las 6.15 horas, porque el Presidente del Comité de Redacción nos ha informado de que el mismo deberá reunirse temprano esta tarde.

El Sr. Brader, Director de la Dirección de Producción y Protección Vegetal, va a presentarles el tema 16 que, como todos ustedes saben, tratan del código de conducta para la distribución y la utilización de los plaguicidas.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): While introducing this agenda item 16, I am referring to document C 85/25 Rev.1 and C 85/LIM/16. There is general agreement that pesticides have made very substantial contributions to the expansion of agricultural productivity throughout the world. Pesticides frequently offer the only means to control outbreaks of pests, diseases, weeds and other noxious organisms and, in many areas, production would be quite unprofitable without them. Over the last 40 years various alternative control measures have been developed within the framework of the integrated pest management approach. These concern mainly the more intensive use of pest resistant crop varieties and of biological control. As such, much more effective use can be made of pesticides. But it has also been clearly demonstrated that, in the foreseeable future, pesticides will continue to be an essential tool in plant protection.

During recent years, however, the introduction and widespread use of pesticides in agriculture have prompted much discussion and created wide concern. Pesticides have attracted attention, because they can have a detrimental effect on the environment, because they have caused poisoning of humans and domestic animals, and because some of their residues have been found in places where they were unexpected and unwanted. Their occurrence, for example, could create impediments to trade or have an impact on the environment.

Twenty-three years ago, Rachel Carson published her book "Silent Spring", about the dramatic impact of pesticides on the environment. This book became, to a large extent, the beginning of the organized public concern about the over-use of pesticides. It stimulated authorities and research workers to increase their efforts to develop alternative pest control measures.

The environmental effects of pesticides are related in particular to the pesticides from the so-called organo-chlorine group; DDT is the best example. The side effects occur as a result of the very slow breakdown of this type of pesticides and their capacity to accumulate in various living organisms. The ultimate contamination of mother's milk and the decrease in reptorial bird population are some of the examples often quoted.

As a result, this type of pesticide has been replaced by other types of compounds that generally break down much faster after application. But a number of them have higher toxicity for human beings and domestic animals than, for example, of DDT. Thus during the course of the 1970s this high toxicity has gradually become the major concern about the use of pesticides, in particular in developing countries.

Early in the 1980's, a situation was arrived at where continuous alarm was being raised by environmental groups; authorities of various countries were examining ways and means to reduce the problem and the pesticides industry was increasingly concerned about the hazards of their products to human health and the environment. But each of these groupings offered different solutions based on their different interests and responsibilities.

However, it was clear that a matter of such importance and complexity needed a common approach to ensure that the benefits of pesticides for public health and agriculture were maintained. Thus, in the autumn of 1981, the Director-General launched the idea of the development of a Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

For many years, FAO has been fully aware that pesticides have potentialities for harm to the community as well as for benefit to agricultural productivity.

The FAO programme has long been aimed at promoting safe practices in the introduction, distribution and use of pesticides. There has been much concern over toxic hazards and environmental problems associated with their misuse. As a consequence, for some 30 years, FAO's programme on pesticides has emphasized and provided assistance to its member countries on their safety as well as their efficacy aspects.

In this regard, two government consultations were held in 1977 and 1982 to promote international harmonization of pesticide registration requirements. Although an increasing number of countries have adopted registration and control schemes, the second of these consultations noted that there were many other countries - with serious deficiencies in technical personnel and facilities - where there were no immediate prospects for the effective adoption of such schemes. It is mainly for this reason that the 1982 consultation strongly supported the proposal for an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The Code is a highly technical document and has received detailed attention by experts throughout the world. The Code, as it is presented in document C 85/25 Rev.1, was prepared in consultation with various other international organizations concerned. This draft represents a consensus of views expressed by member governments. A number of amendments proposed by various members of the Council have been taken into consideration by the Director-General in preparing the Code.

The previous version has received strong support by the last sessions of the FAO Committee on Agriculture and the FAO Council. In fact, the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council noted that the Code was the end-result of wide and extensive consultations with Member Nations, appropriate UN organizations, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the pesticide industry - over a period of more than three years. In fact, the Code has gone through a process of ten drafts submitted for scrutiny. The main aim, as recommended by the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council, was to further clarify and improve the text, and not weaken its substance. The further amendments proposed in the draft now before you are consistent with the Council's views, and were fully endorsed by the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council.

As noted above, different groupings have different interests. It is, therefore, certainly not surprising that it has taken considerable effort and time to develop a Code that could, on the one hand, reflect everybody's concern and interest while, on the other, serve the purpose of encouraging the safe use of pesticides, and achieve acceptance by all involved. However, it is the Director-General's strong conviction that the Code offers a framework that can be subscribed to by all concerned. In this respect, it may also be recalled that the Council emphasized that the Code should be considered as a dynamic text which should be brought up-to-date as required, taking technical, economic and social progress into account.

The principles and practices embodied in this Code can help in reducing the occurrence of adverse effects of pesticides on humans and the environment, while permitting the effective use of pesticides in improving agricultural production and human, animal, environmental and plant health. At the same time, it should lead to the elimination of unacceptable practices, on a basis on which governments, industry, public-sector groups and concerned citizens can judge whether their actions and the actions of others are acceptable.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias al Dr. Brader por su presentación muy clara; espero que todos tengan el documento C 85/25-Rev.1 donde aparece la última versión del texto del Código, versión elaborada a la luz de los debates celebrados en el último período de sesiones del Consejo.

R. SEVILLA (Ecuador): Agradezco al Sr. Brader por la muy amplia explicación que ha dado de la situación de los plaguicidas y de cómo se llegó también a este último formato del Código Internacional de Conducta.

La delegación ecuatoriana considera que el tema 16 es fundamental para dar un importante paso en la protección del medio ambiente y muy especialmente en el cuidado de la salud humana. Por esta razón esta delegación considera fundamental que la FAO adopte el Código de Conducta para la distribución y uso de plaguicidas; sin embargo, mi país no puede dejar de expresar su enorme preocupación porque el último borrador, esto es el séptimo, haya sido debilitado sustancialmente al eliminar el artículo 9.6 del Código que implantaba el principio del consentimiento informado previo o prior informed consent o PIC.

Esta omisión en el Código lo vuelve lamentablemente un toque incompleto. No es desconocido para la mayoría de los distinguidos representantes aquí presentes el hecho de que algunos países industrializados exportan plaguicidas al Tercer Mundo a pesar de que estos productos químicos tóxicos han sido prohibidos, severamente restringidos o voluntariamente retirados del mercado en el país de origen por ser peligrosos para la salud, esto es, ser fetotóxicos, keratogénicos, mutagénicos, o que afectan el medio ambiente al contaminar intensamente el suelo, las aguas o el aire.

Comprendemos que este proceso conocido con el término de dumping sea un importante negocio para la empresa que lo practica, pero es indiscutible que los gobiernos de los países exportadores tienen una responsabilidad moral de vigilar que la exportación se haga sólo luego de informar al país importador de los peligros que el producto encierra y las razones por las que fue prohibido en el país exportador. Sólo si el gobierno importador luego expresa su consentimiento por escrito se debería realizar la exportación.

El PIC no es más que lo anotado anteriormente, o sea, que ningún pesticida prohibido o severamente restringido, y quiero ser muy claro en esto, no cualquier plaguicida sino uno que sea altamente tóxico y peligroso para la salud humana y el medio ambiente y que sea prohibido en el país de origen, podrá ser exportado excepto bajo las siguientes condiciones: a) que el país exportador haya provisto al país importador el detalle de las prohibiciones o severas restricciones que afectan al respectivo plaguicida, conjuntamente con la información de los peligros que hayan conducido a dichas restricciones; y b) que luego de recibir la información el país importador haya dado su consentimiento oficial y, por escrito, de la exportación del plaguicida.

Algunos países exportadores han esgrimido el hecho de que esto limitaría o demoraría el comercio internacional. Esto es cierto, esto reduciría el comercio internacional de venenos no deseados por los gobiernos del Tercer Mundo.

Por otro lado, no incluir en el Código de Conducta el principio PIC llevaría a la FAO a estar por detrás de una serie de organismos nacionales o internacionales que ya lo aceptan o lo practican, y daré algunos ejemplos: La Asociación de Productos Químicos de Norteamérica, la NACA, aceptó en septiembre de-1985 aplicar el principio PIC entre sus miembros; el gobierno de Holanda también ha expresado su apoyo al PIC al comentar el Código de Conducta de la FAO. No deseo entrar en detalles de otros órganos como la Unión Internacional de Conservación de la Naturaleza y la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que también recomienda lo mismo.

Resulta, por tanto, contradictorio que mientras algunos países y organismos han implantado el principio PIC, la FAO y organismos por excelencia encargado de la agricultura, no lo implanten.

Preocupa a nuestra delegación que los países que ya lo han implantado o que lo están discutiendo en este momento al ver que la FAO no lo introduce dentro del Código de Conducta aflojen o liberen ese control y eliminen la obligación PIC. Por esta razón la delegación del Ecuador propone que esta sala estudie la forma más adecuada para incluir el principio PIC en el tiempo más corto posible en el Código de Conducta de distribución y uso de plaguicidas.

H. CARANDANG (Philippines): First of all, we would like to thank Dr Brader for his very clear introduction. He has given us a clear picture of how pesticides can be useful for increasing productivity and for eliminating pests, but at the same time he has given us a clear picture of how pesticides can be harmful if not used properly. We believe that the Code will indeed help countries achieve the objective of safe use of pesticides.

The Code which is before us is indeed a very great improvement over the previous drafts which were presented to us, but the point made by the delegate of Ecuador is of course of great concern. The Philippines delegation therefore fully supports the proposals made by the delegate of Ecuador. In this Article 9.6 we are dealing with pesticides which are banned, which are severely restricted, which are so highly toxic that they can no longer be sold in their countries of origin because of the harm they can do to humans, to animals, and to the environment - and even to future generations. I shall not go into the issue of why such pesticides which can no longer be sold in the developed manufacturing country can be sold in another country. If they are dangerous in the country of origin, they are also dangerous in the country to which they are going to be exported - and with much more reason, because the infrastructures in the countries to which they are going to be imported are less. The people are less informed, so that the danger of mishandling pesticides is even greater. Therefore, if they are dangerous in the country where they are manufactured, they are going to be more dangerous in the countries where they are going to be imported in the developing world.

The present Article 9.6 is already an improvement over the previous article, where there was a provision that sometimes it would not be possible to provide information on pesticides which are banned: now we read that it is indeed the intention of the exporting countries to provide this information about banned pesticides before they can be exported to other countries, particularly the developing countries. But we believe that the reintroduction of the so-called "prior informed consent" would be a great improvement to the present text. Many countries and many international organizations have already adopted the principle that such exports should not be permitted without the explicit consent of the importing countries. This crucial principle, called "prior informed consent", is the only way to ensure that decisions about trade in dangerous pesticides are firmly in the hands of the importing countries, particularly the developing countries.

The proposal, therefore, of Ecuador to reintroduce this principle in Article 9.6 merits our support, and the precise amendment that would be introduced would be to delete everything after "control action" in line 4 in Article 9.6 and substitute the following words: "information should be provided prior to export, such export to take place only following the explicit written consent of the importing country".

We believe that this would be a great improvement to the present Code. It will help to ensure the better use of pesticides and also ensure a better world which is free from pollution for our generation and future generations.

J. WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has welcomed from the very beginning the initiative of FAO to prepare an international voluntary Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides and to submit it to the Conference for adoption. It therefore took an active part in the formulation of the Code, as it did in the preparation of similar conventions in UNEP, OECD and similar organizations.

It is very gratifying that the draft as well as the draft resolution have now been put into a version that is acceptable and can be adopted. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany sees in the Code of Conduct an important supplement to our own national provisions under Plant Protection law that will in the future also contain provisions on the marking of pesticides destined for export.

This regulation should support the efforts of those countries that import German pesticides and do not yet have their own regulations to improve environmental and health protection in the application of these pesticides.

It is also the firm intention of my Government to continue to take an active part in implementing the Code, for we cannot do without the application of pesticides to ensure the production, in terms of quantity and quality, of adequate food and feed in view of a rising world population. But it is also equally unrenounceable that the negative impacts of the application of pesticides on the environment and on human and animal health must be combatted by vigorous measures all over the world. As we see it, this also includes extension measures and advice to those who apply pesticides but cannot read the written instructions that are enclosed with the pesticides.

Also, it is important that progress in plant protection be promoted, and this includes the rational use of pesticides within the framework of Integrated Plant Protection. This aim is met by the Code, and we can hope that the improvements aspired to will become tangible by means of the envisaged reporting procedures.

H. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Ma délégation se félicite de ce que le code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides soit soumis pour approbation à notre conférence. En tant qu'Etat membre de la Communauté économique européenne assumant la présidence devant cette Conférence, je vous saurais gré de bien vouloir accorder la parole à l'observateur des Communautés économiques européennes afin qu'il puisse exposer les vues de la Communauté en la matière.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, han oído ustedes la propuesta del distinguido colega y amigo Representante de Bélgica. Si no hay objeción, podemos ahora conceder la palabra al Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

G. DESESQUELLES (CEE): La Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres félicitent la FAO d'avoir présenté à notre Conférence ce document tellement important au niveau mondial.

En effet, ce Code international de conduite examine la plupart des aspects qui se rapportent aux activités dans les domaines des pesticides; c'est pourquoi nous considérons le Code comme une initiative particulièrement bienvenue de la FAO.

A l'issue de la quatre-vingt-huitième session du Conseil quia précédé notre Conférence, la Communauté économique européenne, qui attache une grande importance à l'application du Code, se félicite qu'une disposition lui permette de participer pleinement, ce qui, par ailleurs, permettra une portée aussi large que possible du Code. Toutefois, il serait nécessaire que la clause reprenne l'expression même proposée par le Directeur général de la FAO et retenue par le Conseil, à savoir "groupements régionaux d'Etats" et cette formulation devrait être identique dans toutes les versions linguistiques.

La Communauté économique européenne et ses Etats Membres espèrent que toutes les parties concernées prendront sans délai les dispositions nécessaires pour une mise en oeuvre rapide du Code.

EL PRESIDENTE: Puedo asegurarle al distinguido Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea que, como sabe, la decisión del Consejo respecto a las Organizaciones Regionales está incorporada en la versión que ahora se discute.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): First of all we would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent work they have done in preparing the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as submitted to this Commission in document C 85/25. We also appreciate the introduction given us by the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO.

This work is a very commendable one and we do not have much to comment on it, except for only three small matters. First, in Article 3.3.1, provision is made for governments of exporting countries and chemical companies to provide technical assistance and to assist countries with a shortage of technical expertise in assessing relative data on pesticides. We have no objection to governments of exporting countries giving assistance to needy countries, in fact we support this and urge them to do so. But this would be a big responsibility to be given to chemical companies; after all, the main concern of these companies is to sell their products and not to give technical assistance to needy countries. Therefore we think the phrase in Article 3.3 which reads "or through their pesticide industries" could be deleted without incurring any damage to the remaining parts.

Secondly, on the exchange of information in Article 9.3, the country of export is required to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to provide the national authority of importing countries with relevant information on exported pesticides. This is pertinent, but commodities change hands; somebody can buy them not for use but to sell to another party. In that case, who should be required to provide the necessary information to the ultimate user? This does not seem to be adequately covered in the Draft Code.

Thirdly, we are also concerned with the points raised by Ecuador and the Philippines on Article 9 as a whole. We believe that if a pesticide is dangerous, it should be banned and not exported.

These are only observations which do not in any way belittle or cloud the excellence of the Code to which we give our full support. My country has already prepared a proclamation on pesticides registration, control and regulation and this proclamation, which will be enacted soon, incorporates all the salient features contained in the Code of Conduct in front of us.

Srta. M. HURTADO (Colombia): La Delegación de Colombia comparte la opinión de muchos delegados que han hablado antes sobre la necesidad de que el PIC sea incluido cuanto antes en el texto del Código. Colombia no desea que se interrumpa ahora el largo proceso que ha conducido a esta versión del texto. Por ello, en esta instancia, nosotros nos resignamos a apoyar el texto como está, pero a condición de que en el Informe aparezca un párrafo claro y definido sobre el hecho de que en una próxima revisión del texto de este Código se incluya definitivamente el concepto PIC.

M.A. FREDETTE (Canada): My delegation supports the resolution submitted under this item and endorses this voluntary International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Indeed, Canada continues to support more generally FAO's work in the area of the relationship between pesticides and food production. I would only add three brief remarks to this endorsement.

First, my delegation would welcome clarification from the Secretariat as to FAO's follow-up activities in monitoring and supporting the implementation of this Code, particularly in those countries which currently lack adequate regulations to deal with this issue.

Secondly, since Canada is an active participant in the International Programme on Chemical Safety, my delegation urges the Secretariat to work closely with those in ILO, WHO and UNEP who are jointly involved in this programme, with a view to benefiting fully from existing expertise in this field, as well as to making its own contribution to the work of that Programme.

Finally, we are very happy to see this Code of Conduct come to the Conference for adoption after long, painful perhaps, but nonetheless successful, negotiations, we hope. We are particularly struck by the close attention that the Director-General has given to both securing the support and addressing the concerns of FAO members in the preparation of this Code. Governments, individuals and the private sector have all been consulted extensively. I refer here to paragraph 118 of the report of the Eighty-seventh Session of the Council. The Code has gone through three years and some ten drafts as a result of these close consultations. This process, while doubtless time-consuming, is noteworthy and represents an excellent, concrete illustration of the cooperative dimension inherent in multilateralism.

We would certainly commend this aspect in the future. Indeed it would have served a useful purpose had it been applied to recent initiatives such as the World Food Security Compact and both the International Undertaking and the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que los colegas que intervendrán mañana seguirán el buen ejemplo de quienes han sido breves hoy, porque se trata de un claro proceso, bien conocido por todos nosotros. Les agradezco su colaboración. Mañana, como ya les he dicho, deberemos concluir este tema y por lo tanto consideraremos el tema de fondo del programa de esta Comisión: Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Gracias.

The meeting rose at 18.05 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.05 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/II/PV/14

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(22 November 1985)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours,
G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)
- 16. Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides (continued)
- 16. Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (suite)
- 16. Código de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero recordarles una vez más lo que ayer dijo el señor Brader cuando presentó este tema, lo cual es bien conocido por todos nosotros. Se trata de un documento que ha superado un largo proceso, en cuya consideración hemos participado todos nosotros en diversas oportunidades. Se han recibido observaciones y sugerencias que, en la medida de lo posible, se han incorporado a este texto de manera que quisiera que compartan conmigo la sensación que corresponde a la realidad de que éste es un texto que ahora está en condiciones de ser adoptado, aunque si bien no pueda satisfacernos completamente a todos, pero por lo menos, será el primer instrumento, la base de la cual va a partir ahora este aspecto concreto de las actividades sobre producción y distribución de plaguicidas.

A la luz de esas consideraciones y también del hecho evidente de que tal como lo dice el último de los artículos, el 12.7, este Código no va a ser un documento estático, sino por el contrario dinámico, que va a ser sometido a revisiones periódicas a la luz de las circunstancias.

Les ruego una vez más que sean breves, concretos y específicos porque necesitamos terminar esta mañana este tema. Repito que debemos concluir este tema en la mañana porque para la tarde ya ha sido informado el señor Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del PMA, y estará presente entre nosotros al principio de la sesión de la tarde. Los altos funcionarios del PMA, con ánimo constructivo, nos han comunicado que ellos desearían que se facilite su participación en el debate sobre los objetivos del PMA al ser discutido esta tarde aquí. Si esto fuese así, como lo espero, concluiríamos hoy todos los puntos de fondo del programa de la Comisión II y así se podría atender las solicitudes reiteradas que me han hecho muchos de ustedes, y yo comparto, en el sentido de que sería conveniente que hoy termináramos todos los puntos para que el lunes, día en que comienzan las elecciones para el Consejo, todos podamos estar en el piso tercero, en la sala Plenaria y reencontrarnos luego aquí el martes 26 para iniciar la discusión del resto del proyecto de informe de la Comisión II.

Espero que colaboren conmigo y que entiendan esta situación, que además corresponde a la realidad.

NGWE WIN (Burma): I will strictly follow your instructions as the first speaker. The details of my delegation's observations will be submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the records of this Commission. However, my delegation feels that it should offer certain points regarding the Code.

My delegation feels that the primary responsibilities of the distribution of pesticides rests with the user nation and should be according to the national laws of the user country. Nevertheless, producing and trading of dangerous pesticides should be very carefully regulated. In particular, the producers of dangerous pesticides should be held responsible for giving prior information to the user nations. We must not forget that what is dangerous and lethal for producers is equally, if not more, dangerous to the user countries, particularly the end users who are innocent farmers.

Having said that, my delegation fully endorses the draft Code.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al representante de Birmania por su brevedad. El resto de su declaración se insertará en las actas.

También el colega de Mauritania, con el mismo buen espíritu, nos ha enviado un texto que con la venia de la Comisión se incluirá en las actas sobre este tema.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá): Deseamos antes que nada agradecer al señor Brader por su clara y elocuente presentación del tema.

El problema de la protección vegetal y animal en los países en desarrollo es cada vez mayor y lo será más aún en la medida que se intensifique la producción agropecuaria en los mismos.

A este propósito y en vista del incremento de la producción de alimentos es un objetivo prioritario en nuestros países en desarrollo la utilización de insumos agrícolas tales como los plaguicidas.

A pesar de los esfuerzos intensivos por introducir sistemas de control biológico tiene a menudo importancia decisiva para el logro de dichos objetivos.

Dentro de este marco de referencias y a la luz de los peligros que para la salud humana y animal así como para el medio ambiente los mismos pueden representar, la delegación de Panamá desea en primer lugar reiterar su apoyo total y firme al Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, los beneficios que el mismo puede aportar en primer lugar a los países en desarrollo que todavía no cuentan con procedimientos propios para el control y la regulación de dichos plaguicidas. A tal propósito nuestra delegación no estima oportuno repetir en esta ocasión las consideraciones que hicésemos en su oportunidad para respaldar dicho proyecto de Código pues alargaríamos el debate; deseamos, por el contrario, evidenciar la forma amplia y general con que el Consejo expresó su aceptación del proyecto y su decisión de remitirlo a la Conferencia.

Al respecto deseamos destacar que el contenido de dicho Código ha sido objeto de intensas negociaciones y que el texto que hoy se nos presenta es la décima versión del mismo.

En referencia a lo planteado por el delegado del Ecuador en relación con el principio de consentimiento e información previo, PIC, la delegación de Panamá comprende y comparte su interés en el asunto ya que concedemos una particular importancia a este concepto. Opinamos que la cuestión debe de ser planteada a la Secretaría como él propuso para que sea estudiada y se estime la posibilidad de considerarla posteriormente.

Compartimos la opinión manifestada por la representante de Colombia durante el día de ayer.

A este propósito nuestra delegación estima que aunque este Código representa un compromiso entre muy diversas posiciones de principios y que no satisface por completo todas nuestras preocupaciones, el mismo en general es balanceado, recoge las observaciones no sólo de gran parte de los Estados Miembros, sino de la opinión especializada de organismos internacionales apropiados, así como de la industria de plaguicidas, razón por la cual se puede recabar el máximo consenso.

Para la delegación de mi país se han introducido recientemente en el texto aquellas propuestas constructivas que, respetando el espíritu de lo indicado en el informe del 87º período de sesiones del Consejo en el sentido de que no menoscaba su contenido, contribuyen a favorecer el consenso, por tales motivos no tenemos dificultad en aceptarlas.

Asimismo la delegación de Panamá desea expresar su apoyo al proyecto de resolución que acompaña a dicho Código y fue recomendado por el Consejo.

Estimamos oportuno renovar nuestra invitación a la FAO a que asista a los países miembros en la formulación de la legislación relacionada con el mismo.

DATO'ABU BAKAR MAHMUD (Malaysia): My delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for the way in which the subject is presented to us and particularly to Dr Brader for his excellent and clear introduction of the subject.

Recognizing the wide and extensive consultations that have been held on this matter by all parties concerned and the urgent need to ensure the safety of users of pesticides, farmers in particular and consumers as a whole, as well as the need to safeguard the cleanliness of the environment, my delegation would register its strong support for the adoption of this Code. The draft Code as contained in the document C 85/25-Rev.1 is rather an amended draft which has been rather watered down in several substantive parts. My delegation would have preferred

the earlier draft which contained the principle of PIC and which required an exporting country to inform the importing country of the details of the pesticide so as to enable it to consent to its importation. This would be an advantage to those countries in the Third World which do not have well-established regulatory and enforcement procedures. It might be of interest to the Commission to reconsider inserting this clause that subscribes to the principle of prior informed consent.

I would, in this connection, like to lend support also to the suggestions of the delegates of the Philippines and Ecuador on the introduction of prior informed consent in Article 9.6 or related thereto.

Nevertheless, Malaysia has no objection to the new amendments as related in the latest draft Code in the consensus reached in the Eighty-eighth Council recently, and, indeed, I hope that Clause 9.1 in Article 9 is in some way a step in the direction of the prior informed consent principle, but this again depends on the degree of application by the consent parties. The paragraph to my mind would help the importing countries to make appropriate assessments of the level of toxicity, of efficacy for intended safe use by consumers and of residual levels in edible plant products.

Since this Code is voluntary, my delegation feels it should be given the widest possible publicity by all parties concerned, namely national governments, the pesticides industry and the relevant consumer groups.

Related to Article 12, my delegation strongly suggests that importing countries should organize and promote campaigns in the safe use of pesticides.

Malaysia started a nationwide campaign on the safe use of pesticides in 1984 through the collaborative efforts of the Pesticides Board, the pesticides industry, the plantation industry and the relevant government departments and agencies.

In view of the fact that the Code is voluntary, problems relating to its compliance will invariably arise. My delegation, therefore, is in full support of the need for periodic review, as stated in clauses 12.6 and 12.7. This review by both FAO and governments will enable us to continually gauge the effectiveness of the Code and take corrective measures as and where necessary.

MICHEL MOMBOULI (Congo): A l'instar des autres délégations, nous aimerions remercier M. Brader pour sa brillante présentation du sujet soumis à notre examen actuellement.

Le document qui est entre nos mains actuellement est une nouvelle mouture résultant des consultations très intenses que nous avons eues à des niveaux différents. Je pense qu'en tant que membres du Conseil nous avons eu l'occasion d'exprimer nos points de vue et nous pouvons dire que ce texte est le résultat des négociations. C'est pourquoi nous n'allons pas ouvrir à nouveau le débat.

Nous avons eu l'occasion de dire que ce code était bienvenu dans la mesure où il venait combler un vide juridique; nous l'aurions souhaité plus contraignant mais il nous a fallu tenir compte des positions des autres, ce qui fait qu'actuellement nous sommes arrivés à un stade où nous ne pouvons plus recommencer la négociation étant donné le niveau qu'elle a atteint.

Je voudrais surtout vous dire que nous appuyons ce code dans sa nouvelle version mais il y a un point particulier sur lequel nous voudrions revenir, c'est le paragraphe 9.6. Nous voulons revenir sur ce paragraphe en ayant à l'esprit l'horrible catastrophe qui a eu lieu à Bophal en Inde. Nous pensons en effet que les pays en développement doivent apporter beaucoup de garanties pour l'utilisation des pesticides, surtout quand on sait que certains pesticides sont distribués dans les pays en développement de façon spécifique sans que dans les pays d'origine on les utilise. On pourrait citer certains produits dont l'utilisation a été supprimée dans les pays producteurs et qui malheureusement continuent à être exportés. C'est dans cet esprit que nous pensons que, comme l'ont suggéré les délégations de l'Equateur et des Philippines, il faut que nous trouvions par tous les moyens la possibilité de réintégrer un paragraphe relatif à l'acceptation préalable par le pays importateur du produit des informations communiquées par l'exportateur.

Je le répète, nous avons toujours à l'esprit cette catastrophe qui nous a prouvé qu'en définitive nous n'avons pas toujours dans les délais voulus pris les dispositions pour faire en sorte que les pesticides soient utilisés à bon escient.

Une fois de plus, nous renouvelons notre appui à ce texte, mais nous insistons pour notre part qu'une solution soit trouvée afin que la proposition de l'Equateur et des Philippines que nous appuyons puisse trouver sa place également dans ce code.

HARIS ZANNETIS (Cyprus): My delegation supports the adoption of the Code because the use of pesticides is absolutely necessary for an increase in agricultural production and a reduction in the post-harvest losses and because pesticides, if not properly used, have the potential of causing harm which is very costly, as has been indicated by Mr Brader in his comprehensive introduction, for which we would like to thank him.

We consider the Code to be most useful because it gives guidance to proper practices in the distribution and use of pesticides and because it defines the corresponding responsibilities of government, industry, traders and users in ensuring safe and effective use of such products. The Code gives us the means by which we can develop ways to use pesticides more safely and effectively. This Code, which addresses all these concerns in a comprehensive manner, is justified and is urgently needed, as it provides us with valuable guidance on the matters which we need to take into account when considering the question of whether or not to allow the use of a particular pesticide.

We are saying this in spite of our belief that the present version of the Code may not be perfect in all its aspects and that in fact certain of its provisions should have been stronger and more precise. However, we are convinced that it would be best to adopt the Code as it is now with a possibility of a review and improvement after some experience has been gained from its widescale use, as you, Mr Chairman, have indicated this morning.

We realize that the Code has gone through a long process of consultations over the last three years and ten drafts have been prepared for this purpose. Furthermore, the Code has received strong support by the Committee on Agriculture and by the Council.

In keeping with your wish, Mr Chairman, I will end my intervention here, but I will give the full text for inclusion in the verbatim record. (The following statement has been included on request).

My country has in fact implemented in 1968, legislation covering the importation, registration, labelling and sale of pesticides. We have found that the legislation, as modified from time to time, fully covers the needs of the farmers of Cyprus. Over time, however, modifications may and do become necessary in order to cover new developments, as new pesticides are introduced, and more becomes known about existing pesticides, and as insects develop resistance to some of them.

Our experience indicates however, that for legislation to be effective, it must be strictly enforced and monitored by competent technical and scientific officers. Legislation also implies constant sampling and analysis of all pesticides on sale, which implies the need for a fully-equipped laboratory. This investment is very much worth its value and it is indispensable.

In fact, we are now taking this legislation a step further - we are going to inaugurate a laboratory to deal with pesticide residues on crops in order to protect the consumers. This next step will complete the circle ensuring on one hand that in as much as manufacturers, distributors and farmers have both rights and responsibilities, then consumers also have rights; rights that are reflected in the proper use of pesticides by the farmers and the elimination of dangers that might arise from residues.

We shall be only too happy to share our considerable experience in this field with any other developing country.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por su colaboración, distinguido colega de Chipre.

El resto de su declaración está incluido en las Actas.

LAZARE GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Je serai très bref. Ma délégation tient tout d'abord à féliciter la FAO pour l'initiative qu'elle a prise d'élaborer un code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Ce document est d'une importance capitale pour nous. En effet, si les pays développés ont mis en place un certain nombre de dispositifs qui préservent l'utilisation sans danger des pesticides, cela n'est pas le cas pour la plupart de nos pays qui manquent des moyens adéquats nécessaires pour garantir une bonne utilisation sans effet nocif sur la santé humaine, animale, et sur l'environnement.

Nous invitons en particulier la FAO à apporter son appui aux pays en développement pour la mise en oeuvre du code.

Enfin nous partageons les préoccupations exprimées par la délégation de l'Equateur hier soir et appuyées par un certain nombre de délégations.

ANTONIO MAGALHÃES COELHO (Portugal): Nous voudrions féliciter le Secrétariat d'avoir présenté ce document tellement important au niveau mondial. L'utilisation en grande quantité des pesticides que l'on considère aujourd'hui indispensables à la protection de la production agricole crée, comme on le sait, divers problèmes dont certains peuvent avoir de graves répercussions d'ordre toxicologique et pour l'environnement.

D'autre part, il faut empêcher la tendance au profit facile de firmes moins scrupuleuses qui mettent sur le marché des pesticides insuffisamment efficaces avec des résultats désastreux pour la production agricole et des implications économiques graves pour les agriculteurs.

Il faut donc veiller à ce que, mondialement, les pesticides soient appropriés du point de vue aussi bien biologique que toxicologique et de l'environnement en réduisant leurs inconvénients au minimum.

Théoriquement, nous considérons que le "Code International de Conduite" prend en compte tous les aspects importants qui se rapportent aux activités dans les domaines des pesticides et que, s'il était intégralement suivi, il résoudrait une grande partie des problèmes soulevés par l'utilisation de ces produits. Cependant, la mise en place d'un "Code de Conduite" ne doit pas freiner les efforts de la FAO pour aider à établir dans tous les pays, aussi rapidement que possible, des systèmes d'homologation de pesticides, systèmes qui devront forcément être adaptés à leurs structures techniques. Sans la mise en place urgente de systèmes officiels d'homologation et de contrôle appropriés, avec l'aide de la FAO, dans les pays où ils n'existent pas encore, l'adoption de ce code sera impossible.

Permettez-moi de présenter quelques commentaires sur le texte du Code:

"Article 2 - Définitions":

-nous pensons que, à la fin de la définition d'homologation, on doit ajouter la phrase suivante "quand le produit est utilisé conformément aux instructions";

-nous pensons que la deuxième période de définition de résidus doit contenir le texte suivant: "le terme comprend la matière active, tous ses dérivés, comme les produits de conversion, les métabolites, et les produits de réaction ainsi que les impuretés, jugés importants du point de vue toxicologique".

"Article 4.4":

Le Portugal a réalisé quelques actions de ce genre avec les pays de langue portugaise avec lesquels nous avons des accords de coopération technique.

"Article 5.1.1."- Bien que la mise en place de systèmes d'homologation et de contrôle de pesticides doit être considérée comme la priorité de toutes les priorités, quelques pays n'ont pas, au niveau gouvernemental, les structures techniques disponibles à cet effet. La FAO devra essayer de trouver une solution, sinon il ne sera jamais possible de mettre en place tous les autres alinéas de l'article 5, y compris ceux de la responsabilité de l'industrie.

"Article 5.2.2.4."- Dans le texte en français, la fin de cet article dit: "... spécialement quand il s'agit de produits ménagers particulièrement toxiques". Nous ne sommes pas d'accord que l'on utilise ces produits "particulièrement toxiques" à cette fin.

Article 6 : Pour des raisons déjà citées, la FAO devra jouer un rôle fondamental dans la mise en place de l'article 6.1, dans beaucoup de pays du monde pauvres en structures techniques.

Article 9 : En 20 ans d'homologation de pesticides, seul un pays exportateur nous fait savoir régulièrement par son ambassade les décisions d'interdiction ou les restrictions officiellement imposées dans ce pays, et met à notre disposition un dossier complet sur la matière que nous devons étudier en détail. Cet article doit être mis à exécution de manière urgente par les grands pays exportateurs.

JOSTEIN LEIRO (Norway): Norway supported the idea of an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. At the last meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in March this year Norway gave its support to the draft Code. The changes later made in the text do not affect the Norwegian position. The Norwegian delegation supports the draft Resolution for an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

ABDELAZIZ ARIFI (Maroc) : Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier et féliciter le Dr Brader pour son introduction du sujet claire et concise.

C'est avec grand intérêt que la délégation marocaine a étudié le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Ce projet vient à point nommé, puisque les préoccupations qui y figurent font actuellement l'objet de débats au niveau de plusieurs départements ministériels au Maroc. Le but escompté est la refonte des lois de base, puisque l'ancienne législation est souvent difficile.

Je voudrais rappeler que le premier texte relatif à l'emploi et au contrôle des substances toxiques remonte à 1922. Bien qu'amendé à plusieurs reprises, ce texte se trouve actuellement largement dépassé.

La délégation marocaine considère que le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation de pesticides revêt une importance primordiale, puisqu'il met en relief les responsabilités de la profession et des utilisateurs des pesticides, tout en oeuvrant pour un meilleur accès aux pesticides, et une préservation de la santé du consommateur.

'Pour cette raison, nous appuyons ce Code et souhaitons qu'il reçoive de la part de toutes les délégations un large appui.

Si vous me le permettez, je voudrais vous faire part de quelques remarques que la lecture du document a suscitées au niveau de la délégation marocaine.

Ces remarques sont de deux ordres: les unes reprennent les arguments déjà mentionnés dans le Code, ce qui signifie que la délégation marocaine les appuie avec force; les autres remarques constituent une contribution visant à approfondir la réflexion sur le dossier des pesticides.

Le problème qui se pose avec une grande acuité aux importateurs de pesticides se situe à plusieurs niveaux. La première étape concerne le système et les procédures d'homologation. Dans le meilleur des cas, les produits à homologuer font l'objet de diverses études. L'étude des aspects toxicologiques quant à elle se fait à partir de documents fournis par les fabricants de pesticides. La faille la plus évidente au niveau de l'homologation est sans conteste le manque de possibilité qu'éprouvent les services de contrôle pour effectuer les essais de conformité des produits ou spécialités soumis à l'homologation.

La délégation marocaine appuie de ce fait avec force les initiatives relatives à l'installation de laboratoires de formulation des pesticides avant et après homologation.

Il y a lieu aussi d'insister sur l'apport que peuvent procurer les organisations internationales, les industriels et les gouvernements des pays importateurs et exportateurs de pesticides dans le domaine de la formation des analystes et de la maintenance des équipements spécifiques aux textes de formulation.

L'autre série de problèmes que rencontrent les pays importateurs se situe au niveau de la distribution et de la vente des pesticides. L'image reflétée par le circuit physique de distribution est de nature à soulever des critiques qui sont le plus souvent fondées. Les critiques les plus reprises par l'opinion publique sont relatives au manque de qualification technique des vendeurs de pesticides. Le conseil fourni aux petits agriculteurs tient souvent compte de considérations commerciales. De ce fait, il n'est pas rare d'entendre les utilisateurs remettre en cause l'efficacité des traitements phytosanitaires.

La délégation marocaine souhaiterait dans ce cadre que la FAO entreprenne une enquête relative aux différents systèmes de distribution de pesticides adoptés par les différents pays existants ainsi que les critères de qualification pour délivrer les autorisations ou agréments de vente de pesticides.

Avant de conclure mon exposé, je voudrais vous faire part d'un certain nombre de réflexions et propositions qui sont de nature à faciliter les rapports entre la profession et les utilisateurs de pesticides.

La première proposition est relative à la mise au point annuelle d'un listing des spécialités dont l'homologation a été refusée dans les pays exportateurs de pesticides, ainsi que les justifications qui ont présidé à cette prise de décision.

La deuxième proposition pourrait concerner la mise en place d'un système qui inciterait les sociétés exportatrices à faire accompagner chaque convoi de pesticides d'un certificat d'analyse de conformité établi par un laboratoire officiel d'analyses chimiques. Le système pourrait s'inspirer de celui prévu dans la Convention internationale de la protection des végétaux et qui est relatif au certificat phytosanitaire dont le modèle, élaboré par la FAO, accompagne tous les végétaux et produits végétaux échangés dans la communauté internationale.

La troisième proposition serait d'inciter les obtenteurs de spécialités non utilisées dans les pays d'origine à ne pas se limiter aux seuls essais d'efficacité sur les parasites à combattre, mais pousser plus loin les investigations avec les services nationaux d'homologation pour mieux appréhender le devenir de ces spécialités, leur éventuelle dégradation, leurs effets sur les insectes utiles, et partant, préserver autant que se peut l'intégrité de l'environnement où ces spécialités seraient utilisées.

Ce sont là les remarques et suggestions que le Code a suscitées parmi notre délégation. Elles focalisent les sentiments et courants d'opinions les plus partagés par les utilisateurs des pesticides au Maroc.

Avant de conclure, je réitère l'appui déjà exprimé au début de mon exposé pour l'adoption de ce Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, et vous remercie de votre attention.

M. SIMBWA-BUNNYA (Uganda): In response to your appeal to be brief I will limit myself to a few remarks only. First of all, I wish to thank Dr Brader for his lucid introduction of this item last evening. I would also like to commend the FAO for having filled a gap that has existed for too long in the vital area of pesticide management. My delegation attended most of the discussions leading to this refined compromise draft. We would like, however, to point out that during the refining process of these successive drafts the text has lost much of its intended strength. A case in point is Article 9 where my delegation, like many others who have spoken before me, would have liked an essential principle of prior informed consent to be incorporated. We believe that if a pesticide has been banned or labelled dangerous in its country of manufacture, then it must be more disastrous in importing countries where the infrastructures for screening them are lacking or

inadequate. Nevertheless, the draft as it is, we feel, is a step in the right direction to curb the growing quantities of pesticides being traded and used in developing countries without adequate safety provisions which are internationally accepted.

My delegation endorses the Code and the relevant Resolution for its adoption by the Conference.

OCTAVIO RAINHO da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): I would like to thank Dr Brader for his excellent presentation of the subject. I will try to be as concise as possible and make up for the time lost. The Brazilian Government is deeply concerned about the hazardous effects of improper use of pesticides on humans, animals, and the environment. At present we are reviewing our national legislation in order to render it more effective and to ensure an orderly and safer use and distribution of pesticides in our territory. Very recently we have adopted new rules banning the use in Brazil of organo-chlorate zebro toxic products destined to culture in cattle breeding. Among the banned products, we may just mention Aldrin, BHC, DDT, and so on. This decision was taken after some Brazilian research institutions concluded that those products were no longer effective against most insect plagues and that their use constituted a threat to the environment, and to human and animal health, especially that of fish and birds. As a counter-measure we are promoting in Brazil the use of organic matter to replace chemical pesticides. Much more needs to be done at the national level. Control and surveys by the Government are essential and will be under constant review. These efforts, however, should be backed by appropriate international action for obvious reasons.

Under the circumstances we fully support the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, an extremely important initiative by FAO. Even in its present weakened version, as a compromise draft, after so many revisions, the Code represents a useful first step to be taken with no further delay. But the Code, as has been forcefully argued by the Philippine and the Ecuadorian delegations, still needs an amendment to Article 9.6, with the aim of restoring to its text the essential rule of Prior Information Concept (PIC).

Brazil strongly supports the amendment introduced by the Philippines.

Sra. MAGDALENA BALDUZZI B. (Chile): De acuerdo a su deseo, seré muy breve. La delegación de Chile apoya la adopción del Código de Conducta para la Distribución y Uso de Plaguicidas, habida cuenta de la trayectoria de elaboración del mismo y de la importancia evidente que tiene el dictar normas sobre la materia, especialmente para los países en desarrollo, en resguardo del bienestar de los pueblos.

H. SNAJDROVA (Czechoslovakia): First I should like to congratulate Mr Braden, Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, for his comprehensive introduction of this item. The International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides regulates the practical use of pesticides, and upon discussion, it should be endorsed as a general obligatory code. In our country these problems are legally regulated in order to make it possible to influence all operations dealing with pesticides and in order to enforce necessary measures to improve the situation if negative effects are found. We agree with the draft International Code with the following recommendations, which have already been mentioned by us during the sessions of the Council.

In Article 7, medium toxic pesticides, included in class two of Directives, should be released for small growers and hobby gardeners for their own use, provided of course, that they are regularly instructed on the use and action of these substances.

In Article 7, labels on containers should be provided in all cases in the languages of the importing countries, including instructions on composition and ways of handling. The measures for the reduction of the use and controlled application of undesired pesticides meet the requirements for the innocuousness of these materials from the point of view of residues.

The Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will meet all requirements ensuing from the article of the document, and if our comments are included, it may be said that the fullest acceptance of the document is in keeping with the interests of our country. We are ready to support it.

LEOPOLDO ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos saludar al señor Brommer por su amplia y documentada presentación de este tema.

Señor Presidente, no pretendemos ni vamos a hacer la historia, ya larga, del Código de Conducta sobre Plaguicidas que nos ocupa. Solamente queremos hacer algunas breves referencias a cuestiones que no pierden actualidad ni importancia en este marco.

Antes queremos reconocer que el Director General es el pionero de este Código, que lleva dentro la salvaguardia del entorno debido en que se tienen que mover el hombre y la mujer para plasmar sus aspiraciones en un mundo sano, productivo y feliz. Creo que este es el objetivo. Por eso no creemos que podamos tener ningún tipo de temor a que todo lo que se pueda introducir como salvaguardia sea incluido en el Código.

La distinguida delegación del Ecuador ha planteado, con mucha claridad y certeza técnica, las consecuencias ciertas de una utilización de pesticidas con desconocimiento de lo que están utilizando. Nos referimos a pesticidas declarados prohibidos o severamente limitados. Creemos que es necesario tener en cuenta este planteamiento que ha hecho la distinguida delegación del Ecuador y que ha sido apoyado por Filipinas, Brasil, Congo y otras delegaciones.

Sin embargo, queremos nuevamente reiterar nuestra satisfacción por el texto del Código y de la resolución que se nos ha presentado, incluidas las dos últimas ediciones. Considero que se han logrado conciliar las aspiraciones de todos y cada uno de nosotros, aunque no sea totalmente.

Digo así porque, en realidad, hubiéramos deseado que la aplicación del Código no fuese voluntaria. Esto es bastante débil. Hubiéramos deseado que su texto fuese aún más preciso y más sólido. Así lo hemos planteado, pero si hubiéramos pretendido mantener las posiciones, realmente no tendríamos hoy un texto conciliado. Somos conscientes de eso, y en función de eso, aprobamos este Código que tenemos enfrente.

No obstante, nos complace que se considere al Código como un documento dinámico, capaz de adaptarse a los cambios que se produzcan durante su aplicación, tanto económicos y sociales como técnicos. Ello querrá decir que este Código tendrá vida, que no va a ser letra muerta. Si él no se mueve hacia el futuro, será letra muerta, y decir sólo cómo ha de ser, no va a dar mucho.

La necesidad de aplicación de este Código la hemos planteado con bastante anterioridad y ha sido reiterada aquí por muchos colegas. Por ello creemos que no debemos dejar de insistir en que la comprensión de cada gobierno es uno de los principales factores, en un tríptico que yo considero la parte más importante de esta materia. Primero, cada gobierno nacional debe tener necesidad de dictar sus leyes y reglamentos nacionales que regulen la manipulación, que regulen el control en todos los sentidos de los plaguicidas, dada su toxicidad, dado todo lo que sabemos técnicamente sobre los fenómenos que pueden producir su manejo, dado lo que entraña a la salud humana y al ambiente. Todo esto creo que es responsabilidad fundamental de cada gobierno.

El Código en sí nos puede dar una pauta a seguir. Nos va a enseñar peligros y mucho sobre la forma de protegerlos. Por lo tanto, creo que va ser muy útil que lo utilicemos, pero partiendo de nuestras leyes nacionales.

Necesitamos los plaguicidas -es otra conclusión- porque necesitamos tener buenas y sanas cosechas en un mundo en que la competencia a la productividad se hace más rígida, pero no podemos sacrificar al hombre por las cosechas ni el ambiente y el futuro del mundo por las cosechas.

Consideramos también muy importante, y de particular importancia para cada gobierno, la capacitación de los hombres que van a manejar estos productos. Aquí hemos hablado de las empresas que importan - del exportador y del importador -; todo eso es muy interesante, pero, con el carácter voluntario, va a ser muy difícil controlarlo. Tenemos que ser sinceros en nuestro criterio.

Sin embargo, creemos que la defensa de nuestros agricultores, de nuestros obreros agrícolas (que son los que van a manejar, en definitiva, el producto, porque ni por la mano del importador ni por la del exportador pasa este producto, los resultados van a ir a la base, van a ir a la familia de campesinos, porque los grandes fenómenos y programas se dan ahí, en las zonas rurales, y este es uno de los problemas que considero de gran importancia) radica, además en las leyes de cada país, en la necesidad de que se resuelva, como se ha hecho, esta parte que en el Código está bastante reforzada. Me refiero a la necesidad de las campañas de propaganda sobre su toxicidad, sobre su manejo, pero que estas campañas lleguen a las zonas rurales, en lo que también tenemos cierta responsabilidad nosotros, para que cuando llegue a las zonas rurales nuestros campesinos sepan leer la etiqueta, sepan entenderla.

En esto también nosotros tenemos una gran responsabilidad, porque los exportadores no nos van a apoyar en algo que es una tarea eminentemente nuestra.

En este sentido queremos reiterar, señor Presidente, que lo que hemos planteado que no es una cuestión de forma, sino de fondo. En los párrafos 5.2.3 y el 8.1.1, en ambos, se vuelve a utilizar la palabra "inocua". Nosotros acabamos de revisar nuestro diccionario de lengua española el significado de la palabra "inocuo" y en el mismo pone: "Dícese de aquello que no hace daño, que es inofensivo". Es lo contrario de lo nocivo.

Vuelvo a repetir que no hay tal inocuidad para los seres humanos en ninguna de las fórmulas químicas que se utilizan como pesticidas. Todas entrañan algún peligro en mayor o menor grado. De ahí su clasificación, y creo que en estos párrafos que proponemos la palabra "inocuidad" no debe utilizarse, sino que puede sustituirse muy bien por "riesgo", porque es un riesgo, ya que la inocuidad no existe en ningún producto de esta naturaleza.

Vamos a reiterar nuestro apoyo al texto presentado; estamos seguros que contará con el apoyo de esta Conferencia y repetimos nuestro apoyo a la proposición en la forma que lo hizo la representación del Ecuador.

Miss H. MARIA BLAIZE (Grenada): My delegation has already had an occasion to highlight the importance of this topic under discussion.

During the general policy debate, the leader of this delegation acknowledged that pesticides were essential to agricultural production under tropical climatic conditions. However, in view of the potential, serious risks to human and animal life, as well as to the environment, Grenada considers the establishment of a special regime governing the distribution and use of pesticides a judicious development.

Thus, Grenada considers adoption of the texts contained in document C 85/25-Rev.1.

The introduction of this Code of Conduct captures the essence of the dilemma of the developing countries when it recognizes that "some countries importing pesticides must heavily rely on the pesticide industry to promote the safe and proper distribution and use of pesticides. In these circumstances foreign manufacturers, exporters and importers, must accept a share of the responsibility for safety in distribution and use".

With regard to the question of prior information in Article 9.6: by way of illustration, this delegation would like to refer to a situation in which a company manufacturing pesticides in Europe addressed a request to the Diplomatic Mission of Grenada. The mission was being asked simply to certify that the pesticide in question could be imported into Grenada. The company provided no information as to the composition and toxic levels of the product which it was attempting to market. In fact, subsequent inquiries in the host State of the Diplomatic Mission revealed that the manufacturer's definition of the substance being marketed was incomplete. Thus, when developing countries lack specialized technical expertise in the matter of testing pesticides and ascertaining their composition - or worse, do not have adequate pesticide legislation - they find themselves at the mercy of manufacturers and exporters. We in Grenada therefore subscribe to the view expressed in Article 1.6, that the Code is designed to be viewed within the context of national law as a basis whereby government authorities and pesticide manufacturers may judge whether their proposed actions and the actions of others constitute acceptable practices.

Notwithstanding the voluntary nature of the Code, it is to be hoped that confronted with the spectre of indiscriminate use of pesticides and with the aim of improving agricultural productivity and production in general, coupled with the risk of toxic levels damaging to human and animal life and ultimately to the ecosystem, all parties concerned would accept that it is imperative to translate into concerted action what is envisaged in Article 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 in the matter of pesticide management, and Articles 5, 6, 9 and 11 in their entirety, as well as Article 12.

Sharing the concern expressed by the delegate of Malaysia as regards this Article 12, which addresses the crucial issue of monitoring the observance of a voluntary Code of Conduct, the Grenadan delegation would like to be apprised of the machinery devised or to be set in train insofar as there is need for coordinating the activities envisaged in Article 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7.

In conclusion I would like to indicate that the Grenadan delegation would commend the adoption of the text contained in document C 85/25-Rev.1.

FRANCISCO FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): La delegación española considera a este Código Internacional de Conducta como un paso adelante y positivo en el tratamiento y manejo de un tema muy delicado. Su aprobación representará un esfuerzo de colaboración por todas las partes implicadas y la FAO es la única organización que nosotros consideramos puede dar un apoyo serio a esta tentativa.

Este Código es para nosotros una base mínima sobre la que se pueden apoyar aquellos países que no han desarrollado su normativa en la materia y es el cauce que permitirá un diálogo internacional entre productores y consumidores de estos productos. De esta forma se puede dar lugar a un uso más seguro y eficaz de estas materias imprescindibles, al menos por mucho tiempo, en la agricultura.

España viene colaborando desde hace mucho tiempo en la consecución de este Código Internacional de Conducta, aportando una ya larga experiencia en la materia.

Llegando a este momento de presentarlo a la Conferencia, mi Gobierno tiene serias dudas acerca de la posibilidad de que sea puesto en práctica, fundamentalmente el punto 9, sin la mediación directa de la FAO; duda que también ha sido expresada por otros países en el pasado Consejo.

Quisiéramos reiterar al Director General el deseo de España de mantener su apoyo a la aprobación de este Código y sumarse así a los signatarios del mismo para dar cumplimiento inmediatamente a sus recomendaciones, en tanto que tales recomendaciones estén expresadas en forma que no entrañen dificultades que pudieran impedir su acordado cumplimiento.

Por último, pedimos -que se determine una periodicidad para la revisión del Código, fijando ya el plazo para la primera.

Mrs 2. IERONIMAKI (Greece): My delegation considers that pesticides are closely related to the improvement of agriculture, human health and environment. At the same time, it is an issue of major concern, since there are countries which do not have the established adequate regulatory infrastructure for controlling pesticides and ensuring their safe and effective use.

We share, therefore, the opinion that pesticides should be exported or imported after careful consideration of their toxicological implications and that every effort should be made so that their application should be in full accordance with recognized practices, after examination of the pest problems prevailing in the region where they are to be used.

With the considerations above, we are fully aware that an International Code of Conduct is needed which can define and clarify the responsibilities of the parties involved in the development, distribution and use of pesticides. In this context, my delegation fully supports the statement made by the representative of the European Economic Community.

RAYMOND NGBONGUE (République centrafricaine): La Délégation de la République centrafricaine voudrait tout d'abord féliciter M. Brader pour la présentation claire et concise qu'il nous a faite sur le sujet.

Nous savons que la croissance démographique, qui est de 85 pour cent dans les pays en développement, augmente sans cesse le nombre des sous-alimentés. Pour mettre fin à cette situation malheureuse, nous devons accélérer le développement de la production vivrière, surtout dans les pays en déficit alimentaire. L'intensification de la production vivrière exige l'utilisation des pesticides. Cependant, on assiste souvent à l'approvisionnement en pesticides très toxiques et, parfois, de qualité inférieure, qui ne permettent pas d'atteindre les objectifs fixés et qui provoquent aussi des situations dramatiques.

A l'instar des autres pays en développement, la République centrafricaine ne dispose pas d'une législation appropriée pour les pesticides et de mécanismes adaptés pour faire appliquer la réglementation afin de protéger la santé humaine, les animaux et l'environnement.

C'est pourquoi la délégation de la République centrafricaine insiste plus particulièrement sur la création d'un système de contrôle et l'information des détaillants et des utilisateurs de pesticides pour réduire les risques attachés à leur emploi.

La République centrafricaine, qui fait partie des pays en développement, est confrontée à des ravageurs et des maladies qui sont en grande partie responsables de la baisse de la production agricole. La nécessité d'employer des pesticides pour accroître sa production alimentaire n'est pas à démontrer.

Pour terminer, la délégation de la République centrafricaine appuie le code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, dans sa forme dynamique.

Mme MARIA de LOURDES DUARTE (Cap-Vert) : Nos félicitations s'adressent à M. Brader pour son exposé d'introduction au document relatif au code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Comme l'a déclaré à la plénière le chef de la délégation de mon pays, le projet de code de conduite pour les pesticides, sous sa forme actuelle, constitue inévitablement un compromis entre des intérêts très légitimes. Il a déjà reçu l'appui de principe du Comité de l'agriculture. Comme chacun sait, les pesticides sont indispensables pour la production agricole, mais leur utilisation correcte et judicieuse s'impose.

Nous espérons donc que le projet de code, tel qu'il nous est présenté maintenant, pourra être adopté car il constitue sans aucun doute un document indispensable dans tout programme visant à l'accroissement de la production agricole.

Néanmoins, et pour terminer, ma délégation appuie l'amendement proposé par l'Equateur et soutenu par d'autres délégations, de même que le projet de résolution qui nous est présenté pour adoption.

SHIGEKI YAMAMOTO (Japan): To begin with, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of Dr Bommer and the Secretariat for having presented to this Commission the draft of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which has long been intensively subject to our discussion.

My Government has consistently supported FAO's endeavours to formulate the Code of Conduct. In this regard my delegation is happy to find that among many of the improvements in the Code of Conduct the voluntary characteristic has become clearer than before. We are convinced that the Code will be of great help for the promotion of the discipline distribution and use of pesticides in the world.

My delegation, recognizing that the Code will provide a practical framework for the control of pesticides, especially in countries which do not have adequate regulatory systems of pesticides, supports the present text of the Code.

Before concluding my comments, I would like to warn the Commission that the new proposal made by some delegates to add or revise sentences in the present text at this moment will only necessitate vigorous discussion again, thereby causing delay in the adoption.

ATIF Y. BUKHARI (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (original language Arabic): We are very pleased to receive this text which is the outcome of thorough discussions within the framework of the Organization with regard to the distribution and use of pesticides at international and national levels.

The Organization has drafted this text in its final form and it is now submitted to us. We have taken into account the views and needs of all members of the Organization. Thus, we warmly thank the Organization for its considerable efforts made in the service of the international agricultural community.

The delegation of my country has always been among those who have said that there was always a need for such an international code of conduct, given the widespread and intensive use of pesticides in many forms. Since we are fully aware of this double-edged weapon, it is a weapon which can be beneficial as well as harmful, we stress the importance of this Code of Conduct.

FAO is the one Organization which can play a very important role in this area; it is the Organization for that purpose. So we wish to say to you and to the whole international community that the different measures which should be undertaken, mentioned in this Code, should indeed be applied. The firms which produce and sell pesticides must really make tests in their countries in collaboration with the countries which import these pesticides. Scientific tests should be carried out involving the various pesticides used by importing countries. We must be sure about the harmlessness of these pesticides. Furthermore, we must take account of the side-effects that there may be from the use of such products.

Secondly, the countries which import pesticides and which do not have this legislation to control their use should take account of their environment and make sure that the pesticides are used in a proper way. Those countries must give priority to such legislation so as to control the use and distribution of pesticides. These countries should train personnel to implement such regulations, and to ensure the proper use of pesticides. Furthermore, we would wish to refer to the fact that there are requests regarding the registration of pesticides made by importing countries. This is a very fundamental issue.

We shall summarize our position as follows. We know perfectly well that this Code of Conduct is voluntary and it involves no legal constraints. It is just a scientific framework for the control of the use of pesticides. Secondly, the provisions of the Code should be applied to all pesticides in all their forms: pesticides for insect pests, pesticides used in other areas, herbicides also which have become more widespread in recent years.

Thirdly, this Code of Conduct could be considered acceptable to my delegation in its present form, although it could perhaps be improved upon in light of scientific tests and in light of the experience gained in this field.

Fourthly, the FAO should monitor the results in certain countries, following the application of this Code. The various commissions and the Council of the Organization should take account of such results and draw the appropriate lessons, and the Organization should give scientific opinions as appropriate. We are fully aware that the adoption of this Code would signify that international technical cooperation between the different sectors of the international community is a living, real fact.

LI ZHENHUAN (China) (original language Chinese): Our Government and relevant departments value highly and commend FAO for its efforts in drafting the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Chinese delegation stated its views and position on this question during the discussions on the draft Code prior to the Conference. The text Code as submitted to the present session of the Conference for adoption is the outcome of years of hard work done by the FAO Secretariat and member countries. It is also an important international document on pesticides. Hereby we wish to register our support for the document.

Finally, we wish to put on record our support to the Ecuadorian and the Philippine delegates for their proposed amendment to Article 9, i.e. Information Exchange, because we think it is reasonable. We hope that it will be unanimously approved by the Conference.

AXIALE MAHI (Cameroun): C'est un plaisir pour nous de participer à ce niveau au débat. Nous nous réjouissons de la présentation du document C 85/25-Rev.1 faite par un spécialiste de haut niveau. Cette seule présentation a suffi pour la compréhension du texte. Nous remercions également la direction générale de la FAO pour l'initiative prise de présenter à l'approbation de la Conférence le texte élaboré et amendé sur le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

L'introduction de ce document situe parfaitement bien la place qu'occupent la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides en agriculture. Actuellement, tout le monde sait qu'aucun pays désireux de promouvoir son agriculture ne peut s'en passer. Ceci est bien souligné dans le texte de référence. Mais si dans les pays développés qui fabriquent et exportent souvent ces pesticides tous les dispositifs d'homologation et de contrôle de distribution et d'emploi des pesticides sont mis au point, il n'en est pas de même pour les pays moins avancés qui souvent disposent de règlements phytosanitaires fort souples pour ne pas dire dérisoires.

Dans ces pays, la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides obéissent souvent à des motivations contraires aux simples intérêts des consommateurs qui sont en majorité de petits agriculteurs peu préparés à leur profession.

Beaucoup de ces pays bien conscients de cette lacune n'ont pas encore malheureusement réussi à mettre en oeuvre une législation phytosanitaire digne de ce nom faute de cadres compétents et de structures de contrôle adéquates. C'est donc pour nous l'occasion de saluer l'avènement de ce Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides qui pourra inspirer bon nombre de règlements internationaux et nationaux phytosanitaires à élaborer.

Si l'article 1, paragraphe 1.5, énonce les normes de conduite indiscutables, l'article 2 constitue un lexique qui, bien que préparé pour la seule compréhension du Code, devrait être à notre avis plus enrichi en mentionnant aussi des définitions de mots qui accompagnent tout texte général de distribution et d'emploi de pesticides; nous pensons ici essentiellement à des mots tels que "dose léthale" "antidotes" et ainsi de suite ... Ces mots, nous le répétons, ne sont pas dans le code mais il serait peut-être bon qu'ils figurent pour la bonne compréhension surtout des précautions à prendre avant et après utilisation.

Il faudrait peut-être aider les pays qui pourront élaborer leur propre législation à les comprendre mieux. Si nous le disons c'est pour tenir compte du niveau de connaissance de ceux qui manipulent ces pesticides. Evidemment on ne peut tout mettre dans un code de conduite car cela nécessiterait presque un dictionnaire. Mais néanmoins il est bon de rappeler les termes qui reviennent souvent dans le cadre de l'utilisation des pesticides.

Nous entendons l'écho de l'appel lancé à l'article 3, paragraphes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 et 3.4; nous pensons qu'il eût aussi été intéressant de recommander ou de prévoir l'étude du comportement de l'environnement après usage prolongé de ces pesticides.

Enfin nous recommandons aussi l'approbation de ce code qui devrait être diffusé pour application volontaire bien sûr, à nos divers Etats.

ADEL EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation is in favour of the efforts made to strengthen the confidence of the international community in rules regarding the use of pesticides which serve man and development. We welcome the efforts of the Director-General in this area.

My country's delegation, after having listened to the various delegations, supports the Colombian proposal regarding "prior informed consent" in developing countries, otherwise there might be new contradictions which might delay the approval of this Code. We should consider adopting the text as it is submitted to us. We should add a paragraph referring to "prior informed consent" on the part of exporting countries and the approval on the part of the exporting countries after the Code has been revised.

RICARDO MARTINEZ-MUÑOZ (Namibia): La Delegación de Namibia considera que el PIC es elemento esencial en el contenido del Código. Apoyamos plenamente a Ecuador, Filipinas y Brasil pero, con ánimo flexible, podríamos transarnos con la propuesta de Colombia a fin de no retrasar la adopción del Código.

SABRI KESKIN (Turkey): I would like to present the views of the Turkish Government regarding the draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The following provisions of the draft International Code are fully implemented in Turkey with the exception of the establishment of national and local information centres. One, the Government is the unique regulatory authority for production, utilization and trade of pesticides in the country. Two, sale permission is given only to those pesticides which are well-packaged and labelled and whose characteristics are clearly-defined. Three, the market is supplied with the least harmful and pre-tested pesticides. Four, a system is in operation for licensing and controlling in order to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides on human health. Five, it is compulsory to submit the originals of the pesticide testing reports to the Government authorities. Six, information is freely available on the testing procedure and standards. It is also obligatory to make the information on pesticide residues available before the chemicals are marketed.

According to the national law which came into force several years ago, licensing control and examination of pesticides are described in detail, thus the recommendation made to this effect in the relevant section of the draft Code of Conduct has already been implemented in Turkey.

As envisaged in the National Labelling Decree of 1983, pesticides are classified in Turkey according to their toxic characteristics and necessary warnings and signs to be put on the labels are duly specified. The present procedure applied in labelling, therefore, responds fully to the provisions recommending restrictive measures for the purchase and use of pesticides. Furthermore, the Turkish Government has the right to completely prohibit the use of highly toxic chemicals. Use of Parathion, for instance, has been totally forbidden in Turkey by the Government.

It is recommended that the tolerance levels of pesticides should be tested before the pesticides are presented to markets. It is also recommended that pesticides that are not included in the FAO and WHO specification lists should not be traded at the international market. My Government appreciates these recommendations and hopes that measures to this effect will be taken by all countries with the utmost seriousness.

With regard to labelling and packing, it is recommended that pesticide packages should be prepared in accordance with the FAO's and WHO's labelling system. It is also recommended that the sales in the form other than the original packing should be prevented. The Labelling Decree I have mentioned above takes full account of the FAO and WHO's system. Effective implementation of this decree is expected to entirely eliminate some undesirable labelling practices. In this respect, the practice followed by some dealers to buy large packages and then present the product to the market in small packages is closely monitored, and dealers who carry out this practice are punished.

The above-mentioned law and decree prohibit diffusion of any misleading information on pesticides.

The Draft text suggests that governments should assume responsibility in the effective implementation of the principles identified therein. I would like to emphasize that the Turkish Government attaches great importance to the implementation of these principles.

In conclusion, my Government is of the opinion that the Code of Conduct contains all the essential measures to regulate the production, utilization and trade of pesticides and we therefore support the text and the resolution as endorsed by the Council at its Eighty-eighth Session.

M.AFZAL QADIR (Pakistan): My intervention has been triggered by an amendment which was tabled by the Philippine delegation yesterday on Article 9.6, but before I come to it I would like to make a few comments of a preparatory nature.

First, I would like to thank Mr Brader for his statement introducing the item. We would also like to congratulate FAO for the role it has played in the formulation of the Code of Pesticides. The Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is the product of extensive discussion and negotiations and was also subjected to intensive debate during the Eighty-seventh and Eighty-eighth Sessions of the Council.

We naturally welcome the Code in its new and revised form and urge the Commission to adopt it, subject of course to the amendment proposed by the Philippine delegation in Article 9.6 being incorporated.

Mr Chairman, I have deliberately at your request been very brief. As Vice-Chairman of this Commission I thought I should assist you so that you could wrap up the discussion as quickly as possible.

A.J.M. OOMEN (Netherlands): We thank Dr Brader very much for his lucid clarification and further information on the Code. Quite a number of countries, many distinguished people, most of them experts in the fields of plant protection, environment and consumer protection, together with the pesticides industry and many organizations within the outside the UN System, have collaborated intensively on the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, of which the tenth version is now finally laid before us for adoption by this Conference.

The Netherlands fully endorses the aims and objectives of the Code and, as we have already stated in the Committee on Agriculture in March this year and at the Eighty-seventh Council session last June, my delegation welcomes the outcome of all this cooperative work which we like to see as a major achievement of our organization. It seems to my delegation that this result reflects the way we are able to cooperate with developed and developing countries, and even though this Code is not supposed to be a binding one it will provide us with a very good starting point for international binding arrangements in the future.

It is our opinion, Mr Chairman, and I want to support the idea that you made yourself in your introduction this morning, that we must do our utmost, and why not celebrate the Fortieth Anniversary of FAO by adopting this Code as it is submitted to us? But though the general spirit which this Code reflects is a very positive step towards a future global agreement on this very important issue, this Code can however be improved.

Referring to our own national legislation, as also said by the delegate of Ecuador, I would like to explain that our country has adopted the principle of not exporting banned or severely restricted pesticides unless there is prior informed consent of the importing country. As a matter of fact, my delegation regrets that it has not been possible to have this principle reflected in this Code in earlier stages. Also on several other points, the Netherlands would prefer more restricted formulation. But we do not think it is of any use to discuss it once again at this moment.

We agree in essence with the proposals of the delegates of, among others, Ecuador and the Philippines, to reinsert 'prior informed consent'. Nevertheless I wonder if reconsideration at this time of certain aspects which have already been discussed in depth should come again now. As we stated at earlier stages, this Code should come into practice as quickly as possible in the interests of users and consumers and also of our environment. On the other side, many delegations have stated in previous debates, ours was among them, that a review and updating under the auspices of FAO of this Code should take place in a short time. I would like to propose a period of no longer than two years so that we can discuss a formulation to improve and

to reassess its contents, as well as to especially consider incorporating 'prior informed consent' and also other technical improvements which may appear desirable after we have had an opportunity to observe the Code in operation.

If you will allow me, I suggest that our Commission take note of this idea, and my delegation hopes sincerely that we can conclude on this compromise.

Finally, I would like to propose that this Code as it is now will be sent to Plenary for adoption, as indicated in our agenda.

EL PRESIDENTE: Los distinguidos colegas de Benin y Madagascar han tenido la gentileza de enviarnos textos, que se incluirán en las Actas. ¿Podría ser éste, acaso, un buen ejemplo para otros?

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): At the outset my delegation would like to join the preceding speakers in paying its compliments to Dr Brader for his excellent introduction of this item and for giving the background information regarding the Draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides now before us for consideration.

We would also like to pay our special tribute to the Director-General and the Secretariat for their sincere and dynamic efforts and painstaking exercise, along with many countries, in bringing the Code to its final stage for adoption by the Conference.

As we are all aware, the main purpose of the Code, which is of a voluntary nature, is to benefit the international community and enhance international confidence in the availability, reliability, safety, regulation, marketing and use of pesticides for improvement of agriculture and food production and public health. The basic thrust of the Code is to serve the interests of pesticides importing and exporting countries and pesticides industry and users by identifying hazards in its distribution and use through the establishment of standards of control and definitions of responsibilities for all those engaged in regulation, distribution and use of pesticides.

The adoption of the Code will go a long way in ensuring safe and increased use of this indispensable input to enhance agriculture production and food security, especially in the developing countries on the one hand, and in eliminating human and environmental hazards that may result on the other hand.

The Draft Code was reviewed and endorsed by the Eighth session of the Committee on Agriculture and the Eighty-seventh session of the Council when Bangladesh supported the Code, Hence the Bangladesh delegation would reiterate its full support of the Code and the resolution for its unanimous adoption by the Conference.

In this connection our delegation would also be very pleased, like many other delegations who have spoken before us, if the principle of 'prior informed consent' is inserted in Article 9.6 so that banned and severely restricted pesticides in the manufacturing country are not exported to the importing country without the prior consent of the importing country. This will make the implementation of the Code easier and effective, and will thus guarantee the interests of both exporting and importing countries.

Finally, my delegation would also like to urge FAO to assist member countries in drafting laws in their countries on request.

Sadok DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Au nom de la délégation tunisienne, je tiens à remercier le Dr Brader pour sa présentation claire et complète du projet révisé du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Comme énoncé dans le document C 85/25-Rev.I qui nous est soumis pour approbation, l'objectif du Code, qui a un caractère volontaire, est d'améliorer la réglementation, la commercialisation et l'utilisation des pesticides dans l'intérêt de la communauté internationale.

Nous connaissons tous le rôle des pesticides pour la protection des végétaux contre les maladies cryptogamiques, les ravageurs et les mauvaises herbes, ainsi que leur utilisation pour préserver les récoltes des parasites. Dans ce cadre, les pesticides ont un aspect positif et constituent un des facteurs d'amélioration de la production agricole.

Cependant, leur usage inconsidéré et non contrôlé comporte des risques graves pour la santé humaine et le milieu écologique. En effet, il ne faut pas perdre de vue que les pesticides sont des produits toxiques et leur degré de nocivité varie selon la nature de leurs composantes chimiques et de leur richesse en substances actives. C'est ainsi qu'il existe toute une gamme de pesticides allant des produits hautement dangereux aux produits à faible toxicité. Aussi un pesticide doit-il être judicieusement choisi et rationnellement utilisé.

C'est pour préserver l'homme et la nature contre les dangers que présente cet aspect négatif des pesticides qu'un code réglementant leur usage s'avère nécessaire.

Nous tenons à remercier la FAO d'avoir pris cette heureuse initiative et des efforts qu'elle ne cesse de déployer pour la voir se concrétiser.

Ma délégation appuie la résolution du document C 85/25-Rev.1 dans la version qui nous est soumise. Nous considérons que c'est un document utile et dynamique qui peut être mis à jour chaque fois que cela est nécessaire. Ce Code constitue en outre un instrument de portée pratique pour servir de référence aux pays, et en attendant, la mise en place de leur réglementation des pesticides.

Cependant, en ce qui concerne le paragraphe 9.6, la proposition faite par le délégué de l'Equateur et reprise par d'autres délégués attire notre attention. En effet, la communication des renseignements sur la composition des pesticides doit être fournie avant, et non pas au moment de leur exportation qui ne pourra être faite qu'après acceptation du pays acquiescent. En toute logique, l'acquisition de toute chose est subordonnée tout d'abord à la pleine connaissance de sa nature, de ses modalités d'utilisation et après son essai si nécessaire sur un échantillon.

Nous souhaiterions enfin que la FAO puisse nous informer d'une manière régulière sur les pays qui ont adopté ce Code et son application.

Sra. Doña Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Los casos de Bopal en la India, de Seveso en Italia, además de los anónimos tres campesinos que se acaban de morir en mi país la semana pasada, son ejemplos de lo que sucede cuando no se tiene suficiente cuidado en el manejo de los plaguicidas. Estos fenómenos han logrado introducirse en nuestras prácticas agrícolas como elementos indispensables para la producción y traicionan tanto al campesino desarrollado como al del Tercer Mundo. Es por ello que todas somos llamadas en nuestra causa a participar en la adopción del Código.

Hay dos frases contenidas en el mismo que nos parecen muy significativas. La primera en el punto 3 del artículo 1. Cito: "El Código plantea la necesidad de un esfuerzo de cooperación entre los gobiernos de los países exportadores e importadores para promover prácticas que aseguren el uso eficaz y seguro...". La segunda, en el punto 7 del artículo 12. Cito: "El Código debe considerarse un texto dinámico, que deberá ponerse al día cuando proceda, teniendo en cuenta el progreso técnico, económico y social."

Habiendo dejado clara la interpretación que consideramos se deba dar a este Código, queremos dejar constancia de nuestra insatisfacción respecto del artículo 9.6. Es cierto que queremos que este Código entre en vigor lo antes posible, teniendo en cuenta que tiempo perdido es igual a vidas en peligro en este caso. Sin embargo, quisiéramos también que cuando entre en vigor sea un Código realmente útil. Consideramos que el artículo 9.6 es fundamental para que el Código cumpla con sus propósitos.

Afortunadamente, mi país tiene mecanismos de control bien establecidos sobre la importación de productos químicos, pero debemos pensar en aquellos países, todos del Tercer Mundo, que son sumamente vulnerables por carecer de esos mecanismos. Es por eso que apoyamos plenamente las posiciones expresadas por las delegaciones de Ecuador y Filipinas y consideramos necesario que se incluya en el texto el principio de consentimiento previo.

Sería absurdo, o cuanto menos incongruente, que la FAO, pionera de tantas iniciativas, incluyendo este Código Internacional de Conducta relativo a los plaguicidas, se contente con aceptar menos que los demás, a saber: el programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente, Parlamento Europeo, Plan de Salud Integral de Naciones Unidas, Parlamento de los Países Bajos y la misma industria de productos químicos agrícolas de los Estados Unidos.

En cuanto al principio PIC, todos ellos han reconocido la necesidad de salvaguardar a los países importadores de una manera eficaz que respete su soberanía ¿Cómo no vamos a hacerlo nosotros? Esto sería realmente lamentable.

Quisiéramos recordar aquí la intervención hecha por el delegado de Malawi en la discusión de este punto durante el pasado Consejo. Consideramos que hizo una observación que creemos sabia y acertada en relación a una definición contenida en el artículo 2. Nos referimos precisamente a la definición de residuo. Existe preocupación creciente por los problemas ecológicos de nuestro planeta. Este Código debemos interpretarlo como un llamado para la construcción sólida de un buen futuro basado, por fin, en la toma de conciencia colectiva arraigada en que la vida, la dignidad del ser humano, su integración no destructiva en la naturaleza deben ser los fundamentos de nuestra sociedad.

Encontramos extraño que en la definición de residuos no se tome en cuenta el medio ambiente; quisiéramos que el medio ambiente fuera realmente uno de los puntos fundamentales del Código y que se considere en donde sea pertinente.

Si seguimos por los caminos actuales ¿cuáles van a ser las condiciones de vida que ofreceremos a las generaciones futuras? No debemos desconocer el efecto de los plaguicidas en las aguas corrientes, en los ríos, en los riachuelos, en el mar mismo, así como en los suelos. Todos tenemos que asumir nuestras responsabilidades hacia las poblaciones que se han desarrollado menos y confío realmente en que todos los corresponsables actuemos según lo unánimemente justo y según lo que el tiempo demostrará realmente conveniente.

KI-SUNG KIM (Republic of Korea): Having recognized the need to coordinate international cooperation for the prevention of hazardous effects due to the increased use and distribution of pesticides, my delegation endorses', in principle, the proposed Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

We, in particular, attach great value to the voluntary nature of this Code.

According to our experience, all the necessary measures and actions to safeguard the pesticides' use have to be designed, to be effective, in such a way as to best fit the farming pesticides. An excessive uniformity of regulation may deter the effective use of pesticides itself, and also development of the concerned industries.

Secondly, my delegation hopes that this Code will serve as a guideline or benchmark, which could bring about a most confirmative effect among the various regulations of individual countries.

Finally, we feel that the establishment of this Code alone may not fulfill our purpose to protect ourselves from the misuse of pesticides.

It is, therefore, my delegation's view that wider training and emphasis in exportation of pesticides should be provided by FAO in the future.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): With regard to this document C 85/25-Rev. I we have already made the position of Austria clear on this. The need to create such a Code seems to be made necessary by the growing use of pesticides.

As is made clear in the document, by the year AD 2000 there will be potential dangers for man, animal and the environment if these pesticides are not used appropriately now.

In the text we have before us, which is the ninth version of the first draft, more than ninety member countries have commented, as well as twenty-five international organizations, and they have all been taken into account. Seldom has such a text been so thoroughly worked through and

seldom have the views of so many people been taken into account. As a result and after a detailed examination of the text and the alteration to Article 9, which concerns information exchange, the Austrian delegation has reached the conclusion that the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is in line with its objectives. The success of the Code will be that it is not legally binding and it will therefore depend upon legislation in individual countries before the terms of the Code are embodied in national legislation. The Austrian delegation expresses the hope that there can be a consensus on the acceptance of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

M. SUBRAMANIAN (India): India joins other delegations in complimenting the Secretariat and Dr Brader who have done an excellent job in giving us this final draft of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides for unanimous adoption at the Twenty-third FAO Conference. Our delegation is grateful to the Secretariat for their acceptance of a number of suggestions we made at the Eighty-seventh session of the FAO Council in June 1985. We would, however, like to reiterate some of the suggestions made by our delegation at the Eighty-seventh session of the FAO Council, to enable the Secretariat to consider whether these drafting improvements, of a non-controversial nature, can be incorporated in the draft even now.

Firstly we suggest that in Article 9.1 the words "or indirectly" be omitted and substituted by the words "or through the international register of potentially toxic chemicals" as referred to in Article 9.5, because otherwise there will be ambiguity about the methods of indirect notification to be followed.

Secondly, in Article 9.3, the substitution of the words "the responsible authority in the country of export" for the words "the country of export" will ensure that relevant information flows from one designated national authority to another without having to involve the national governments with the resultant possible delays.

As regards the need for 'prior informed consent, our delegation is of the view that enforcement of this requirement can be effective only if the national government of the importing country has the necessary facilities and procedures for evaluating the information received and taking informed decisions relating thereto. India has such facilities relating to research on toxicity and we have a pesticides board headed by the Director-General of Health Services. India also has a registration procedure with the necessary safeguards. The fact that a pesticide is banned or restricted in one country does not necessarily mean that another developing country should do the same. One has to balance problems of initial toxicity with problems of residual effects. We have to evaluate the hazards of pesticides vis-a-vis the hazards of diseases seriously affecting human lives or agricultural production. It is therefore not enough to provide for 'prior informed consent' alone but we have to equip the importing countries with the necessary capabilities to evaluate the information received for them to take proper policy decisions.

India is willing to assist other Nations through the Technical Cooperation Programme in this regard. Keeping the above aspects in view, our delegation proposes that at the end of Article 9.6 the full stop be substituted by a comma and the following words be added: "to enable the importing country to give its consent on the basis of proper evaluation". Our delegation notes that 'prior informed consent' has been accepted as a desirable concept by the UN General Assembly, the European Parliament, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Governments of the Netherlands and Japan. In the United States of America, the requirement of prior notice with a proper acknowledgement from the importing country is being insisted upon. Our delegation therefore urges the Conference to accept the amendment proposed by India in Article 9.6 which aims at making the relevance of 'prior informed consent' clear as a concept without making such consent mandatory at the present time.

With these words I reiterate India's support for the adoption of the Code and its implementation.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Comisión agradece el importante ofrecimiento de cooperación hecho por el distinguido delegado de India.

JOHAN SYAHPERI SALEH (Indonesia): To comply with your request I shall be very brief. While on behalf of the Indonesian delegation I would like to express our support for the permanent adoption of the Code, we would also like to put on record that in the importation of pesticides the interests of the importing countries shall be fully taken into consideration, particularly concerning the bans on severely toxic pesticides. In this connection it is our expectation that the 'Prior Informed Consent' principles are in one way or another enshrined in the Code of Conduct. Therefore in this respect we associate ourselves with the proposed amendment put forward by the delegations of the Philippines and Ecuador and supported by others.

Avraham SHINAR (Israel): The Israeli delegation supported and welcomed the initiative and resolution before us on a voluntary International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The potential hazard of indiscriminate use of highly toxic pesticides is under continuous scrutiny in our country. This means that we not only support the Code, but ask you to accelerate efforts in research and development to reduce chemical application by developing, where possible, biological pest control methods.

We particularly endorse paragraph 3.3.1 calling for an accelerated technical assistance to assess relevant data on pesticides and their application. In fact, our country has for a number of years offered specialized technical assistance to both assess pesticides and devise a more economic way to control pest infestations.

The implementation of this Code obviously will be tempered by necessary legal adjustments that will need to be made by the countries concerned.

We support the suggestion by the Netherlands government to review -the implementation of this Code in a few years time.

ALEX LOUIS TANIS (Haïti): Je vais être bref. Je commencerai par féliciter M. Brader pour la brillante présentation du document qui nous a été soumis.

Ma délégation pense que, tout en présentant certaines faiblesses qui ont été relevées par plusieurs orateurs, le code revêt une importance capitale étant donné qu'il traite des différents aspects de l'utilisation des pesticides.

Ma délégation partage l'opinion exprimée par les délégations de l'Equateur et des Philippines et pense qu'il ne revient pas aux firmes productrices d'informer les utilisateurs du tiers monde et la toxicité des pesticides, vu que ces firmes ont seulement téré à vendre leurs produits.

Sans parler de la catastrophe de Bhopal évoquée par le délégué du Sénégal et des effets néfastes l'utilisation des pesticides sur l'environnement, ma délégation voudrait rappeler à l'auditoire que, selon les statistiques publiées par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, près de 350 000 personnes meurent annuellement dans le monde du fait de la mauvaise utilisation des pesticides. Mais d'un autre côté, ma délégation pense que le code ne porte pas assez d'emphase sur les conséquences de l'utilisation des pesticides sur la santé animale, en particulier dans le traitement des endoparasites et des ectoparasites, de même que dans la conservation des grains car, d'après les statistiques de la FAO, près de 20 pour cent des récoltes du tiers monde sont perdues annuellement en raison des insectes et des rongeurs — sans parler des mortalités également dues à la consommation de semences ou de graines conservées à l'aide de pesticides hautement toxiques.

Aussi ma délégation pense-t-elle que la FAO et les Etats Membres devraient redoubler d'efforts pour arriver, grâce aux législations nationales appropriées et à la mise en place de laboratoires, à exercer un contrôle efficace sur les pesticides et à évaluer les dangers que leur utilisation pourrait représenter.

Dans cette perspective, ma délégation donne son appui à l'adoption du code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. ,

VANROB ISARANKURA (Thailand): On behalf of the Thai delegation, I would like to inform that in principle, Thailand is agreeable with the 'adoption of the Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

However, in considering the importance of Article 9 of this International Code of Conduct entitled "Information Exchange", in particular regarding Article 9.6, my delegation would like to endorse the proposal made by the distinguished delegate from the Philippines to include PIC "Prior Informed Consent", in this International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

PHILIPPE PIOTET (France): La délégation française se félicite de voir aujourd'hui notre Commission se pencher sur le projet de code des pesticides. Il s'agit là d'un sujet complet mais qui appelle aussi des réponses urgentes. Le problème de la bonne utilisation des pesticides met en effet en présence une multiplicité d'intervenants - les fabricants, les exportateurs, les importateurs, les distributeurs, les utilisateurs - qui, tous, ont une responsabilité particulière.

L'un des principaux mérites du projet de code qui nous est présenté est précisément de fixer clairement les responsabilités de chacun. Le projet de code répond bien, aux yeux de ma délégation, à cette préoccupation.

La France, qui a, dès 1946, mis en place une procédure pour l'homologation des pesticides, est toute disposée à coopérer avec les pays importateurs pour la réalisation de recherches et expérimentations nécessaires afin de leur permettre de définir les caractéristiques optimales des pesticides dont ils ont besoin. La délégation française relève, par ailleurs, avec beaucoup d'intérêt le caractère évolutif du code. Dans un domaine où les progrès techniques doivent permettre de disposer, dans les années à venir, de meilleurs produits, moins nocifs pour l'homme et son environnement mais aussi plus sélectifs, mieux adaptés à chaque problème, il convient que le code de conduite puisse aussi, de façon parallèle, être amélioré. Le projet qui nous est soumis répond bien à cette préoccupation.

La délégation française participe activement aux travaux engagés, depuis maintenant plusieurs années, au sein des différentes instances de l'OAA au sujet de ce projet de code. Elle considère que le projet actuel constitue un pas décisif et elle appuie le document et la résolution qui lui sont proposés.

MOSES MUKOLWE (Kenya): I would like to raise the question of increased agricultural production. In developing countries we have women and children actually involved in this aspect - they are the people who have to use the chemicals that we are talking about in order to increase food production. This will mean that there will be much loss of life, because we want food production. Health will also be impaired and the environment will in the end be affected.

I would like to add my opinion to that of previous speakers, and particularly to support Article 9.6, where the delegates of Ecuador and the Philippines have already made amendments, that prior information and consent should be given.

I am aware that there are a number of difficulties faced by developed countries - and others too - who will have to look at their legislation because of their long association with what we are trying to undertake. We are the consumers, and since many more chemicals will be coming to developing countries, so it is only fair that we be given all the help possible. Although some of us already have facilities whereby we can detect or test some of these chemicals, the facilities are not elaborate enough to provide sufficient chemical analysis.

I would like to emphasize in particular the International Register of Potential Toxic Chemicals, which should be operated in association with FAO and information should be sent to various FAO embers, so that we can have a concerted effort in our campaign in the use of chemicals.

J.D. AITKEN (United Kingdom): The Government of the United Kingdom welcomes this voluntary non-binding Code, and we confirm our support for the text currently contained in C 84/25-Rev.1. This

text reflects the results of long and detailed consultation with technical experts and we consider that, since it commands such widespread consensus agreement, it would not be appropriate to attempt to change it at this stage. At the beginning of this meeting you reminded us that the Code itself contains provision for review in Article 12.7. We consider that this provides sufficient opportunity to make any changes to the text should these prove desirable once we have had an opportunity to observe the Code in operation. For example, along with a number of delegations, including the distinguished delegate of Cameroon, we consider that some definitions could be improved and clarified - points also made by Malawi and Venezuela.

Turning to some other points which have arisen in our discussion, the distinguished delegate of Canada sought clarification of the role foreseen for FAO in monitoring the Code. We also would be grateful if the Secretariat would share their thoughts on this with us.

If I recall correctly, the distinguished delegate of Ethiopia suggested some modification to the text of Article 3.3.1 to exclude reference to industry in relation to the provision of technical expertise on the assessment and use of pesticides. For a number of years the Government of the United Kingdom has appreciated the difficulties countries face when assessing pesticides and their use. Under our Aid Programme we fund a scientific unit which has the special task of advising developing countries on all aspects of pesticide management and use. We also provide specialist advisers in training courses, in Britain and overseas, covering the safe storage, handling and use of pesticides. I stress that these services are available under our bilateral Aid Programme, but the Unit is also prepared to undertake commercial consultancy work, and we can provide further information about this to any interested delegation.

I mention this because in our experience industry has a role to play in providing training and advice. For example, where appropriate industry participates in our training courses. One United Kingdom company regularly runs a very successful training course which is designed, not just to provide advice, but to give participants teaching skills which will enable them to organize training courses when they return to their own countries.

The distinguished delegate of Cuba has mentioned the problems of labels. In collaboration with the unit I referred to earlier, another United Kingdom company has been developing a set of symbols which give basic information about the product and which can be universally understood.

An important feature of this Code is that, as well as addressing governments, it recognizes that industry has a responsibility to maintain high standards of product stewardship. We would not wish to see any changes to the Code which would weaken this principle.

Mme SANGO Ya TAMBWE (Zaïre): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je tiens à vous exprimer ma joie de vous voir présider les travaux de cette Commission. Je tiens à féliciter le Secrétariat d'avoir soumis à cette Conférence un code de conduite pour l'utilisation de pesticides.

Comme l'a dit le chef de la délégation zaïroise, le Conseil exécutif appuie ce code et souhaite qu'il soit adopté sans réserve.

Les pesticides étant des produits toxiques, l'application de ce code a dit l'orateur, permettra sûrement de limiter quelques dégâts et d'aider l'agriculteur et le vulgarisateur à se mettre à l'abri du danger.

WAYNE DENNEY (United States of America): The Code before us represents the excellent results of a process of consultation and collaboration that, under the leadership of FAO, has taken place over the last few years. My government is prepared to join the Conference in approving this Code as presented to us in the document. In doing so, my delegation wants to highlight the usefulness of the consultative process that brought the United Nations, FAO, national governments, industries and non-governmental organizations together.

By emphasizing its voluntary, non-binding nature, the Code establishes a locus of responsibility where it belongs the most, on national governments, on industry, on distributors and consumers in both exporting and importing countries.

It is also clear that national legislation takes precedence over the Code guidelines. We all have an obligation to protect our people from harm they do not know about by maximizing the flow of relevant information to them, as well as by increasing their capacity to understand it. As you probably know, U.S. law requires a worldwide notification whenever the U.S. government cancels or suspends a pesticide's notification to the government of an importing country the first time an export of an unregistered pesticide occurs in a given calendar year. We sincerely hope that this Code will assist countries without regulatory infrastructure in developing legislation to ensure safe distribution and use of pesticides.

Finally, we believe that reopening this Code for amendments will work to its detriment. Obviously, adjustments will be required once we see it in operation. Let us, however, approve it as it has been presented so that its sound guidelines can be used as soon as possible. I must emphasize that my delegation is authorized only to accept the Code in the form proposed by the Eighty-eighth Council Session.

Sra. Doña María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Agradecemos al Sr. Brader por la magnífica presentación que nos ha hecho. La Delegación de El Salvador considera que el Código de Conducta en examen debe ser aprobado durante esta Conferencia. El mismo es el resultado de arduas negociaciones iniciadas hace más de tres años y representa un compromiso mínimo entre las partes. Sin embargo, la Delegación de mi país estima que la preocupación planteada por el Delegado del Ecuador ayer, que por otra parte es también la nuestra, debe ser tomada seriamente en consideración, y nos parece razonable su propuesta de que la inclusión del principio de consentimiento previo en el Código sea estudiada por la Secretaría amparándonos en el Artículo 12.7 del mismo, como lo dijera usted al iniciar nuestros debates esta mañana.

En todo caso, estimamos que sería conveniente hacer constar en nuestro Informe esta delicada cuestión.

Apoyamos la Resolución que contiene el Código Internacional de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas e instamos a la Conferencia para que lo adopte en este período de sesiones.

Abdul Wahab Naji Ismail AL-SAMURRAI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): My delegation gives its support to this document on the International Code. We would like to thank the FAO for having taken the initiative which led to it. We believe that this will be to the service of mankind and it will help the agricultural sector a great deal.

My country cooperates with various companies involved in this, and looking at Article 5.1.5 and Article 9 and Article 10.2, we can affirm that it is vital for us to step up research and the extension of the results of research. This should be done by having training courses and consultations so that man and the environment can be protected.

It is vital that the very parties concerned take account of the information that is provided. This information has to be updated and it has to take into account all new events that occur in this area

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): We would like to observe that the text of this Code has come a long way from its conception to this present stage, passing through different sessions of different fora of this Organization. Not surprisingly, we from the recipient countries have observed, in the use of this technology, a reduction of the potency of the Code we originally envisaged. Notwithstanding this watered-down text, my delegation would like to lay stress on the following areas: first, the monitoring of the observance of the Code, particularly Article 12.6. Here we emphasize the important role of the FAO. Secondly, Article 9.3, Article 8.1, Article 6 and then Article 4. With these few comments on the text, my delegation wishes to support the adoption of the resolution.

Finally, with this affirmative contribution to the text, and without prejudice to the initial period of implementation of the Code, my delegation suggests that steps be initiated to make the Code mandatory.

H. AL-AHMAD (Syria) (original language Arabic): We support this Code of Conduct and we believe it is necessary for the various international organizations to cooperate so that they can build laboratories which everyone, both exporting and importing countries, could use.

PETER WIESMANN (Suisse): Le code international pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides a une longue histoire que nous connaissons tous. Le résultat maintenant à notre disposition nous paraît satisfaisant et nous souhaitons l'adoption de ce code par la plénière. Des changements à la dernière minute ne pourraient que retarder la mise en vigueur de ce code qui nous semble prioritaire. D'ailleurs, je me rallie aux opinions exprimées par beaucoup de délégués soulignant l'importance d'une législation nationale et d'une infrastructure adéquate.

Le code est un document dynamique qui peut être révisé selon les besoins.

SELIM SARRA (Liban) (langue originale arabe) : La délégation libanaise remercie l'Organisation pour tous les efforts qu'elle a déployés afin de préparer ce document extrêmement intéressant et dont le contenu revêt une priorité essentielle pour plusieurs régions dans le monde. Ce document reflète un minimum de nos responsabilités dans l'utilisation et la distribution des pesticides.

Après l'accord formulé par le Conseil lors de sa dernière session, la délégation libanaise ne peut que donner son appui à ce document et souhaite que l'on puisse aboutir à un consensus pour son adoption. Afin d'être brève, la délégation libanaise fait siennes les propos de la Colombie et propose effectivement d'améliorer ce texte.

PEDRO SEBASTIÃO (Angola) : La délégation angolaise considère l'importance du rôle que pourra jouer ce code sur l'utilisation des pesticides et s'associe aux pays qui l'ont précédée pour appuyer l'adoption du Code.

LI HYOK CHOL (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): The necessary justifications for this Code are fully given in its introductory as well as the operative paragraphs with regard to the necessities, objectives and expected benefits of the document. We are fully convinced that the Code of Conduct would serve as a point of reference and would go a long way in defining the responsibilities of the parties involved in the development, distribution and use of pesticides and in ensuring the safe development process of agriculture.

We fully support the adoption of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, with the amendment proposed by the Philippines and supported by others in regard to Article 9.6.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): New Zealand supports the Code because this is a major step forward in our effort to control the ill effects of pesticide use and misuse. We compliment FAO for taking such an important initiative. We support FAO monitoring the observance of the Code, and the periodic review of its relevance as well as its effectiveness. As a number of delegations has stressed further modifications to strengthen it, the Code can, we believe, best be considered at the first review.

EL PRESIDENTE: Las delegaciones de Argentina, Lesotho, Bulgaria y Nigeria y el observador del Grupo Internacional de Asociaciones Nacionales de Fabricantes de Productos Agroquímicos han enviado textos que se insertarán en las Actas.

MATNA SANDA (Níger): Je ne pense pas avoir demandé la parole mais puisque vous me l'avez donnée je vous remercie infiniment.

Je voudrais associer ma voix à celles qui m'ont précédé pour saluer l'heureuse initiative de la FAO qui a élaboré ce Code. Je voudrais aussi remercier la présentation qui nous en a été faite, et comme les autres délégués, je pense que ce Code est un premier pas, que c'est un acte à encourager, qui doit être renforcé car il faudrait que nous évitions de connaître encore un autre printemps silencieux.

EL PRESIDENTE: Nuestras Secretarías tienen simpatía por el delegado de Níger.

HAMID REZA NIKKAR ISFAHANI (Islamic Republic of Iran): First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Brader for his excellent and comprehensive introduction of the subject and wish to express our appreciation and complete support for all of the steps taken by FAO in preparing the Code of Conduct. With each passing day the use of pesticides creates danger to the environment and the people.

As all of the delegates are aware that the enemies of the human race acquired the chemicals under the excuse of pesticides and developed them into the chemical bombs that kill our innocent people. In order to prevent this great danger from continuing, it would seem a total mobilization is necessary. After extensive study, it has become clear that unfortunately, the use of pesticides is not as effective in the control of pests as they were supposed to be. Not only does the use of pesticides leave effects within the product but they also cause the gradual death of human beings and pollute the environment by removing useful insects and damaging nature's balance. This danger is faced to a greater extent by the developing Nations which are used as a testing ground for new types of pesticide. Countries which have difficulties in solving their own problems then have the additional problem of being dependent upon others for the importation of pesticides.

It is our hope that with the implementation of the Code of Conduct, many dangers will be prevented and that with the cooperation of the FAO projects the dependency of countries on pesticides will diminish. By gradually using integrated pest control, countries will be able to make use of biological control instead.

Sra. M. RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Agradecemos la presentación hecha por el Señor Brader. La idea de preparar un Código Internacional de Conducta para distribución y utilización de plaguicidas surgió en el seno de la FAO con el objeto de dotar a la Comunidad Internacional de un instrumento que tuviera como fin el cuidado de la salud humana y, al mismo tiempo, la protección del medio ambiente. Es una iniciativa encomiable que la delegación de México suscribe plenamente.

En cuanto al contenido del Código que se nos presenta actualmente, consideramos que es el mínimo aceptable. Es cierto que ha sido el resultado de amplias negociaciones, pero no estaríamos de acuerdo en considerar que ese proceso de negociación se ha cerrado definitivamente. Por tanto, apoyamos la propuesta del Ecuador.

Se ha explicado ya muy bien la importancia del principio de consentimiento informado, conocido como PIC, para evitar que los importadores de plaguicidas se encuentren en el dilema de tener que utilizar productos prohibidos en su lugar de origen. Es lógico que, si se están importando productos de alto riesgo, el gobierno importador debe conocer, en primer lugar, los efectos nocivos del

mismo y, en base a esa información, dar su consentimiento por escrito. Por tanto, incluir este principio en el Código sería procedente, sobre todo, tomando en consideración que ha sido ya reconocido y adoptado en los instrumentos que mencionaron los delegados de Ecuador e India.

En conclusión, la delegación de México apoya la adopción de este Código, pero recomienda que el proyecto presentado sea enmendado tal como ha previsto Ecuador.

En cuanto al procedimiento para hacerlo, tal vez puede usted realizar consultas y ver si es posible adoptar la enmienda inmediatamente o bien, en caso de que no fuera posible, establecer el mecanismo de revisión del Código y la inclusión del principio, lo que, según se ha podido constatar, es el deseo de casi todas las delegaciones aquí presentes.

LYLE EVERETTE WILLIAMS (Trinidad and Tobago): 'The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago is in general agreement with the International Code on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the resolution relating thereto. We are of the view that the drafting and enactment of national legislation is crucial to the successful implementation of the Code.

Although we have reservations with respect to Articles 9.3, 9.1 and 9.6 and endorse the views expressed by the Indian and Philippine delegations, we note that there are provisions for review and updating of the Code during which these amendments may be considered. We therefore support and recommend endorsement of the Code as it now stands to avoid any further delay.

BASHIR EL-MABROUK SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): My delegation has already expressed the hope that we should be able to reach a consensus quickly on this International Code, although many members of this Commission would have preferred the Code to be expressed in more precise, tougher terms. My delegation, while wishing to show understanding to the points of view of other delegations, is prepared to accept this Code as it now stands as a compromise and a balance between the points of view of all those concerned. Therefore we would like this Code to be adopted.

More than three years have elapsed since this matter was first examined by the experts in agriculture in my country. For the sake of realism and practicality in terms of what we can actually do in cooperation with all parties involved, we consider that the document submitted to us is a compromise, a balanced reasonable compromise, and my delegation would like this Commission to adopt it unanimously or by consensus in the interests of us all.

U NGWE WIN (Burma): The Draft International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides put forward by the Director-General of FAO to member countries for their comments and assessment of the potential applicability is an excellent document which covers all aspects of pesticide supply and use as well.

The Burmese Government is fully aware of the importance of plant protection to increase crop production and for which the use of pesticides becomes unavoidable, as well as of the consequences it could have upon the environment if the pesticide usage is left unchecked. Realizing the need to constantly monitor the incidences of crop pests and to oversee the proper use of pesticides, the Government in 1980 has set up a plant protection programme with the help of UNDP and FAO.

The plant protection services cover 40 townships, at least one or more in each of the 14 States and Divisions; there is a plan to extend the activities to the levels of extension staff and farmers. The activities of plant protection services include: (1) pest surveillance in different agro-ecological systems, establishment of economic threshold level and provision of advice for farmers on the control techniques including the use of pesticides; (2) application of plant protection research for immediate extension support; (3) training of extension staff and farmers on technologies of pest surveillance, integrated control, safe handling and distribution of pesticides; (4) analysis of pesticides formulation and residues monitoring; (5) establishment of plant quarantine.

After briefly introducing the plant protection activities in Burma I would like to proceed with the present pesticides supply and distribution and management systems practiced in the country.

Supply and distribution system:- Technical grade pesticides are not manufactured in the country. Establishment of the formulation facilities, however, is in progress with the help of UNIDO. There are 4 to 6 distribution points in each of the 314 townships of the country where farmers obtain agro-pesticides. Pesticides are distributed to States/Divisions, then to townships, then to village tracts and to villages in their original containers.

Nevertheless, the following elements of "Pesticide Management by Government" are in action: (1) pesticide analysis for formulation and residues; (2) training of extension personnel and farmers in safe handling of pesticides; (3) joint approach by various Government agencies to deal with pesticides in limiting, restricting, or phasing out the use of highly toxic pesticide products, such as those classified in WHO Hazard class Ia and Ib.

Although it seems to us that large sections of the Code of Conduct are not, at present, relevant to Burma because (a) the consumption of pesticides is still very small, less than 50 g/ha a.i. compared with 350 g/ha in India, 3 000 g/ha in USA and 11 800 g/ha in Japan; and (b) the Government has complete control over all aspects of pesticide supply and usage, we feel that it should at this stage be regarded as an ideal instrument. Therefore, we fully commend that the Code be adopted as an effective means to safeguard against the hazards of pesticides and to protect the environment from pollution.1/

AHMED SALEM OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): Nous remercions la FAO de ce document. C'est avec plaisir que nous accueillons ce code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Malheureusement dans certains pays on ne dispose pas de moyens de contrôle; la preuve en est que des produits dont la production et l'utilisation sont interdites depuis longtemps dans les pays développés sont envoyés dans les pays en développement.

Déjà l'équilibre fragile est interrompu par l'usage sans contrôle de ces produits dont les résidus sont nocifs pour les animaux et la santé humaine.

Il est vrai que nous oeuvrons pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire, mais pas à n'importe quel prix.

Souvent quelques spéculateurs se précipitent pour installer des industries de produits dans nos pays et qui ne respectent aucun critère de sécurité.

Ce que nous demandons c'est que tout produit destiné à l'exportation soit muni d'un certificat de livré par les services de santé du pays d'origine.

Nous approuvons ce document avec l'amendement suggéré par l'Equateur et appuyé par les Philippines.2/

MAMOUDOU FASSASSI (Bénin) : La délégation béninoise remercie le Secrétariat pour la présentation claire faite du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Avec la pénurie alimentaire qui sévit en Afrique au sud du Sahara depuis plus d'une décennie, nous protégeons de plus en plus le peu de nourriture produite avec des pesticides. Or nul n'ignore qu'il s'agit de produits très dangereux qui sont utilisés par des populations où près de 80 pour cent des utilisateurs sont analphabètes.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

2/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Par ailleurs, la présentation des pesticides n'est pas bien faite, c'est pourquoi il importe que chaque gouvernement suive très attentivement tout ce qui se passe dans le domaine des pesticides, car autant la faim entame et achève lentement l'homme, autant le mauvais usage des pesticides liquide sûrement les populations qui les utilisent.

Mon pays n'a pas encore élaboré un code. C'est pourquoi le document qui a pris en compte ses préoccupations constitue un document très utile.

Il recommande son adoption telle qu'amendée. 1/

RAPHAEL RABE (Madagascar): Au même titre que les engrais, les semences, la maîtrise de l'eau, l'utilisation d'outillages agricoles appropriés, les pesticides constituent un élément très important du paquet technologique indispensable à l'obtention de performances intéressantes dans la production agricole. En effet, des pertes importantes pourraient anéantir tous efforts d'augmentation de la production, et le stockage des denrées pourrait se révéler vain si l'on ne prend pas les dispositions pertinentes pour lutter contre les prédateurs des cultures et des récoltes. Des pesticides permettant de mettre fin définitivement aux actions néfastes des ravageurs et autres ennemis des cultures existent bel et bien, mais les différents graves accidents de ces dernières années qui ont occasionné d'importantes pertes de vies humaines ont aussi fait clairement ressortir que l'emploi de pesticides doit être fait avec beaucoup de prudence et de circonspection et nécessite l'observation de mesures rigoureuses dans le domaine de la fabrication, de la commercialisation et de l'utilisation de ces produits.

Nous tenons à féliciter le Directeur général pour son heureuse initiative d'avoir élaboré un projet de Code international de conduite sur les pesticides en collaboration avec les autres Institutions des Nations Unies. Nous rendons hommage à sa persévérance et à sa ténacité dans la consultation de la grande majorité des parties intéressées par la question. En effet, tous les Etats Membres ont été saisis de la question et les 2/3 ont donné leur position. De nombreuses organisations internationales ont été également consultées et il est heureux de constater que 25 de ces organisations ont fait part de leurs avis et recommandations.

L'examen attentif par notre délégation du document soumis à l'approbation de la Conférence nous permet de reconnaître que le Secrétariat a une fois de plus fait montre de sa compétence. Le nouveau projet est effectivement le fruit d'une très longue concertation et les différentes positions manifestées au cours des sessions des organes directeurs de l'Organisation ont été dûment pris en compte.

Pour notre part, nous tenons à manifester notre vive satisfaction à l'endroit des dispositions tendant à protéger tout particulièrement les pays non encore pourvus de réglementation nationale appropriée et surtout à leur doter dans les plus brefs délais de compétence et d'outils permettant à leur Gouvernement de faire face à leurs délégations, celles de promouvoir la production nationale tout en protégeant la population et l'environnement. A ce sujet, tout en appuyant chaleureusement l'ensemble du projet nous relevons l'importance pour notre pays qui ne possède pas encore de réglementation complète des alinéas 1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.3, 6.1 et 7.1.

Nous voudrions aussi assurer de notre appui particulier les mesures qui visent à garantir plus d'efficacité et de sécurité aux principaux utilisateurs qui sont les petits agriculteurs. L'alinéa 8.110 est pour nous vital car pour éviter le reconditionnement des pesticides il est impératif de concevoir des types et une gamme de tailles de reconditionnements répondant aux besoins réels manifestés des petits agriculteurs.

Enfin, nous souhaiterions aussi pouvoir insister sur les dispositions de l'article 9 et notamment celles stipulées dans l'alinéa 9.6 quant à la communication aux importateurs par les exportateurs des informations afférentes aux produits exportés avant leur exportation effective.

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

Pour terminer, nous voudrions faire nôtres les dispositions de l'alinéa 12.5 et souhaitons par conséquent que tous les Etats, toutes les Organisations internationales compétentes et bien entendu la FAO donnent leur plein appui, leur appui sans réserve à la mise en oeuvre effective du code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides 1/.

T.E. KITLELI (Lesotho): My delegation wishes to register its name in supporting the Code tabled before us, mainly because the Code paves the way for other major agricultural activities meant to promote agricultural productivity. My delegation is happy to note that FAO has also involved appropriate UN agencies, as stated in document C 85/25-Rev.I.

My delegation welcomes the ideal observation made on page 3 of the document under discussion, which says "It is at the same time important for industrially developed countries to recognize, in their regulatory activities concerning residues, the pest control needs of developing countries, particularly the needs of countries in tropical regions."

My delegation cannot say more than the above-mentioned quotation from the text, except to reiterate once again the importance of safety measures in using pesticides to avoid any detrimental effects which might occur. Most of the distinguished delegates have indicated this notion and my delegation fully associates itself with this idea. Up-to-date scientific information is frequently required to equip the users of the pesticide; hence we are confident that FAO as it usually does, will be in a position to carry out this job judiciously.

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to request the distinguished delegates to adopt the Code as presented. 2/

Sr. D. MARSICO (Argentina): Argentina, a través de sus organismos especializados, ha analizado la última versión del Código y en líneas generales lo considera aceptable teniendo en cuenta su carácter y la necesidad de contar con un instrumento básico para controlar las implicancias del empleo de pesticidas. Teniendo en cuenta que estos productos son producidos y distribuidos prácticamente por países altamente industrializados, nos parece que son éstos los que tienen la obligación de dar las mayores seguridades para su empleo. No cabe aguardar retrocesos en las acciones para evitar perjuicios a las poblaciones de países en desarrollo que son usuarios muchos de los cuales se encuentran desprotegidos para encarar en cada caso con el nivel científico y técnico que es hoy necesario, un control preventivo de las importaciones y de su uso. Argentina, que ejerce la presidencia del grupo de trabajo de países en desarrollo del Comité Codex de residuos de plaguicidas, ha formulado una recomendación sobre el tema que ha sido aceptada en la 17ª Reunión de dicho Comité elaborada en La Haya en abril de 1985, y ratificada en el 4º período de sesiones del Comité Coordinador para América Latina y el Caribe que se efectuó en La Habana en abril de este año. Finalmente deseamos insistir que es imprescindible que se tome en consideración la propuesta de Filipinas y Ecuador, por cuanto en las actuales circunstancias muchos, muchos países no están en condiciones de establecer cuáles productos y bajo qué condiciones pueden usarse y ser inocuos y menos a veces disponen prácticamente el control de su empleo .

La cooperación de los países que elaboran y exportan estos productos es entonces imprescindible. 3/

VLADIMIR STOYANOV (Bulgaria): On behalf of the Bulgarian delegation, allow me to expose in brief our opinion on some aspects of the problems in connection with the discussion and the approval of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

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

2/ Statement inserted in the verbatim record on request.

3/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

First of all, I should like to make a few comments on the document COAG/85/9 which was submitted for our consideration. In our judgement the coordination of the wishes of producers and consumers is a very serious undertaking. There is a need for increasing production of pesticides at a lower price, with higher biological effectiveness, secured harmlessness for men, animals, environment, etc.

We know that there are not good prospects for producing cereals, legumes, roots and others without using the proper pesticides. That is why we consider it imperative that the production of pesticides should be expanded. This will be a decisive step towards the fulfillment of the lofty goals of our Organization - the elimination of hunger and undernourishment all over the world. In this regard we should like to underline the need to regulate the use and distribution of pesticides. In my delegation's opinion the adoption of the proposed Code of Conduct will be the first step in achieving the above-mentioned goal.

I should like to elaborate on some of the components which have to characterize the production, distribution and use of present-day pesticides: (1) the most efficient use of pesticides should be determined in the fight against different groups of weed; (2) safety regulations should be worked out for the people participating in the distribution of pesticides; (3) pesticides should not harm the food and fields; (4) pesticides should have a short-time of breaking up, their by-products should be harmless; (5) their production should be effective. The cost of pesticides should be lower than the cost of agricultural production achieved with the application of these substances.

We consider that the proposed Code of Conduct will serve as a good base for establishing equitable and mutually beneficial relationships between the users and producers of pesticides. 1/

ALHAJI D.D. APANPA (Nigeria): First of all, my delegation would like to congratulate the Director-General and the entire FAO Secretariat for the painstaking efforts in producing the document otherwise known as the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Equally important is my delegation's appreciation for the methods adopted by Dr Brader in introducing the subject matter.

Mr Chairman, everybody is quite aware that the world's population is increasing and to match this trend of affairs, a substantial increase in food production must be pursued very vigorously. In fact, the acceleration of food production should now become a matter of must in the Africa Region where a food crisis has not only been identified but it is really biting very hard. It has also been recognized through many studies and most especially by the FAO that there are some inputs in the realization of the objective of food production, and the use of pesticides is one of these inevitable inputs. The unfortunate aspect, Mr Chairman is that the use of pesticides creates more problems for the developing countries, most especially in Africa because harmful side-effects to other sectors of food production and to the general environment result. Human lives are also prone to the deleterious effects.

The distribution and use of pesticides to curb these side-effects is a double-edged sword, or what can easily be described as an ill-wind blowing. This is because the risks can be felt, not only in the countries to which the pesticides are exported, but also in the countries of origin.

Mr Chairman, the developed countries, as we know, are capable of handling these problems since they have many stiff regulations and the necessary enforcement mechanisms. The developing countries, on the other hand, have no infrastructural facilities to control the import, sale or the use of these pesticides.

The activities of the FAO, relevant UN agencies and other organizations to arrest the situation by developing what is termed as an International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides are extremely commendable. As mentioned earlier, one of the big environmental problems would have been minimized, if not totally eradicated in most of the developing countries, where problems of erosion, drought, and pollution of different types are already existing. In fact, these problems are to a great extent factors affecting the prevailing African food crisis.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim record on request.

My delegation is of the opinion that a few developing countries have already initiated some pesticide regulatory processes, but in order to complement their efforts we are advocating further assistance from FAO and other international organizations for the development of a national regulatory programme for such developing countries. If the assistance is adequately followed, the need for a Code of conduct, even though voluntary in nature, will become very minimal on a long-term basis.

Lastly, my delegation supports the amendment as proposed by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines for the last sentence starting from line 4 of Article 9.6 on page 14 of the document under discussion. 1/

HANS AEBI (Observer for the International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products): The International Group of National Associations of Manufacturers of Agrochemical Products (GIFAP) would welcome the adoption of the Code.

GIFAP considers the voluntary Code a practical and reasonable basis for cooperation and shared responsibility between governments, international organizations, manufacturers, distributors and users of pesticides. GIFAP believes that it will be effective in meeting the needs of the developing countries in particular, and realistic in its demand on industry. It will help promote the safe and effective use of pesticides and, in turn, help alleviate problems that might result from misuse, especially in countries where there is no or inadequate regulatory infrastructure. GIFAP and its national associations are planning to undertake a programme for the distribution of the Code and to promote its implementation by the respective member companies. GIFAP wishes to recall the great efforts which have already been made by its member companies in order to foster the safe and judicious use of agrochemical products.

The statements made today by some delegations overemphasize the risks of the agrochemical products without considering their tremendous benefits. One has to take into account what the world food situation would be without the availability of agrochemical products. False information, particularly, such as the statement made by the delegate of Haiti regarding the 350 000 deaths due to pesticides, do not contribute in any manner to improve the food situation in the world. 1/

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I certainly would like, on behalf of the Director-General, to thank very much all the delegates because as far as I have noted, without exception have all given full support to the development of this Code and to its early implementation, although a number of comments were made.

I would like briefly to remark on some specific questions that were raised; in particular the delegate of Ethiopia raised a point about the problem of information with respect to the problems of pesticides. That was the main concern. At the end I should like to note that the Articles 3.4. and 3.6 address this matter.

A number of delegates, notably Canada, Grenada and the United Kingdom were referring to the problem about what we should do next, what will be the follow-up actions. I know that there is a dictum "don't sell the skin before the bear is shot", so I think we have been very prudent not to take too many steps in that respect yet but, of course, we have given some thought to it. There is no doubt, as noted under Article 12, that the implementation has to be a joint exercise by all parties concerned, governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and as stressed in that Article, the FAO will service the Secretariat in coordinating these various activities. These activities will include, for example, the preparation of information material, how should the Code be used, and how it has to be applied to various circumstances. It will

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

certainly include the distribution of certain questionnaires on the compliance of the Code in the various countries to then receive feedback on how the Code may be improved for its further implementation. In addition to that, there will certainly be a regular reporting to the governing bodies. In that respect, specific questions were raised on the timetable, and when we are going to get reports back so that amendments can be made. Spain and the Netherlands, for example, mentioned that as it stands now the most logical body to report back to would be the Committee on Agriculture and that would mean the first report on the implementation, were it adopted in this Conference, would be in early 1987, so that is within one-and-a-half year's time from now. Of course, another step to follow-up on the Code, if it is adopted, would be to increase our emphasis on assistance for countries to improve their internal capabilities to handle all these matters, which regard the proper registration and control of pesticides.

One specific question from Canada dealt with the International Programme on Chemical Safety. Indeed so far, we have not really been fully integrated in the International Programme on Chemical Safety. Time will not allow me to go into too much detail on that. We will study the matter now and perhaps in the not too distant future there may be a good chance that we will be part of that system.

Then there were quite a number of delegations making specific proposals for changes in the text still, the most important one being, of course, the recommendation made with respect to Article 9.6. I think in this debate it is not up to me to decide what can be accepted, or not accepted. I am not supposed to take part really in this debate so I think I would leave the answer to the question, particularly with regard to Article 9.6 to you, Mr Chairman, in your summation of the meeting.

I would like to deal with one brief matter. India spoke again about Article 9.1 and stressed that we should make sure that we collaborated with the International Register on Potential Toxic Chemicals. For that specific purpose we had included a reference which is called number 16, a new introduction here referring specifically to that Register. I can assure the Commission that we will fully cooperate with the International Register on Potentially Toxic Chemicals.

A number of specific requests were put forward by the delegate of Morocco. For example, he requested that we carry out a study on pesticide distribution, prepare a listing on restricted chemicals, and try to initiate a study on the quality control of pesticides. I think these are very worthwhile and interesting suggestions, and we have certainly taken good note of them in the Secretariat. As I said, it would probably be too much to go into very much detail on all the suggestions made by delegates here.

I would leave it to you to reply with regard to Article 9.6.

EL PRESIDENTE: Disponemos de tres minutos más. El distinguido colega de Bélgica ha vuelto a la sala mientras tanto.

H. VANDEPUTTE (Belgique): Tout d'abord, nous voudrions nous excuser de notre absence momentanée. Etant pris dans une autre enceinte, il m'était difficile d'être à deux endroits en même temps.

Nous avons demandé la parole une seconde fois en qualité d'Etat Membre de la Communauté européenne et à la présidence à l'occasion de cette Conférence.

Nous souhaiterions que vous accordiez la parole à l'Observateur de la Communauté économique européenne afin de lui permettre de donner un bref complément d'information à l'attention des membres de notre Commission concernant ce point très important de notre ordre du jour.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sr. Desesquelles ¿podría dedicarnos dos minutos en nombre de la Comunidad Económica Europea?

Gilles DESEQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): En complément à la déclaration effectuée au début des débats, je voudrais préciser que la Communauté européenne et ses Etats Membres acceptent le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, tel que présenté par le Directeur général à notre Conférence.

Toute modification éventuelle, quelle que soit l'appréciation que l'on puisse porter sur les amendements suggérés remettrait en cause cette approbation. Nous considérons en effet que les délais impartis ne nous permettent pas, à ce stade, d'examiner de nouvelles propositions. De toutes façons, comme vous l'avez suggéré, M. le Président, elles pourraient être étudiées ultérieurement dans le cadre de l'application du Code.

Je peux d'ores et déjà vous indiquer que des travaux sont actuellement en cours au sein de la Communauté économique européenne sur la procédure de notification en la matière, et notamment sur la notion d'assentiment préalable ou de toute autre formule équivalente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, yo creo que a través de este debate hemos llegado a la convicción de que el documento que se nos ha presentado es el resultado de un proceso de consultas concluido ahora en un Compromiso y que a la luz de las diversas declaraciones que se hicieron aquí convendría adoptar una solución unánime, sin reservas, que contribuyera a la celebración del 40° aniversario de la fundación de la FAO.

Creo que se reconocieron los esfuerzos de nuestra Organización en la preparación, adaptación y revisión de este proyecto de Código y que igualmente se ha pedido a la FAO que siga la evolución de la aplicación de estas directrices que deben estar dirigidas esencialmente al aumento de la producción agrícola en los países en desarrollo mediante un mejor y más racional uso de los plaguicidas, al tiempo que se perseguirá la reducción de los peligros que el uso de esos plaguicidas representa en algunos países hoy.

Se reconoció, igualmente, que será necesario también como parte de la implementación adecuada de estas orientaciones la capacitación de las personas que estén encargadas de aplicar estas directrices, y a ese respecto se destacó la importancia de que se divulguen los objetivos contenidos en este Código, y de la misma manera se señaló la importancia de que los gobiernos nacionales trataran de incluir los principios fundamentales en las respectivas legislaciones nacionales.

Se reconoció unánimemente que para el buen éxito de la aplicación del Código debe regir un pleno espíritu de cooperación entre gobiernos, industrias, usuarios y todas aquellas entidades o personas que estén vinculadas a estas actividades.

Creo que todos estamos convencidos de que este es un instrumento benéfico, un primer paso que va a beneficiar a todos, y particularmente a los países en desarrollo.

Tengo la impresión de que buena parte de las delegaciones estuvo en favor de que hubieran preferido un texto más sólido, más consolidado, con algunas aclaraciones y disposiciones más rígidas, y a este respecto, sin duda, se procurará en adelante adoptar algunas definiciones y clarificar aún más ciertos conceptos.

Igualmente creo que otras delegaciones pensaron que no obstante algunas debilidades o deficiencias que encontraban en este Código estaban dispuestas a adoptarlo con el objeto de no retardar este proceso, pero dentro de esa posición muchas delegaciones respaldaron las propuestas que hicieron los dos primeros oradores que intervinieron en este tema: Ecuador, Filipinas y luego India también complementó las posibles modificaciones al Artículo 9.6

Como Presidente hoy, más que hacer un resumen, quiero transmitir a ustedes el sentimiento que puedo extraer de este debate, en el cual, como les dije, intervinieron casi todos los miembros de la Comisión.

Creo, y esto naturalmente es apenas una sugerencia respetuosa y cordial para el Comité de Redacción, a cuyo Presidente alcanzo a ver en el fondo de la sala, en el sentido de que podríamos lograr un compromiso que consistiría en recomendar la adopción de este Código tal como está a condición de que en el informe sobre este tema se incluyan referencias adecuadas concretas y específicas sobre los aspectos sobresalientes que se plantearon aquí, y particularmente sobre el PIC.

Es un hecho que este Código va a ser revisado en el curso de los próximos dos años y que entonces convendría que nuestro informe recogiese esa opinión que fue ampliamente planteada por muchos miembros de la Comisión, o sea que el PIC es elemento fundamental para el buen éxito de la aplicación del Código.

Sólo me resta agradecer, en primer lugar, al Dr. Bommer, Subdirector general del Departamento de Agricultura, hombre de ciencia extraído de la Universidad, que ha prestado valiosos servicios a esta Organización. A través del Departamento de Agricultura se ha preparado este proyecto de Código y estoy seguro de que todos reconocemos las amplias capacidades y la notable competencia del Dr. Bommer.

.El Dr. Brader, Director de la Dirección de Producción y Protección vegetal, ha sido el receptor atento, eficaz y afortunado que en todo momento ha recibido, ha recogido las observaciones y comentarios de los gobiernos y de todos ustedes y ha tratado de incorporarlos.

Gracias por su cooperación.

The meeting rose at 13.00 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 00

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.00 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/II/PV/15

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(22 November 1985)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 15 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous La présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 15 horas

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

- II. ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (Continued)
- II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANIZATION (suite)
- II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

- 17. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
- 17. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
- 17. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

- 17.1 WFP Pledging Target (C 85/LIM/5; C 85/LIM/16)
- 17.1 Objectif des contributions au PAM (C 85/LIM/5; C 85/LIM/16)
- 17.1 Objetivos de las promesas de contribución al PMA (C 85/LIM/5; C 85/LIM/16)

EL PRESIDENTE: Si no hay ningún comentario, vamos ahora a proseguir nuestros trabajos con el tema 17.1: Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO. Se trata del objetivo de las promesas de contribución al PMA.

En nombre de nuestra Comisión doy nuestra más cordial y calurosa bienvenida al señor J. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y a los funcionarios de ese importante Organismo que nos acompañan esta tarde.

James C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): You have before you document C 85/LIM/5 which contains a draft resolution on the target for pledges to WFP's development resources for the biennium 1987-88. The FAO Council has unanimously supported the target of US\$1 400 million, comprising 3.25 million tons of food at current prices and US\$405 million in cash.

This target has been recommended by WFP's governing body, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, at its recently-concluded 20th Session.

A similar resolution is before the current session of the United Nations General Assembly since, under the Programme's General Regulations, the pledging target must be endorsed by both this Conference and the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The target proposed is somewhat less than what I had originally put to the CFA. However, if fulfilled, it will enable the Programme to maintain the very considerable momentum it has built up over the past five years.

As noted in the document before you, it will allow the annual approval of new development projects, utilizing about 1.9 million tons of food, until the end of 1988. Such a commitment level would be substantially above the average level for previous years.

In terms of deliveries, fulfillment of the target will also enable us to place in the hands of beneficiaries about 1.5 million tons each year for development projects alone. When you add to this what the Programme is likely to be providing for relief and on behalf of bilateral donors, the total deliveries by WFP by 1988 may well be more than 2.5 million tons per year.

You will notice that for the first time the target has been broken into a specified quantity of food in tons (since approved commitments for WFP development projects are expressed in quantities of food) and a cash level in dollars adequate to transport and administer the commodities provided.

I should mention that the amount of cash included in the proposed target is somewhat higher than the proportion of cash pledged in recent years. This level of cash is necessary, however, to enable the Programme to handle greater quantities of donated commodities and to continue to buy food from developing countries, without eroding the essential cash reserve we have carefully built up over the years.

The proposed target was agreed on after very full discussion in the CFA and it has the support of all the main donor countries. I therefore have every expectation that it will be fulfilled.

In recent years close to one quarter of all food aid was delivered through WFP. However, the percentage fell in 1984 by about 20 percent. The reason for this is that donors have dramatically increased their total food aid so as to deal with the famine situation which has oppressed so much of Africa over the last two years. The result is that global food aid has now reached a level of 12 million tons for the year 1984-85, namely 20 percent more than the previous highest ever-recorded figure. While donors also gave more food through WFP than ever before most of their additional assistance was channelled bilaterally.

While there are still several countries in Africa facing severe food shortages, which will require the provision of considerable emergency relief aid in 1986, the total amount required for this purpose will be much less than in 1985. As I have just pointed out, donors have shown their willingness to provide additional food aid on a massive scale for emergencies. We know, however, that much of the distress that has occurred in Africa has been due only in part to drought. The causes of famine in that continent are much more deep-rooted than the vagaries of weather and it is essential that we address those causes. Food aid as used by WFP can be of enormous importance in that task. I therefore urge the donors to provide to WFP for development purposes some of that additional aid they have shown they are so willing to give for emergency uses.

I have said on several occasions that the most important challenge facing the international community over the next few years is its responsibility to come to grips with the underlying causes of Africa's hunger problem. The hunger problem is essentially a development problem and not simply a food production problem. Africans are hungry because they are poor. The only lasting way to overcome their poverty is to increase the productive output of their economies. WFP has a proven capacity to use food that has precisely this effect in ways which have been universally applauded. The demand for project food aid, as provided by WFP, is growing all the time. The Programme cannot meet that demand, yet the resources are available to meet it if donors have the will to channel more of their food aid through WFP.

I need hardly mention in a forum composed of experts in agriculture and rural development that this sector has been proven time after time in the history of the economic development of all countries, to be of critical importance. Nor do I need to remind you that WFP is deeply committed to agriculture and rural development, as shown by the fact that between 1980 and 1984 we have increased the share of resources going to agriculture and rural development from 51 to 61 percent of the total committed. I therefore urge that we be given more resources so that we can do even more to promote agricultural and rural development.

The need for development of food aid is not confined to Africa, great though its needs are. It is easy to overlook - as the electronic media does - that the population of Asia is so great that, even in countries whose food production is managing to keep pace with population growth, there are still many hundreds of millions of people whose level of nourishment is unacceptably low. A similar situation, though on a much smaller scale, exists in other regions, including many of the so-called middle-income countries, burdened by debt and by very high interest rates. This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. For every country, its human resources are its most important resource and malnourished children and adults can neither lead a full life nor make a sufficient contribution to the development of their countries.

It is people who create wealth, it is people who plant seeds, people who plough land, who harvest crops, who tend cattle and it is people who breed better plant varieties and who teach farmers how to cultivate them.

While in WFP and in conferences such as this, we talk a great deal about abstractions like tons of food delivered we should not forget that it is people we are trying to help. Of all international aid organizations WFP is the agency which reaches very poor individuals in great numbers. Our staff see in the very faces of the poor that the help we give them is good and that it is appreciated. In the last resort there is nothing whatsoever abstract about the work WFP does. The morale of our staff is high because they can see that what we do counts in the lives of poor people.

I mention this because the process of structural adjustment necessarily going on at this time in many countries represented here bears especially heavily on the poor. More than two years ago I urged that in this situation there was a place for using food aid to ease the burden on vulnerable groups, especially children. I am pleased to say that today institutions like the IMF recognize the need to pay more heed to this need for adjustment to have a "human face" and that there is excellent cooperation between WFP and UNICEF in doing something about it.

As has been frequently said, development is a learning process, and that is certainly true of the use of food aid for development. WFP has learnt a great deal about how to use food aid to prevent desertification, to stop erosion, to resettle people on new lands, to build roads, ditches and irrigation canals, to dig village wells and the other activities essential if food production is to increase. But we have still more to learn and in particular it is important that our food aid be reinforced, wherever appropriate, by financial and technical inputs. As part of our project cycle review - which is simply a fancy name for the process of improving the design and implementation of projects - we are building closer links with other development institutions. Clearly one of the most important of these must be the FAO, whose technical expertise is invaluable for the preparation of our projects. On this the 40th anniversary of the FAO, I wish to thank most profoundly our colleagues in FAO for all that they have done to help so many WFP projects to achieve success.

I would also have to say that we are building a very close relationship with our other sister organization in Rome, namely, the International Fund for Agricultural Development. President Jazairy and myself have met several times and we find we are both totally convinced of the importance of helping the small farmer wherever possible. We are therefore taking steps to increase the already not insignificant number of projects which have inputs from both our organizations.

The fact is that the poorest countries often lack required expertise to prepare good projects. As part of our project cycle review, we are devoting a lot of attention to how better to help governments present better-conceived requests for WFP assistance. I am pleased to inform the Conference that at its last session the CFA, in approving WFP's administrative budget, provided me with the authority to provide finance to governments for the preparation of development projects. This will be implemented gradually and selectively from the beginning of 1986 in order to gain necessary expertise.

I would like to say now a few words about emergencies. I will not dwell upon WFP's achievements in 1984 and 1985 in this regard. I will say, however, that many of our staff have worked at great personal sacrifice to bring about a result which has effectively prevented the deaths of millions of people. In fact the WFP Emergency Food Aid alone has reached nearly 18 million people. We have not only transported about one third of the 5 million tons delivered so far in 1985, but diverted vessels to critical zones. But speed at sea must be matched by speed at ports and on land. To this end WFP engaged a staff of logistics and port officers and placed them in strategic locations to help get food discharged and out of ports at unprecedented rates. Our officers have helped to introduce bulk handling in several ports in Africa which previously handled only bagged cargo, have organized the dispatch of railway trains carrying nothing but food aid, have airfreighted a river ferry and other essential capital equipment, have provided donors with the information that enabled them to schedule the shipment of this vast quantity of food aid more evenly with much less port congestion than there would otherwise have been. In several countries of the African continent we have also undertaken for the first time the establishment and full management of major internal trucking fleets.

All in all this has been a challenging, indeed exciting time for WFP. But dry statistics cannot really convey the magnitude of the achievement made by so many countries and organizations with which we have been associated in this effort.

Figures have a way of passing over the tops of our heads, but if you recall to your mind just how big one bulk carrier of 25 000 tons is, you will realize that 40 such ships are required to move one million tons, let alone the more than 5 million tons so far delivered to Africa this year. Certainly in Africa there has never ever previously been such a massive flow of assistance. It would not have been possible without the truly generous public response of ordinary people in so

many countries around the world and we in WFP wish to thank them and the organizations to which they contributed their money and with which we cooperate, for all the support they have given us. This applies, I might say, particularly to Band Aid which is providing to WFP many of the trucks needed to start up a trucking operation that we are now, at this moment operating in Ethiopia.

Despite all these impressive achievements of the international community there are nevertheless many lessons that we will all have to learn from the response to this emergency. Certainly WFP could have done a lot better if it had been better prepared, and if the governments of famine-prone countries had been better prepared. The truth is that until there is a lasting turn-around in the production of food in most African countries, there is the gravest risk of a recurrence of last year's famine conditions, possibly even in a very short time and on a worse scale since populations are increasing so rapidly. It is imperative we believe that each famine-prone country, supported by the international community, develop an emergency strategy which can come smoothly into operation the next time famine strikes or is imminent. At the next session of the CFA, WFP will make concrete proposals about the elements of such a strategy and WFP's place in it.

Meanwhile, I want to say that experience with the IEFER during this African crisis has revealed a number of pressing matters which require immediate change.

First the pledges by donors do not include nearly enough foods for vulnerable groups. When families are close to death, huddled in camps, there is a requirement for much more than basic grains and vegetable oils. People often die not from starvation as such but by disease brought on by under-nourishment. In effect they have to be nursed back to health and special diets are needed for this. We simply do not get enough dried skimmed milk, for example, and this week I was in Brussels urging the European Parliament to lift its limits on the supply of milk products to WFP for emergencies and development projects.

Secondly we do not get nearly enough cash to enable us to purchase special foods when necessary and food from developing- countries. Moreover, it is unrealistic to expect least developed countries, and indeed many other very poor ones, to be able to meet the costs of internal transportation. WFP has been meeting half of this cost from the IEFER from its regular resources, but even half is nowhere enough in situations of massive famine.

The conference at which governments will pledge for the 1987-88 biennium, to be held in New York next March, is also an occasion for pledging to the IEFER. I would therefore urge all governments, with all the earnestness at my command, not only to fulfill the target enshrined in the resolution before you but, in making pledges to the IEFER, to give us much larger quantities of supplementary food than hitherto and more cash to meet internal transportation and to purchase more food to the greatest extent possible in meeting the substantial relief needs that still exist for a number of African countries.

Finally, in regard to emergencies let me say that, encouraged by member governments, WFP is giving thought to extending on a global basis some of the techniques it has developed for the gathering and dissemination of information. We hardly needed to be reminded that disasters are not confined to any country or continent, but if we did, the horrific events of last week in your own country will have done so. Within 24 hours of that disaster, 20 tons of WFP food from the stocks we have for our development projects in Colombia, were on their way by helicopter to the victims. The very same evening, an officer of our Emergency Service had left Rome for Bogotá. As the CFA, the FAO Council and this Conference have repeatedly stated, speed is often of the essence in responding to emergencies. I believe, that WFP is, as this example testifies, able to move with great dispatch in responding to sudden natural disasters. Our ability to be useful in this regard is immensely helped by the fact that in almost all developing countries there are stocks of WFP food available to draw upon for just such crises.

In conclusion let me express my hope that these remarks will inspire not only your approval of the draft resolution before the Commission, but, more importantly encourage donors to pledge generously the conference in March, so that the great developmental and humanitarian work of the World Food Programme can continue to expand.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Ingram por su excelente presentación. Les había ya citado los dos documentos pertinentes sobre los cuales brevemente haré unas observaciones, con el solo propósito indicativo de contribuir al marco dentro del cual ustedes podrán hacer sus declaraciones.

El LIM/16 contiene el proyecto de resolución sobre el cual la Conferencia, como lo ha dicho el Sr. Ingram, podrá conceder su aprobación definitiva.

El LIM/5 es el extracto del Informe del pasado Consejo sobre esta misma materia. En el LIM/5 podrán observar ustedes que en el párrafo 64 el Consejo se ha referido a la política de transacciones triangulares. En el párrafo 65 el Consejo apoyó el nuevo enfoque que ha explicado nuestro Director Ejecutivo y acogió el llamamiento que había hecho el CPA a los donantes tradicionales y potenciales para que logren no sólo obtener el objetivo, sino superarlo. En el párrafo 66 el Consejo aprobó unánimemente ese objetivo de promesa.

Podrán ustedes referirse a la valiosa asistencia del PMA al Africa sufrida y, si lo desearan, coincidir con el Director Ejecutivo en el reconocimiento a todos los donantes cuyas contribuciones han hecho posible el éxito de este importante Programa, así como, tal vez, reconocer la labor abnegada de los funcionarios del PMA en favor de aquellas regiones del mundo donde numerosas personas pasan por una difícil situación.

Harald HØSTMARK (Norway): First I would like to thank the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for his excellent introduction of this important point of our agenda, but I think it is also the moment to direct thanks to the Executive Director and his staff for the important work that the Programme has done and continues to do, for the way it has served the purpose for which it was set up, and for the way it has served humanity.

At the Twentieth session of the CFA the question of the target was very carefully examined, as you know yourself, Mr Chairman, since you are one of the very active participants, not only an active but a positive participant in the discussions that are going on, as were the Chairman of the Group of 77 and representatives of the major donors.

As Chairman of that Committee I can testify to the thoroughness of the deliberations that were gone into. When the target was agreed at the very considerable figure of US\$1.4 billion, it was both an expression of the confidence that all participants felt in the World Food Programme and its Executive Director in their ability to use these considerable resources efficiently to the advantage of those that are so low on the nourishment level that the situation is unacceptable to us as members of the human community.

The target was also seen as what would be a realistic goal taking into consideration past performances and including an expiration factor as an inducement to the donors to make the maximum effort. It was not to be seen as a measurement of the total global needs that so unfortunately exist today.

Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, we accept the proposed target. We recommend that it be endorsed unanimously by this Commission. Unanimity will give it force, force for a common pledging conference to the advantage of those that the Programme serves.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias a los Países Nórdicos que han expresado su posición a través del delegado de Noruega, distinguido colega y amigo Harald Høstmark, competente Presidente del CPA.

R.C. GUPTA (India): Our delegation had an opportunity of participating in the discussions of the last CFA on the pledging target and yet again in the last FAO Council meeting, and to this extent we sincerely welcome this short and concise document regarding the pledging target of the World Food Programme for the biennium 1987-88. We would sincerely like to congratulate Mr Ingram for his excellent, extremely telling and very informative introduction to the subject.

The achievements of WFP during the last few years are very considerable and we have seen how this Programme has over a period built up certain capabilities, certain effectiveness and efficiency, and the way it has assisted the African Continent in its dire hour of need by rushing food aid to the remotest corners under most trying conditions, under most difficult circumstances. We would like to congratulate Mr Ingram and his committed staff for all their dedication, for all this humanitarian work supported by the international community.

The effectiveness of the Programme is further demonstrated by the speed with which it reacted to the earthquake situation in Mexico a few months back and now to the unfortunate situation in your country, Mr Chairman, caused by volcanic eruptions. These are some of the testimonies to the capacity and capability that the Programme has built over the period.

We heartily agree with the assessment of the Executive Director that hunger is just about a manifestation of poverty. The problem of African hunger, the lack of food, is not a problem created by aberrant weather only but a problem that has been compounded by drought. Structural adjustments, rehabilitation of the economy, change of modes of production and distribution, these are the problems. The colonial structure over the years is the problem and if Africa is to be assisted in a meaningful manner it has to be provided with assistance in diverse ways to readjust its economy to the needs. To this extent food aid can play an extremely meaningful role. We agree with Mr Ingram that the generosity which the international community has demonstrated in this period of emergency should be continued for development assistance, and Africa should continue to get the same level of assistance in different ways to rehabilitate its agriculture, its economy and soften the burden of adjustment, which falls most extremely and most harshly on the poorest section of the community in any country.

Another very interesting point which Mr Ingram made, and a very valid point, is that if the countries in Africa were prepared or had the capacity to meet this situation, if there were advance preparation or some kind of contingency planning, the tragedy could have been considerably lessened. In our own country, a large country that we are, we are used to these aberrations. Almost every year some part of the country is affected by droughts or floods and over a period we have developed certain capabilities, certain experience, certain expertise for management of drought and for management of aberrant weather.

We are proposing to set up an Institute of Disaster Management ourselves and we are willing to share our experience in this particular area with other countries. We wish to put up this Institute at an international level so that whatever we have gone through, whatever we have learned, we can share with other countries of the world.

Coming back to the Pledging Target, as Mr Ingram said, and as the Chairman of the CFA repeated, this target was arrived at after detailed deliberations while keeping in view the wishes of the traditional donor countries to have a target which was feasible, which was achievable, and which would carry credibility.

We would have wished the target to be higher. Nevertheless, considering the will of the international community, we feel that this is an appropriate one, provided that every sincere effort is made to reach this target and even to exceed it.

In this context, may I, Mr Chairman, invite your attention to page 4 of document C 85/LIM/5, particularly the first operational paragraph, which says:

"Establishes for the two years, 1987 and 1988, a target for voluntary contributions of US\$ 1 400 million, comprised of 3.25 million tons of food at current prices and US\$ 405 million in cash, and expresses the hope ..."

This is very relevant:

"... that such resources will be augmented by substantial additional contributions from other sources in recognition of the prospective volume of sound project requests and the capacity of the Programme to operate at a higher level."

Considering the need and the capacity of the Programme to handle large volumes of food aid, we would strongly urge the international community to fulfill this target and, if possible, even to exceed it. My own government has already decided to pledge a certain volume of tea and other commodities to the World Food Programme for the next pledging period and we will inform the Programme of these pledges in due course.

S.M. MATIUR RAHMAN (Bangladesh): At the outset, the Bangladesh delegation would like to thank Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of the Programme, for his excellent introduction of this important agenda item and also for giving some insights of the Programme's good performances and achievements, which have our full support.

The pledging target of WFP for the 1987-88 biennium of US\$ 1.4 billion, comprising 3.25 million tons of food at current prices and US\$ 405 million in cash, as recommended by the CFA and the FAO Council at the last session, is before us for adoption.

First the Bangladesh delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Executive Director of the Programme not only for the high efficiency attained by the staff under his able leadership, but also for proposing for the first time a pledging target comprising both food commodity and cash components. This will make the Programme more flexible and effective and efficient in meeting the needs of food aid of the developing countries. In view of the growing food aid needs and the WFP's higher capacity of food aid management, although my delegation would have been pleased to see a higher pledging target for the coming biennium, nevertheless my delegation considers the target level recommended by the CFA and the Council to represent a balanced compromise between the growing needs of the recipient countries and the availability of food aid from the donor countries.

Therefore Bangladesh as a member of the CFA and the Council gave its full support to the agreed target level. We, therefore, reiterate our fullest support for the adoption of the recommended level of pledging target and the Resolution and urge the Conference to adopt it unanimously.

While doing so, my delegation would urge that all traditional and potential donors not only fulfill but exceed the approved target and also that one-third of their contributions be paid in cash. We would also like to ask them to increase their contribution to IEFR, as has been done in the past two years.

Srta. Mery HURTADO (Colombia): La delegación de Colombia lamenta que el CPA no haya podido apoyar el más alto objetivo de promesas originalmente propuesto por el Director Ejecutivo del PMA. Consideramos más adecuado y realista, a la luz de las circunstancias cambiantes, el nuevo enfoque bajo el cual se ha propuesto ahora el objetivo para el bienio 1987-1988, parte en dinero y parte en productos.

La delegación de Colombia piensa que esa nueva actitud del Director Ejecutivo es innovadora y realista y merece nuestro apoyo.

La delegación de Colombia está de acuerdo con las finalidades que aparecen en el Proyecto de Resolución C 85/LIM/5, pero insiste en que en nuestro Informe se haga un llamado muy decidido a todos los donantes actuales y potenciales para que en la próxima Conferencia de Promesas a efectuarse en 1986, se logre no sólo alcanzar este objetivo, sino superarlo.

La delegación de Colombia aprovecha esta oportunidad para reiterar su complacencia por la forma eficaz en que viene trabajando el PMA bajo la dirección del Sr. Ingram, como también las excelentes relaciones que existen entre la FAO y el PMA. Esto coincide con el principio del Gobierno colombiano según el cual todos los organismos internacionales deben sumar sus esfuerzos en favor de los países en desarrollo.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Queremos expresar al Sr. Ingram nuestra felicitación por la presentación que nos ha hecho del tema. La Dirección del Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha demostrado una eficaz administración, que ha garantizado notables éxitos al Programa en los últimos años.

El Consejo de la FAO y el Comité de Política y Programa discutieron y apoyaron el objetivo de promesas para el PMA en su nueva forma desglosada en dinero y en alimentos, el cual fue aprobado en todas sus partes.

Nosotros también lamentamos que la proposición inicial que hizo el Director Ejecutivo no hubiese podido aceptarse en toda su dimensión, reconociendo que el Director Ejecutivo había hecho una exposición muy convincente de la necesidad de incrementar la ayuda para el desarrollo y la emergencia. El expuso con claridad cómo seguían aumentando la problemática crítica que atraviesa el mundo en desarrollo y la necesidad de que el PMA tuviese suficientes recursos para enfrentarse a las peticiones que llegan.

Creo que el apoyo que estos foros de la FAO y del PMA dieron a las posiciones presentadas por el informe del Director Ejecutivo son el justo reconocimiento, dada su dimensión, a la labor del programa y a la propia del Director Ejecutivo en pro de la ayuda alimentaria multilateral. Todo esto está también avalado por el esforzado trabajo de todo el personal del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Específicamente queremos expresar que Cuba es un modesto aportador de 5 000 toneladas de azúcar cada dos años, lo cual mantendremos como promesa para las próximas reuniones.

También queremos expresar que nos declaramos de acuerdo con la convocatoria de una Conferencia de Promesas en la sede de Naciones Unidas para 1986. Asimismo, la Conferencia de Promesas de Contribución para 1988.

Nuestra delegación apoya en todas sus partes el proyecto de resolución presentado, así como el informe, y queremos apoyar específicamente la política de transacciones triangulares, como fue discutido en el CPA, por su beneficio y por su posibilidad de permitir a los países en desarrollo una participación también activa en el apoyo al Programa.

Nos resta solamente decir que aceptamos en todas sus partes la política de priorización al Continente Africano, así como la visión multilateral y universalista que el Director Ejecutivo tiene de la función del PMA. Felicitamos al Director del PMA y a todo el personal, así como le felicitamos en la real dimensión de su trabajo, en función de toda la cooperación con la FAO y de los demás organismos internacionales del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

ESHETU DEBABU (Ethiopia): I would like to sincerely thank Mr Ingram for the brilliant and clear introduction of the subject. The World Food Programme today is the most important agency in the field of food administration in the world. It plays an indispensable role in the international effort to save human life from disease, from starvation and other natural disasters. The World Food Programme's role is also very useful in rehabilitation in support of national development, and so remains indispensable in the coming years especially for Africa to alleviate famine situations and to help promote agricultural development.

We do not assume the proposed Pledging Target is enough for the needy countries. We would have liked to see a much higher target than proposed but, given the circumstances today and taking the discussions that have preceded this Conference into account, we think it is fairly feasible and acceptable. Therefore we unhesitatingly support the unanimous adoption of the proposed target of US\$ 1 400 million voluntary contributions for WFP for 1986-87 as split into cash and kind.

We would also like to heartily congratulate Mr Ingram and the WFP as a whole for the excellent management of the resources entrusted to them and the wonderful successes of their field activities.

We are also grateful to the international community that supports the WFP and hope the proposed target will be substantially exceeded. We remain grateful for the priority given to Africa.

Selim SARRAF (Liban) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Directeur exécutif du PAM, M. Ingram, pour son exposé très clair et convaincant sur le document qui est maintenant soumis à notre Commission.

Je voudrais également remercier le Directeur général de notre Organisation ainsi que le Programme alimentaire mondial pour avoir répondu à la demande du Liban, en lui accordant une aide alimentaire d'urgence en faveur des victimes de la ville de Tripoli au cours du mois de septembre passé. Je voudrais faire noter la vitesse et la diligence avec lesquelles nous avons reçu cette aide, que ce soit par l'envoi sur place d'une mission d'évaluation du PAM ou que ce soit par la promptitude de la fourniture et de la distribution de cette aide, c'est-à-dire moins d'une semaine après que la demande ait été formulée.

L'aide accordée au Liban ne se limite pas seulement à l'assistance d'urgence, mais elle englobe également les projets de développement économiques et sociaux dans un cadre évidemment plus restreint étant donné les circonstances actuelles du Liban.

Pour toutes ces raisons et d'autres encore, la délégation de mon pays souscrit entièrement au projet de budget, tel qu'il nous est présenté, et qui atteint 1 400 millions de dollars américains pour le biennium 1987-88.

Nous espérons que les autres délégations approuveront ce chiffre comme l'avait déjà fait le Conseil de notre Organisation, parce que ce projet constitue le minimum vital pour préserver le niveau de l'assistance.

Adel Hi lmi EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language arabic): I would like first of all to express my thanks and appreciation to Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for the very clear presentation of the document. It is a great pleasure for my country to note that the Pledging Target for the biennium 1987-88 will enable the Programme to implement new projects.

As a result of the positive effects achieved by the Programme's aid in the agricultural sector in my country, and due to the results of speeding up the development there, we can support such pledging targets. We hope that all constructive efforts will be undertaken to fulfill the target.

We also wish to express our full satisfaction, in hearing that a number of African countries have achieved a surplus in cereal production. We also wish to express our satisfaction with the implementation of triangular transactions by the Programme. Furthermore, we hope that donor countries will in fact increase their operations with the Programme through the implementation of such triangular transactions. We all know that the forthcoming Pledging Conference for the WFP is to be held in March, and we therefore urge one and all to fulfill the cash and food pledges and targets of the Programme so that the Conference may fulfill its important task.

Sra. Doña María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Agradecemos al Sr. Ingram la excelente presentación que nos ha hecho y nos alegra mucho su presencia en esta sala.

Mi delegación quiere dejar constancia de nuestro total apoyo al proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 85/LIM/16 frente al objetivo de promesas de contribución al PMA para el bienio 1987-88.

Sin embargo, lamentamos que no haya sido posible tener un objetivo de promesas más alto, como fue propuesto por el Director Ejecutivo en el desarrollo del CPA.

La iniciativa del Director Ejecutivo de proponer un objetivo de promesas con dos componentes, uno en efectivo y otro en productos, nos parece muy acertada y creemos que facilitará el logro de dicho objetivo. Nos congratulamos con el Sr. Ingram por esta iniciativa.

La labor que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos desarrolla a favor de los sectores más necesitados, es de todos conocida. La introducción que nos acaba de hacer el Sr. Ingram nos lo demuestra claramente.

Es de recalcar la labor que el PMA está realizando en Africa. En ese sentido apoyamos la política de transacciones triangulares. Instamos a todos los países para que, en la medida de nuestras posibilidades, contribuyamos con el PMA para que continúe trabajando a favor de nuestros pueblos.

Tal como lo expresáramos en la Plenaria durante el debate general, la delegación de mi país desea patentizar al Director Ejecutivo, en nombre del pueblo y del Gobierno de El Salvador, su agradecimiento por la forma eficiente y solícita con que ha atendido siempre a nuestro país, principalmente en afrontar el delicado problema de los desplazados.

Para concluir, nos unimos a las palabras del distinguido delegado de Noruega. También nosotros confiamos en que aprobaremos este objetivo de promesas por unanimidad. Esta misma unanimidad le dará su fuerza.

C.B. HOUTMAN (Netherlands): As has been stated during the last CFA meeting, this delegation can fully support the target of 3.25 million tons of food and US\$ 405 million. We sincerely hope that, as we have appealed for during the same CFA meeting, the target will be reached during the present conference early next year in order to enable the World Food Programme to continue with its highly appreciated activities. Once again we would like to stress that we hope enough cash will accompany the commodity pledges to ensure that, besides the regular Head-quarters work, transportation and handling can be achieved in such a way that the products reach people who need them.

As I have understood from the Secretariat that the original Item 17.2 of this Agenda, being Other Matters, should be included in this Agenda, I request you to allow me a few more remarks.

My delegation has very much welcomed the good news of the normalization of relations between FAO and WFP, as we understand the implementation of the Task Force Report is proceeding in a harmonious way and with a realistic approach from both parties. We have heard heartening signals from people in the field as well as in FAO and WFP Headquarters of the improved working relations. Therefore we would like to express our confidence that the final report due for the next CFA session in Spring 1986 will voice the same positive sounds as we have heard during the recent CFA meeting.

Finally, I would like to appeal to FAO to seek a quick solution for the WFP housing problems. In our view an important organization such as WFP should not operate from several buildings, but all Headquarters activities should be concentrated in one house.

S.S. KAMVAZINA (Malawi): My delegation has noted with appreciation the manner in which the Executive Director of WFP, Mr Ingram, has described the present and future activities of WFP. The achievement of WFP in the recent past has been beyond our expectations in many circumstances. In a time of global economic imbalance, WFP has managed to reach the needy countries in spite of transport and other logistical problems.

My delegation supports the proposed Pledging Target for 1987-88, and the Pledging Conference.

We note with appreciation the Executive Director's statement regarding triangular purchases, in particular where the policy would now consider purchase of surpluses of food from developing countries, including Africa. I have no doubt whatsoever that this approach will assist WFP to deliver the food aid in a timely and cost-effective manner. At the same time it will alleviate the tremendous financial burdens which some of the countries are facing in having to service the surplus food when they have no funds to divert from other development efforts. Further, this would improve the marketing of such surpluses and stimulate more production in these areas.

Antonio RODRIGUES PIRES (Cap-Vert): Ma délégation souhaite féliciter M. Ingram pour son exposé très clair et concis. Nous remercions aussi tout le personnel du PAM pour les efforts déployés en faveur des pays qui font face à des situations alimentaires difficiles, en particulier les pays africains.

Nous avons pris note avec beaucoup de satisfaction du fait que M. Ingram nous a dit qu'un effort serait fait pour promouvoir la coopération triangulaire dans le cadre du PAM. Parlant des opérations triangulaires, nous croyons que c'est une marque d'intérêt que le PAM porte au développement de la production dans nos pays.

Nous avons également noté avec beaucoup de plaisir que le PAM offre maintenant une grande part de son aide aux projets de développement. Le Cap-Vert, du jour de son indépendance, a toujours montré dans la pratique que l'aide du PAM et l'aide alimentaire en général peuvent être très bien utilisées pour les projets de développement: je citerai les projets de reboisement, la lutte contre l'érosion des sols, la conservation des sols, etc.

Par conséquent, ma délégation associe sa voix pour appuyer l'objectif fixé. Nous pensons qu'il faut absolument atteindre cet objectif sinon le Programme alimentaire sera contraint de réduire sensiblement et substantiellement ses opérations et ses engagements. Ma délégation pense donc que cet objectif devra être atteint tant en produits qu'en espèces. Enfin, nous sommes très heureux d'apprendre les bonnes relations existant entre la FAO et le PAM, ainsi que l'a indiqué M. Ingram.

ZHU PEIRONG (China) (original language Chinese): We would like to thank Mr Ingram for his excellent introduction. Since its inception twenty years ago the World Food Programme has provided nearly 250 million people in the world with US\$ 7.5 billion-worth of food aid for agricultural development projects, emergency operations and other activities. All this has played a valuable role in promoting the agricultural development and in improving the living standards of the people in the low-income and food-deficit countries. These activities have won universal commendation from developing countries. In today's world some developed countries have food surpluses, while a large number of low-income countries are still suffering food shortages. We therefore think that food aid needs should be further strengthened.

The Chinese delegation fully endorses the proposal made by the Resolutions Committee regarding WFP's Pledging Target. As to how much China will contribute during the period 1987-88, we shall report to our Government for its positive consideration.

Peter WIESMANN (Suisse): Ma délégation aimerait féliciter et remercier M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, pour son introduction claire, informative et convaincante.

Un tiers de l'aide alimentaire internationale de la Suisse est canalisé par le Programme alimentaire mondial. C'est donc un partenaire opérationnel important pour notre pays. En plus, en cas de catastrophe, la Suisse met souvent des spécialistes à la disposition du PAM en vue de l'assister dans ses tâches logistiques difficiles.

Nous appuyons l'objectif de contributions, pour les années 1987 et 1988, de 1,4 milliard de dollars constitué par 3,25 millions de tonnes de produits alimentaires aux prix courants et par 405 millions de dollars en espèces, approuvé récemment par les Comités des politiques et programmes alimentaires.

Notre délégation tient à souligner combien les activités de la FAO et du PAM sont complémentaires et combien la collaboration des agents des deux institutions est importante si l'on veut tirer profit au mieux des capacités disponibles.

Mlle EDITH RAVAUX (France): Ma délégation remercie M. Ingram pour la présentation claire et intéressante qu'il nous a faite de ce point de l'ordre du jour. Ma délégation souhaite également féliciter le Directeur exécutif et le personnel du PAM pour l'efficacité du travail accompli ainsi que pour le dévouement manifesté lors des situations d'urgence.

Lors de la vingtième session du Comité des politiques et programmes alimentaires du PAM, en octobre dernier, mon pays a approuvé l'objectif de contribution pour la période 1987-1988 tel qu'il figure dans le document qui nous est présenté. Ma délégation souhaite rappeler les observations qu'elle avait faites à cette occasion.

Tout d'abord, nous approuvons l'adoption par le Secrétariat du PAM d'un nouveau système de fixation de l'objectif de contribution établissant une distinction entre les besoins en espèces et en produits. Ce système permettra en effet, d'une part, de mieux adapter aux besoins des projets les ressources alimentaires nécessaires et, d'autre part, d'évaluer les besoins du Programme pour faire face aux dépenses relatives au transport de l'aide alimentaire et à son achat éventuel, notamment dans le cadre d'opérations triangulaires.

Cependant, compte tenu des difficultés rencontrées pour atteindre l'objectif fixé, nous estimons qu'une grande rigueur est nécessaire dans les engagements futurs du PAM afin de parvenir à un juste équilibre entre ces engagements et les ressources disponibles. A cet égard, nous espérons que, lors de la prochaine réunion du CPA, le Secrétariat du PAM pourra déjà nous faire part des progrès réalisés dans ce domaine.

Qu'il me soit enfin permis de rappeler que l'Afrique constitue une priorité non seulement dans l'aide d'urgence mais aussi dans les projets. Et ma délégation souhaite que cette priorité soit clairement marquée dans les années à venir, compte tenu de l'importance des besoins du continent. En conclusion, ma délégation approuve les objectifs fixés dans le projet de résolution qui nous est proposé.

Mme Josefa COELHO DA CRUZ (Angola): En premier lieu, nous tenons à féliciter M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, de la manière excellente dont il nous a présenté le document C 85/LIM/5 soumis à notre examen.

Dans mon pays, le PAM joue un rôle très important dans la résolution de certains problèmes graves auxquels mon pays est confronté, notamment en ce qui concerne l'assistance aux populations déplacées et aux réfugiés.

Ainsi, ma délégation voudrait profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer sa satisfaction pour l'appui du type "Food for work" que le PAM nous donne à travers l'envoi d'aliments destinés aux projets de développement, qui contribuent en fait à la réhabilitation de notre secteur agricole.

Pour terminer, ma délégation souhaite que l'objectif approuvé en espèces et en produits soit atteint et qu'aboutissent les efforts pour le dépasser et encourager le PAM à poursuivre les activités des opérations triangulaires. Ainsi, ma délégation appuie sans réserve le projet de résolution sur l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour la période 1987-88.

Horst WETZEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): We would like to thank the Executive Director, Mr Ingram, for his impressive introduction, and on this occasion we would also like to thank the World Food Programme for the excellent work it has done. The work volume of the Programme which has stabilized at a high level over the last few years reflects the high opinion which the donor community attaches to the effective, efficient activity of the World Food Programme and its management, even in times of limited resources.

The pledging target proposed for the WFP by the 20th Session of the CFA for the biennium 1987-88 to the amount of US\$ 1.4 billion, an increase of 3.7 percent over and against the target for the biennium 1985-86, in the final analysis represents a compromise. My Government supports this pledging target, although in view of available experience we would have preferred to have seen a more realistic figure. Additional donors, apart from the traditional donors, are still called upon to participate in the pledging target.

During the deliberations at the 20th Session of the CFA which, alongside its function as a governing body of the World Food Programme, also has the function of acting as a consultative body for the formulation of food aid policies and programmes, the assumed above average requirements of Africa for 1986 played an important role.

Despite good prospects for the harvest which have in the meantime been confirmed, the CFA felt it necessary to provide for continued large food aid deliveries to Africa as follows. First of all, as ongoing emergency food aid in some countries, in view of the continuing structural food deficits and a lack of purchasing power among large sections of the population; and secondly for development projects and for the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector.

However, the plans for 1986 must include the considerable surpluses which at present result from late deliveries on the basis of emergency food pledges for 1984-85 and which will only become available after the new good harvest. In this respect, in view of utilized storage capacities, the spoiling of cereals and the disruption of local markets in recipient countries can only be avoided through careful coordination of the measures to be taken. In particular, every effort must be made to avoid price collapse which would force the peasant farmers to reduce their cultivation measures.

In view of considerable exportable surpluses which are available based on local production, particularly in terms of maize and sorghum in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Kenya, the obvious step is to use these surpluses to cover demands in other neighbouring states where the deficits which I just mentioned exist. This, to a certain extent, is also one of the aspects of ECDC.

The well known aspects of not departing from traditional food habits as well as of lower transportation in costs cannot easily be dismissed in this connection.

My country, in presenting these points, does not of course overlook the fact that these measures are somewhat limited inter-alia because of internal African transportation difficulties.

In terms of the World Food Programme, this form of triangular transactions means that high demands will be made on the World Food Programme's cash resources alongside the possibility of an exchange of available cereals against local varieties. This means that we must attach even greater importance to the rule according to which a third of the contributions which are pledged are made in cash and here, of course, we think primarily in terms of paying for transport costs and similar expenses.

The Federal Republic of Germany has followed this rule up till now and therefore believes that it thus has the right to encourage other donors who have been more reserved about adhering to it to adjust their attitude accordingly. With regard to the use of cash contributions for buying food for development projects, in particular rehabilitative development projects, obviously we will have to consider whether this so-called "interim stage" or this "detour" of using food resources in the transfer of resources does have a comparative advantage such as food for work projects. Of course we have to take into account the limits of the so-called "absorptive capacity" which, in turn, is determined by a whole variety of different factors.

In weighing these factors, we must also bear in mind the advantage of the present surplus country where the delivery of foodstuffs to the African neighbouring country with a deficit means that a contribution is being made in stabilizing producer prices and in increasing purchasing power in the surplus country.

In particular, because of the influencing of consumer habits and the strengthening of African producers, we feel that so far as possible food aid measures in Africa should be taken, and if possible, they should be from local production resources. Achieving food security through use of the country's own resources, which is one of the main targets of development policy cooperation, would thus be promoted by this means. This is a target to which the World Food Programme and its Executive Director have made an impressive contribution up till now, and I am quite sure they will increase their efforts to contribute to this end even further in the future.

For purposes of clarity, I would like to comment that in making these remarks I have consciously limited at 1 was saying to surpluses from African neighbouring states because the question of buying for transport costs for surpluses from more remote surplus countries -for inst India - has not been mentioned in this context up till now.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the World Food Programme for the very rapid assistance it has given, as we have just heard, to those who have been hit by the recent disaster in Colombia.

Henrique da SILVEIRA SARDINHA PINTO (Brazil): Let me first thank Mr James Ingram for the clear introduction of this agenda item. Very briefly, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support for the level of the pledging target approved in the last session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The Brazilian delegation also supports the separate presentation of targets in food and cash components aimed at facilitating the management of the programme.

As regards the target, my delegation considers, however, that in view of the food crisis still prevailing in many developing regions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the original proposal of the Executive Director to the CFA would meet in a more consistent way the real needs of the developing countries most affected by hunger and malnutrition.

Our hope was that by accepting the Executive Director's proposal the World Food Programme would conduct its operation at the record levels of 1984 and be much more prepared to achieve success in the fulfillment of its high mandate. We confirm anyway our support for the target indicated in the draft resolution in document C 85/LIM/16.

Lazare GANSORE (Burkina Faso) : Notre délégation tient tout d'abord à remercier le Directeur exécutif, M. Ingram, pour son exposé préliminaire plein d'informations. Nous avons suivi avec une attention particulière son intervention sur les efforts fournis par le PAM pour répondre à des situations d'urgence comme la crise alimentaire africaine ou, tout récemment, les tragiques événements en Colombie.

Nous tenons à rendre hommage au Directeur exécutif du PAM, au personnel du PAM, à la communauté internationale et aux donateurs des efforts consentis pour sauver de nombreuses vies humaines dans plusieurs régions du monde.

Nous nous félicitons du fait que, sur la proposition du Directeur exécutif, le CPA ait recommandé une décomposition de l'objectif de contributions en denrées alimentaires et en espèces. A ce propos, il y a lieu de relever l'importance et la nécessité des disponibilités en espèces pour le Programme. Ces espèces permettent au Programme d'apporter un appui précieux aux pays bénéficiaires dans les domaines du transport, du stockage et des communications. Nous encourageons le PAM dans les opérations triangulaires et, comme l'a dit le Directeur exécutif dans son exposé préliminaire, l'amélioration de la production vivrière dans certains pays d'Afrique, cette année, devrait permettre au PAM d'intensifier ses efforts en ce sens.

En ce qui concerne plus particulièrement l'objectif proposé, comme nous l'avons indiqué lors de la dernière session du CPA, nous aurions préféré un objectif plus élevé. Toutefois, dans un esprit de conciliation, nous avons accepté cet objectif comme base de référence en espérant que, lors de la Conférence de contributions, en 1986, cet objectif pourra être dépassé par des contributions volontaires supplémentaires, tant il est vrai que les demandes de financement de projets ne feront que se multiplier et que le programme lui-même est en mesure d'amplifier ses activités.

Michael A. COMMINS (Australia): We listened with considerable interest to Mr Ingram's important and thought-provoking statement and we thank him for it. We wish to reaffirm our support for the proposed nature and size of the target which, as other speakers have noted, is the product of a compromise achieved after a frank and cordial discussion between the 20th Session of the CFA, the governing body of the WFP, in the best traditions of cooperation between countries working together in a multilateral system.

As we underlined at the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council the decision of the CFA was not only in recognition of the continuing and diverse needs for food aid but also a reflection of the high regard which all countries have for the Executive Director, senior management and staff of the WFP, for the relevancy, efficiency and effectiveness of its Field Programmes. We congratulate WFP for its significant achievements especially with regard to the crisis situation in Africa. We join with other delegations in urging additional donors to come forward to augment contributions of the traditional donors in an endeavour to achieve the target; This is particularly important at a time of increased and competing demands on the finite resources of traditional donors.

We also attach importance to triangular transactions and are presently working with the WFP in exchanging Australian wheat for other grain in food surplus African countries to meet continuing food aid needs in neighbouring states. At present more than one-half of Australia's food aid is channelled through the WFP and more than one-third of the value of our contribution to the Programme is provided in cash.

Turning now to item 17, we are heartened by the constructive dialogue that now exists between WFP and FAO with regard to the implementation of the administrative measures consequent upon the report of the Secretary General and the Director-General of FAO. We look forward to considering and hopefully endorsing at the Twenty-first session of the CFA a conclusive report of the outcome of this very important exercise so that we can reaffirm our support in a significant way for WFP.

We are also confident that a number of other relationship issues of special concern to the WFP and to Australia will also be settled amicably and speedily. These relate to some remaining aspects of negotiations concerning the basis of costing of services provided by the FAO and to the pressing need to overcome the present serious Headquarters accommodation.

Finally we fully endorse the text of the draft resolution as presented and recommend that it be approved by the Conference.

Sr. Ricardo MARTINEZ MUÑOZ (Namibia): Felicidades al Sr. Ingram por la presentación que ha hecho del tema. La Delegación de Namibia considera pragmático el nuevo enfoque de la Promesa de contribuir parte en dinero y parte en productos para 1987/88. Esta nueva modalidad es realmente constructiva y merece nuestro apoyo.

La Delegación de Namibia apoya el proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento C 85/LIM/5 pero reitera que se haga un llamado vigoroso a los donantes actuales y en potencia para que en la próxima Conferencia de Promesas se logre alcanzar y superar esta finalidad.

La Delegación de Namibia apoya plenamente la política diseñada por el Director Ejecutivo sobre transacciones triangulares del Programa para que, con los actuales excedentes de algunos países africanos, se encuentre la posibilidad o la oportunidad de prestar ayuda a los pobres africanos con cereales cultivados por agricultores africanos.

La Delegación de Namibia, cuyo territorio ha recibido de la FAO proyectos de asistencia y del PMA ayuda alimentaria para sus habitantes, registra con beneplácito las excelentes relaciones existentes entre dichas instituciones lo mismo que con la UNICEF, vinculación que tanto contribuye a aunar esfuerzos en favor -de los países en desarrollo.

Queremos destacar la forma eficaz con que el PMA ha operado en casos de emergencia en Africa y América Latina, en las últimas tragedias que han azotado a esas regiones.

Ibrahima KABA (Guinée): L'exposé du Directeur exécutif, M. Ingram, est profondément édifiant; les vérités qu'il a prononcées telles "les Africains ont faim parce qu'ils sont pauvres" constituent réellement le fondement de notre civilisation. Ainsi, dans tous les cas l'aide alimentaire doit servir le développement dans tous les domaines: infrastructurel, social, productif, etc. A ce prix seul les pays en développement seront mis à l'abri du besoin urgent.

Quant au bref rapport sur les opérations d'assistance, les difficultés rencontrées, les efforts considérables réalisés, ces informations précises se recourent avec les nombreux films et interviews régulièrement présentés sur les écrans de télévision.

Nous félicitons le personnel de terrain pour son courage et son efficacité et nous remercions les donateurs. Nous apprécions particulièrement la promptitude de la réaction du PAM face à la catastrophe en Colombie.

Par ailleurs la délégation guinéenne a attentivement suivi en tant qu'observateur les importants travaux du CPA et ceux du Conseil concernant le point qui nous préoccupe. L'atmosphère de compréhension mutuelle et surtout le souci d'améliorer l'organisation et l'efficacité de l'aide alimentaire qui ont caractérisé les délibérations ont permis d'aboutir à des résultats fructueux. Ma délégation s'en félicite et pense donc que le projet de résolution qui nous est soumis mérite notre soutien; nous le considérons comme une ficelle solide qui soutient le Pacte de sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Par conséquent nous recommandons son approbation par notre Conférence.

Enfin, nous considérons les opérations triangulaires comme une solution appropriée de la coopération entre pays en développement, surtout en Afrique, et nous l'encourageons. Nous nous félicitons des excellentes relations de coopération entre le PAM et la FAO.

Hiroshi NAKAGAWA (Japan): Just for a minor clarification concerning the statement made by the representative from Namibia. I notice that he is the representative of Colombia so I would like to know how the Secretariat deals with the verbatim record.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quisiera explicar al distinguido Representante del Japón que el Consejo de las Naciones Unidas de Namibia, integrado por 31 Estados Miembros, designó a uno de esos 31 Estados Miembros, a Colombia, para que le representara en esta Conferencia. La situación fue consultada oportunamente al asesor legal de la Organización y, en esas condiciones, uno de esos 31 Estados Miembros (como en otra ocasión ha sido otro), un delegado de Colombia, representa a Namibia.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Permettez-nous tout d'abord de remercier M. Ingram, Directeur exécutif du PAM, qui a bien voulu venir passer quelques instants de son temps avec nous. Nous voulons le remercier aussi pour son propos liminaire fort précis concernant le document C 85/LIM/5.

Notre pays qui est membre à la fois du CPA et du Conseil a activement pris part aux intenses négociations qui ont abouti à la proposition du niveau de contributions de 1 400 millions de dollars E.-U. qui nous est soumise actuellement pour la période 1987-88. Devant les besoins intenses des pays en développement, nous pouvons dire sans nous tromper que ce niveau sera insuffisant. C'est pourquoi nous ressentons dès à présent la nécessité pour les donateurs d'envisager de faire des contributions supplémentaires.

Nous considérons pour notre part l'éclatement de l'objectif de contribution en deux éléments distincts, à savoir, 405 millions de dollars E.-U. et 3,25 millions de tonnes de produits, comme une innovation, et bien qu'un certain nombre de pays aient déjà exprimé les difficultés qu'ils risquent d'éprouver en raison de la réglementation en vigueur chez eux pour contribuer dans la proportion voulue à cet objectif, nous tenons à souligner la nécessité qu'ils contribuent malgré tout en espèces car le PAM en a besoin pour faire face à un certain nombre de frais et nous pensons en particulier au coût de transport des produits qui seront mis à disposition.

Nous saisissons cette occasion supplémentaire pour dire tout le bien que le Gouvernement du Congo pense du PAM avec qui il entretient d'excellentes relations. Nous réaffirmons donc à cette occasion le soutien de notre gouvernement au PAM, à son personnel ainsi qu'à son Directeur exécutif, M. Ingram, pour l'oeuvre accomplie.

Bien que nous aurions aimé voir retenu un objectif plus élevé, par souci d'équilibre nous sommes prêts à accepter que le niveau de contribution qui nous est proposé, à savoir 1 400 millions de dollars E.-U., puisse rencontrer notre appui, et c'est à ce titre que nous sommes prêts à souscrire au projet de résolution proposé à la Conférence aux fins d'approbation de ce niveau de contribution.

Nous lançons un vibrant appel aux donateurs pour qu'ils prennent part massivement à la prochaine conférence prévue pour le début de l'année 1986 et nous espérons vivement qu'ils pourront y donner suite. Nous appuyons les opérations triangulaires et nous nous félicitons du bon climat de travail qui règne actuellement entre le PAM et la FAO.

Daniel Konan YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Je crois qu'il est indéniable que le Programme alimentaire mondial fonctionne à notre satisfaction tant ici à Rome que sur le terrain car il a soulagé rapidement et aussi largement qu'il est possible les nombreuses victimes de la faim, et des catastrophes naturelles qui se produisent encore trop souvent, et cela en dépit des problèmes de logistique qui ne sont pas toujours de son fait.

C'est pourquoi mon gouvernement souscrit au projet de résolution qui nous est présenté, notamment à l'objectif des 1 400 millions de dollars E.-U. tel que formulé dans le document C 85/LIM/5, et que les pays donateurs certainement rempliront.

Mon gouvernement est aussi satisfait de constater que de plus en plus l'aide aux projets de développement prend le pas sur l'aide d'urgence quoi que cette dernière reste encore à un niveau élevé. C'est à notre avis la vraie direction à suivre si l'on veut arriver à effacer progressivement le spectre de la faim sur notre continent.

M. Ingram nous a présenté avec précision les activités du Programme et si je ne me trompe pas, je crois avoir entendu que début 1986 le PAM aidera les pays qui le souhaitent à préparer leurs projets. C'est une initiative en matière de formation qui rencontre notre adhésion.

J'aurai terminé quand j'aurai exprimé ici devant la Conférence la satisfaction de tous les groupes africains de constater l'amélioration constante des rapports à tous les niveaux entre le PAM et la FAO et le renforcement des relations du PAM avec le FIDA. Toutes ces agences du système des Nations Unies doivent rester très proches les unes des autres et joindre quotidiennement leurs efforts en les coordonnant davantage sur le terrain.

Hussein AL-AHMAD (Syria) (original language Arabic): Allow me first to express our deep gratitude to Mr Ingram, Executive Director of the World Food Programme. We also wish to thank all the Programme's staff for the immense efforts they have undertaken and will continue to undertake to save the lives of millions of human beings.

We wish to declare our full satisfaction with the proposed targets. We find the Programme is a reasonable one and we wish to express our approval of it.

Hiroshi NAKAGAWA (Japan): The Japanese delegation is pleased to join with many previous speakers in supporting the draft resolution on the new pledging target of US\$ 1.4 billion formulated at the last session of the CFA. Since the gaps between the targets and actual pledges have gradually been increasing over recent years, and given that the existing donor countries share the burden in making the contributions, we hope that efforts will be made by WFP to seek out new possible donors in order to mobilize additional resources.

Concerning the cash portion of the target, I would like to underline the importance that all donors comply with the WFP General Regulations stipulating that donors should aim at providing a cash component of at least one-third of the total contribution.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation commends WFP for its successful achievement and efficient management so far made in the field of development food aid as well as in emergency assistance, particularly in Africa, and we express our continuous support to the World Food Programme.

M. Afzaf QADIR (Pakistan): We could like in the first instance to sincerely congratulate Mr Ingram on the characteristic clarity with which he has made his presentation, illuminating the areas and situations of concern to WFP which triggered a prompt response from it.

Being ourselves a beneficiary of the Programme's activities, both on account of emergency and food for development projects, we are beholden to the Programme, and particularly the Executive Director, for the enviable record of service that the Programme has been able to build for itself.

I would like to give expression of our gratitude to the small staff of the Programme by citing a quotation from the late Sir Winston Churchill, though Sir Winston Churchill made this remark in a different context: "Never perhaps in the history of mankind was so much owed by so many to so few."

We commend the Programme's role in helping the countries afflicted by hunger and famine, especially in Africa, and for extending valuable assistance to developing countries in the form of food-for-work development projects.

On still another front, the Programme is assisting the poorer countries, that is in waging a war against malnourishment. We note with encouragement the collaboration of the Programme with UNICEF.

We have been informed by Mr Ingram that in 1984-85 12 million tons of food aid were provided, of which 20 percent was handled by WFP. While this is a highly laudable record, it should not give us any cause for satisfaction because it demonstrates the enormity of suffering which still afflicts our world. Therefore it is high time that the developing countries and the international community gave some thought to the question of coming to grips with the root cause of the problem. Hunger is no doubt symptomatic of poverty, but poverty can also be self-perpetuating if it generates over-dependence.

It gives me great pleasure, Mr Chairman, to inform you and the house that Pakistan in its own modest way continues to pledge food for the Programme's activities to help it fight against famine and to respond to emergencies.

Having said what I have just said, we welcome the proposed target of US\$ 1.4 billion for the biennium 1987-88. It is our confident hope that the international community in its traditional display of solicitude for the poor and the deprived will come forward in more than fulfilling the target set for the ensuing biennium.

T.E. KITLELI (Lesotho): Please allow my delegation to express its thanks and appreciation to Mr Ingram, the Executive Director of WFP, who has without fail enlightened us on the existing operational activities of WFP.

We take it that this item on the agenda features very high because it focuses upon the livelihood of human beings. My delegation would not like to repeat what Mr Ingram said during the early part of this afternoon, but it wishes fully to agree with him that the African Continent has problems. Among those, my delegation can mention the economic crisis, natural disasters and political ones.

My delegation fully associates itself with the statement presented by the delegate of Malawi. My delegation has already expressed its views on this item in previous fora. However, as duty bound, we wish to register our full support to the proposed pledging target.

It is gratifying to note that there will be another session next year, 1986, reflecting on some of the ideas presented today. My delegation definitely commends the Executive Director for such an excellent initiative. My delegation holds firmly that the planned conference for 1986 will provide a golden opportunity to have cross pollination of ideas for the purpose of bettering those countries, in particular Africa, which are still struggling to improve their living standards.

My delegation is also encouraged to note the good relationship that exists between FAO and WFP and we hope it continues. My delegation once more echoes its support on the far-sightedness of the Organization. In conclusion, my delegation endorses the resolution presented to us.

H. REDL (Austria) (original language German): First I would like to sincerely thank Mr Ingram for the introduction he gave on this point of the agenda. It is with great interest that my

country consistently follows the activities of WFP. In particular, we would welcome the organization of aid measures for the region of Africa and we congratulate you on the organization of triangular transactions.

Since the WFP came into existence, its activities have been supported by Austria in the form of cash and kind contributions. We also believe that in the future, food aid will continue to be necessary and therefore in future we will continue to support the work performed by the World Food Programme. We can agree to the suggested pledging target for the biennium 1987-88 to the tune of US\$ 1 400 million.

Sadok DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Au nom de la délégation tunisienne, je tiens à saluer M. Ingram et à lui adresser mes vifs remerciements, ainsi qu'à l'ensemble du personnel du PAM, pour les louables services rendus à l'humanité.

Je tiens également à féliciter le Directeur exécutif pour son excellent exposé et sa parfaite introduction à cet important point de notre ordre du jour concernant l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour l'exercice biennal 1987-88.

Je voudrais souligner le rôle important que joue l'aide alimentaire destinée tant au développement qu'aux urgences. La capacité du PAM à gérer efficacement un volume de plus en plus croissant d'aide alimentaire n'est plus à démontrer, et sa grande expérience en la matière n'a fait que renforcer son action. Il constitue de ce fait l'organisation fondamentale de transmission de l'aide alimentaire multilatérale.

Nous tenons à rendre hommage au Programme alimentaire mondial pour les réalisations accomplies dans le domaine de l'assistance au développement, ainsi que pour l'aide d'urgence fournie particulièrement aux pays africains victimes de la sécheresse qui a sévi au cours de la dernière décennie.

Le document dont nous sommes saisis concernant l'objectif de contribution du PAM pour les années 1987-88 traite d'un sujet auquel est lié l'avenir du Programme et essentiellement celui des pays qui ont besoin d'aide alimentaire.

Ma délégation appuie fermement le texte de la résolution qui est soumis à notre approbation dans le document C 85/LIM/5. Nous aurions souhaité que cet objectif soit plus élevé et corresponde aux chiffres indicatifs initialement annoncés à la vingtième session du CPA.

Ma délégation accueille favorablement la proposition de fixer l'objectif en tonnes pour les produits et en dollars pour les espèces. Cette procédure constitue une amélioration car elle est plus conforme au fonctionnement du PAM.

Ma délégation est également favorable au soutien des opérations triangulaires permettant à certains pays africains d'utiliser leurs excédents pour fournir en céréales cultivées d'autres pays africains moins fortunés. Nous apprécions particulièrement l'aspect de solidarité de ces opérations et nous souhaiterions les voir s'élargir.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): We can fully support the resolution on the World Food Programme Proposed Pledging Target as it stands in document C 85/LIM/5. We would like to emphasize the importance of monitoring and evaluation of the food-for-work projects in particular on the aspects of governments' participation. Therefore, we would like to urge all parties concerned to join efforts in order to strengthen the efficiency of the evaluation service. It is my Government's intention to make use as much as possible of the so-called triangular transactions, especially now that some African countries seem to have recovered so far that they may even have surpluses in food production.

In conclusion my delegation wants to express its general appreciation of the WFP activities and we very much welcome the good spirit of cooperation that now seems to prevail in the relationship between WFP and FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: La delegación de Mauritania ha enviado un texto que, con la venia de la Comisión, se insertará en las actas.

Anwar KHALED (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen) (original language Arabic): Allow me first of all to express our gratitude and thanks to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for his clear presentation of the document under discussion.

We have followed with great attention the contents of all the documents dealing with the World Food Programme in this Conference and especially the document currently before us which deals with the proposed Pledging Target for 1987-88.

My delegation had thought that the earlier figure was the appropriate figure considering the world economic situation and the vital tasks that still befall the Programme. My country has a long and successful experience and relationship with the Programme which is financing a number of development projects in several fields in my country.

We fully appreciate the support and we appreciate the enthusiasm and the dedication of the staff of the Programme at headquarters and in the field. We would like therefore to declare our full support for the proposed target and Resolution. We support the division of the pledge into 3.25 million tons of food and US\$405 million in cash and we call on and urge all donors to fulfill their pledges. We further support the Executive Director's policies on triangular transactions.

Guillermo E. GONZALEZ (Argentina): Deseamos también unirnos a las felicitaciones tan justamente formuladas al Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, Sr. Ingram, tanto por la presentación que nos hiciera del tema, como fundamentalmente por la excelente labor desarrollada por ese Organismo y por usted, Sr. Director Ejecutivo, al frente de esa Organización.

La delegación argentina ha apoyado en el CPA, en el Consejo de la FAO y aquí el proyecto de resolución, fijando el objetivo de contribuciones en un nivel de 1 400 millones de EE.UU. dólares. Sabemos perfectamente que esa cifra es producto de amables negociaciones, pero estamos convencidos de que, con la firme voluntad de la comunidad internacional, podremos alcanzar, sin mayores dificultades, ese objetivo.

La Argentina, a pesar de las dificultades que afectan a los países en desarrollo, ha participado en las labores del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y lo continuaremos haciendo hasta el límite de nuestras posibilidades. Es en este concepto, señor Presidente, que participaremos y anunciaremos en el foro y en el momento adecuado, el nivel de nuestra contribución para el período' de 1986-87.

Sin embargo, deseo en esta ocasión informar de que he recibido en el día de hoy instrucciones para hacer conocer al Programa Mundial de Alimentos y a esta sala que el gobierno argentino ha dispuesto realizar una contribución adicional, correspondiente al año 1985, de 18 000 toneladas de cereales, divididos en 15 000 toneladas de trigo y 3 000 toneladas de maíz, todas ellas con destino a los países más afectados de Africa. Esta modesta contribución tiende a colaborar con nuestros hermanos de Africa en un momento difícil, en el que creemos que la comunidad internacional debe reconocer la prioridad de ese continente.

Por último, y en otro orden de cosas, deseo también dejar constancia de nuestro firme apoyo a las llamadas operaciones triangulares, que sin lugar a dudas tienen un efecto beneficioso, de carácter multiplicador, para todos los países en desarrollo.

Sra. Doña Mercedes RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Estamos particularmente complacidos por la presentación hecha por el Sr. Ingram de este tema, pero quisiera enfatizar dos aspectos de la misma que me parecen de gran relevancia.

En primer lugar, el compromiso del PMA de utilizar la ayuda alimentaria para el desarrollo. En efecto, no podríamos entender que fuera de otra manera. El objetivo primordial -repito, primordial- de la ayuda alimentaria debe convertirse en un cauce o bien en un complemento del desarrollo. Si bien sabemos que la ayuda es puramente de emergencia, con propósitos humanitarios puede o tiende a ser deducida de la ayuda para el desarrollo, no sería conveniente plantearla como opuesta o en competencia.

Confiamos en que el Programa sabrá encontrar fórmulas para administrar la ayuda, incluso la de emergencia, en una forma que sea compatible con el objetivo común del desarrollo.

Otros de los aspectos que me ha llamado la atención es la mención hecha por el Director Ejecutivo de que en Africa la crisis alimentaria ha sido provocada sólo en parte por la sequía. De esta afirmación podemos sacar dos conclusiones. En primer lugar, que los problemas alimentarios de Africa son de carácter estructural y, por lo tanto, para resolverlos hay que atacar esa causa. En segundo lugar, que este tipo de situaciones pueden presentarse igualmente en otros continentes.

Hay que estar muy alerta para evitar que esto suceda y el PMA puede ser de gran ayuda para prevenirlo, siguiendo de cerca la situación alimentaria de todas las regiones y proponiendo proyectos de mediano y largo plazo, cuyo efecto sea duradero y ayude a combatir esas causas estructurales que impiden a nuestros países la autosuficiencia, ya sea nacional o colectiva.

La delegación de México quiere expresar, en relación con el objetivo de promesas, que, si bien reconocemos que es el resultado de un delicado proceso de negociación, en el cual nosotros mismos participamos bajo la acertada dirección del Presidente del CPA, hubiéramos preferido que se adoptara la propuesta inicial del Director Ejecutivo, que combinaba las necesidades reales y creciente de todos los países en desarrollo y las posibilidades de los países donantes. A pesar de lo cual sólo nos queda apoyar plenamente el objetivo tal como fue negociado, expresando, sin embargo, que se debe hacer un esfuerzo por parte de todos los donantes y posibles donantes para lograr que el objetivo propuesto se logre y sea incluso superado.

Deseamos felicitar al Director Ejecutivo por haber presentado por primera vez un objetivo con dos elementos establecidos, los cuales facilitará sin duda las posibilidades del Programa para responder de una manera eficiente a las solicitudes de ayuda alimentaria.

No está de más añadir, de nuevo la solicitud a los grandes tradicionales donantes para que, al anunciar sus promesas de contribución, incluyan sus aportaciones a la RAIE y, sobre todo, para que se respete el contenido de los textos básicos y consideren que un tercio de sus contribuciones deben ser en efectivo.

Por último, deseo expresar el agradecimiento de mi Gobierno por la ayuda brindada con motivo del terremoto que dañó a la ciudad de México y por el hecho de que se responda en esa manera efectiva y oportuna en todos los casos de desastre, como el reciente de Colombia.

Nuestro apoyo total al PMA y solidaridad por este tipo de acciones.

Alex Louis TANIS (Haïti): Je commencerai par remercier M. Ingram de sa présentation édifiante et précise. La délégation d'Haïti appuie l'objectif des contributions volontaires de 1,4 milliard de dollars équivalant à 3,25 millions de tonnes de produits alimentaires aux prix courants et de 405 millions de dollars en espèces.

Ma délégation apprécie les réalisations du Programme telles qu'elles ont été décrites par le Directeur exécutif, M. Ingram, et note avec satisfaction l'économie et l'efficacité de sa gestion.

Ma délégation apprécie la ventilation de l'objectif de contributions proposé, en nature et en espèces, et regrette qu'un niveau plus élevé n'ait pas été atteint. Elle demande aux Etats Membres de faire tout ce qui est possible pour que les contributions soient versées en temps voulu et qu'à celles-ci viennent s'ajouter d'importantes contributions supplémentaires.

Ma délégation est reconnaissante au PAM de l'aide accrue accordée à l'Afrique. Elle estime que le PAM s'est acquitté avec brio de toutes les missions qu'il a réalisées, que ce soit dans le cadre de

ses interventions régulières, grâce auxquelles certains bénéficiaires ont pu mener des projets destinés à aider les petits exploitants à augmenter leur productivité et, partant, leurs revenus, que ce soit dans le cadre de ses interventions d'urgence, pour ne citer que l'Afrique, le Mexique et la Colombie. Et comment ma délégation passerait-elle sous silence le programme du "non food item", qui a servi d'appui à la conduite des nombreuses activités telles que la mise en place d'infrastructures routières, d'irrigation et de conservation du sol?

De plus, ma délégation espère que les Etats Membres répondront à l'appel du Secrétaire général et du Directeur général de la FAO et qu'ils sauront se montrer généreux quand la Conférence des contributions convoquée à cet effet se réunira au siège des Nations Unies, au début de 1986.

Pour conclure, ma délégation est satisfaite des opérations triangulaires et souhaite que la Conférence vote ce projet de résolution relatif à l'objectif de contributions du PAM pour la période 1987-88.

Douglas LINDORES (Canada): May I first express my 'deep appreciation to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr Ingram, for his introduction to this item. Canada is pleased to endorse the pledging target for the 1987-88 biennium as presented to this Conference by the governing body of the World Food Programme, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes. The level of the target represents very significant real growth over the level that will be realized in the present biennium and reflects our confidence in the WFP. The target is an ambitious one which in our view represents a certain compromise between the requirement to establish a realistic target in order to contribute to effective programming in the WFP on the one hand, while at the same time providing an incentive to encourage donors to even greater efforts.

We are somewhat more reserved about the decision to divide the target into cash and commodity components at current prices. A number of the major donors, for reasons relating to their budgetary processes, are unable to assume the commodity price risks that are inherent in commodity pledgee. In some circumstances the proposed system could in fact work against the overall interests of the Programme, in a situation of falling prices for example, or where a government deliberately pledges conservatively to ensure it will have the necessary budgetary allocations available to purchase the promised commodities during the Programme period. We nevertheless recognize the positive objectives of the Executive Director and are able to accept the wording of the proposed resolution.

Canada would urge the World Food Programme and its member governments not to forget the foundation of the World Food Programme's great success, its ability to use donated commodities effectively and efficiently for humanitarian and developmental purposes. It is in that context that my Government will keep the Programme's cash requirements under close on going review. I would like to repeat a very brief portion of the statement made by the head of the Canadian delegation in his statement to the Plenary: "The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, the Director-General of the FAO and the Secretary-General of the United Nations are all to be commended for recognizing and responding to the new requirements for the management of the World Food Programme. We support the full implementation and consolidation of these new relationships. This process, when completed, will help to ensure our continued and growing support for the World Food Programme." In this respect two items require urgent attention: a new and clarified basis of costing for charges made by the FAO for services provided to the World Food Programme, and a resolution of WFP's urgent problem of office accommodation and the charges WFP pays for that accommodation.

In conclusion, let me ask the Executive Director to convey to his dedicated staff our deep gratitude for their extraordinary response, in addition to their normal activities, to the African crisis over the past year. When the definitive history of the world's response to this tragic situation is written, it will clearly record that the World Food Programme was in the forefront of meaningful and concrete action.

Mme SANGO Ya TAMBWE (Zaïre): Ma délégation tient à remercier M. Ingram pour l'exposé très clair qu'il a fait sur l'objectif de contributions pour 1987-88. Nous tenons à signaler que le Conseil

exécutif apprécie les activités du PAM qui, malgré les difficultés d'acheminement des produits dans ce vaste pays, a su épauler efficacement le gouvernement dans ses efforts en vue de résoudre le problème alimentaire des réfugiés. Ainsi, le Zaïre ne peut qu'appuyer l'objectif de contributions et il espère que la communauté des donateurs fera tout pour atteindre le niveau souhaité par le Directeur exécutif.

T.F.F. MALUZA. (Zambia): My delegation would like to thank and congratulate the Executive Director Mr Ingram, for his clear and excellent introduction to the subject under review. My delegation notes with appreciation the manner in which the WFP has been operating for the twenty years or so of its existence. Its work is fully supported by my delegation. The Executive Director, Mr Ingram, should be congratulated for the able manner in which he has managed the Programme. We support the target and the budget of the Programme for the next biennium, and would urge the world community and donors to also support it. The new system of budgetting in cash and commodities is fully supported.

My delegation is somewhat concerned about the scattering of office accommodation for the WFP staff. We would urge the Executive Director and FAO alike to do their utmost to house all FAO personnel here in Rome in one building.

With all its successes in emergency food operations, the time is now ripe for the WFP to give more and more attention to the development of food aid so as to enable the affected countries to produce their own food requirements. As emergency food requirements are under way, the WFP should help the affected countries who do not have the programmes to enable the people themselves to be producers. The means of production should be made available to the people. In this respect, fertilizer aid should be considered.

My delegation welcomes the emphasis which the Executive Director has put on triangular transactions: the need for such triangular transactions cannot be over-emphasized. My delegation is therefore urging donors to make available to the WFP enough cash to cover the money requirements for triangular transactions, as well as to meet inland transportation in the least developed countries, and more so in Africa.

The time is also ripe for the WFP to consider food aid for strengthening agricultural extension services in developing countries. This component should be incorporated into agricultural development food aid programmes.

The fact that the differences between FAO and WFP are now being solved and that the working relationship has improved means that the WFP is now in a better position to work out and execute programmes for the betterment of man in the developing countries, and particularly in Africa, where hunger and malnutrition are the order of the day. In all of this, my delegation has no doubt that FAO and WFP will work together in harmony and unity of purpose.

Once more, my delegation would like to give full support to the WFP Pledging Target and the Resolution which goes along with it.

JOHAN SYAHPERI SALEH (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian Government I would, like to convey our gratitude to the Executive Director and staff of WFP for their able management and efficient work which assures the management of the activities of WFP programmes in a satisfactory manner.

We in Indonesia, like the other developing countries, enjoy a very close cooperation with WFP. This cooperation is not only in development programmes in our country but also in meeting humanitarian needs such as the rice and edible oil supply for the Vietnamese refugees in Golong Islands, Indonesia.

We are pleased to express our full confidence in the satisfactory work undertaken by the Executive Director and staff in the future.

In conclusion, the Indonesian delegation expresses its full support for the Resolution and for the Pledging Target for 1987-1988.

Pinchai PONGPAET (Thailand): First, the Thai delegation would like to thank the Executive Director of WFP for his comprehensive introduction to this WFP's Proposed Pledging Target for 1987-88. We appreciate the activities of the Programme which provide extensive assistance to the needy people, especially in Africa.

My delegation would like to reaffirm its support for the proposed WFP Pledging Target for 1987-88. I would like to recall that the proposed target was recommended by the Committee for Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its Twentieth session and subsequently endorsed by the Council at its Eighty-eighth session early this month.

As a member of the Committee for Food Aid Policies and Programmes, my delegation would like to recall further that the proposed target was reached after long discussions among the friends of the Chair, under Mr Høstmark of Norway. My delegation wishes to take this opportunity to commend the Chairman's effort and the spirit of cooperation, especially among the major donor countries, which resulted in the proposed target as appears in the document C 85/LIM/5.

It is for the first time that the World Food Programme's Pledging Target has been presented separately in terms of food and cash. The merit of the proposal as initiated by the Executive Director lies in the fact that the cash will help the Programme to ship food to the needy people in time. It will strengthen the Programme's services and increase the Programme's activities in triangular transactions.

The role of WFP in helping to purchase food from developing countries to help developing countries cannot be over emphasized. Thailand as a developing country and net food exporter, would like to offer its full cooperation to the WFP in the exercise of triangular transactions.

In conclusion my delegation would like to endorse the resolution on WFP's Pledging Target for 1987-88 and urge the traditional donor countries to help the WFP to achieve the target.

R.W.M. JOHNSON (New Zealand): New Zealand fully supports the activities of the WFP. We appreciate the introductory remarks by Mr Ingram in opening the discussion, and we will be glad to continue to contribute milk-powder for the special objectives he described.

New Zealand supports the targets proposed in the resolution and approved by Council. New Zealand is considering its contribution to the proposed triangular arrangement in Africa. New Zealand will be considering its specific contribution towards the target for the 1987-88 biennium, but future support is guaranteed.

Abdel Moneim Mohamed EL-SHEIKH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): As a representative of one of the African countries which has been suffering from famine during the last two years and particularly in 1985, I would like to thank WFP for the important role it has played, not only in the field of supplies of food but also in its distribution. This shows the importance of WFP, particularly when very difficult circumstances prevail, and the WFP has demonstrated its ability to cope with these difficult situations. This action has therefore been the crowning of a number of WFP projects in Sudan, particularly concerning a number of specific development projects. The suffering which Africa has undergone during the last two years - which could strike other countries as well - this suffering, this crisis is not due to the drought nor to changes in climate; the deep-rooted reason for this crisis, as Mr Ingram said, is underdevelopment and the weakness of economic and social structures. This means that an effective remedy for Africa's dramatic situation has to be found, and it must involve development of local and national facilities and also increased production.

Such a task demands considerable efforts. It is a long term task which also demands considerable investment in terms of time and money by the developed countries. Until the developing countries have themselves become self-sufficient, their needs will continue and they will continue to need international support. The WFP can play a fundamental role in this field, particularly in connection with aid to carry out development projects.

In view of this, we feel that the invitation to us all to give support to this programme as laid down in the document which we are discussing is a target to which we would subscribe. We also call for international cooperation to support the programme, and would thank international cooperation for what it has done until now. In conclusion, I would like to thank the WFP for

the buying of agricultural produce from countries which have had good harvests in order to pass them on to countries which are suffering from a food shortage. The importance of this approach is that once we have achieved all the targets of the programme at a lower cost than envisaged, we will be able to help other agricultural sectors which might also be suffering from deficits due to an increase in prices. These countries will therefore be able to benefit from this food surplus, which will be of help to them in time of crisis. We hope that the other countries will follow this example in terms of buying food products from developing countries to be distributed to other developing countries.

Srta. Delia de VILLAMONTE (Panama): La delegación de Panamá desea en primer lugar agradecer al Director Ejecutivo por su clara introducción del tema. Igualmente deseamos felicitar por la eficaz y productiva labor en pro de la ayuda alimentaria multilateral, especialmente en los pueblos de Africa.

En cuanto al proyecto de Resolución de Promesas de contribución para el período 1987-88 mi delegación apoyó la misma en el último período del Consejo y brinda su total apoyo al proyecto a considerarse en esta Conferencia, en primer lugar la propuesta del Director Ejecutivo de alcanzar los objetivos de promesas tanto en alimentos como en divisas.

Igualmente apoyamos la convocatoria de una Conferencia de Promesas de Contribución a celebrarse a principios de 1988. Finalmente nos unimos al llamado del Director Ejecutivo señalado en el párrafo 64 relativo a la política de acción triangular y a la priorización del continente africano.

H. Peters STRONG (United States of America): My delegation thanks the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Mr James C. Ingram, for his introductory remarks. His concise and informative summary of the World Food Programme's activities over the past years was most welcome. The emergency situation in Africa has demanded an extra performance on the part of the World Food Programme, as the Executive Director has so clearly stated. My delegation takes this opportunity to commend not only the leadership of World Food Programme but also its small and dedicated staff who have sustained an extraordinary output over this particular period.

As a member of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes attending the most recent session of the CFA, my delegation reiterates here our expressions of appreciation for the work of the joint United Nations/FAO Task Force. We compliment the Executive Director of WFP and the Director-General of FAO for their cooperation and collaboration over the past months in the swift implementation of most of the recommendations of this Task Force. We have noted their assurances that the same diligent effort will continue as the remaining recommendations are carried out.

My delegation looks forward to the final report at CFA 21 in the spring of 1986. Further, we look forward to the continued harmony that recently has been apparent between FAO and WFP.

Finally the delegation of the United States of America joins in accepting the CFA proposed US\$ 1.4 billion Pledging Target for the biennium 1987-88 and urges the Conference's unanimous approval.

H. HØSTMARK (Norway): Please forgive our delegation for coming back again, but when we studied the agenda divided into two sub-items, we believed it best to divide the statement up the way it is now being delivered. In the first part we spoke about the Target and when in the Nordic statement we did that, we already congratulated the Executive Director and his staff for their dedicated work in development and emergency activities.

However, we could not let this occasion go by without commenting on the relationship between the WFP and FAO. The Nordic countries have taken an active interest in the work and decisions of the United Nations/FAO Task Force which was subsequently approved by the CFA. We would like to commend the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for the good progress that has been made to implement the changes envisaged and for the spirit of cooperation and harmony that is prevailing. We find this very encouraging.

The Nordic countries sincerely hope that the implementation process will continue in the same good atmosphere so that all changes can be carried out within the shortest possible time. We hope that the changes in the system of administration in the long run will result in significant improvements in efficiency and in the cost of administration.

The Nordic countries will continue to follow closely the implementation of the new administrative procedures and we are therefore looking forward to a full report being presented to the next CFA session in May. Finally, the Nordic countries support the Netherlands' call for an urgent solution to the World Food Programme housing problems.

AHMED SALEM OULD MOLOUD (Mauritanie): Mes remerciements à l'endroit du Directeur exécutif du PAM. Je ne peux que me féliciter de la noble tâche qu'effectue le PAM, la rapidité avec laquelle il a pu toucher un grand nombre des pays en difficulté malgré l'infrastructure souvent inexistante, le cas de certains pays enclavés.

La délégation de la Mauritanie approuve ce projet de résolution et demande aux autres délégations d'approuver cette résolution. 1/

James C. INGRAM (Executive Director, World Food Programme): I have very little to say, except to thank the many delegations who have intervened, for their expressions of support to the Programme, and their confidence in our work. I shall certainly convey to the staff the many expressions of appreciation; it is that sort of thing that heartens us and encourages us to go on with our best efforts.

I said in my opening remarks that I was confident that the target would be attained. I must say that the fifty or so presentations today make me feel even more confident that it will be attained. I think it is significant that not only is there unanimous support, but the manner in which the support was expressed is significant. In this regard, I would like to thank especially some of the developing countries who spoke this afternoon and indicated that they would continue to make contributions, and in some cases they would increase their contribution.

I would like to stress to all of you, especially those who are going back to your capitals, that the contributions of the developing countries are just as important in their way as those of the major contributors, because the parliaments of the developed countries regard the mutuality of effort in relation to the World Food Programme as an important reason for giving their support to the Programme.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès verbal.

So I ask all of you, no matter how small your pledge may be, to continue to make it and indeed, if possible, to increase it, and for those countries who do not currently pledge, I would urge them very much to do so. All contributions are welcome; the strength of the World Food Programme in many ways is the very breadth of the commodity basket. That breadth is made possible by the contributions of the developing countries. I think that is all I wish to say. Once again, my warmest thanks to the Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que tal vez es éste uno de los resúmenes más fáciles que me tocan, por cierto ya al final de nuestros temas de fondo, ya que ha habido un apoyo unánime. Creo que la Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en: destacar la importancia de las transacciones triangulares, así como el hecho de que además de la ayuda alimentaria y la asistencia de emergencia, también los proyectos de desarrollo son campo fundamental para la asistencia del PMA. Igualmente, se destacó el apoyo a la prioridad dada a Africa. También se insistió en la necesidad de que el Programa cuente con recursos y efectivos suficientes para facilitar el eficaz funcionamiento del mismo.

La Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en apoyar el nuevo enfoque considerado innovador, imaginativo y realista a la luz de las circunstancias cambiantes en cuanto a la nueva presentación de los objetivos para el bienio 1987/88, parte en productos, parte en dinero. La Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en que era necesario facilitar a todos los donantes la manera como debían seguir haciendo su contribución y, a ese respecto, reconoció la limitación de algunos importantes donantes en cuanto a sus procedimientos internos y agradeció a los representantes de esos países, importantes donantes, repito, la actitud constructiva en el seguimiento del CPA y también les instaron a sumarse al apoyo de ese nuevo enfoque.

Algunas delegaciones manifestaron que habrían preferido que el CPA hubiera recomendado el más alto objetivo, originalmente propuesto por el Director Ejecutivo. Otras delegaciones señalaron que ese objetivo representaba el crecimiento real en relación con otros bienes y fue así como, por unanimidad, la Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en que este objetivo representaba un compromiso realista y lo apoyó plenamente.

La Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en manifestar su complacencia al Director General de la FAO y al Director Ejecutivo del PMA por las relaciones existentes entre los dos organismos, y expresó su esperanza de que esta situación se prolongue de esa manera favorable y de que, en el informe final, que a ese respecto se someterá a la próxima reunión del CPA se hayan ya encontrado soluciones para aquellos asuntos aún pendientes, particularmente los relacionados con las Oficinas del PMA.

Entiendo que la Comisión estuvo de acuerdo en reconocer y agradecer la contribución de todos los donantes al PMA y también apoyó el llamamiento que hizo el CPA para que todos los donantes tradicionales y potenciales continúen fortaleciendo su asistencia al PMA.

Igualmente, creo que todos estamos de acuerdo en reconocer la manera abnegada en que los funcionarios del PMA cumplen sus funciones sobre todo en momentos tan difíciles para algunas poblaciones del mundo. Entiendo también que todos hemos estado de acuerdo en reconocer la labor eficaz e importante que cumple el PMA bajo la buena dirección de usted Sr. Ingram, nuestro Director Ejecutivo.

Si me permiten, al final de este breve ensayo de resumen, deseo asumir por unos minutos mi condición de Representante de Colombia para agradecerle a usted Sr. Ingram y a los miembros de la Comisión la asistencia inmediata que se ofreció a mi país. El Gobierno colombiano, con el que he estado en contacto constante, me ha manifestado reiteradamente que está muy reconocido por esa asistencia que fue oportuna y valiosa, lo que le agradezco muy sinceramente a usted y a los miembros de esta Comisión en nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo colombiano.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de la Comisión podemos terminar. Naturalmente entiendo que lo que yo acabo de resumir es un poco desordenado, pero pasará al Comité de Redacción. Sólo me resta agradecer al Sr. Ingram y a todas las personas que le han acompañado su valiosa asistencia y su gratísima compañía en esta Sala Roja.

- 18. Relations and Consultations with International Organizations: (continued)
- 18. Relations et consultations avec les organisations internationales: (suite)
- 18. Relaciones y consultas con organizaciones internacionales: (continuación)

- 18.1 Recent Developments in the UN System of Interest to FAO (continued)
- 18.1 Faits nouveaux survenus dans le Système des Nations Unies et intéressant la FAO (suite)
- 18.1 Novedades recientes en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas de interés para la FAO (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, hace poco les han distribuido el documento C 85/LIM/33 que comprende el séptimo Informe del Comité de Resoluciones. Espero que la forma un poco inmediata como se les ha distribuido no les ofrezca dificultades. Se trata esencialmente de que, de acuerdo con las reglas de la FAO, es necesario que el proyecto de resolución sobre la mujer en el medio rural, que la distinguida delegación de Venezuela en asociación con otros delegados presentó a esta Comisión bajo el tema 18, deba tener aquí, por lo menos, un brevísimo debate para poder transmitir las orientaciones de ustedes al Comité de Redacción. En este documento notarán ustedes que el Comité de Resoluciones se ocupó del proyecto de resolución sobre la mujer en el medio rural, repito, y que introdujo un cambio en el párrafo 2 de la parte dispositiva.

Les ruego que si no hay observaciones de fondo sobre este proyecto de resolución, que recoge también las inquietudes de las distinguidas colegas de los Países Nórdicos, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, México, Granada y otros, podemos pasarlo al Comité de Redacción y, naturalmente, esta Comisión volverá a ocuparse del asunto cuando sea discutido en la Plenaria el tema 18.1.

Srta. Delia de VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Solamente para precisar algunas correcciones de forma. En el punto 2, en la versión original, y creo que ha sido una omisión, tenemos: el desarrollo de las tareas en la agricultura, pesca y recursos forestales. Habría que agregar el señalamiento a recursos forestales. Igualmente en el punto 3 dispositivo, querríamos hacer un agregado a efectos de precisar simplemente, si el Comité tiene a bien aprobarlo, y se refiere a, después de Estados Miembros agregar: "por intermedio de los órganos competentes de la Organización acerca del seguimiento de esta resolución." Simplemente para precisar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tomo nota de las observaciones que se trasladarán también al Comité de Redacción. Si no hay ningún otro comentario pasaremos el proyecto de resolución al Comité de Redacción. Hemos así concluido este tema terminando los puntos de fondo de nuestro programa, como les dije al principio de la reunión de esta mañana, gracias al rendimiento de nuestros trabajos.

Sra. Doña Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente quiero tomar la palabra para agradecer, como representante de este proyecto de resolución, a los patrocinadores que a bien tuvieron prestar su apoyo para presentar la resolución y, además, a todos aquellos otros delegados de los países, que me sería muy largo enumerar, que tuvieron a bien darnos su apoyo después de que la resolución fue presentada.

Creo que esta es la mejor evidencia de que la resolución tendrá un final feliz cuando lleguemos a la Plenaria, y agradecemos a los otros países que faltan por darnos su apoyo para ver si logramos la unanimidad cuando sea presentado el proyecto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que todos compartimos la buena esperanza de nuestra distinguida colega la embajadora de Venezuela.

Me dice la Secretaría que Dominica ha pedido que se incluya en las actas una declaración relacionada con el proyecto de resolución a que nos referíamos antes.

Ms Hannelore BENJAMIN (Dominica): On behalf of the Government of Dominica I would like to express our full support on the draft resolution for 'Women in the Rural. World'.

We endorse the position of Venezuela, Canada, Panama and many other countries who spoke in support.

FAO's emphasis on the "Women in the Rural World" could be promoted through special programmes that facilitate and ease the burden of these women as hard workers. IFAD has done much in this field. To name only one of its projects, the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh, where 60 percent of the Banks loan is received by women.

Through changes and given opportunities, the women in the rural world could have a .chance to develop their potentials, not only for productive activities but also to have greater prospects for providing a better future life for their children. 1/

The meeting rose at 17.50 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.50 horas

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

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

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C

C 85/II/PV/16

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTEENTH MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE
16° SESION

(26 November 1985)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.10 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 15 h 10,

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 16 sesión a las 15.10 horas

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

13. Review of the Regular Programme (continued)

13. Examen du Programme ordinaire (suite)

13. Examen del Programa Ordinario (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenas tardes colegas y amigos. Vamos a empezar nuestra reunión de esta tarde.

R.F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I ask for the floor with some reluctance at this late stage in our proceedings, but I have to seek the indulgence of the Commission in order to correct a statement made earlier in our proceedings by another delegation, commenting on an alleged position taken by the United Kingdom.

At the Commission's sixth meeting on 15 November, the distinguished delegate of India, when speaking on the subject of TCP, attributed words to my delegation in the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes which they did not in fact use in that forum. These words appear in the fifth paragraph of page 22 of the first draft of the verbatim record of this Commission, and the Indian delegate drew from this incorrect quotation a conclusion about the attitude of my delegation which I must reject. I will not repeat that erroneous quotation here; instead, I would like to inform the Commission of what exactly it was that the United Kingdom delegation said in the CFA on the occasion to which the distinguished delegate of India referred.

During a discussion on the WFP Pledging Target in the CFA on 30 September, the representative of the United Kingdom, commenting on the future need for food aid said - and here I quote from the Summary Record of the Meeting, WFP/CFA: 20/SR.2, paragraph 75: "Food aid was also a resource that could be produced in recipient as well as in donor countries. The Director-General of FAO has referred to the growing disparity between food surpluses in one part of the world and deficits in another part of the world. Efforts should be made to reduce that disparity: it was a counsel of despair to say that the developing world must continue to rely more and more on the crumbs from the rich man's table in the form of food aid."

It is not my intention to engage in a debate about the meaning of the remarks which I have just read. Delegations will draw their own conclusions, now that they know what was actually said. Indeed, I accept - and of course support - the right of any delegation to place its own interpretation of comments made by any other delegation; but I must insist that if that interpretation is to be deployed in public debate it should not be founded on an alleged quotation which is inaccurate. It is for this reason that I felt compelled to intervene at this late stage in order to set the record right.

R.C. GUPTA (India): This attempted clarification from the delegation of the United Kingdom in fact makes things a little more difficult for us. Mr Chairman, I would seek your indulgence and would like to read the entire paragraph, paragraph 75 of WFP/CFA: 20/SR.2. Kindly bear with me. It says: "On the first point, the document was somewhat disappointing, in that it assumed the existence and continued growth of the need." The need is denied. "Food aid, unlike other development resources, was not cost-free in terms of delivery." Nobody says it is. "The costs were rightly recorded in project documents and inevitably reduced the economic rate of return on projects. Food aid was also a resource that could be produced in recipient as well as in donor countries. The Director-General of FAO had referred to the growing disparity between food surpluses in one part of the world and deficits in another part of the world. Efforts should be made to reduce that disparity." After that, there is one thought. Then, all of a sudden, comes: "it was a counsel of despair to say that the developing world must continue to rely more and more on the crumbs from the rich man's table in the form of food aid."

We are not at all clear whose counsel it was, who in his right judgement, in his right senses would ever have said that the poor countries must continue to depend on the crumbs from the rich man's table in the shape of food aid. Whose thought it is I do not know. This makes me feel, and I believe many among us would agree, that this thought comes from the delegation that was speaking. All that I said was, in different words, I do not claim to know the English language as well as the United Kingdom delegation would, because it is their mother language and not mine, but any person putting a literal translation or meaning on the words which were spoken would exactly mean the same thing, that the poor countries should not continue to depend upon the crumbs from the rich man's table and should stand on their own legs. This is precisely what I said and this is what the sentence means.

This is completely out of context, this thought was not stated by anybody, it was not contained in any document, it was not contained in anybody's statement. It was a thought which emanated from the United Kingdom delegation and I drew the attention of this Commission to that thought, to that accusation, to that slant, to that insult which was levied, which was hurled on the developing countries in general.

This is all I want to say, but if the delegation of the United Kingdom wants to assure us that this was not their intention, not their meaning, that they did not mean to say what they actually said, I will accept that and let us close this chapter.

R.F.R. DEARE (United Kingdom): I said when I made my statement that I did not intend to engage in a debate this afternoon about the meaning of what the United Kingdom said. We know what we meant and I simply wanted to correct the record. I do not think this Commission will thank me if I launch a debate this afternoon about food aid under the WFP Pledging Target. We will return to this subject at some future date, on a more appropriate occasion. For the moment, I simply want my words to be included in the verbatim record of this meeting.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que la Comisión estará de acuerdo conmigo en que no convendrá que se haga ningún comentario distinto al hecho de que, como es natural, las declaraciones hechas esta tarde figurarán en las actas.

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

12. Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

12. Programa de La-bores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I also am a little out of order in craving the indulgence of this Commission and your good self, in order to inform the Commission that it has been discussed and agreed among the countries in the African region, in particular, that we should introduce a resolution to this Commission which we believe and strongly feel should be included in the records. We are also of the opinion that it might assist us in our efforts on the Rinderpest Campaign.

The resolution aims basically at two issues, essentially to coordinate action through the FAO and at the same time to urge donor agencies who have not yet, although they have the intention of doing so, declared or launched the PLRC. We take into consideration that the Campaign has not yet been launched, even though it has been previously announced. During this procrastination we are very worried that there is a continuous threat of the disease and this is creating fears and causes for alarm within the African countries.

We crave your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, we are fully aware of the consequences of introducing a sensitive topic of this nature, we would wish very sincerely not to disrupt the smooth flow of this Commission, but ask if you could use your good offices to accommodate the interests of the countries in the African region to introduce such a resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la declaración que acaba de hacer el distinguido colega y amigo Sr. Palmer, quien había tenido la gentileza de informar a la Presidencia acerca del hecho de que Sierra Leona y otros estados africanos se proponían presentar esta tarde un proyecto de resolución sobre la Campaña Panafricana contra la Peste Porcina. Como lo ha dicho el Sr. Palmer, la parte dispositiva de ese proyecto de resolución contiene exhortaciones a organismos donantes y alguna solicitud genérica a la FAO para que continúe prestando ayuda de urgencia a los países afectados. A fin de atender esa solicitud de los países africanos, nos hemos puesto en contacto con los Sres. Milán Trkulja, Presidente del Comité del Programa y, en esa condición, Presidente del Comité de Resoluciones y Sole-Leris, Secretario de ese Comité, quienes han ofrecido sus buenos oficios para que el Comité de Resoluciones estudie ahora, inmediatamente, alrededor de las 4 de esta tarde, este proyecto de resolución, cuyo contenido pasaría directamente a esta Sesión, puesto que el Comité de Redacción ya no se vuelve a reunir después de las jornadas verdaderamente maratónicas que ha cumplido ese Comité de Redacción.

Si no hay ningún comentario por parte de los miembros de esta Comisión decidiremos así. Naturalmente, el texto del proyecto de resolución se considerará en esta Sesión apenas se disponga del documento correspondiente que deberá surgir del Comité de Resoluciones. Se procede así.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

Ahora vamos a entrar en el verdadero objetivo de nuestra reunión de esta tarde. El Comité de Redacción ha trabajado excepcionalmente, como nunca, en esta casa: 65 horas de trabajo con un costo adicional de 70 000 dólares, el valor de un pequeño proyecto de PCT para uno de los países menos adelantados.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (Chairman, Drafting Committee): It is certainly true that the Drafting Committee has worked long and hard to present the portions of the report which members of the Commission have in hand. There is, I believe, yet another portion of the report to come, and we finished our work just this morning.

In beginning my remarks, I would wish to extend my thanks, as Chairman, to the members of the Committee for the attitude in which they approached its work. Each member of the Committee was quite punctilious in discharging his duty to represent the views of his government and those of the other governments of the region which he represented. As I told the Committee members this morning, I think the Commission owes each one a debt of gratitude because this was done in a manner which would allow reaching compromise solutions in a number of issues which were rather difficult to resolve "and which, under other circumstances, might even have proved incapable of resolution.

We worked weekends, we worked long nights, we did not come to our conclusions without clear consideration of all the elements that were involved in them. It might, in fact, have been possible for us to arrive at some of those conclusions in a lesser period of time. I suspect that had the Committee done so the conclusions reached would have been less acceptable to the Commission than I hope these will prove to be.

It is, of course, for the Commission and ultimately for the Conference itself to judge the quality and the acceptability of the work of this Drafting Committee. I should hope, however, that members of the Commission and members of the Conference will agree with the assessment that I would put forward that these conclusions have taken into account the varying views of members and have, once again, with some difficulty at times, reached a balance in those views so that the conclusions would be acceptable to the membership as a whole.

I certainly have no hesitation, as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, in commending these portions of the report to your consideration and that of the Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, en nombre de la Comisión reitero nuestro más cordial reconocimiento al Sr. Jennings y a los representantes de gobiernos que le acompañaron en esa importante tarde. Espero que todos compartamos con el Sr. Jennings la esperanza de que este intenso trabajo pueda ser adecuadamente utilizado por este pleno de la Comisión. Antes de proceder a la discusión del informe, voy a conceder la palabra a la Asistente de la Secretaria para que haga algunas aclaraciones sobre los textos.

Ms. Claude FORTHOMME (Assistant. Secretary, Commission II): This is to inform you of two points: one regards REP/5, the Resolution on Rural Women. It was decided to include the title of Agenda Item 8 of the "World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women". The title would be "Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women up to the Year 2000". This comes at the end of the paragraph "Taking into account Agenda Item 8" and the title is "Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women up to the Year 2000".

Also there are several errors in the various language translations which will be corrected, each version will be in line with the English text. I wish to point out that in the French version, and this concerns the French version only, the Resolution on ECDC/TCDC was put on paragraph 20 when it should have been paragraph 16.

In the Spanish version of the "Resolution on Rural Women", again this is REP/5, operative paragraph two should read, and I will read in Spanish.

El dispositivo 2 debería referirse a "... la ejecución de todos los programas y proyectos de la FAO."

EL PRESIDENTE: Los cambios hechos me llevan a recordarles que la traducción y la impresión de estos documentos se hace sobre la marcha del tiempo. Por lo tanto, todos los textos serán ajustados a la versión original en que se han adelantado estos trabajos, y les recuerdo que, salvo que se tra-te de cambios de fondo, de sustancia, se abstengan de indicar cambios editoriales, letras más o menos, porque todo lo hará la Secretaría adecuada y oportunamente.

Como lo dijo nuestro colega y amigo el Sr. Jennings, Presidente del Comité de Redacción, la totalidad de nuestro Informe consta de seis documentos REP. El primero de ellos ya fue adoptado por esta Comisión y también por la Plenaria de la Conferencia sobre el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto.

Quiero recordarles también que estamos en un momento importante de nuestros trabajos, que debemos dedicarnos a que el resultado de nuestras deliberaciones se refleje en estos documentos, pero, al mismo tiempo, les rogaría que recuerden que no es ahora el momento de introducir elementos nuevos que no hayan sido planteados durante la discusión; que, por favor, no pronuncien más discursos y que aquellos cambios que quieran sugerirse sean hechos de manera clara, específica e indicando dónde y cómo desean que se introduzcan, leyendo lentamente los textos si fuera el caso.

Estoy seguro de que el Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción nos acompañarán a mantener, en la medida de lo posible, este texto fruto de tan intenso trabajo.

Maxiale MAHI (Cameroun): Vous m'excuserez de revenir sur le premier texte qui a été adopté. Il ne s'agit pas d'une rectification en tant que telle, mais je voudrais revenir sur l'expression "République-Unie du Cameroun". Cela nous a échappé, mais actuellement on ne dit plus "République-Unie du Cameroun", mais "République du Cameroun". Il faut le corriger car cette erreur pourrait être grave.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se procederá de conformidad. Usted está en su pleno derecho, y en todos los textos donde aparezca el nombre de su país, se pondrá República de Camerún.

Si no hay ningún comentario, les propongo que empecemos, con un poco de optimismo, REP por REP. y si hubiera dificultades, nos detuviéramos en aquellos párrafos controvertidos.

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - DEUXIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 15
PARRAFOS 1 a 15

Francisco FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): Hablando sobre nuestro texto en español, yo quisiera hacer un pequeño comentario general sobre este REP, en el sentido de que en el texto se otorgan una serie de calificativos y de elogios a la labor o al examen del Programa Ordinario que me parecen un poco exagerados si los comparamos con los que se dedican a otros programas y a otros documentos en los siguientes REP que vamos a analizar.

Por ejemplo, en el apartado 1, se dice que: "La Conferencia expresó su satisfacción por la estructura, el formato, y el contenido y la presentación del examen." En el apartado 2 se dice que es "una fuente completa." Se dice también que "La Conferencia reconoció la profundidad analítica y la objetividad del documento ..." En el apartado 3 se dice que "... es elemento esencial...". En el apartado 4 la denomina "equilibrada" y dice que "... hace una evaluación a fondo..." Para rematar, en el párrafo 5 dice que "... es fuente de información completa y útil..."

Yo creo que es decir demasiado de un documento presentado a este Comité. Y lo digo más en el sentido comparativo con los otros documentos presentados también a este Comité, y a los cuales no se aplican estos calificativos y estos elogios.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿El distinguido colega de España propone algunos cambio's en los párrafos 1 a 5?

Francisco FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): Nosotros proponemos que la Secretaría revise un poco estos datos, porque si nosotros tenemos que proponer una revisión, sería demasiado difícil para hacerlo así en el momento.

EL PRESIDENTE: Me permito observarle al colega de España que a estas alturas de nuestros trabajos, el Comité de Redacción ha presentado este texto, fruto del análisis de trece representantes de Gobiernos, y la Secretaría no puede proceder a ninguna modificación.

Francisco FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN: Señor Presidente, ni esto ha de quedar así, realmente insisto en que es injusto para los otros documentos tratados en esta Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si Ud. no propone ninguna modificación concreta, sus observaciones quedarán en las actas.

Paragraphs 1 to 15 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 15 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 15 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 16 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHE 16 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
PARRAFO 16 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

Joachim WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): I am sorry, please accept my apologies, I did not follow closely enough because the German translation always takes longer. I have to go back to paragraph 16, to the Resolution and despite the fact that the third paragraph has been revised and there is a reference to the Caracas Plan of Action, and Bucharest is also referred to, we would have preferred it if, as was promised in the Commission, the annex could give the relevant sections of text from the Caracas Plan of Action and the Bucharest Global Meeting.

As far as point 7 in the Resolution is concerned I would like to say we have no objection to the articles as such, I would simply like to remind you of the fact that this does not alter our opinion which we expressed in the past, namely that we are against the introduction of an additional category.

E.V. WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): I merely asked for the floor to support what was said by the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany.

EL PRESIDENTE: Según la traducción que recibió la Presidencia, la actitud del distinguido colega y amigo Sr. Winkel, de la República Federal de Alemania, ahora apoyada por el Reino Unido, nos permite tal vez observar - y no le concedo por ahora la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción en aras de la brevedad - el hecho de que entiendo que al final de nuestro debate, y me consta que la República Federal de Alemania planteó este asunto, se había sugerido que se anexaran los textos de los documentos citados, pero al final también se acordó que el Comité de Redacción nos indicaría la mejor manera de proceder.

Entiendo que las palabras, tal como fueron adoptadas al principio del tercer considerando de la resolución, satisfacen, a juicio del Comité de Redacción, las inquietudes que habían sido planteadas aquí. Noto que algunos miembros del Comité asienten y yo estoy seguro de que los colegas de la República Federal de Alemania y el Reino Unido estarán de acuerdo en aceptar entonces este texto, aunque naturalmente queda también en las actas su pleno derecho a que conste la opinión de ellos.

Sra. Doña Mercedes RUIZ ZAPATA (México): Señor Presidente: Sí, está usted totalmente correcto en su explicación de lo que sucede en el Comité de Redacción, pero además, ya que fue mi delegación la que ofreció poner estos documentos como anexos, sí considero necesario aclarar que el Comité de Redacción lo consideró y, sin embargo, pensamos que sería realmente ampliar demasiado el informe si incluíamos todos los documentos como anexos. Desde luego, están a disposición de quien los quiera y se los podemos distribuir en el momento necesario.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que así podemos terminar esta consideración del asunto, repitiendo que los colegas de la República Federal y el Reino Unido tienen pleno derecho a haber solicitado esta aclaración.

Paragraph 16, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 16, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 16, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 17 to 20

PARAGRAPHES 17 à 20

PARRAFOS 17 a 20

R.C. GUPTA (India): I just want to make a very small modification on paragraph 20 if the Commission approves. You will see that the action taken by the Director-General has been welcomed by the Commission and by the Conference, but the action taken by the Council has just been noted. It seems slightly unusual that action taken by the Chief Executive of the Organization has been welcomed and that action taken by ourselves as members of the Council has just been noted. Could we say in the last line of this paragraph something like "noted with satisfaction the measure approved by the Council"? It is my suggestion to add " with satisfaction" after "noted" in the English version.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This paragraph was discussed at some length in the Drafting Committee and while there were proposals like that which has just been put by the delegate of India, the Committee found that we could agree only on the formulation that you have before you, given the fact that not all members of the Council or the Conference favoured the action taken by the Council.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): Perhaps past experiences do haunt us sometimes when we think of what happens in the Drafting Committees and maybe that has prompted me to not only support my colleague from India but also even to strengthen his point that this Commission, which discussed the item reported now in this Report, should in fact endorse what it feels is the appropriate interpretation of its feelings. I would suggest that we say after "authority" the words "and endorsed the measures approved by the Council". This might lend some weight which possibly the Drafting Committee may not have been in a position to add during the discussions. My suggestion is that we substitute "noted" with "endorsed".

EL PRESIDENTE: Señores, han oído ustedes las declaraciones que se han hecho. Entiendo que el colega de India ha propuesto que al final del párrafo 20, después de "... tomó nota ..." que se agreguen dos palabras; "... con satisfacción ..." En cambio, el representante de Sierra Leona ha propuesto que al final del párrafo 20, después de donde dice: "... competencia ..." se diga: "... e hizo suyas las medidas aprobadas por el Consejo".

Joachim WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): I think that the Drafting Committee has done such outstanding and well-balanced work and I am convinced that in connection with a number of controversial points they dealt with all the arguments pro and contra in an exhaustive manner. I am sure they did not sit for nothing and therefore I am convinced that we should leave the text as it stands with this very well-balanced wording.

R. MACINTOSH (Canada): Judging from the great length of time it took in a Drafting Committee of 13 very good natured members to reach a compromise and agreement which everyone could accept, I fear we could spend a very long time with a somewhat unhappy result if we pressed our luck and included these amendments.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais tout d'abord dire que je suis satisfait de constater qu'il existe une solidarité entre les membres du Comité de rédaction, ce qui est tout à fait normal mais n'a parfois pas été le cas. Cette fois-ci, il est bien que les membres du Comité de rédaction soient solidaires.

Mais je voudrais également dire qu'il existe dans les différents organes directeurs de l'Organisation une hiérarchie et, devant les propositions faites par l'Inde et la Sierra Leone, je crois que ce serait dire les choses telles qu'elles doivent l'être si l'on disait que la Conférence a entériné les mesures prises par le Conseil. Cela ne devrait pas perturber quoi que ce soit et ce serait dire les choses comme il faut logiquement les dire. Je suis donc en faveur de mettre: "la Conférence a entériné les mesures prises par le Conseil".

E. MARTENS (Belgium): We would like to support the position of the delegate from the Federal Republic of Germany.

R.C. GUPTA (India): I am conscious of the fact that our colleagues in the Drafting Committee have spent many days and many nights and have given to us a wonderful well-balanced structured draft. Let us see the structure of this Organization, certain authority has been delegated by the Conference to the Council to decide certain things and the Council in discharge of their delegated authority has taken certain decisions. Now it will be too much for this Conference just to take note of what the Council has decided meaning thereby - this is my interpretation - that the Conference has certain doubts as to the decision that the Council has taken, and this is not a very happy constitutional position. I believe the intention in this last statement, whichever way it is put, is that the Conference approves the decision taken by the Council on its behalf. Otherwise the Conference would be saying very categorically that the Council has been wrong, the Conference does not endorse these decisions. So you have to say somewhere or other that the Conference has approved the decision. I have put the most mild kind of formulation by saying "noted with satisfaction". What it actually means is, as the delegate of Sierra Leone has said, that the Conference endorses the decision. But if it raises certain problems for certain people I put a very mild but a positive formulation "noted with satisfaction", which clearly shows that the Conference approved. If the Conference does not really approve, it should say so. So the intention in this last sentence is that the Conference approves the decision taken by the Council on the basis of the authority delegated to it. So I thought we could put it more clearly so that anyone could understand that noting here means its approval. So I still insist that we say either that the Conference endorses the decision or, to say the least in the most low key manner, that it notes with satisfaction or notes with appreciation, so as to show that it has been approved.

EL PRESIDENTE: Nadie más desea intervenir? Hay tres oradores en favor de una posición y tres en favor de la otra; naturalmente, está la interpretación también del Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

A. Lazare GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Notre délégation voudrait apporter son appui à la proposition faite par le délégué de l'Inde et celui du Congo. Quelle que soit la formule que l'on veuille utiliser en ce qui concerne ce paragraphe, nous n'y voyons pas d'inconvénient. Mais, effectivement, nous pensons aussi qu'il faut faire ressortir le fait que la Conférence doit se prononcer sur les mesures approuvées par le Conseil.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): My delegation supports what was mentioned by the delegate of Canada. My delegation is against any revision of the draft of the report before us.

Horatio MENDES (Ghana): What has the Conference noted here? I tend to be convinced by the eloquence of the delegate of India. The Conference must approve actions of the Council. The Director-General, we are told, has his own authority to do certain things and the Council took some decisions. What does the Conference say here - noted what? I believe the best we can do is to say we noted with satisfaction the action. We have given authority to the Council to take such decisions in the absence of the Conference. So you note what they have done for what? I believe that the delegate of India is right and that we should accept the amendment proposed by him, if the word "endorsed" is too strong for the ears of some delegates.

Wayne DENNEY (United States of America): As the Chairman of the Drafting Committee said at the outset, this was a paragraph which was considered for some time before the 13 of us who were on the Drafting Committee could finally come up with this conclusion. I think that the Commission should at least remember that those 13 people presumably represented all the regions here. For that reason I would go along with what has been said by our colleague from Germany and would prefer to leave it the same.

Victor HJORT (Denmark): At the outset I would like to support the point made by the Federal Republic of Germany. In addition to that listening to the other interventions on this I think clarification would be useful on the respective roles of the Council and the Conference on this very decision. It was my delegation's understanding that the authority for this decision was with the Council and thus did not need approval of the Conference. In that case the text would be correct. In addition I would like to say that I see no negative character in the formulation noted. There is nothing negative in that and we could certainly accept that formulation.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): At the risk of opening up the debate, which certainly is not my intention, it is just a matter of emphasizing a point of logic here. Here is an Organization and a forum which has gone through the length and breadth of a particular subject and has come to a conclusion and is afraid to own up to its responsibilities. It is a bit surprising, if not disheartening, that we should come to such an impasse at this time. I believe that "endorsed" fully represents the intentions of the Conference and I see no reason why this Commission would not adopt the formulation of this amendment to the paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pakistán y luego la Presidencia tratará de ensayar el logro de algún compromiso.

M. Afzal QADIR (Pakistan): Having heard the statement by the delegate of India I feel that there is considerable force in his argument in defense of the amendment for the additions that he has suggested in paragraph 20. I would therefore put my weight behind his proposal.

EL PRESIDENTE: A fin de que avancemos en nuestros trabajos primero de todo quiero hacerles notar la redacción bastante equilibrada que presenta el Comité de Redacción.

Al final del párrafo 17 ya aparecen algunas opiniones de los países desarrollados; en el párrafo 18 igualmente y luego en el párrafo 19 la opinión de los países en desarrollo. Luego, el párrafo 20 empieza "a la luz de lo que antecede" o sea a la luz de las opiniones anteriores.

Podríamos, acaso, tratar de una fórmula de compromiso con base en las dos enmiendas propuestas diluyéndolas un poco más, y esto lo hago con ánimo de contribuir a un compromiso, y podríamos decir al final del párrafo: "y en general tomó nota con satisfacción de las medidas aprobadas por el Consejo"; "y en general". Este "en general" es un término que generalmente se acepta para no denotar muy exactamente la aprobación de un órgano rector. Si esto puede satisfacer tómenlo como buena voluntad por parte de la Presidencia. ¿Es aceptable esto para todos?

Paragraphs 17 to 20, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 17 à 20, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 17 a 20, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Projet de rapport de la Commission II, deuxième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 2, así enmendado es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - 3ème PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 3

Paragraphs 1 to 12 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12 son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 3, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission II, troisième partie, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 3, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 4
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II- QUATRIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 8
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 8
PARRAFOS 1 a 8

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions nous arrêter un peu sur le paragraphe 8. A ce sujet, nous aimerions obtenir une explication du Président du Comité de rédaction sur les deux dernières phrases qui, bien sûr, semblent faire état d'une certaine balance entre les membres qui ont appuyé la transformation du CIRPG en une institution internationale autonome et indépendante, d'une part, et le grand nombre de ceux qui ont souhaité que l'on maintienne le CIRPG et la FAO dans leurs structures actuelles sans que le CIRPG devienne une institution autonome, d'autre part.

Je suis un peu embarrassé: entre "plusieurs" et "beaucoup", je ne sais plus de quel côté cela penche davantage. J'ai l'impression que, lors de nos débats, il y a eu en fait trois délégations qui ont soutenu l'idée de faire du CIRPG une institution autonome et la majorité qui a estimé que les arrangements actuels entre le CIRPG et la FAO devraient être maintenus. Alors, je ne m'y retrouve pas. Il me semble qu'on a tellement voulu faire la balance que l'on a plus ou moins créé un certain déséquilibre.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The distinguished representative of the Congo is correct in his assessment of the effort of the Drafting Committee here. The Drafting Committee in a number of instances attempted to put forward the view held by a smaller number of delegations and then to follow that by the view held by a larger number of delegations. The Committee concluded in this instance that that could be done by saying first "several Members indicated" and that "many Members" indicating a larger group took a contrasting position . I hope that is helpful.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que la explicación del Presidente del Comité de Redacción satisfaga a nuestro amigo Mombouli, del Congo.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Comme je l'ai dit tantôt, j'imagine bien que le Comité de rédaction a dû peser le pour et le contre de ces deux roots. Malgré tout, je reste persuadé que les choses n'ont pas été reflétées dans leur juste mesure étant donné que "trois" a été remplacé par "plusieurs" et "la majorité" par "beaucoup". Je me demande si, là où il y a "plusieurs", il ne faudrait pas mettre "trois" ou "quelques membres" et, là où il y a "beaucoup", on ne devrait pas mettre "la majorité". Voilà mon sentiment. Je propose que l'on remplace "plusieurs" par "trois" ou "quelques membres" et "beaucoup" par "la majorité".

Rolando Felicidades DE JESUS NETO (Angola): Je veux juste dire que nous sommes d'accord avec la proposition que vient de nous présenter le délégué du Congo. Nous voulons que "plusieurs" soit remplacé par "quelques membres". De toute façon, l'emploi de ces deux termes, "plusieurs" et "beaucoup", nous ennuie quelque peu.

EL PRESIDENTE: Les ruego antes de proseguir el debate que tal vez tengan en cuenta que estas determinaciones un poco relativas pueden no tener mayor trascendencia y tratar de que nos ocupemos realmente de los asuntos de fondo; sin embargo, hay dos delegaciones que han pedido la palabra.

David R. GREGORY (Australia): You are quite right. I do not think there was any disagreement about the substance of the issues. It was purely a question of reflecting the balance in the use of the words that commenced the two sentences and we had clearly in our minds in the Drafting Groups that in fact 15 Members were reflected by the "many" and ten Members were reflected by the "several" so any use of the terms "majority" and "minority" was not relevant to the discussion in the way of the balance of discussion that went on. But it was felt that in the use of those terms "several" reflected the ten who said they were in one way or another prepared to support the IBPGR as a separate institution, and "many" reflected the 15 who said that the existing arrangements should be maintained or improved. They were certainly the numbers that were in front of the Drafting Group when they considered that balance. If I remember the Drafting Group correctly I don't think it was really an issue of great contention.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a conceder la palabra a dos oradores que quedan en la lista y luego trataremos de encontrar una fórmula satisfactoria.

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): I wholeheartedly support what Australia just said. In fact my notes yield exactly the same figures and I do believe this is something which in Drafting Committee took two minutes, and if we put in an equation the ratio of the cost of discussing that in full Commission compared to discussing it in the Drafting Committee, I am sure you will agree this is a very expensive discussion.

Lazare GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Nous voudrions souligner qu'aux risques de vouloir chaque fois avoir un consensus, on finirait par parvenir justement à déformer l'atmosphère dans laquelle les débats se sont déroulés au niveau du Comité. Je crois qu'effectivement, dans ces conditions, nous ne pouvons qu'appuyer ce qu'a dit le délégué du Congo, appuyé d'ailleurs par ce qu'a dit le représentant de l'Angola; il ne faut pas chercher un certain équilibre jusqu'à fausser l'atmosphère dans laquelle se sont déroulés les débats.

Je crois que le rapport du Comité de rédaction doit tendre à être une photocopie de l'ambiance des débats au niveau du Comité.

Sadok DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Pour simplifier les débats, étant donné qu'on connaît le nombre de délégués qui ont dit oui et ceux qui "ont jugé que les arrangements actuels...", autant mettre le nombre, 10 membres "ont indiqué qu'ils sont prêts à appuyer la transformation du CIRPG en une institution internationale autonome et indépendante", et 15 membres "ont jugé" que les arrangements actuels entre le CIRPG et la FAO devraient être maintenus et améliorés", et c'est la réalité.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que hay un hecho evidente y es que todos queremos que el CIRF y la FAO trabajen bien y, sobre todo, sirvan a todos los Estados Miembros y particularmente a aquellos países en vías de desarrollo. Podría acaso, con base en las intervenciones que se han hecho, proponerles una solución intermedia. La primera frase la dejaríamos tal como está: "varios miembros" y en la segunda diríamos: "la mayoría de los miembros" porque esto en realidad refleja el hecho de que fueron 15 unos y 10 los otros. Esta es una solución de transacción para evitar que prolonguemos este debate, es decir, adoptados a mitad la propuesta del Congo y satisfacemos la otra mitad. Dejaríamos tal como está "varios miembros" y luego en la última frase del párrafo 8 pondríamos "la mayoría de los miembros".

David R. GREGORY (Australia): The problem we had in using the word "majority" was the fact that the majority of the Members of the Commission did not speak on the matter. As you will see, 10 and 15 is 25. The number of Members of the Commission is obvious. Most Members of the Commission

had no view one way or the other so I think it is unfair to use the word "majority". The only argument we had in the Drafting Group was whether we used "several" or "some". Perhaps it might be better if you used the word "some". "Several" was thought to be stronger than "some" but I would be quite happy with "some" and "many". It makes quite clear the balance between 10 and 15 but I do not think I would favour the use of the word "majority" when only 25 Members of the whole Commission spoke on the matter.

EL PRESIDENTE: La propuesta de Australia es satisfactoria para todos, incluso para Camerún que pide la palabra, pero que también está de acuerdo con nosotros. ¿Se adopta entonces? ¿No?

Maxiale MAHI (Cameroun): Non je ne suis pas d'accord; je suis d'accord avec votre formule mais pas avec celle du délégué de l'Australie, parce que 25 personnes se sont exprimées; 15 qui sont d'accord et 10 qui ne sont pas d'accord, alors il faut bien montrer la majorité parmi celles qui se sont exprimées.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estamos tratando de avanzar en nuestros trabajos y de conservar el espíritu de cooperación en que hemos trabajado. Yo creo que... Tiene la palabra el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Hartford T. JENNINGS (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I do not have a great deal of confidence in my ability to propose an acceptable compromise where the one you have proposed has not been accepted, but it occurs to me that we could say "several Members" and then say "the majority of those Members who spoke".

EL PRESIDENTE: Esta es una definición que ha tenido muchos problemas en el pasado. Yo creo que no conviene complicar las cosas. Creo que podríamos adoptar la fórmula de Australia. Congo, quien inició el debate, me ha indicado que la acepta. Congo acepta la fórmula de Australia?

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je crois effectivement que la difficulté majeure que nous avons actuellement, c'est justement de partir de ceux qui ne se sont pas exprimés. Mais sur les 25 qui se sont exprimés, nous n'avons pas eu 50/50 et dans le souci d'arriver à un certain compromis, j'accepterais qu'on mette "quelques membres" et "beaucoup". Je crois que cela peut passer et je l'avais proposé dans ces termes là.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces el Congo ha adoptado la propuesta de Australia. Tengo todavía cuatro oradores en mi lista. Quizá no convenga que prolonguemos el debate. ¿Puedan todos aceptar la propuesta de Australia apoyada ahora por Congo que fue quien inició el debate?

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je voudrais rappeler qu'en fait-ce n'est pas la proposition de l'Australie. J'avais dit qu'on mettrait "quelques" et "beaucoup", ou "la majorité". En fait on se rejoint, c'est notre proposition qui est reprise par l'Australie, en quelque sorte on s'est mis d'accord.

EL PRESIDENTE: El colega del Congo tiene razón; lo importante es que todos estemos de acuerdo. Si no hay ninguna objeción adoptamos así el párrafo 8 con la última redacción propuesta. Espero que esto satisfaga a todos.

E.V. WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): It has been clarified for me, thank you.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): My delegation is not clear as to what amendment was adopted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pensé que la situación estaba muy clara. Se introduce una sola modificación en la penúltima frase del párrafo 8, donde dice: "varios miembros", en adelante se dirá: "algunos miembros". ¿Eso es todo?

Paragraphs 1 to 8, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 8, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 8, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 9 to 14

PARAGRAPHES 9 à 14

PARRAFOS 9 a 14

Francisco FERNANDEZ DE ANA MAGAN (España): En el párrafo 11, en el texto en español - y esto es casi una pregunta a la Secretaría - dice, "y recomendó que se utilizara como base la legislación nacional". Creo que ahí falta una preposición. Si es para, o sea que se utilizara como base para la legislación nacional, la falta de esa preposición "para" es definitiva; si no no significa la que se intenta.

EL PRESIDENTE: El colega de España tiene toda la razón. Se corregirá el texto en castellano; el inglés está bien.

Ali ZWAIK(Libya) (Original language Arabic): Paragraph 14 commences "The Conference emphasized the need to assist developing countries...". We would prefer a different wording in the Arabic text - perhaps "The Conference stressed the need..." would be the best rendering in English.

EL PRESIDENTE: Han oído ustedes la propuesta de Libia. En castellano ya aparece la redacción que él propone. El inglés está un poco distinta de ese "enfaticar" o "subrayar". El colega de Libia propone: "la Conferencia insistió en la necesidad de ayudar". Esto no cambia mucho. Espero que no les ofrezca dificultades.

Paragraphs 9 to 14, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 9 à 14, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 9 a 14, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 15 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHES 15 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFO 15 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: El párrafo 15 contiene el proyecto de resolución; luego, naturalmente, está como anexo el texto del Código. Para tranquilizar a algunas delegaciones sobre todo a los distinguidos amigos de la Comunidad Económica Europea (veo al fondo de la Sala al amigo Desesquelles) puedo comunicarles que la Secretaría procederá a presentar la redacción del Código tal como fue enmendado por la última reunión del Consejo, esto vale particularmente para el Artículo 1.2, que, con razón, preocupa a la Comunidad y cuyo texto adoptado por el Consejo aparecerá en todos los idiomas en el texto del Código. No obstante, después de decir esto ¿alguien quiere intervenir?

Paragraph 15, including draft resolution, approved
Le paragraphe 15, y compris le projet : de resolution, est approuvé
El párrafo 15, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II , Part 4, as amended, was adopted
Le projet de Rapport de la Commission II, quatrième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 5
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - CINQUIEME PARTIE
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PARTE 5

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 19
PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 19
PARRAFOS 1 a 19

Ms Claude FORTHOMME (Assistant Secretary, Commission II): There is a correction in paragraph 18: At the end of that paragraph the words "and not reported under other items" should be deleted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que todos hayan adoptado la supresión que se debe hacer al final del párrafo 18. Creo que en el párrafo 19 es donde la distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela tiene alguna objeción que se arreglará en el texto castellano.

Paragraphs 1 to 19 approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 19 sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 19 son aprobados

PARAGRAPH 20 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
PARAGRAPHE 20 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
PARRAFO 20 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

Sra. Doña MERCEDES RUIZ DE ZAPATA (México): Yo agradezco mucho a la Secretaría la aclaración que hizo sobre el párrafo resolutivo N° 2 porque fue así como realmente convinimos en el Comité de Redacción para adoptarlo. Les suplico que las demás versiones se adecúen a esta versión que se hizo en español porque creo que hay un error en el inglés.

EL PRESIDENTE: Las aclaraciones de la Secretaría han sido hechas con base al trabajo realizado en el Comité de Redacción, como lo puede confirmar nuestro Presidente (veo que lo confirma) y se procederá con total exactitud para todos.

Paragraph 20, including draft resolution, approved
Le paragraphe 20, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé
El párrafo 20, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 21 to 26
PARAGRAPHERS 21 à 26
PARRAFOS 21 a 26

Victor HJORT (Denmark): I see no paragraph 25 in the English text - if I may draw that to your attention.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): Paragraph 25 reads as follows: "FFH/AD (Free From Hunger Campaign - Action for Development) activities had been particularly appreciated and support was expressed for their future development. It was suggested that a report on FFH/AD activities should be prepared for the next session of the Conference."

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que esto no ofrezca dificultades a los colegas de habla inglesa y les repetimos nuestras excusas.

Paragraphs 21 to 26 approved

Les paragraphes 21 à 26 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 21 a 26 son aprobados

Paragraph 27, including draft resolution, approved

Le paragraphe 27, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 27, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 5, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission II, cinquième partie, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 5, es aprobado

The meeting was suspended from 16.30 to 17.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 30 à 17 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.30 a las 17.20 horas

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION II - PART 6

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II - SIXIEME PARTIE

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION II - PART 6

EL PRESIDENTE: Colegas y amigos, vamos a reanudar nuestra reunión.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The Secretariat apologize, but in the haste of preparing this report today, there are a few mistakes. One affects all the languages, it is in the first sentence of paragraph 2 regarding the achievement of a global food aid for the year 1984-85 at a level of 12 million tons. The Drafting Committee introduced the date, the year 1984-85 and the word "now" should have been taken out so that the sentence should read: "The Conference noted the Executive-Director's statement that global food aid for the year 1984-85 had reached a-level of 12 million tons". The word "now" should be taken out in all languages, and in the Spanish version also the word "annual" should be deleted.

In the Spanish version also, a sentence was left out at the end of paragraph 6, although it is in the French and English text. I will read the Spanish version only, which is: (continues in Spanish) "También agógió con beneplácito las estachas relaciones del PMA con el UNICEF y el FIDA". (Continua en inglés). This sentence should be at the end of paragraph 6 of the Spanish version.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que las aclaraciones de la Secretaría, que corresponden a lo que se acordó en el Comité de Redacción, estén claras para todos ustedes.

Me complace en dar la bienvenida a nuestro colega y amigo, Sr Negash distinguido ciudadano de Etiopía, funcionario del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, que nos acompaña ahora para la discusión de este tema 17. Igualmente está el Sr. Regnier, Representante de la FAO.

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 9
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 9
PARRAFOS 1 a 9

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions modifier la version française du paragraphe 2, qui ne nous satisfait pas tout à fait. La première phrase ne nous pose pas de problème - jusqu'à "l'alimentation". Ensuite, on lit: "Les donateurs ont acheminé par l'intermédiaire du PAM plus de produits alimentaires ...", etc. Nous voudrions que l'on mette l'explication suivante après la virgule: "mais une grande partie de l'accroissement intervenu durant cette période s'explique par la réponse généreuse des pays donateurs à la crise africaine. Toutefois, le plus gros de l'aide supplémentaire fournie par les donateurs l'a été sur une base bilatérale".

Je parle uniquement de la version française parce qu'il y a beaucoup de "mais" et tout cela ne semble pas bien s'accorder. Peut-être la traduction n'est-elle pas aussi fidèle que cela.

Je continue. Après "bilatérale", on lirait: "La Conférence a aussi noté l'assurance donnée par le Directeur exécutif quant à la capacité du PAM de mettre l'aide alimentaire au service du développement et elle" - c'est-à-dire la Conférence - "a aussi pris note de l'appel ...", etc., jusqu'à la fin.

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría va a leer ahora el texto en inglés para ver si puede coincidir, en cierta medida, con el francés o si hay diferencias sustanciales.

Ms Kay KILLINGSWORTH (Secretary, Commission II): The second sentence of paragraph two would read "While donors had given more food through WFP than ever before, much of the increase in this period was due to the generous response of the donor countries to the crisis in Africa and most of their additional assistance had been channelled bilaterally". The next sentence would read "It also noted the Executive Director's assurance that WFP had the proven capacity to use food for development, and it also took note that his appeal that donors provide to WFP, for development purposes" and the rest of the sentence would remain unchanged.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que ahora todos tengan el texto de la versión propuesta por Congo. Creo que en la última edición que propone Congo tal vez no sería necesario repetir de nuevo que "la Conferencia tomó nota" para evitar que el texto quede muy recargado. Si no hay ningún comentario, parece que así podemos entonces adoptar el texto de los párrafos 3, 4 y 5. Adoptados. Párrafos 6, 7 y 8?

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Je veux parler du paragraphe 7, quand j'ai lu ce paragraphe pour la première fois j'étais un peu perdu parce que je lis: "La situation des bureaux du PAM..." et j'ai pensé à des bureaux dans les pays; je pense qu'on pourrait gagner en précision en mettant: "La situation des bureaux du siège du PAM...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Parece que el texto francés no está muy claro. Se hará la adaptación del caso, naturalmente aclarando que se trata de los locales de oficina del PMA en la Sede, aquí en Roma. Después de esta aclaración ¿se adoptan los párrafos 6, 7, 8 y 9? Adoptados.

Paragraphs 1 to 9, as amended, approved
Les paragraphes 1 à 9, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 1 a 9, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 10 incl. draft resolution, approved

Paragraphe 10, y compris le projet de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 10, incluido el proyecto de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission II, Part 6, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission II, sixième partie, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión II, parte 6, así enmendado, es aprobado

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias al Sr. Negash y al Sr. Regnier por habernos acompañado y de nuevo al Sr. Jennings y a los miembros del Comité de Redacción.

PART II - ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE ORGANIZATION (continued)

DEUXIEME PARTIE - ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

PARTE II - ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium-Term Objectives (continued)

12. Programme de travail et Budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Me complace anunciarles que el Comité de Resoluciones consideró el proyecto de Resolución que había sido presentado por Sierra Leona y otros países africanos, ha adoptado ya el texto, será reproducido como LIM/37, pero sólo estará disponible esta noche o mañana a primera hora, de manera que esta Comisión deberá reunirse mañana espero que por muy breves minutos, para considerar ese Proyecto de Resolución.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours.

La séance est levée à 17 h 30.

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30.

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/II/PV/17

Twenty-third Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-troisième session
COMMISSION II

23° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTEENTH MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE
17ª SESION

(27 November 1985)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 10.30 hours

G. Bula Hoyos, Chairman of Commission II, presiding

La dix-septième séance est ouverte à 10 h 30

sous la présidence de G. Bula Hoyos, Président de la Commission II

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 10.30 horas

bajo la presidencia de G. Bula Hoyos, Presidente de la Comisión II

II. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

II. ACTIVITES ET PROGRAMMES DE L'ORGANISATION (suite)

II. ACTIVIDADES Y PROGRAMAS DE LA ORGANIZACION (continuación)

12. Programme of Work and Budget 1986-87 and Medium Term Objectives (continued)

(C 85/3; C 85/3-Corr.1; C 85/3-Sup.1; C 85/3-Sup.2; C 85/LIM/9)

12. Programme de travail et budget 1986-87 et objectifs à moyen terme (suite)

(C 85/3; C 85/3-Corr.1; C 85/3-Sup.1; C 85/3-Sup.2; C 85/LIM/9)

12. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 1986-87 y objetivos a plazo medio (continuación)

(C 85/3; C 85/3-Corr.1; C 85/3-Sup.1; C 85/3-Sup.2; C 85/LIM/9)

- Resolution on the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign (continued)
- Resolution sur "la Campagne panafricaine de lutte contre la peste bovine (suite)
- Resolución sobre "La Campana Panafricana contra la Peste Bovina" (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Una vez más estamos reconocidos a los señores Trkulja y Sole-Leris, Presidente y Secretario del Comité de Resoluciones, y a los miembros de ese Comité, por haber atendido de manera eficaz y oportuna la solicitud que les hicimos ayer sobre el Proyecto de Resolución presentado por algunas delegaciones africanas acerca de la Campaña Africana contra la Peste Bovina. Es el noveno informe del Comité de Resoluciones. Este Comité ha sugerido una ligera modificación al párrafo 3 de la parte dispositiva, modificación que entiendo es satisfactoria y reconocida como constructiva por parte de los proponentes y, sin embargo, declaro abierto el debate sobre este proyecto de resolución.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I must also add my voice to your compliments and gratitude to the Resolutions Committee which considered, at a very late hour, the request from the African countries to table Resolution on this topic. As delegates will be aware, and in fact as they can see from the Resolution which is self-explanatory, what it aims to do is just to get the campaign rolling because the issue has gone through different fora, including the FAO Regional Conference for Africa last year, where it was thoroughly discussed and we were a little bit concerned that the desired action had not yet been initiated.

So we call upon all our colleagues to assist us in getting this campaign going and we hope that this Resolution will meet with favour and be adopted.

R.M. MUÑOZ (Namibia): La delegación de Namibia apoya la Campaña Panafricana contra la Peste Bovina y pide al Director General continúe prestando asistencia técnica y ayuda de urgencia a los países afectados y se dé oportunidad a los namibianos para la capacitación de su personal en el campo.

Efectivamente, se debe dar vigor a la campaña con fondos de donantes múltiples a fin de controlar la peligrosa difusión de la terrible plaga.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Ressortissants du continent africain, nous sommes, vous l'imaginez bien, solidaires avec nos collègues qui ont bien voulu prendre l'initiative de proposer cette Résolution que nous appuyons pleinement. Nous avons cependant quelques commentaires à faire et peut-être une correction.

Avant l'ouverture de notre séance, j'ai discuté avec d'autres délégués anglophones et je voudrais faire remarquer qu'au 'deuxième paragraphe du préambule il y a un mot qui en fait n'existe pas en français c'est le mot "multidonateurs". Nous avons cependant convenu de l'accepter, puisque cela avait déjà été fait, comme néologisme. Le dictionnaire français est en train d'être revu et nous espérons qu'un meilleur mot sera trouvé.

Mais la modification majeure que nous voudrions faire porte sur le paragraphe 3 du Dispositif où il est dit tout au bas de la page: "de la manière prévue au Programme de la Campagne". Nous pensons que cela peut-être dit de façon plus élégante, et nous suggérons que cette dernière partie soit remplacée par ce qui suit: "tel que prévu par le Programme de lutte déjà approuvé". Cela veut dire la même chose, mais c'est dit de façon plus élégante. C'est la seule modification, que nous souhaiterions apporter.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre la primera observación del colega del Congo no habrá dificultades en buscar los términos franceses y también las otras lenguas que reflejan mejor lo que se quiere decir. Esto no pasó por el Comité de Redacción, de manera que la Secretaría buscará los términos adecuados.

En cuanto a la segunda observación, como el mismo colega del Congo lo ha dicho, no creo que cambie mucho; sin embargo, está también a la consideración de ustedes. Se trataría al final del párrafo 3 de la parte dispositiva de decir "como lo prevé el Programa de Lucha ya aprobado". Creo que esto no cambia mucho lo que quiere decir actualmente el párrafo 3, pero en fin, ustedes tienen la palabra.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): Before I comment on the Draft Resolution itself, may I at this juncture say that my delegation is grateful to the FAO for keeping this subject alive as it is a long time since it was first brought to the attention of FAO. In fact, this subject matter did not start at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 1984. It started a little earlier than that and the matter was discussed both at Council level and also at Conference level and FAO was requested by Member Countries to assist Africa in eradicating this disease in Africa with the assistance of the multilateral donor agencies.

Unfortunately, up to now, this campaign at the continental level has not been launched so there is a need to launch it without further delay.

FAO, as we all know, had been assisting the African countries at a country level to stop the threat of the disease through the Technical Cooperation Programme. However, we feel that there is need to appeal to those donor agencies, particularly the EEC, to come forward with the promise which they have made in the past to assist in the launching of the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign without further delay

So this Resolution has been brought at the right time and I hope, with the minor changes proposed, there will be no difficulty in accepting it, which we consider timely.

M.E. JIMENEZ (El Salvador): La Delegación de mi país desea manifestar su total apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución que se somete a nuestra consideración.

Tal como lo dijera el Sr. Palmer, de Sierra Leona, el día de ayer, al presentarnos este proyecto y lo ratificara esta mañana, se pretende que se ponga en marcha la Campaña Panafricana contra la Peste Bovina, la cual ha sido ya aprobada.

Instamos al Director General y a los donantes a que así lo hagan.

Estamos completamente de acuerdo con la propuesta de modificación que ha sido presentada por el Congo; creemos que deja mucho *mis* claro el párrafo tercero dispositivo.

M. Balla SY (Sénegal): Je crois qu'il est inutile de dire que le Sénégal appuie cette Résolution, parce que cela est évident.

Je voudrais seulement, au quatrième paragraphe des considérants, vous soumettre une petite modification qui à mon sens a une importance capitale.

Au d). il est demandé d'apporter à l'OUA "un soutien lui permettant de tenir son rôle de chef de file dans la campagne". Je souhaiterais qu'on remplace le verbe "tenir" par celui de "conserver". On pourrait donc dire : " ... apporter à l'OUA un soutien lui permettant de conserver son rôle de chef de file dans la campagne".

Vous comprendrez que cette substitution a un sens profond, puisque l'OUA, à mon sens, tient bien son rôle de chef de file et qu'il s'agit en tout cas de consolider sa place dans cette campagne.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que según me han indicado los intérpretes, hay algunos matices de traducción respecto a este párrafo 4 del Preámbulo. Se toma nota de las observaciones del colega de Senegal y se procederá de conformidad.

S. DJELLOULI (Tunisie): Compte tenu de la gravité de ce fléau qui sévit en Afrique, ma délégation appuie fermement ce Projet de Résolution qui est soumis à l'examen de notre Commission.

S. HUSEN (Indonesia): On behalf of the Indonesian Delegation, I would like to join the previous speaker first in commending the Director-General of FAO for his continued assistance to the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign and in expressing appreciation for the work done by the Resolutions Committee.

Finally, my delegation fully supports this Draft Resolution.

E. MARTENS (Belgium): As the Resolution represents a particular interest to the European Community, I would like you to give the floor to the Representative of the EEC.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy seguro de que la Comisión no tiene inconveniente en oír al Sr. Desesquelles, Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Comme nous l'avons indiqué lors du point concernant les relations entre les Organisations intergouvernementales et la FAO, la Communauté économique européenne est le plus important donateur en ce qui concerne la lutte contre la peste bovine, tout au moins pour les actions qui ont été déjà menées.

Pour ces raisons nous suggérons d'insérer un considérant qui prendrait place après le premier: "rappelant les délibérations qui ont été consacrées..." qui serait ainsi rédigé:

"Considérant les actions déjà menées par la FAO avec les organismes donateurs, notamment la CEE et la Banque mondiale pour lutter contre ce fléau"

Enfin, en ce qui concerne l'article 3 de notre Résolution, nous suggérons de supprimer la référence à la Conférence économique européenne. Je ne veux pas parler au nom de la Banque mondiale, mais je pense qu'il serait plus logique d'inviter tous les organismes donateurs pour la future Campagne qui doit être mise en place, et de ne pas cristalliser uniquement sur la CEE et la Banque mondiale, même si ce sont les principaux donateurs. Dans le Dispositif qui doit mettre en oeuvre la nouvelle campagne, ce sont tous les donateurs qui doivent y participer.

EL PRESIDENTE: Acaban ustedes de oír las propuestas del Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Yo creo que están claras y les ruego que se pronuncien al respecto.

A. EL-SARKI (Egypt): (original language Arabic): My delegation also wishes to support this Draft Resolution on Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. We hope that the Director-General and the donor countries will support this campaign to achieve the sought for goals.

J.F. NGUEMA-NZE (Gabon): La délégation gabonaise voudrait appuyer le Projet de Résolution soumis à notre approbation, d'autant plus que le Gabon fait partie d'une sous-région qui a un cheptel très important, dans le cadre de notre appartenance à l'Union douanière et économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale dont mon pays assure la présidence. Donc, au nom du Gabon et des six pays membres de l'Union douanière économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale, ma délégation appuie ce Projet de Résolution.

Vous vous souviendrez que moi-même lors de mes fonctions antérieures, j'avais effectué personnellement une mission auprès de la FAO pour demander une intervention rapide lorsque deux des pays membres de l'Union douanière économique des Etats de l'Afrique centrale avaient été sévèrement frappés par la peste bovine.

Je suis heureux de vous dire que la FAO avait répondu avec beaucoup de rapidité pour permettre aux pays atteints de mener les premières actions de lutte. C'est vous dire que ma délégation attache beaucoup d'importance à ce problème.

Je suis aussi, comme l'a dit le représentant de la CEE, que des actions ont été menées. Mais je crois qu'il y a également des pourparlers en cours entre la FAO et la CEE. Pour cela, nous aurions souhaité qu'un bref compte rendu nous soit fait à la Commission pour rendre compte des démarches en cours en vue d'aboutir au lancement effectif de cette campagne entre la FAO et la CEE.

Pour terminer, pour répondre à l'objection du représentant de la CEE, je pense qu'après le considérant qui a été ajouté, le paragraphe 3 tel qu'il est actuellement est justifié. Je serai donc pour le maintien de ce paragraphe 3. Je pense qu'il répond au chapeau qui a été ajouté.

A. RODRIGUES-PIRES (Cap-Vert): Nous félicitons la FAO pour sa coopération fructueuse avec l'Organisation panafricaine qui se préoccupe de la question de la peste bovine. Nous félicitons le Directeur général d'avoir, avec l'assistance du PCT, déclenché les actions catalysatrices très importantes et d'avoir promu la fabrication de vaccins contre la peste bovine en Afrique. Nous pensons que cela est très important.

Par ailleurs, nous voulons joindre notre voix à celle du représentant du Gabon. Nous pensons que le paragraphe 3 qui invite les organismes donateurs, notamment la CEE, est bien conçu. Nous voulons que ce paragraphe soit maintenu tel qu'il est.

L. M. INZAULGARAT GARCIA (Cuba): Considerando la importancia del tema, la Delegación de Cuba apoya plenamente el proyecto de Resolución en todas sus partes.

M. MOMBOULI (Congo): Nous voudrions saisir cette seconde occasion que vous nous donnez d'intervenir sur ce Projet de Résolution pour remercier tous les pays que se sont déclarés solidaires avec la région africaine, je parle précisément des pays ressortissants d'autres régions.

Nous voudrions également remercier, bien sûr, les principaux donateurs, notamment la Banque mondiale et la CEE qui dès le premier abord se sont annoncés pour financer cette campagne.

Ceci étant, vous me permettez de m'exprimer sur les propositions faites par le représentant de la CEE.

En premier lieu, en ce qui concerne le préambule, je crois que la proposition faite par la CEE peut-être considérée comme recevable, dans la mesure où en effet le paragraphe 3 du Dispositif fait état de la chose.

Mais nous considérons pour notre part que le bon dispositif ne naît que lorsqu'un diagnostic est bien fait dans le préambule. Nous sommes donc prêts à accepter que l'on ajoute entre les deux anciens considérants, un nouveau considérant tel que celui qui nous a été lu par le représentant de la CEE.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe trois du dispositif, nous avons dit bien sûr que la CEE est présente parmi nous, la Banque mondiale n'est pas présente. Nous aimerions que le représentant de la CEE soit compréhensif et qu'il comprenne que si nous avons pris soin dans le Dispositif qu'il vient de lire d'accepter qu'on fasse mention de la CEE et de la Banque mondiale il est tout à fait logique après ce dispositif, qu'il soit également fait mention de façon particulière de la CEE et de la Banque mondiale. Bien sûr nous ne pouvons pas forcer ces deux institutions à leur corps défendant à l'accepter, mais c'est une question de logique, si on les a citées dans le considérant, il faut que dans le dispositif on puisse en faire mention de façon particulière. Je suis partisan que le Dispositif 3 soit maintenu tel que je l'avais modifié légèrement en gardant toujours la mention faite de la CEE et de la Banque mondiale.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I might agree with my colleague from the Congo and say that perhaps we are losing sight of what we from the African countries are driving at: we would like to see commitment translated into actions.

If we will recollect, when the idea was initiated, when the programmes were being drawn up, when the factors involved in such a campaign were being identified and spelled out, we took note of three basic issues: the political will of the recipient countries, the financial commitment, and the technical competence. I think without doubt you would agree with me, and I think that all delegates would agree with me that these three basic components at the time were given due regard. Political will was identified and, in fact, was confirmed by the recipient countries. With regard to the financial commitment, we had the help of the EEC, the World Bank and some of the donor agencies and governments as well. Of course, the repository of the technical competence is undoubtedly the FAO. That has been indicated and we do see this in operation through the TCP Projects.

We are not quite sure that the EEC has actually translated its promised commitment into reality. It is not that we are pointing a finger at the EEC, in fact we are reconfirming our recognition of the position they offered at the time we were discussing the programme, that is, to provide some financial assistance. In fact, at the time it was something in the region of about 50 million ECUs I think, but I stand to be corrected on that. If we start at this time to say that we should delete the EEC from such a worthwhile venture for Africa, we might be diluting the importance of the EEC in African programmes. I am sure that the representative of the EEC would not like to be in a position to take back to his authorities this kind of recognition from such an august body. That is why we are acknowledging to the EEC that we took note of their commitment, and we tried to identify other areas where we could have some kind of joint collaboration with other agencies. If they were to pull out now we might lose the chance to get other donors interested.

That is why I agree with my colleague from the Congo that we might accept the inclusion of a preambular paragraph stating that we recognize that some activity has been going on jointly with the EEC and some other donors, but at the same time we do call on all donors, all agencies, in particular the EEC and the World Bank. Then the paragraph could be maintained as it is.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay una larga lista de oradores y yo tengo la impresión que se puede lograr fácilmente un acuerdo sobre este tema, ya que es un tema que no debería encontrar dificultades. Les ruego por favor que sean breves y concretos.

L. GANSORE (Burkina Faso): Pour répondre à votre appel, je n'ai plus beaucoup à dire suite à la déclaration des représentants du Gabon, du Congo et tout récemment de la Sierra Leone. J'appuie leurs déclarations.

H. AL-AHMAD (Syria) (original language Arabic): My delegation would like to second the Draft Resolution on the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

Because of the seriousness, the severe effects and the severe impact of this disease on the livestock resources of Africa, let me appeal to the FAO to lend its technical support in carrying out this campaign while the African countries formulate the necessary plans to put an end to this disease. We appeal to all countries and donor organizations to support this effort. In doing so they support the humanitarian efforts being made to help Africa with its problems.

M. JUSOH (Malaysia): My delegation is pleased to associate ourselves with other delegations who have supported the Resolution. We believe that concerted effort is crucial in order to control this disease. Otherwise the efforts of FAO and the national governments of Africa to reach food sufficiency and to correct malnutrition may not be fully realized if this disease remains unchecked.

R. RABE (Madagascar) : Au même titre que les délégations qui l'ont précédée, ma délégation appuie très chaleureusement le Projet de Résolution soumis à notre examen en ce qui concerne la proposition du délégué de la CEE tendant à supprimer le membre de phrase: "notamment la CEE".

Nous pensons que le maintien de cette précision est utile dans la mesure où la CEE et la Banque mondiale pourraient jouer le rôle de catalyseurs dynamiques dans cette action.

Nous pensons qu'il est vraiment indispensable que cette précision figure dans ce paragraphe.

A. JEAN-LOUIS (Haïti) : La délégation haïtienne intervient pour donner son plein appui au Projet de résolution soumis à notre attention.

D.K. YOMAN (Côte-d'Ivoire): En tant que pays initiateur de cette résolution, vous comprendrez facilement que la délégation de la Côte-d'Ivoire se félicite que cette résolution soit acceptée par notre Commission car il s'agit d'une grave urgence.

S'agissant des derniers amendements présentés jusqu'à maintenant nous sommes d'accord avec les propositions du Congo et du Sénégal pour ce qui est du rôle de l'OUA et des derniers mots du dispositif. .

Nous ne voyons pas d'inconvénient à ce qu'il soit inséré un considérant tel que suggéré par le représentant de la CEE, mais dans ce cas il conviendrait, selon le principe reconnu en droit administratif du parallélisme des formes et des procédures, s'agissant ici du parallélisme des formes, de mentionner à nouveau la CEE et la Banque mondiale au numéro 3 du dispositif.

Ceci dit la rédaction du "3" telle que proposée répond bien à notre avis au souci de chacun car il est fait appel à tous les donateurs sans exclusive, notamment à la CEE et la Banque mondiale qui, jusqu'à présent, ont apporté leur aide pour combattre ce fléau en Afrique.

M. Balla SY (Sénégal) : S'agissant des propositions faites par le représentant de la Communauté, je dois d'abord me féliciter de son esprit constructif au point que le considérant proposé reçoit l'avis favorable de notre délégation à la seule condition d'ajouter à la CEE et à la Banque mondiale, l'OIE, l'Organisation internationale des épizooties, qui a toujours également apporté sa contribution dans les domaines relevant de sa compétence

Au troisième paragraphe, la proposition du représentant de la CEE, compte tenu de ces considérants, peut être envisagée mais d'une manière différente. On a dit qu'on invite les organismes donateurs, notamment la CEE et la Banque mondiale à se joindre... Nous devons considérer que ces donateurs ont déjà contribué à des actions, donc ils se sont déjà joints. Il faudrait peut être remplacer "se joindre" par "renforcer leur collaboration avec l'OUA et la FAO pour lancer...", le reste sans modification.

Je pense que le représentant de la CEE reconnaîtra avec nous qu'ils ont fait déjà quelque chose, donc "se joindre" est dépassé. J'espère qu'il acceptera la formule que je propose pour que la résolution puisse être adoptée comme nous l'avons souhaité jusqu'ici.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias. Espero que hayan tomado nota de la propuesta, posiblemente conciliatoria del Senegal. Entiendo que consistiría en agregar en el segundo considerando propuesto el nombre de otra organización del que la Secretaría, naturalmente, no ha tomado nota por lo que el colega del Senegal nos lo transmitirá a nosotros. Luego propone al final, en el párrafo 3 dispositivo decir que se refuerce la colaboración de OUA y FAO en coherencia con el reconocimiento a que ya esas organizaciones según el considerando, estarían colaborando en ese sentido.

Señores tengo aún oradores en la lista, les ruego que, por favor, nos permitan concluir el debate y al final le daré la palabra al Observador de la CEE que estoy seguro nos va a permitir una conclusión satisfactoria para todos.

J. LADAN (Nigeria): I shall be very brief. My delegation welcomes the proposal to add a second preambular paragraph, proposed by the delegate of the EEC. However, we appeal to the delegate of the EEC to withdraw his suggestion on paragraph 3. Before I called for the floor I had not thought about Senegal's proposal, but I think it is a good proposal and that it could be looked into to see that his suggestions are incorporated.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a cerrar la lista de oradores y conceder la palabra a aquéllos que la han pedido. Luego haremos la conclusión.

A.S. HUSSEIN (Somalia): On behalf of the Somalian delegation, we strongly support the Resolution, and we strongly support the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign.

E. G. MOYO (Tanzania): The campaign is fully supported by my country. Currently, Tanzania is implementing this important campaign, supported by FAO. In that context, the Tanzanian delegation fully supports the Draft Resolution as it stands.

R. NGBONGUE (République Centrafricaine): La délégation de la République centrafricaine s'associe aux déclarations des délégations qui l'ont précédée et remercie à cette occasion la FAO d'avoir pris à coeur la lutte contre la peste bovine qui décime l'élevage en Afrique et particulièrement en République Centrafricaine.

La délégation de la République Centrafricaine appuie le Projet de Résolution qui nous est soumis et souhaite que les actions menées par les donateurs aboutissent pour l'éradication de ce fléau. La délégation de la République Centrafricaine soutient le maintien du paragraphe 3 comme l'ont souhaité la majorité des autres délégations.

M. LIZARRAGA SAUCEDO (México): Seremos muy breves. Nuestra delegación quiere dar todo su apoyo a esta Resolución en cuanto a las reflexiones realizadas para el llamamiento a los donantes. Queremos asociarnos a las declaraciones hechas por Congo y Sierra Leona y recientemente a la propuesta de resolución planteada por Senegal.

M. TRKULJA (Yugoslavia): First of all, Yugoslavia fully supports this resolution on the Pan-African Rinderpest Campaign. Secondly, we could agree with the insertion of a paragraph in the preamble along the lines suggested by the representative of the EEC Commission. Thirdly, in our view, the reference to the EEC and the World Bank is essential. One of the basic intentions is to speed up procedure both in the EEC and the World Bank. As we all know, the campaign has been launched in a limited number of countries. To be successful, it should be Pan-African; it should be continent-wide. The EEC has already promised its support to the campaign. The letter of understanding between OAU and the EEC is now in process. We are asking both the EEC and the World Bank to speed up the process and sign the letter of understanding as soon as possible and to provide the necessary support so that the real Pan-African campaign can be launched.

S. ONYAIT (Uganda): Uganda fully accepts what Senegal and Sierra Leone have suggested and that we include another paragraph in the preamble, as the EEC has suggested and that we retain paragraph 3 in the operative. Meanwhile, we should like to thank FAO for the assistance that it has always given to Uganda in keeping the disease situation under control.

M. MUKOLWE (Kenya): Like the other speakers, and particularly those from the region where Kenya is situated, I wish to support this particular resolution. We undertake disease control, particularly the Rinderpest, very effectively, and we should like others to join us so that the African continent can, if possible, be free of this disease.

A. YILALA (Ethiopia): We should also like to indicate our support for the inclusion of an additional paragraph, as was suggested by the representative of the EEC, in the preamble. We support the amendment by the representative of Senegal in the third paragraph of the operative, because we feel this would make some combined effort and also improve the quality of the Resolution. As to the content of the whole Resolution, though we have not indicated our support here at this session, we would indicate, having taken the floor, that we have given full support to it.

B. SAHADOU (Niger): A notre tour nous voulons appuyer le Projet de Résolution qui est mis à notre approbation; notamment nous soutenons la dernière proposition du Sénégal et par là-même nous faisons appel à la CEE pour qu'elle accepte cet amendement du Sénégal.

EL PRESIDENTE: Antes de conceder la palabra al observador de la CEE y al representante de Sierra Leona, quien fue el portavoz del grupo de países que presentaron esta Resolución, quisiera indicarles que, a juicio de la Presidencia, podría lograrse un acuerdo sobre las siguientes bases.

Habría un segundo considerando que diría: "Considerando las actividades llevadas a cabo por la FAO, con la "participación de organizaciones donantes, especialmente la CEE, el Banco Mundial y la OIE..." - ésta fue la Organización sugerida por Senegal - "... para luchar contra esta plaga ..." Este sería el segundo considerando.

Luego, el dispositivo 3 sería modificado a la luz de las declaraciones de ustedes, diciendo: "exhorta ..." - y esto es importante que los tenga en cuenta el observador de la CEE, se trata simplemente de un llamado - "Exhorta a los organismos donantes, en particular a la CEE y al Banco Mundial, a que refuercen su colaboración con la OUA y la FAO para emprender, sin más demora, como lo prevé el Programa de Lucha ya aprobado, la campaña Panafricana contra la Peste Bovina. Esto recogería, en la parte final, la propuesta de Congo que ha sido generalmente aceptada.

Sobre estas bases creo que podría haber un acuerdo y les ruego que colaboren con nosotros porque la Plenaria está pendiente de la asistencia de los miembros de esta Comisión para poder iniciar sus trabajos;

G. DESESQUELLES (Communauté économique européenne): Nous pouvons accepter vos conclusions parce qu'elles reflètent tout à fait le débat; il est vrai que dans un souci de parallélisme il faut maintenir l'Article 3 par rapport au second considérant qui vient d'être ajouté.

Mais, si vous le permettez, pour essayer véritablement de refléter ce qu'a dit le représentant du Sénégal - et j'espère que je ne vais pas déformer ses propos - je vous fais une suggestion (mais je dis bien que je peux accepter vos conclusions): nous dirions à l'Article 3 "Invite les organismes donateurs et encourage notamment la CEE et la Banque mondiale à renforcer leur collaboration avec l'OUA et la FAO pour ... etc."

Je ne sais pas si l'on pourrait s'entendre là-dessus; je dis bien que je peux également accepter vos conclusions; mais c'est pour mieux refléter les débats: "Invite les organismes donateurs et encourage notamment la CEE et la Banque mondiale à renforcer leur collaboration avec l'OUA et la FAO" et le reste sans changement.

T.E.C. PALMER (Sierra Leone): I am a little confused whether perhaps we could accommodate "invite" at this stage, because if I were to reflect how far we have come I do not think we are now inviting the EEC any more; we are, in fact, calling upon them to join the FAO and the OAU and other donors because they were a major factor in the entire programme. This is my point.

The whole thing has been spelled out, as Mr. Trkulja from Yugoslavia said. It is a matter of procedure. We are only asking in blunt terms that these procedural issues be speeded up and we assume our responsibilities to the Campaign; but all the fringes that we now see coming on are, frankly the innuendoes we are trying to avoid. That is why we put it bluntly to say we are calling upon the EEC, and in particular the World Bank, because the OAU has given its political commitment. The FAO has demonstrated its technical competence. It is a matter of financial commitment. This is exactly what we are trying for, so we are just saying in blunt terms that we are calling on all the donors, all the agencies, the EEC in particular and the World Bank to join the OAU and the FAO to launch the Campaign - simply that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que todos los miembros de la Comisión estarán de acuerdo en que consten en las actas las declaraciones del observador de la CEE como demostración de buena voluntad y en que adoptemos el texto tal como lo había propuesto antes la presidencia.

D. Konan YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): Avec votre permission, j'aurais souhaité que le délégué de la CEE répète encore une fois la dernière proposition qu'il vient de faire.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo, distinguido colega de Costa de Marfil, que la propuesta del distinguido observador de la CEE tiene algún matiz que ha inquietado ligeramente a los colegas de su propia región, sobre todo el proponente principal. De manera que tal vez conviene con su colaboración, que le demando muy cordial y respetuosamente, que adoptemos este texto.

La propuesta de la CEE consta en las actas y todos sabemos que esa importante Comunidad está empeñada en contribuir a la solución de los problemas de la peste bovina y que continuará cooperando con los países africanos.

D. Konan YOMAN (Côte d'Ivoire): C'était tout simplement pour vous donner notre accord.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muy amable, le agradezco mucho.

Recordarán ustedes que ayer procedimos con cierta rapidez en cuanto a la discusión de algunos de nuestros REP. Se han escapado algunos errores. La Secretaría hará las aclaraciones pertinentes esta tarde en la Plenaria, pero podemos asegurarles que todos los puntos, los pocos que ayer fueron aquí discutidos, se han incorporado adecuadamente en los textos finales.

Igualmente también deseo informarles que en el REP/8 de esta tarde habrá un REP/8/Sup. 1, que saldrá más tarde. Es un anexo que contendrá el texto del Código. Noto que el colega Desesquelles, al fondo de la Sala, sonríe con satisfacción. También en ese texto han sido incorporadas, de manera fiel y exacta, las enmiendas que había introducido el pasado Consejo al texto final del Código. Espero que esto les satisfaga a todos ustedes.

Si la Secretaría no tiene ningún anuncio, creo, queridos colegas y amigos, que hemos llegado así al final de nuestros trabajos.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): Only to say with satisfaction that we have reached the end of our work!

EL PRESIDENTE: Decía, queridos colegas y amigos, que hemos llegado así al final de nuestros trabajos. Sé que algunos de ustedes quieren decir algunas palabras breves. Sin embargo, permítanme a mí decir que sinceramente tengo la impresión de que todos debemos estar satisfechos de la manera cómo se han adelantado las deliberaciones de esta Comisión.

Mil gracias a nuestros dos distinguidos Vicepresidentes, Embajador Qadir, de Pakistán, y Sr. Winkel, de la República Federal de Alemania. Como ustedes saben, ambos Vicepresidentes ocuparon este sitio y trabajaron de manera muy eficiente y fructífera.

También todos estamos muy agradecidos a nuestro colega y amigo Sr. Jennings, de la delegación de los Estados Unidos, quien presidió con eficacia el Comité de Redacción, así como a todos los demás miembros de ese Comité. Los proyectos de informe que fueron presentados después del trabajo serio y responsable cumplido por el Comité de Redacción, facilitaron la conclusión de nuestros trabajos.

En la Secretaría del Comité de Redacción, así como en la Secretaría del Pleno de esta Comisión, han actuado dos distinguidas damas, a mi izquierda: la Sra. Kay Killingsworth y la Sra. Claude Forthomme, cuya cooperación en la preparación de nuestros trabajos ha sido excepcional. Quiero destacarlas y reconocerlas plenamente en nombre de todos nosotros.

Igualmente estamos muy reconocidos al colega y amigo Sr. Trkulja, de Yugoslavia, todavía Presidente del Comité del Programa y, en esa condición, Presidente del Comité de Resoluciones. Al igual que al amigo Solé-Leris que ha actuado como Secretario del Comité de Resoluciones y quien en todo momento atendió nuestras solicitudes con eficacia y oportunidad.

Estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de todos los miembros de esta Comisión al manifestar nuestro agradecimiento, por conducto particular del Dr. Bommer, a quien veo esta mañana con nosotros, y al Sr. Director General de la FAO por la valiosa asistencia que nos ofrecieron todos sus representantes en esta Comisión.

El Dr. Bommer merece un reconocimiento especial. Es un distinguido ciudadano de la República Federal de Alemania. Ha estado asociado a nuestra Organización durante once años y todos reconocemos, una vez más, los méritos, el prestigio, la capacidad y la competencia que le han distinguido. Sabemos que en todo momento él continuará vinculado a nosotros y que su experiencia y sus conocimientos nos guiarán siempre en todo momento, particularmente en el futuro.

Todos estamos igualmente agradecidos al Sr. Ingram, Director Ejecutivo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos y a sus colaboradores, por la participación eficaz que tuvieron aquí en el seno de nuestra Comisión.

En nombre de todos ustedes deseo expresar nuestro agradecimiento a los intérpretes. En ocasiones hemos abusado de su paciencia, pero con su magnífico trabajo facilitaron nuestro entendimiento.

Mil y mil gracias a las jóvenes y simpáticas mensajeras, juveniles y alegres integrantes del gracioso equipo de la Sra. Badolati y del Sr. Valente, mensajeras gentiles que han traído y llevado nuestros mensajes.

A todos los traductores, taquígrafos e impresores, y a quienes, aquí a la izquierda, manejan esas maquinitas mágicas y prodigiosas que reproducen textualmente nuestras declaraciones, mil y mil gracias.

Generalmente, cuando presido un organismo, y esto es frecuente como lo han dicho algunos de ustedes, preparo algunas notas, pero casi nunca puedo pronunciarlas porque normalmente terminamos bajo la presión del tiempo. Este es el caso de hoy. De manera que voy a prescindir de lo que tenía escrito para decirles que al concluir nuestros gratuitos encuentros, casi diarios en esta Sala Roja, se aproxima una época próxima al final del año 1985.

Quiero concluir reiterando a todos ustedes la complacencia que me ha producido esta oportunidad de trabajar como Presidente de esta Comisión, agradeciéndoles su apoyo y cooperación permanente y deseando a aquellos colegas que regresan a sus países de origen que ojalá el Dios de todos los seres humanos protega a sus naciones y los mantenga en paz, prosperidad y progreso.

A los colegas y amigos con quienes seguiremos compartiendo en Roma nuestras comunes actividades, nos seguiremos viendo repetidamente aquí; y así todos, quienes quedamos aquí y quienes parten a sus países, en diversos lugares del mundo, esperaremos con fe y confianza que 1986 fortalezca la cooperación internacional y nos encuentre a todos unidos fraternalmente, sin distinciones, en apoyo de la FAO, ésta nuestra Organización, a la cual todos tanto queremos.

M. AFZAL QADIR (Pakistan): I should like to thank you for giving me the floor. You are not only my Chairman but my mentor. You have introduced me for the first time to the complexities of multilateral diplomacy, and I am much wiser for that. As we conclude this Session, I think I can go back reflecting on what I have learned, and I can assure you that I have learned a great deal. I should like to thank you for putting your trust in me by asking me to Chair a number of Sessions. I am also grateful to you for what you have said just now about the way we conducted ourselves when we were chairing the Sessions. I am under the impression that our conduct as Chairmen has met with your approbation, and that in chairing the Sessions which you called upon me to do from time to time I have lived up to the trust that you had put in me.

Now that you are about to bring down the curtain on the work of Commission II of the FAO General Conference, I should like to pay my sincere tribute to the sagacity and wisdom with which you have steered the deliberations of the Commission towards a successful end. Your abiding commitment to multilateralism arising from your deep conviction that the world is an indivisible entity and your great qualities of head and heart have all combined to make the deliberations the total success that they undoubtedly were.

My involvement with Commission II, as I indicated earlier, provided me with my first exposure to any multilateral conference on such a great scale. Your action in asking me to chair the Sessions on a number of occasions has helped me to acquire an experience which otherwise I would not have been able to have. My participation in the deliberations of the Commission has been a source of great education for me. It has rekindled my faith in the multilateral process and has reinforced my belief in the interdependence of the world in which we all have to play a constructive role in a spirit of give and take to structure an equitable world in which all of us could live untrammelled by the fear of hunger, disease and deprivation.

One thing I have noticed during the Conference, and the most noticeable feature of our meetings, was the ubiquitous spirit of cooperation that has animated the delegates, no matter whether they belonged to developed or developing countries. This was a highly moving experience for me. There might have been some differences in the positions of some countries, but even in these positions a subliminal concern was there as to how best all the delegates, both from the developed and the developing countries, could work together in creating a global environment in which we could all live in dignity and honour.

The most important lesson that I have learned during the deliberations of the Commission is that we must eschew confrontational posture, bearing in mind that we all are partners in our common endeavours towards human progress and development.

The spirit of cooperation which we have witnessed during the last few days from all the delegates augurs well for the future, as we all march shoulder to shoulder in a genuine spirit of cooperation, the quest for solutions to our problems, given the spirit of solidarity which existed during and is most likely to endure beyond the Conference, cannot be beyond our grasp.

JOACHIM WINKEL (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): During the discussions at this Conference I have learned to appreciate your vigorous and yet gentle way of leading discussions, and I saw that our Sessions proceeded smoothly and were kept as brief as possible. Therefore I will be very brief so as not to incur your reproof. I do not want to repeat what you have already said in thanking all those who guaranteed, through their work, the success of our work.

We worked in a spirit which, to me as a newcomer to this international forum, is highly gratifying. The business-like and sober way of getting our minds to converge in settling our differences by nipping them in the bud impressed me greatly. I will take this experience home with me. A very important factor to me was draft in all of its meanings. We drafted texts, we received the excellent drafters' work and we sat in the draft so that one of my souvenirs will be a bad cold to take home with me.

After this short excursion, let me say that we do not want to pat our respective backs. Chairmen and their representatives can only be as good as the committee allows them to be, and I would like to thank our colleagues who made it possible for us and you in particular for doing such effective work. In order not to be too proud of ourselves we should remember whom we are working for here and once we get home. We are working for all the people of the world and especially for those in regions with lack of food in order to improve, together with the farmers, the situation of agriculture and nutrition. Let me quote once again what Mr Swaminathan said in a different context.

These verses symbolize the image of the farmer and when we go back to our offices, by thinking of him we shall modestly keep it in mind:

"From sunset I work
Till sunset when I retire;
I drink water from the well
That I have dug;
I eat the food from the field
That I have tilled;
Kings and emperors
What have they to do with me?"

EL PRESIDENTE: Mil gracias a nuestros dos distinguidos Vicepresidentes.

OCTAVIO RAINHO da SILVA NEVES (Brazil): At the closure of our debates in Commission II, and on behalf of our Group, of my group and your group, the Latin American Agreement Group, I should like to express our deep appreciation for the way in which you have chaired this Commission during these last weeks. It is not merely a formal and somewhat traditional acknowledgement, as is the case sometimes. Mr Chairman, you chaired our meetings in an extremely efficient and productive way, and in a very impartial way, all through with a good sense of humour and high spirits. Therefore, you really deserve our thanks.

Our thanks go also to the vice chairmen, to Mr Jennings the chairman of the Drafting Committee, and to the Committee itself; to the Secretariat and Mr Shah; to the assistant secretary of the Commission; and to the many others.

VICTOR HJORT (Denmark): I think I can speak on behalf of all the OECD countries in expressing our great satisfaction with the way in which you have conducted this very important Commission. I think everybody will agree that your manner of conducting the meetings was a very friendly and very efficient one. For this we are extremely grateful. I think I can also say that through you, we have a confirmation of the possibilities of strengthening good cooperation between the Member States of FAO.

I should also like to thank the bureau of this Commission for the excellent work which has been done.

Michel MOMBOULI (Congo): Au moment où nos travaux vont bientôt toucher à leur terme, vous me permettez, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser quelques mots.

Vous vous souvenez que lors de notre première séance nous avons saisi l'occasion pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de notre Commission, mais nous vous exprimions également le regret de ne plus vous retrouver à notre gauche, puisque vous étiez toujours notre voisin de gauche.

Notre Commission a eu à traiter plusieurs sujets que nous avons considérés au départ comme étant réputés des sujets de controverse. Malgré tout, grâce à votre diligence, à votre compétence, nous avons su nous tirer d'affaire et il a régné au cours de nos travaux un climat de travail appréciable. Il y a quelques instants vous avez remercié tous ceux qui ont contribué au succès de nos travaux en Commission, notamment le comité de rédaction et son président, les messengers, le Secrétariat, bref tous ceux qui de près ou de loin ont tout fait pour que nos travaux se déroulent dans un bon climat et arrivent au résultat satisfaisant auquel nous sommes parvenus.

Vous avez donc donné là encore l'exemple d'un homme au service de la Commission mais surtout au service de notre Organisation.

Pour cette raison, étant donné que vous avez déjà remercié en notre nom toutes les personnes que j'ai citées, c'est pour nous un réel plaisir de vous remercier, Monsieur le Président. Nous tenons à ce qu'il soit mentionné dans le procès-verbal que, pour notre part, nous avons voulu officiellement vous féliciter pour la manière dont vous avez su diriger nos travaux.

Pour terminer, je suis personnellement très heureux de pouvoir espérer vous avoir à nouveau comme mon voisin de gauche, selon l'accoutumée.

E. MARTENS (Belgium) (on behalf of the Member States of the EEC): I should like to thank you and to congratulate you on the way in which you managed to preside over our Commission; in particular for bringing it to a successful end. Moreover we should like to join you in the gratitude that you expressed to all the persons involved in the organization of this Commission.

HORACIO M. CARANDANG (Philippines): The Philippine delegation would like to associate itself with the other delegates in thanking you, Mr Chairman, for a job well done. I believe I can say without fear of much contradiction that you have indeed conducted the deliberations of this Commission with fairness, tact and great finesse. In fact, I can say without exaggeration that I am still to see the man who has mastered the art of chairing international meetings better than you, Ambassador Bula Hoyos. That has helped us to expedite the work of this Commission. We have been able to reach consensus on the substantive programmes and activities of the Organization for the next two years. Thanks to the able guidance and spirit of give and take that has prevailed in the deliberations of this meeting we have been able to take decisions on the Code of Pesticides, the Plant Genetic Resources, and the World Food Programme targets. These are matters of great importance. The effects of these decisions will go on long after we have forgotten the details of the discussion on these issues.

I should also like to thank the vice Chairmen Mr Joachim Winkel, of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Mr Afzal Qadir of Pakistan. I should also like to thank Mr Jennings who chaired the interminable sessions of the Drafting Committee. I had the privilege - or perhaps the misfortune - of being a Member of this Drafting Committee which worked for a record total of sixty-five long hours. We worked daily to midnight, we worked Saturdays and Sundays, until finally we declared a strike on the last Sunday. However, Mr Jennings, with unruffled calm, guided the Committee through the Report which was accepted by the Commission almost without any changes. This I believe is a tribute to the work of the Drafting Committee, the thoroughness of its Chairman, and the patience of the members of that Drafting Committee.

I should also like to join others in thanking the Secretariat staff who have helped in our deliberations, those whom we see on the podium and those who worked behind the scenes, the interpreters, the verbatim reporters, the messengers and everybody else who has helped us to finish our work.

Finally, I should like to wish all the delegations who go back to their capitals a happy trip. May they reach their destinations safely to resume their work after finishing and accomplishing the work they have done in this Commission.

HARTFORD T. JENNINGS (United States of America): In response to your wishes, I shall attempt to be brief, but my delegation wishes to join others, Sir, in commending you on a job very well done. Your efforts have been instrumental in guiding this Commission to a successful conclusion of its work. It is always a pleasure for us in the United States to be able justly laud the efforts of a representative of one of our sister Republics of the Western Hemisphere.

It has also been a pleasure, although the hours have been long, for our delegation to have been able, under your guidance, to provide a, Chairman for the Drafting Committee. I would only repeat, Sir, the comment made by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission from the Federal Republic. of Germany, that a Chairman can only be as good as the Committee which he chairs permits him to be.

As a delegation, we wish to have it clearly understood that we associate ourselves with the thanks that you have already given to those many members of the Secretariat and staff who have assisted our labours.

EL PRESIDENTE: Nuestro colega y amigo Jennings, de los Estados Unidos, sabe que todos le estamos muy reconocidos por su magnífica labor como Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

ADEL EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): In the name of Allah, the Merciful, Mr Chairman, my country's delegation and I wish to thank you for your constructive efforts in chairing the works of this very important Commission of the Conference. Thanks to your experience, your wisdom and your constructive guidance, our Commission has reached very wise Resolutions. You were the kind and faithful friend and we wish you continued success in your future activities. We also wish to thank the Vice-Chairmen and all those who have given a helping hand and helped in the success of this Commission.

Lazare GANSORE (Burkina Faso): A la fin de nos travaux, la délégation du Burkina Faso ne peut s'empêcher de vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, et de vous remercier pour les résultats auxquels nous sommes parvenus, grace à votre sagesse, grace à votre esprit de conciliation. Je dois vous dire qu'au début des travaux, nous avons pensé que nous avions affaire à une Commission très difficile. Mais comme toujours, vous avez su par votre sagesse, par votre esprit de synthèse, nous aider à parvenir à des résultats très complets. Vous avez bien représenté votre pays. Vous avez fait honneur au groupe auquel vous appartenez.

Pour terminer, je dois ajouter qu'il est agréable de travailler avec vous comme Président.

MAZLAN JUSOH (Malaysia): My delegation just wishes to express its sincerest appreciation and admiration to you, Mr Chairman, for your excellent chairing of this very important Commission. I say this not just as a member of this Commission but also as a friend. Despite the complexities of the subjects under consideration, you, as usual, have always shown the tranquillity and sense of direction which is the remarkable trait that you possess. As other delegates have already said, this Commission is an experience and you have taught me many nice things about diplomacy, courtesy, diligence and, most important of all, sincerity and continued commitment to the betterment of mankind.

E. MUYANGA (Zambia): My delegation would like to join others in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, for chairing this meeting. You guided the Commission with competence and diligence and because of that we were able to conclude the business of this Commission successfully.

I would also like to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and all the Members of your Bureau for a job well done.

SUHARYO HUSEN (Indonesia): On behalf of my delegation I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and all the Vice-Chairmen, for your excellent work.

My delegation would also like to thank the Drafting Committee for its hard work and the excellent results.

Finally, my delegation would also like to thank everybody who has assisted Commission II.

D.F.R. BOMMER (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I know that you are pressed for time but I would like to say, on behalf of the Director-General, that he wishes to express his particular thanks and appreciation for the work of this Commission, its achievements, its wisdom, and the guidance it has given to the work of the Organization.

Certainly I want to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on the very skilful way - as has been expressed so many times now and is so well known in the Organization - that you have guided this Commission. At the same time I want to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee all its members, and all those who have contributed to it. May I add a personal word. Thank you very much for your nice words addressed to me. Certainly I will take this away in my memory and the Commission's work will certainly be in my memory when I continue to work in my own country. I wish you all success.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Monsieur le Président, notre delegation fait siennes toutes les appréciations et félicitations qui vous ont été adressées.

E.V. WADE-BROWN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom delegation wishes to associate itself with the consensus.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias colegas y amigos. Pecaría de exceso de modestia si no dijeran que me halagan todas las generosas manifestaciones de ustedes. Algunos colegas me han transmitido dos pensamientos. Uno fue el de que el pasado martes, doce de noviembre, al asumir esta Presidencia, algunos de nuestros colegas tuvieron la impresión de que se había despegado de la parte izquierda de nuestra Sala la imagen de uno de los retratos para ocupar este sitio. Le respondí entonces que seguramente esa impresión debió corresponder a un hecho que yo considero muy importante en los buenos éxitos que todos hoy celebramos, y es la amistad, la simpatía y el compañerismo que me une a todos ustedes. Cada mañana o cada tarde, cuando ocupaba este sitio y miraba hacia la Sala esperando el quorum, sentía la gran satisfacción de saber que yo podía, en cualquier momento, llamar a la gran mayoría de todos ustedes por sus propios nombres. Creo que es un hecho de amistad, compañerismo y colegaje que ha sido definitivo para el buen éxito que todos celebramos.

Esta mañana, en este campo, se cierra con una nota gratísima: en el puesto de Malta está el colega Moskovits, más de 35 años de servicio como Representante de su país, Malta, en la FAO. Es nuestro Decano y a todos nosotros nos complace verle siempre en nuestra compañía.

Otra afirmación que hicieron los colegas fue la de que muchos de ellos me preferían como Presidente y no como Delegado de Colombia. Puedo asegurarles que he recibido esa manifestación con cariño y simpatía, ya que creo que demuestra la coherencia en mis actitudes. Es cierto que como Delegado de Colombia asumo ciertas actitudes un poco duras, pero la de ahora corresponde a lo que entiendo que es la función de Presidente, dirigida al objetivo común de que la FAO trabaje cada vez mejor y más eficazmente.

Distinguidos colegas y amigos, gracias a todos ustedes. Me siento orgulloso de haber trabajado como Presidente con todos los Miembros de esta Comisión. Les deseo todo lo mejor. Gracias de nuevo.

(Applause)

(Applaudissements)

(Aplausos)

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours

La séance est levée à 12 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 horas