

**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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**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 89/I/PV/1

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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

**FIRST MEETING  
PREMIERE SEANCE  
PRIMERA SESION  
(14 November 1989)**

The First Meeting was opened at 14.30 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 14 h 30  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 14.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

**I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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

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

CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind delegates that Commission I of the Conference deals with the Major Trends and Policies in Food and Agriculture. It is thus the main forum for the discussion of broad policy questions in light of general statements made in Plenary.

First I should like to announce the names of the two Vice-Chairmen who have been appointed by the Plenary: Mr E. Detraux from Belgium and Mr A.D. Sulaiman from Iraq.

I should also like to draw the attention of delegates to document C 89/12 which sets out arrangements for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and which includes a tentative timetable for this Commission in Appendix A. The document also deals with Conference resolutions, and I would remind delegates that the Council has recommended that the number of resolutions be kept to a minimum and that they should deal only with matters requiring a formal decision by the Conference.

May I propose that the Commission's working hours should normally be from 9.30 to 12.30 and from 2.30 to 5.30. May I also announce that we have to break that rule today because we are going to welcome the President of Chad, so we will break immediately after 3 o'clock so that members can participate in the Plenary meeting that will be addressed by the President of Chad. We shall reconvene at 4 p.m.

The composition of the Drafting Committee is left to the initiative of the regional groups. We do not have the names now, but we hope that they will be appointed shortly. I should like to inform you that we expect the Drafting Committee to start its meetings on Thursday. We hope that delegates and regional groups will complete their consultations as soon as possible for the setting up of this Committee. As soon as I have the list of members I will communicate it to the Commission.

The Chairman would like to express in advance his most sincere thanks for all the compliments to be received. For the sake of expeditiousness, I should like to draw the attention of participants to the fact that if all of the nearly 140 members were to reiterate those compliments, and if each one of them were to spend a minute doing so, a Whole session would be lost. The Chairman therefore considers himself as having been duly complimented, and would like all participants to consider themselves as released from this courtesy.

Still in connection with the matter of expeditiousness, the Chairman would like to request that members of the Commission refrain from making excessively lengthy interventions. The recommendation to the Plenary that the Heads of Delegation should limit their speeches to a maximum of 15 minutes is not binding, of course, and it is certainly not binding for the work of the Commissions. However, it is a sensible and reasonable guideline, and if the Heads of Delegation can limit themselves to 15 minutes there is no reason why the members of the delegations could not do the same.

Finally, the Chairman would like to emphasize the importance of the strict observance of the schedules, and in particular of beginning our sessions on

time. A delay of ten minutes at the beginning of each session would, in the end, represent a loss of at least one complete session. Participants are therefore kindly requested to avoid unnecessary delays by taking their seats a few minutes prior to the scheduled time for the beginning of sessions.

We now go on the agenda item 8, Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations "Uruguay Round" and Implications for FAO. The documents are C 89/23 and C 89/25, the first one of the same title as the agenda item, and the second one entitled International Plant Protection Convention -Future Implementation and Cooperation with GATT and Regional Plant Protection Organizations.

Before we start our discussions I should like to welcome the presence here of Mr Lucq, Director of the Agriculture Division in GATT. Mr Lucq will be very happy to answer any questions that delegates may wish to ask. May I ask Mr Bonte-Friedheim to present his introduction.

8. **Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and Implications for FAO**
8. **Rapport intérimaire sur les négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT (négociations d'Uruguay) et conséquences pour la FAO**
8. **Informe parcial sobre las Negociaciones Comerciales Multilaterales del GATT (Ronda Uruguay) y repercusiones para la FAO**

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is my honour and pleasure on behalf of the Director-General of FAO, Dr Saouma, to read his introduction to this important agenda item.

Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates and observers: "As your agenda shows, Commission I is the main policy formulation organ of the Member States of FAO, spanning important issues in agricultural and rural development. Among these issues, for instance, your agenda provides excellent opportunities under items 6.1 and 6.2 for exchanges of views on the broader problems and challenges in the areas of agricultural protectionism, trade liberalization and policy reform. Moreover, under agenda item 8, Members are to consider aspects of the current Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations which have special implications for the work of FAO.

"As Members are aware, originally Commission I was scheduled to commence its work tomorrow. However, a number of Honourable Ministers and Heads of delegations have expressed special interest in agenda item 8 "Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and Implications for FAO", and have particularly stressed the importance of those aspects relating to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. The original agenda has therefore been changed and brought forward to enable Honourable Ministers to participate themselves in the deliberations on agenda item 8 today.

"Mr Chairman, there are two documents before the Commission for this purpose. Document C 89/23 provides a broad-based progress report on the Uruguay Round in the areas of negotiation of primary concern to FAO, namely agriculture and tropical products and natural resources-based products, which include the fishery and forestry sectors. This document also provides a summary of the support to the Uruguay Round negotiations provided by FAO, and includes sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers to trade, notably as regard the International Plant Protection Convention and the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

"The other document, C 89/25, on the "International Plant Protection Convention - Future implementation and Cooperation with GATT and Regional Plant Protection Organizations", sets out the key features of the IPPC and the agreement reached by Ministers with respect to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in the Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round. Finally, and most importantly, this document sets out the action subsequently taken by FAO, and proposed for the future, in order to provide the fullest possible support by FAO to the Uruguay Round negotiations and their follow-up.

"As benchmarks for the Commission's deliberations, I will firstly refer to the broader issues concerning the need for strengthened disciplines on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. I will then focus on the particular role of FAO in this area, as underpinned by the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Finally, I would like to refer briefly to FAO's technical support to the Uruguay Round in relation to agriculture, tropical products, and fishery and forestry products.

"Sanitary and Phytosanitary regulations in an improved trading system for agriculture

"Mr Chairman, FAO is fully supporting the Uruguay Round in respect of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, particularly as regards the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius. The importance of these particular aspects of FAO support stems from the fact that, while the negotiations on agriculture in the Uruguay Round itself will end by December 1990, the agreements reached and the commitments made by then could have profound implications for the agricultural trading system for many years to come. There is no doubt that FAO will be called upon to and, if resources are made available, should play its part in a strengthened GATT system for this purpose, particularly through the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC. Essentially, what is at stake is to ensure that the functioning of a more liberal world agricultural trading system, with strengthened GATT rules and disciplines, is not frustrated by the use of existing trade barriers or by the erection of new ones, such as the unilateral application of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers.

"In this regard, I would emphasize those objectives set out in the Mid-Term review of the Uruguay Round for a work programme on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations which have major implications for FAO:

- firstly, the harmonization of such regulations and measures, on the basis of appropriate standards established by relevant international organizations, including the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius Commission;
- secondly, the strengthening of GATT Article XX so that measures taken to protect human, animal or plant life or health are consistent with sound scientific evidence and use suitable principles of equivalency;
- thirdly, and linked to this, the improvement of the effectiveness of the multilateral dispute settlement process within the GATT in order to provide the necessary input of scientific expertise and judgment, relying on relevant international organizations; and
- fourthly, assessment of the possible effects on developing countries of the GATT rules and disciplines for sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and evaluation of the need for technical assistance.

"Already, FAO has been providing support for the GATT negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in the areas of concern to the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius, including through full participation in the

relevant Working Group of the GATT Negotiating Group on Agriculture, but I should like to emphasize the more recent developments and initiatives.

"We are convinced that a general acceptance of the International Plant Protection Convention by all FAO member countries will be the first but important step in helping to reduce some of the barriers in international agricultural trade. For this purpose we have sent a Note Verbale to the signatories of the IPPC requesting them to formally adopt those amendments adopted by the 20th Session of the FAO Conference in 1979 - ten years ago -and, furthermore, we have invited the countries not yet signatories to the Convention also to do so.

"Furthermore, as indicated in the documentation for this agenda item, we convened technical consultations with the Regional Plant Protection Organizations and some selected experts in September of this year. This meeting was highly successful and made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Conference which are set out in paragraphs 9 to 15 of document C 89/25 and which are designed to facilitate the expectations set out in the GATT programme of work with regard to IPPC matters.

"We are in general agreement with these recommendations. However, we consider that it might be premature, or even unnecessary, to consider already at this stage the establishment of an official technical body under FAO in support of the IPPC, as proposed in paragraph 15 of the document. We feel that a secretariat created within FAO, the convening of annual consultations of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations and the necessary expert consultations would be sufficient to meet the likely requirements for some years to come and we look forward to the reaction to these recommendations from the Conference.

"The Uruguay Round Mid-Term Review decisions will also have a significant impact on the relevance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and on the work of the expert scientific committees and panels which provide the sound scientific evaluations on which the Codex work is based.

"The relevance of the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which already provides a firm basis for international harmonization in many areas, will be further enhanced by the decisions reached in the Mid-Term Review. Codex standards, which cover areas of food quality and accurate and informative labelling in addition to sanitary or safety questions, are being increasingly accepted by member countries, and are being used to establish or revise food regulations at the national level. The Mid-Term Review decisions will accelerate this process by underlining the necessity for a harmonized approach to the removal of unnecessary barriers to trade in food, whether for sanitary or for other reasons.

"Of course, always subject to the availability of necessary resources, we do envisage that there will also be a need to strengthen FAO's output aimed at providing the necessary scientific information on which the Codex Alimentarius' work is based, particularly to accelerate the work of evaluations of the safety of food additives, environmental contaminants, and residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides in foods. In addition, the Mid-Term Review decisions will mean that FAO will have to stand ready to call ad hoc expert consultations, and arrange for special consultancy services to provide the necessary input of scientific expertise and judgement for use in a strengthened multilateral dispute settlement process within the GATT, and to provide expert advice on new or unexpected problem areas of immediate concern to international trade in foods. FAO will also stand ready to

identify the major potential health and sanitary barriers to international food trade in order to assist member countries of both organizations, GATT as well as FAO, to achieve bilateral resolution of potential disputes through consultation. FAO is uniquely fitted to do this work. Our work on food standards, pursued in cooperation with WHO, has established the Codex Alimentarius as the world authority on this subject. However, the availability of resources for this seems to have been placed in doubt.

"Mr Chairman, a summary of other aspects of FAO's technical support to the Uruguay Round negotiations, including support to the GATT secretariat and technical assistance to interested participating countries, is given in paragraphs 10 and 11 of document C 89/23.

"Finally, Mr Chairman, the fact should not be overlooked that FAO's total role, activities and expenditures in relation to the issues with which negotiators are grappling in the Uruguay Round, are already impressive, as shown in the Programme of Work and Budget. Thus, the International Plant Protection Convention provides for functions already undertaken by FAO, especially information exchange on the distribution of pests, on legislation and on regulations. In addition, FAO is also providing technical assistance to countries in the field of Plant Quarantine. The Regular Programme budget for these activities is under Sub-programme 2.1.2.4 and provides for nearly 500 thousand dollars in staff and other resources for plant quarantine alone in the next biennium 1990-91. Furthermore, resources of about 330 thousand dollars are devoted to information exchange under the same Sub-programme. Similarly, with regard to the Codex Alimentarius, Sub-programme 2.1.6.5, which embraces the joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme, has an allocation of over 3 million dollars including staff time. Moreover, many of the commodity policy and trade activities of the FAO, particularly under Sub-programme 2.1.8.3, are also in accord with, and support, the objectives of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

"In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would propose that for the Commission's deliberations on the present agenda item, delegations may wish to focus their interventions exclusively on the issues and implications relating the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in the context of the role of the IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius. In putting forward this suggestion, I have in mind, as I have already indicated, the fact that other agenda items provide for deliberations on the broader issues of agricultural protectionism, trade liberalization and policy reform.

"Thank you, Mr Chairman."

That was the statement from the Director-General.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his presentation. I should like to address the delegates on this issue. We have a very important subject to address; the progress in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations is an area of concern to FAO and of implication for the Organization. The Uruguay Round is very large subject, involving, as it does, problems and issues of agricultural protectionism, trade liberalization, market access and indeed all dimensions of agricultural policy reforms. Of course, there will be excellent opportunities for addressing these important matters of wider concern in the days to come, particularly in the agenda items dealing with the state of food and agriculture and the (guidelines on international agricultural adjustment.

Thus, I put to you the suggestion that this afternoon delegations may wish to limit their contributions to the debate of those specific matters in the Uruguay Round which have implications for FAO's activities. In particular, I urge that delegations, in their interventions under this agenda item, focus on the roles of the International Plant Protection Convention and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in relation to the Programme of Work and the objectives concerning sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as agreed by the Ministers in the Mid-term Review of the Uruguay Round in April this year. Then in debates on succeeding days, and on other agenda items such as those mentioned previously by myself and also by Mr Bonte-Friedheim, the broader trade issues could be addressed. I hope there is agreement on this? As I see no objections, I understand that there is agreement on this procedure.

May I now ask permission of the delegates to suspend the session so that we can attend the Plenary Meeting to welcome the President of Chad.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting was suspended from 15.00 to 16.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 à 16 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.00 a las 16.00 horas

CHAIRMAN: We will resume the meeting that we interrupted to welcome the President of Chad. We are dealing with agenda item 8; Progress Report on the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Uruguay Round) and Implications for FAO.

May I ask those delegations that wish to speak to indicate their willingness.

Argentina, China, United States, Brazil, Australia. You can start now and the other delegations will indicate their willingness in due course. The first speaker on my list is Argentina.

Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina): Señor Presidente, la delegación argentina desea felicitarle por su elección con la seguridad que usted, dada su capacidad, podrá llevar a buen término las deliberaciones sobre los temas que ocupan a esta Comisión. Asimismo, deseamos hacer extensivas las felicitaciones a los Vicepresidentes designados.

Por otra parte, nuestra delegación ofrece su más amplia disposición para colaborar en todas las tareas que tenemos por delante.

Respondiendo a las sugerencias formuladas precedentemente por la Secretaría, mi Delegación explicará nuestra posición respecto a las negociaciones comerciales multilaterales del GATT, durante el tratamiento de otros temas en esta Comisión.

Con referencia al documento C 89/25, deseamos destacar nuestro beneplácito por la labor que realiza la FAO en apoyo de las negociaciones sobre agricultura, sobre productos tropicales y sobre productos obtenidos de la explotación de los recursos naturales de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT. En particular destacamos la importancia que tiene actualmente la colaboración técnica de organismos dependientes de la FAO tales como la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria.

Apoyamos además el concepto de reforzar la asistencia de la FAO al GATT en la elaboración de normas multilateralmente reconocidas, ya que esto colaborará a impedir que los países proteccionistas continúen recurriendo a la utilización de las medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias como un obstáculo encubierto al comercio.

Con posterioridad a la Reunión de Ginebra, los países del Grupo de Cairns han elaborado su propuesta sobre este tema, que incluye elementos tanto de corto como de largo plazo.

El objetivo de largo plazo en esta materia, cuya consecución representaría una solución ideal para la eliminación de los obstáculos al comercio presentados por las medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, es el de llevar a la armonización de las normas o a la aceptación del principio de equivalencia entre normas que tienen el mismo efecto.

Queremos hacer mención a los principios que no fueron tenidos en cuenta en la Revisión de Mediano Plazo, pero que para los países del Grupo Cairns son muy importantes.

En primer lugar, las regulaciones sanitarias y fitosanitarias deberían estar basadas en el concepto del riesgo mínimo aceptable, que permita las mayores oportunidades al comercio, y que sean consistentes con la responsabilidad del país exportador de proteger la salud de sus habitantes, de sus animales y de sus plantas.

En segundo lugar, para países con una gran superficie y diferencias marcadas en las enfermedades y pestes existentes en sus distintas regiones, deberían desarrollarse procedimientos y reglas que permitan el comercio basándose en la existencia de zonas libres de enfermedades.

También es necesario concentrarse en lo estrictamente sanitario y fitosanitario, separando aquellas normas que se refieran a la calidad de los productos, ya que los estándares de calidad afectan a todos los productos y no solamente a los agropecuarios y pesqueros, consultando a los organismos competentes cuando se esté ante normas que contengan aspectos tanto sanitarios como de calidad.

A corto plazo, lo que es más importante para que estos principios se vayan poniendo en marcha, es el desarrollo de una mecánica más efectiva para asegurar la transparencia en las legislaciones nacionales y en los acuerdos bilaterales, de un sistema de consulta y conciliación y de un sistema más efectivo de solución de diferencias que incorpore el asesoramiento de los expertos.

El objetivo de la transparencia es evidente: Se trata de permitir a los socios comerciales expresar rápidamente su preocupación por cualquier legislación, regulación o acuerdo bilateral. Para instrumentarla, se podría usar el "Standards Code" expandiéndolo; sería necesario además que todos los participantes de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT se adhieran al mismo. Otra posibilidad sería construir, al margen del Código, un nuevo mecanismo de notificación y contranotificación de los estándares y regulaciones sanitarias y fitosanitarias.

Otro aspecto sobre el cual se puede ir trabajando en el corto plazo es el del mejoramiento de los procedimientos de consultas y conciliación, usando a los organismos especializados que fijan estándares internacionales (CODEX Alimentarius, Oficina Internacional de Epizootias, Convención Internacional



de Protección Fitosanitaria), para resolver los problemas técnicos antes de que se conviertan en un tema para el mecanismo de solución de diferencias.

Finalmente, para las disputas que no pudieron ser resueltas por el mecanismo de consultas y conciliación, debería establecerse un mecanismo de solución de diferencias efectivo, en el marco del GATT, que contaría con la asistencia de los entes especialistas mencionados precedentemente.

Por consiguiente, Sr. Presidente, y atento a la importancia que mi país concede a esta cuestión, apoyamos la propuesta de la Secretaría de reforzar las Direcciones de Nutrición y Protección Vegetal. Tenemos la esperanza de que los países miembros cumplirán con sus obligaciones financieras para con la Organización en el más breve plazo, lo que haría posible la ejecución de las medidas sugeridas.

En relación a lo sugerido en el párrafo 21 del documento C 89/25, expresamos el aprecio de la Argentina por el estudio emprendido al respecto. Sin embargo, estimamos necesario continuar el análisis de la cuestión del establecimiento de un organismo oficial para la CIPF, pues nos parece prematuro encarar una tarea de tan gran aliento en el futuro próximo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Al agradecer los cumplimientos de la delegación argentina, la Presidencia gustaría de reiterar el llamamiento que hizo al inicio de nuestros trabajos para que en aras de la economía de tiempo, las delegaciones se abstengan de presentar sus cumplimientos a la Mesa directiva. Como dijo antes la Presidencia anticipadamente, ha indicado su gratitud en atención de todos los delegados que tenían la intención de hacerlo.

MA GENG-OU (China) (original language Chinese): With respect to C 89/23, I will briefly give the views of the Chinese delegation.

Over the past years we have seen protectionism in agricultural products greatly increase, and competition is being sabotaged on a very large scale. The implications of the situation mean that on one hand the developed countries are giving enormous subsidies to agricultural products while on the other hand the trade of developing countries in agricultural products is being seriously harmed. The income deriving from such sources is decreasing. The economic development of these countries is also in a very bad state.

Faced with this very drastic situation, the new cycle of Multilateral Trade Negotiations of GATT basically focuses on trade in agricultural products and trade in tropical products.

FAO has made many great efforts in the area of technology information :regarding international trade in agricultural products and commodities, and this is something for which we wish to express appreciation.

The meeting on trade negotiations of senior officers of GATT over the past year has also shown some progress. The meeting led to an outline agreement and approach. This meeting referred to a trading system which would be equitable and based on long-term planning. The meeting also prepared a programme of work with respect to short-term measures. The participating countries pledged not to further strengthen their trade barrier systems.

In view of the economic situation in developing countries, particularly with respect to those who have to import grains, the meeting gave these countries

preferential treatment of a special nature. We feel that, for technical, financial and other reasons, the developing countries still find themselves in a very hazardous situation with regard to trade in agricultural commodities. We hope that new negotiations will make it possible gradually to find solutions to the problems that have surfaced in this sector, particularly taking into account the needs of the developing countries, so that they can develop their economies and ensure food security.

Over the past years, grain production throughout the world has dropped considerably. For two years running grain prices have spiralled upwards. This has resulted in developing countries, particularly low-income ones who have grain shortages, undergoing very serious difficulties. We hope that FAO and other international organizations involved in this sector, while seeking to wipe out protectionism in trade in agricultural commodities, will carry out an in-depth study of these deleterious effects and thus proceed to implement efficient measures so as to keep to a minimum the losses that are incurred to the detriment of these countries.

In order to unify and codify plant health regulations in different countries and to do away with the negative implications on trade and agricultural commodities, we would want the international community to take fully into account the economic development levels existing at present in the developing countries. We must, in the first place, see to it that these international plant protection measures are not made into barriers to trade, and we should strive to improve plant health conditions, as well as to enhance quarantine measures. We have noted that FAO can make great contributions in these regards.

Ms Ann M. VENEMAN (United States of America): We strongly believe that the Uruguay Round offers the last best opportunity this century for bringing agriculture under international discipline and eliminating unfair trade practices. We were pleased yesterday to hear the Director-General's comments that a successful Uruguay Round will be of great benefit to developing countries. We in the US could not agree more. The proposal that the United States made in Geneva last month clearly laid out a direction for growth in agriculture worldwide, and for developing countries in particular.

Our proposal indicates that we hope to address four major areas in the Uruguay Round negotiations which are all critical to the future of global agriculture. These include market access, export subsidies, internal support and finally sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. It is this fourth area, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, that I should like to focus on today.

The United States believes that success in negotiations in this area of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations should be a high priority for all nations, and we believe that the FAO has a significant role to play in this process. One of the priorities in these negotiations on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations is to strengthen the GATT approach to all of these types of measures so that countries will move towards harmonizing national regulations and international standards. GAIT contracting parties have agreed to strengthen GATT rules and enhance the GATT dispute settlement process so that it can address health related agricultural trade issues. This initiative will result in the creation of a GATT process capable of dealing effectively with scientifically unjustified barriers to trade.

Within this strengthened system, it has been agreed to rely on the scientific expertise of FAO's Codex Alimentarius Commission for issues involving food

safety and the International Plant Protection Convention for issues concerning plant health. We believe that these organizations are extremely well-suited for this enhanced international role. The participation of Codex and IPPC is indispensable to this effort. The participation of representatives of these organizations in the Uruguay Round working group on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and barriers has been especially useful to progress in this area. In discussions of the GATT, many have pointed out that the IPPC in its present form as only a Convention may not be sufficient for the new process being developed for plant health measures in the Uruguay Round.

We are extremely pleased that FAO recognized the situation and moved quickly to respond by calling together a technical consultation of regional plant protection organizations this past September. The recommendations resulting from the September consultation are precisely the actions needed at this time to advance the Uruguay Round effort in improving the GATT approach to these plant health measures.

The United States strongly supports the adoption of these recommendations, including the establishment of the IPPC secretariat and the possible creation of an official technical body composed of IPPC signatories. Through the adoption of these recommendations, FAO and the IPPC signatories can move ahead to provide the plant health expertise which must be an essential part of any successful Uruguay Round effort regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures. With the Uruguay Round scheduled to be completed at the end of 1990, this work must proceed as quickly as possible.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil):** I will also limit myself to comments on the issue of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations at this time.

Brazil welcomes the recognition of FAO's role in the establishment of internationally-accepted rules and standards and as a source of scientific and technical advice. For Brazil, the first and foremost task is the elimination of the discriminatory treatment which developing countries have been facing, and we expect FAO to be instrumental in this respect by providing the standards and the advice which will allow us to differentiate between legitimate health and security concerns and those disguised trade barriers.

We believe that another important task for FAO will be the provision of technical assistance to developing countries for the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, both for the protection of human, animal and plant health and for the compliance with export market requirements.

We would like, however, to recall that this is not yet the time, and this is not quite the place, to discuss possible changes in Article 20 of the GATT or to propose novelties regarding the GATT dispute settlement procedures. These are issues which have wider implications and which are still under consideration in Geneva, and the Brazilian Government would like to reserve its position on these issues at this moment.

Apart from this, we should like to say that FAO definitely could, and should, support the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the implementation of their results in the areas of agricultural products, tropical products and natural resource-based products. We must, however, take a close look at the question of how we are going to finance these new activities. It would be illogical to

put a tight lid on the Organization's Regular Budget and then require it to make room for a new item. If there are new demands, then there must be new funds, and it would seem natural that those who make the demands in this area should come up with suggestions of how we are to face this situation.

David COUTTS (Australia): Mr Chairman, we will also do our best to go along with your request earlier that we focus our remarks basically on the implications for FAO of these GATT developments. You will forgive me if it makes things slightly disjointed, because we had prepared our intervention on the basis of the title of the document and focussed, to some extent, on the Uruguay Round in general, but we will transfer those remarks to another item in the debate.

Just to add to that, I would note that the document that is before us C 89/23 is naturally, as it was drafted in August, out-of-date in terms of the general developments in FAO, and so when we do refer to this under a later item we will be underlining where we think the information should be updated in the context of what we reflect in our Commission 1 Report, so we may want to refer back to that when we make that later intervention.

Australia appreciates the work FAO has been doing in giving technical support to the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, and hopes that this will continue and even be strengthened in the coming months and years. It is noted in document C 89/23, a significant element in FAO's role relates to the area of sanitary and phytosanitary regulations - an area in which Australia has a particularly keen interest.

Cairns Group experts have met on a number of occasions, most recently in September and November 1989, on this subject, and a Cairns Group paper was tabled at the September meeting of the Agriculture Negotiating Group in Geneva. The main principles in that paper include that sanitary and phytosanitary measures should only be applied to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life and health, be based on verifiable scientific evidence, and not applied in a manner which creates arbitrary, disguised or unjustifiable obstacles to international trade. They should be based on objective risk assessment, taking into account relevant scientific and economic considerations. There should be recognition of the concept of area freedom, harmonization, as far as practicable, of standards, processes, procedures, methods of analyses, inspection, etc. The principle of equivalency should be applied where harmonization is not possible. By that, I mean acceptance that different parties may use different regulations and techniques and procedures which achieve equivalent results in terms of ensuring acceptable levels of risk. As regard, technical cooperation and linkages with relevant international organizations, we believe there should be such linkages, such as OIE, IPP, and Codex. Transparency in decision-making should exist - that is, willingness to demonstrate the basis for decision-making, and provisions for consultation, dispute settlement, informal and ad hoc negotiations.

We agree with the fact that the decisions of the TNC have substantial implications for the future work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the IPPC. We understand that these implications involve FAO playing a major technical role in helping GATT resolve agricultural trade disputes.

In relation to the IPPC in particular, Australia supports the recommendations made at the consultations of the Regional Plant Protection Organizations, as set out in document C 89/25. We feel that those recommendations give proper consideration to the need for adequate and justifiable quarantine measures. We do think this is a very sensitive issue and would have to reflect further if there were any amendments to that principle.

Our support is consistent with the broad principles on quarantine that we have endorsed which relate to transparency of decision-making, technically-justifiable decisions, decisions based on quantifiable risk assessments, and the utilisation of internationally-acceptable treatments.

Relating to harmonization of requirements, particularly in relation to pest risk assessment, which is a major focus of the proposed programme of activity, Australia's experience is that this is an effective mechanism for the operation of plant quarantine but that it requires a confidence in the other countries' plant quarantine service. The concept is not readily understood by many of the industries that it affects, and may therefore be opposed in a sense through ignorance. The harmonization of regulations and operations is based on procedures developed from technical considerations and practical applications, not from the application of standardized principles. Once harmonized requirements are adopted between two countries, there tends to be more effective and efficient dialogue in relation to all aspects of international cooperation and negotiation.

In relation to these IPPC regulations, Australia also is supportive of the need for assistance to developing countries and will continue to be involved in aid projects aimed at strengthening plant quarantine systems, especially in the Asia and Pacific Region.

Paragraph 21, Mr Chairman, of C 89/25 indicates the Conference is requested to establish the IPPC Secretariat and agree to allocation of resources to it. It is also requested to approve a study by FAO on the establishment of an official body for IPPC. Mr Chairman, Australia is not clear just what costs are involved in those proposals, that is, whether they already appear in the Programme of Work and Budget or how they relate to the additional \$ 900 000 requested by the Director-General in paragraph 35 of his comments on the review. Perhaps the Secretariat can clarify that for me later.

Turning to the Codex Alimentarius, while we once again support the overall idea of stronger support for developments in the Uruguay Round, we are again unsure of what particular activities and resource commitments the Secretariat has in mind here, and how this relates to the Director-General's review proposals again. As I said, we would appreciate clarification on these questions, but in any case we would point out that any agreement on rules for dispute settlement on sanitary and phytosanitary issues in the Uruguay Round is some distance away yet, perhaps the end of 1990, and it will be even longer before any actual use of such rules occurs, because although the development of the technical capacity should in these areas certainly continue, it should not involve substantive support for some time. In that case, any significant consideration of allocation of additional resources might better wait until the 1992-93 Budget.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, intervengo por primera vez en esta Comisión, que usted preside. Hago un esfuerzo considerable, pero humildemente me someto a su decisión de austeridad, porque es constructiva. Los representantes del Gobierno de Colombia compartimos plenamente la

declaración afirmativa que ha hecho esta tarde nuestra distinguida colega la Delegada de los Estados Unidos de América, en el sentido de que consideramos de importancia trascendental los acontecimientos que se están llevando a cabo en el seno del GAIT alrededor de la Ronda Uruguay.

El Gobierno de Colaribia participó activamente en la reunión de Punta del Este y sigue con atención este proceso, del cual este informe parcial parece indicar que todo está sometido a una cierta lentitud, obstaculizado por tropiezos y dificultades; siguen prevaleciendo los ánimos poco receptivos de algunos Estados industrializados, y, sobre todo, en ciertos mementos hemos tenido la impresión de que particularmente los países en desarrollo somos víctimas impotentes de la guerra comercial que se adelanta entre dos importantes y poderosos sectores económicos del mundo.

Sin embargo, después del suspense de Montreal, nos complace que, por lo menos en estos dos documentos, C 89/23 y C 89/25, se indique que algo está moviéndose todavía, lo cual permite concebir ciertas esperanzas, aunque no mucho optimismo.

Estamos igualmente convencidos de que la FAO tiene una función muy importante que desempeñar en relación con la Ronda de Uruguay en el GATT, porque nuestra Organización ha acumulado experiencias valiosas, a través de los años, posee conocimientos útiles y adecuados y competencia generalmente reconocida sobre el comercio, el consumo y las proyecciones en todos esos campos, y naturalmente, como lo dijo el colega de Brasil, la única falla que la FAO puede tener en su deseo de participar es la carencia de recursos, por lo cual celebramos que el Director General haya hecho sus propuestas, que por lo menos están destinadas a que se asignen 900 000 dólares inicialmente en el próximo bienio para fortalecer la cooperación FAO/GATT.

El párrafo 10 del documento C 89/23 señala muy bien los aspectos específicos en los que la FAO está participando, con asistencia a las reuniones de los tres grupos de negociaciones que están vinculados a los campos del mandato específico de nuestra Organización y aporte de estadísticas, documentos analíticos y comentarios, que sin duda están siendo muy bien recibidos en el GATT, organización a la cual estamos reconocidos, porque progresivamente ha permitido que la FAO vaya participando cada vez más de manera incisiva en este proceso.

Los representantes de Colombia consideramos esencial que la FAO continúe e intensifique su asistencia a los países en desarrollo que la soliciten, y encontramos muy bien que la asistencia técnica de la FAO no se limite solamente a asistir a los países para que puedan estimar el equivalente en subvenciones al productor (ESP), sino también para asistirlos en la preparación de consultas y negociaciones sobre la agricultura.

El párrafo 10 del documento C 89/23, al igual que otros documentos que anteriormente hemos estudiado en Consejo, se refiere a algunos grupos de países a los cuales la FAO les viene ofreciendo esa asistencia. Quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría si, además de esos grupos de países, hay otros Estados Miembros de otras regiones que hayan hecho solicitudes semejantes y si la FAO ha estado en condiciones de atender esas solicitudes. Pensamos que es importante que la FAO ofrezca esa asistencia con una cobertura universal.

Opinamos que uno de los puntos principales que deben figurar en el informe de esta Comisión, que reflejará el punto de vista de la Conferencia, debe ser el que aparece en el párrafo 5 del documento C 89/23, en el sentido de refrendar el objetivo a largo plazo, que debe ser el de establecer un sistema de

comercio agropecuario equitativo y orientado al mercado. Pensamos que sobre este punto no habrá diferencias y que podremos dar una nota afirmativa, señor Presidente.

Hemos oído con atención las declaraciones de algunos colegas de países que, con Colombia, están asociados en el Grupo de Cairns - Argentina, Australia y Brasil, entre otros - y, naturalmente, somos solidarios con el contenido del documento que ha presentado el Grupo de Cairns, lo cual facilita nuestra intervención para no repetir lo que han dicho otros colegas.

Pensamos que los objetivos fundamentales que persigue el documento del Grupo de Cairns coincide con la esencia misma de la existencia del Grupo, que está dirigida a reformar la actual injusta estructura del comercio agrícola internacional.

En relación con el documento C 89/25, estamos en favor del reforzamiento de las relaciones entre FAO y GATT, que deben ser cada vez más estrechas y fructíferas. Pensamos, como lo dijo el colega de Argentina, que, a través del Codex Alimentarius y de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, la FAO puede aportar elementos útiles para ir terminando, aunque sea progresivamente, con los obstáculos que las medidas sanitarias representaban solapadamente para seguir interfiriendo en un libre comercio internacional de productos agrícolas.

En los párrafos 20 y 21 del documento C 89/25 se hace referencia a la posible necesidad de un Comité Consultivo en vez de una organización completa y a la posibilidad de establecer la Secretaría de la CIPF y de adelantar un estudio de la FAO. Ya el colega de Argentina expresó en una nota la cautela sobre el alcance de estas recomendaciones, y también el colega de Australia dijo algo semejante. Si los países desarrollados, que tienen los recursos -y el párrafo 21 dice justamente que para establecer la Secretaría hay que consignar los correspondientes recursos -, si esos países desarrollados -uno de los más importantes ha manifestado ya su apoyo - están en favor de estas propuestas, nosotros nos surtamos también a que de manera progresiva, en la medida en que avancen estas actividades, se puedan realizar las propuestas que contiene el párrafo 21; pero, naturalmente, repetimos, siempre que los recursos se sometan a la disposición de la Organización y que no pretendan que sean esos recursos extraídos de los otros programas de la FAO.

Estamos en favor de que, como lo propone el Director General, se refuerce la División de Nutrición y también la División de Protección Fitosanitaria y pedimos, señor Presidente, que a través del Consejo y de sus órganos auxiliares, los Representantes de los Gobiernos nos mantengamos debidamente informados de la evolución en las importantes relaciones FAO/GATT.

**Fiori jan KOVAC (Yugoslavia):** Mr Chairman, allow me to present on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation some features of the present trade negotiations in the GATT Uruguay Round in the area of agriculture. The proceedings of the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations so far have shown that emphasis is on issues of primary interest to the developed countries, while the solutions to those affecting the developing ones have strings attached. This leads to the uneven progress of the negotiations in individual areas and particularly to lagging behind in the following ones: textiles, agricultural produce, commodities, tropical products and safeguards.

Attempts are being made to erode the special and more favourable treatment of the developing countries as delined by the present agreement, and further reinforced and specified by the Ministerial Declaration of the Uruguay Round.

Pressure is being exerted to diminish the rights of developing countries to certain trade facilities. At the same time, every effort is being made to avoid any commitments to reduce protectionism and gradually to liberalize agricultural production and foreign trade in the countries which are the source of the greatest distortions on the international agricultural market.

In the area of trade negotiation, differences are most pronounced on the key issues of the negotiations: liberalization of agricultural production and foreign trade, reduction of trade barriers, tighter GATT discipline, introduction of numerical model (equivalents) to measure overall support to agriculture, special and more favourable treatment for developing countries, veterinary, sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, and other non-tariff barriers.

New elements and instruments are being introduced into negotiation practices (numerical models, standards, norms) imposing the need to import high technology products which developing countries manufacture in insufficient quantities or not at all.

On balance, developing countries are not sufficiently active in these negotiations. There is only a negligible number of written proposals for improving the situation on the international agricultural market, and promoting foreign trade in terms of imports as well as exports, and especially for better access of agricultural products from these countries to the international market.

In our view amendments to GATT should provide for and equal the initial position of all member countries on the basis of their investment in the development of agriculture, agro-industry and agricultural structure, as well as their attained level of agricultural development and productivity in these areas.

The freezing of investments in and support to agriculture at the present level across the board for all countries would lead to further distortions on the market. At the same time it would further aggravate the position of agriculture in the agriculturally-underdeveloped countries and restrict investments in promotion of this branch of the economy. It would also jeopardize these countries' fundamental right to pursue their own agricultural policies and steer their agricultural development in line with domestic interests. Economic recession, indebtedness and declining purchasing power in many developing countries make it increasingly difficult, even impossible, for them to build up production or to import food to meet their own needs.

The present widely differing initial positions of negotiating countries in agriculture in terms of development level, and especially productivity in agriculture, Which in the most developed agricultures according to FAO data can be as much as 250 times higher than in the least developed ones, call for a closer and comprehensive definition of the special and more favourable treatment for developing countries.



We believe that amendments to the agreement should strengthen their earlier commitment to leave it to the developing countries to make their own choice of policies of development, financing and trade in agriculture. At the same time, a speedier development in developing countries requires the assistance of international financial institutions. In our opinion, such a commitment would be in the interest of all countries participating in the international agricultural market.

Hence, we support demands for a more active inclusion of FAO in future GATT negotiations, particularly in the process of defining the elements for the special and more favourable treatment of developing countries, tightening market discipline and promoting foreign trade by technical norms, regulations and other items subject to negotiations.

FAO's developed information networks, instruments and knowledge could significantly contribute to the success of the negotiations on agriculture. To this end, we would expect a greater and more comprehensive involvement of FAO in the final phase of these negotiations which are scheduled to be concluded at the end of 1990.

CHAIRMAN: I should just like to reiterate my suggestion that the interventions on this item focus on the notes of IPPC and Codex Alimentarius in relation to the programme of works and objectives concerning sanitary and phytosanitary regulations, and that we leave the broader trade issues relating to the Uruguay Round to a later stage.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Usted conoce, Señor Presidente, que mi país no pertenece al Grupo Cairns, pero por supuesto está de acuerdo con todas las medidas que sean favorables a mejorar las actuales condiciones injustas del comercio agrícola internacional.

Al entender de la delegación de Cuba, la FAO es la única Organización que se preocupa de la problemática agrícola en su conjunto y por ello en el marco de las negociaciones de la Ronda de Uruguay ha prestado apoyo técnico, tanto a la Secretaría del GATT como a algunos países, en lo concerniente a la agricultura y productos tropicales.

El trabajo desarrollado por la FAO en materia de reglamentaciones sanitarias y fitosanitarias vinculados al Codex Alimentarius y a la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria, ha sido en extremo útil. Evidentemente estas negociaciones reorientarán el trabajo de la FAO hacia los problemas concretos del comercio de productos agropecuarios y las formas de políticas agrícolas necesarias para poder implementar los resultados que emanen de las negociaciones en el GATT, siendo ésta, a nuestro entender, la principal repercusión que posiblemente tengan estas negociaciones en el ámbito de la FAO.

La delegación de Cuba se pronuncia porque la FAO mantenga su posición de asistencia técnica a las negociaciones en la Ronda de Uruguay, así como que se utilicen las reglamentaciones sanitarias y fitosanitarias existentes como base para las instrucciones que tienen lugar sobre este aspecto en el GATT; pero consideramos que su papel no debe circunscribirse solamente a lo ya hecho y que deben reforzarse también otros órganos necesarios, como son las Comisiones Regionales de Protección Vegetal, que ya existen auspiciadas por la FAO. Nos referimos en especial al reforzamiento de la Comisión de Protección Fitosanitaria para América Latina y el Caribe, entre otras.

Estamos de acuerdo en que sin debilitar a otras áreas se refuercen con recursos la participación de la FAO en su asesoría al GATT.

Rolf AKESSCN (Sweden): Mr Chairman, in our view the importance of ongoing GATT negotiations in agriculture can hardly be overestimated. By now, the potential benefits are well known, and we have seen an increasing number of estimates concerning the positive effects of liberalizing agriculture and trade, both on developed and developing countries. In addition, it is generally recognized that, for the first time, agriculture is one of the areas where a substantial result is a necessary precondition for a successful outcome of the entire round of GATT negotiations. While we are satisfied with the discussions so far in the Negotiating Group on Agriculture, there is still a large amount of technical and analytical work to be done, not to mention the real negotiations which will begin later next year.

Therefore, in view of the deadline, it is necessary to keep up the momentum. FAO has been, and should continue to be, facilitating and contributing to the negotiations indirectly by analytical work such as the recent paper on direct income support and numerous papers on the effects of protectionism, and directly by providing technical assistance to developing countries, an important task in view of the sometimes tricky and resourcendemanding issues at hand.

Another important area for FAO contributions is sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. While not the only international organization in this field, FAO and its three sisters, CODEX, IPPC and IOE, have a central role to play. Since this is a complex area, with different national conditions that are hard to reconcile, progress so far has been fairly slow. For that reason, precise relations between, and the functions of, the various institutions involved, might be more fruitfully discussed at a later stage.

Right now, the work of the Technical Working Group for Sanitary and Phytosanitary Issues under the Negotiating Group on Agriculture is the main focus of our interest and FAO should, of course, be able to contribute to this work with its highly regarded expertise.

Enrique MONTERO C. (Chile): Señor Presidente, hemos escuchado el planteamiento del Director General de la FAO en el día de ayer con respecto al apoyo de la Organización para que las negociaciones que se llevan a cabo en el ámbito de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT tengan el éxito que se espera para 1990.

Como es conocido, Chile participa activamente en el Grupo Cairns y persigue impulsar las negociaciones del GATT en relación a lograr un comercio agrícola internacional más libre en base a políticas agropecuarias no proteccionistas. No obstante, tal como lo han dicho algunas delegaciones, queda mucho por realizar en el tema. En este sentido, la delegación de mi país apoya las actividades que se propone la FAO. Nuestra delegación respalda las acciones referentes al refortalecimiento necesario en la reglamentación del GATT para que los procedimientos relativos a normas sanitarias y fitosanitarias se rijan por las normas internacionales en el marco de la Convención Internacional de la Protección Fitosanitaria, de la Oficina Internacional de Epizootias, la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y de la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

La FAO tiene los recursos humanos y científicos para lograr el respaldo necesario en los avances, en la armonización de las reglamentaciones y medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias.

En este sentido será importante el apoyo de la Organización para que las reglamentaciones nacionales en esta materia se mantengan en el marco multilateral que se persigue.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): Mr Chairman, the Indian delegation would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of Commission I. I also congratulate the Vice-Chairmen of Commission I on their unanimous election.

First of all, I should like to compliment FAO's Secretariat on the concise and well-focused document on this item. I should also like to express my appreciation to you, Mr Chairman, and also to Mr Bonte-Friedheim, for giving a sharp focus to the issues before this Commission under this item. I am sure that this will make our discussions so much more fruitful.

The Indian delegation commends the support extended by FAO to the multilateral trade negotiations, especially to the GATT Secretariat and to the negotiating groups.

We also appreciate the technical assistance extended by FAO to the developing countries in preparing for the Uruguay Round of Negotiations. As these negotiations have far-reaching consequences for world trade, as well as for the general and economic well-being of the people of the developing countries, technical assistance from FAO will go a long way in assisting the developing countries to evaluate the implications for the various measures and reforms being negotiated in these Rounds.

There is also need for FAO to undertake studies and research programmes in order to evolve an appropriate package of measures to overcome and obviate the adverse effects of market orientation of newer developments in international trade.

Recent developments involving FAO in the field of harmonization of national regulations in relation to plant health and protection are welcome in developing countries. FAO's contribution in this field will accelerate the achievement of the objective of containing the adverse effects of sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions and barriers.

FAO's great involvement with GATT and other relevant international organizations, and its functions in relation to Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention, augur well for the future of freer agricultural trade in the years to come. We support the financial provisions made in the Programme of Work and Budget for the coming biennium for these new emerging areas of FAO's activities which are very high on the agenda of concerns of the developing world.

Noboru SATTO (Japan): My country fully recognizes the importance of maintaining and further strengthening the international trade system backed up by GATT. We really appreciate the fact that FAO has been assisting the Uruguay Round negotiations of GATT, by providing technical assistance. Especially in the phytosanitary sector, FAO is the depository of the International Plant Protection Convention. Hence, my delegation thinks that the technical assistance by FAO is indispensable for GATT efforts in realizing greater harmonization in the plant protection sector.

CHAIRMAN: As I see no more speakers, I give the floor to Mr. Bonte-Friedheim who will answer for the Secretariat, and then Mr. Dutia will complete the answers.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): On

behalf of the Secretariat, I should like to thank all the speakers, since they all supported a very important future role for FAO.

There were a few specific questions which I should like to answer. It was suggested, or questioned, by Australia that FAO involvement cannot be postponed at least for one or two years until the next biennium. I should like to explain to honourable delegates what the Secretariat which is proposed in FAO will have to do within the next one or two years. You will find in the Report of the Recommendations of the Technical Consultations, which is Appendix B of document C 89/25, a programme of activities which quite clearly states four specific activities: one, develop a harmonized pest risk assessment process; two, develop harmonized plant quarantine principles with which phytosanitary laws and regulations should be consistent; three, develop harmonized plant quarantine procedures; and four, try to implement as much as possible of Article VII of the IPPC.

If we will not have a Secretariat in FAO, then it is very likely that the regional plant protection organizations will discuss among themselves, and will find another forum outside FAO Where they will have to discuss these aspects.

In addition to what I have said, it is also our feeling that the Secretariat must undertake maximum efforts to get all countries that are not members, signatories of the IPPC, to become so. Furthermore, we will have to see that we strengthen the regional, the existing regional organizations. They exist except for the Near East where there is none. But for example, we would like in the Far East more countries to join in order to have Regional Plant Protection Organizations which cover most, possibly all, of the countries in the region.

If we would wait, as I said, with these activities until 1991 or even 1992, the regional organizations would do the work, and as I said, outside FAO.

The second question was asked with regard to the necessary funds. The proposal in the statement of the Director-General to the Conference yesterday and the proposal in the Review of FAO speaks of \$ 900 000; \$ 600 for the work on IPPC, and \$ 300 for the work on the Codex Alimentarius. The funds to be used for one professional officer; for annual meetings of the regional organizations; for consultants and for preparations of the necessary documentations for these meetings and as a result of those meetings.

In paragraph 21 of the document in front of you - and that was another question from Australia. In the last sentence it says a study which is proposed for the establishment of an official body for the IPPC. What does it mean, the approval? The approval is approval in principle, since no funds at the moment are foreseen and we do not know exactly how much it will cost.

There also seems to be from many of the comments made this afternoon that there is a general agreement that maybe the foreseen or proposed official body for the IPPC can be postponed, and that is something which FAO at this stage would certainly agree to.

My final word regards the source of the \$ 900 000. It is quite clearly said that it is subject to the availability of resources. In our view the resources could come from two sources. One which is highly desirable, for all member countries to pay their contributions for the year; total contributions for the 1990/91 biennium at the beginning of the year-end in full, and then it should be possible, out of these contributions, to undertake this work. If this is not happening, then of course FAO hopes that those countries who are very interested in this particular rule will provide extra-budgetary resources in the order of \$ 900 000 to do this work.

Thank you very much. Mr Chairman, if you like, I will ask Mr Dutia to continue.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): I would also like to supplement the remarks made by Mr Bonte-Friedheim by providing some information in relation to the work that we envisage to undertake in the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The distinguished delegate of Australia rightly pointed out that some of the work will have to await the completion of the Uruguay Round and that is foreseen at the end of 1990. We recognize this. But I would like to mention that even before the Uruguay Round is completed, in order to be ready to respond to the requests that will arise following the agreement in the GATT on the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and the harmonization, prior to that, it is necessary for us to undertake some preparatory activities, and in effect, what we envisage is preparatory activities in two fields. One is that it is necessary to accelerate the work within the Codex Alimentarius Working Committees' Expert Groups, and particularly I would like to refer here to the FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives, so that we could be ready with the evaluations of the safety and stability of food additives for those committees for which they are yet to be established. So this is one area of work which needs to be undertaken prior to the completion of the negotiations.

The second area is in the field of providing technical assistance to the developing countries in establishing standards which would enable them to take advantage of the widened and improved access to the markets, so that they will be in a position to establish the standards that will be required from them in order to participate in the international trade.

All these activities would have to be undertaken as soon as we can. We cannot wait until after the negotiations are complete, otherwise we may be late in providing the response that is expected of us later on.

I hope this will satisfy the distinguished delegate of Australia.

There was another question raised by the distinguished delegate of Colombia. He wanted to know more about the assistance of FAO's technical support, which is referred to in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the document C 89/23. I do not want to repeat the information that is already contained in that.

However, I would like to update that information by saying that the FAO Secretariat has since been approached and we have responded to that particular request by several net food-importing developing countries for information and analytic inputs in relation to the agreement in the mid-term review that ways should be doubled up to take into account the possible negative effect of the reform process on such countries, and as a basis for their proposals on this subject in the GATT negotiating group on agriculture.

I hope this information will provide an adequate answer to the distinguished delegate of Colombia.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the two distinguished members of the Secretariat and, before I give the floor to the representative of GATT, who asked for the floor, I will give the floor to the representative of Australia who asked for it.

David COUTTS (Australia): I was quite happy to wait until after GATT spoke. But I think, in any case, now I have got the floor, I thank the Secretariat for the explanations. It does make it now a little easier for me to put the picture together.

I do not want to be critical. I think the documentation on the whole for this has been very good. It is just that as developments have happened very late, it has been a little confusing to put the whole picture together. I note then that the proposals that the Director-General has put forward, the \$900 000, in fact is the resource proposal that links these two strengthening exercises.

I just say, Mr Chairman, I am not quite sure how this connects itself up with the budget process. But from Australia's point of view, we have not, while we are supportive of the proposals that are put here, we have not given consideration yet to how that will relate to the overall budgetary discussion that we have to have in Commission II, and I just wanted to underline that as far as we are concerned, the fact that we are in agreement with the thrust of these recommendations, does not necessarily mean we are in agreement with the \$ 900 000, and that has yet got to be discussed.

J.M. LUCQ (Observateur du GMT): Monsieur le Président, il n'est pas de ma compétence d'intervenir dans cette affaire de crédits, encore que nous serions très heureux de les partager avec la FAO, si elle le voulait.

Les négociations sur les mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires se déroulent depuis trois ans au sein d'un Groupe spécial que j'ai la responsabilité de diriger. Cela ne représente qu'un petit pourcentage de nos activités de négociation. Néanmoins, ce petit pourcentage est, je crois, fort important. Au fur et à mesure que les négociations multilatérales contribuent à éliminer les droits de douane et les obstacles tarifaires de toutes sortes au commerce international, il apparaît de plus en plus clairement que la partie de protection que les Etats accordent à leur agriculture se réfugie dans des réglementations techniques. Et là, nous sommes sur un terrain relativement miné car c'est dans le domaine de la protection de la santé humaine et animale que les prérogatives de souveraineté des Etats sont les plus apparentes. C'est pourquoi je crois que cette négociation des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires est particulièrement importante parce que nous ne voulons pas que, dans les années 2000 et quelques, l'essentiel de la protection s'opère au moyen de réglementations administratives.

Notre collaboration avec la FAO dans cette négociation extrêmement complexe est tout à fait satisfaisante. Dans cette négociation, nous avons demandé l'appui de la FAO sur deux points: premièrement, en ce qui concerne le principe d'harmonisation, les différents organes de la FAO, tels que le Codex Alimentarius et l'organisme de la protection des végétaux, ont déjà développé depuis de nombreuses années une certaine forme d'harmonisation et les pays participant à la négociation du GATT pourraient pouvoir prendre appui sur ce

début d'harmonisation de manière à pouvoir peut-être un jour le modifier. Le deuxième point sur lequel nous aurons besoin de la FAO, c'est en ce qui concerne les contentieux commerciaux. Ces contentieux commerciaux se multiplient, ces derniers temps, et il est bien clair que les juges chargés de les trancher manquent quelque peu de critères et de paramètres pour pouvoir rendre des jugements incontestables. C'est pour cela que les techniciens et les savants qui, de temps en temps, se réunissent autour des différents organes subsidiaires de la FAO pourraient être d'une grande utilité en ce qui concerne l'établissement de jugements scientifiquement incontestables.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je remercie l'observateur du GATT. Je voudrais en profiter pour lui poser une question: l'ai-je bien compris, au début de son intervention? A-t-il parlé de la possibilité que le GATT participe au financement de projets discutés ici sur le renforcement du Codex Alimentarius et du CIPV?

Avant de donner la parole au délégué de la Colombie, j'aimerais avoir une réponse de la part de l'observateur du GATT.

**J.M. LUCQ (Observer from GMT):** It was intended to be a joke, Mr Chairman. We are prepared to share the money, not to contribute.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Je constate que mon interprétation n'était pas correcte.

**Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia) :** La primera vez que en una declaración sobre este tema oímos referencias al bienio 1992-93, nos abstuvimos de referirnos a esa declaración, porque pensamos que tal vez la traducción nos había llegado equivocada y, además, porque esa declaración provino de un país que generalmente tiene una posición avanzada en las actividades de la cooperación internacional y es nuestro consocio en el Grupo de Cairns. Pero después de que oímos las competentes explicaciones de los señores Bonte Friedheim y Dutia y se ha insistido nuevamente en que vamos a aprobar todas estas propuestas, pero que los 900 000 dólares los veremos después, para nosotros esto es completamente inaceptable, señor Presidente. Si intervenimos ahora es porque no queremos que haya dificultades en el Comité de Redacción. No podemos vincular esta cifra al nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, que se va a discutir en la Comisión II. Por el contrario, nosotros pensamos que si esta Comisión, sincera y seriamente, no en forma literaria ni retórica, considera constructivas estas propuestas del Director General, debemos aprobarlas y, desde luego, recomendar que se asignen por lo menos los 900 000 dólares necesarios.

Con base en esta primera recomendación de la Comisión I, la Comisión II tendrá en cuenta todos aquellos elementos que habrán de incidir sobre el nivel del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto. Lo demás, señor Presidente, sería construir castillos en el aire.

**Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** I should like to express my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, for presiding at this very important Commission. I participated in the regional meeting which was held in Nicosia, Cyprus, about two and a half months ago regarding plant protection measures, among other issues, at national and international levels. I stressed, on behalf of my own country, the need for the

establishment of a regional plant protection organization in the Near East similar to other regional organizations within FAO which are vitally important for the member countries in the region. For the time being, there are only regional organizations in Asia, Africa, North, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Europe. The Near East is the only region which has no similar organization. Such an organization should have been established before. The establishment of such an organization would be in line with the guidelines of GATT for the harmonization of national regulations with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. I am pleased that this issue will fall within future implementation and cooperation with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, based on the Uruguay Round.

CHAIRMAN: In his explanation to the Commission, Mr Bonte-Friedheim referred to the need for establishing a regional organization on plant protection for the Near East.

We have arrived at the end of our debate. I think it has been very useful and fruitful. I believe there was general agreement and consensus on the need for strengthening activities of FAO in its collaboration with GATT, especially in assisting developing countries, but mainly in the sanitary and phytosanitary roles by the amelioration of activities of Codex Alimentarius and IPPC. Concern was expressed by a number of delegations on how those activities should be financed, and this is a question which we shall ourselves have to deal with later on. Before we end today's meeting, I would call the attention of the Committee to the fact that we meet tomorrow at 9.30 to deal with Item 6.1, the State of Food and Agriculture, document C 89/2, C 89/2-Sup.1, C 89/2-Sup.2 and C 89/INF/14. I declare the meeting adjourned until 9.30 tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 17: 45

hours La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

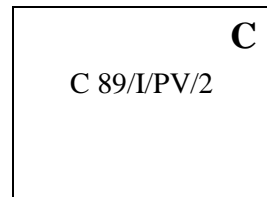
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING  
DEUXIEME SEANCE  
SEGUNDA SESION

(15 November 1989)

The Second Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, for those of you who were not present at our opening session yesterday, I would like to recall that in order to expedite our work the Chair asks for the goodwill of the Committee on three points: one, the Chairman considers himself as having been duly complimented by all participants and would, therefore, like the delegates to consider themselves released from this courtesy. Two, the fifteen minutes limit recommended for the speeches of heads of delegations in Plenary meetings is neither binding there nor in the Committees, but is a sensible and reasonable guideline that delegations should follow. Finally, the Chairman would like to emphasize the need for strictly observing our schedule.

I. MAJOR TRENDS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

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

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation

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

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo

6.1 State of Food and Agriculture

6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

This morning we are discussing Item 6, World Food and Agriculture Situation, Item 6.1, State of Food and Agriculture. The documents that are involved in this discussion are C 89/2, The State of Food and Agriculture 1989; document C 89/2 Sup.1 which is an update of document C 89/2; C 89/2 Sup.2, which refers to Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management; C 89/INF/14, which is Aspects of FAO Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development. Therefore the very important issue of sustainable development should be discussed within the context of this item.

The Commission will also have the opportunity to examine, as it has done in previous sessions, the world and regional situation of food and agriculture, as well as the principal factors affecting it. In addition, this year the Commission will discuss the document which attempts to make progress towards translating sustainable development into an operation concept. The item will be introduced by Mr B.P. Dutia, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department.

B.P. DOTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, document C 89/2 and its Supplement begin by placing the current state of food and agriculture within the overall global and regional economic environment. According to recently revised IMF estimates of global macroeconomic trends and features, output growth in 1989 is now estimated at 3.5 percent in industrial and 3.2 percent in developing countries. Prospects for economic expansion this year appear somewhat better than previously estimated in the Near East and Africa, although growth would still remain negative in per caput terms in the latter region. Growth estimates for Asia are slightly less favourable than previously reported, while prospects for Latin America and the Caribbean are for zero growth, which is below already pessimistic earlier expectations.

On the whole, these revisions do not modify the basic characteristics of the current economic environment, as reported in these documents. Those countries that have performed better in recent years are generally expected to experience economic growth in 1989 as well, although at a somewhat reduced pace. On the other hand, those countries that had experienced little or no growth still fail to resume expansion. In the first case are the Asian economies, particularly the fast-growing ones on the Pacific rim, as well as the industrial countries that continued the long period of economic growth begun in late 1982. In Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa, continuing economic difficulties, and particularly debt problems, have caused per caput incomes to fall again this year. Several non-fuel exporting countries in the Near East face similar problems. In a difficult period of transition in their economic systems and structures, some countries in Eastern Europe are also experiencing slow economic growth.

Current short-term prospects are for a continuation of economic expansion in industrial countries, though at lower and more sustainable rates. Indeed, growth in these countries is now estimated at 2.9 percent next year, price inflation remains moderate and fears of recession seem to fade. Yet, some factors, not the least the disappointing progress in reducing external imbalances among the major industrial countries, render the mid-term unpredictable. What is a certainty, however, is the dire economic situation of many developing countries. Their economic situation, far from sharing in the sustained expansion of the developed country economies, has worsened in 1989 in many respects. As discussed in these documents, such a deterioration has pervasive implications for agriculture and food security, placing pressure on the agricultural sector to produce for export; diverting the flows of savings away from investment, including agriculture; and reducing the import of items essential to maintain agricultural production growth and food supplies.

The problem of debt servicing remains paramount among the economic difficulties of many developing countries. One consequence is the continuing massive net outward transfers from debtor countries to creditor countries: a current estimated figure is almost US\$ 50 billion a year. Many countries continue to face compelling adjustment needs that, while varying in their severity, policy mix and length, are often imposing heavy, yet so far unrewarded, socio-economic sacrifices.

As regards the agricultural sector, Mr Chairman, per caput food and agricultural production at the global level has declined in both 1987 and 1988. As a result, markets for several important food commodities have shifted from the situation of overall surplus, that had emerged since the early 1980s, to one of relative scarcity. For cereals, oilseeds and their products, dairy products and sugar, world stocks have been significantly reduced. Consequently, their prices increased in 1988, and in this year they have remained at about those levels or have increased further, except in the case of maize and soybeans. By contrast, supplies have remained ample and prices have been depressed for several commodities of major economic importance for many developing countries, particularly coffee and cocoa among the tropical beverages.

Current estimates indicate a considerable expansion in world food and agricultural production in 1989, mainly reflecting a significant recovery in North America from the 1988 drought, as well as larger harvests in Eastern Europe and the USSR. Agricultural production growth in the developing

countries is likely to be lower than the favourable outcome of last year, with smaller output in Latin America and the Near East, a virtual stagnation in Africa and lower, if still significant, growth in Asia.

World cereal production is forecast to recover significantly from last year's dramatically reduced level, but not enough to catch up with the estimated consumption growth. Consequently, cereal stocks will be drawn down for the third consecutive year and, by the end of the 1989/90 season, they are expected to remain disquietingly close to what FAO considers a minimum margin for global food security. With wheat stocks at their lowest since the world food crisis of the early 1970s, developments in world cereal supplies must be monitored with particular vigilance. Tight cereal markets, relatively high international prices and sharply reduced food aid availability are all severe blows for many food-deficit developing countries.

In the area of trade, these documents report a continuous rapid expansion in world agricultural exports in 1988, the latest year for which complete data are available. This expansion occurred in the context of a particularly buoyant period for total merchandise trade which, after having increased at an unexpectedly high rate in 1988, is expected to grow somewhat more slowly this year. All developing regions, except Africa, achieved a significant expansion in agricultural exports in 1988, although their imports of agricultural products rose even more. Prospects for 1989 are for a continued dynamic growth in the volume of agricultural trade. But with prices in some markets being very unstable, the value of agricultural trade in 1989 is rather difficult to predict. As regards agricultural terms of trade, a general improvement was recorded in 1988, but it mainly benefited developed market economies, as prices strengthened for the temperate commodities they chiefly export.

Mr Chairman, I now turn to the third document for discussion under this agenda item, C 89/2 Supplement 2, Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management. As explained on its front cover, the document which, in a more elaborate format, is the special chapter of The State of Food and Agriculture 1989, is an attempt to make progress towards translating sustainable development into an operational concept. Other related documents on this subject are the Review of the Regular Programme, C 89/8, Chapter 12 which reviews FAO's work in the environment, as well as an updated version of document CL 94/6, Aspects of FAO's Policies, Programmes, Budget and Activities Aimed at Contributing to Sustainable Development that was submitted to ECOSOC and the General Assembly earlier in 1989 and that is now made available to this Conference as an information document C 89/INF/14.

While the focus of the document is on sustainable development and natural resource management in developing countries, the problems and role of the developed countries are not excluded. It is now well recognized that, directly or indirectly, the industrialized countries contribute to a large share of global natural resource depletion and environmental degradation. Main difficulties, however, in ensuring sustainable development and natural resource management arise in those developing countries where poor people have little or no option but to degrade and perhaps eventually destroy the natural resource base they rely on to survive. Therefore a major focus of the paper is the need to analyse the survival strategies of the rural poor and to identify measures to develop alternative avenues of livelihood which would help to place natural resource management on a sustainable basis.

While recognizing the limitations of a generalized approach and the need to carefully tailor programmes to specific situations, the document before you

attempts to move towards evolving strategies for different resource types -land of low and high potential, forests and wooded lands, fishery resources and plant and animal genetic resources - but it realizes that "low" and "high" potential have different meanings in different contexts. It is stressed that an integrated approach is the key to managing natural resources sustainably: livestock production integrated with crop production; trees integrated into crop and pastoral production systems; agriculture integrated into some crop and intensive livestock production systems, etc.

Mr Chairman, we hope that the document before the Conference will provide a useful basis for the consideration by it of a subject which is of vital interest. Conference views and guidance will also be particularly important for FAO, on the elaboration of a World Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture in the context of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, I shall highlight the four main issues which emerge from the analysis of the current state of food and agriculture. First, the uncertain food security situation and the need to accelerate growth in food and agricultural output in developing countries. Second, the problem of debt, and the associated problems of economic austerity and net resource outflows, which continue to impede economic and agricultural progress in many indebted countries despite recent initiatives. Third, the continuing difficulties faced by many developing countries in gaining access to agricultural markets and expanding their badly needed export earnings -issues that are also covered under the next agenda item; and lastly, the need to preserve our natural resource base from destructive exploitation and to make sustainable development an operational reality.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Dutia for his comprehensive exposé, and now we will initiate the debate on this item.

I have already two speakers on my list, Colombia and Canada. If the other speakers would signal to the Chair their intention to speak.

Ghana, France, Malaysia, Sweden, Libya, Poland, Pakistan, Bangladesh. We can start, and the other delegates can indicate their intention to speak later.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación, nos vamos a referir a los documentos C 89/2 y Suplemento 1, y si nos quedare tiempo dentro del límite fijado por usted, al cual nos sometemos, trataríamos entonces el Desarrollo Sostenible a la luz de los documentos C 89/2 Suplemento 2 y C 89/INF/14.

En cuanto al Suplemento 1, éste coincide con la excelente presentación del Dr Dutia. Un mes después de publicado el documento básico, no se presentan variaciones en términos generales, y por el contrario, en el párrafo 2, al final se repite el hecho lamentable de que "el crecimiento económico de Africa y de América Latina y el Caribe fue inferior a las previsiones, que ya eran pesimistas".

En el párrafo 3 del C 89/2, Suplemento 1 se habla de la aceleración del crecimiento económico y de la reducción del desempleo, sólo en dos importantes países de la OCDE. Y al final del párrafo 4 se dice que "la desranda de productos agrícolas en las regiones de Africa y de América Latina y el Caribe seguirá siendo la más débil".

Todo ello demuestra que, como cada dos años cuando la Conferencia trata este tema, La Situación de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación en el Mundo es oscura, imprevisible, grave y preocupante, naturalmente para los países en desarrollo. Las pocas mejoras que se logran sólo favorecen a los Estados industrializados.

El párrafo 1 del documento C 89/2 indica que el crecimiento económico mundial en 1988, tuvo lugar principalmente en los países industrializados al tiempo que en muchos países en desarrollo, sobre todo en África y América Latina y el Caribe, continuaron los graves problemas económicos.

Ese es el marco desafortunado, lamentable, dentro del cual hay que situar el contenido de todos los documentos que analizaremos con realismo y objetividad para que se reflejen en el Informe todos estos aspectos negativos.

El párrafo 4 dice que "persisten todavía serios peligros para la economía mundial, en particular para los países en desarrollo" y se debilitará la demanda de productos que exportan esos países. Como siempre, todo sigue en mano de los Estados industrializados, que, según al párrafo 6, deberían ayudar a alimentar el ritmo de crecimiento económico de los países en desarrollo, aumento de asistencia que no se logra nunca por la reiterada e inmodificable falta de voluntad política de la gran mayoría de los Estados industrializados, aunque, como afirma el párrafo 8 esos Estados poderosos "experimentaron un crecimiento económico inesperadamente vigoroso".

América Latina y el Caribe, región a la cual pertenece nuestro país, fue la única región de países en desarrollo en la cual no se aceleró el crecimiento económico en 1988, según dice el párrafo 11. Otro documento para esta misma Conferencia afirma que son muy pesimistas las proyecciones para nuestra región, en la cual el aumento de la renta per cápita sería tan sólo del 1 por ciento anual. Ese mínimo porcentaje es inferior a las previsiones que aparecen en La Agricultura en el año 2000 e inferior también al que se le asignó en el estudio sobre potencialidades y obstáculos para el desarrollo agrícola, estudio adoptado por la última Conferencia Regional, celebrada en octubre de 1988 en la ciudad donde usted nació, señor Presidente, en Recife, Brasil, su país.

Ante esa situación, convendrá que los organismos internacionales, los Estados industrializados y todas las fuentes de asistencia técnica y financiera revisen e inviertan la desafortunada tendencia de los últimos años, a través de la cual se le ha venido negando el apoyo técnico y financiero indispensable a nuestros países de América Latina y el Caribe. Porque, basados en indicadores obsoletos ya superados, se afirmaba que algunos de ellos habían alcanzado un grado intermedio de desarrollo.

Para los pobres países en desarrollo, en estos documentos todo es negativo, sin ninguna esperanza, y sus más importantes puntos habrá que consignarlos en informe sobre este tema. "El valor total de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo aumentó sólo ligeramente en 1988, pero su relación de intercambio empeoró", dice el párrafo 15. Convendrá que en nuestro informe recojamos el calificativo de "oprimiente deuda externa", que "sigue siendo el principal obstáculo para un crecimiento satisfactorio en muchos países en desarrollo", de acuerdo con el párrafo 20.

En los párrafos 34 a 42 se diseña una situación relacionada con el alza de los precios de los productos básicos, situación que confirma una vez más que los países en desarrollo no tienen ninguna posibilidad de mejoramiento; se les coloca siempre entre la espada y la pared. En efecto, en el párrafo 34

se dice que los precios más altos de los productos básicos constituyen un don del cielo para muchos países en desarrollo y representan un factor indispensable para resolver la crisis de la deuda". Pero ¿qué pasa? Apenas los pobres países en desarrollo comienzan a mejorar sus ingresos con el alza de los precios de los productos básicos, las principales potencias industriales a su más alto nivel, reunidas en Toronto (junio 1988), potencias muy respetables y poderosas, elevan el grito al mismo cielo, -!al mismo cielo!, porque hay un solo cielo, amplio grande y azul, ese cielo que ha hecho el don al Tercer Mundo con el aumento de los productos básicos, para decir entonces los representantes de los países industrializados que esas alzas hay que contenerlas porque generan aumento de la inflación en los Estados industrializados, y además porque si los precios de los productos básicos siguen subiendo no será posible ni siquiera la mínima liberalización del comercio agrícola.

¿Qué hacemos, entonces, nosotros? No podremos aumentar nuestra propia producción, porque faltará el incentivo del alza de los precios. Si no aumentamos la producción y si la deuda externa y el proteccionismo, entre otros factores, nos impiden obtener divisas para importar alimentos, condenaremos al hambre y a la malnutrición a nuestras poblaciones. Ante esa situación, la Comunidad internacional deberá preguntarse si los gobiernos que actúan así son los mismos de los países, muy respetables, cuyos Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno vienen haciendo públicas y reiteradas manifestaciones de estar preocupados por solucionar la deuda externa y estimular el crecimiento económico del Tercer Mundo.

Consideraciones como éstas justifican plenamente la afirmación que se hace al final del párrafo 35: "Es poco probable que las tendencias actuales proporcionen a la agricultura del Tercer Mundo el estímulo necesario para aumentar la producción, las exportaciones y el consumo". Es decir, estamos condenados a soportar el mismo lamentable estado de cosas hasta el final de nuestros días.

Los excedentes de cereales, que ya eran bajos en 1987-88, seguirán descendiendo; las existencias se reducirán a sólo el 16 por ciento del consumo mundial estirado, mientras que la FAO calcula entre el 17 y el 18 por ciento el nivel mínimo requerido para la seguridad alimentaria. El final del párrafo 49 afirma que, en cuanto a las existencias de trigo, la situación será aún peor que la de los primeros años 70. ¿Qué vamos a hacer, entonces? ¿Convocaremos otra Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación como a la que asistimos en Roma, en noviembre de 1974?

Los pobres países en desarrollo están sometidos al vaivén de esas crisis para que así por un cierto período se incremente la asistencia, y apenas medio desaparecen los síntomas alarmantes, se vuelve de nuevo a períodos como el que ahora estamos padeciendo, muy semejante al de la mitad de los años 70. Naturalmente, los peligros los corren solamente los países en desarrollo. En efecto, basta observar el Cuadro 1.5 de la página 15 en el texto castellano para confirmar que, a pesar de las sequías, los excedentes se hallan concentrados, en un 65 por ciento, sólo en Norteamérica, en cuanto a los excedentes existentes en los estados desarrollados con economía de mercado.

Nos complace que después de la delegación de Colombia vaya a intervenir nuestro distinguido amigo el Sr. McGowan, representante del Canadá, porque ése es uno de los países en los cuales hay excedentes que siempre son utilizados de manera adecuada y constructiva en favor del Tercer Mundo. Canadá es el segundo donante del Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Hacemos esta

disgresión porque nos preocupan las previsiones sobre la posible disminución de la ayuda alimentaria a partir del párrafo 110. Debemos hacer un llamado a los donantes para que mantengan e incrementen sus contribuciones al Programa Mundial de Alimentos. Los compromisos de ayuda alimentaria hechos en dinero reducen su alcance cuando aumentan los precios de los productos; pero los grandes Estados donantes tienen tantos recursos, que bien pueden contrarrestar esa situación aumentando sus aportes y contribuyendo de manera sostenida al PMA, program que viene realizando un labor excelente. Ante una situación de la agricultura y la alimentación tan sombría como la que describen estos documentos, señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que se hace imperativo incrementar la asistencia técnica y financiera, pero en (Condiciones verdaderamente eficaces, para que los países en desarrollo puedan aumentar su propia producción. Será necesario también suministrar a la FAO, a nuestra Organización, que viene ofreciendo tan valiosos servicios a los países en desarrollo, los recursos indispensables para que la FAO siga trabajando cada vez mejor y más eficazmente, como lo viene haciendo.

Señor Presidente, si mis cálculos son exactos, he utilizado trece minutos; los otros dos no me alcanzan para referirme al desarrollo sostenible, pero yo debo ser entre los primeros a conceder a usted autoridad moral para que imponga sus constructivas orientaciones como Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Colombia. I should like to make it clear that the recommendation which the Chair made on the fifteen minutes' limit is not a binding one. It is not in the rules of procedure, of course, it is just a guideline to help us to expedite our work. If the delegate of Colombia still has something to say on sustainable development, I am sure that all the delegates would be very happy to hear it. Would the delegate of Colombia like to take another few minutes to finish his speech?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Agradezco mucho su comprensión, señor Presidente. Tal vez, en esta oportunidad prefiero terminar mi declaración y, si hubiera tiempo más adelante, me referiría con mucho gusto al importante desarrollo sostenible. Pero creo que es conveniente que haya movilidad y ánimo de controversia y de sana colaboración entre todos los miembros de esta Comisión, excelentemente dirigida por usted.

John MCGOWAN (Canada): May I congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of Commission I.

As in the past, the documents produced are a very helpful overview of the world's agricultural situation. As an initial comment, we should like to stress the importance of FAO's capacity for gathering, analysing and disseminating reliable agricultural information at the global level. Since cereal stocks are one of the most sensitive issues dealt with in the report on The State of Food and Agriculture in 1989, and their level is very much linked to the agricultural situation in North America, let me begin by referring to the most up-to-date information on the results of this year's grains and oil seeds harvest in Canada.

Our estimate of production shows a total of about 51 million tons of all grains and oil seeds. This is up sharply from last year's drought-reduced crop of 41.5 million tons. This is, in fact, slightly higher than the ten-year average of 49.4 million tons but reflects above-average acreage as



yields for this year are estimated to be lower than the ten years for all items except corn. This reduction reflects the failure of moisture levels to recover sufficiently from the preceding year's drought. We anticipate that Canada's wheat export could reach about 17 million tons, up from last year's exports of 12.4 million. This figure is well below the 20 million tons average of the last five years. Canada's ending stocks may also build up slightly over this year. Canada considers that the present short stocks are primarily the result of two successive droughts in North America rather than an upsurge in world cereal imports.

On the important topic of agricultural trade, the document reports slow progress in the ongoing negotiations. Participant countries are presently tabling their detailed proposals for the achievement of the negotiating objectives. The negotiations will move into a key stage this year and next year, when the Chairman of the Agricultural Negotiating Group of the GATT attempts to develop a synthesized negotiating text drawing on the various country proposals. Canada has contributed recommendations regarding sanitary and phytosanitary measures and will continue to press the issue of new GATT roles.

The document rightly addresses the pressing problem of debt. If the climate for the negotiation of the debt looks brighter today in a number of countries, it is largely because of the efforts made by those countries in the implementation of difficult, but necessary policies, and from the decisions by the IMF and the World Bank in making resources available to support debt-reduction operations on a case-by-case basis. Several countries have benefited from multilateral resources that support debt-reduction packages negotiated directly with commercial creditors. Canada recognizes that low-income debtors continue to require concessional resources on an ongoing basis, while debtors need to persist with their adjustment efforts. For these reasons, we do not concur with the hypothesis in paragraph five of the main document stating that "despite improvements for some developing countries, the debt trap actually deepened for some nations whose economic adjustment measures had reached their limits".

The Canadian Delegation would like to update and correct the figures given in the Report on Canadian Food Aid. The volume of Canadian food aid declined between 1987-88 and 1988-89 by 4.58 percent, not by 18 percent, as stated in paragraph 12. Similarly, in supplement 1, paragraph 39, it is stated that Canada will only provide six hundred thousand tons of food aid this year. Our estimated figure is approximately eight hundred and fifty thousand tons. Assurances were given in the July 1989 meeting of the Committee on Food Aid of the International Wheat Council that Canada's shipments of food aid would exceed our Food Aid Convention obligation.

We have also detected some problems in the text of the chapter dealing with Canada in document C 89/2. Paragraph 303 should read that Canada is committed to the elimination or reduction of trade-distorting support and protection, not "the liberalization of agricultural policies". Regarding paragraph 304, it is because grains and oilseeds are the major crops, not the "most favoured crops" that they are the major beneficiary of temporary Government interventions in the last few years, especially during the drought period.

We expect that the Canada-USA Trade Agreement will result in liberalized trade, but the term "will liberalize drastically trade" used in paragraph 305 is, in our opinion, unwarranted. In the same paragraph, it is stated that most agricultural trade between Canada and the United States is in fruit and vegetables. We find the statement incomplete in that, while fruit and

vegetables are the main imports from the United States, livestock and red meats are the main exports to the United States.

The Canadian Delegation would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the depth and scope of the analysis, presented, in Document C 89/2-Sup. 2, Sustainable Development and Natural Resources. We concur with the Secretariat on the need for designing new approaches and methods for assessing the long-term costs and benefits of investment proposals and for promoting an integrated approach to natural resource management. We encourage FAO to promote sustainable practices in agriculture, forestry and fisheries and to work in close coordination with the UNEP.

Because of the damaging impact of high-seas driftnet fishing on the marine environment, Canada is seeking a halt to further expansion of this practice, and a prompt transition to non-destructive fishing technology in the North Pacific. For this reason, in cooperation with several other nations, Canada is co-sponsoring a resolution in the UN General Assembly to seek a moratorium on high-seas driftnet fishing by mid-1992, unless or until it is agreed that the unacceptable impacts of such practices can be prevented.

I would again like to emphasize the usefulness of these documents.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): It seems to me that the Conference is experiencing a period of calm such as we have not experienced for a long time. This being the case, I think it would be appropriate to inject a sense of humour into our deliberations by reintroducing the ritual of congratulating the Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen and the Secretariat, but, since the consensus is for us to refrain from this, I will abide by the decision of the majority: in other words, I shall not congratulate the Chairman but will go on to the business.

The Secretariat's eloquent assessment of the world economic environment as contained in documents C 89/2 and C 89/2-Sup.1 can be summed up in a few words: after seven years of uninterrupted prosperity and affluence in the developed countries, the longest post-war boom, alas not shared by the disadvantaged developing world, the sub-Saharan countries only managing 0.4 percent growth per annum, the developing countries remain outside the mainstream of economic development. My delegation agrees with the Secretariat's assessment of this phenomenal development.

My delegation further endorses the United States' Secretary of Agriculture's observation yesterday that most developing countries' markets are in North America and Europe. Incidentally, these countries are the principal aid donors, with Japan coming in in a big way in recent years.

Since aid and trade are inextricably linked, a high degree of economic dependence has been forged. Indeed, the upshot is that the developed countries' trade and aid policies can have disastrous consequences on the developing world. For example, the very high level of agricultural protectionism and price support, now an article of faith for the developed countries' agricultural policies, inexorably create price instability, generate surpluses which are at times dumped into the sea in order to stabilize domestic prices, and so on.

Tariff escalation and other non-tariff barriers to trade such as the rigid and sometimes not too well understood sanitary and phytosanitary requirements, discriminate against processed and horticultural products from

the developing countries, and thus whittle away needlessly opportunities for agro-based industrialization and export diversification.

My delegation endorses the general observation that developing countries require greater economic independence to enable them to forge ahead with the arduous task of transforming their economies. This can best be accomplished if there are major reforms of internal or international trade as clearly spelt out in document C 89/2 and C 89/2-Sup.2 - reforms that will strengthen the GATT rules and discipline, and evolve aid policies which favour developing countries. Otherwise, the economic independence for which we are seeking will mean increasing vulnerability, and the so-called structure adjustment measure which all of us are adopting now will lead to further agricultural involution for the developing countries adopting structural adjustment programmes. At the same time, developing countries are faced with very low prices of cocoa and other crops of critical importance for the development and general welfare of such countries. The consequence is that even as we introduce incentive packages to encourage increased production and the farmers in turn positively respond with greater efforts, foreign exchange receipts keep on dwindling catastrophically, and the indication from document C 89/2 and document C 89/2-Sup.1 are that there appears to be no end in sight to these adverse consequences.

My delegation believes that some key positive steps have to be taken to reverse the adverse trends identified in the two documents. First, the sheer magnitude of resources needed to restructure African economies, and particularly to generate surpluses to pay off our debts and reverse the environmental degradation caused by sheer poverty, as we have observed already far exceeds our domestic resources. Greater injection of external resources is therefore needed.

Second, and related to the above, is the need to inject substantial external liquidity into the system to enable these countries to pay for high-cost inputs which are badly needed for our programmes. Of course, we all know that external credit lines can be disrupted if debt service cannot be maintained.

Third, favourable trends in the world economy are needed for African economies to grow. To do this within the context of the ongoing structural adjustment programmes, the industrial countries ought to make the necessary (and relatively much minor) changes required in their own fiscal, monetary, trade, agricultural and industrial policies.

Mr Chairman, apart from the fact that Tables 1-4 of document C 89/2 and Table 4 of C 89/2-Sup.1 are contradictory in certain aspects, for example, different figures are quoted to reflect per capita the decline in food production in Ghana, the actual picture that has emerged backed by objective crop assessments in Ghana is a different one. In fact, while as already reported, the global agricultural production stagnated in both 1987 and 1989, the recent figures in Ghana show that the economy has begun to respond well to the structural adjustment measurements. Agricultural output grew a little under 14 percent in 1984, accelerated by good rainfall and improved input supplies. A further growth of 5.3 percent was recorded in 1986, and 6 percent in 1988, and we are expecting a similar performance in 1989 with the population growing at only 2.6 percent.

Specifically, my delegation would like to put it on record that the series of devaluation and subsequent increases in the agricultural output prices have had an enormously favourable impact on the comparative advantage of Ghanaian agriculture including crops and food crops as well as import substitution

crops. Thus the production of maize rose from 264 300 metric tons in 1982 to 600 000 metric tons in 1988, an increase of 127 percent. Rice production rose from 36 000 metric tons in 1982 to 95 000 metric tons in 1988, an increase of 163 percent. Sorghum/millet from 246 300 metric tons in 1982 to 995 000 metric tons in 1989, an increase of 304 percent. Additionally over 65 different non-traditional agricultural commodities were exported to destinations all over the world during the biennium. Improved delivery mechanisms and the appropriate pricing policies were uniquely responsible for these dramatic gains. Thus for the first time in many years, Ghana's objective of diversifying the sources of its agricultural export earnings is being fulfilled due to the positive impact of the Economic Recovery Programme on the agricultural sector. What one sees as more encouraging, Mr Chairman, is the fact that the traditional division between export crops and non-food crops is gradually becoming irrelevant as every agricultural commodity in Ghana today has become a potential export crop.

On the question of debt reduction, a case has been made that there is a need to look at all the situations on a case-by-case basis. Our position is that it would be more useful to develop a package of relief measures for all the debtor countries in Africa.

I would like to end here and come in later on the environmental issues.

**Jacques WARIN (France):** Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter d'avoir été élu à cette très incartante commission puisque l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation est certainement l'une des missions fondamentales de notre Organisation.

Je vous demanderai, en commençant, de me donner l'autorisation, après m'être exprimé à titre national, de passer la parole au représentant de la Commission des Communautés européennes qui exprimera la position agréée entre les Douze; je vous donne l'assurance que nos deux interventions se tiendront dans la limite que vous nous avez conseillée.

Je m'exprime maintenant à titre national.

La délégation française a examiné avec un vif intérêt les rapports préparés par le Secrétariat et je tiens à le remercier tout particulièrement du travail accompli.

Sans commenter dans le détail ces documents, je veux reprendre les principales questions de fond qu'ils soulèvent.

Carme le soulignait hier le Ministre français de l'agriculture, la situation mondiale de l'agriculture est à la fois encourageante et préoccupante.

En effet, il faut se réjouir de l'amélioration globale de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale: d'une part, les crises alimentaires ont été moins nombreuses; d'autre part, les marchés agricoles mondiaux, et notamment les marchés céréaliers, se sont rééquilibrés: les stocks sont mieux répartis et pèsent moins fortement sur les prix. S'agissant du niveau des stocks mondiaux de céréales, je voudrais atténuer le discours quelque peu pessimiste du Secrétariat: les stocks de céréales sont encore suffisants pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; plus que leurs volumes, c'est leur fluidité qui est à rechercher.

Mais la situation reste insatisfaisante pour de nombreux pays en développement, où la croissance du niveau de la production alimentaire est insuffisante.

Je veux insister également sur d'autres grands problèmes traités dans ce document:

Dans le domaine commercial, la France se félicite que le solde des échanges agricoles soit favorable aux pays en développement, mais constate que les perturbations très fortes rencontrées sur les marchés mondiaux affectent les exportations de bon nombre d'entre eux.

Comme l'a rappelé le Commissaire européen, M. Mac Sharry, qui s'exprimait à la Conférence, la Communauté européenne souhaite voir conserver aux pays en développement un traitement spécifique au sein des négociations commerciales multilatérales en cours, et elle s'attache à ce que des avancées significatives soient obtenues pour les plus pauvres d'entre eux.

A de nombreuses reprises, nous avons également souligné l'urgence qu'il y avait à ce que des solutions soient rapidement mises en oeuvre pour réduire le fardeau de l'endettement d'un grand nombre de pays, et nous avons même commencé à agir en ce sens. Il est fondamental que les pays développés maintiennent un flux de ressources en direction des pays en développement: de ce point de vue, l'aide publique au développement est devenue, pour les pays les plus défavorisés, une ressource essentielle. Pleinement consciente de cette exigence, la France a poursuivi son effort, et l'aide publique française au développement a atteint en 1988 0,54 pour cent du produit national brut.

Pour être efficace, l'aide publique doit se concentrer dans des secteurs prioritaires et, à notre sens, le développement rural est une clef de la dynamisation des économies.

Aux niveaux national et régional, il me semble fondamental que soit encouragée la mise en place de politiques d'organisation des marchés renforçant les relations entre l'offre de produits agricoles et la demande des consommateurs, en particulier des consommateurs urbains.

Ceci implique que les politiques agricoles soient orientées non seulement vers la production mais aussi vers la transformation des produits et la commercialisation. Je veux souligner, à ce titre, un pays comme l'Inde qui, en s'inspirant des principes simples, a pu bénéficier à plein des apports de la Révolution verte.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, sans aucunement négliger les problèmes que connaissent les autres régions du monde, je voudrais rappeler que l'un des enjeux majeurs des prochaines années est l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire et agricole dans les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne.

Bien que le secteur agricole soit prépondérant, l'Afrique arrive de moins en moins à se nourrir. La croissance de la production alimentaire reste inférieure à la croissance de la population. Les prix des produits exportés ont presque tous baissé, surtout depuis ces cinq dernières années. Dans le même temps, les importations de produits vivriers, notamment de céréales, continuaient à croître très rapidement.

Cette situation, et l'échec de certains projets de développement agricole, ouvrent un vaste domaine de réflexion et de concentration dans lequel la FAO a, à toute évidence, un rôle central à jouer, afin que continuent à être conçues de nouvelles stratégies de développement agricole.

Le redressement de l'Afrique subsaharienne appelle la poursuite de réformes structurelles tournées certes vers la recherche des grands équilibres économiques et financiers, mais aussi vers la préparation du développement à long terme.

Les besoins à cet égard sont immenses pour assurer un retour à la compétitivité: réhabilitation des infrastructures et des secteurs productifs, gains de productivité dans les filières traditionnelles, diversification des productions, etc.

En contrepartie des efforts des pays africains, la communauté internationale doit se mobiliser davantage.

Il y a là un champ d'action privilégié pour notre Organisation, et la France, qui reste à l'heure actuelle le premier bailleur de fonds de l'Afrique subsaharienne, ne peut que se réjouir de ce que la FAO accorde une attention toute particulière à cette région du monde.

Merci, Monsieur le Président; je vous réitère ma demande de bien vouloir laisser parler après moi le représentant de la Commission des Communautés européennes.

LE PRESIDENT: La Commission a écouté la demande du distingué représentant de la France; si la Commission n'y voit pas d'inconvénient, je donne la parole au représentant de la Communauté européenne, qui parlera au nom de ses pays membres.

Je ne vois aucune objection; par conséquent je donne la parole au représentant de la Communauté économique européenne.

Gérard KIELY (EEC): I should also like to thank the Commission for giving me the opportunity of making these comments.

Document C 89/2 and its supplement provide an interesting and useful description of the rain trends in production, consumption and trade of food and agricultural products. The declining trend in world cereal stocks is sizeable and needs to be closely followed as regards its effect on the world food security situation. While aggregate food output for developing countries as a whole increased by 5.6 percent in 1988. These good results are not expected to continue in 1989, for which the projected food output increase in developing countries is only 1.3 percent, well below population growth.

In several countries, for example Mozambique and Malawi, the food supply situation remains precarious, while in others it is deteriorating rapidly, such as in parts of Ethiopia and the Sudan. A timely and adequate response of food aid is called for. The European Community intends to continue its contribution in this respect.

The rise in world market prices for cereals will strengthen the position of food producers in developing countries, to the extent that governments allow these increases to be passed on to the marketing channels. At the same time, price increases will lead to a worsening balance of payments situation for food-importing developing countries and will particularly hurt vulnerable population groups, for example the urban poor, who have to obtain their food through the market.

The European Community favours improving the efficiency of targeted interventions, possibly by using food aid to prevent a deterioration of the nutritional status of such vulnerable groups.

As regards the Community's policy in relation to food security, it is worth mentioning that the Community Council approved a resolution on this subject in November last year which reflects the result of the Community's experience on food security matters. A strategy and programme to strengthen food security requires integrated measures and interventions in areas of food production, food marketing and the purchasing power of food consumers. Food security does not necessarily imply that a country has to be self-sufficient in foodstuffs. An appropriate balance should be struck between local production and imports.

Efforts to improve production and marketing of food need to be complemented by measures in relation to consumption. Consumption of local products should be encouraged, particularly by reducing the cost of processing to development of appropriate technology. There should also be specific measures to combat under-nutrition of vulnerable groups.

While the current decline of world cereal stocks should be monitored closely, in our view it does not warrant an effort by developed countries to increase production beyond the effect of a return to an average which the pattern already implies. Such action would lead to increased surpluses which would again depress world market prices. On the other hand, the effort of food-deficit developing countries to increase their food production that are under way and that are in many cases supported by the European Community should certainly be continued.

As regards food aid, the increase in world market prices has important implications for the budgetary outlays. Nevertheless, the European Community fully intends to fulfil its international obligations and also intends to respond as much as possible to the requests of food-deficit countries.

The Community will also continue to favour triangular food aid operations, especially where such actions can improve cereals trade at the regional level, contribute to a regional approach towards food security, and provide products corresponding to food habits in developing countries.

With regard to the relation between adjustment programmes and food security, while there is certainly a need for many developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, to continue their adjustment efforts, the precise measures to be taken and also the phasing and packaging of these measures may have important implications for food security that should be taken into account right from the stage of the design of the adjustment programme.

Countries carrying out adjustment programmes should be assisted with designing measures and action programmes that help to preserve food security without leading to an unsustainable burden on the government budget. The social dimension of adjustment programme SDA, set up by the UNDP, the World

Bank and the African Development Bank, responds to these needs. Several European countries as well as the Community are providing support to this initiative. It is important to ensure that the insights gained through the SDA are directly applied in action programmes that constitute an integral part of the adjustment packages.

Given the importance of Community agricultural production in the global context and its contribution to the world food situation, I should now like to make some comments on recent agricultural policy changes in the Community.

The Common Agricultural Policy, that is the agricultural policy of the European Community, has been undergoing a process of major reform for a number of years now, particularly since 1984. The underlying philosophy is one of opening Community agriculture more fully to market forces with the objective of controlling production and the costs of market support.

Since the last FAO Conference in November 1987, this concept has been applied more stringently, with the introduction in 1988 of restrictive measures regarding both production and expenditure control.

Given the dependence on the Common Agricultural Policy of over 9 million Community farmers and the diversity of farm structures throughout the Community, it was deemed necessary to ease the more extreme consequences of these reforms with other measures of a structural and social nature.

The substantial reduction in stocks which are overhanging the markets also helps to make the reforms less unpalatable in that markets, both domestic and international, became more buoyant as stocks diminished.

All these measures, combined with the many other reforms carried out over the years, have certainly reoriented the emphasis of the Common Agricultural Policy of the Community, but I assure you that in no way have the basic principles underlying our agricultural policy been altered.

Finally, allow me to say that the Community has made serious efforts to control production and stabilize markets, with some notable success. The stability on the world market which we experience today for some products can only be maintained and improved upon through a global approach. The present round of GATT negotiations provides us with the opportunity of having such a global approach and long-term stability. It is imperative, therefore, that this occasion be seized upon.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan): Documents C 89/2 and its supplement on the State of Food and Agriculture present a comprehensive review on the world economic environment, agriculture and food production, food aid and external assistance, besides dwelling on the specific subsectors of forestry and fisheries. These documents also reflect on the regional review of the situation of the economy and agriculture and reveal that the world economic situation, more specifically the situation in regard to food and agriculture in the developing countries, especially in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, is extremely unsatisfactory.

Although overall growth in the developing regions registered an estimated increase of 3.4 percent in 1987 and 3.6 percent in 1988, yet it could not prevent the per capita increase from dropping in many areas. The overall value of exports by developing countries increased only slightly in 1988, but their terms of trade deteriorated because of the steep fall in world oil



prices. Oppressive external debt remains the main obstacle to satisfactory economic growth which increased by 4 percent in 1987 and by 1 percent in 1988. Indeed, the debt service ratio worsened in 1988 for some of the most severely indebted and for capital-importing countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin American and the Caribbean, which is expected further to deteriorate in 1989.

In many developing countries, high inflation accelerated in 1988. This was primarily caused by higher commodity prices and lack of fiscal restraints. While prospects remain uncertain, some easing in inflationary pressures is expected during 1989.

It is also a matter of grave concern that as against the mounting pressure of rapid population increase, the global agricultural production stagnated in both 1987 and 1988, as also did cereal production, which declined by 3.3 percent. Estimates for 1989-90 show a possible rise in cereal production. However, the report vividly highlights that food security is expected to decline in 1989.

At regional level the situation continues to be gloomy. Agricultural production remains well below the rate of population growth. In Asia and the Pacific it grew by 3.8 percent per annum during 1981 to 1987 but observed a mixed trend in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the Near East, agricultural production rose by 3.2 percent, but moderately declined in the USSR and severely declined in East European countries. Output also fell in the developed market economies, North America and Western Europe by 4.6 percent, 11.2 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.

Food aid is also expected to drop, due primarily to higher market prices in the wake of poor crops in many donor countries. This might fall below ten thousand million tonnes, the level established by the World Food Conference of 1974. The global supply/demand balance for cereals would continue to widen due to adverse weather conditions in certain countries of the world. Stocks are expected to fall further to 290 million tonnes from already low levels. This, combined with low expected food aid, would pose a challenge to low income and food-deficit countries.

Besides cereals, the fish catch is likely to decline in developing market economies by 4.8 percent. The increase of 2.8 percent in developed market economies is likely to be offset by this decline. As regards forestry products, world production, as well as trade, is likely to increase despite the fact that deforestation is taking place at an alarming rate in many parts of the world. Developing countries are experiencing the most rapid rate of deforestation. Management of forest resources remains inadequate in most countries, despite the fact that FAO regards forests as fundamental to food security. It is thus abundantly axiomatic that the world economic environments at present are not conducive to agricultural development. In fact, to the great detriment of the developing countries, the world economy is fraught with the maladies of protectionism, increasing inflationary pressures, slow economic growth, trade imbalances, inadequate access of the products of the developing countries to world market, and the erosion of preferential trade arrangements. This state of affairs needs to be ameliorated, and concrete measures evolved for establishing equitable and viable international economic order, for reversing the trend of flow of resources from developing countries to the developed countries, and above all for ensuring a good harvest commensurate with current consumption trends, adequate enough to replenish the depleted food stocks and to re-establish the minimum levels of global food security.

Despite the bleak and not-too-happy state of would economy, agriculture in Pakistan has performed fairly well, owing primarily to the framework of policies and strategies for agricultural development through institutionalized technological change reflected in higher yields and greater production of high-value products. The main emphasis of the agricultural policy is on acceleration of the pace of modernization, to achieve a growth rate substantially higher than that of population, an increase in the agricultural productivity through vertical expansion, consolidation of self-sufficiency in grains, diversification of agricultural production and rural employment opportunities, strengthening of institutional support capabilities and availability of an appropriate technology package of farm inputs to farmers, besides incentives and support-price measures. Our seventh 5-year development plan, 1988 to 1993, based on this policy framework targets the growth rate of agriculture at 5.2 percent, with major crops at 5.6 percent and minor crops at 3.6 percent.

Although the year 1988 to 1989 was not conducive for the crop production due to the vagaries of weather, heavy rains and devastating floods, yet with the adoption of these measures, the agricultural sector registered a growth rate of 6.1 percent. The major crops - wheat, rice and cotton - increased by 7.8 percent, and minor crops by 3.2 percent. The livestock sector and forestry also made headway in terms of 3.9 percent and 0.5 percent growth. We could manage to harvest 14.4 million tons of wheat, 3.2 million tons of rice, 8.4 million bales of cotton and 36 million tons of sugarcane.

However, due to floods and rains, as earlier stated, and in the wake of the presence of more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees, we had to import 1.8 million tons of wheat during 1988-89. An identical quantity for imports of wheat has been planned for 1989-90 to secure the national reserve position and meet the expected shortages. We have fixed the targets for the major crops for the year 1989-90 as follows: cotton, 9 million bales; rice, 3.4 million tons; sugarcane, 34.3 million tons; and wheat, 15.5 million tons.

We are confident and hopeful of achieving these targets, which would further consolidate our agricultural and food security situation.

**Ms SITI BALKISH SHARIFF (Malaysia):** First of all, the Malaysian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for an informative paper and the clear presentation made this morning by Mr Dutia.

We note that the overall economic growth was primarily favourable to developed countries, while growth in many developing countries slackened as a result of unresolved external debt problems and protectionist policies of the developed countries. Global agricultural production has stagnated, and its future growth potential does not appear bright, because of continued over-supply of many agricultural products, slow growth in global demand for agricultural products and unstable commodity prices. We share FAO's concern for a good harvest to meet current consumption levels, to replenish depleted food stocks and to re-establish minimum levels of global food security.

The Malaysian delegation looks forward to the methodology to be released by FAO regarding nutritional levels assessment, which will enhance efforts in improving not only food consumption, but also production.

The Malaysian delegation is concerned about the decline in exports by many developing countries. The GATT Study conclusions about the negative impact of agricultural protectionism on farm trade signal the importance of a freer world market. In this regard, we believe that the move to form regional

trading blocks runs contrary to the spirit of liberal trading systems, and will hinder further efforts to improve economic performance of developing countries, in particular to correcting the current perverse flow of resources from developing to developed countries.

At this juncture, with regard to the Uruguay Round Negotiations on agriculture, we would like to re-emphasize the need to provide special and differential treatment for the developing countries in their endeavour to undertake agricultural reform.

The Malaysian delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform the Conference of our commitment for the stable management of our valuable tropical rain forest, not only to conserve our national heritage, but also to ensure a better quality of life for our people. In this regard, ecologically- and environmentally-oriented forest conservation and management practices have been adopted to ensure forest renewal and yield on a sustained basis. About 20 million hectares, or 61.1 percent of our total land area is still under natural forest, and, taking into account other areas under tree-crops, such as oil-palm and rubber, the figure is even larger at 23.6 million hectares, or 71.1 percent. In preserving our flora and fauna, besides the large areas of undisturbed forest, some 1.3 million hectares have also been established as reserve for national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Malaysia is concerned about calls made by conservation groups, as deliberated in paragraph 146 of the Report, for a boycott of timber products under the guise of environmental concerns. Even more disturbing is the fact that such concerns have been used as a basis for suggesting unjustified barriers to trade.

The Malaysian delegation wishes to re-emphasize the country's commitment to protect the environment, as contained in the Langkawi Declaration on the Environment, which was fully endorsed by the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth at its recent meeting.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden) : We would also like to commend the Secretariat for the thorough report on the present situation, and Mr Dutia for his introductory statement. The report is a major undertaking and it contains an immense amount of useful information. While the theory of specialization according to comparative advantages is appealing with regard to the activities of international organizations, it is sometimes difficult to apply in practice, but we have here one example where FAO clearly has a comparative advantage. It is indeed difficult to imagine that an analysis as comprehensive as this one could be produced at any other international organization. For that reason, and since it will directly or indirectly form a basis for opinions and decisions on both national and international economic policy, we are of course anxious about the reliability of its data and the soundness of its judgements. In general, we find that it presents a fair and balanced view of developments, and, although we do not agree with each and every one of them, we find the analysis and conclusions relevant and easy to accept.

However, there is one exception, and I think it was touched upon by the delegate from France just recently. It concerns the rather dark picture that is given of the present food situation and the lack of confidence about the future. We find that there is undue emphasis on the negative aspects, and that the more balanced account of all relevant factors would give rise to an assessment that is both more optimistic and more nuanced.

Let me give you a few examples: it is true that cereal stock levels now are lower than during earlier parts of the 1980s, but it is equally true that earlier levels were considered excessive, too costly and with negative market effects.

Secondly, it is true that total cereal production declined in 1987 and 1988, but it is also true that it was a decline from a level clearly above market clearing levels, and also a decline which, to some extent, was planned and longed for; there were thus large reserves of production capacity in many important producing countries.

Thirdly, it is certainly possible that a change in the global climate may have a negative long-term effect on agriculture in many areas, but is it not equally possible that the opposite may occur in other areas? Is it not also likely that in the short term there will, in fact, be positive effects due to the yield increase associated with carbon dioxide enrichment?

For the longer-term prospects for per capita food production, is it not worth mentioning that the population growth in many large developing countries, and in developing countries in total, is considerably smaller now than it was before?

For these, and for some other reasons, a fuller account of all relevant factors would provide a less negative picture. We are not looking for a bright and rosy picture, and we have certainly no reason to be complacent; particularly in the short run the situation seems precarious, and should be subject to close monitoring, in spite of the favourable outlook for 1989-90. However, a more balanced view may not only increase the credibility of the Secretariat, but may also contribute to the ongoing reform of agricultural policies, both in developed countries and in developing countries, as recommended also in this Organization.

Finally, I would like to say that we appreciate the problem-oriented sections on forestry. It is indeed an important area and we think it generally deserves thorough treatment. In the future we would be happy to find an extension of the areas and the problems covered in previews of this kind. For example, the EEC is certainly an important part of Europe, but it is not the only one, and in many other European countries, particularly in the north, forestry plays a vital role. The effects of airborne pollution on forestry is one example of a topic which might merit attention in regular global overviews of this kind.

**Ali ARHOUMA (Libya) (original language Arabic):** My country's delegation deeply appreciates the information, statistics, data and proposals included in the documents before us. We should like to thank the Secretariat for its great efforts. We should like to stress the FAO's role in laying down the programmes for the implementation of these proposals. My country's delegation supports the analysis of the food and agriculture situation in Africa given by the distinguished representative of Ghana.

We share the international community's concern regarding the world food situation despite the expected improvement for this year. We believe that the real problem lies in the fact that developing countries are unable to raise their production rates in order for them to be coherent with their natural resources.

Africa , Mr Chairman, despite its vast natural resources, is the region that faces the gravest food problems in the world. We believe that the FAO has a major role to play to enable the developing countries to achieve the optimum utilization of their resources in order to increase their production and to protect their ecological resources.

We do support the FAO Programmes to extend the necessary technical assistance to the developing countries and we believe that this aspect should receive special priority. In this connection, I should like to refer to the meeting sponsored by the FAO on world food security. We hope that recommendations adopted by this meeting will be taken into account in the elaboration of the world food strategy. My country believes that something should be done about the declining prices of the developing countries' export commodities and the high prices of import commodities.

This situation results in aggravating the problem of indebtedness and the depletion of the natural resources in many of the developing countries. Moreover, my delegation would like to refer to the paragraph on pests and diseases in document C 89/2-Sup.1 which relates to the American screwworm fly. We would like to inform the Member States that as soon as we learned of the possible presence of this dangerous pest in the country, we contacted all parties of experience.

We also asked the FAO to help us in monitoring programmes. Surveys have actually been conducted and we are doing our best to control the screwworm. We are in constant contact with the FAO. Funds that amounted to over one million dollars have been allocated for the campaign against it.

Mr Chairman, my country's delegation supports the FAO approach in the field of forestry for achieving the appropriate balance between forests and the environment. As for the strategy of tropical forests, we do support it fully. We believe that the Tropical Forestry Action Plan referred to in page 59 of the Arabic text of document C 89/2-Sup.2 is an exemplary one. We hope that similar plans of action would be created for other regions, such as the Near East region, in the future.

Janusz ROWINSKI (Poland): In my intervention, I will limit myself only to some comments on selected issues, as presented in part II, section E, paragraphs 250 to 271, and in paragraph 23 of the Supplement. In this part of the material, a review of the situation in Eastern Europe and in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was performed. This region includes also Poland.

The point of the matter is that a synthetic assessment of the transformations taking place in this region in the economic sphere is an unusually difficult task. The group of countries in question, only a few years ago, could have been described as having a uniform economic system. It is presently clear that the systems of management of the national economies are becoming more and more differentiated. Some countries are maintaining the system of management of the national economy practised so far. Other countries, for example Poland, are introducing far-reaching changes, moving towards market mechanisms and transforming the relations of ownership in the national economy. The speed of the changes in question has accelerated in some countries to such a rapid pace that any assessment based on an analysis of the state of things in the years 1987 and 1988, and even in early 1989, is already outdated.

The remark made in paragraph 269 that "Reforms in agricultural management have been particularly far-reaching in most countries" calls for further comment. This is true of some countries in the region but the situation in this respect in Poland is different. The way and mode of affecting the biggest and most important group of agricultural producers - private farmers - has not undergone significant change for a number of years now.

Thus, in the last years the important system changes were introduced first of all in the other segments of the food economy and consisted for the main part of strengthening of the position of the enterprises.

A major acceleration of the transformations in the food economy took place in summer of 1989. At this point, I would like to draw attention to paragraph 271. It is correctly remarked that the rapid rate of elimination of subsidies serves to accelerate the inflationary processes and exerts a strong negative impact on accumulated savings, wages, retirement pensions and the functioning of the taxation system. In this context, as an example of countries where the presently experienced situation should encourage other countries to more spread out in time elimination of subsidies, Poland and Hungary are quoted. But the very same facts have permitted the formulation of the view that a policy of small steps is, in Polish conditions, not very efficient. It has resulted, among others, in a growth of the state budget deficit and has brought about the menace of complete destruction of the market, thus making it impossible for the critical state of the national economy to improve. Taking this into account, bold and radical moves were decided. In the course of only a few months, practically all subsidies to agricultural production inputs and to food products were eliminated and price controls lifted. With demand exceeding supply, a hyper-inflationary movement of prices was recorded, which after: only a few months ran into the limited demand barrier. We hope this is the beginning of the phase of declining inflation. It is, as yet, definitely too early to make any assessment of the overall effect of the changes.

The described policy is one of the major elements of the first stage of the economic programme, which is presently being discussed with the International Monetary Fund. It is no doubt a very risky policy. It may encounter strong public resistance and thus may be conducted, only by a Government which has strong public support.

**Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh)** : As this is the first time that the Bangladesh delegation has taken the floor here, I, on behalf of my delegation, would like to convey my heartiest felicitation to you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. May I also assure you, Mr Chairman, of my delegation's fullest support and cooperation.

Coming to the topic of our deliberations here, I would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for producing the document under the title The State of Food and Agriculture. These documents contain an excellent and comprehensive presentation of all major issues relative to the state of food and agriculture all over the world. I also thank Mr Dutia for his lucid presentation of the topic.

As we all know from the experiences of many developing countries, including my own, agriculture is never a simple business. Despite best efforts and sound policies, weather, pests, and other factors can bring disappointment.

On behalf of my delegation, I extend concern and sympathy of the people of Bangladesh to the people of those countries whose agricultural production has been adversely affected this year due to natural hazards and calamities.

Here at this point, let me say a few words on the present state of agriculture in Bangladesh. From the experience of my country, since the floods of just over a year ago, we offer not only thanks but also hope. Today, not yet one and a half year after experiencing the devastation of unprecedented floods, farmers in Bangladesh are beginning to taste the fruits of high rates of agricultural growth. Within the past year, our Government has made many changes in policies towards agriculture. These new policies have, for the most part, liberalized private import trade and also domestic trade in agricultural inputs. The most important input affected by policy changes has been small diesel engines which farmers use to lift ground and surface water for irrigation. The Government has also taken steps to give the private sector a larger role in fertilizer trade. With these new policies, 1989 saw a record expansion of the area irrigated and indications are that the expansion of irrigated area in 1990 may be equally impressive. We anticipate substantially larger food grain production in 1989-90.

Before I conclude, I would like to draw your kind attention to paragraph 52 of the document C 89/2 where there is a reference to what has been stated as occurrence of famine in Bangladesh due to floods last year. Here I would say, most emphatically, as also stressed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Bangladesh in his statement at the Plenary, that despite a very bad flood last year, there was no famine in Bangladesh. This was due to timely mobilization of resources by the Bangladesh Government.

As deliberations on this topic proceed, my delegation will take the floor at subsequent stages.

MA GENG-OU (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, first of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to congratulate you on your election as Chairmain of this catmittee. I believe that under your guidance this carmittee will have good discussions on the important issues related to food and agriculture in a friendly and cooperative manner so that the deliberations will be fruitful.

From the conference documents and the information provided by FAO, we can see that the situation of food production has become rather serious in recent years. After a sharp drop in would food production for two consecutive years in 1987 and 1988, the global cereal production rose somewhat in 1989, but still below the annual consumption level. The cereal stocks will continue to fall for a third year being only 16 percent of the annual consumption, still lower than the minimum level set by FAO to ensure world food security. It should be specially mentioned that the situation has become even worse for the developing countries. Despite the recovery of international agricultural trade after the decline at the beginning of the 1980's, the agricultural trade in developing countries has progressed slowly. Despite price recovery of cereals, the price of cash crops, important exports for the developing countries, remains depressed. The terms of agricultural trade worsened for most developing countries. Besides, in the developing countries, the serious debt problem and the outflow of capital has led to the weakening of food import ability and reduction of capital needed for the development of food and agriculture in the third would countries.

The agricultural environment and resources are deteriorating with each passing day. All these has had extremely adverse effects on the agricultural production and economic prosperity of the developing countries. In view of this grave situation, we hope that this Conference will concentrate on the development of production, trade and international cooperation and take effective measures and realistic actions.

It is our view that agriculture holds an exceedingly important position in the economic growth of the developing countries. The development of agriculture will not only provide food to the world and eradicate hunger and malnutrition but will also facilitate the development of international agricultural trade and international economy. Therefore, the developing countries should place agriculture in a strategically important position and make necessary adjustment and reforms in the backward agricultural systems, policies, techniques and managerial methods and mobilize thousands of millions of farmers for concrete actions. On the other hand, the international community should, with joint efforts, create a favourable international economic and political environment for development. The developed countries should, in the spirit of sincere cooperation, and out of long-term interest, assist developing countries in food production and capital investment and technology transfers relax competition with developing countries concerning their major agricultural produce and improve terms of agricultural trade. The developing countries should also strengthen cooperation among themselves. We believe that FAO can make greater contributions to the promotion of world agricultural cooperation and the acceleration of agricultural development.

In recent years, the deterioration of the world agricultural environment and resources has become increasingly serious, and this has aroused the great concern of the international community. At present, soil and water erosion, the loss of soil fertility, the reduction of tropical forests and soil salification and desertification in certain parts of the world are worsening. The aquatic resources in some areas and certain animal and plant resources with exploration potential are gradually decreasing or disappearing. The deterioration of the environment in some parts of the world may possibly lead to a global crisis. We should bear this in mind.

We have noticed that a great deal of work has been done by FAO and other international organizations in protecting the agricultural environment and resources. However, such work has not received enough attention. Some programmes and proposals are not implemented, due to lack of funds and manpower. Therefore, strategic plans should be worked out to protect and recycle agricultural resources for sustained development and food security and for future generations as well. We sincerely hope that the international community, especially the developed countries, will make more commitments in environmental protection.

Now I should like to touch briefly upon food and agricultural production in China.

Since the rural economic reforms started in 1979, there has been a rapid development of agricultural production in China. The population of 1.1 billion has basic food and clothing. Nevertheless, the production of food and cotton after 1985 has never gone beyond the 1984 level, which has caused great concern to the Chinese Government. The total output of this year's summer crop exceeded the record level in history and an increase of cereal output is expected.



The Chinese Government will make further efforts to do the following work. First, we will continue to increase the rural reforms, establish and perfect the pre-production in production and post-harvest service systems and promote appropriate scale operations in areas with suitable conditions. Second, we will actively popularize advanced research findings in agriculture, organize agricultural regional development in a planned way and develop new production forces for an all-round development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, side-line production and fisheries. Third, we will increase agricultural inputs, expand farmland capital construction, develop agro-industry in a big way and improve agricultural production and ecological conditions.

With all these measures, the Chinese Government is confident that agriculture in China will be developed continuously and steadily.

**Chang Hyuk SUH (Republic of Korea):** On behalf of the Korean Government delegation, I should like to express the Korean Government's worries about the uncertain world food situation and research development. With regard to this, I would comment on two issues: first, the uncertain food situation and the problems of food security of developing countries and, second, the problems related to food production and natural resource depletion.

As indicated in The State of Food and Agriculture 1989, world cereal stocks are expected to decline further and will amount to 16 percent of world annual consumption by the end of 1989. This level is below the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security. Decreasing world cereal stocks pose a very serious problem for many food-importing developing countries. Increasing world cereal prices due to decreasing stocks will eventually affect the people of the developing countries, because most of these countries do not have enough foreign currency to import food.

Accordingly, I suggest that workable measures should be devised to reduce the uncertain food situation, especially for the food-importing countries. In this regard, I think the role of food-exporting developed countries is much more important than that of developing countries. Moreover, serious consideration should be given to allowing food-importing countries like Korea to maintain an optimum level of domestic food supply and to continue to adopt the necessary policy measures to ensure adequate food supplies.

On my second point, I should like to comment on natural resource depletion relating to food production. We know the seriousness of natural resource depletion in world agriculture, fishery and forestry development. However, it is very complicated to find out what is the optimum depletion level in the case of renewable resource development. Moreover, the externality problems of resource development make it more difficult.

Accordingly, the problems relating to food production at this time and conservation for future food production should be decided based on scientific knowledge and back-up. This approach can also be applied to common resource development in the area of fisheries development in the high seas.

With regard to this issue, I expect FAO to initiate the provision of work on a scientific basis on natural resource depletion and food production.

Engelbert MOYO (Tanzania): In Tanzania, agriculture continues to be the largest sector in the country's economy. It provides 40-50 percent of the GDP and 80 percent of export earnings. It is the main source of food supply, provides raw materials for the industrial sector labour employment and creates a large and effective market for domestic industrial goods.

Real growth rate in 1986 in Tanzania was 3.8 percent, 4.4 percent in 1987 and 4.8 percent in 1988, compared to annual growth rates of less than 3 percent during the 1981-1985 period. The encouraging performance in the agricultural sector in Tanzania was mainly due to the favourable weather conditions, due to the fact that the agricultural sector in Tanzania is rain-fed, and there were quite good price incentives for small-scale farmers. But large potential for expanding production remains unexploited, mainly as a result of low level of technology, insufficient and inefficient distribution of inputs and tools and poor agricultural infrastructure in marketing roles and other things.

Currently Tanzania is implementing the structural adjustment programme which is associated with devaluating its currency. This will in no way avoid subsidizing farmers, if agricultural output is to be increased if not maintained at current output.

With regard to the sustainable development and natural resource management, the next few decades will present a greater challenge to the world food systems than they may ever face again.

The effort needed to increase production in face of an unprecedented increase in demand, while retaining or maintaining the essential ecological integrity of food systems, is important both in its magnitude and complexity. Given the obstacles to be overcome, most of them man-made, it can fail more easily than it can succeed.

The dimensions of the scientific challenges ahead for achieving concurrently ecological and food security are probably unprecedented in human history. How are we to face them? The 1990s will mark the beginning of a new phase where agriculture will face serious challenges on the ecological, economic, energy, equity and employment fronts.

Scientists will have to struggle with problems arising from the loss of the biological potential of the soil on the one hand and biological improvement of the whole world on the other.

Currently environmental issues have also become an increasing concern in my country. Uncontrolled forest clearing, soil erosion due to poor crop and livestock production management, especially over-grazing and over-stocking, and other resource degradations are currently being experienced at an increasingly alarming rate.

My Government is currently putting emphasis on the protection of the environment in order to sustain agricultural development. A substantial part of the country is put into forest reserves and game reserves to be able to sustain the environment in the country, and I hope this will take care of what is happening now in most of the countries where it is essential that the environment be maintained.

A. Alim FAUZI (Indonesia): Mr Chairman, first of all please allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to extend ray congratulations to you on your election as Chairman. With your guidance, I believe our session will reach a fruitful result.

As we know, since 1984, Indonesia has raised the level of self-sufficiency in rice production. After long and hard work for more than fifteen years with the cooperation and technical assistance from FAO, Indonesia enjoyed an increase of 8 percent rice production in the year 1984 and reached the level of self-sufficiency.

On the other hand, the real price of foodstuffs has declined while the real income of farm households has increased. Yet like all other crop production, the rice production since then fluctuated due to unpredictable climate conditions. In 1987, for instance, the long drought caused the increase of rice production could not cope with the rice demand and rice consumption. (Production increased by 9 percent but consumption increased by 2.5 percent.) In this case, of course, we need additional supplies from abroad. However, in the last five years, we succeeded to sustain the level of self-sufficiency 2in rice production and we even have some surplus.

From 1984 to 1989, Indonesia has been exporting rice in the amount of approximately 900 000 tons. Half was given as a loan to some countries which had some problems in food supplies resulting from production failure. However at the same time we also imported about 600 000 tons, mostly as repayment in the form of rice from lender-countries, and seme as carry-over import from the years before 1984. This year, 1989, rice production is projected to increase by 4.5 percent to about 29.7 million metric tons, and maize increased by 3.0 percent to about 6.8 million metric tons. Nevertheless, wheat, which cannot be raised in Indonesia, still has to be imported at an average of 1.5 million tons annually to feed the foreigners and some people in the big cities.

Our problem in the near future is hew to sustain the level of self-sufficiency in rice production and other crop production in the long run with limited resources but without jeopardizing the environment. In this connection, Indonesia, like some other developing countries, still needs some effective cooperation and technical assistance from FAO and other relevant international organizations. We think that FAO's assistance to fulfil the needs of developing countries in the form of regular programmes, field programmes and technical cooperation programmes is still needed and should be continuously promoted.

With regard to document C 89/2, it is stated that there is a close relationship between forests and agriculture. The document points out the importance of forestry to food security. Since approximately 65 percent of Indonesia's total land mass is covered by forest area, forests have been playing an important role in the development of the country. We appreciate the growing world awareness for the conservation of tropical forests, but at the same time we are concerned with the negative propaganda against the use of tropical forest products. In fact, efforts have been made by our Government to conserve our natural resources and to develop our forest. We develop agriculture by maintaining the integrity of the functions of forest, land and water. We develop industries by controlling their negative impact on the environment. We improve the standard of living without reducing the capability of natural resources to improve the standard of living of future generations. Indeed, we would like here again to underline that Indonesia is

committed to the principles and framework of the TFAP. We would like to use the TFAP as the national instrument for developing the forestry sector.

Mahmoud SAMY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I shall simply stick to two points referring to agricultural production in my comments. Mr Chairman, as far as concerns documents 89/2 and 89/2 Sup.1, I will just stick to two important points concerning agricultural production and industrial production. The first is the question of debt, which is one of the main obstacles obstructing agricultural production in developing countries and also economic development in general. Debt servicing takes up a large portion of available economic resources, making it difficult for the Government to finance agricultural programmes.

Given these conditions which prevent investment in agricultural production, the agricultural development therefore is decreased, and therefore nobody can deny that the international community should be aware of the danger of foreign debt and its impact on the world economy. Hence, efforts are being made to try to alleviate the burden of this debt, particularly as regards structural agricultural adjustment. However, all these solutions can only reduce the burden of debt on a provisional basis, and in spite of the measures taken by the World Bank to reduce the burden of the debt, the results are still far off. The system is only a palliative, and we must realize that if we do not adopt a solution immediately the crisis will deepen. We therefore have to expand the established measures taken to cope with this crisis, while weighing them against the economic and social effects involved.

The second point is the question of the pests which are affecting our livestock and our agricultural production, particularly desert locusts. We should like to thank FAO and donor countries which have tried to reduce the danger caused by these plagues. We would like to ask all countries to remain vigilant to cope with this problem. There is also the problem of the screwworm fly which is affecting livestock in North Africa and even Southern Europe, and we would like to congratulate FAO on the efforts they have made in this regard. FAO has drawn up a plan to control this pest and we would like to ask them to continue to carry out this plan.

Víctor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): Ante todo, deseamos agradecer el esfuerzo de la Secretaría para la elaboración del documento C 89/2, destacando que la recuperación de los precios de los productos básicos de 1988, no llega a compensar la caída desde los niveles alcanzados a principios de la década.

Con referencia a los párrafos 93 a 99, nos parece insuficiente su contenido en lo que se refiere a la importancia de las negociaciones en curso para los países en desarrollo y exportadores de productos primarios. Para países como el nuestro cuyo comercio depende en un gran porcentaje de las exportaciones de productos agropecuarios, víctimas durante mucho tiempo de las políticas de subsidios y de las barreras al acceso practicadas por los países desarrollados, la liberalización no es sólo retórica sino una cuestión de supervivencia. Prueba de ello es la posición adoptada por los países latinoamericanos del Grupo Cairns, en la Reunión de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT en Montreal, al supeditar el avance del resto de las negociaciones de la Ronda a un acuerdo satisfactorio en agricultura.

Esta actitud permitió revitalizar las negociaciones y llegar a un resultado aceptable en la Reunión de Ginebra, en abril de 1989. En el acuerdo alcanzado en la mencionada reunión, se tuvo en cuenta los objetivos principales del Grupo Cairns de reducción substancial de subsidios, tanto de los destinados a la producción interna como a la exportación, así como un mejoramiento progresivo del acceso.

Un aspecto a tener en cuenta al evaluar el impacto real de lo acordado en Ginebra y la evolución futura de las negociaciones, es el clima imperante en las relaciones comerciales en este período.

Debemos aquí realizar la siguiente reflexión. ¿Las políticas implementadas desde abril son compatibles con estos acuerdos? Existen serias dudas al respecto ya que algunas partes en la negociación parecen interpretar el congelamiento de manera bastante flexible. En el caso de la Comunidad Económica Europea se encuentra teóricamente en proceso de implementación de las recomendaciones de la Cumbre de Bruselas de febrero de 1988, cuyos aspectos centrales son el control de la oferta y la contención de los gastos de la política agrícola común. Las decisiones de esa Cumbre fueron bienvenidas por los países del Grupo Cairns como una declaración de buenas intenciones ya que esa reforma significó que, por primera vez, se quebraba el principio de la existencia de precios garantizados no vinculados al volumen de producción.

Sin embargo, algunas propuestas recientes dan a pensar que no se le está dando suficiente importancia a los objetivos de liberalización cuando se formulan las políticas agrícolas a nivel sectorial.

Durante 1989 se han venido sucediendo las propuestas para implementar mecanismos de apoyo adicionales, como aquellos destinados a la carne de ovino, junto con mayores dificultades en el acceso, o la extensión de los subsidios a nuevos productos.

Un ejemplo de esto último son los Reglamentos 1834/89, 1835/89 y 1836/89 de junio 1989, por los cuales se decidió conceder un subsidio de 155 ECU por hectárea a la producción de maíz duro vitreo de alta calidad. En cuanto a los Estados Unidos, se encuentra en pleno período de preparación de su Ley Agrícola. En este caso, lo importante desde el punto de vista de la negociación en el GATT es que esta Norma, además de ser consistente con lo acordado hasta ahora, incluya alguna previsión para que las políticas que surjan de la Ley puedan ser modificadas con ocasión de lo que se decida en las negociaciones multilaterales.

Después de abril de 1989, el ritmo del progreso alcanzado hasta la revisión de mediano plazo no se mantuvo, ante la falta de indicación por parte de los principales participantes, especialmente la Comunidad Económica Europea, sobre sus intenciones respecto a la profundidad de las reformas.

A partir de la reunión de octubre del Grupo de Negociación, la agricultura ha pasado nuevamente a ser el centro de la Ronda Uruguay, revitalizada por la propuesta de los Estados Unidos. La misma abarca todas las medidas internas de sostén y protección que caracterizan a su sistema agrícola, hecho que le otorga credibilidad y liderazgo, al indicar el camino de las responsabilidades que deben asumir otras partes contratantes importantes.

Queremos ahora destacar algunos elementos básicos que el Grupo Cairns ha venido sosteniendo en la negociación. Nuestro país considera que el obtener un acuerdo sobre estos elementos básicos es imprescindible para el éxito de las negociaciones.

En cuanto al acceso a los mercados, creemos en la necesidad de eliminar todas las medidas que no estén explícitamente previstas por el GATT, incluyendo las barreras no tarifarias y los gravámenes móviles. Deberían además prohibirse todas las excepciones existentes para la agricultura, mantenidas ya sea a través de waivers o de protocolos de acceso.

En relación a las medidas de apoyo, éstas deberían ser disciplinadas en el marco del GATT, incluyendo la prohibición de aquéllas más distorsionantes para el comercio.

También deberán ser desmantelados los sistemas de subsidios a las exportaciones. Existe el riesgo, sin embargo, de que esta asistencia sea derivada hacia programas bilaterales de ayuda alimentaria. Para que esto no ocurra, insistimos en la necesidad de que toda ayuda alimentaria sea canalizada a través de los organismos multilaterales relevantes.

El trato especial y diferenciado para países en desarrollo creemos que es fundamental y que las medidas de apoyo vinculadas con el desarrollo agrícola y rural deben ser excluidas de cualquier compromiso sobre reducción del apoyo que asuman los países en desarrollo. Estos países deberían además gozar de una mayor flexibilidad en los plazos para la aplicación de estos compromisos, para permitirles así realizar los ajustes graduales y necesarios para llegar al objetivo final de una agricultura más vinculada a las señales de los mercados.

Deseamos destacar nuestro objetivo final en las negociaciones de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT: rechazamos todo compromiso final que no implique un acuerdo razonable y concreto en el sector agrícola, que permita encarar la reforma estructural de este sector.

Con referencia a los párrafos 100 a 108, queremos señalar la necesidad de mayores niveles de asistencia exterior a la agricultura hacia América Latina. ,

Con respecto al párrafo 110 y la ayuda alimentaria, señalamos su bajo nivel en 1988/89, pero dejamos claro que la misma debe canalizarse a través de organismos multilaterales, para que no sea usada como una forma encubierta de subsidio a la exportación.

Con referencia a los párrafos 218 a 229, se comparte en general la línea del documento sobre la importancia de la agricultura para el desarrollo de la economía y el alivio de la pobreza en los países en desarrollo.

Sobre el párrafo 236, deseamos insistir en la necesidad de una liberalización del acceso a los mercados de los países desarrollados para las exportaciones de productos primarios provenientes de los países en desarrollo. En lo que hace a los párrafos 294 a 301, señalamos nuestra discrepancia con el tratamiento que se da en el documento a la política agrícola de la Comunidad Económica Europea. En particular, el documento carece de referencias al papel distorsionante de la PAC en el comercio agrícola mundial. Por otra parte, se presenta a las reformas recientes en la PAC como de una significación mayor a la real al analizar las proyecciones sobre el presupuesto de la Comunidad Económica Europea; se observa que la parte destinada a los subsidios agrícolas en el año 1988 en adelante sólo disminuirá marginalmente,

manteniéndose por encima del 54 por ciento. Además, en términos monetarios nominales se prevé un aumento del FEOGA en los próximos tres años, que va de 27 700 millones de ECUs en 1989 a 29 600 millones en 1992.

Con referencia al Suplemento 1, el párrafo 18 reconoce que el aumento de los precios de algunos productos agrícolas en el año 1988 pudo afectar negativamente a algunos países en desarrollo importadores de alimentos; sin embargo el documento minimiza la importancia que los precios más elevados tienen para los países exportadores como el nuestro. Debería insistirse en que la solución a los problemas de balanzas de pago de los países importadores no pasa por una depresión en los precios que afecte a los exportadores, sino por la instrumentación de mecanismos crediticios a través de instituciones multilaterales como el Fondo Monetario Internacional, Banco Mundial, y políticas agropecuarias que incentiven las producciones locales.

En este sentido, en reuniones celebradas recientemente entre las principales autoridades del GATT, Banco Mundial y Fondo Monetario Internacional, estos organismos expresaron su voluntad de proveer asistencia financiera a los países en desarrollo importadores netos de alimentos. Esperamos que prontamente se concrete.

Por otra parte, los niveles de precios alcanzados por los productos que más subieron, en referencia al cuadro 9, a mediados de 1988, 160 dólares por tonelada para el trigo y 122 dólares por tonelada para el maíz, sólo representaron una recuperación de precios que estaban muy deprimidos. El trigo volvió al nivel de 1982 y el maíz al nivel promedio de los años 1982/85.

En relación al documento del Desarrollo Sostenible y Ordenación de los Recursos Naturales, se destaca como muy importante y realista el texto del párrafo 69, ya que históricamente se ha presentado tal situación. Intimamente ligado a lo anterior se resalta con el mayor énfasis el contenido de los párrafos 72 a 82 porque se considera un valioso cambio de enfoque que hace previsible que los responsables de tomar soluciones atiendan con una prioridad singular al perjuicio económico derivado del uso insostenible de los recursos.

En tal sentido, se sugiere este enfoque se realice siguiendo metodologías desarrolladas por esta Organización.

Respecto al párrafo 85, se está decididamente de acuerdo en lo general, pero en oposición a que resulte necesario que los beneficios de una práctica deban obtenerse en el mismo año de su aplicación. Esta limitación es demasiado estrecha. Concretamente Argentina está llevando a cabo un programa exitoso de fomento de prácticas de las que en su mayoría se obtienen beneficios en años subsiguientes a la puesta en marcha.

Los párrafos 106 y 127 parten del presupuesto de que los campesinos deben disponer de más tierra para producir, mediante la reforma de la tenencia de ésta y de los derechos de la propiedad. Al respecto, caben las siguientes consideraciones -y aclaro que es para el caso específicamente de la República Argentina. Para su economía global, es primordial el uso más eficaz del recurso con los medios técnicos y financieros más apropiados que permitan obtener la máxima rentabilidad de los predios. Antes que dividir grandes predios, sería más razonable establecer para el sector un sistema impositivo que grave fuertemente a aquellos productores que subutilizan sus predios, ya que la tierra es un recurso escaso, del que depende la alimentación.

Por último, señor Presidente, deseamos destacar el párrafo 172 del documento, que describe en forma precisa la posición de mi Delegación sobre la necesidad de reconocer que los problemas ecológicos de los países en desarrollo se entrelazan, en última instancia, con los mercados internacionales, las pautas comerciales y las corrientes del capital. Por consiguiente, también se necesita una reforma de estas relaciones estructurales. La agricultura sostenible requiere una inversión que las naciones en desarrollo y especialmente los pobres que viven al día no pueden realizar. Esto no significa sólo aumentar o mejorar la ayuda exterior; es preciso introducir cambios estructurales en la economía internacional, aliviar la carga de la deuda de los países en desarrollo y mejorar sus relaciones de intercambio, a fin de liberar los recursos necesarios para establecer prácticas agrícolas sostenibles. Le pido disculpas, señor Presidente, por la extensión, y muchas gracias.

José Luis VAAMONDE (España): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, deseamos felicitarlo en nuestra primera intervención por su elección como Presidente y por el buen orden que modera y rige esta reunión. En segundo lugar, deseamos felicitar también al Secretariado de la FAO por el documento que nos ha presentado, que nos permite disponer de datos reveladores sobre el orden mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Quisiéramos significar que la agricultura española -lógicamente, en el marco de la política del área comunitaria- sigue su esfuerzo de control de las producciones y de orientación de estas producciones al mercado; esfuerzo que comporta, en muchos casos, problemas estructurales que hay que subsanar, y algunos con alto contenido social.

También queremos manifestar nuestra sensibilidad y nuestra preocupación por los efectos que el deterioro de los recursos naturales tiene, a su vez, sobre la producción de alimentos y la necesidad de articular estrategias realistas en contra de este deterioro. Fundamentalmente, quisiéramos referirnos a la importancia que el recurso pesquero tiene, cada vez más, para muchas poblaciones y muchas regiones del planeta. En este sentido, queremos congratularnos del aumento de las capturas pesqueras que se está operando en los países en vías de desarrollo; congratulación que, a su vez, manifestamos porque España sigue ofreciendo una cooperación cada vez mayor en este ámbito, en el que ha acumulado históricamente una gran experiencia. Y quisiéramos también manifestar nuestra enorme preocupación por el deterioro medioambiental y la contaminación que se está produciendo en las aguas marinas. Es una preocupación que va creciendo por su efecto limitante sobre el aumento de las capturas; es una preocupación que, además, entendemos extensible al conjunto de todos los países del planeta.

En último lugar, quisiéramos manifestar que nuestro país sigue manteniendo su vocación de cooperar y de hacer llegar la ayuda alimentaria, fundamentalmente en la red de emergencia, en la medida en la cual somos conscientes de la demanda que mantiene cada vez más este programa, que entendemos tiene un futuro importante.

CHAIRMAN: I realize that not all delegates referred to a particularly important aspect of the item you are discussing, that is, sustainable development. I regret if my friendly advice on the length of statements has somehow induced delegations to omit this matter in their individual interventions. In any case, the Chair would like to inform delegates that we have enough time available if they wish to re-take the floor on this issue.



I understand that a number of delegations do not find themselves ready to speak now, and I should also like to inform you that we have reserved two days in our schedule and that delegations have prepared their statements accordingly. I have the impression that we have over-estimated the interest of member countries and that perhaps the items that are being discussed in Commission II have somehow monopolized the attention of delegations. Anyhow, I would make an appeal to delegations who have not yet spoken to get ready to deliver their statements this afternoon, as we should proceed with the agenda and should not drag our feet on this item if there are no delegations wishing to speak. The representative of the Sudan has asked to take the floor at the end of this morning's deliberations to comment on a reference made to his country in a previous statement. I give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Right of reply Droit de réponse Derecho de réplica

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I did not really wish to take the floor, but I listened to what the representative of the EEC said about the serious situation in southern Sudan and Ethiopia, and I would like to reply personally with respect to southern Sudan. I will let Ethiopia deal with its statement.

The situation in southern Sudan is not that serious, but sometimes exaggerated statements are made. The International Red Cross moves freely in the entire country, and this applies to any other aid organization. We have never heard of any organization having difficulty, be it imposed by the Government or by any region in the country- We would like to state that aid flows freely into Sudan and the situation has improved considerably after the revolution for national salvation. This revolution has promoted peace, as was reflected in the National Dialogue Conference for Peace which lasted for six weeks and where all the representatives of the north, south, east and west of the country were represented, as well as international and regional press. Resolutions and recommendations of a very serious nature were adopted at that Conference, which have been implemented in the meantime.

Southern Sudan is an integral part of the country, and at present we are trying to correct the evil caused by imperialism without any racism whatever. As any other developing country, we need the assistance of friendly countries. We need training and transfer of technology, because Sudan is a potentially rich country, and it is really the bread basket of the world.

As I said, Sudan has the potential resources to be a rich country, be it in the field of agriculture or mining. It also has oil. Our need is for aid in order to take advantage of these resources. We need the assistance of organizations such as FAO and the EEC.

Briefly, we have received aid for the agricultural sector, which we continue to receive in order to combat airborne plagues. We are a country which is as large as six countries of western Europe, so I should like to invite developed countries to continue giving aid to the Sudan in order to ensure peace.

**Gonzalo BULA. HOYOS (Colombia):** Señor Presidente, varaos a intervenir ahora -desde luego, muy brevemente- porque consideramos que es importante que esta Comisión mantenga un diálogo y cierta movilidad que ponga de presente el interés de las delegaciones en el debate y no nos limitemos simplemente a escuchar declaraciones. Queremos decir que nos complace mucho la declaración que acaba de hacer el colega de Sudán, en el sentido de que su país está superando las dificultades que le permitan recibir la asistencia externa, que ojalá se siga suministrando a ese importante país del Tercer Mundo.

Recordará usted, señor Presidente, que la delegación de Colombia fue el primer orador en el debate sobre este tema. Expresamos nuestra preocupación por la posible reducción de la ayuda alimentaria, según se dice en el documento básico, a partir del párrafo 110. Después de nuestra intervención, nos tranquilizó mucho la declaración del colega y amigo Sr. McGowan, del Canadá, y también la declaración del Representante de la Comunidad Económica Europea, en el sentido de que la ayuda alimentaria se va a mantener y, posiblemente, a incrementar.

También dentro de esa situación nos preocupa el contenido del párrafo 111, que hace referencia a un importante país, los Estados Unidos de América, al cual Colombia está vinculada por gratos nexos de amistad y simpatía. Nosotros también esperamos que si entre los oradores de esta tarde estuviera nuestro colega y amigo señor Wayne Denney, de los Estados Unidos, él nos va a confintar que ese gran país continuará su asistencia alimentaria para beneficio de aquellos países en desarrollo que todavía la necesitan. Si, como lo espero, éste será al caso, entonces podríamos decir en nuestro informe que consideramos importante que la ayuda alimentaria se mantenga y fortalezca, y que a tal respecto tomamos nota con satisfacción de que las declaraciones de los más inportantes donantes van en ese sentido positivo.

**CHAIRMAN:** We will now close our session for this morning. The meeting is adjourned until two thirty this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

**conference**

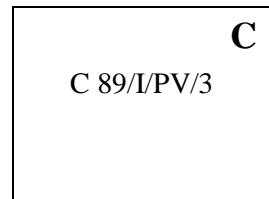
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING  
TROISIEME SEANCE  
TERCERA SESION

(15 November 1989)

The Third Meeting was opened at 14,45 hours

J.A. De Mediéis, Chairitan of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 14.45 horas

baio la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

**CHAIRMAN:** We will resume our session on discussion of item 6 of the agenda. The first speaker on my list to whom I give the floor is the distinguished delegate from India.

**R.C. JAIN (India):** I must, first of all, compliment the FAO Secretariat for a comprehensive and yet very analytical documentation on the State of Food and Agriculture in the world. I must also compliment Mr Dutia for his succinct introductory comments on the item, and especially for summing up the specific issues that need to be addressed by the Conference.

India is concerned at the worsening world food security wherein the problem of inadequate food production and under-nutrition in the developing world continues to confront the national governments. We believe that a lasting solution to the problem has essentially to be found by strengthening national efforts for achieving high levels in food production.

The developing countries in general, and India in particular, have been making sincere efforts in this direction, some of which have contributed in a significant way to the world recovery in food production during the current year. I should like to dwell upon the efforts made by India in recent years in greater detail.

India, on emerging from one of the worst droughts of the century in 1987, registered an increase of 34 million tons of food grains production in the year 1988-89. Similarly, oilseed production during that year touched a new high of 18 million tons, which is 47 percent higher than in the preceding year and 41 percent higher than the earlier record level of 12.95 million tons in the year 1984-85. This enabled India substantially to reduce its import bill on edible oil during the year.

The sustained agricultural production levels have led to the increased level of per capita food grain availability, which was 500 grammes per day in 1988 compared to only 410 grammes per capita per day in 1980.

I have narrated India's experience in the green revolution mainly to flag the argument that, while developing countries are engaged in increasing their agricultural production, they need to be assisted by the world community during the transition from food deficiency to food sufficiency. This is necessary through transfer of resources and production technologies from the developed world to these countries. The world certainly cannot wait until national governments are able on their own to meet the needs of their undernourished peoples. Their number, which was around 495 million in 1979-81, has increased to a much higher level in the last decade. Food aid

has therefore a major role to play in preventing hunger and malnutrition. In this context, dwindling food aid, especially through the WFP, is certainly a matter of great concern to all of us. The higher prices of cereals and the burden of debt servicing have further jeopardized the access to food for the poorer people in the developing world. The trend of flow of resources from the developing world to the industrialized countries also needs to be effectively reversed in the shortest possible time.

International trade in agricultural products has great significance for the economic development of the developing countries and the well-being of their people. India advocates a liberalized regime of international trade in agricultural products. We hope that the multinational negotiations in the Uruguay Round will lead to more effective GATT rules and improved conditions of international competition by reducing protectionism in the developed world.

We are happy that there is agreement on the need for exempting the domestic agricultural production policies of the developing countries which are predominantly dependent on agriculture, from such international disciplines. We also look forward to the early operation of the Common Fund to achieve the objectives of the Integrated Programme for Commodities.

Finally, I would briefly mention sustainable development and the need for preservation of the natural resources base of the world. We extend full support to FAO's commitment to the cause as enunciated in document C 89/2-Sup.2 and in document C 89/INF/14.

Environmental issues have come to the forefront of international attention, especially since the publication of the report of the WCED, chaired by Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway. This report focused attention on the concept of sustainable development. We strongly support international cooperation in this field but would advise against the introduction of any additional conditionality in disbursement of development assistance or establishment of any regulatory regime perpetuating discrimination and asymmetry in production and consumption levels between the developed and developing countries.

We believe that if growth and development are not to be sacrificed, a major international effort would be needed for the development and diffusion of environmentally-benign technologies. It would be ironic if this area of international concern were to become a subject of commercial interest. With this end in view, the Prime Minister of India proposed the establishment of a Planet Protection Fund in the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit Conference in Belgrade in September 1989, calling upon all the countries, developed and developing, except the least developed, to contribute 0.1 percent of their GDP for forming its initial corpus of around \$ 18 billion.

Coming back to the document on the subject, and especially the subject of natural resources conservation and management, and more especially the role of forests in sustaining agricultural development, the Indian delegation would like to state that FAO's leadership in coordinating the Tropical Forestry Action Plan is extremely welcome. However, efforts to streamline implementation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan should be strengthened significantly, particularly to ensure quality of the preparation of country action plans. In this regard, it is important to devise a suitable system for monitoring and evaluation of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan to ensure that the objectives with which it has been formulated are effectively fulfilled.

The role of forests in sustaining agriculture and ensuring food security has been appropriately highlighted in the document. Given the integral relationship between different land uses, efforts in forestry should focus on cross-cutting issues so that problems are tackled in an integrated manner. In this connection, there is a need to highlight the role of agro-forestry in ensuring the reliability of a variety of products to the rural population. Resources available for community forestry should be substantially enhanced. Given the importance of non-timber forest products, the efforts of FAO in supporting studies and research and strengthening the capability of member countries for sustainable production of such products need to be considerably strengthened. Currently, statistical information on forest products is limited to major forest products. While availability of data may pose a problem, efforts need to be initiated to collect information on the non-timber forest products.

**Noboru SATTO (Japan)** : My country has great interest in the world food and agriculture situation, especially for the stable world food supply and demand, as it is a large importer of cereal grain. World cereal production in 1989 will recover from the two consecutive poor harvests and the figure is estimated as 1 billion 861 million tons, 5.9 percent increase compared with that of the last year, according to the recent issue of FAO Food Outlook. This volume will not fulfil the demands of next year. Although the gap is very narrow for this year, production will be smaller than consumption for three consecutive years. This means that the level of cereal stocks has plunged from its peak volume of 450 million tons in 1986 to 290 million tons at present. This level corresponds to 17 percent or 18 percent, which FAO considers the minimum necessary level for world food security.

Under these circumstances, food aid volume is estimated, with concern, to be 8.3 million tons, a 15 percent decrease compared to the last year's volume and a 38 percent decrease compared to the year before. This fails to fulfil the 10 million ton food aid target set by the World Food Conference in 1974 for two consecutive years. From the viewpoint of assuring the world food security, more production increase seems required. My country anticipates a practical approach for food production increase avoiding a continuous surplus situation on a mid- and long-term basis.

In the longer perspective, there seem so many destabilizing factors such as policy amendments in major producing, or consuming, countries, climatic changes, demand increases, mainly in developing countries, by population increase and income increase. This brings the necessity for continuous monitoring in food and agriculture. We hope; that FAO will continue to provide essential information on food and agriculture through the Global Information and Early Warning System and to work as a forum consisting of various committees such as CFS, COAG, and each individual group of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

My country is of the basic opinion that it is essential for food-deficit developing countries to give priority to the food and agriculture sector and to promote food production increase in order to resolve food problems in developing countries. This brings the necessity to establish and implement developing strategy including the policy and improvement of institutions to ensure that farmers achieve earnings according to their own efforts. In order to realize this concept, my delegation feels it necessary to implement an integrated rural development programme targeted for medium and small farmers, including agrarian reforms, in addition to improving production technology and executing technological extension.

My country has executed both financial and technical assistance on a bilateral and multilateral basis in order to support the self-reliance efforts undertaken by the developing countries. Of course, we shall continue such cooperation for developing countries.

Such serious problems as global warming, ozone layer destruction, tropical forest decreases, desertification and air and water pollution, resulting from growing population and increased human activities, including industrial development, are now a common threat to the life of human beings and all living organisms in the world. Proper management of the global environment is a common responsibility for all humans, and thus every country must tackle this task with maximum use of its intelligence. In this regard, we highly appreciate the fact that FAO has played a key role in areas in the proper use of natural resources and execution of environmentally sustainable agriculture, such as soil conservation, genetic resource conservation, rational use of fishery resources, proper use and distribution of pesticides, conservation and afforestation of tropical forests, from the viewpoint of "sustainable development".

My country is really interested in the importance of such global environmental issues and has been executing international cooperating activities such as investigation and study, bilateral cooperation, funding for international organizations. Especially for FAO, in order to assist FAO efforts in this field actively, my government has now been contributing trust funds for three FAO field projects in this field, that is:

"Prevention of land degradation in agricultural development involving irrigation and drainage schemes in Latin America,

"Support to International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and "Support programme to Tropical Forestry Action Plan".

Khaled J. AL-MASBAHI (Kuwait): I thank-you Mr Chairman. We would like to begin by congratulating you on being elected to the chair of this Commission. The responsibilities are heavy and it is a challenge for you, but nevertheless we are sure that you are more than capable of this important task.

I would like to speak about a very important matter which is mentioned in C 89/2 Sup.1, and that is paragraphs 13-16 dealing with the External Debt. Nowadays, sir, this external debt is a massive burden for developing countries. It prevents them from implementing development programmes and also brings in its wake a very negative effect on the social and economic development and progress in their countries. We would like to reaffirm what the head of our delegation said When he spoke on the matter, that it is necessary to help countries to find some fair equilibrium, some way of improving their position. We think that a solution must be found to the External Debt and the enormous interest rates that have to be paid that continue to rise. We would invite creditor countries to hold a meeting in order to study the possibility of writing off the interests on debt and to find a solution for the poorest of the indebted countries. Kuwait would be prepared to attend such a meeting and to implement any decision taken in this respect because this would be far better than to let the situation continue as it is, and far better surely than to remain where we are now where countries take the attitude, stand or move, that suits them best. We must try and help developing countries to implement development programmes and projects because this could and would have positive effects not only for those countries themselves, but for developed countries too.

We would also like to ask creditor countries to look at the very burdensome conditions linked to these debt payments. We should ask them to be a little more flexible. We would like any adjustments made to take into consideration the situation in the countries concerned. We think that the Commission should adopt the solutions suggested here.

Jean-Martin KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso): Permettez-moi d'adresser mes félicitations au Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents relatifs à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, également sur le développement durable et l'aménagement des ressources naturelles.

Car me vous le savez, le Burkina Faso est un pays sahélien agricole, situé au coeur de l'Afrique de l'Ouest. De ce fait, son économie, qui repose essentiellement sur l'agriculture, est tributaire des aléas climatiques et des effets défavorables de l'enclavement.

L'importance de l'agriculture dans l'économie du Burkina Faso tient au fait que non seulement elle occupe 90 pour cent de la population, mais également que les produits agricoles (essentiellement le coton et les produits animaux) procurent plus de 50 pour cent des recettes d'exportation du pays. C'est la raison pour laquelle le Front populaire accorde la priorité absolue au développement de secteur. C'est ainsi que, comme l'indique le tableau 2.1 du document 89/2, la production agricole a augmenté en moyenne de 5,2 pour cent en 1981 et 1987, et de près de 2 pour cent entre 1987 et 1988. Cela a été possible, malgré les contraintes naturelles, à savoir la sécheresse et l'invasion des sauteriaux, grâce à la mobilisation des populations et aux actions de vulgarisation agricole. Dans le même ordre d'idée, le gouvernement a décidé d'intensifier la modernisation de l'agriculture par un équipement des producteurs en matériel de culture attelée, à travers une opération spéciale dénommée "opération 30 000 charrues". Au Burkina Faso, nous sommes conscients de la nécessité urgente d'accroître la production agricole en assurant une gestion rationnelle de nos faibles ressources naturelles. C'est ainsi qu'une attention particulière est accordée aux actions suivantes: adoption et mise en oeuvre d'un plan national de lutte contre la désertification; élaboration d'un programme national de gestion des terroirs villageois à partir de l'expérience de projets pilotes, dans le cadre de l'application de la réorganisation agraire et foncière; mise en oeuvre d'importants programmes de conservation des eaux et des sols et d'agroforesterie basés sur les participations rurales organisées au sein des groupements villageois et des coopératives; enfin, vulgarisation des techniques de production et d'utilisation accrue de la fumure organique.

Il s'agit là de mesures et d'actions dont les effets ne seront sensibles qu'à moyen et long terme, et qui demandent un effort soutenu. Aussi, tout en comptant d'abord sur nos propres forces, nous sollicitons l'appui de la communauté internationale pour améliorer la situation. Les problèmes de la sécurité alimentaire nous préoccupent tous. Pour sa part, le Burkina Faso vise l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire à partir de l'accroissement de la production nationale; et c'est pourquoi la priorité est accordée au développement agricole. Mais cela n'est possible que s'il existe des incitations suffisantes pour stimuler les producteurs. C'est aussi la raison pour laquelle nous déplorons la chute des prix des produits agricoles exportés par mon pays, tels que le coton et l'arachide. En effet, non seulement ces produits fournissent des revenus aux agriculteurs leur permettant d'acquérir des matières intra-agricoles mais ils jouent également un rôle utile pour la promotion des cultures vivrières dans le système d'assolement à rotation.



En ce qui concerne l'aide alimentaire, nous estimons qu'elle devrait être utilisée pour faire face à des situations d'urgence en faveur des populations les plus déshéritées. En la matière, nous souhaiterions que les donateurs privilégient les opérations triangulaires qui présentent le triple avantage de résorber les excédents des pays voisins, en raccourcissant les délais de livraison et en respectant les habitudes alimentaires des populations sinistrées. Nous souhaitons également l'aide fournie par le Programme alimentaire mondial, dans le cadre du programme "Food for Work".

Enfin, nous pensons que, pour toutes les questions énumérées ci-dessus, la FAO a un rôle important à jouer et nous l'assurons du soutien du Burkina Faso,

Per Harald GRUE (Norway) : On this agenda item 6 I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway.

Allow me to use this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

"The Nordic countries welcome the opportunity at this 25th Conference to discuss the State of Food and Agriculture for 1989, including "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management". We find the elaborate document which has been prepared a very valid document.

I will concentrate on the issue of "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management". We think it is essential to translate the concept of sustainable development into practical and operational policies and programmes in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

In 1987 the Report from the World Commission on Environment and Development entitled "Our Common Future", was published. In the Commission it was pointed out that the first and foremost threat to mankind is massive poverty. It was the Commission's main conclusion that it is futile to seek solutions to the environmental problems facing our earth without a broad perspective that encompasses the factors underlying world poverty. The poor are often forced to consume next year's seeds, to cut scarce forest for fuelwood and to overexploit their land. On this background it will be necessary to focus more on the link between poverty and environment in the future.

As underlined in the document C 89/2 Sup.2 "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management", climate change, loss of genetic resources, soil erosion and deforestation are vital issues of the 1990s.

The climate change can become a reality because of our extensive use of fuel. A possible result can be the sea level rising and massive agricultural and social damage in the next century. The threats to the global climate prove that if we all do what we want in the short run, everybody will be losers in the long run. Accordingly, we need to develop a global climate stabilization strategy of the future.

The loss of genetic resources is a serious problem. The document stresses that while over 100 000 edible plant species as well as numerous animal species were used during the past ten thousand years or more, and that because the genetic diversity is now strongly reduced, it is important for species carrying valuable characteristics to be conserved for future benefit. The reason for this is that many species have adaptive traits, such as disease resistance and climate tolerance.

There are problems related to agriculture, both in the North and in the South, for example, through soil erosion in all continents, soil acidification in Europe and desertification in Africa, Asia and Latin America. One reason for the problem of soil erosion and desertification is deforestation. Thus it is necessary to work simultaneously with all these major issues.

Before taking up FAO's challenges for the 1990s I would like to underline a statement the Director-General made on World Food Day on 16 October. I quote: "We must grow more food without destroying the soil's fertility; we must raise more livestock without turning our grazing lands into wastelands. We must harvest more fish without spoiling the waters of life". It should be a guide for FAO's activities in the future.

What are then in more detail FAO's main challenges for the 1990s?

Firstly, FAO must respond to the environmental challenge. In the view of the Nordic countries FAO must take a lead role in the international efforts to secure the requirements of the world's poor for food, while at the same time halting the serious degradation of soil, forest and fish resources.

Sustainable and environmentally-sound agricultural systems and practices will have to be developed. FAO should guide and support this development. It is a great challenge and a great task. This was also underlined by the UN representative in the Plenary on Monday.

Environmental thinking must become fully integrated into all management and lines of communication in the Organization. From an ideal point of view environmental concerns should be inseparable from all technological, economic and political considerations. At the 94th Session of the Council, it was stressed that integrating environmental considerations as a basic concern represents a particular challenge to FAO.

In February 1988 the Nordic FAO authorities appointed a consultancy group to put forward suggestions as to how FAO could reorientate its policies in order to ensure that activities enhancing sustainable development are carried out. One of the conclusions in the report is that FAO is in a better position than bilateral agencies are to handle transboundary problems. It would be useful if FAO would concentrate more on problems which have regional or global components, and try to give a more prominent role to environmental matters in the Organization's field of work and responsibility.

In the conclusion of the document "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management", it is underlined that: "FAO can play a positive role in the efforts to achieve sustainable agriculture by providing technical assistance on all aspects of the agricultural and rural development processes, by promoting an integrated approach to natural resources management and by integrating environmental concerns into all of its activities".

The Nordic countries are in agreement with this statement, and would welcome an intensification of the efforts by FAO to develop and implement a strategy to integrate environmental concerns into all of its activities.

Secondly, FAO must strengthen its international cooperation.

To solve the environmental problem in the 1990s international cooperation is required. In the Programme of Work and Budget FAO has given priority to sustainable development. According to the Nordic countries' point of view

FAO's improved cooperation with other organizations will lead to a situation where FAO's voice can be properly heard. A more active cooperation is therefore called for. We believe that extended international cooperation can offer a synergetic effect in order to achieve sustainable development.

The future role of FAO would be strengthened by an active and full participation in the system-wide UN efforts to assist in the preparation of the important UN Conference on Environment and Development. FAO should collaborate closely with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in particular through an active participation in the ACC (Administrative Committee on Co-ordination) Task Force which was established in order to promote the contributions of the UN system to the Conference.

FAO should be prepared to contribute actively to intergovernmental efforts in preparing important decisions to be adopted by the 1992 Conference in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. In our view FAO should be prepared to engage itself with climate change issues, biological diversity, biotechnology and the vital issues of desertification and deforestation. A joint UNEP/FAO meeting on sustainable agriculture should be arranged within this context.

In the Resolution on sustainable agriculture adopted by the UNEP Governing Council this year the following recommendation is given for the joint UNEP/FAO meeting on sustainable agriculture: review the mechanism for integrating agricultural production and environmental policies worldwide, elaborate a world strategy for sustainable agriculture, and formulate practical action that might be taken by UNEP, FAO and others within the context of their ongoing activities. It is important that FAO and UNEP cooperate closely, if the strategy and the plans of action are to be prepared in time to be adopted by the 1992 Conference.

The Nordic countries consider it important to follow up the further integration of environmental concerns in all FAO activities. In this connection we have prepared a resolution for FAO activities related to sustainable development. The resolution can be seen as a guideline for further work with environmental issues within FAO, and in particular FAO's contributions and active involvement in the preparations for the 1992 Conference.

I hope that our resolution will be met with unanimous support, and thus give environmental questions an even more prominent place in the work of FAO.

Guillermo FUNES RODRIGUEZ (México): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, mi delegación felicita su nombramiento como Presidente de esta Comisión. Quisiera dividir nuestra intervención en dos puntos. El Primero, referente al análisis que de la alimentación y de la agricultura se hace para estos años y los retos que la FAO presentará o tendrá frente a sí en los años por venir.

El documento que se nos ha circulado y que hemos estudiado cuidadosamente establece en forma ponderada las diferentes situaciones que han dado origen a una bipolaridad en el crecimiento de la agricultura. En primer término, quisiera expresar que el documento no deja claro que existen cuatro grandes puntos en los cuales necesariamente la FAO ha intervenido, desgraciadamente en forma no totalmente positiva, dadas las condiciones macroeconómicas existentes y prevalecientes en el mundo. Un primer tema ha sido la seguridad alimentaria, en el cual diversas regiones se han visto mermadas en cuanto a obtener por sí mismas y para los países que la contienen, una más adecuada interpretación de lo que representa.

En segundo término, quisiéramos expresar un problema que para mi Delegación ha sido, durante los últimos años, tema central de su política macroeconómica: el problema de la deuda externa. Como todos ustedes saben, este año México ha llegado a un acuerdo con los principales bancos acreedores, y en este momento estamos viendo, por primera vez en un periodo crítico de seis o siete años, la posibilidad de que parte del servicio de la deuda se derive a programas de inversión en mi país. En ese sentido, por decisión del Presidente de mi país, lo que se ha obtenido como renegociación de la deuda externa se aplicará para inversión en el sector agropecuario. En México estamos convencidos de que si hay que apostarle al futuro, la única manera de tener éxito es apostarle a la agricultura.

Intimamente relacionado con el problema de la deuda externa, enfrentamos un problema de política comercial, política comercial perfectamente descrita en el documento y que hace referencia a un evento que ha predominado durante todo el tiempo de este período, que ha sido el proteccionismo, y el discurso recurrente de apertura de los mercados.

Mi país, conjuntamente con Chile, han sido los países que mayor apertura económica han tenido en los últimos tres años. Sin embargo, no hemos tenido la reciprocidad adecuada en cuanto a la apertura de los mercados internacionales a los cuales concurrimos. Por lo tanto, el problema del comercio exterior del sector agropecuario para nuestro país es un problema esencial de negociación y, como lo marca el documento una de las áreas en las que, profundamente interesados, tendremos que participar dentro de las negociaciones multilaterales del GATT.

Un cuarto punto, señor Presidente, que hemos logrado visualizar en los documentos, es una permanente preocupación por la preservación de los recursos naturales. Mi país, como usted sabe, tiene todos los climas y la mayor parte de los núcleos ecológicos existentes en el mundo. Mi país está considerado el cuarto país en cuanto a recursos fitogenéticos y, asimismo, mi país ha tenido algunos problemas graves y serios con respecto al medio ambiente, no sólo en las grandes urbes, sino fundamentalmente en las áreas rurales. No obstante, señor Presidente, una vez analizados estos documentos y estos temas quisiera plantear a qué nos estamos enfrentando en los años por venir. En primer término, quisiera abordar el tema de la preservación de los recursos naturales. Si bien el tema de los recursos naturales es de singular importancia, lo es de primera prioridad para los países en desarrollo. Los bosques tropicales, tan debatidos y tan discutidos, sin duda alguna representan una de las grandes riquezas de los países en desarrollo; sin embargo, debemos ser conscientes de que los bosques tropicales deberán ser explotados en forma racional, pero explotados con una singular meta de tipo económico, de tipo social y de tipo político.

Nosotros reconocemos la importancia de los bosques tropicales, como también reconocemos la importancia de los bosques templados y de los bosques en las zonas de clima frío.

Cuando hablamos del medio ambiente, señor Presidente, tendremos que hablar del conjunto de los recursos que conlleva la ecoesfera ya que no podemos dissociar solamente una parte de los mismos para dedicar esfuerzos y tratar de organizar programas. Es impensable que lo tenemos como un todo y que entendamos que los bosques en los países en desarrollo contienen un sentido social, un sentido económico, y que lejos de manejarlos con un sentido político, requerimos una explotación integral desde el punto de vista del desarrollo rural.

Evidentemente, la FAO tendrá gran significación en su accionar respecto a los recursos naturales; sin embargo siento que es una de las agencias de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas establecidas con tal fin. Por lo tanto el gran reto de la FAO no es preocuparse, en mi opinión, en gran medida del medio ambiente, como pudiera ser la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente. La razón de ser de la FAO es la producción alimentaria; la razón de ser de la FAO es preocuparse del sentido social y económico de la agricultura, y todos aquellos países que por vocación son agrícolas, saben que la preservación del medio ambiente es inherente a la producción agrícola, ni podemos ni debemos separarla del propio alcance de su sentido y en su dimensión real.

En el aspecto comercial, estamos enfrentados a una profunda negociación a nivel internacional: La Ronda Uruguay del GATT, El señor Director General de la FAO dejó perfectamente establecida la interacción que se pretende tener con la Organización del GATT.

Mi país apoya indudablemente una fuerte interrelación entre la FAO y el GATT. En el GATT los países en desarrollo, importadoras netos de alimentos, de los cuales México es imo de ellos, pugnarán por tener un mayor acceso a los mercados, lograr una mayor seguridad alimentaria y tener un equilibrio en cuanto a las consecuencias que se deriven de una eventual reforma del comercio internacional agropecuario.

La FAO puede ser la instancia en la cual se puedan discutir aspectos centrales que en este momento están atorando las negociaciones en el GATT. La FAO puede indudablemente contribuir a dar mayor claridad sobre los aspectos sanitarios, su consideración sobre barreras arancelarias o no arancelarias y un punto esencial e importante en las negociaciones comerciales y la preservación de ciertos componentes nacionales en el comercio internacional agropecuario.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, el tema de la seguridad alimentaria. Mi país se ha puesto como objetivo lograr la autodeterminación alimentaria; es decir, saber en qué áreas, saber en qué productos podremos ser autosuficientes para nuestras poblaciones, y en qué productos podremos tener ventajas comparativas, tanto en la compra como en la venta de los mismos. Para lograr la autodeterminación que origina una seguridad alimentaria, estamos dependiendo fundamentalmente de tres grandes vertientes: la tecnología, la cooperación internacional en la asistencia técnica y el financiamiento.

Expresamos enfáticamente, señor Presidente, que uno de los temas sobre los cuales nuestra Organización, la FAO, debe trabajar intensamente con los países en desarrollo, es el tema de la tecnología.

La tecnología podrá, sin duda alguna, ayudar a modernizar a aquellas agriculturas que, en mi país, en algunas áreas aún dependen fuertemente del temporal; es decir de la lluvia. La tecnología nos permitirá ir resolviendo de forma paulatina los problemas de salinidad, de desertificación y los problemas de variabilidad genética.

Por lo tanto, mi país se pronuncia por una adecuada conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos. Tenemos alta prioridad en este aspecto y ponemos al servicio de la FAO toda nuestra potencia y toda nuestra capacidad de diálogo para consolidar el enorme factor que representan los recursos fitogenéticos para la agricultura mundial.

Decimos, asimismo, que la biotecnología es la rama e la ciencia que nos permitirá salir poco a poco del problema del subdesarrollo en el sector agrícola, íntimamente relacionada con una adecuada explotación de nuestros recursos naturales.

Señor Presidente, estos son en opinión de la delegación de México, los temas centrales a los cuales la FAO, nuestra Organización, tendrá que avocarse. Reiteramos en esta ocasión el apoyo de mi país a la FAO y establecemos que es indispensable que nuestra Organización evolucione como está evolucionando con gran rapidez el mundo, tanto en su dimensión económica, como en su dimensión política y productiva. México, como siempre estará apoyando a la FAO y estará apoyando a aquellos países que como nosotros confrontan serios problemas de tipo financiero comercial, productivo y, definitivamente, promoviendo una concertación y un diálogo con aquellos países que han logrado resolver sus problemas, a los cuales invitamos a tener una mayor cooperación en todos los órdenes.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil):** First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for its comprehensive and informative review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the world.

As we can see, the state of world agriculture reflects the state of the world economy. High interest rates and depressed per capita incomes in the Third World have reduced the prices of agricultural commodities. Domestic subsidies, export subsidies, denial of market access and sanitary and phytosanitary barriers in the developed countries have distorted trade and production patterns.

The reform of world agricultural markets is long overdue. The buffering of some of the major national markets from international market forces has distorted prices and resource allocation. The reduction of price fluctuations within countries has been achieved at a very high cost, in terms of deeper instability in international commodity markets, ever-growing budgetary-outlays and, for the developing countries, a reduction of exports, growth and development. It is our firm belief that the liberalization of agricultural markets will be of benefit to developed and developing countries alike.

However, it is clear that in the implementation of reform commitments towards a more market-responsive agriculture, developing countries must have the necessary flexibility to carry on their agricultural and rural development programmes. The incoherence and the disorder in international markets can be traced back to the policies of a few, well-known key countries. There is no point in unduly tying the hands of the developing countries, which have little enough room for manoeuvre as it is, to assist their agricultural sectors.

It is, therefore, indispensable that the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries be an integral part of the fair and more market-oriented agricultural trading system which, hopefully, will result from the Uruguay Round.

The debt problem remains the most serious single factor impeding the resumption of growth in the developing countries, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Here I have to disagree with the distinguished delegate from Canada who objected earlier today to the warning contained in paragraph 5 of document C 89/2. Unfortunately, all measures taken at the international level to this day have been 'too little, too late', and the

failure of adjustment programmes to compensate for the drain of several percentage points of gross domestic product every year is evident. It has been called 'adjustment fatigue', but this euphemism gives only a very pale idea of the dire situation faced by the highly-indebted developing countries.

I now turn to the issue of sustainable development. Under this agenda item we are dealing with a matter of great importance and growing sensitivity. The Secretariat has done a very good job in trying to sum up the main aspects of the concept of sustainable development, a concept which has a space and a time dimension that are essential to the process of economic development. It is an issue that affects both developed and developing countries alike, even though perceptions may vary with the level of accumulated wealth, which is frequently associated with the level of accumulated damage to the environment.

In connection with this, it is important to stress that there is no alternative to sustainable development. To start with, there is no alternative to development. Stagnation is not sustainable and the Conference documents show a striking parallel between the deterioration of economic and social conditions in the developing countries during the last decade and the degradation of the environment. Paragraph 16 of document C 89/2-Sup.2, for instance, stresses the fear that environmental damage in the indebted nations may be accelerated by economic structural adjustment programmes. The idea of imposing conditionalities on the flow of financial resources subject to narrow perceptions of natural resources management is therefore based upon false premises, and must be firmly rejected.

To give but one example of the sensible approach to this matter, much deforestation in the tropical regions could be avoided if the price of timber were sufficient to cover the cost of replacement of felled trees.

The Government of Brazil has adopted a constructive attitude with regard to environmental issues. Brazil has stated on different occasions, and in several international fora, that it is committed to

environmentally-sustainable development, and that it is willing to accept international cooperation within certain parameters, such as respect for the sovereignty and the development objectives of the country. Internally, a number of initiatives have been taken. The most important of them have been mentioned in the speech delivered to the Plenary by the head of the Brazilian delegation, so I will not repeat them here.

Finally, Mr Chairman, although the Secretariat is to be commended for the documents, we wish they had included, in the list of definitions of sustainable development contained in document C 89/2-Sup.2, the declaration approved by consensus by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme. The declaration builds upon the ideas of the Brundtland Commission and of the "Environmental Perspective of the Year 2000 and Beyond", and clearly establishes that the concept of sustainable development does not impinge in any way upon the concept of national sovereignty, and cannot be used to justify the imposition of new conditionalities in development finance.

Accordingly, Mr Chairman, we could do without the reference in paragraph 169 of document C 89/2-Sup.2 to a vague notion of international standards of behaviour, which seems to be focused on issues which are far from being the main sources of environmental damage in the world.

E. DEHRAUX (Belgique): Merci M. le Président; je vous présente mes félicitations les plus sincères pour votre élection, et je souhaite par la même occasion remercier les délégués qui ont bien voulu honorer mon pays et moi-même par une vice-présidence.

Il est bien évident que notre souci premier, pour ce qui concerne ce point de l'ordre du jour, est d'évaluer la situation en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, plus concrètement la sécurité alimentaire. A cet égard, je ne réitérerai pas ce que mon Ministre a dit sur le sujet mais je souhaite néanmoins que cela soit pris en compte au sein de cette Commission I.

Je crois que le Secrétariat a fait un bon travail dans son évaluation de la situation; toutefois je lui ferai la critique que j'avais déjà soulevée lors de la précédente Conférence, car il n'a pas pris en compte l'important problème de ce qu'on appelle les produits (dits de substitution. Nous avons demandé que cela soit pris en compte et inclus systématiquement; or nous constatons avec regret que l'on n'y fait à peine allusion; cependant, nous constatons que ceci va dans le droit fil des préoccupations nouvelles excellemment décrites par le Directeur général Monsieur Saouma, notamment pour ce qui concerne les biotechnologies. Nous pensons en outre que le développement de ces produits dits nouveaux va jouer un rôle extrêmement important à l'avenir et dont, au niveau de l'appréciation, il faudra tenir compte dans le problème général de l'alimentation.

Comme on le dit souvent, tout est dans tout, et nous avons constaté que la négociation de l'Uruguay Round est souvent évoquée. Certains mettent en doute l'engagement formel pris par d'aucuns lors de l'Accord d'avril de Genève ratifié par les Ministres.

Je voudrais dire à ce stade qu'en ce qui concerne le gel et le problème du court terme, à cet égard la Communauté Economique Européenne a indiqué dans sa notification au GATT sur le sujet que depuis 1986 le soutien au secteur végétal, au sein de la Communauté, avait diminué de l'ordre de 10%, et que cette diminution se chiffre à 15% pour l'ensemble du secteur animal. Il n'est donc pas approprié de dire que l'engagement d'avril est pris à la légère.

Pour ce qui est de la description réalisée dans les paragraphes 286 et suivant, ils reproduisent avec une grande fidélité la situation de la Communauté Economique Européenne, hormis toutefois ce qui est dit dans le paragraphe 286 où nous constatons que l'on retrouve les clichés connus mais dépassés. Il faut noter en particulier à cet égard que des études menées dans une autre enceinte indiquent que, ramené par agriculteur, le soutien de l'agriculture au sein de la Communauté se situe dans la petite moyenne des pays du groupe B. Il me semble dès lors utile de tenir compte de cet état de chose dans la présente description.

Incidentement, et pour conclure, je constate que le paragraphe relatif aux Etats-Unis ne couvre pas certains produits, et notamment un secteur important pour les pays en voie de développement, à savoir celui du sucre.

Enfin, il va de soi que la FAO a un rôle essentiel à jouer dans la coopération internationale agricole. Elle doit cependant se concentrer dans les sujets pour lesquels elle a un avantage comparatif.



Hartmit STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):

Mr Chairman I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you, on behalf of ray delegation, our congratulations on your election. We are convinced that under your direction the Committee will work very well. We also congratulate the Vice-Presidents on their election.

The report on the State of Food and Agriculture is, as in the past, analytical, topical and contains a large number of important statements. The report presents a comprehensive regionally-differentiated overview of the development of the world economy, and in particular the prospects for agriculture and foodstuffs. It includes, of course, also forestry and fishing; this for 1987 and 1988 and then it extends its view to 1989, and the emphasis is on what has been occurring in the Third World. I would like to express my support for the report and the analysis contained therein.

The German delegation regrets that world cereals production in 1987/88 has fallen and that world grain stocks have decreased considerably. As we have just heard, the world grain harvest for 1989 will not suffice to meet world demand. This means not merely that there will be a further depletion of grain stocks, but it also means that the forthcoming harvest will be of extraordinary importance. We can only hope that agricultural production in the coming years will in fact be able to match expectations, and that 15 years after the World Food Conference we will not find ourselves once again facing a world food crisis.

The fact that markets for tropical products, such as for example, cocoa, tea, cotton and coffee, remain under persistent and strong pressure is also disturbing. Unfortunately the export earnings have fallen particularly strongly in those parts of the world where the debt problem is especially acute, and where export earnings are vitally needed to assure the economic recovery of those regions, i.e. Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

My delegation at this point would like to repeat that as a main consumer country for tropical products, we have a very clear interest in stabilizing markets and want to ensure that the commodity agreements return to being effective. This goal is not going to be achieved if certain products continue to be produced regardless of market situations and if the necessary diversification is not undertaken in the developing countries.

The third problem that I would like to touch upon relates to the destruction of the environment and in particular the loss of tropical forests and spreading desertification. In this respect, I would like to state that my country is prepared to make a significant financial contribution to solving these problems.

I would like in conclusion to take up a few details of the report. The report very clearly points to the increasing heterogeneity of the Third World as a result of very different levels of regional development, both in terms of the economy as a whole and the food and agricultural situation in particular.

We believe that therefore statistical overviews of developing countries are going to become increasingly uncertain and there is a danger that the rapid development in the Far East, based on the statistical weight of this region, is going to imply that there are satisfactory results for the developing countries as a whole. This will perhaps conceal some of the more worrying developments in Latin America and Africa.

The report also points to the insufficient development of per capita production of basic foodstuffs in the developing countries and the particularly marked fall in Africa. But in these regional comparisons too little reference is made to the impact of population growth.

To conclude, I would like to ask the Secretariat to clarify some figures relating to world agricultural trade. These are the figures on Table 8 on page 22 of the Supplement document.

We have noted that the changes in current prices from 1980 through to 1988, that is to say the penultimate column of the table, are in fact not compatible. If we take the values for 1988, and if we compare those to the figures for 1980 contained in earlier reports of the FAO, then we see that the discrepancies are very considerable. I will give the Secretariat an example of the discrepancies to which I am referring.

Roberto PONCE (Ecuador): Las amplias y detalladas intervenciones de otros delegados, como las de los distinguidos representantes de Colombia y Argentina, relevan a mi delegación de referirse puntualmente a los documentos C 89/2 y su Suplemento 1, aunque no evitan cumplir con el deber de elogiar a la Secretaría por la calidad y profundidad de su trabajo.

Hemos visto que las reacciones a estos documentos han sido diversas. Según algunos países, la evaluación de la Secretaría sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo es realista y por lo tanto refleja el sembrío panorama que encuentran frente a sí los países en desarrollo. Según otros países, el análisis es demasiado pesimista y no recoge algunos factores mostrados en cifras que haría supuestamente prever una mejoría sustancial de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo.

Sin embargo, más allá de la divergencia provocada por las cifras y por las opiniones de los técnicos, sólo hay una realidad indiscutible que se muestra con dramatismo, y no es otra que el hambre, la desnutrición y el sufrimiento de centenares de millones de hombres, mujeres y sobre todo niños, en los países en desarrollo.

Cada día que pasa se agranda más la brecha que separa a los pocos países cuyas poblaciones viven en la cernida, la abundancia y el lujo, de aquéllos que tienen que hacer verdaderos malabarismos para evitar a duras penas que el hambre y las enfermedades, como en la Edad Media, diezmen sus poblaciones.

Y estos problemas de los países en desarrollo tienen relación directa, directísima diría yo, con los problemas de la agricultura y la alimentación que ahora nos ocupan también a la comunidad internacional. Es verdadera aquella máxima que dice: "no esperes que otros hagan lo que debes hacer tú mismo". Y por ello, muchos países en desarrollo como el mío, como Ecuador, hacen esfuerzos gigantescos para luchar con recursos propios contra los problemas que les agobian.

Pero nadie desconoce que estos problemas tienen orígenes ajenos y lejanos a los propios países en desarrollo; orígenes radicados en las políticas proteccionistas, los subsidios, los obstáculos al comercio y otros muy bien descritos en el documento preparado por la Secretaría.

Pero lamentablemente estos esfuerzos que tienen un altísimo costo social chocan con actitudes de incompreensión e intransigencia de algunos países del mundo industrializado. Cuanto más necesario es un comercio dinámico, tanto menos propicios son los precios de los productos básicos de nuestras exportaciones y más tropiezos encuentra la colocación de las manufacturas de

nuestros países. Cuando existe toda una infinita gaita de medidas proteccionistas arancelarias y no arancelarias, gravámenes, cuotas y otras prácticas restrictivas que imponen los países industrializados para proteger las actividades primarias e industriales en las cuales los países en desarrollo han alcanzado una cierta competitividad, todo esto anula estos esfuerzos de países como Ecuador para salir de este estado. A esta situación crítica se suma con brillo propio el problema de la deuda externa. Un problema de índole diferente a los de la agricultura y de la alimentación pero que tiene también una vinculación directa. Este no es sólo un problema financiero sino político. No es un problema aislado sino que más bien es un problema presente en todos los aspectos de la relación Norte-Sur. No es un problema sólo de quién debe, sino también de quien para liberar excedentes de liquidez/ en algún momento prestó a manos llenas. Y por fin, deber no es un problema que ocupe el pensamiento de los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo únicamente frente a los bancos acreedores, sino principalmente frente a sus propios pueblos con quienes tienen una deuda social que pagar.

Por ello, mi delegación piensa que ésta es una oportunidad propicia para que algunos países se replanteen sus políticas, no solamente frente a los países en desarrollo sino también frente a organismos como la FAO, que al momento es el único organismo al cual los países en desarrollo podemos acudir para buscar la ayuda que en otras fuentes nos es negada para la resolución de nuestros problemas.

CHAIRMAN: Before I call on the next speaker, let me announce that agreement has been reached on the constitution of the Drafting Committee. The members are: Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Japan, Liberia, New Zealand, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia. The Drafting Committee will meet tomorrow night, and the place and hour will be conveyed to the members at our morning meeting. I understand also that agreement has been reached on the Chairmanship of the Drafting Committee but that, of course, will be the final decision of the Committee itself.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom's contents and views on this valuable report have largely been embraced in the declaration already made by the European Commission. I shall therefore limit my comments to a few particular points.

Some delegations have already commented on the balance of the report regarding global food security. The UK believes that the tone and language of paragraphs 28 to 31 of Supplement 1 are unnecessarily pessimistic. Parallels are drawn between current conditions and the "world food crisis" of the early 1970s. We query whether the conditions at that time really amounted to a crisis. Placing the episode in historical context, we can see that the "crisis" represented only a temporary reversal of long-established trends towards cheaper food in real terms. Now, as then, world agriculture possesses substantial reserves of excess capacity in the form of uncultivated arable land, especially in the USA. Experience of the 1970s shows that this land can be brought back into production reasonably quickly. We believe that undue emphasis is being placed on the ratio of world carry-over stocks to consumption.

Paragraph 29 is correct to note the sharp run-down in cereal stocks, but it should also be noted that this was from an abnormally high level. The stock levels reached in 1986/87 represented an unprecedented and probably unintended peak concentrated disproportionately in official USA stockpiles. The current stocks position looks misleadingly tight when compared with these

inflated stock levels. Supply problems in 1987 and 1988 were primarily due to climatic conditions, especially drought in the US corn belt. In 1989 growing conditions in North America have returned to normal and output is bouncing back. It should also be noted that the 1988 drought occurred against a policy backdrop of set-aside amounting to 27.5 percent of the US base acreage. This was reduced to 10 percent in 1989 and 5 percent in 1990 in response to the tightening of market conditions. The food security situation should therefore be viewed in this context.

The representative of the European Commission has already spoken on the reference in the report to reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy. These reforms have indeed been far reaching. The UK will continue to advocate more market-orientated agricultural policies and greater liberalization worldwide. We believe the benefits will be substantial and widespread.

Subject to the contents I have made on cereal stocks, the paper provides a clear and useful picture of the current state of world agriculture. It contains some encouraging signs as far as developing countries are concerned. The way in which the global figures are analysed tends to disguise the fact that, with a limited number of exceptions, more developing countries have been able to record modest gains in their levels of agricultural production in the immediate past in comparison with previous years. This achievement in the face of difficult economic problems faced by many of them is encouraging and, although aided by generally improved global weather conditions during this period, hopefully also reflects the growing effect of the internal agricultural policy reforms which are increasingly being adopted.

The vital importance of establishing the necessary domestic policy framework to provide adequate incentives to encourage and enable farmers to increase their production cannot be too highly stressed. This is an area in which we feel FAO has a particularly valuable role to play by providing appropriate advice to developing countries on their agricultural sectoral policies, and by assisting them in adapting to present economic constraints, as well as to the supply and demand trends in world markets.

The United Kingdom commends the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operation role in coordinating multi-donor control campaigns against locusts and grasshoppers and their efforts with UNDP to identify and coordinate research priorities.

We welcome FAO's initiatives in pesticide testing and the pilot schemes to evaluate the economic and environmental impact of locust control.

Further thoughts on agriculture, including forestry and fisheries, will be covered in our contribution on agenda item 7, Long Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector.

Wayne DENNEÏ (United States of America): The Secretariat is to be congratulated for producing an excellent document once again on this item. Its assessments largely agree with our own. We want to agree with what Canada said earlier regarding our reaction to paragraph 5 on the characterization of debt and also with Swsden and others that characterized global cereal stocks in a rather pessimistic way. Nevertheless, we believe that Dr Dutia's introductory remarks were very well-balanced.

We share the Secretariat's concern in pointing out the uncertainties for world food security caused by the low level of world stocks of cereals, especially of wheat. The total US cereal harvest this fall, at the beginning of 1989/90, is now forecast to increase 37 percent above last year and

slightly exceed the large 1987/88 harvest. We expect US wheat production in 1989/90 to be nearly 13 percent larger, although about 3 percent less than in 1987/88. US stocks of cereals are forecast to fall further by the end of 1989/90, as well as the aggregate of stocks held by other countries.

Therefore, as 1990 unfolds, all of us will be closely watching the prospects for harvests around the world as an indicator of prospects for rebuilding those stocks in 1990/91. The Secretariat has reported US actions in May that provide greater incentives for increased wheat production in 1990. Since then, the US Government has further relaxed the requirements of its wheat programme to allow more flexibility for farms to increase output.

We experienced some difficulty in evaluating the numbers used by the Secretariat to assess cereal stocks. Although we welcomed the inclusion of a new table which provides more disaggregated national data on carry-over stocks, we felt hampered by the absence of a summary table for total cereals and major cereal categories that would provide data on world production, use and stocks, as used to calculate the stocks-to-utilization ratios. Utilization tables would be a valuable addition to future analyses.

Considering the prominence given to the relationship between stocks and consumption in our discussions of world food security, we believe it is important to clarify what numbers are being used and under what assumptions. For similar reasons, I would like to suggest that the Secretariat provide an analysis, perhaps at an upcoming meeting of the Committee on World Food Security, of the continued suitability of its estimate of minimum safe cereal stock requirements.

Changes in the volume of grain handled, the proportion of feed grains consumed and traded, the efficiency of the distribution system, and changes in barriers to trade are continually changing and may have some bearing on desirable stock levels.

Mr Chairman, I would characterize the US food aid scenario in a manner that is slightly different from that suggested in the text. The overall size of the FY 1990 US food aid programme has not been finally determined. The President has proposed a Public Law PL 480 programme level of about 1.5 billion dollars. Based on current estimates, this should result in close to the same volume of US cereals food aid under PL 480 as was provided in FY 1989. The final level of the programme in value will depend on Congressional budget action and commodity prices during FY 1990. An additional uncertainty concerns the application of the well-known Gramm-Rudman-Hollings provisions to PL 480 Programme that could subject it, like most other Federal programmes, to a 5 percent across-the-board budget cut during the course of this fiscal year.

The volume of government-owned commodities available for overseas donation under our Section 416 Programme is not affected by these budget actions and availabilities will be higher in FY 1990. The Secretary of Agriculture has determined that up to two million additional tons of corn and grain will be made available for this purpose. This compares with one million tons donated to recipients in FY 1989. The actual level of donations in FY 1990 will depend in part upon the volume of requests received.

Although our wheat stocks are unusually low, the United States will continue to exceed its obligations under the Food Aid Convention. To meet our commitments under the PL 480 programme, an additional two million tons are authorised to be drawn from the US Food Security Wheat Reserve in FY 1990. In FY 1989, 1.5 million tons from the Reserve were used.

Overall, we estimate that US cereals food aid in FY 1990 will probably equal or surpass the approximately six million tons programmed in FY 1989.

Mr Chairman, we look forward to the Secretariat's publication of its new manual, Human Energy Requirements, which is intended to explain a method and provide important data useful in calculating food energy requirements for households, other groups of people and national populations. Its release provides an occasion to commend the Secretariat for its work to improve the food-balance methodology and to speed up their production. My Government has made frequent and important use of this data in connection with the operation of our food aid programme. The national "food balances" calculated using this method provide an inadequate picture of nutritional conditions when used in isolation because they estimate only the average availability and composition of food supplies. However, they are invaluable tools when combined with other information, especially as a starting point for where comprehensive information is not available. We hope the new manual will contribute to more effective nutritional policies by helping governments obtain a more disaggregated picture of the nutritional status of the groups comprising the population. The Secretariat may wish to assess further needs for reviewing its methodology because of GATT Uruguay Round Developments.

Mr Chairman, the United States shares the concerns expressed by several countries in Plenary over the increased use of drift net fishing, particularly as it affects the South Pacific. A moratorium on the use of drift-nets in the South Pacific seems fully justified while the matter is being further evaluated. We hope that FAO will be prepared to respond in accordance with the final disposition of resolutions now being reviewed in the UN. A reflection of this request in our final report would be welcomed.

Finally, we have some very brief and preliminary comments on the document on Sustainable Development. First, it probably deserves separate treatment since it is so important, and it is apparent to us that many delegations have not had an opportunity to insert comments on it in their text. We think it is a very useful and comprehensive document that touches on a multitude of issues that relate to resource sustainment. It recognises many dimensions of the gender issue; suggests that appropriate actions should be targeted at the household level; and discusses practices which are unsustainable. However, the reference to setting international standards of behaviour as noted in para. 169, is unclear.

**Antonio RAYAS F. (chile):** La delegación de Chile desea agradecer la documentación distribuida por la Secretaria de FAO, que entrega abundante información de interés sobre el acontecer último de la agricultura, tanto en el mundo en su conjunto como a nivel regional, proporcionando un breve análisis sobre el marco económico en que ésta se desenvuelve y examinando los problemas que le aquejan, así como las medidas adoptadas para superarlos.

Tal como lo manifiesta la documentación, los países en desarrollo han adoptado diferentes medidas para afrontar la situación de crisis que impera, tanto a nivel interno como fuera de sus fronteras.

Sin lugar a dudas, dentro de este contexto, es rescatable la experiencia alcanzada por el sector agrícola chileno, como alternativa cierta de desarrollo, que nos ha permitido afrontar en mejores condiciones la crisis internacional.

Además de lo anterior, este tema guarda estrecha relación con la necesidad de emprender medidas rectificatorias, especialmente de parte de los países desarrollados, cuyas políticas internas repercuten fuertemente en la inestabilidad de los mercados internacionales y en las relaciones comerciales de productos agrícolas.

Cabría hacer presente nuestra posición y activa participación que se ha tenido dentro del grupo Cairns y dentro del GATT, con el objeto de impulsar y apoyar toda acción o proposición que tienda a eliminar las graves distorsiones del comercio internacional; lo que ya hemos destacado en el día de ayer y que además lo han señalado numerosas delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra.

**Antti NIKKOLA (Finland):** Thank you, Mr Chairman. Also my delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent documents before us. They give a clear picture of developments in world agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The world agriculture has had, and still has, two faces: - surpluses in the rich industrialised countries on one hand, and the absolute need to speed up agricultural production in most countries of the developing world, on the other.

Of course we should not pay too much attention to the yearly variations of food production. However, the FAO document Sup. 1 before us raises in its paragraphs 51-55 some very alarming questions concerning the recent developments in the poor countries' agriculture in a long-term context. The document shows the very slow progress or outright decline in per caput staple food production in the developing regions during the last three decades. Is the Green Revolution showing its limits? Can the long-term decline in per caput food production be arrested in Africa? Can some Asian countries with huge populations resume the fast pace of per caput production growth in past years?

Mr Chairman, we should also remember that agriculture in most developing countries is also the ultimate source of economic growth. It is impossible to imagine general economic and social developments without improvements in agricultural technology and productivity.

Concerning official development assistance, Finland has reached the United Nations' target of 0.7% of GNP. Agriculture and forestry play a very important role in our bilateral assistance and their share will undoubtedly still increase in the future. Our food aid has been rapidly increasing during the last years and practically all of it is multilateral, going through the World Food Programme.

The problems of surpluses and the problems of the world agricultural market are being dealt with in the Uruguay Round in Geneva. My country is trying to play a constructive role in the negotiations. At the same time, we must admit that some of the questions under negotiation are politically sensitive. For example, government in a modern democracy must take into account also the income level of the farming population. However, my government has taken some very strict measures in order to decrease agricultural production and to decrease exports and export support. This policy will continue also in the future.

Hassan Abdov MUNYE (Somalia): Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, I congratulate you as Chairman of the Commission. We know that agricultural production mainly depends on several factors. Here may I mention document C 89/2. There is a decline in food production reported in 1987-88 in many countries where we believe some of these countries have better technology. Then what about the very poor countries? It will be a disaster really for many developing countries where their resources depend mainly on agriculture and livestock. Most agriculture in developing countries depends on rains and rivers, some of which are temporary ones.

I should like to give you some brief information about Somalia. Somalia's resources depend on agriculture and livestock. Sustainable land for agriculture is about 8 million hectares, but only 10 percent of these are cultivated because of several factors such as shortage of water, lack of inputs, lack of funds and poor technology.

In the document mention has been made of climatic change. Climatic change plays a great role. In Somalia there is no stable climate. We have four growing seasons, two rainy seasons, one heavy rainy season and one light, and one is dry, but unfortunately in most cases it happens that shortage of rain is common, which leads to poor crop production. Then sometimes heavy rains cause damage to crops because of flooding, and there may also be continuous use of the same crop for several years on the same area. Soil erosion in the northern part of Somalia means that most of the land is eroded. Therefore soil conservation becomes essential. For this reason a project was established to overcome the problem.

In many developing countries pricing policy affects agricultural production. For example, in Somalia for several years the Government has fixed prices for grain commodities such as maize and sorghum and this has discouraged farmers from continuing to grow. This has caused the immigration of rural people to big cities and out of the country, but recently because of pricing liberalization the farmers have begun to expand their agricultural plans, and agricultural production has increased.

Marketing also plays a great role. Lack of marketing study has caused heavy losses to poor farmers. Farmers are not able to understand when they can sell their products at a good price. Sometimes it happens that when a certain product, for example the potato, becomes short in the market most of the farmers grow that crop. Then at the end of harvest time the market is saturated with the crop, which means selling the products at a lower price.

Lack of reasonable technology in the developing countries leads to difficulties in following the technology used in developed countries. Of course, we do not need sophisticated technology but the use of a reasonable one which would be the easiest way of reducing the hunger of our people.

Developing countries require technology to strengthen the resources available in those countries. Extension and research should be given priority. Provision of inputs at the right time is very important. The use of proper pesticides is also very important.

We are grateful to FAO for the food emergency aid which it provides to developing countries. Recently FAO has provided food assistance to the needy people in two of the main districts of Somalia affected by river flooding.

Finally, I appreciate that FAO makes great efforts to give priority to assisting developing countries to improve their living conditions, particularly in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and other industries. FAO should also study how the developing countries will be able to utilize



suitable uncultivated lands with the minimum resources available. FAO can achieve this only when there is goodwill from the developed and richest countries to contribute to its budget. FAO should also collaborate with the United Nations and other international organizations already practising their activities in developing countries and aiming to resolve existing problems.

Assefa YIL&EA (Ethiopia): Mr Chairman, since this is the first time that the Ethiopian delegation has requested the floor I should like to use this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission and to wish you success in this important task.

Through you, Mr Chairran, my delegation would also like to thank Mr. Dutia for his introduction, and the FAO Secretariat for the comprehensive document that we have before us.

The delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has examined the document on the state of food and agriculture and has no intention of intervening on this subject because its contents are in line with its own views and analysis, and we have very little or nothing to add.

As a result of the discussion that prevailed here, however, I should like to make some brief observations concerning the state of food and agriculture in Ethiopia, while voicing our appeal for the cooperation of the international community in solving issues raised in the document before us.

The state of food and agriculture in Ethiopia in 1989 is characterized by a positive growth in most parts of the country/ while the natural calamity of drought has caused crop failures in the two northern regions and in some pocket areas in other parts of the country.

Concerted efforts were made to increase food production and attain self-sufficiency by the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia through a number of measures, including agrarian reform, establishment of rural institutions, formulation of policy framework and promotion of increased support for farm services. Hence food production trends in most parts of the country are positive, as indicated in document C 89/2-Sup.1. However, there was a severe drought in the northern part of the country which caused crop failures and is hence a cause for concern.

Even though weather conditions were favourable and overall conditions for agriculture have improved in most parts of the country, production falls short of the total requirement because the increases in food production, which are still at subsistence level, could not match the shortages that were caused by the severe drought in the northern parts of the country.

According to the latest report of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the total number of people to be affected by this food shortage in 1989 and 1990 is estimated at about 1.8 million. They require about 330 000 tonnes of cereal and 40 000 tonnes of supplementary food, in addition to those additional requirements which are expected to be fulfilled from domestic resources, which at present seem to be dwindling due to commodity prices in the international market. Coffee, which is the most important commodity for Ethiopia, is affected by the present negative trend of the market, thus reducing the purchasing capacity and public expenditure.

This is an initial assessment of the situation. A full assessment of the situation can only be determined after the visit of the Crop Assessment Mission which is scheduled to be carried out soon.

Finally, with the cooperation of the international community we have no doubt that the shortage could be tackled effectively.

Through you, Mr. Chairman, I should like to use this opportunity to thank all member countries for their generous assistance in the past. We hope that this will continue until food shortages are overcome through self-sufficiency efforts, which is a long process.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): The documents submitted by the Secretariat and Mr Dutia's introduction to this item were informative. Many delegates have already referred in detail to the major factors characterizing the present state of food and agriculture in the world. I will not repeat them, but I should like to express the wish of my delegation that all these factors will be reflected in the report of this Conference.

Issues like the debt crisis and the consequent flow of resources from developing to developed countries, the continuing drop in international stocks of cereals and the uncertain food security, the distortions in international trade and the resulting difficulties of ten developing countries in exporting their products, should be emphasized as factors that need to be corrected if food security is expected to improve.

The need to accelerate food production, especially in the developing countries, should be pursued in a sustainable manner so that the environmental basis which supports life on this planet will not be destroyed.

As we review the State of Food and Agriculture every two years, we come to the conclusion that the less-privileged fellow human beings do not get any better, and are still suffering from hunger and malnutrition. It is essential that efforts to help them should be intensified.

It is for this reason that my delegation supports the need for more aid to be given to the developing countries and to the multilateral agencies, especially FAO, which help developing countries improve their agricultural performance and overcome their problems.

With reference to sustainable development, we find the analysis presented in document C 89/2-Sup. 2 to be comprehensive. All aspects associated with sustainable development are covered. We are in agreement with the proposed strategy for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries development.

It is widely known that the proper management and conservation of natural resources has always been a well respected component in all FAO activities and/or assistance concerned with agricultural development offered to the needy countries, either through the Regular or the Field Programmes. Surely, the long experience gained in this field so far, places FAO in a clear comparative advantage with regard to sustainable development. In view of the acute problems presently facing many countries, such as soil degradation, desertification, deforestation or over-fishing, the relevant programmes in FAO's activities should place more emphasis on advising and assisting affected countries to establish or strengthen their own mechanism for proper use and conservation of natural resources, as well as for properly applying the right policy and technology.

Mme. Céline RAHARIVELO (Madagascar): Je vous remercie de m'avoir donné la parole, M. le Président, et j'en profite au nom de ma délégation pour vous féliciter pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission; de même, nous félicitons le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous sont fournis.

Ce point nous semble capital car il permet aux Etats Membres de faire le point sur les actions communes et individuelles, sur les opérations multilatérales et bilatérales, en vue de vaincre la faim et la malnutrition. Ainsi, l'on peut apprécier et mesurer le niveau de l'objectif que l'on s'est fixé.

En effet, si l'on se réfère au paragraphe 44 du document C 89/2, la production céréalière mondiale, en 1988, a baissé de 3,3% par rapport à 1987, celle de 1987 étant déjà très en dessous du minimum établi pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. En outre, au paragraphe 48 il est dit que la sécurité alimentaire se détériorera probablement encore cette année. Si l'on se réfère donc à ces deux paragraphes sus-cités nous aurions tendance à reconnaître l'échec de notre entreprise. En réalité, les conditions atmosphériques très défavorables sont à l'origine de cette mauvaise performance, aussi ne peut-on rendre quiconque responsable de ces résultats peu satisfaisants.

En revanche, nous serions en droit de reprocher à certains pays développés leur décision peu opportune de réduire le volume de l'aide alimentaire en ces périodes si difficiles.

Il est dit au paragraphe 110 que l'aide céréalière diminuera de 3,3 millions de tonnes en 1988-89; ceci aura pour conséquence une aggravation dangereuse de la sous-alimentation dans les pays à bas revenu et à déficit vivrier ainsi que dans les pays moins avancés.

Du fait de l'augmentation des prix déjà élevés des céréales sur le marché mondial, ces pays ne pourront pas importer leurs besoins minimums et seront obligés de consacrer leurs maigres devises à acquérir des denrées de première nécessité, ce qui par voie de conséquence les privera d'un moyen d'acquérir les intrants indispensables à l'amélioration de la production agricole et alimentaire, à savoir les engrais, semences, pesticides et divers matériels agricoles. L'environnement, qui est déjà loin d'être encourageant, est assombri par les problèmes chroniques de la dette extérieure des pays en voie de développement, la chute de leurs recettes d'exportation et la détérioration des termes de l'échange. Le Sud continue à exporter des capitaux vers le Nord, ce qui épuise les ressources destinées à la croissance économique. C'est dire que la communauté des pays industrialisés devra faire preuve de plus de volonté politique pour l'établissement d'un ordre économique plus équitable et favorable aux pays du tiers monde, pour que la décennie qui se présente ne soit pas une décennie perdue, comme l'est, hélas, celle qui s'achève.

Le Gouvernement malgache a mis en oeuvre des mesures sévères d'ajustement structurel et les groupes vulnérables de la population en ont été très gravement touchés. Différents programmes et actions d'allègement de ces effets pervers de l'ajustement structurel ont été développés et commencent à porter leurs fruits.

La situation alimentaire à Madagascar s'améliore donc progressivement après des années de lutte contre la faim et la sous-alimentation. C'est pourquoi ma délégation voudrait pour cela manifester ici d'abord sa vive reconnaissance à l'endroit des pays et institutions internationales qui nous ont aidés dans l'accomplissement de ces programmes et leur réalisation.

Nous ajouterons que le long de cette route encore longue et pleine d'embûches nous osons compter sur la précieuse collaboration et solidarité de la communauté internationale dans la poursuite de nos actions vers la recherche d'un développement durable.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): El análisis de este tema tan importante despierta de nuevo profunda inquietud entre nosotros. Digo de nuevo, porque como Miembro del Consejo hemos tenido oportunidad de hablar sobre el tema, y sobre todo escuchar a la mayoría de las delegaciones expresar su gran preocupación por la situación reflejada en los documentos que hoy nos ocupan.

Nuestra delegación desea felicitar a la Secretaría por el gran esfuerzo que ha realizado al presentarnos una información tan detallada y actualizada; y a usted, señor Presidente, por su elección para presidir las labores de esta importante Comisión.

Decíamos que la Secretaría nos ha presentado documentos muy actualizados. Pues bien, continúa preocupándonos con mayor fuerza aún, la información actualizada del grave estado en que se encuentra la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo, sobre todo en algunas regiones de África y de América Latina y el Caribe. Y preocupa aún más la persistencia de los factores que producen esta crisis, tal como dijera nuestro Ministro al intervenir ante el plenario de esta Conferencia, "son situaciones que aún persisten y que se agravan, y que está en nuestras manos poder corregirlas y revertirlas".

El proteccionismo que impide el acceso de nuestros productos a los mercados de los países desarrollados; la enorme carga de la deuda externa; la injusta distribución internacional de los recursos para el desarrollo; falta de flujos financieros frescos para inversión; el persistente deterioro en los términos de intercambio que hace que nuestros productos de exportación se traduzcan cada vez en menos divisas para adquirir lo necesario para la producción y alimentación de nuestros pueblos, teniendo que caer por la falta de recursos, en créditos caros, altas tasas de interés, etc., vienen a conformar esa espiral tan triste que hace que nuestros países sean cada vez más pobres, peor alimentados, más débiles frente a países grandes que son cada vez más fuertes.

En el capítulo referente a América Latina y el Caribe, en los párrafos 218 a 225 del documento C 89/2, se ilustran claramente, con la valentía y certeza que caracteriza a los documentos de FAO, la magnitud de esta crisis para la región de América Latina y el Caribe y para el mundo entero.

Se mencionan las causas estructurales de la economía mundial y los fenómenos naturales que han contribuido y provocado esta desastrosa situación. Sin embargo, tenemos que agregar en el caso particular de Nicaragua, que además de haber tenido en estos diez años tres sequías fuertes y dos huracanes de gran magnitud, nada ha sido tan desastroso para nuestra agricultura y economía en general, como el efecto catastrófico del bloqueo económico y financiero y la guerra de agresión que sufrimos y continuamos sufriendo por parte de una gran potencia continental. Más de 70 000 muertos, entre ellos 11 260 campesinos, cabezas de familia, han sido asesinados. Más de 17 000 millones de dólares de los Estados Unidos en pérdidas directas o indirectas a nuestra economía, representando más de 14 años de nuestras exportaciones.

los más elementales derechos de nuestros pueblos han sido violentados de esta forma, el derecho a la vida y el derecho a la alimentación. De esta forma se están queriendo truncar todos los esfuerzos de nuestro Gobierno por garantizar a nuestro pueblo alimentación, vivienda, salud, etc. ¿Cómo vamos a

hablar de seguridad alimentaria si no se nos deja vivir en paz y se destruyen los esfuerzos de nuestro pueblo por salir del atraso y el subdesarrollo? Esta situación deplorable ha sido condenada por la comunidad mundial, y aunque aún persiste, estamos seguros que tendrá un final favorable a la justicia.

Es por eso que vemos con preocupación el entorno general en que se ha venido desarrollando la economía de América Latina y el Caribe, y en general del mundo en desarrollo. Hablamos de un decenio perdido en lo que concierne al progreso económico. Es vergonzoso.

En medio de grandes progresos tecnológicos y grandes gastos en armas y viajes al espacio, nos morimos de hambre. En otras ocasiones, hemos señalado la necesidad de que los países en desarrollo tomemos medidas estructurales conjuntas para acabar con esta situación. El cese del pago de la deuda externa, condicionar este pago a que se tomen medidas de concertación comercial que mejoren los términos de intercambio entre el Norte y el Sur, ya que si no, caeríamos de nuevo en otra situación de endeudamiento; el fin del proteccionismo y un trato preferencial a las exportaciones de los países pobres; la inversión de los flujos financieros y términos concesionales de éstos para proyectos de desarrollo; la adopción y fortalecimiento de medidas de emergencia para socorrer a miles de campesinos y productores agropecuarios que han sido afectados en nuestros países por condiciones naturales adversas o por situaciones de guerras; en fin, éstas son sólo algunas medidas de elemental justicia que deberían adoptarse para empezar a hablar de justicia en las relaciones económicas internacionales y condiciones regulares para ver un panoram menos sombrío.

Por supuesto que nosotros cantamos con que se pondrá fin a las situaciones de agresión militar injustas que aún sufrimos algunos países del continente.

No obstante la existencia de datos tan precisos sobre la gravedad del problema y sus causas, resulta paradójico y preocupa sobremanera a nuestra delegación, que la ayuda alimentaria más bien va a disminuir. En los párrafos 110 a 116 del documento mencionado, se señala con claridad esta situación.

Nos parece que se está jugando con esta realidad o que no hay conciencia de lo que esto significa. Hay hambre ya en vastas regiones del planeta. Es hora de que aquí los países industrializados hagan compromisos más serios con el mundo en desarrollo, y no se trata sólo de la ayuda alimentaria. Mencionamos esto por lo delicado que es terminar también con ella. Hablamos en general de algo más amplio, como lo que ya detallábamos antes. Son medidas estructurales para el desarrollo lo que los pueblos en desarrollo necesitan. Medidas que nos den al menos un indicativo de estar trabajando por lograr la seguridad alimentaria.

Pero lo que vemos es todo lo contrario; reducción de los programas de ayuda alimentaria, dureza en las negociaciones, reducción de presupuesto a programas de ayuda como el de la FAO. En fin, no hay señales alentadoras. Creemos que esta Conferencia debe hacer serios llamamientos en este sentido.

La documentación es muy rica y la temática abarca áreas muy variadas. Algunos temas que se abordan son una pequeña ventana de luz en la solución de algunos de los problemas planteados. Por ejemplo, la Ronda Uruguay, el papel de la FAO, que ya ha sido analizado en esta Comisión. Sin embargo, queremos insistir en nuestro apoyo al papel que la FAO juega y debe continuar jugando en estas negociaciones, y en general el beneficio que obtenemos de una estrecha relación FAO/GATT.

**Victor HJORT (Denmark):** Let me first express my delegation's appreciation for the quality of the documents on the State of Food and Agriculture in 1989. We note with satisfaction some positive signs in the world economy and agricultural situation. The improvement of prices in commodities is one of these positive signs. But we realize, of course, that the picture is not homogeneous. For some important commodities prices are not favourable, and for many importing countries, importing developing countries, rising prices are a problem. We share the concerns expressed by the Secretariat on the negative effects of prices on food aid. My delegation's views on food aid will be further treated in the agenda item on the World Food Programme.

Agricultural production has undergone different trends among which we note the negative effects of drought in industrialized countries. On the other hand we have also seen that production in a number of developing countries has shown signs of improvement.

As the Secretariat's reports clearly show, the world's stocks are at a very low level, which should cause concern. My delegation wishes to underline two aspects in this connection, the key importance of sustainable development in agriculture, on which a Nordic statement has been delivered.

The other aspect, as clearly illustrated by the Conference documents, is the inadequate pace of per capita food production. In the field of nutrition, we note with satisfaction that FAO is performing an interesting piece of work through the elaboration of food balance sheets.

In the Conference document, the Secretariat raises the question as to what extent per capita production in developing countries still can be increased. It is in this connection that my delegation wishes to underscore the importance, as we also do when presenting our views on the reform process in FAO, which we attach to the basic tasks of FAO. By sharpening its role in fields, such as formulation and provision of policy advice, and by integrating environmental aspects in its activities, we believe that FAO can find adequate answers and make further progress in improving and increasing world food production.

**Helmut HAUSER (Austria) (original language German):** The Austrian delegation, Sir, would like to begin by congratulating you on being elected to the Chair of our Commission, and we wish you every success in your work.

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared such a comprehensive report. These documents are full of information concerning the state of food and agriculture throughout the world. FAO has indeed carried out a very valuable study of the situation. We feel that document C 89/2 stresses the importance of food aid, forestry, food security and the protection of the environment.

We think that the ecological dangers are of a magnitude likely to be a threat to the whole of humanity. There is, for example, the problem of the tropical forests, the degradation of the ozone layer, atmospheric pollution, the dangers to our seas and oceans, and the dangers to our groundwater - all matters that preoccupy and worry us greatly.

With respect to world food and agriculture, I would like to say that my country is prepared to make a contribution in line with its means with respect to FAO's emergency reserves, food emergency reserves. Austria will in fact carry out the task that it has set itself and in fact we do intend to increase our contribution.

It has been mentioned a number of times, and indeed negotiations are underway, that, as far as agriculture and forestry are concerned, a new direction is essential worldwide.

In Austria, we are contributing towards controlling production and matching market demand. In Austria, we have formulated new objectives, and we are seeking to develop an eco-social policy, particularly with regard to our ecological options. An ecological cooperation, first of all to protect the forests, to protect the water from environmental damage from outside, but also to correct the modes of agricultural forestry production, if those modes pose ecological problems.

We particularly seek to arrive at a situation whereby FAO's future work takes greater account of ecological problems and addresses even greater attention to the protection of natural resources.

My country will lend FAO every support in such endeavours.

Then, to conclude, I would like to express our pleasure at the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP as suggested by the Nordic countries.

Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of): First of all, I have to point out by opening this discussion in this Commission, there are many cases that should be discussed deliberately in this regard.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that at the end of the century, there are about 6 billion people on this planet and responding to their food demands is our responsibility. How can we do that? On one hand, with a glance view at the document C 89/2, the economic growth in the industrial countries in 1987 was unexpectedly vigorous, benefitting from lower oil prices and interest rates. On the contrary, however, the overall growth in the developing regions was strong in the same year. But due to being unevenly distributed, the per capita incomes were dropped in many areas.

On the other hand, agriculture in these countries constitutes the basis of their economies. These countries mainly export raw materials which represent their principal resource of foreign currency/ and hence finance their imports, which are mostly agricultural inputs. They are also due to ever-increasing populations that are frequently unable to produce enough food to feed their people, because their needs increase with the population.

In spite of the great changes, particularly in political issues, which have taken place in the world, there are still regions in some African and Asian countries which are combatting, as before, hunger and malnutrition. In addition to that, in the developed and industrialized world; not because of the poverty or exploitation of farmers, nor because of drastic lack of food, but because of food surpluses, which cannot be eliminated,- there is strong demand for agricultural reform.

We are gathered here and are talking at a time when the problems and challenges in world food and agriculture are both acute and pressing. A number of countries are reeling under a series of droughts and floods. The terms of trade of developing countries have further deteriorated. Damage to the environment and ecology is continuing unabated. The available food resources are still beyond the reach of a large number of poor people.

There are about 14 million refugees in the world, and these refugees should be fed in sane manner. Out of this figure, there are 2.5 million Afghan refugees in Iran, and the same figure, more or less, are in Pakistan. One thing should be noted, that is the majority of these refugees are the farmers who left their own lands and became consumers in neighbouring countries.

If the social and political disputes in relevant regions of the world had been settled, we would not be faced with such circumstances. Anyway, having taken into consideration all aspects, an effective review process on the state of world food and agriculture is very important.

I now would like to turn to my country policies in agriculture. Since independence and self-sufficiency are among the main objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to achieve these goals, the state, private and cooperative sectors do their utmost harmoniously to pave the way for the fulfilment of economic, social and political independence and self-sufficiency. Inspired by this policy, the agricultural sector is trying to boost the level of employment and income of those who are involved. In this regard, we are determined to make the best use of water, soil and other natural resources in maximizing the production output to its fullest.

Finally, we hope that this commission, together with the other Commissions of the Conference, will help in solving the food and agricultural problems of the world, in alleviating the condition of the masses and in increasing the role of FAO in the service of the deprived. It would not be forgotten that the responsibility of all of us is a part of the FAO system.

Ayhan ElCI (Turquie) : Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat de la qualité des documents qui sont à notre disposition. En analysant la situation et les perspectives mondiales de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, je voudrais tout d'abord mettre l'accent sur certains points.

Le point le plus saillant pour ma délégation, en ce qui concerne la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture pendant la période qui s'est écoulée depuis la dernière Conférence, est la chute spectaculaire de la production de céréales et par conséquent l'épuisement des stocks au-dessous du niveau nécessaire pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Il est intéressant de constater, dans les documents préparés par le Secrétariat, que depuis 40 ans jamais, pendant deux années consécutives, la production de céréales - comme ce fut le cas en 1987 et 1988 - n'a été au-dessous des besoins de la consommation.

N'est-il pas paradoxal que, très récemment encore, le problème se soit posé au niveau des excédents de produits agricoles entassés dans les entrepôts et de leur écoulement tandis qu'aujourd'hui, nous sommes contraints de chercher des solutions pour reconstituer les stocks qui sont tombés à des niveaux dangereux pour la sécurité alimentaire? Il ne serait pas erroné de dire qu'à l'origine de cette évolution, il y a le souci de trouver une solution à ce même problème d'excédents qui a amené les pays gros producteurs à adopter des mesures afin de limiter leur production; metis, la sécheresse aidant, nous nous sommes trouvés face à une situation des plus précaires.

Mon pays figure parmi les pays touchés par une sécheresse telle qu'on n'en avait pas vu depuis un demi-siècle et qui a eu pour résultat la diminution importante de la production agricole. Pour un pays comme la Turquie, qui est considéré parmi les pays qui jouissent d'une autosuffisance en matière de production agricole et alimentaire, cette évolution a créé une situation délicate qui a pu être franchie grâce à des importations mais surtout aux capacités que lui confère la flexibilité des ses structures agricoles.



En conclusion, quelle qu'en soit la cause - limitation volontaire de la production, conditions météorologique ou autres - le fait de la chute brusque de la production agricole de ces dernières années doit retenir notre attention et, profitant de cette expérience, nous devons penser dès maintenant aux mesures à prendre au cas où, à l'avenir, la même situation se manifesterait.

Je me félicite du fait que, pendant cette session de la Conférence, on mette de plus en plus l'accent sur les négociations dites Uruguay Round. Bien sûr, je ne parle que de l'aspect agricole de ces négociations. Je le fais volontiers parce que le lancement du cycle de négociations commerciales multilatérales que nous appelons couramment Uruguay Round a incité les pays développés gros producteurs agricoles à adopter une approche nouvelle. Ces mêmes pays, enfin conscients des déséquilibres et des politiques protectionnistes qui caractérisent le commerce des produits agricoles, se sont attelés à la dure tâche de réorganiser le commerce international des produits agricoles dans le sens d'une plus large libéralisation.

A cause de la spécificité du secteur agricole et parce qu'il s'agit d'un secteur qui influence directement la sécurité alimentaire de chaque pays, on peut considérer que les négociations au sein du GATT ne seront pas des plus faciles. Mais rien ne sera non plus comme avant. Nous espérons que les pratiques qui perturbaient le commerce mondial des produits agricoles seront dans une large mesure éliminées à la fin. Nous entendons par là que toutes sortes de soutien, à savoir des subventions, que ce soit à la production ou au commerce, seront diminuées. En ce qui concerne les subventions à la production, nous pensons que des mesures adéquates doivent accompagner leur diminution afin de maintenir les revenus des agriculteurs; et cela ne doit pas non plus perturber le libre jeu du marché. Plus haut, j'ai souligné le rôle qui revient aux pays développés en particulier pour réduire les obstacles au commerce des produits agricoles. Dès maintenant, ils peuvent jouer un rôle moteur sans attendre les résultats des négociations commerciales multilatérales en révisant leurs programmes de réajustement.

Par ailleurs, les pays en développement, notamment ceux ayant une haute potentialité agricole, pourraient appliquer des politiques cohérentes pour soutenir leur développement et contribuer dans la mesure du possible à la libéralisation du commerce dans ce secteur.

Dans ce contexte, je voudrais citer un exemple de mon pays. Vous savez bien que la réduction de l'intervention de l'Etat dans la production, l'approvisionnement et la distribution des intrants a permis de faciliter la production et l'utilisation de ceux-ci. Ces dernières années, en Turquie, nous avons procédé à des changements radicaux dans le secteur des semences. Avec cette nouvelle politique, l'Etat, qui monopolisait ce secteur auparavant, a progressivement cédé sa place au secteur privé. C'est ainsi qu'un marché de libre concurrence a été établi et des progrès considérables ont été réalisés dans le secteur des semences.

Mme B. LO TURCO (Italie): La délégation italienne a examiné avec beaucoup d'intérêt les documents concernant la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Il s'agit d'excellents documents au sujet desquels nous aimerions faire des commentaires d'ordre général.

Dans la première partie, la situation économique mondiale et ses répercussions sur l'agriculture du tiers monde sont décrites de manière exhaustive et complète. L'analyse qui a été faite ne montre que quelques signes encourageants: la tendance la plus positive correspond à

l'augmentation des prix des produits agricoles qui est, pour plusieurs pays en développement, la condition indispensable pour résoudre la crise de l'endettement. Cependant, l'augmentation des prix ne concerne pas tous les produits exportés du tiers monde; elle ne concerne pas, par exemple, de nombreux produits tropicaux tandis que, par ailleurs, à cause notamment des quotations élevées, l'accroissement de la demande mondiale en produits agricoles, tant dans les pays en développement que dans les pays industrialisés, reste fort faible.

La situation dans le domaine des fertilisants semble tout à fait significative: on constate, en effet, une baisse durant la première moitié de l'année 1989 tant en ce qui concerne l'utilisation que les prix. Ainsi qu'il est souligné dans les documents, cet état de fait trouve sa cause dans une demande plus restreinte de la part des pays importateurs tandis que la baisse du niveau de l'utilisation pourrait être attribuée à l'écoulement de stocks trop importants ayant pu s'accumuler lors de la récolte précédente. La création des stocks a été due à la crainte répandue d'une augmentation probable des prix des fertilisants, hausse qui par la suite n'a pas eu lieu.

De plus, le spectre de l'inflation réapparaît encore une fois, ce qui suscite une grande inquiétude dans les pays industrialisés. Le scénario économique de ces dernières années a été caractérisé par la présence de deux blocs opposés: d'un côté, les pays ayant les surplus agricoles, surplus qui sont actuellement en diminution; et de l'autre côté, les pays où sont toujours présents les importants problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition. Une telle situation devient exaspérée par l'instabilité des produits agricoles sur les marchés mondiaux. Les quelques symptômes de reprise des quotations pour certains produits et dont ne bénéficient, en outre, que quelques uns parmi les pays en développement, ne sont pas suffisants pour améliorer la situation.

En ce qui concerne la sécurité alimentaire, la situation est fort inquiétante. La réduction des productions mondiales due à la sécheresse qui a eu lieu pendant la dernière campagne et, par conséquent, la diminution des stocks ont favorisé une hausse des prix mondiaux des principaux produits destinés à l'aide alimentaire. Il en résulte une réduction des quantités destinées à l'aide alimentaire, plusieurs pays ayant déterminé l'importance de l'aide alimentaire en valeur et n'ayant été disposés à aucune variation de leur budget. Les stocks mondiaux de céréales sont tombés à un niveau très bas et, à court terme, on ne prévoit aucune possibilité de les intégrer pour maintenir la consommation à son niveau actuel.

L'analyse faite par le Secrétariat montre que les aides céréalières tomberont à 9,8 millions de tonnes et donc à un niveau plus bas que l'objectif visé de 10 millions de tonnes. En conclusion, la situation suscite des inquiétudes et doit être suivie de près, comme l'a dit le Représentant de la Communauté Economique Européenne.

Si vous le permettez, je vais maintenant laisser la parole à mon collègue, qui s'occupe du secteur forestier, pour qu'il fasse une intervention spécifique sur ce sujet.

M. MARIANI (Italie): Parler de la situation des forêts, ou des problèmes de forêts en cette période de grands bouleversements des équilibres sociaux, environnementaux et démographiques, et dans ce contexte mondial limiterait, c'est le moins que l'on puisse dire, la discussion.

Comme il a été souligné par notre Ministre aujourd'hui ceux qui sont appelés à faire des choix de fond tant dans le domaine de la politique nationale proprement dite que dans les échanges de collaboration et d'assistance avec les autres pays, ceux-là doivent absolument se placer devant la dualité: forêt/alimentation, forêt/énergie, forêt /environnement et ce en prenant en compte les différentes priorités de situation à situation toujours plus liées et indépendantes.

C'est avec cette conviction que l'Italie soutient et participe au Plan d'action forestier et tropical, avec une attention plus grande là où la forêt est plus fragile et où les différentes actions sont plus fortes.

Parmi les objectifs du plan, celui qui prévoit une gestion favorisant la durée et la constance de l'utilisation des forêts tropicales nous semble le plus important et c'est celui vers lequel nos efforts porteront davantage.

Le document C 89/19 rappelle l'étude "Agriculture: horizon 2000" selon laquelle entre 1985 et l'an 2000 environ 80 millions d'hectares de nouvelles terres devront être mis en culture dans les pays en voie de développement (Chine non comprise); cela ne se fera pas entièrement aux dépens de la forêt mais sa contribution à la survie des populations qui dépendent d'elle sera remarquable, sans compter d'autres facteurs d'atteinte.

Dans cette optique, ainsi qu'il en a été discuté au cours de la IXème Session du Comité pour la mise en valeur des forêts tropicales en septembre dernier, le secteur forestier jouera un rôle essentiel dans la planification de l'utilisation des terres qui, il ne faut pas l'oublier, sont une ressource limitée face à des besoins croissants.

A cette occasion le profil du technicien forestier d'aujourd'hui a été tracé. Il doit d'une part enrichir sa propre formation en se plongeant dans les réalités socio-économiques différentes et en évolution permanente, mais d'autre part il doit être constamment présent aux rencontres où se prennent les décisions concernant l'aménagement du territoire. Cette discipline devient de plus en plus l'art du compromis entre les nécessités conflictuelles de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la flore et de la faune sauvage, de la forêt, des sources d'énergie, de l'urbanisation, des infrastructures, et dans des situations moins critiques, du tourisme et du loisir.

La politique forestière doit être une soudure unifiant les pays du monde. Il y a besoin de bois et de sous-bois en termes locaux, mais il y a aussi besoin de leurs effets bio-physiques pour le climat de la planète, et de leur variété génétique comme banque de ressources et de réserves à étudier; il faut que cette politique soit à la base d'un circuit de production en termes non seulement alimentaires et énergétiques mais aussi de qualité de la vie.

Il nous faut donc faire le maximum d'effort pour récupérer les terres abandonnées ou dégradées, les forêts en voie de disparition ou endommagées, et ceci non pas en terme de calcul économique mais écologique, non pas en terme de calcul local mais universel.

Nous devons également mener la défense des forêts en tant que création, reconstitution et conservation d'un habitat à risque.

Dans le même temps qu'une attention accrue envers le monde forestier prend forme, une action multiforme en faveur du développement, de la sauvegarde et de la mise en valeur des forêts se développe de plus en plus.

Cette tendance va dans le sens des grandes lignes du plan forestier lancé dans notre pays à la fin 1987, et qui est le point de départ de la politique forestière nationale dont il trace les finalités et la ligne directrice.

On est en train d'organiser, sur la base de cet instrument d'orientation, des interventions au niveau régional, dans le but de conserver des espaces toujours plus grands pour les initiatives récemment définies par la Communauté Economique Européenne en mai 1989 sur les mesures forestières. Naturellement ces programmes pourront utiliser les résultats de l'Inventaire Forestier, et probablement, les indications qui seront utilisables après l'achèvement de la Carte Forestière Nationale que le Corpo Forestale dello Stato est en train d'élaborer selon des critères et des méthodologies appropriés pour mettre en relief la valeur de la forêt et les services publics qu'elle rend sur le plan hydro-géologique, du paysage, de l'écologie, des loisirs, etc..

Notre pays est prêt à collaborer dans tous les secteurs et à offrir son expérience acquise dans les domaines de la bonification, de la récupération des terres abandonnées, de l'utilisation des terres arides, de l'aménagement des bassins versants, de la conservation du sol, de la prévention et de l'extinction des incendies de forêts.

**Sra. Graf ila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba):** A estas alturas del debate, seremos sumamente breves, señor Presidente. En primer lugar la delegación de Cuba considera un deber de elemental justicia agradecer a la Secretaría de la FAO por la documentación preparada para el análisis del tema "El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación".

Coto bien ha expresado hace unos minutos nuestro Vicepresidente del Consejo de Ministros en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, es lamentable que nuevamente tengamos que manifestar con pesar que el panorama de la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación no ha experimentado cambios que permitan siquiera avizorar que los esfuerzos que ha venido realizando la FAO por establecer políticas que se implementen de manera efectiva a fin de lograr el mejoramiento de la situación de millones y millones de seres humanos que padecen de hambre y malnutrición, tengan perspectivas inmediatas de adoptar las soluciones, que con urgencia, tal situación demanda.

Las injustas relaciones de intercambio y el proteccionismo continúan caracterizando las relaciones económicas internacionales, y el agobiante problema de la deuda externa, como bien lo han expresado otras delegaciones, agrava desmesuradamente la situación de los países subdesarrollados, quienes continúan dedicando dolorosamente los escasos recursos procedentes de sus exportaciones - que pudieran destinar al desarrollo - al pago de los servicios de la deuda.

Lamentamos nuevamente la pérdida del decenio de los 80, como bien se expresa en los documentos analizados; pero estamos seguros, después de oír a varias distinguidas delegaciones, que todos aunaremos nuestros esfuerzos para que las acciones que se derivan de la colaboración multilateral y la defensa de los principios que animan a la FAO a impulsar la asistencia técnica, la transferencia tecnológica, la plena integración de la mujer en el medio rural, la protección del medio ambiente, así como otras prioridades que en su fin nos lleven a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, encuentren respaldo seguro para su realización.

CHAIRMAN: Canada has sent me a note saying that it wishes to make a small addition to their statement, the one that was made this morning. However, they do not wish to take the time of this Committee and ask if this additional text could be added to the verbatim records. If that is so agreed, we will decide accordingly.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

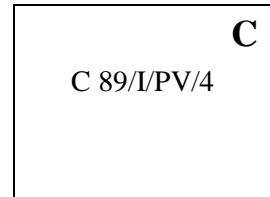
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING  
QUATRIEME SEANCE  
CUARTA SESION

(16 November 1989)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 8.45 hours  
J. A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 8 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 8.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

**R. PERMANAND (Trinidad and Tobago):** My delegation will, in deference to your wishes, dispense with the customary compliments to you and the staff of the Secretariat and confine itself to comments on sustainable development only. We have listened to previous speakers who have lamented the problems faced by developing countries in their aspirations to achieve this seemingly unattainable goal in the economic restructuring in general, but in agriculture in particular. These have been variously identified as poor commodity prices; the burdensome debt question, protectionism of various kinds, tariff as well as non-tariff, conditionalities imposed by governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the World Bank and the IMF; lack of adequate financial and credit resources, and health and sanitary conditions, among others. These are valid complaints and they must be addressed by the international community. But all countries and developing countries in particular have yet to address themselves to two problems which, in our opinion, have inhibited or completely stultified agricultural growth and consequently sustainable development. Here, my delegation would wish to emphasize the two issues which so far seem to have side-stepped or merely mentioned en passant.

In the first instance there is unparalleled population growth which negates all or nearly all benefits that result from economic restructuring in general and agriculture in particular. How can countries hope to achieve food security and sustainable growth when the annual population increase outstrips the increase not only in agricultural production, but in all other areas: housing, education, health and employment, which are valid end results of sustainable development, which in our view, is merely the improvement continually of the quality of life. How much worse it will be where agricultural production falls for whatever reason. Will these areas not continue to be dependent on food aid as well as other assistance? This problem of excessive population growth must be squarely faced when we consider the issue of sustainable development.

Secondly, the other issue that has not really been addressed is the colossal waste of human, financial and material resources that is spent either on localized and internecine conflicts or purchasing material to maintain armed forces to continue these conflicts. Developing countries have rightly and justly complained about the developed nations spending enormous sums on armaments; sums which would be better utilized for developmental purposes if partial, but preferably, total disarmament were to be achieved. But this criticism is applicable not only to the super powers of developed nations,



but to developing countries as well. These latter continue to spend considerable sums on their defence budgets which, in sane instances, outstrip the expenditure on agriculture or education, health or housing.

My delegation would wish, therefore, that all countries in general, but developing nations in particular, address these two issues: excessive population growth and the waste of scarce resources, with a view to ensuring that these scarce resources, land capital, etc., be made available to agriculture and other developmental causes that could in the long run promote sustainable development.

My delegation is acutely aware that this calls for political will on the part of all leaders, but particularly those in developing countries, if they are to achieve any progress in sustainable development. We are also acutely aware that countries are faced either with internal or external threats to their stability and must of necessity take steps to protect both their sovereignty and integrity, hence such the need for armies, etc. But it is almost an axiom that sustainable development can only be achieved under conditions of peace. The history of the developed countries in the last 40 years is ample proof of this.

It is our recommendation, therefore, that the required political decisions be taken to ensure that peace prevails so that countries could then devote and concentrate all their energies, resources and efforts to promote sustainable development for all.

Supote DECHATES (Thailand): I would like, first of all, to join other delegations to express my sincere gratitude to the FAO Secretariat for providing us with the excellent report on The State of Food and Agriculture in 1989, which is very informative and gives broad coverage in production and trade of agriculture, fisheries and forestry products.

On this item, I would like to touch upon the forestry issues. On deforestation and forestry habilitation, we concur with the FAO report that population growth is a major cause of deforestation in the Third World, particularly through land clearance for agriculture; overcutting forests for fuelwood, excessive timber cutting over sustainable capacity in many areas and road systems built for logging that often provide access to land. In many countries, the destruction of forests leads to soil erosion, wildlife depletion and other forms of irreparable environmental change.

Thailand is no exception, disastrous flooding in southern Thailand was caused by the excessive logging. The devastation has never been locally experienced. One of the measures to solve the problem that has been recently applied is the nationwide banning of further logging, thus immediately ending all domestic logging concessionaires.

Resulting from the heavy clearing of vast areas of national forests reserves for agricultural purposes by squatters and excessive illegal logging, drought and flooding extensively become a phenomenon. Farm production failures are more frequent. Timber supply for domestic consumption declines at an alarming rate. All these inevitably affect the socio-economic and political conditions of the country. The Council of Ministers, therefore, in 1975, gave directives as one of the measures to solve the problems through the allocation of degraded forest reserve land all over the country to the farmers under the Forest Village Programme.

Additionally, the local construction is publicly assisted with research and development on a full-scale utilization and part-substitution of various non-wood building materials for the conventional wood materials. Similarly, the engagement of biomass and coal energy are equally urged for a wider use.

Prior to the 1989 logging ban, in an effort to slow down deforestation and the deterioration of forestry and environmental change, forestry programmes under the current sixth five-year plan emphasize consistency of both sustainable economic and conservation development objectives. Under this policy, the target forest areas are defined and classified into conservation and commercial forests, accounting for 15 percent and 25 percent respectively of the total national land area. To facilitate the programme implementation, related laws and regulations must undergo review and revision. For effective and efficient operation of the programme, local people have been invited and urged to participate. Similarly, private organizations are promoted to invest in tree crop plantations.

It is well known that at the present time developing countries in the tropics are experiencing the most rapid rates of deforestation, reflecting their inability fully to cope with the problem. It seems that the only way of fulfilling the completion of their programmes in any major effort is to seek assistance from the international community, especially FAO.

Hassan AL-AHMAR (Syria) (original language Arabic): The documents presented to us by the Secretariat clearly and realistically reflect the food situation, which is rather disappointing, particularly in developing countries. These documents show clearly the difficulties encountered by developing countries in the area of indebtedness. This indebtedness prevents these countries from providing for the needs of their populations and for sustainable agricultural development. Also, the trade system prevents developing countries' produce from penetrating into international markets.

My country, like many other developing countries, is hindered by these very same problems. Our natural resources are plentiful and could allow us to grant our populations an acceptable standard of living. However, these resources are limited in nature and therefore agricultural development has been slow, although we have given agricultural production absolute priority, at the expense of other sectors.

Agricultural production depends on rainfall to a great extent. The irrigated area accounts for only 12 percent of farmland in my country, and this is obviously a source of tremendous difficulties. When there is a lack of rainfall, we are compelled to import large quantities of agricultural products, particularly grain. The high prices of products such as wheat, sugar and rice create tremendous difficulties for us. We have to try to solve this problem. We must promote agricultural production and increase the area of irrigated land. In order to achieve this, our government has adopted a programme to encourage public and private investment, and we have clearly stated our intention to cooperate with all the bodies and organizations which would be prepared to carry out agricultural projects. We have also adopted a programme aimed at extending the irrigated surfaces. We have undertaken major projects in this connection, to the benefit of small holdings. We have also adopted complementary programmes, particularly in the areas where rainfall only amounts to 250 to 300 centimetres a year. We have also fostered irrigation activities. We also try to help farmers to adopt new techniques at a very low cost.

I should also like to point out that my country carries out land improvement projects, and these receive the top priority in our policy, at the expense of other activities. We have also implemented programmes in the Syrian desert. These are programmes aimed at planting crops for fodder in order to supply domestic needs. There have also been programmes of forestation. We have planted large areas - 20 thousand hectares of fruit trees. Research centres have also set up crops of new varieties of high-yielding grains which will be distributed to the farmers. This is very important for increasing agricultural production and productivity. For this reason, it is vital that international research centres, as well as FAO, lend all possible assistance to these international research centres. These are vital for our development.

R.W. Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): The document under discussion, The State of Food and Agriculture 1989, and its supplement gives an informative and useful summary of the most important developments in world trade, agriculture production, consumption and the effects of world economic trends on the agricultural sector.

In many developing countries the role of agriculture and the rural sector is of crucial importance for the further development and revitalization of their economies and the establishment of internal and external balance. Agriculture depends for an important part on external economic factors such as world market prices, currency values, world demand for agricultural products, international interest rates and inflation. In this context a number of developments are of importance.

1987 and 1988 showed remarkably strong global economic growth in most industrial countries and in some developing countries. However, the economic recovery was unevenly distributed, and a significant decrease in per caput production in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean gives less reason for optimism, especially as no rapid improvement in these regions is expected in the near future.

The increase in world trade volume of 5.5 percent in 1987 and 8.5 percent in 1988 is also noteworthy and was partly a reflection of high output in manufactures. Commodity market prices increased 20 percent in 1988. However, for a number of primary commodities of particular importance to developing countries, prices remained at a low level, or even declined. External debt remains a major concern and an important impediment to further economic development, especially for the aforementioned three major regions. Serious efforts should be made by the international community to solve this problem and to alleviate the burden of the most severely indebted countries.

In many cases global economic developments had a negative effect on economic growth and indirectly on agricultural output, food production, stock levels and food security in many developing countries. Although aggregate food output increased by 5.6 percent overall for all developing market economies in 1987/1988, the prospects as regards food production for 1989 look less encouraging, with production probably in about 70 developing countries expected to fall behind population growth. World cereal stocks are estimated to fall to 305 million tons, or 17 percent of world consumption, by the end of 1989. Therefore, the world food situation should be monitored carefully.

Domestic demand for food in poor developing countries is stagnant as a result of declining incomes, increased price inflation, deteriorating balance of payments situation and high prices for imported foodstuffs.

As far as trade is concerned, the situation for developing countries is paradoxical. Often developing countries are in competition with each other on the world market and many of them are very dependent on exports for the improvement of their economies. At the same time, they cannot improve their position as a result of prevailing low world market prices. The recent rises in world prices for certain commodities are indispensable for developing countries dependent on export, but these price increases, particularly for cereals, are harmful in the short-run for net food importing countries, but in the long-run it can be a stimulus for development of their food production.

Our delegation is in full support of further trade liberalization and special treatment for developing countries as laid down in the GATT Medium-Term Review.

As regards food security, our delegation has serious doubts whether an increase in world cereal output of 12 percent, as mentioned in the document, is really necessary to maintain consumption trends in developing countries, to re-establish minimum levels of global food security and bring back stocks to normal levels.

As Minister Braks stated in his speech, the seemingly unfavourable situation at the moment in agricultural output may well prove to be temporary and is partly due to adverse climatic conditions. However, we do not consider that the situation justifies an increase in output by developed countries.

Poverty, in particular poverty in rural areas in developing countries, is the main cause of malnutrition and hunger. Therefore, improvement of economic conditions and hence incomes and purchasing power of food consumers and rural population is, in our view, the most crucial factor in determining access to food and food security.

Food security should furthermore be integrated into structural adjustment programmes by adoption of measures to accommodate the needs of especially nutritionally vulnerable population groups. Food security strategies are by their nature complex and should not be confined solely to the growing group of undernourished but should relate to all people in developing countries. In this respect, diverse economic and social circumstances in the developing countries and also the position of women are factors to be taken into account.

In our view, population growth puts a heavy burden on food output and food consumption. Long-term, sustainable food security is enhanced by moderate and controlled population growth in countries with nutritional problems.

In spite of progress made in the field of agriculture and rural development, food aid and emergency aid remain important supportive instruments in cooperation with developing countries. Both types of aid should be tuned to the food strategies of the recipient countries and their traditional food patterns, at the same time encouraging production of local foods. Our delegation stresses the importance of triangular food aid activities at the regional level, benefiting the development of regional food security strategies.

Finally, needless to say, environmentally acceptable production methods are a pre-condition for sustainable world food security.

**N.D. FRASER (New Zealand) :** We have listened with great interest and attention to the plenary statements and comments made in this Commission. We share the concerns expressed by many delegates about the current agricultural situation, the problems of the developing countries, and, most important, the environment.

In our plenary statement, the New Zealand Minister of Agriculture expressed our serious concern about the environmental and economic impact of the practice of pelagic driftnet fishing. For many small island nations of the South Pacific, fishing is a vital part of their economies. The Tarawa Declaration issued by the South Pacific Heads of Government in August this year called for a ban on drift gill net fishing in the region. Since then, New Zealand and a number of other countries have joined with the United States in sponsoring a resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for a moratorium on driftnet fishing. We hope this resolution will attract widespread support.

New Zealand is in general agreement with the assessment of the current international agricultural situation and outlook in the documents prepared by the Secretariat, but we would like to put before you the view that the solutions to the problems that have been outlined do not necessarily lie in any concerted move towards policies aimed at self-sufficiency at all costs. There is no assurance of absolute food security in this world. Food security is illusory and a self-deception if it relies heavily on the import of livestock feedstuffs, machinery, seeds, fertilizer, chemicals and energy supplies. Now this is not to deny the desirability of agricultural development and production, but the encouragement of such production should not be pursued without a sound and viable economic rationale. Any dogmatic emphasis on self-sufficiency can lead to serious misallocation of resources, away from those sectors for which the country has a real comparative advantage.

We should also be mindful of the fact that undue emphasis on self-sufficiency - regardless of costs - can have negative environmental consequences through pressure on land and natural resources to produce above sustainable levels. Statements in the Plenary session and in this Commission have warned of this danger.

This leads us, Mr Chairman, to the all important issue of agricultural trade reform. Lasting solutions to the problems of global agriculture can only come about through fundamental reform of domestic and international agricultural policies. New Zealand and other members of the Cairns Group of countries have been actively promoting reform of agriculture and, in the context of the Uruguay Round, have been calling for comprehensive reform of domestic and international trade policies relating to agriculture. The Cairns Group is a significant grouping of developed and developing countries and represents a strong coalition for reform of international agricultural policies and reform of GATT Rules relating to agricultural trade.

**Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya):** Mr Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to convey my delegate's appreciation of the manner in which this meeting has been organized and the way in which, Mr Chairman, you are steering the deliberations of this Commission. In this way I believe we should be able to accomplish the important task before us.

We have examined the FAO documents on the State of Food and Agriculture and find the document adequately informative. However, the picture painted by the document on the food situation and agriculture in certain regions of the world is alarming and cannot escape our attention. Many delegates have referred to the situation and the factors characterizing the state of food and agriculture, and I therefore need not go into greater details.

Referring to the issues under consideration, it is disappointing to note that despite improvements in food production in the developing countries, Africa continues to face chronic food shortage and insecurities due to a number of factors such as inadequate supply, food distribution and inadequate diversification of agricultural production. I also believe that the ability for the developing countries to meet their food needs has been constrained by their debt situation and declining export earnings as a result of a depressed world commodity crisis.

We in Kenya have addressed specific issues raised on food in security through improved and increased storage facilities and distribution of staple foodstuffs such as maize and beans. At the same time, we are taking measures to promote drought-tolerant traditional crops for diversification.

The country, is, however not able to meet its demand for wheat, rice, and vegetable oils from domestic production. We spend a high proportion of our foreign exchange earnings on importing these foodstuffs, despite the availability of land and labour to produce them locally. We need assistance, Mr Chairman, to develop an integrated approach in the areas of research, extension, production, post-harvesting handling and marketing in order to promote the production of these commodities.

Kenya's rapidly increasing population has resulted in a spill-over onto large areas of hitherto sparsely populated marginal lands, that is arid and semi-arid areas. These lands are characterized by erratic rainfall and fragile soils which are highly prone to degradation. We therefore appeal for assistance in the development of water resources in these areas for human use, for livestock, and irrigation in order to rescue these areas from desertification through the current use of inappropriate farming techniques and over-stocking. Research efforts aimed at developing suitable farming techniques for these areas need to be given high priority.

On the cash crops, we appreciate the efforts being made to solve the problems related to agricultural trade and commodities, I would like to stress the need to work for a speedier conclusion particularly with regard to market access for tropical products by elimination of trade barriers and protectionist practices, improvement in balance of trade and in stabilization of prices of primary commodities in favour' of developing countries. This exercise is of paramount importance to Kenya which at present derives about 50 percent of its foreign exchange earnings from agricultural commodities.

With regard to forestry, I would like to reiterate my delegation's statement, here at FAO headquarters, during the recent session of the Tropical Forests Development Committee. Their emphasis was on the need to protect and conserve the tropical forests. We believe, in countries such as Kenya, where there are vast marginal lands, there is need to develop suitable forestry programmes for the arid and semi-arid lands. Such forests would expand the overall national forestry cover, contribute significantly to the preservation of limited tropical forests, and improve the supply of forest products for use

by the rapidly expanding human populations in these areas. Wood forests are closely linked with sustainable environment and sustainable food production levels

We also urge that effort should be made to identify and popularize other economic use of tropical trees in the areas of medicine, fibre, fruits and other food products as this would also increase the interest by the rural communities to conserve and protect these trees.

May I conclude, Mr Chairman, by touching briefly on fish which is a major resource which contributes to food security. We welcome the continued growth in world fisheries, including Africa. However, there is a need for greater exploitation of the fishery resources by providing facilities such as cold storage, modern fishing gears and processing plants. It is also necessary to examine other techniques which will improve efficiency of the fishermen and the better utilization of fish by-products. We note the interest given to aquaculture development but we would request greater assistance in this sector, particularly for the developing countries.

We are concerned about the exploitation of the deep sea resources by distant fishing nations, many of whom are exploiting African waters without providing direct benefits to the region.

Makhtar NAANAMI (Maroc): Prenant la parole pour la première fois, je vous présente les félicitations de la délégation marocaine pour votre élection à la présidence de cette Commission.

Le document que nous examinons, relatif à la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, a le mérite d'être concis, clair et de décrire avec objectivité et réalisme les problèmes que vit notre planète en matière d'alimentation. Ma délégation se joint à toutes celles qui ont exprimé leur satisfaction sur ce document, et qui ont félicité le Secrétariat.

Le tableau qui nous est présenté n'est pas satisfaisant, mais il serait encore plus triste si la situation décrite l'était avec plus de détails au niveau des pays en développement; c'est dire que la situation agricole et alimentaire mondiale n'évolue pas favorablement, mais risque de se dégrader davantage si nos pays ne s'attellent pas à la redresser. Le redressement est une oeuvre difficile surtout pour les pays en développement, mais c'est une oeuvre possible si les efforts nécessaires sont déployés pour promouvoir la production agricole et si les pays développés accordent plus de coopération et d'assistance.

Mon pays, qui est cité à juste titre dans le document que nous examinons parmi le groupe des pays en développement qui ait réalisé un accroissement supérieur à 10 pour cent de la production vivrière par habitant en 1988, est fier d'avoir atteint des résultats très satisfaisants en matière d'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Certes, nous avons bénéficié d'une conjoncture favorable sur le plan de la pluviométrie mais, sans les efforts inlassables déployés par les agriculteurs et par le Gouvernement du Royaume du Maroc, cette conjoncture n'aurait pas permis d'atteindre de telles performances. Parmi les efforts déployés je voudrais insister sur l'investissement dans le secteur agricole, qu'il soit public ou privé.

A ce propos, et avec votre permission, serait-il possible que le Secrétariat complète le panorama d'indicateurs sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation par un ou plusieurs indicateurs sur les investissements agricoles? Cela nous aiderait dans l'évaluation de l'importance des moyens mis en oeuvre, notamment par les pays en développement, pour promouvoir l'agriculture.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Thank you, Mr Chairman, for giving Ghana the floor for the second time to speak on the agenda, item before us.

The global assessment of the environmental degradation as highlighted in document C 89/2-Sup.2 covers all the spheres of pollution and environmental degradation, except perhaps human effluvia caused by impure thoughts, motives and actions; but this takes us into the realm of metaphysics outside the mandate of this Commission.

The earth's resources - its crux from which we drill for fossil fuels and obtain minerals, land, water and air - are showing signs of severe stress. Poverty and affluence in the developed world are uniquely responsible for this severe strain caused by poor cultural practices such as shifting cultivation, deforestation and unprecedented expansion of human activity in massive industrialization which has resulted in the pollution of the land, lakes, oceans, and rivers with effluvia, toxic waste and carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide and other noxious gaseous emissions are responsible for the acid rain and the greenhouse effect which may significantly raise global temperatures and hence cause calamitous climatic changes throughout the world. One clearly gets the doomsday sense of feeling by mere thought of the possible destruction of the ozone layer by chlorofluorocarbons used in aerosol sprays and refrigeration, all being features of the affluent society. Since solutions for environmental degradation have transboundary implications for developed and developing countries alike, my delegation would like to address key common issues articulated in document C 89/2-Sup.2.

The statistics are indeed startling. In Africa alone during the past 50 years the Sahara desert has spread 200 km. Some 15 African countries on both sides of the equator are endangered by the spreading deserts. Five to seven million hectares of land in the whole world are lost to agriculture each year through soil degradation. Since the dawn of farming the world has lost about 2 000 million hectares of crop land to soil erosion, while population keeps increasing. An estimated 125 000 hectares of irrigable land becomes uncultivable annually throughout the world due to waterlogging, salinization and alkalization. In fact, in certain countries, the early starters of the green revolution, waterlogging and soil salinization alone have removed as much land from production as has been added by new irrigation projects in recent years. The countries with high use of nitrogen fertilizers now suffer from extremely high pollution of groundwater with nitrates.

My delegation believes, and supports the Secretariat's observation, that agriculture does not only suffer as a result of ecological degradation of environment but contributes to it significantly. What is to be done? My delegation believes that permanent damage to the environment caused by current and future modifications to farming systems can be reduced and in many cases avoided if enough political will can be marshalled to bring about well-designed and executed farming system research and the adoption of conservation farming. Environmentally-sound agricultural practices are essential if sustainable food security and rural development are to become



achievable. This will involve taking preventive measures to preserve existing resources in the high potential areas by reducing externalities caused by the uncontrolled use of fertilizers, agrochemicals and heavy farm machinery for tree felling, thus reducing the soil's regenerative capacity. In the low potential areas, widespread adoption of conservation farming which seeks to achieve sustained agricultural production while minimizing the depletion of natural resources - soil, soil fertility, soil moisture - and minimizing the use of high cost inputs - energy, machinery, fertilizer, pesticide and weedicide - is needed,

Ghana believes that the depletion of the world's forestry and fishing resources also warrants attention. Unsustainable fishing practices such as deep sea trawling, use of drift nets and explosives in fishing should be halted, and action in this regard is needed at the national and international level.

My delegation endorses the view that FAO can play a positive role to achieve sustainable agriculture by providing technical assistance on all aspects of agricultural production and marketing by linking up with donor agencies such as the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, the GTZ of the Federal Republic of Germany, which has been very active in Ghana, Swedish International Development Authority, etc., to promote conservation farming, and in the spirit of the declaration of the World Commission on Environment and Development, integrate environmental concerns into all of its activities. In this connection, my delegation notes with satisfaction FAO's assistance in setting up an agro-forestry unit within the Crops Services Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. However, it seems to us that conservation farming has components which have to be integrated in order to achieve effectiveness, for example: (i) integration of crops with livestock; (ii) combination of annual crops with perennials; (iii) combination of agriculture with forestry through mixed cropping; (iv) use of live or residue mulching; (v) integrated pest management, and (vi) use of low cost energy conserving tools.

FAO's assistance in this area therefore ought to be enlarged through the infusion of greater funding and the enlargement of the technical assistance programme. This will hopefully enable the FAO, when setting up the units, to address key agronomic issues such as fertility depletion through continuous cropping; soil erosion; water evaporation by exposure of soil to sun, wind and rain; integration of plant and animals in farming systems, etc.

My delegation is of the opinion that FAO through its experience and professional preparation and competence is poised to assist member countries to deal with all aspects of the antecedents and consequences of environmental degradation.

In the area of soil and water management, the World Soil Charter adopted by FAO member countries in 1981 stresses the need for a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to land use planning and farming systems. Also in conjunction with UNEP and Unesco, FAO has carried out an assessment of soil degradation with the first phase targeted at developing a suitable methodology for measuring and monitoring the problem in the low potential areas in Africa, north of the equator and the Near East. FAO through its Fertilizer Programme has organized training programmes for small farmers on the effective and safe use of fertilizers, particularly in developing countries. In the fisheries sector, the FAO has produced guidelines for the planning, management and development of marine and inland fisheries to help governments formulate national programmes.

Lastly, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan spelled out in paragraphs 138 and 139 of document C 89/2-Sup.2 seeks to address the issue of uncontrolled deforestation and find the right balance between development and environmental protection.

In order to minimize the use of wood fuel, FAO has been working on more fuel-efficient stoves, ovens and smoking such as the Chockor Smoker used in Ghana and elsewhere. Alternative sources such as wind, solar, geo-thermal, hydro, bio-gas are being popularized by FAO, using cost effective technologies.

Paragraph 159 of C 89/2-Sup.2 focuses on FAO's attempts to introduce a strategy for biological diversity and genetic resources to sustain and improve agriculture, livestock, aquaculture and forestry production. FAO has been developing a global system for coordinated action in the plant genetic resources field since 1983. FAO has also been active in the field of animal genetics, conducting surveys of disappearing livestock breeds, working hard to establish regional gene banks and developing new techniques for the recovery and storage of animal semen and embryos, and many more.

Mr Chairman, these are impressive records of achievements in the area of environmental protection. My delegation recommends increased flow of resources to FAO and recommends that the international community should give their full support to the Organization.

Janusz ROWINSKI (Poland): Mr Chairman, forgive me for asking for the floor a second time, but I should like to comment on the document on sustainable development. The major part of my remarks on this document will have the same scope as the document itself - that is, a global approach. These remarks are based on the work of Polish economists who research ecological issues.

In a number of places in the document, we encounter the issue of a conflict between economic targets and ecological ones. These are particularly acute when the growth of agricultural production necessary to cover the basic nutritional needs of the population results in degradation of the environment and supplies from outside the region are not feasible. However, outside these extreme cases, the conflicts are not so sharp. We thus find that the economical and ecological targets are not in conflict over the long term. The conflict referred to may, on the other hand, appear in the short and medium term, when the impact of the degradation of the environment is not so clearly apparent. In such a situation, the calculations tend not to take into account the losses caused by degradation of the environment. In particular, the micro-scale decision calculations made by the farmer take into account only the short-term losses and benefits. For this reason, the legislation on protection of the environment and its observation becomes of extreme importance. It is even suggested that for each farm it is necessary to determine a whole set of ecological rules, permits and bans. It is believed that this would increase the ecological awareness of farmers and would enable the administrative authorities to influence farmers in this area.

The numerous technologies in agricultural production are not neutral in their impact on the environment. Proposals for an absolute ban on such technologies are not possible to implement since any agricultural activity interferes with the natural environment. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the most harmful technologies should be abandoned and the use of other monitored.

It should be noted, however, that the most important sources of degradation of agricultural areas are to be found outside agriculture as such, and these are precisely listed in the document we are discussing. In the industrialized countries, particularly the densely populated ones, the principal local sources of pollution are industrial and communal wastes. In Poland, of particular danger is the degradation of soils as a result of acid rain and, in regions of industrial concentration, pollution with heavy metals. Acid rain is a very serious problem and danger for large areas of forests. The geographical location of Poland results in a situation in which a relatively strong impact on the degradation of the natural environment is exerted by transnational pollution. These problems cause great anxiety among the public, especially in view of some recent investment decisions in neighbouring countries.

**Koji NAKAMURA (Japan):** My country is really interested in the active utilization of fishery resources, while paying attention to their effective conservation. From this point of view, my country anticipates FAO's efforts for the proper use and conservation of fishery resources by further promoting active coordination between coastal fishery countries and long-distance fishery ones, such as the initiative by FAO to establish an international organization among countries for resources management of highly migratory species in the Indian Ocean.

On the other hand, I regret the negation of rational utilization of a specific species without scientific evidence, such as in the case of whaling.

In the case of the high seas drift net fishing, there is an opinion to prohibit it throughout the world. However, the drift net fishing method is one of the traditional and important fishery methods which is widely used in the world.

My country considers that restriction on fishing should be based upon sound scientific evidence, to facilitate the conservation and rational utilization of fishery resources.

We hope that FAO will review the actual situation of drift net fishing in the world, and examine appropriate actions for promoting the study of the effect on the ecosystem of practising the method within its capacity, and take the rational approach based on scientific evidence.

My country is ready to contribute actively on this point.

**David COUTTS (Australia):** Mr Chairman, I gather you are on a list of countries who are speaking for the second time. We are only speaking for the first time and I apologize to the Commission that we have not managed to connect before, but I have been running around between Commissions and the Chairmen and things like that. With your indulgence, I just want to speak on three specific aspects of this topic. The aspects I want to mention are the Uruguay Round, sustainable development and fisheries.

Australia notes that there have been improvements in world commodity markets in recent times, but that these are uneven and may not be sustained. In our view, unfortunately the improvements are not basically a result of fundamental changes in policies which distort market signals and encourage subsidized surpluses which some countries dispose of in world markets. That is why we feel that the most important development in relation to improving

the world agricultural situation is the Uruguay Round. The Trade Negotiations Committee Agreement reached in April commits all GATT contracting parties to substantial, progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection. However, it is the major industrialized countries who are primarily responsible for the disarray in agriculture markets. It is these countries which will have to make the greatest changes to existing policies.

The documents on this subject do not mention, as far as I can see, very specifically the Cairns Group. We could not let this topic pass without underlining that, in our view, this Group has been a most important catalyst encouraging progress on agriculture in the Uruguay Round. Certainly, we hope that role will continue. The Cairns Group Ministers will be meeting in Thailand later this month.

Why we particularly want to underline the importance of that initiative is that the Cairns Group brings together, as you yourself would know, a widely different group of countries in terms of stages of development, and, I think, has shown that there can be very effective work towards a more rational international market system via such a group of countries.

Australia holds the view that the focus of the Uruguay Round of negotiations on agriculture needs to be on commitments regarding policy-specific measures. This focus would ensure that the most trade-distorting policies are targeted for reform. An appropriate aggregate measurement of support could be used to complement these policy-specific commitments.

The recent United States' comprehensive paper on agricultural reform is most welcome, and provides much with which Australia can agree. It shows the way on how to achieve the Trade Negotiations Committee's objective of a market-oriented and equitable system for agriculture. We urge other participants, especially the EEC and Japan, to respond constructively to the US paper and, if they cannot agree exactly with it, to bring forward their own genuine negotiating proposals of comparable quality.

As we enter the critical final year of the Uruguay Round, participants in the agricultural negotiations are urged to demonstrate their commitments to the April Agreement and to engage in positive and constructive negotiations.

The benefits of the reform of agricultural policies will be enormous for the beneficiaries, including not only farmers but consumers, governments and the environment. Australia believes that agricultural trade liberalization will benefit all countries, especially developing countries. Studies have indicated that developing countries stand to gain most from multilateral reform if they adjust their own agricultural programmes in conjunction with liberalization in the industrialized countries.

At the same time, Australia and the other members of the Cairns Group recognize that specific problems face developing countries. We have made clear our commitment to the application of special and differential treatment for developing countries in the agricultural negotiations.

On sustainable development, the World Commission on Environment brought the world's attention to this concept. We find sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Despite a growing appreciation of the concept of sustainable development, the daunting task of reorienting development to place it on a sustainable footing is yet to begin in earnest. There have been suggestions and ideas put forward, such as the

Brundtland Commission, but there is still a need for the concept to be translated into workable plans. we feel a challenge for this Conference, and for the FAO and UN System more generally, is to successfully encourage development of such action-oriented plans, for nowhere is the concept of sustainable development more important than in the food and agricultural sector.

Many of the issues that arise in sustainable development, in a sense are country, regional or community specific. However, the international community, particularly the wealthier, developed nations must also play a considerable part. Where a developing country cannot afford to embrace sustainable policies, a moral obligation falls on the more developed nations to provide assistance.

It has been observed that many of today's ecological and environmental problems have their roots in the development of now-wealthy industrialized nations of the world, and that these nations cannot deny the poorer nations the same development opportunities in the name of environmental awareness not evident in their own development.

As with many persuasive arguments, this is only partly true we feel. Whilst the inequity of wealth distribution around the globe cannot be denied, this does not increase the wisdom of developing or developed nations despoiling their own ecological capital. The international community must address itself to the major issues that are within its field of influence. The potential stumbling block for the development of action-oriented sustainable development strategies is their likely cost, both in terms of opportunities foregone and the rehabilitation of already-damaged environments and ecosystems. It would be wrong to assume that these costs must fall exclusively on the governments of developing countries, which may be ill-equipped to bear them.

The economic interests undertaking development - both private and public interests - must themselves bear these costs, provided governments institute effective mechanisms to ensure that this occurs. Consideration of the costs of sustainable development again highlights the need for internationally coordinated responses. Here will be few incentives for few countries to adopt sound sustainable development policies if, in doing so, development is merely driven to other, perhaps less scrupulous areas - or less concerned areas, I should say.

Therefore, let me re-emphasize a central theme for the Conference, and that is the development of a viable long-term strategy in food and agriculture based on sustainable development. The challenge for FAO is to develop and implement those plans, to the extent that it is able, in the international arena.

Lastly, on fisheries, I only want to comment on one aspect, and that is driftnet fishing, which, by accident, follows the intervention of Japan. Australia is concerned at the alarming expansion in pelagic driftnet activity by distant-water fishing fleets, which is threatening the future of marine resources and the communities which depend on them. Driftnet imposes a threat to marine resources wherever it is practised. Consequently, Australia is pressing for a global ban on driftnet fishing.

However, I would underline that we are talking about the large-scale pelagic drift netting. I think it is very important to make a distinction between that form of drift netting and the smaller form of drift netting and gill

netting that has been used for many, many years, particularly in coastal waters, often by developing countries. It needs to be quite clear that that is not what we are talking about. What we are talking about is the extremely large-scale indiscriminate activity which we call pelagic drift netting, using nets of perhaps 60 km in length on the high seas. I think that distinction needs to be made very carefully.

Australia believes that there is sufficient evidence to link the enormous increase in this drift-net activity to the very real possibility of the southern albacore fishery which is so important to the South Pacific collapsing within a few years time.

We have given the large potential to expanding such operations in the South Pacific if the countries who are engaging in this activity choose to do so.

Since driftnet fleets moved into the South Pacific, the future of major regional fisheries for the albacore tuna and island economies reliant on them has been placed in jeopardy. The effect on marine mammals, etc., is quite apart from the other environmental aspects, and this is also very serious in our view. It is essential for the future of these fisheries and the island nations that all parties involved take a responsible position on the control of driftnet activities. There have been many discussions within the South Pacific region. Australia supported the Tarawa Declaration adopted at the South Pacific forum in July which called for a management regime which would ban drift netting from the region. We are also joining other South Pacific nations in drafting a convention banning drift netting from their exclusive economic zones and by their nationals on the high seas - expected to be completed in a November meeting in New Zealand. We have also joined a number of other nations, I would say a rapidly growing number of nations, in co-sponsoring a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, currently under discussion in the Second Commission, which calls for an immediate ban on the practice of driftnet fishing in the South Pacific region and a moratorium on all high seas driftnet fishing by 30 June 1992. These resolutions do envisage the United Nations specialized agencies working on increasing their research in this area, and we certainly support that line of thinking. However, we do not consider that that replaces the need for an immediate ban or moratorium on this activity. We feel there is sufficient evidence, and it is too dangerous to continue such activities pending this research.

However, we do support the concept of further research in this area and we do think that FAO is going to have to upgrade its activities in this regard. We think that should await the passage of the resolution in the United Nations. That is all I want to say.

Mbome MOUKIA GOTTLIEBE (Cameroun) : La délégation du Cameroun adresse ses compliments au Secrétariat de la FAO pour le travail accompli en vue de nous présenter cet important document sur la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Ce document contient des informations et des renseignements très utiles et intéressants pour la conduite de l'agriculture mondiale dans les années à venir. La situation dans le domaine de l'agriculture proprement dit, dans le secteur de l'élevage, dans le domaine des forêts et dans celui de la pêche est présentée sans fard. Cette situation est à peu près la même qu'il y a deux ans et même avant. Elle risque d'être la même dans deux ans, quatre ans, six ans ou même dix ans.

Elle présente le monde en deux groupes sur le plan alimentaire: un groupe de pays où la situation reste stable et sécurisante, et un autre groupe de pays où la situation alimentaire suscite bien des inquiétudes. Le problème qui préoccupe ou doit préoccuper la communauté internationale consiste à trouver des solutions pour sortir les pays en difficulté de leur mauvaise situation. Les raisons et les causes de cet état de choses doivent être examinées et analysées avec lucidité, et des mesures appropriées appliquées avec sagesse et courage.

Le monde est un tout; il n'est en sécurité véritable que lorsque toutes les parties qui le composent sont harmonieusement en sécurité. Chaque partie du monde, chaque nation a sa part de responsabilité, sa part de travail à accomplir.

Par la même occasion, nous voulons souligner l'importance que présente le thème de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'environnement, cette année. La survie de l'humanité dépend de la manière plus ou moins judicieuse dont sont exploitées les richesses de la planète.

Pour terminer, nous approuvons et appuyons les initiatives et les efforts de la FAO pour promouvoir le développement de l'agriculture dans le monde.

Mohammed Badr El Din EL MASOUDI (Libya) (original language Arabic) : We had the impression that a very essential point is worthwhile.

We share the views of those countries who have highlighted problems of the debt burden which weighs so heavily on them, and there is no doubt that there is a solid linkage between the volume of these debts and efforts deployed by developing countries in order to repay these debts. This is to the detriment of their own resources which are now getting depleted. We find this in the deterioration of funds, water, plants, animal, forestry and soil resources. These constraints are put on us by many suppliers and have a very negative impact on all developing countries and this is what has already been pointed out and described by a number of delegates. The financial institutions, therefore, are called upon to give the Organization the necessary funds to help the debtor countries to resolve their problems. That is all I want to say at this point.

I.M. NUR (Observer for QAU): I would like to pay tribute to the Secretariat of the FAO for the efforts undertaken in the preparation of document C 89/2 and its supplements.

Some of the points I wanted to speak about, e.g. food aid and food security, were already covered by previous speakers. In addition, QAU is scheduled to address the Plenary tomorrow afternoon. The statement at Plenary will cater for different aspects of the food and agriculture situation in Africa. Thus, there is no need to repeat them over here.

Now I have the following points to make: firstly, with respect to External Debt I would like to add the following:

- 1) In 1960s External Debt in Africa was US\$ 16 billion;
- 2) In 1989 External Debt in Africa was US\$ 230 billion;
- 3) Payment of External Debt constitutes 70 percent of the export earnings;
- 4) Debt service is 100 - 300 percent of the exports;
- 5) Debt service is increasing at the rate of 6.4 percent annually.

The QAU has already formed a Contact Group on Debt. The Contact Group is composed of a specific number of African countries, and is mandated to find appropriate strategies for tackling the problem of debt in Africa.

Secondly, we would have liked to see some paragraphs covering the question of fragility of soils, which could be due to climate as well as to the agricultural systems adopted. Food and fibre crops are usually considered as soil-depleting crops.

Thirdly, the basic problem of African agricultural development resides in the subsistence sector, when the macroeconomic imperatives of demand/supply situation and structure are not known with any degree of accuracy. This sector constitutes 58 percent of the total agricultural production.

Fourthly, in different parts of the document Africa is being classified as sub-Saharan Africa. Thus we have two Áfricas based on this classification. May I know the criterion used for classifying Africa north and south of the Sahara? This classification is non-scientific and does not match the one used by the QAU or the Economic Commission of Africa.

Food and agriculture cannot be classified as north and south of the Sahara. It can be classified on the basis of ecology as ecology affects food and agriculture, both in quantity and quality. Half of Africa's nations are partly or completely in arid or semi-arid zones. The arid lands of Africa fall into three broad geographic subregions and include: the North African subregion, comprising 46 million hectares of arid lands between isohyets 100 and 400 millimetres; secondly, the West African subregion, which occupies an area of 140 million hectares located between isohyets of 200 and 600 millimetres; and, thirdly, the East and Southern African subregion arid lands which occupy an area of 223.4 million hectares. The deserts cover some 155 million hectares in this area and receive less than 20 mm of average precipitation.

I suggest that in future the section dealing with the State of Food and Agriculture in Africa could "be prepared jointly by FAO and QAU, as both organizations are working for the uplift of African agriculture.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): My colleague representing Kuwait yesterday raised a very important point which warrants all our attention. It was couched in a recommendation and it called on the lending countries to impose a moratorium on the interest and principle owed as foreign debt. It is very difficult to demand reimbursement, and therefore we feel that the lending countries should renounce this right to the debt, and this way we will be able to establish and strengthen trust and understanding amongst people, and we would like to thank Kuwait for this.

E. D. OLET (Uganda): The Ugandan delegation would like to honour you, Mr Chairman, for being elected Chairman of the Commission.

Most delegates have already reacted largely on the document The State of Food and Agriculture 1989, and therefore I shall be brief.



Uganda, like most developing countries, depends largely upon agriculture. FAO over the years has contributed immensely towards the development of agriculture in my country. Of course, I do not forget such organizations and countries as the EEC, USAID, ODA, UNDP, DANIDA, FINNIDA, Australia, New Zealand, West Germany, etc.

Agricultural activities, including crop production, livestock, forestry and fisheries, have stagnated during the last fifteen years or so because of the political turmoil which the country has experienced. However, with the caning of the National Resistance Movement, agriculture is now picking up because peace has returned to most of the country.

Before concluding I should like to emphasize one serious problem faced by my country: the problem of environmental degradation. The new government, having assumed power in 1986, immediately created a new ministry called the Ministry of Environment Protection, to tackle environmental issues. His Excellency the President and members of his cabinet have given top priority to environmental degradation, especially in the forests, due to large-scale deforestation. Deforestation has been due to clearance of forests for cultivation, overgrazing and indiscriminate cutting of trees for fuelwood, charcoal and other wood products. To reverse the trend of forest destruction, the government has come up with a project known as the Forestry Rehabilitation Project, which was identified and prepared by the World Bank. The project covers the following areas: (a) rehabilitation of Forest Department by providing logistic support, which is being financed by the International Development Association of the World Bank; (b) rehabilitation of the natural high forests, which is being supported by the EEC; (c) rehabilitation of the softwood plantation, which is being supported by the International Development Association; (d) peri-urban plantation development, which is being financed by NORAD; (e) farm forestry, which is community based, and is financed by DANIDA; (f) training of forestry staff, which is being executed by FAO.

This project is mostly of a rehabilitation nature, and the Ugandan delegation is appealing for more assistance for subsequent forest development.

As I speak, FAO is fielding an identification mission to identify more proposals for agricultural development.

The Ugandan delegation, and the country as a whole, supports firmly FAO's agricultural activities throughout the world under the wise leadership of Edouard Saouma.

CHAIRMAN: The Chair has been receiving a number of requests to speak, and of course the Chair will accept all of them, but I wanted to remind delegates that the list of speakers was closed yesterday at the end of our meeting. I hope that this generous approach by the Chair will not be interpreted as meaning that, whenever we close our list of speakers, it can be reopened. In future I would be grateful if delegations would have themselves listed before we close the list of speakers.

Moeketsi MOKATI (Lesotho) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, for being so generous as to allow me to speak at this late point. Allow me to congratulate you on the excellent manner in which you have been guiding these deliberations.

Many delegations have already expressed their views on this important item. My delegation simply wishes to express its concerns alongside those of other delegations•

Let me begin by saying that we are encouraged to note from the documents presented to us that the world economy has continued to recover. Our concern, however, stems from the fact that this recovery was almost all in the economies of the developed countries. In developing countries growth continued to be marginal and most notably equal to, or less than, the rate of population growth.

The general decline in food production in the whole world is also noted with apprehension. Again we note that the per caput food production only grew by 1 percent in Africa. This growth rate is less than the rate of population growth, which is estimated at 2.6 percent.

Allow me to make a few observations on my country, Lesotho, which has suffered the same fate as other developing countries.

In Lesotho, food production, especially cereal production, has been declining for the past two decades. It is true that we registered a good harvest in the 1987/88 growing season, but this was at levels lower than those 1976/77, 1977/78 and 1978/79 growing seasons when cereal yields were at their highest.

The 1988/89 growing season saw a continuation of this decline. Ploughing and planting operations were severely hampered by heavy rains. When planting had finally been done, we experienced a cutworm outbreak which necessitated several replantings. The crop which survived this cutworm onslaught was later damaged by an early frost precipitated by the wet, cool conditions. An estimated 70 percent of the crop was damaged.

Prospects for this growing season (1989/90) are not promising. Already ploughing and planting operations have been delayed because of the dry conditions. This can only mean an increased risk of frost damage to crops towards the end of the growing season.

The failure to increase food production can only have negative impacts on the health and nutrition of the population of developing countries, especially children.

We are the first to acknowledge the fact that we have made mistakes in the past like promoting food production in isolation from conservation of the environment. Even when we did conserve the soil and water resources, we did this in isolation, outside the food production context. We have however learned from our past mistakes. Hence we are promoting vigorously the policy of conservation with increased productivity. Other policy reforms like credit policy reforms, to allow easy access to credit by small farmers, especially women, are being made. We are also looking to revise the Land Act to give greater protection to land and water resources as well as stimulating investment in agriculture.

We cannot help but note that even positive development in developing countries, like high prices of agricultural products, cannot trigger a positive production response. There are many missing links, like employment, which would translate into effective demand. Lack of financial resources also means farmers are not able to translate these high prices into increased production.

We will need help to overcome all these problems. we would like to agree with Colaribia that increased food and transfers can help mitigate this situation. In the face of these declining indicators, we wish to suggest that debt write-offs can help the developing countries to concentrate on food production.

The worsening situation of the developing countries can only mean that these countries will increase their demands on the FAO and its sister organizations.

My delegation finds it difficult, therefore, to reconcile this situation with the demands for zero-budgetary growth made by some of the distinguished delegates from developed countries.

Aboubakar **KOLY-KOUROUMA (Guinée)**: De l'analyse du document C 89/2 par la délégation de la République de la Guinée il ressort ce qui suit.

Le panorama économique mondial fait état d'un divorce criard entre la croissance économique des six dernières années (jusqu'à fin 1988) des pays industrialisés et d'Asie en particulier, et les difficultés, la faiblesse des taux d'investissement, les sorties nettes de capitaux, la dette dans les pays d'Afrique et d'Amérique Latine.

Les causes de cette situation sont l'inflation, la hausse des taux d'intérêts et le refus d'allègement de la dette des pays en développement.

En ce qui concerne l'évolution de la production, bien que la croissance de la production mondiale soit de l'ordre de 3,2 en 1987 et 3,8 en 1988, des disparités apparaissent entre les régions du monde; elles sont vigoureuses pour les pays industrialisés (3,4), spectaculaires pour l'Asie (6,8 en 1987 et 7,3 en 1988); la production a chuté en Afrique et surtout en Amérique Latine.

Malgré quelques mesures timides d'ajustement, de rééchelonnement et d'allègement de la dette, la vraie solution des problèmes réside dans la réorientation du flux des ressources vers les pays en voie de développement.

Cette situation économique mondiale peu brillante amène la délégation de la République de Guinée à formuler quelques suggestions qui tendront, à notre avis, à accrocher au train du progrès les pays en développement, notamment ceux d'Afrique, d'Amérique Latine et des Caraïbes. Les mesures suivantes devraient être envisagées:

- premièrement l'allègement, sinon la résiliation du fardeau du service de la dette;
- deuxièmement, la mise en oeuvre d'un ajustement structurel à visage humain dans les pays en voie de développement par la Banque mondiale et le FMI;
- troisièmement, le démantèlement des barrières protectionnistes, surtout dans les pays industrialisés;
- quatrièmement, l'accélération des négociations de l'Uruguay Round afin de doter le commerce mondial d'instruments supplémentaires efficaces;

- cinquièmement, le soutien de la croissance agricole de ces deux dernières années par des investissements productifs dans le secteur vivrier, la protection des forêts tropicales et leur extension, le soutien financier des petits agriculteurs qui constituent la majorité des agriculteurs en Afrique;
- sixièmement, le développement des ressources humaines par la protection des revenus réels par des mécanismes anti-inflationnistes;
- septièmement, l'examen de la mise en oeuvre d'un nouveau programme économique de l'Afrique après la revue à mi-parcours (1988) de l'actuel programme où l'accent pourrait être mis sur la protection de l'environnement, le développement des ressources en eau, la production vivrière etc.;
- huitièmement, l'augmentation du budget des institutions multilatérales de développement dont les actions sont d'un impact positif sur les pays du Sud;
- neuvièmement, et enfin l'aide à la gestion économique dans les pays en développement sur l'Afrique,

Pour ce faire, ma délégation compte sur le soutien des organisations internationales, notamment la FAO dont nous nous félicitons dans mon pays de l'appui efficace de plus en plus croissant.

Nous comptons également sur le soutien des pays industrialisés qui, dans leurs actions aussi bien bilatérales que multilatérales, doivent absolument aider les pays en développement à sortir de ce cercle infernal de la faim, de la malnutrition, de la maladie, bref de la misère.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): First of all, our delegation expresses its extreme apology for intervening at such a time. However, our delegation feels that we have to respond to the intervention made by several other delegates concerning the driftnet issue, and we would like to clarify our position again, hopefully to get understanding of what we have been doing and what we are thinking positively for the future.

First of all, about the size of the driftnet. The Australian delegation mentioned this high sea long driftnet should be distinguished from the coastal driftnet, although our delegation showed great respect for the coastal fisheries which uses a small unit. However, we would like to emphasize in the coastal area, as opposed to the high sea area, there are many kinds of fish and marine resources, and the population of the coastal area of any kind of fish and sea bass is immense, so we also have to pay attention if we consider the protection of the living resources.

Secondly, the Australian delegation also touched upon the draft resolution already put forward in the United Nations Assembly, but the Japanese delegation to the United Nations also introduced a draft resolution, and both resolutions are considered. The difference is that the formal resolution says that there is enough scientific evidence so that immediate ban should be implemented, but our draft resolution asks that any action should be based upon scientific information and thereby scientific analysis. The Japanese Government has been asking the countries participating in the South Pacific Fisheries Meeting but we do not so far get information that the evidence is clear to lead to the moratorium. However, such a document on the side of Australia and New Zealand also urges further studies are needed, and in that respect, urges the scientific research be despatched immediately. So we decided, we already send, a scientific research vessel to this area. Also

about responding to the great concern on this matter by the South Pacific countries, we have already taken severe measures to limit our fisheries operation. We have already reduced the number of fishing vessels from 60 to 20, and 20 is the level of the fishing vessels which is the same as that attained by the US Tuna Fisheries. So that, with respect to the impact on the fishery resources and marine resources itself, our fishing fleet level is already at the level equal to others.

The fourth point is that we understand that this organization, FAO, carries a good aim, particularly for this biennium. We have the concept and priority area of sustainable development which means, as we interpret, environmental concern, and at the same time production should be ensured and harmonized. In this respect in the past Committee on development of the tropical forests, if I am not mistaken certain delegations talked about embargo, but I think so that the Committee also prevails on good sense to keep the environmental protection for the tropical forest, and at the same time utilization of the tropical forest, it is important that that Committee also denies the idea of the embargo. I think this kind of idea should also be prevailed in any other field of FAO activity, otherwise we just bog down the environmental protection, and there is nothing gained for the purpose of production by which we have to sustain the growing demands for the growing population. So, we believe that FAO is really suitable to discuss this matter rather than the discussion of this matter being prevailed in the United Nations itself, because FAO is a technical organization and a specialized organization in this field.

That is the response to the intervention made by several other delegates, and finally, my delegation would like to see that this intervention is reflected in the report of Commission 1, as the US delegation requested.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have to close our meeting now because, as we all knew, His Holiness the Pope has kindly accepted to receive us.

The Drafting Committee will meet at 18.00 in the Malaysia Room. The members of the Drafting Committee I will recall again - Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Liberia, New Zealand, Spain, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Tunisia. Lastly, after we have heard Angola and the Holy See and the answers from the Secretariat, we move on to Item 6.2 of our Agenda, International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8, and 12 document C 89/18. I thank you for your attention and the meeting is adjourned.

The Meeting rose at 10.45 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.45 horas



**conference**

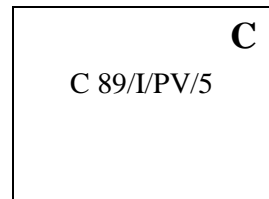
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING  
CINQUIEME SEANCE  
QUINTA SESION

(16 November 1989)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola): Monsieur le Président, en premier lieu, comme mes prédécesseurs, je voudrais vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre élection à la présidence de cette importante Comiission. Je voudrais également associer à ces félicitations, d'une part, M. Dutia, qui a présenté d'une manière claire et précise un résumé relatif aux documents qui font l'objet de notre analyse et, d'autre part, le Secrétariat, qui a acrampli sa noble tâche.

La délégation angolaise constate avec satisfaction que le document C 89/2 et annexes reflète la réalité que nous vivons dans nos pays respectifs et elle appuie sans réserve la FAO dans son effort de recherche de moyens pour combattre la faim et la malnutrition ainsi que les effets néfastes à l'environnement qui, aujourd'hui, constituent un crime contre l'humanité.

Je ne voudrais pas m'étendre sur tous les points que mes prédécesseurs ont largement abordés. Je leur demande de faire miennes leurs remarques sur les documents en question et sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Mais quelques points ont retenu mon attention. Dans le cas particulier de l'Angola, les grandes zones de production céréalière sont affectées par des actions déstabilisatrices dont les origines viennent de l'extérieur. Les paysans sur lesquels nous avons placé nos espoirs ont abandonné les zones rurales à cause des attaques répétées menées par l'UNITA à l'intérieur. Ceux qui y sont restés vivent dans l'insécurité. Tenant compte de la situation que mon pays traverse et que tout le monde connaît, malgré les efforts consentis, par exemple la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'assainissement économique et financier, la résolution des problèmes alimentaires et agricoles passe obligatoirement par le programme de paix proposé par mon gouvernement et approuvé par la Conférence des chefs d'Etat qui s'est tenue à Gbadolité, en République du Zaïre.

Deux catastrophes naturelles sont venues rendre la situation alimentaire et agricole encore plus difficile. Permettez-moi d'attirer votre attention sur le fait qu'alors qu'on s'y attendait le moins, l'année agricole 1988-89 a connu, à partir de janvier, une longue période de sécheresse en pleine saison pluvieuse. Cette calamité a complètement détruit nos récoltes. La deuxième catastrophe naturelle est due aux inondations le long des cours d'eau provoquées par de fortes pluies qui se sont abattues dans le centre du pays; non seulement elles ont détruit les cultures marâchères mais elles ont en outre provoqué des maladies endémiques telles que le choléra et les autres maladies que nous connaissons.



Comme conséquence aux différentes situations citées plus haut, deux conférences ont été organisées en vue d'apporter une assistance supplémentaire à l'Angola. La première, qui s'est réalisée au mois de mai 1988 à Genève, a permis au gouvernement de recevoir des donateurs et organisations non gouvernementales une aide alimentaire et non alimentaire évaluée à environ 110 millions de dollars. La deuxième et dernière conférence a été organisée récemment à Luanda, en septembre de l'année en cours. Celle-ci a donné aussi des fruits mais un peu plus réduits.

Je profite de cette occasion pour remercier, une fois de plus, les agences spécialisées des Nations Unies et tous les pays donateurs parmi lesquels je citerai l'Italie, le Canada, le Danemark, l'Espagne, la Norvège, la République fédérale d'Allemagne, le Royaume-Uni, la Suède, la FAO, notre Organisation, et le PAM qui ont bien voulu répondre spontanément à notre appel.

La FAO, dans la sagesse africaine, est vue comme un foyer constitué des trois pierres que nos braves paysans utilisent pour la préparation de leur nourriture. Les trois pierres sont l'agriculture, la pêche et les forêts.

Je voudrais limiter mon propos à la foresterie et à l'environnement. Dans le document C 89/2 Sup. 2, on nous demande des avis et des directives pour la mise au point des politiques et des programmes pratiqués et opérationnels en vue d'un développement durable et sans danger pour l'environnement des trois composantes mentionnées.

Je voudrais rappeler que l'environnement, qui est un sujet d'actualité, a été un des thèmes abordés lors du 9ème sommet des pays non alignés qui s'est tenu le 7 septembre 1989 à Belgrade, République socialiste et fédérative de la Yougoslavie.

Un document composé de 11 points a été élaboré et adopté, et qui, me semble-t-il, répond en quelque sorte aux préoccupations du document C 89/2 Sup. 2. Celui-ci pourra éventuellement servir de source d'inspiration pour nos futurs travaux.

S'agissant de la foresterie, une conférence a été organisée en juin 1989 dans mon pays en vue de trouver des formes pratiques pour l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources forestières, de proposer une stratégie et de déterminer les lignes maîtresses pour une politique forestière intégrée.

L'une des conclusions auxquelles est arrivée la Conférence a été la nécessité d'établir un plan directeur pour l'activité forestière. Le gouvernement de mon pays fera appel une fois de plus à l'assistance technique de la FAO pour son élaboration et sa mise en oeuvre.

Un dernier point a retenu mon attention: il s'agit du point 41 du document C 89/2 Sup. 1. En plus des graves problèmes qu'elle connaît, voilà que vient d'apparaître en Afrique un nouveau parasite, la lucilie bouchère; le document reconnaît que le parasite risque de frapper le cheptel et même la population de l'Afrique en premier lieu, ainsi que celle du Moyen-Orient et de l'Europe méridionale. De plus, du fait des conditions climatiques tropicales ou subtropicales, cet insecte peut se propager rapidement, mais le document ne nous présente pas de chiffres indicatifs sur les ravages causés, chiffres qui permettraient à nos autorités politiques d'être sensibilisées. De fait, le document semble être dépassé aujourd'hui puisque je crois avoir entendu hier que l'insecte s'est propagé dans d'autres pays.

Je remercie le représentant de la Libye et de l'Egypte qui ont bien voulu nous donner des informations sur les actions menées pour combattre la lucilie bouchère.

A cette occasion, je demande à la FAO de passer à l'action c'est-à-dire à la mise en application des recommandations adoptées en juin 1989, et ce, avant que ce phénomène ne devienne un désastre pour l'Afrique et le monde.

Aloysius FONSECA (Holy See) : I must begin my intervention with a note of apology because I handed in my name so late. I have to be grateful to you for considering my request.

This morning delegates have already heard what the Holy Father had to say on the environment. I prefer to restrict myself to the other aspects which we are examining in these documents. To my mind, documents C 89/2 and C 89/2, Sups. 1 and 2, give us an invaluable insight into the state of food and agriculture, against the background of the prevailing international economic system. Without going into a detailed discussion of the many issues raised in these pages, this observer prefers to highlight and accentuate some of the crucial problems raised when these pages are considered from a more humanistic and social, as well as ethical, approach in the search for a solution.

One can hardly doubt that the external debt problem has assumed an importance in recent years that one could hardly have expected a few years ago. However, for the first time in international relations, especially between creditors and debtors, has it now been accepted that the debt overhang is a real obstacle to the developing world in its efforts to overcome its frustrations in achieving economic self-sufficiency, at least in regard to satisfying the basic essential needs of its population.

While the Baker Plan regarded external debt as a problem of illiquidity, Mr Brady of the United States Treasury has finally and openly accepted the debt overhang as a problem of insolvency, in which case debt reduction becomes absolutely necessary, or at least one of the viable ways of helping debtor countries to invest the amounts saved in order to repay the remaining portion of their debts.

On this aspect, we should remind ourselves of what the Mexican delegate had to say in his intervention. This is possible precisely because the commercial banking system in developed countries is in a much better position today to cope with the problem of a cut-back in the debt. Given the global interdependence economy in which we live today, and the fact that barriers between the nations and regions are falling apart, makes it all the more imperative to take such remedies without fear or hesitation and in a spirit of solidarity so strongly recommended in the last encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* of Pope John Paul II.

Similarly, in the spirit of accommodation and unity, the possibility of increasing the exports of the developing world to the advanced industrial countries becomes almost an obligation on the part of those who can afford to make such concessions. Obviously, the GATT and the Uruguay Round frameworks could be inspired with the same consideration of human solidarity which in no way obstructs the functioning of a more liberalized system, but in fact sustains and promotes its development.

Another important issue raised in the global survey of the FAO document relates to the high rates of interest which can have a crippling effect on economic and commercial relationships. However, the real point is not whether the market sets such high interest rates, but whether such high interest rates are justifiable. If one approaches the problem from the economic assumption that the entrepreneur borrows with the intention of paying back his debt out of the productive use of his investment, obviously the rate of interest must be linked to the productivity of that investment.

Unfortunately interest rates today are used for controlling inflation or for obtaining funds for covering government deficits. This assumption may be questioned, but it is worthwhile examining the matter because even a great economist like Keynes pleaded for low interest rates to overcome employment and to increase investment.

Finally, it is good to know that, as the document once again emphasizes, there is enough food to go around to feed the world's population, despite the shortages in some parts or regions of the globe. The most disastrous aspect of this problem is that many of the hungry do not have incomes enough to buy the food that is available. Besides the food security scheme of the FAO however, the food security scheme of the FAO provides a safeguard in cases of emergencies. But this only proves that nature is not niggardly, and the fact that even today so many millions live in a situation without adequate diet or nutrition leads one to conclude that the real cause is man-made and reflects on a certain amount of human indifference and apathy to those stricken with starvation. Once again, there is need of a deep motivating force to eradicate such an inhuman crisis without delay. Fortunately, our world is, I believe, much more aware of these problems, and there is today a much greater sense of obligation to help others in need. But such a force could be used, and should be used more effectively by an organization like FAO to achieve its objectives and suggest policy measures based on such convictions.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished observer of the Holy See. We have by now concluded our debate on Item 6.1 on our Agenda of the State of Food and Agriculture. Fifty-seven countries and three observers have spoken on this issue. But to address the specific point, the representatives of Egypt, Libya and Iraq ask for the floor.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): We are pleased to see you in the Chair, and therefore we would like to congratulate you and the Vice-Chairman on your election. The Group of the Arab Countries participating in the Conference have studied the deteriorating agricultural situation in the Palestinian occupied territories and its relation to the negative effect on the agricultural production and hence the food security of the Palestinian people. From there, the Arab Group will submit our draft resolution to the Conference which requests the Director-General to study the food and agricultural situation in the Palestinian occupied territories and to give particular attention to this situation.

Ali ARHOUMA (Libya) (original language Arabic): I think that the person in charge of submitting the draft resolution is outside the room now, and therefore we might as well wait for him a few minutes until he comes back. We request that you postpone this for a few minutes so we can have the person in charge come in and submit the draft resolution.

Tawfik Ahmad Hassan Al MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate you on your election to preside over this Commission. I would like also to congratulate the Vice-Chairman and would like also to thank the Conference for the election of my country as Vice-Chairman of this Commission.

Concerning what has been said by the (Aral) Republic of Egypt, I would like to approve what he said concerning the draft resolution which will be submitted by the Arab Group. Since this draft resolution is of interest to a large number of agricultural workers and farmers in the Palestinian occupied territories and they need the help of the Organization in order to overcome hunger and poverty which is spreading among these people who have been suffering from colonization for a long time in these territories.

CHAIRMAN: As we all know, resolutions presented to this Conference before coming to this Commission for discussion and eventual approval of adoption have to be discussed by the Resolutions Committee, and only after analysis by this Resolutions Committee do they come back to this Committee to be discussed. We will now indicate also that they will present the resolutions on sustainable development and, of course, this resolution will be presented in the name of the Nordic Group, if I'm not wrong. This resolution will also follow the same path.

Ali ARHOUMA (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to make a correction. This is not a draft resolution which we want to present, but we simply wanted to emphasize and highlight the situation existing in the occupied Palestinian territories, which is a very difficult situation in which most of the farmers in these areas find themselves. We wanted to support what has been said by the representative of Egypt. We feel that FAO has a very vital role to play in improving the food and agricultural situation in the occupied Arab territory.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished representative of Libya. I apologize if I have misinterpreted the statement by the distinguished representative of Egypt. I thought I heard that the Arab countries would like to present a resolution on this issue. If not so, I apologize for having misinterpreted.

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): The Arab Group is, in point of fact, going to present a draft resolution to the Resolutions Committee, of course, after having mentioned this subject during this Plenary session.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Egypt for his clarification. One last point in the discussion of our item: Pakistan had informed the Chair that he wishes to add to his statement a small point and that this addition ought to be included in the verbatim record. If the Committee does not see any difficulty in that it will be done. As I see no objections, it will be done.

**Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan)** : My delegation will like to particularly invite the attention of this Commission to para 16 of the document C 89/2-Sup 2 which embodies apprehensions of environmental damage being accentuated, as a result of the economic structural adjustment programmes and will stress that the magnitude of the proximity and immediacy of the twin problems of agricultural development and hunger as against the mounting population pressure faced by the developing countries, out of sheer necessity entails that poverty and hunger be accorded priority. The long-term objectives such as sustainable management of natural resources are important and have, essentially, to be incorporated in the overall economic development plan. However, at this point in time, when the threats of hunger and poverty loom large on the horizon in most of the developing countries, we will like to caution that it will not perhaps be appropriate to link the aid and assistance for economic adjustment programmes with conditionalities of environmental considerations. This is an important issue and needs to be given serious thought.

We would also advert the attention of the Commission to paras 30 and 38 of document C 89/2-Sup. 2 which, inter alia, indicate the difficulties of assessing the magnitude, complexity and accuracy of the extent of various modes of environmental degradation and hope that FAO, in conjunction with other Agencies, will take appropriate measures and provide necessary assistance to the developing countries in this regard so that necessary policy and plans could be formulated on a more rational basis for arresting and reversing the environmental degradation trend.

Mr Chairman, we fully appreciate the efforts undertaken by FAO, responding to the gravity of the situation, in highlighting the importance of the issue and creating awareness among the international community for better integration of environmental consideration into agricultural and economic policies. The Organization has actively involved itself in collaboration with IUCN, UNEP, UNESCO and other agencies in terms of providing policy and technical assistance and in carrying out research and studies on the major issues of environmental concern. Of particular mention is the contribution of FAO in the development of World Conservation Strategy. We, while supporting FAO, are eagerly looking forward to the initiatives and actions envisaged by the Organization-for reduction and reversal of the process of environmental degradation. /

**CHAIRMAN:** I give the floor to Mr Dutia to reply in the name of the Secretariat to the various queries raised here.

**B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department):** On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to express our gratitude for the general appreciation that has been voiced by the delegates on the documents that have been submitted for this agenda item. Of course, we have noted a number of very useful suggestions that have been made by the distinguished delegates for further refining and augmenting the contents and analysis for our future documents on the State of Food and Agriculture. We shall certainly do our best to respond to these suggestions to the maximum extent possible. We also appreciate the new information, and in some cases corrections that have been provided by the distinguished delegates. This will be useful to us for our future work in this area.

In particular, I would like to refer to the new information that has been provided by major food aid donors concerning the food aid level in the

I Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

current year. On the basis of this information, it now seems likely that the food aid level in the current year will be significantly higher than 8.3 million tons which we had reported in C 89/2-Sup. 1. Of course we hope that after the planned drawing from the US food security reserve to augment the food aid this year from the United States, the reserve will be replenished as soon as possible.

Mr Chairman, with your permission, I would now like to refer to some of the questions and the clarifications which the distinguished delegates have asked about. The distinguished delegates of France, Sweden and the United Kingdom felt that we in the Secretariat were rather over-pessimistic about the food situation and outlook, especially on the basis of the cereal stock consumption ratio which we are currently forecasting at 17 per cent at the end of 1989/1990 seasons.

We would, in the first instance, fully agree that the stock levels that have prevailed in the period between 1984/5 and 1987/8 were excessively high. They had price-depressing and trade-distorting effects. In that sense, the subsequent decline in the stock levels had a certain corrective influence on the market.

However, the extent of the fall in the stocks which occurred due to the combined impact on production of the drought in North America and the policies to curtail production has been large, rapid and, to a certain extent, unforeseen. Moreover, despite the rise in output in 1989, the stocks are expected to decline for the second successive year in the current year 1989/90. This indeed is a matter which calls for vigilance.

Further, I should like to add that the global stocks consumption ratio is but one of the many indicators of the state of world food security which we use. Concerning stocks, for example, due account has to be taken of the distribution of stocks, and in this connection the stocks forecast to be held by the major exporters - that is, the stocks which are most easily mobilized to help stabilize world markets and prices - will be at their lowest level for many years. In addition, cereal stocks held by developing countries have by no means recovered fully to the levels of the mid-1980s. Furthermore, the world stocks of the main traded food grains, wheat and rice, are very low indeed.

Among the other indicators which we consider worrisome is the fact that there has been practically no increase in total cereal production in developing countries as a whole this year. Cereal output is, in fact, lower this year than last year in the developing regions of both Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, and population is increasing at high rates. Furthermore, in developing Asia and the Pacific region, while production of cereals has increased in the most populous countries of China, India and Indonesia, there are other countries of the region for which per caput production is down. Then again, as many delegations have commented, the food security situation in their countries has been compromised by the macro-economic situation, foreign debt, trade difficulties and higher prices.

We in the Secretariat would agree that the decline in stocks per se should not be interpreted in an alarmist way, and we do not want to do it that way. Yet experience does indicate that, when the stock consumption ratio falls to around 17 percent, markets do tend to become rather volatile, and the capacity to respond to unforeseeable events such as large-scale production shortfalls or surges in import demand would be greatly reduced. Thus, the low stock consumption ratio should be taken not in an alarmist manner but as an indicator of the need for constant and indeed increased vigilance on the production prospects and market developments.

Further, as the delegate of Finland observed, these short-term developments need to be viewed in the longer-term context. Here the issues raised in paragraphs 51 to 55 in document C 89/2-Sup.1, to which the delegate of Finland referred, require closer attention, analysis and monitoring.

Again in relation to the stock consumption ratio, we have noted the suggestion of the delegate of the United States to revisit the stock consumption ratio which we had calculated some years ago. We shall consider this suggestion carefully for necessary follow-up within available resources. However, we feel that to present such a study at the forthcoming meeting of the Committee on Food Security would not be feasible in view of the deadline of the end of 1989 for the documentation for that meeting.

Let me now turn to the suggestion made by the representative of Belgium. He expressed disappointment at what he considered the scant treatment of the so-called substitute products in the SOFA documentation. I should point out, however, that other publications and documents by FAO in recent issues have covered the main issues involved. For instance, two years ago in the Committee on Commodity Problems this subject was covered in the context of the regular monitoring report on follow up to the Conference Resolution 2/79 on Commodity Trade Protectionism and International Agricultural Adjustment. On sugar specifically, an FAO Study was published a few years ago on major policy issues, including issues relating to alternative sweeteners. Moreover, a number of studies have been undertaken by FAO concerning the developments in competition between synthetic products vis-à-vis the agricultural raw materials. Thus in fact considerable work is undertaken by the Secretariat on this subject, and I should like to assure the delegate of Belgium that we shall do our best to continue to pursue the issues involved in the future.

As regards the query raised by the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the percentage changes given in table 8 of document C 89/2-Sup.1, I should like to clarify that these percentage changes are averages of annual percentage changes. In view of the short period covered, we have followed this method in SOFA for calculating year-to-year changes rather than applying the compound rates which would be more suitable for calculating trends over a longer period.

Delegates of the United States and Brazil sought clarification on the suggestion in paragraph 169 of document C 89/2-Sup.2 for an international standard of behaviour in the context of sustainable development and natural resources. What the Secretariat has in mind is the development of guidelines, principles or a code of behaviour - of course of a voluntary nature - which would include agreed objectives to be attained and broad lines of policies and actions for achieving those agreed objectives, bearing in mind the interlinked nature of the use of natural resources and the goal of development on a sustainable basis. Such voluntary guidelines would focus particularly on those issues which have multicountry dimensions and which require concerted approaches and responses. As delegates know, development of such voluntary guidelines or codes of behaviour is not new to FAO fora. Such guidelines, for example, have been developed on natural resource-related subjects such as the World Soil Charter, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Requests have also been made to the Secretariat by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its recent meeting to draft a code of conduct for biotechnology and a code for international collectors for germ plasm. In the field of forestry there is the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. With regard to fisheries there exists the

strategy for fisheries management and development. Of course, should Member Governments wish the Secretariat to draft guidelines or a code of conduct for sustainable development and natural resource management, these existing undertakings will be fully drawn upon and, as necessary, complemented.

In conclusion, I should like to refer to the subject of driftnetting, which the delegates of the United States, Australia, Japan and New Zealand have referred to. The Secretariat has been following carefully this issue of large-scale driftnetting. In relation to the sustainable use of tuna resources in the Pacific, a preliminary meeting has just been completed in Noumea, New Caledonia, to prepare for the expert consultation on the interaction in Pacific tuna fisheries. This expert consultation, unfortunately, was one of those postponed from this biennium for financial reasons and will now take place in the middle of 1990. It will expressly examine, at the request of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission, the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Committee on Fisheries, the effects of the different kinds of gear used in tuna fisheries and the effects of fisheries of one species of tuna on other species of tuna.

We are also following up a request of the 17th Session of the Committee on Fisheries in relation to a related issue, a request of the 95th Session of the Council, in relation to driftnetting and the recent recommendation of the Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission to undertake and promote scientific studies on this subject. These requests specifically refer to the effects of fishing on non-target species such as marine mammals and turtles.

We understand, as mentioned by the delegate of the United States, that the issue of the environmental impact of driftnetting is now before the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. We shall, of course, continue to follow up the initiatives already taken on this rather critical fisheries management issue. We assure the delegate of the United States and others that we shall make all efforts to respond to any requests which may be referred to FAO by the Second Committee on this issue.

I should like to add that a paper on this issue will be made available to all delegations next week for information.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Dutia for these closing remarks.

E. DETRAUX (Belgique): Je voudrais remercier M. Dutia des propos qu'il a tenus concernant les produits de substitution. Il est évident que, comme il l'a dit, ces études et investigations ont déjà été faites dans un autre contexte. Mais, malheureusement pour nous, en tout cas, cela n'est pas suffisamment relevé dans ledit document. Prenons un simple exemple: le cas du sucre. La production des sucres dits de substitution représente, en l'état actuel des choses, plus de 10 pour cent du commerce international. Par conséquent, nous croyons qu'il est important de refléter ce cas qui est un cas particulier. En ce qui concerne les céréales, cela a d'autres conséquences. Nous pensons qu'il est extrêmement important de le refléter dans le rapport sur l'alimentation et la sécurité alimentaire. Et cela sera d'autant plus vrai dans les années à venir. C'est pourquoi nous pensons - et nous l'avons déjà demandé à la Conférence précédente - que cela doit être analysé de façon beaucoup plus systématique.



CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative from Belgium. Does any other delegation want any further clarification from the Secretariat? I see no further requests so I think we should move on to our agenda item 6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8, and 12, document C 89/18 which has the same title as the agenda item.

6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment: Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12

6.2 Ajustement agricole international: Rapport intérimaire sur les lignes d'orientation 7, 8 et 12

6.2 Reajuste agrícola internacional: Informe parcial sobre las orientaciones 7, 8 y 12

CHAIRMAN: The Commission will recall that the guidelines on international agricultural adjustment date back to 1975 and were revised in 1983. The last Conference considered that the periodicity of progress reports should be reduced from every two years to once every four years. However, the Conference also decided on an exceptional basis to review at this session the guidelines covering international agricultural trade, the guidelines covering the stability of world markets, the access of developing countries to food imports on reasonable terms, and lastly, the guideline on external assistance to agriculture in the developing countries. The item will be introduced by Mr Dutia, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department) s As you said Mr Chairman, document C 89/18 monitors progress regarding the implementation of Guidelines 7, 8, and 12 on International Agricultural Adjustment. As the delegates will recall, the Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment are intended to assist and facilitate policy harmonization. The policy guidelines adopted by the Conference in 1975 and revised in 1983 represent a statement of goals and policy approaches at national and international level.

The three guidelines which the Conference agreed should be reviewed at this session include Guideline 7 which refers to the policies affecting international agricultural trade and market access; Guideline 8 which refers to the stability of world markets for agricultural products, access of food-importing developing countries to food supplies on reasonable terms; and Guideline 12 which refers to the external assistance to agriculture of the developing countries.

Guideline 7, which deals with agricultural trade and protectionism, the report on that is given in the documents. Delegates have already discussed under agenda item 8, progress in the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations and in particular its implications for FAO, in relation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention. Under this item therefore, they may wish to focus on agricultural policies with a bearing on international trade. Overall, recent developments in this field reveal a mixed picture. Over the last two years, certain industrialized countries have introduced changes in their agricultural policies which have the effect of reducing barriers to trade, reducing subsidies on production, and limiting growth of agricultural support expenditures. In the GATT context, the decisions on negotiations on agriculture reached by the Trade Negotiations

Committee held in April 1989, and the resumption of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, revive the possibility of improvements in the conditions of international agricultural trade. Of particular importance is the agreed "framework approach" comprising interrelated long-term elements and guidelines for reform, short-term elements and arrangements on sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. Moreover, with the resumption of the negotiations, certain progress has been achieved in the negotiations on tropical products. Overall, however, the level of support provided to agriculture through the policies of most industrialized countries has remained extremely high, and mainly in the form of measures which involve distortions to trade.

As regards the greater stability of world markets for agricultural products, which is the subject of Guideline 8, recent years have witnessed a great number of national and international efforts toward agricultural policy reform mainly to enhance the role of market forces in the functioning of the markets of major commodities. In parallel, the role of International Commodity Agreements as a means of market stabilization has tended to diminish, and indeed no new commodity agreements with market stabilization provisions have been negotiated during the past two years. Moreover, tensions and discords regarding the operations of some of the existing commodity agreements have persisted. A positive development in this area however is the entry into force on 16 June 1989 of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities which was adopted as long ago as June 1980. It is expected that the Fund will become operational in the second half of 1990. Guideline 8 also calls for access by importing countries to supplies of food on reasonable terms. As the delegates have already noted under Agenda Item 6.1, supplies on world food markets have been tightening, reflecting in part climatic factors and in part the implementation of production controls in some developed countries. Access by low-income food-deficit countries to commercial and non-commercial food imports has become more constrained due to rising world market prices and falling food aid availabilities.

External assistance to the agriculture of developing countries remained grossly inadequate, and the overall target for external assistance indicated in Guideline 12 and originally set to be achieved in the period 1975 to 1980, remains far from being fulfilled. Commitments of external assistance to agriculture in 1987 reached in real terms the lowest level since the early 1980s. This stagnation in the flow of external assistance to agriculture reflected in part the drastic fall since the early 1980s in the total flow of external resources to developing countries. Agriculture however maintained since the early 1980s its share of about one-fifth in total Official Development Finance, and also the share of concessional loans in total official assistance to agriculture remained at a level of around 70 percent.

In conclusion, progress in the areas covered by the three guidelines has been slow, uneven, and on the whole not as satisfactory as it should be. Major adjustments are necessary and fundamental improvements in the domestic policies and external environment for the food and agriculture sector should form some of the vital objectives and elements of a long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector, which will be discussed under the next agenda item.

Mr (Chairman, the Secretariat looks forward to comments and views of the delegates on the issues covered in this document.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Dutia for his presentation and now open the debate on this item.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colonbia): Señor Presidente, en su excelente presentación, como todas las suyas, el Dr. Dutia, para concluir, ha utilizado un lenguaje benévolo, que corresponde a la prudencia y ponderación que caracteriza a las personalidades asiáticas, al decir que la marcha del reajuste agrícola internacional ha sido lenta, desigual e insatisfactoria. Nosotros pensamos que un solo adjetivo habría resumido más realísticamente esa situación, diciendo que todo ha sido completamente nulo, que no hay ningún progreso del cual podamos complacernos. Han sido catorce años, señor Presidente, durante los cuales hemos girado en orden a un marco teórico, que no ha hecho sino crear ilusiones, despertar esperanzas y expectativas, que han venido quedando convertidas sólo en señuelos, sin que hayan logrado jamás ni siquiera el mínimo avance hacia su cumplimiento.

En espera del séptimo informe completo, que se presentará a la próxima Conferencia, este informe limitado y excepcional sobre tres orientaciones del reajuste no agrega nada nuevo, como siempre; ninguna de las orientaciones se vienen cumpliendo. Los países en desarrollo siguen esperando que los Estados industrializados se decidan a aportar una efectiva y real voluntad política, que permita el cumplimiento de las orientaciones y de los objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional.

La orientación 7 parece que ahora está confundida con la Ronda Uruguay. De todas maneras, no se cumple. Han aumentado las barreras arancelarias y no arancelarias; los subsidios a las exportaciones continúan campantes; la misma OCDE, según el párrafo 3 del documento, reconoce que el apoyo a la agricultura sigue siendo alto; los costos de los subsidios, que habían disminuido en 1987, subieron de nuevo en 1988. El párrafo 4 dice textualmente que "el nivel de apoyo proporcionado a la agricultura por medio de las políticas de la mayor parte de los países industrializados ha seguido siendo sumamente elevado (...); la competencia por los mercados mediante programas de subsidios a la exportación no ha disminuido o hasta se ha intensificado". Víctimas de todo ello, los países en desarrollo, que progresivamente pierden mercados, asisten, impotentes, a la depresión de los precios de sus productos de exportación, y así padecen serias agresiones a sus ya débiles economías.

A principios del año pasado, hicimos un alto, abrimos un compás de espera en nuestras críticas permanentes a la política de subsidios a la exportación, política funesta aplicada por algunos países industrializados, pero particularmente por la Comunidad Económica Europea. Abrimos ese compás de espera porque teníamos confianza en que las buenas intenciones surgidas de la "cumbre" de Jefes de Estado de la CEE, reunidos en febrero de 1988, pusieran fin a esos subsidios, que han arruinado la economía de muchos países en desarrollo. La CEE inventó los famosos "umbrales" y nosotros nos colocamos a la sombra de esos umbrales, en espera de los resultados; seguimos esperando.

¿Qué ha pasado? ¿Podrá, acaso, el representante de la CEE explicar, ampliar el contenido, un poco ambiguo, del párrafo 9? Nos permitimos llamar la atención de los miembros de la Comisión sobre esta redacción, un poco sibilina y difícil de comprender, del párrafo 9, que en su primera parte habla de control de la producción y establecimiento de controles jurídicamente vinculantes, y al final parece que es tan excesiva la producción en la Comunidad Económica Europea, que se está recurriendo a la jubilación anticipada de los agricultores.

Quisiéramos que el representante de la CEE, si lo considera posible, explicara qué quiere decir en realidad tocio este párrafo 9. Quisiéramos saber, desde luego, si en la CEE se siguen aplicando todavía los subsidios como en años anteriores, de ingrato recuerdo, o si aún esos subsidios tienen mayor intensidad o si, como se ha prometido, se están atenuando, aunque sea progresivamente, para que así se vaya modificando esa política comercial, tan desastrosa y desafortunada.

Señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, hemos usado estos adjetivos y verbos altisonantes no sólo porque corresponden a nuestro temperamento combativo latinoamericano, sino porque ha sido la reacción justa nuestra frente a la famosa política agrícola común de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Pero quisiéramos, con honestidad, reconocer que el tono de estos comentarios más bien pertenece al pasado; los representantes de Colombia confiamos en que la CEE, respetable fuerza política y económica, en verdad -sea a la sombra de los "umbrales" o, ahora, de los "estabilizadores", término nuevo que también aparece en el párrafo 9, por cualquiera de esos medios- va a terminar definitivamente con los subsidios, porque esa Comunidad está integrada por doce respetables países, a los cuales todos reiteramos la admiración, respeto y simpatía del Gobierno de Colombia.

Señor Presidente, Colombia se ha asociado con un respetable Grupo de países desarrollados y en desarrollo en el Grupo de Cairns, y en el seno de este Grupo, como lo han dicho varios representantes de gobiernos miembros del Grupo Cairns, estamos haciendo propuestas que esperamos merezcan la mejor atención de la Comunidad Internacional.

La Orientación 8, nos hace recordar que durante años, durante décadas, se ha acuñado la frase ideal de "precios remunerativos para los productores y equitativos para los consumidores ". Ese lema se ha convertido en el programa de numerosos ministros de agricultura de tantos países. Cada vez que un ministro de agricultura toma posesión de sju alto cargo, suele presentar entre los puntos fundamentales de su programa, esa referencia a los precios remunerativos para los productores y equitativos para los consumidores. Naturalmente ese es un término que tiene muy profundo contenido social, humano y económico también; pero para lograr ese equilibrio providencial los gobiernos han depositado cierta confianza en los Convenios Internacionales de Productos Básicos.

Bien, este documento, de los párrafos 22 a 39, refleja un panorama desolador que demuestra como todos los acuerdos logrados hasta ahora, muchos a base de grandes esfuerzos y prolongadas controversias, ninguno de esos acuerdos funcionan prácticamente y de todos modos ninguno de esos acuerdos representan los verdaderos beneficios que habían esperado los países en desarrollo.

En términos benévolos, podríamos decir, la primera frase del párrafo 22 parece sintetizar y justificar esa lamentable situación a que nos hemos referido. Dice esta primera frase del párrafo 22: "la década de los ochenta ha sido un período especialmente desfavorable para la negociación de acuerdos internacionales sobre productos". Este documento que tiene fecha de agosto de 1989, está completamente desactualizado sobre la real e inquietante situación del café, en relación con la triste suerte que ha corrido el Acuerdo Internacional sobre el Café. "Las graves tensiones y disensiones con respecto a algunos acuerdos internacionales", de que habla la última frase del párrafo 22, ha tenido ulteriores desarrollos verdaderamente dramáticos en el caso del café.

En el párrafo 24 se habla de 120 - 140 centavos de dólares y por eso este documento es obsoleto, se ha mandado recoger y debe actualizarse. Luego se habla de 115 y 145 centavos de dólares para los precios de la libra del café; pero eso era en agosto y ahora estamos en noviembre. Sólo dos meses después esos precios están por debajo de la mitad, son cincuenta por ciento inferiores a las cifras que la FAO cita en este documento. Si las últimas informaciones son correctas, el precio está oscilando alrededor de 70 centavos de dólar por libra.

La terminación del Pacto Cafetero, por razones que preferimos omitir, ha causado un verdadero caos en el mercado internacional. Cincuenta países, todos en desarrollo naturalmente, de Asia, Africa y América Latina y el Caribe, asisten impotentes al derrumbarse de sus economías, después de que el Acuerdo del Café las había preservado en buena medida, aún entre altos y bajos, durante 27 años.

Uno de los pocos acuerdos internacionales sobre productos que funcionaban, el del café, ha tenido así un entierro triste y deplorable.

Si los precios actuales del café aunque no bajaran más, lo cual es probable, se conservasen en esos niveles durante 12 meses, los países productores perderían cerca de 5 mil millones de dólares.

Cordialmente les invito a comparar esa cifra con el monto de la asistencia que se ofrece a esos mismos países.

En Colombia el café sigue siendo la base de nuestra economía. Por cada centavo de dólar que baja la libra del café los colombianos perdemos 15 millones de dólares. En esas condiciones, la caída vertiginosa de los precios del café representa otro factor más de perturbación social y económica que se agregará a los tantos otros que la opinión pública ampliamente conoce y que el Presidente de Colombia, Virgilio Barco, viene afrontando con valor y decisión universalmente reconocido.

Pero aquí ya no queremos hablar más del café porque tradicionalmente ese grano se trata en la Oficina Internacional del Café en Londres, y además porque no deseamos prejuizar sobre la tenue esperanza que podría surgir sobre la posibilidad de que se vuelva a un Acuerdo Cafetero con cláusulas económicas y reactivación del sistema de cuotas para tratar de recuperar en parte las economías de tantos países en desarrollo.

En resumen, todas las referencias a los Acuerdos Internacionales sobre Productos, confirman que la Orientación 8 sigue siendo teoría y espejismo.

Hemos tomado mucho tiempo, señor Presidente, y por ello vamos a concluir con una brevísima referencia a la última orientación considerada la 12, dirigida hacia el fortalecimiento de la Asistencia Exterior. Para calificar el cumplimiento de esta Orientación 12 bastaría el párrafo 40 que citamos: "las corrientes totales de recursos netos a los países en desarrollo en 1987 descendieron casi a la mitad, 47 por ciento, en relación con los precios y tipos de cambio de 1986", apenas un año antes.

El párrafo 43 indica que la meta de 8.300 millones de dólares, meta fijada con tanta fatiga, nunca ha sido alcanzada, esas asignaciones son inferiores en un 35 por ciento.

Nò obstante estos comentarios, con algo de optimismo los Representantes de Colombia esperamos que el Informe global que estudiaremos en la Conferencia de 1991 nos ofrecerá un panorama menos desolador.

Señor Presidente, cuando en el seno de una Organización como la FAO estudiamos temas como éste, es apenas natural que nos interese cuál ha sido la función de esta Organización en relación con estas actividades. Sabernos que la FAO, por su propia naturaleza de Organización Internacional, debe someterse a ciertas limitaciones en sus actividades frente al respeto que exige la soberanía y la independencia de los gobiernos; sin embargo quisiéramos saber, señor Presidente, hasta dónde ha sido posible que la FAO haya participado en el pasado y pueda hacerlo en el porvenir para ver si se logra modificar esta situación.

En relación con la primera orientación, creo que no es el caso de hacer preguntas al Doctor Dutia porque ya tratamos en esta misma Comisión la función de la FAO en la Ronda Uruguay en el GATT.

Sobre la Orientación 8, quisiéramos preguntar al Doctor Dutia y a sus colaboradores, si la FAO, a través de los grupos intergubernamentales de productos que funcionan en el seno del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos ha tenido alguna función, tiene la posibilidad de cumplir acciones, de suministrar estadísticas, de preparar documentos que puedan contribuir a que esos acuerdos por productos no se sigan desmoronando completamente como lo indica este documento.

Naturalmente, sobre la última orientación, la 12, en cuanto a la Asistencia Exterior, a la FAO sólo le toca observar, registrar los hechos y presentarnos con la realidad y crudeza como lo hace en este documento, y por lo cual estamos agradecidos a la Secretaría de la FAO.

Los representantes de Colombia, señor Presidente, pensamos que por el momento hasta 1991 deberemos afirmar en nuestro Informe sobre este tema, que la Conferencia lamenta que este informe parcial sobre el cumplimiento de las recomendaciones 7, 8 y 12, sea completamente insatisfactorio y que la Conferencia espera que los países industrializados que son los que pueden aportar voluntad política para movilizar esa situación, que esos países que poseen todos los recursos y todas las posibilidades asuman actitudes flexibles y constructivas.

Con la esperanza de que el Informe global que se nos presentará en la próxima Conferencia sea mucho menos negativo que este Informe parcial.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America): The United States appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important agenda item. Although the United States maintains its reservations about the revised 1983 Guidelines, we commend the Secretariat for its work on this report. We should especially like to draw the Conference's attention to the Secretary's comments regarding developments in the Uruguay Round.

The United States strongly supports the long-term objectives for agriculture in the Uruguay Round as outlined in the April framework which the Secretariat spoke of earlier, namely, the call for "substantial progressive reductions in agricultural support and protection, sustained over an agreed period of time". We feel that this Conference should give a strong endorsement to these objectives.

We believe that achieving a more rational economic footing for agricultural policies will be beneficial for all nations, but especially for developing countries. Only by acting together can we hope to eliminate the tangled web of trade-distorting agricultural policies that now exist. The United States believes that the Uruguay Round offers the opportunity to reach major reforms. We cannot let this chance pass us by.

In October of this year, last month, the United States submitted a comprehensive proposal to the GATT on agricultural reform. We believe that this proposal will bring the changes needed to establish a fair and market-orientated trading system and bring all policies affecting agricultural trade under international disciplines.

The proposal covers all major policy areas, market access, export: subsidies, domestic production-related support:, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures. This proposal relates to all agricultural and fisheries products. We feel that this proposal can form the basis for a productive negotiation in the final year of the Uruguay Round.

As the Secretariat has already mentioned, of particular interest to this body is the proposal on sanitary and phytosanitary measures. The United States has proposed the establishment of an international process for consultations and dispute settlement, taking into account the best scientific information available through established international organizations. Scientific criteria alone should be the basis for such measures. Organizations such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention - both of which are affiliated with FAO - could play the key role in this process.

Regarding tropical products, the United States participated in the mid-term review package of concessions for tropical products, by offering a 25 percent tariff reduction on 49 products. President Bush signed the proclamation implementing our offer on 28 September, and the tariff reductions took effect on 18 October.

Successful liberation of agricultural markets along the lines described in our recent Uruguay Round proposal will help dampen extreme price swings in commodity prices. We believe that, through market liberalization and the resulting more efficient allocation of resources, the world has a better chance of achieving more predictable prices for commodities than would occur under a system of commodity agreements that often create trade and production distortions by impeding and masking market signals.

We must recognize that, as economies develop, history shows that prices for raw materials almost inevitably fall in relation to prices of other goods. This is a reason to open markets so that the most efficient and lowest cost producer is the one which produces the commodity. This system will allow all the world's nations, both producers and consumers, to get a better return from their investments.

Finally, we would like to clarify one point raised in the document about the Export Enhancement Programme. Recent legislation in the United States did not raise the ceiling by 2.5 billion, as could be inferred from the Secretariat's report, but instead established a multi-year ceiling on the programme of 2.5 billion.

**Flori jan KOVAC (Yugoslavia):** The Yugoslav delegation supports the Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 and would like to emphasize that the document is highly analytical and transparent, and, according to our assessment, it provides a useful synthesis of global and regional trends regarding the principal features of international agriculture.

The objectives of international agricultural adjustment are being implemented very slowly, if at all. Crises in the global economy can have far-reaching consequences for the agricultural development of many developing countries over the next decade.

On the other hand, it is the laudable commitment of some industrialized countries to reduce trade barriers and subsidies on production, and to limit the growth of agriculture support expenditures, as well as the conclusions of the negotiations on agriculture within the framework of the Trade Negotiations Committee and the continuation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Particularly encouraging is the progress made so far in negotiations on some tropical products, as well as on those just mentioned by the United States of America.

The Yugoslav delegation's assessment would be that, since the last session of the General Conference, a number of substantial changes have been made in agricultural policies: first of all, the important decision of the Japanese Government to eliminate certain import restrictions; EEC measures taken at the Conference of Heads of Government in February 1988; and the reduction of price support for wheat and coarse grains by some developed countries.

However, despite all positive efforts, these measures still do not allow for stable trade, especially as far as the developing countries are concerned. In addition to what has been done so far, further efforts must be invested to ensure greater stability of the market of agricultural products, combined with the maximum use of appropriate commodity agreements.

Another reason for concern lies in the fact: that, despite considerable efforts made so far, and even though, globally speaking, prices are following an upward trend, the aggregate level of world agricultural prices was down 10 percent in 1988 in relation to 1980. The prices of major tropical products, such as coffee, cocoa and tea, fell considerably in the past two years. Volatile prices make it difficult to conclude agreements between producers and consumers at prices envisaged thereunder. This is further aggravated by the stance of some developed countries on free trade.

Although hardly unexpected, the fact that the past two years did not see any negotiations on new agreements and that some of the existing agreements have come under a great deal of pressure, must draw the attention of all those present, and inspire concern in most.

In such a situation, we must welcome the long-awaited start of the operation of the Common Fund for Commodities and the results of its first session held in July this year. Such positive aspirations, and an additional effort by all countries to use adequate measures to ensure greater market stability and, in particular, provide low-income countries with access to food stocks, are absolutely necessary in this time of great food shortages in the world.

Low stocks of grain on the world market led to price hikes in 1988-89 and confronted many developing countries with unsurmountable problems. The expected reduction in food aid, regardless of amount, further aggravates the



already difficult situation. In view of the enormous debts of the majority of developing countries, price growth, reduced aids, frequent natural and man-made disasters, the developing countries, even given maximum efforts on their part, still depend to a large extent on foreign assistance, both bilateral and multilateral.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation, I would like once again to give FAO credit, first of all, for making an exception and putting the Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 on the agenda as a special item, regardless of the understanding that reports on international adjustment in agriculture would be reviewed every four years.

And secondly, I would like to express our appreciation once again for the comprehensiveness and impartiality of the analyses presented.

Shahim AHMED (Bangladesh): First of all, let me thank the FAO Secretariat for presenting this detailed document on a very important agenda item. As the 20th Century is drawing to a close, the problem of food insecurity is becoming more acute. However, we note that world farmers are producing more than ever. Food insecurity does not result from an overall insufficiency in food, but it exists nevertheless because many people throughout the world do not have either the ability to grow adequate foodstuffs nor sufficient funds available to them in order to purchase or import their urgent food requirements. The world food situation continues to show a paradox of widespread food scarcities in a large number of food deficit countries amidst plenty of surplus in a few industrialized countries.

It is in this specific context of global food and agricultural situation that we feel an improvement in international economic trading environment is required. The international cooperation to achieve a balanced situation in production, consumption in trade and food grains may fulfil the interests of exporting and importing countries in terms of providing benefits both to the producers and the consumers. Special consideration as to the interest of developing countries should be given so that their food grain production potentials can be explored.

NI HONGXING (China) (original language Chinese): In recent years, the agricultural terms of trade of the developing countries has continued to worsen and external financial resources have continued to decrease. Therefore, the Secretariat, in accordance with a resolution of the last Conference, prepared document C 89/18 which reviews progress on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12. Such a review is most necessary. I would like now to make a few observations.

First, on Guidelines 7 and 8: according to the information in the document, in the areas of the elimination of protectionist measures and improvement of international agricultural terms of trade, progress has not been very good.

We know that some developing countries think that surplus production and over-stocking of agricultural products have taken measures in reducing exports, and have adopted policies cutting down production and have reduced production subsidies for certain agricultural products, and as a result, have reduced the protectionist measures of tariff and non-tariff barriers. Even so, the different subsidies for agricultural products are still considerable and trade protectionism remains extremely serious.

In addition, as a couple of years ago, North America's food production was greatly reduced and food prices rose. The continuous downward trend in the price of agricultural products in the 1980s has been checked somewhat, but the overall price level of agricultural produce is still quite low. The price of cash crops of great export importance to the developing countries has remained at a low level.

Therefore, in terms of trade of the developing countries, agricultural commodities have not only not improved; they have on the contrary worsened. It is even more difficult for agricultural commodities from developing countries to gain international market access.

On top of this, the food prices have produced a negative impact on most developing countries, in particular the low income and food deficit countries. For this we are deeply concerned.

We are of the opinion that the problem of agricultural protectionism arises mainly due to the fact that developed countries use their economic and technological superiority to provide large amounts of subsidies for agricultural production and exports.

These measures give rise, on the one hand, to the irrational use of resources within these countries, adding to their own burden, and on the other hand, intensifying unfair competition in the international trade of agricultural products, inhibiting agricultural production of developing countries which really have a natural resource advantage.

Therefore, the developed countries should make further efforts to progressively reduce and eliminate the various production and export subsidies, and in the end eliminate trade protectionism and promote the development of international trade in agricultural products.

We have noted with interest that widespread efforts to improve agricultural trade are now being exerted worldwide.

The new round of multilateral trade negotiations in GATT view agricultural products and tropical products as important topics to be negotiated, and agreement in principle has been reached. Useful progress has been achieved in implementing trade agreements of certain agricultural products with a positive impact.

UNCTAD has begun to take practical and active steps in implementing the integrated programme commodity and establishing the common Fund. However, we have also noted that due to the conflict of interests between importing and exporting countries, many international agricultural trade negotiations have reached an impasse. Trade agreements on some agricultural products have not played the role they should have due to lack of necessary funds. Some plans have remained at the stage where they are just words and ideas on paper.

We hope that the international community, in particular the developed countries will make greater efforts to be action-oriented, and based on full consideration of the specific situation of the developing countries and their development needs seek common ground while reserving differences, and through negotiations achieve substantive progress in stabilizing the international market for agricultural products.

We reaffirm that merely taking a few isolated measures to eliminate protectionism will be of no avail. The fundamental solution is the integration of trade and development, seeking in the course of development the rational adjustment and development of trade.

The developing countries possess, in such areas as population and resources, the conditions necessary for development, and have vast markets ready to be opened up.

Therefore, the developed countries should proceed from long-term interest; accelerate the transfer of technology and funds; reduce the burden of debt of the developing countries; give them preferential treatment in agricultural trade, and open new markets for them,

We hope that through discussions we may arrive at a deeper understanding and take positive action.

Second, on Guideline 12: we are of the opinion that the developed countries are duty-bound to help the developing countries develop their agricultural production. This is also an internationally important principle in North-South relations universally accepted by the international community.

However, we note with concern that in recent years growth in external assistance to the agriculture of developing countries has been very slow. In particular, the assistance of international financial institutions to the agriculture of developing countries has gone down a great deal in the past two years.

Food aid has also gone down considerably. In 1987 multilateral and bilateral official assistance commitments for agriculture of the developing countries have dropped sharply. They were 7 percent of US\$ 1 billion less than in 1986, calculated in terms of constant prices of 1975.

In 1988 the level of multilateral assistance commitments, especially the preferential loan components, has continued to fall sharply. In addition, delivery of external assistance has also been slow, about which we have misgivings. If this trend is not checked, prospects for attaining the targets set out in the guidelines will only grow dimmer and dimmer.

In light of the real difficulties and needs of the developing countries and the situation of external assistance to their agriculture, we therefore appeal to the international community, and, above all, to developed countries through an increase in their external financial assistance commitments and the early delivery of their financial commitments to make even greater efforts.

**Antti NIKKOLA (Finland):** My delegation would like to present some short remarks on the issues under this agenda item.

With regard to the GATT Uruguay Round, my country supports the view that the Round should result in better market access to the export products of developing countries. Our own concrete proposal in Geneva concerning tariff reductions in tropical products is aimed at this goal.

Concerning Guideline 8, it is a fact that the international food market covers only about 5 percent of all world production. Therefore, relatively small changes in total production of sane products may bring out large fluctuations in the quantities and prices on the world market. As an example, I can mention dairy products. The possibility of an individual country influencing the stability of world markets is small. That is one reason why in the past various measures have been developed to safeguard food safety and to maintain a certain level of self-sufficiency in national food production. To find a long-lasting solution for food trade policies, this tension between the potential instability of agricultural world markets and the basic need for food security must be solved.

As to the external assistance to developing countries, Finland's target has been to increase her total development assistance and to reach in the 1980s the level of the UN recommendation of 0.7 percent of GNP. Finland has reached this target this year, in 1989. The share of agricultural projects has recently been from 10 percent to 15 percent of our total assistance. Our Government is conscious of the importance of agricultural projects and will increase their proportion in coming years. Having increased the quantity of development assistance in recent years, ray Government will in the future concentrate on the improvement of the quality of aid.

**Jamil Al-DABAGH (Iraq) (original language Arabic):** I should like to thank the Secretariat for introducing this document which includes the three guidelines concerning trade exchange, agricultural adjustment and external aid to developing countries.

Concerning Guideline 7 on international trade policies, it seems to me that, as was said by my colleagues, the progress made in the negotiations taking place, such as the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations or other negotiations, are very slow. I think that the distortions which prevail in the international market for agricultural products have a direct and indirect effect on the agricultural and economic development plans of developing countries. The example given by our colleague from Colombia concerning the unjustified decrease of coffee prices in the world has a negative effect on the returns of this developing country from foreign currencies, and accordingly their agricultural and economic development plans have been largely affected. I think that in most cases in all these distortions, fluctuations or adjustments requested to certain policies, there are certain adjustments that should be put within the economic and agricultural policies of developing countries. All these, in fact, are due to the fluctuations and distortions which prevail in the international market, particularly since the Food Security Conference which was convened in this country in 1974.

The distortions in the international market have a direct effect on the developing countries, in particular on the food importing countries among them. In fact, we are very much concerned about the improvement of the international system. We all know that a large number of developing countries, including Iraq, are food importing countries, and these imports, although they vary from one country to another, increase year by year. As a result, the foreign currencies needed to import these food products increase, and this leads to shortages in our foreign currency. Therefore, we reiterate what we have said before: Iraq commends FAO and would like to affirm that the Organization should focus its efforts at all levels in order to reach a trade system which is reasonable and which would guarantee the legitimate rights of the developing countries.

As for the stability or instability of prices at the international level, this is a result of the distortions which prevail in this market, and I will not go into this in detail because we all know the reasons for these distortions.

Finally, I should like to affirm that a number of economic and development policies which are adopted by developing countries, and which are adopted by Iraq itself - and I have been in agriculture in Iraq for more than 20 years - have affected our plans, be they the annual plans, or the five-year plans, especially for the development of agriculture in Iraq and the development of the economy in general.

Noboru SAITO (Japan) : I should like to make some comments on individual guidelines. In the first place, regarding Guideline 7, my country has made efforts to improve the market access of agricultural commodities, including the abolition of import restrictions for beef and citrus fruits, as described in paragraphs 8 and 18 of document C 89/18.

We are fully aware that the most important task in the Uruguay Round negotiations is the formation of a new trade order for agricultural products through the establishment of the new GAIT rules and disciplines, which would cover all measures influencing the relevant trade. In formulating these rules and disciplines, we consider it necessary to take fully into consideration those roles of agriculture such as food security and conservation of the environment, from the standpoint that my country owes more than half of the foodstuffs abroad and that also it is a big cereal importing country.

My country expressed our basic aspects for the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiation group in September, mainly consisting of non-trade concerns such as food security. Further details will follow by the end of this year. We should like to participate actively in the Uruguay Round negotiations for the successful finalization in 1990 in order to contribute to smooth agricultural trade in the world and harmonized development of world agriculture.

Regarding Guideline 8, the Cammon Fund Secretariat is now under review for management procedures. At the same time, for the better utilization of the second CF account resources, discussions are taking place on the status of designated ICB. My country will watch the progress of the discussions on future management procedures.

Finally, regarding Guideline 12, my country stresses support for agriculture and rural development as one of the most important areas of Official Development Aid and has actively promoted it. My country will aim at increasing the total amount of ODA during the period 1988 to 1992 to more than US\$ 50 billion, thus more than doubling the total amount of ODA disbursed in the past five years. Thus my Government tries to improve the ODA both in quantity and quality and also promotes development aid for food and agriculture as one of the most important areas in this field.

Chang Hyuk SUH (Korea, Republic of): On behalf of the Korean Government, I should like to express some comments on international agricultural adjustment programmes.

First, I wish to acknowledge the long-term necessity and importance of agricultural adjustment policy to develop the agricultural sector, but I urge that international society must endeavour to eliminate several problems which will be faced in the process implementation, such as the increase of external debt, decrease of agricultural income and employment, and the aggravation of food security.

Secondly, agricultural adjustment policy must take into consideration every country's specific agricultural situations, as the policies which are implemented have direct effects on their small-scale farmers.

It takes a long period of time and large government budgetary support to establish an agricultural production basis and realize agricultural development.

In developed countries, higher efficiency in agriculture has been attained over the past several decades through effective implementation of structural adjustment policies and large payment of government subsidies.

On the other hand, in developing countries, the agricultural sector still remains at the infant stage, with large farm population and chronic low agricultural productivity due to insufficient financial resources. Therefore, developing countries must be provided sufficient time to enable their agricultural sector to achieve balanced development with other industrial sectors.

Furthermore, the higher import-dependent developing countries suffer from infant structure; small land holdings, labour intensive production, and low level of agricultural technology and productivity.

In addition, they also have comparatively higher farm populations and greater weight on farm production than that of developed countries. Thus, the further market opening without any structural adjustment in agriculture would hinder the agricultural development and threaten the subsistence level of the farmer's livelihood. We must also realize that this may deteriorate economic development of developing countries.

Korea has consistently expanded trade liberalization, and will pursue further market opening in the future in line with the degree of agricultural development in our country. However, the economic circumstances of Korea indicate a transit era in which advanced and infant industry co-exist. Particularly, the level of agricultural development remains at the infant stage due to the structural weakness.

Considering the present farm operator's aids and their average farm sizes, at least fifteen years are required to restructure our country.

In view of economic and agricultural development, improving the agricultural structure which remains at the infant stage will be the most important task of trade policy to meet the fundamental goal of GATT and the Uruguay Round agricultural negotiations for further free trade. I believe, in view of this, developed countries should allow developing countries to have the grace period required for structural adjustment so they may reduce the adverse impacts of the rapid expansion of market opening, and further to implement long-term objectives for trade liberalizations.

Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina): Nuestra Delegación desea, en primer lugar, formular algunos comentarios con relación al informe sobre los resultados obtenidos respecto a la orientación 7.

Queremos reafirmar, como lo hemos hecho al tratar el Punto 6.1 de la agenda de esta Comisión, la importancia que nuestro país le otorga al efectivo cumplimiento de los objetivos de desmantelamiento de las barreras al acceso y de los subsidios a las exportaciones, contenidos en esta orientación.

Coincidimos con el documento en expresar nuestra preocupación por el continuo crecimiento de los gastos totales en apoyo a la agricultura por parte de los países de la OCDE, particularmente de aquellos destinados a subsidiar las exportaciones.

Nuestra posición respecto a las modalidades de la reforma en el comercio agrícola es bien conocida, y no vamos a repetirla aquí. Sin embargo, queremos insistir una vez más en la importancia que un acuerdo satisfactorio en las negociaciones del GATT tiene para nosotros.

Observamos con complacencia las medidas de reforma adoptadas por el Japón en 1988, particularmente en lo que concierne a la apertura gradual de las importaciones de carne de bovino, tanto procesadas como sin procesar, y solicitamos a ese país el mayor de los esfuerzos para ampliar el espectro de productos incluidos en sus políticas de reforma.

Disentimos en cambio con la importancia dada en el documento a las reformas recientes en las políticas de la Comunidad Económica Europea, ya que éstas no modifican en lo esencial sus efectos distorsionantes en los mercados internacionales.

Son bien conocidos los perjuicios que las mismas causan a los países exportadores de productos primarios. Sin embargo, no debemos dejar de recordar que la política agrícola común perjudica ante todo a los propios países miembros de la Comunidad, Sus consumidores deben pagar precios significativamente más altos que los del mercado mundial, y sus contribuyentes deben hacerse cargo del costo presupuestario de la P.A.C. Pero estos costos constituyen sólo una parte del cuadro: para medir los costos económicos reales de la P.A.C, deben agregarse además todas las ganancias y pérdidas en términos de eficiencia económica, tanto en los mercados de productos como en los mercados de factores, que resultan de las políticas de precios administrados.

Creemos también necesario mencionar el efecto perjudicial que tiene para nuestro país la política de los Estados Unidos de imponer restricciones a las importaciones de determinados productos agrícolas al amparo del Waiver de 1955.

Nuestro sector más afectado es el vinculado con la producción azucarera. En efecto, las exportaciones de azúcar al mercado de Estados Unidos adquirieron en el pasado reciente una gran importancia para la Argentina, en particular para sus economías regionales. Sin embargo, como consecuencia de las cuotas de importación impuestas por los Estados Unidos en 1982 los ingresos por exportaciones de azúcar desde nuestro país a ese mercado se redujeron de 210 millones de dólares en 1981 a 41 millones en 1983 y a sólo 14 millones en 1987.

Esta política de los Estados Unidos contraíviene además el Artículo XI del GATT, ya que no cumple las condiciones que dicho artículo exige a la parte contratante que pretende mantener una restricción cuantitativa.

Apreciamos la intención puesta de manifiesto por los Estados Unidos en su propuesta ante el GATT sobre reforma agrícola, porque sabemos el esfuerzo que su cumplimiento significará para ese país en términos del desmantelamiento de políticas como la anteriormente mencionada. Por lo tanto, y tal como dijo el Señor Ministro de Australia en su intervención en el plenario: "no debemos darle a los Estados Unidos la posibilidad de retractarse".

En definitiva, lamentamos que algunas de las principales partes en las negociaciones para liberalizar el comercio agrícola no hayan dado muestras todavía de una real voluntad política para efectuar las reformas recomendadas por la Orientación 7.



Con referencia al párrafo 12 del Infame, nuestro país, luego del cambio de gobierno, modificó su política de retenciones a las exportaciones de productos agrícolas. En este sentido impuso nuevas retenciones justificadas por razones de urgencia fiscal, pero que serán progresivamente reducidas según un cronograma que será informado por escrito a esta Secretaría.

En relación a la orientación 12, cuyos principios apoyamos firmemente, sólo efectuaremos el siguiente comentario: nos parece esencial que las inversiones en los sectores agrícolas de los países en desarrollo se dirijan hacia explotaciones con ventajas comparativas, para que la consecución del objetivo de la autosuficiencia alimentaria no vaya en contra de la racionalidad económica.

Rolf AKESSON (Sweden): I will refrain from comments on the degree of progress regarding implementation in general, and I will allow myself just a few specific comments on the three guidelines at hand.

Guideline 7 on agricultural protection is not easy to monitor since it lacks quantitative objectives or indicators. We think perhaps some aggregate measure of support could be used in this respect. The study referred to from the OECD contains a lot of information on producer subsidy equivalents which is one such measure - originally developed by FAO by the way - and discussions are also going on in GATT for such a measure of aggregate support for possible use in the Uruguay Round.

Anyway, we agree with the Secretariat opinion that policy developments during the last years present a mixed picture. Although there have been several positive developments, there is no reason to be satisfied, which I think is clearly shown by the commitments and objectives made especially in the GAIT. A result in the GATT negotiations in line with these commitments in Punta del Este in 1986 and in Geneva in April of this year would certainly give rise to a rather positive evaluation of the performance concerning this guideline at our next monitoring exercise.

Guideline number 8 on greater stability of world markets is also difficult to evaluate. We don't know which aspect of world markets is going to be more stable and we don't have any reference for finding out whether the level of stability actually has increased or decreased. One obvious line of analysis concerns world market prices but I do not think that has been pursued in the Secretariat document. Instead we have a general discussion of commodity agreements which is relevant but perhaps a little bit misleading. Commodity agreements is, after all, one, but not the only way to reduce instability, and commodity agreements without specific economic clauses could very well contribute to some extent to this objective by regular analysis and discussions of markets and policies which tend to increase transparency and

reduce uncertainty, A case in point is the 1987 Sugar Agreement which in fact provides not only regular market and policy discussions but also has a fairly ambitious work programme on specific issues, and I guess the same is valid for some other commodity agreements as well.

On the second part of these guidelines about access on reasonable terms for developing countries, we agree that there are factors such as higher world market prices and less food aid, that must be seen as contrary to such an objective, irrespective of whether or not they are caused by policy changes. But this is not really enough for a fair analysis. Prices and import costs rose from what has been considered very low levels for several years and the decline of food aid comes from a level which has been far above commitments made in the Food Aid Convention. In fact there has - I think also in this organisation - been concern expressed about the possible harmful effects of over-supply and low prices on the long-term agricultural development of developing countries.

In guideline 12 on development assistance for the agricultural sector, we seem to be confronted with an easier task since it contains specific figures against which to measure actual developments, but a single straightforward answer is still not possible. Here are no agreed definitions of agriculture; there are data problems due to time lags between commitments and disbursements, and there is no specific date for the attainment of the objectives.

Be that as it may, more important - it seems to us at least - is the total flow of development assistance, not only because of possibilities of substitution between assistance to different sectors and purposes but also because, after all, the external financing of investments also in the agricultural sector is a fairly small part compared to domestic sources, Unfortunately we run into difficulties concerning definitions here as well, but the general picture is rather disappointing. What is particularly deplorable is that developed countries as a group are still only half way towards the 0.7 ODA target and haven't really made any progress during the last decade, although some individual developed countries have a significantly different record in this respect. While the ODA concept is by no means the only useful one, we think it deserves to be mentioned along with others, particularly since it is the only one for which a target has been established.

**Pascal BRIODIN (France):** Je serai bref. Ma délégation vous est reconnaissante, Monsieur le Président, de lui permettre d'intervenir sur ce point très intéressant et très animé de nos débats. Elle tient à féliciter le Secrétariat de la qualité des documents présentés.

Trois lignes d'orientation sont discutées sous ce point 6.2, les lignes 7, 8 et 12.

Ma délégation souhaite revenir plus tard sur les lignes 8 et 12; mais puisque la ligne 7 traite des questions commerciales et de politique agricole, questions qui relèvent de la compétence communautaire, je vous demande de bien vouloir, sur ces aspects communautaires, passer la parole au représentant de la Commission afin qu'il s'exprime au nom de la Communauté et des Etats Membres.

Chairman: I have a request from the delegation of France that the observer from the European Commission speak in the name of members of the Commission on Guideline 7. If this Commission sees no objection to that, I will give the floor to the observer from the European Community. My understanding then will be that other members of the Commission who have asked to take the floor afterwards - I already have a list of three names - will not address the subject. Of course I shall not deny the floor to any member country, but if the observer from the Commission will speak in the name of the members of the Commission, I take it that the other members will not address this subject? That is just a vague question to which I do not want any specific answer, but what often happens is that we have the Commission speaking and then every one of the members of the Commission speaking on the same subject, which is a kind of awkward situation.

Gérard KIELY (EEC) : Thank you, Mr Chairman, and may I also thank the delegations of the Commission for giving me the opportunity of speaking on this point.

I shall confine my remarks, as stated, to Guideline 7 on behalf of the European Community.

To begin with, I should like to point out that the European Community is the largest importer in the world of food and agricultural products. This is of particular importance for developing countries considering that the Community accounts for 43 percent of agricultural exports of all developing countries.

A significant proportion of these imports benefit from special import concessions which in certain instances amount to unrestricted duty-free access to the Community. These concessions were extended further in July 1989 in the area of tropical products.

The issues relating to Guideline 7 are ones which are central to the present round of GATT negotiations. The outcome of these negotiations, therefore, will have major implications for the objectives of Guideline 7. The Community is fully committed to a successful, tangible and effective outcome to the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations in line with the objectives of the Punta del Este Declaration, and we welcome the progress made towards achieving this objective at the mid-term review in Geneva. It has long been recognized in the Community that the many programmes designed by governments to assist agriculture contribute to the global problem of market surpluses and instability.

The Community initiated a reform of its own agricultural policies as far back as 1984. The underlying philosophy of these reforms has been that of gearing production to market requirements in terms of both quantity and quality. This process of reform has continued right up to the present day and has undoubtedly, through its growing contribution towards stabilizing markets, both domestic and international, made a substantial contribution towards advancing the GATT negotiations on agriculture and hence the objectives of Guideline 7. However, much has yet to be done before a final agreement can be reached in the negotiations. Indeed, one could say that the more difficult negotiations have yet to take place.

Considering that a central objective of the negotiations is the reduction in agricultural support and protection, we believe that it is essential that agreement be reached on measuring support and protection and hence reductions therein. The Community has already made a submission to GATT on the aggregate measurement of support, an approach in which we strongly believe.

This approach facilitates the undertaking of commitments on support and protection reduction, while at the same time it allows a certain degree of flexibility to the parties concerned and will ensure that they know exactly the consequences of their commitments.

Improved and more operational rules and disciplines are at the centre of GATT reforms, and the Community is fully committed in this regard. Among others, it would be necessary to incorporate into the present system newly developed rules and disciplines regarding protection and export.

The harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary standards is also an issue which the Community considers imperative. Agreement on liberalizing trade will be flawed if a situation exists whereby sanitary and phytosanitary measures lead to unduly restricted trade. There are many organizations which may have a contribution to make in regard to this harmonization process, and this issue will have to be addressed in the GATT forum in the future.

With regard to developing countries, the community believes that they should be part of the overall disciplined approach being discussed in GATT, taking account however of their level of development and development requirements. Therefore this Community is willing to examine with an open mind the request of developing countries for some form of a preferential and differential treatment including measures for the poorest net food importing countries.

As regards agriculture, this round of negotiations is the most comprehensive and significant to date. The Community will make its appropriate contribution to ensure their success, both in terms of reaching an acceptable agreement and of the impact of that agreement on the liberalization and stabilization of markets.

However, the Community confirms its attachment to a support system which allows internal prices to be different from world market prices and at the same time allows an increase in the sensitivity of agriculture to market signals.

The Community's proposals are meant to be practical rather than reflecting ideological positions. The Community hopes therefore that trading partners will examine them in detail on their own merits. Too many occasions for agricultural reforms were lost in the past because of arguments about principles which prevented the examination of concrete and long-term offers which were on the table.

Finally, in reply to some observations regarding community policy on agriculture, I should like to point out that a ceiling has been placed on agricultural expenditure in the Community, and indeed expenditure on agriculture is lower than the financial allocation due, among other factors, to the reforms of agricultural policy which have already been implemented.

I should also like to point out that export support has been substantially reduced in the case of many products. Further more, since 1986, global agricultural support has been reduced by 10 percent in the arable sector and by 15 percent in the livestock sector, and I should like to emphasize that this reduction in support is due to measures taken internally; in other words, the level of reductions is in no way related to the exchange rate or world market price changes.

E. DETRAUX (Belgique): A ce stade, je ne sais si je dois m'exprimer en tant que membre de la Communauté européenne ou en tant que membre du Bureau de l'OCDE.

Je vais prendre la première option. Nous avons entendu différents sentiments à propos de ces lignes d'orientation, celui de M. Dutia, celui de Monsieur l'ambassadeur Bula-Hoyos. Moi je dirais qu'il faut raison garder, c'est-à-dire qu'à ce stade tout est sur la table et il ne faut pas se précipiter dans des solutions qui ne seraient pas acceptables pour l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Eh ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation No 7, je suis certain que vous avez lu avec attention le texte qui a été accepté par les Ministres du GATT le mois dernier, et je dois dire que lorsque l'on compare cette ligne d'orientation No 7 et ce qui a été accredité par les Ministres au mois d'avril dernier à propos de l'agriculture, il me semble - en réalité j'en suis sûr - que cela colle d'une façon parfaite à cette ligne d'orientation No 7. Par conséquent, je pense que nous sommes engagés dans la bonne direction en ce qui concerne cette ligne d'orientation et qu'il me semble un peu superfétatoire de faire des commentaires quelque peu négatifs à cet égard.

Je prends maintenant mon chapeau de membre du Bureau du Comité de l'agriculture de l'OCDE et je suis un peu mal à l'aise lorsque je vois dans le paragraphe 3 du document C 89/18, le chiffre de 270 milliards de dollars comme étant le soutien apporté à l'agriculture au sein des pays de l'OCDE,

Par ailleurs, je me permets de faire remarquer que dans d'autres documents, et notamment dans le discours de M. Saouma, Directeur général de la FAO, ce chiffre est devenu 290 milliards de dollars. Il faut donc être tout à fait clair en la matière. C'est un chiffre qui ne peut pas être retenu comme argent comptant. Il s'agit - et nous en remercions la FAO, nous membres de l'OCDE - d'un chiffre qui a été extrapolé à partir d'études faites au sein de cette Organisation. Mais c'est un chiffre extrapolé, donc c'est un ordre d'idées qui ne repose pas sur des critères entièrement objectifs. Je prierais donc le Secrétariat de bien vouloir mettre en "footnote" ce qui a été dit au sein de l'Organisation de l'OCDE, à savoir que ce chiffre repose sur une méthodologie qui a des limites, etc. Je suis certain que le Secrétariat trouvera dans le texte de l'OCDE ce qui a été dit à ce propos. Mais je crois qu'il est important de ne pas mettre en exergue ce chiffre.

En ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation No 8: Les accords internationaux de produits, il est évident - et je suis tout à fait d'accord avec ce qui a été dit par le Représentant de la Suède à propos de la ligne d'orientation NO 7 -mais en ce qui concerne plus particulièrement cette ligne d'orientation, est-ce que si l'on s'engage dans ce qui est dit notamment au paragraphe 22, cela ne va pas à l'encontre de la philosophie générale qui sous-tend tous nos travaux, à savoir une libéralisation du commerce des produits agricoles? C'est une question de fond que je pose. Est-ce que l'on doit aller dans le sens d'une plus grande libéralisation sans accords internationaux, ou au contraire doit-on essayer de maîtriser les marchés internationaux? Je crois qu'il faudra discuter plus avant de cette question.

J'en reviens à ce qu'a dit le délégué de la Suède. Il est tout à fait opportun, mais il est extrêmement difficile en fin de compte, d'avoir une appréciation rigoureuse à propos de ces lignes d'orientation. Là je plaide en tant que membre du Bureau de l'OCDE. Nous avons essayé, au sein de cette Organisation au moyen du système ESP, de concentrer sous un seul chiffre tous les soutiens à l'agriculture. Je me demande s'il ne serait pas opportun que l'Organisation de la FAO s'engage dans une voie similaire afin que l'on puisse apprécier d'une manière plus rationnelle si les lignes d'orientation sont réalisées ou non.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : In the light of the comments made by the European Commission, I do not propose to comment on GATT and the Common Agricultural Policy. I will, therefore, confine my comments to Guidelines 8 and 12.

Guideline 8 makes reference to a number of international commodity agreements. I would like to say that the United Kingdom does not believe that agreements embracing market-intervention arrangements are a long-term solution to developing countries' commodity problems.

ICA's designed to stabilize commodity prices by market intervention have invariably failed. Reference has already been made to agreements aimed at stabilizing coffee and cocoa markets which have run into serious difficulty. The result has been that the markets for these commodities have fallen dramatically as chronic over-production, encouraged by unrealistic price expectation, has depressed prices. We are of the view that these agreements have exacerbated problems for developing countries. The United Kingdom believes that the emphasis for the future should be on efficient working of markets, and on strengthening and restructuring the economies of commodity-dependent developing countries.

Turning to Guideline 12., the paper is confessedly incomplete. However, I did notice that the Director-General drew some attention to the 1987 figures in his Opening Address to the Conference. It will, therefore, be useful to put this part of the paper in context and to bring the facts up to date.

The Development Assistance Committee's preliminary figures for 1988 are now available. They show that aid from the developed donors last year rose by no less than 16 percent in nominal terms over 1987, to US\$ 48 billion.

This rise involved a remarkable jump of 6.7 percent in real terms. DAC members now provide 85 percent of all world aid, a significant rise over previous years. Indeed, aid from DAC members has shown a steady real increase throughout the last ten years.

Despite their economic difficulties, the CMEA donors managed to keep their aid steady last year at about US\$ 5 billion dollars. However, aid from OPEC donors fell by US\$ 1 billion dollars to \$2.3 billion. In real terms, it is now only one-fifth of its size in 1981. We all understand the economic problems so many of these countries face. It is, therefore, very encouraging to salute the special efforts made by so many poor and debt-distressed OPEC countries to maintain the cash level of their pledges in the new Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

By contrast, we are disappointed that one or two of the better-off OPEC donors felt obliged to make shortcuts in their pledges, thus reducing the total to be provided to the poorest peasants and farmers in the world. More ominously, I hear it is likely that these countries might make similar cuts in their pledges to the Ninth IDA Replenishment, which will go largely to the poorest countries in Africa and Asia. We understand their problems, but we appeal to them to make a special effort, not least since there might be a knock-on effect in FAO's work if World Bank concessional aid is constrained.

Of course, this deals only with soft aid. Total resource flows to developing countries rose by 6 percent in 1988, and net official flows rose by 8 percent. Official development finance went up to US\$ 67 billion. Even export credits returned to positive net figures for the first time since 1985. Medium-term and long-term credit disbursement reached about US\$ 20 billion. Private direct investment was just under this figure. The one black spot, of course, was commercial bank lending, but that traditionally is general-purpose finance and does not directly affect agriculture.

All this relates only to flows generally. Figures for agriculture alone are not yet available. Yet those in the paper before us do not show too bad a picture. Commitments to agriculture in real terms are at least as high as a decade ago - much higher than in 1974/75 - and the concessional share of these continues to rise. Moreover, the Secretariat paper ignores food aid which, of course, includes food-for-work projects in rural areas, as well as direct supply for consumption in the countryside. It also ignores the agricultural goods and inputs supplied to individual countries and paid for by structural adjustment credits, because these are not normally recorded.

All in all, we should see help to structural and sectoral adjustment as complementary to direct assistance for agriculture. This is particularly important, because the sale of general imports paid for by adjustment assistance of course provides money to pay for recurrent and maintenance costs. We think paragraph 50 of the paper in front of us rightly stresses both this and the shift to a programmed approach, with a decrease in traditional projects. For many countries this will surely be the right mix for several years to come.

Enrique MONTERO C. (Chile): En el documento C 89/18 se examinan los progresos realizados con respecto a la aplicación de las orientaciones 7, 8 y 12, aprobadas por la Conferencia en 1975 y revisadas y actualizadas en 1983. La evolución en las esferas de estas tres orientaciones determinan en gran medida el medio ambiente exterior del sector de la agricultura y la alimentación de los países en desarrollo. Los reajustes en este ambiente comercial internacional constituyen, como ya lo hemos destacado, elementos vitales de la estrategia a largo plazo para el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Del análisis del documento se puede concluir que ninguno de los objetivos establecidos en estas tres orientaciones, ha sido alcanzado satisfactoriamente. Esta preocupación ya la han manifestado otras delegaciones en esta sala.



Lo establecido en la orientación 7 y 8 relativo a las barreras a la importación, subsidios a la exportación y estabilidad de los mercados, son el resultado fundamentalmente de las políticas adoptadas por los países desarrollados, y el cumplimiento de estas orientaciones está estrechamente relacionado con los avances que se puedan lograr dentro de las negociaciones multilaterales actualmente en desarrollo en el GATT.

Por esto, es conveniente alentar el apoyo que ha estado prestando la FAO a la Secretaría del GATT, y en especial en el diseño y aplicación de políticas no proteccionistas; tomando debidamente en cuenta los efectos que pueden tener en los países en desarrollo más pobres los incrementos de los precios como consecuencia de la mayor orientación al mercado.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan): The Pakistan delegation would, in particular, like to speak on progress regarding the implementation of Guideline 7. A few comments on Guideline 8 and Guideline 12 will also be made.

Briefly, Guideline 7 envisages: developed countries should refrain from imposing new tariffs or non-tariff barriers to the imports of agriculture and agro-based products, particularly from developing countries; accessibility of products of the developing countries to international markets be ensured; restraint from reducing export subsidies and in particular from measures hampering trade of developing countries be exercised by the developing countries.

However, the document reveals that agricultural support in OBCD countries remains high, mainly in the form of measures which involve distortions to trade. In major commodity sectors, competition for markets by means of export subsidy programmes has been unabated or has even increased. It has also been pointed out in the document that the aggravation of problems of market accessibility in agricultural trade is manifest from the large number of disputes before GATT.

This is certainly not a happy state of affairs. Although some measures have been undertaken by individual countries in a regional or bilateral context in deference to the Uruguay Round, yet these have not been able to mitigate the enormity of imperfections in international trade. It hardly needs emphasis that the success in multilateral trade negotiations remains the crucial factor in the revitalization of the economic growth of many developing countries, with significant dependence on agriculture export earnings. For negotiations to produce viable economic order conducive to the growth of the economies of the developing countries, we would reiterate: (1) special and differential treatment to developing countries should constitute an integral element of international trade and be enshrined in GATT rules and disciplines; (2) specific measures must be adopted for the improvement of market access to developing countries through reduction of export barriers and better competitive environment for agricultural exports; (3) all subsidies and assistance for exports in agriculture granted by the developing countries should eventually be eliminated; (4) the need for developing countries to orient their policies to the market signals is not denied.

However, more time would be needed, particularly for the least developed countries, to eliminate subsidies. In this connection, government measures in developing countries on assistance, whether direct or indirect, to encourage agriculture and rural development should not be construed as agricultural subsidies.

(5) agriculture should be brought under the principle of non-discrimination and most-favoured nation rule which is the cornerstone of GATT; (6) a suitable mechanism should be evolved to ensure transparency, proper surveillance and monitoring of actions taken in the field of agriculture, affecting the international market and trade.

Finally, the trade liberalization package should cover all commodities and processed agricultural products. If this is not done, there is a likelihood that the Multilateral Trade Negotiations would degenerate into narrow bargains based on certain commodity groups of interest to particular countries.

This may benefit a small number of farmers mainly in rich countries, but ignore the wellbeing of a much larger number of poor farmers in developing countries.

It is only if concrete measures and actions are taken in an integrated fashion that negotiations and guidelines will improve the situation for the developing economies.

As regards Guidelines 8 and 12, we would appeal and request FAO to continue making concerted efforts for compliance, and in particular, for the consistent flow of external assistance to the developing countries so that sufficient food supplies are ensured.

Hatmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): In view of the fact that the Commission of the European Community has already spoken to Guideline 7, I will concentrate on Guidelines 8 and 12. With respect to Guideline 8, the Federal Government is of the opinion that the aim of stabilizing world markets has to be further pursued in the interest of both consumer and producer countries. Experience in the past, however, has shown that international commodity agreements containing market intervention regulations not in line with the underlying supply and demand situation, will prevent this target from being achieved. Therefore, measures aiming at stabilizing world markets, such as increasing trade liberalization - as we are also striving towards in the context of the Uruguay Round -, improved access to markets and measures aiming at diversification, improved marketing and distribution, are necessary.

A prerequisite for achieving more stabilized markets is a better knowledge of import, requirements and export availabilities of various goods and products. With regard to food supplies for low income and food deficit countries, the instruments available should be fully utilized and implemented.

Guideline 12 quite rightly refers to the strong decline of net resource flow, particularly private investments have shown a marked drop. Nevertheless in this connection, we should also bear in mind the quality of public development aid both at recipient and donor levels which was improved greatly.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée a 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

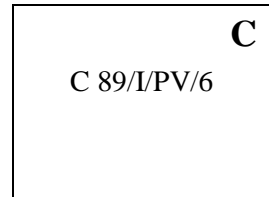
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

**SIXTH MEETING  
SIXIEME SEANCE  
SEXTA SESION**

(17 November 1989)

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
J. A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.2 International Agricultural Adjustment; Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 (continued)
- 6.2 Ajustement agricole international; Rapport intérimaire sur les lignes d'orientation 7, 8 et 12 (suite)
- 6.2 Reajuste agrícola internacional; Informe parcial sobre las orientaciones 7, 8 y 12 (continuación)

**Jose TUBINO (Canada):** The Canadian delegation would like to take the opportunity given in this forum to comment briefly on Canadian performance with respect to Guidelines 7, 8 and 12.

As stated in paper C 89/18, Canada has made progress in regard to Guideline 7 and continues to work actively towards enhancing trade liberalization in the multilateral trade negotiations. The Cairns Group is proposing a reform package for agricultural trade policy in a position paper that will be discussed in next week's Cairns Group meeting in Thailand. Approval by ministers would allow the position paper to be tabled at the November 27-28 meeting of the negotiating group on agriculture.

Regarding Guideline 8, Canada stresses that the economic environment in which international commodity agreements must currently operate differs greatly from what was originally anticipated. International markets have experienced large cyclical fluctuations brought on by both demand and supply forces. Equally important are large structural shifts in consumer demand for various commodities, increased export subsidies and growing protectionism. Many developing countries, burdened with heavy debt loads and policies which often do not encourage structural adjustment, have found it hard to respond to structural changes in the various commodity markets and the often fluid pattern of consumer demand. In addition, the various international commodity agreements have often found it hard to adapt their operations to the changes in market conditions and the important role that adjustment must play in responding to the evolving economic environment. Despite this situation, Canada continues to believe that international commodity agreements can play a useful role if they operate in a flexible manner which takes into account the long-term interests of both consumers and producers.

Canada takes a commodity-by-commodity approach in determining its participation in various agreements and how they can best meet the particular challenges facing each commodity. Canada recognizes the important role that commodity organizations have to play in their particular sectors because of the accumulated experience and in-depth knowledge of their staff members with regard to the respective commodities.

FAO can play a particularly useful role in supporting coordination between individual commodity groups and with other institutions to meet the challenges facing agricultural commodity markets. FAO can also assist commodity groups to increase their focus on efficient production practices and policies, in addition to the traditional focus on export development.

In cases where agreements use market intervention mechanisms, preference should be given to export quotas which contain provisions for frequent reviews of market shares and of price parameters that trigger variations in global and individual quotas.

An important constraint facing many commodity agreements is the lack of adequate financing. These should ease as the Comen Fund for commodities becomes operational. As a member of the Common Fund, Canada welcomes this development and is prepared to continue working in the preparations taking place in several intergovernmental commodity groups aimed at making the Common Fund implementable.

Finally, regarding Guideline 12, as Canada has already expressed in its address to the Conference Plenary/ agriculture has been at the heart of Canadian aid since the early days of the Colombo Plan. Over the years, our bilateral commitment to projects of a specifically agricultural character has grown to an annual level of roughly US\$ 170 million. The total Canadian commitment is, of course, far greater when related programmes in rural development and multilateral commitments are taken into account. Canada's development cooperation programme is now entirely concessional rather than loans which add to external debt. In addition, Canada's new development cooperation strategy stresses poverty alleviation and food security.

Ms STTI BALKISH SHARIFF (Malaysia): My delegation thanks the Secretariat for the report on Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 which gives an overview of the rather slow progress made with respect to dissuading countries from imposing new tariff or non-tariff barriers, ensuring greater stability of world markets for agricultural products and increasing substantial investment in agriculture. We share the views expressed by some delegates yesterday that much remains to be done if we are to meet the full intent of these guidelines.

With respect to Guideline 7, the Malaysian delegation would like to reaffirm our country's commitment to agricultural reforms in the spirit of the April 1989 Trade Negotiating Committee Agreement. Malaysia has always participated actively in the Uruguay Round of negotiations. We feel, however, that FAO can make an important contribution to these negotiations by undertaking an analysis on the full implications of tariff and non-tariff barriers on agricultural trade for the benefit of all member countries. Findings derived, we believe, will be useful in our ongoing efforts to improve world agricultural trade.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** It is a measure of the international community's concern that, while deciding on the change in the periodicity of the review of the progress on the implementation of the guidelines and targets for international agricultural adjustment from every two years to every four years, the 25th FAO Conference made an exception with regard to Guidelines 7, 8 and 12, the progress on which it decided to review at this Conference.

These Guidelines, as we know, mainly concern policies affecting international agricultural trade and market access, stability of world agricultural markets and access to food supplies of food importing developing countries, which are all so vital to free trade in agricultural products in the world and to the prevention of hunger and malnutrition.

The concern of the Conference further highlights the continuing problem of protectionism in the industrial world. As a matter of fact, document C 89/18 refers to the latest OECD annual review of agricultural policies, markets and trade, which reveals that agricultural support in OECD Member States continues to be high. If the quantum of subsidies has decreased for any particular commodity, it is only incidental and mainly because of the higher international market prices which that commodity fetched during that period. Persistent protectionism in these countries, both in its restrictive and distortive aspects, constitutes the principal problem. The policies and techniques of the developed countries have not only restricted export opportunities for the exporting countries but have serious negative implications for the growth and development of world agricultural trade and its stability. We maintain that elimination of such policies and integration of agriculture with the discipline of the General Agreement would lead to expansion and greater stability in world trade in agriculture. The developed countries should therefore take urgent steps to liberalize the markets by eliminating both domestic support programmes and export subsidies.

India welcomes the outcome of the Trade Negotiations Committee meeting of April 1989 and would call upon the developing countries to implement the long-term and short-term measures agreed upon by them. We hope that the agreed framework would provide a firm basis for tailoring the rules and disciplines during future negotiations. The long-term framework for trade in agriculture should ensure scaling down and finally the elimination of distortions and restrictions originating in the industrialized countries within a specified time-frame. We believe that the framework should include the elimination of all provisions for exceptional treatment, elimination of all subsidies and other government support measures having an impact on agricultural trade, prohibition on the use of non-tariff measures not specifically provided for in the GATT, binding of all tariffs on agricultural products at a low level and, finally, elimination of the trade-distorting effects of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

As far as the developing countries are concerned, the leadership role of the State in increasing domestic agricultural production and productivity should be recognized. In these countries, government measures to increase agricultural production and productivity and to ensure equity and stability are an integral part of the development programmes not having any effect on trade. Reduction of tariff on agricultural products in these countries should remain a voluntary exercise in accordance with individual development, financial and trade needs.

In regards to tropical products in the Uruguay Round, the Indian delegation would reiterate its position that the developed countries should be willing to extend concessions on tariff without insisting on reciprocal concessions from the developing countries. Such insistence, sometimes in the same sector, was a major impediment in the progress of the Montreal meeting in implementing the concessions envisaged in the Punta-del-Este Declaration. While some progress in this area has been made in respect of some tropical products, a lot more needs to be achieved in future negotiations in this area.

Coming to the progress on the implementation of Guideline 8, one finds that the recent years have been particularly bad for negotiations for new International Commodities Agreements. The fall in prices of some of the major tropical commodities made agreements difficult on any arrangements. Besides, some of the developed countries have also been favouring freer working of



international markets much to the disadvantage of the developing countries. Even the working of the existing agreements has been seriously threatened and jeopardized on account of the stance taken by some of these countries. The developing countries are looking forward to the operationalization of the Common Fund Accounts which hold great promise through its buffer stocking provisions, and the market development efforts in respect of various ICAs.

India is concerned at the increasing balance of payment problems and the rising prices of cereals leading to limited access to food imports by the low income food deficit countries. The problem has further been compounded by the dwindling food aid which registered a new low in the year 1988 - the lowest in the last six year period and much below the minimum annual target of 10 million tons fixed by the World Food Conference in 1974. The resources position of IEFER and the WFP is also none too happy and warrants concerted action by the international community. It is a matter for further concern that during the year 1987, there was a net outflow of US\$ 38 million from the developing countries on the long-term debts. This situation is further exacerbated when one hears Mr Dutia confirming that the external assistance to agriculture was the lowest at constant prices in the year 1987 since 1981. The guideline target of US\$ 8.3 billion is nowhere in the picture let alone the target of US\$ 11-12.5 billion at 1975 prices that the guideline indicates as the requirement of 1990.

While India welcomes the shift in the development assistance from the project aid, as also the decrease in the source-tied aid, it would urge the developed world and the international funding organization to make all out efforts to maintain the flow of adequate external assistance to the developing countries to accelerate the process of their agricultural development. They should also ensure financing of local costs as well as recurring costs to enhance the aid absorbing capabilities of the developing countries.

Thank you Mr Chairman and my fellow delegates for your patient hearing on my rather long intervention.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil):** I would like to start by thanking the Secretariat for its very useful and, overall, rather balanced report.

With regard to Guideline 7 the report may, if anything, err a little bit on the optimistic side. To start with we view the higher prices of some agricultural commodities in 1988 as a conjunctival situation, largely attributable to climatic conditions in certain areas such as North America. It may actually prove to have been a mixed blessing as it temporarily reduced the pressure for reform on some the most remittent protectionists.

In spite of the existence of the commitment to stand still and roll back trade barriers in the context of the Uruguay Round, old and new trade barriers in the major market continue to deny export opportunities to the developing countries. Moreover, the farmers of the South have been the casualties of the subsidies war between the European Economic Community and the United States. Brazil, for one, has been watching the reduction of its share of the sugar market both in the Community and in the United States for several years. More recently, Brazil's exports of soy beans have been displaced in third markets by American exports subsidized under the export enhancement programme. I must also mention the EEC quota for high quality beef, referred to in paragraph 18 of the Report, is very unevenly distributed. The quota allocated to Brazil is extremely small in view of the quantity and reliability of Brazilian supplies, and corresponds in fact to a denial of most favoured nation treatment.

In paragraph 4, the document mentions that "with the resumption of the Uruguay Round negotiations, certain progress has been achieved in the negotiations on tropical products". Lest we forget, Mr Chairman, the Brazilian delegation would like to recall that the Declaration which launched the Kennedy Round of multilateral trade negotiations in the 1960s, stated as its objective "the complete liberalization of trade in tropical products at the end of the Round". In the 1970s, the Tokyo Round set itself the same goal, again with very little consequence. The Punta del Este Declaration, which launched the Uruguay Round, once more listed the complete liberalization of trade in tropical products as a priority negotiating objective. Moreover, the developed countries should not request and should not expect reciprocity for liberalization in this area. Yet, so far the only thing which has been achieved is the provisional inclusion of disappointingly short lists of products in the Generalized System of Preference schemes of some countries. Besides, it must be pointed out that it is in the area of processed tropical products that some of the most glaring cases of tariff escalation are to be found.

In paragraph 6 of the report, reference is made to the proliferation of trade agreements among developed countries, such as the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement and the process of creation of a single market in the European Economic Community. We would have welcomed an analysis of the likely impact of these agreements on the agricultural exports of the developing countries. Past experience shews that these regional agreements often result in much more trade diversion, at the expense of the developing countries, than trade creation. We wish the FAO could in the future provide us with inputs and recommendations regarding this issue.

Under the circumstances, Mr Chairman, we pin our hopes on the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. But the achievement of the Round and the implementation of its results are still some way ahead of us. We expect therefore the developed countries to display the necessary political will to comply with Guideline 7 as soon as possible. The distinguished delegate from Belgium made yesterday what amounts to a call for optimism and patience. Unfortunately, we cannot go along with that. Optimism and patience are luxury items for countries burdened by huge foreign debts, in good measure incurred by virtue of the deterioration of their terms of trade and the reduction of agricultural export earnings.

With regard to Guideline 8, the situation is even worse. During the last decade, we have seen the demise of most international commodity agreements. Brazil continues to view those agreements as an important and useful tool to stabilize prices and export revenues. They cannot however function properly unless the causes of price instability are tackled. Foremost among these are the very high interest rates prevalent throughout this decade, and the protectionism and subsidies in the major markets which have contributed to depress and destabilize international prices. For the developing countries, it is difficult to believe that the free play of market forces could by and of itself stabilize prices and arbitrage neutrally the losses and gains of consumers and producers in case of chance events such as crop failures, particularly in view of the fact that trade in the main agricultural commodities is concentrated in the hands of a small number of large transnational trading companies.

On the other hand, the entry into force of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities is to be hailed as a significant event. We expect the Common Fund to play a major role in the achievement of the objectives laid down in Guideline 8.

As regards Guideline 12, I would like to make two brief comments. The first is to regret the low level and the declining trend of official commitments to agriculture. This is even more regrettable when seen against the background of negative net resource flows which constitute, as the head of my Delegation mentioned in his speech before the Plenary, a sort of Marshall Plan in reverse. Second, I would like to restate the position put forward by Brazil in different fora, against artificial distinctions being made between developing countries. These distinctions do not reflect accurately the reality of underdevelopment, which unfortunately is the persistence of large pockets of deep poverty across the whole of the Third World.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that there is a close link between the three guidelines. Several years ago, the developed countries decided to stress that aid was not a solution, and the slogan "trade, not aid" was invented. But the years have shewn little disposition on the part of some countries to reduce protectionism. The situation is one in which both trade and aid fall far behind the needs and possibilities of the developing countries. This is not conducive to sustainable development.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): Mi delegación desea agradecer a la Secretaria por la documentación tan valiosa que nos ha presentado. Hemos pedido el uso de la palabra en esta parte de nuestro debate para enfatizar, muy brevemente, algo que ya fue señalado por nuestro Ministro al intervenir ante el Plenario de esta Conferencia.

Se hacen esfuerzos, pero creemos que falta mucho camino por recorrer para cumplir con estas orientaciones. En primer lugar, queremos referirnos a la Orientación 7 y en ella, específicamente, al contenido del párrafo 6 del documento. Es correcto, señor Presidente, que hay preocupación entre países en desarrollo productores de banano que hoy suministran fruta al mercado europeo por lo que va a suceder con la creación del Mercado Unico Europeo y las consecuentes medidas restrictivas para los productos de fuera del área. Dejamos planteada esta inquietud. Estamos seguros de que la Comunidad Económica Europea, cuya política hacia el área, en particular hacia Centroamérica, ha sido beneficiosa, especialmente en los últimos tiempos, va a tomar en cuenta estas situaciones y los planteamientos que aquí se han hecho incluso por otras delegaciones, en particular la Delegación de Colombia.

A nuestro país preocupan especialmente estas medidas restrictivas y queremos señalar que es muy particular nuestra situación, porque ya sufrimos un ilegal bloqueo comercial que impide el acceso de nuestros productos al mayor mercado del área, caso que ya es conocido de todos ustedes; de manera que cualquier medida adicional que restrinja el acceso de nuestros productos a otros mercados agrava más la situación. La Orientación 7 habla claro en el sentido de que los países desarrollados deben dar muestras de la necesaria voluntad política y abstenerse de aplicar medidas no arancelarias que perturben arbitrariamente el comercio.

Señor Presidente, el bloqueo que sufre mi país de parte de la mayor potencia continental viola no sólo esta orientación, sino el espíritu mismo del GATT. Nosotros creemos que es hora de que en un mundo en proceso de distensión se dejen de aplicar este tipo de medidas en contra de países del área, ya que somos varios los que sufrimos estas arbitrariedades. No creemos que se pueda hablar aquí de liberalización del comercio, cuando al mismo tiempo estamos fícente a medidas arbitrarias de restricción y bloqueo con fines políticos. Dejamos planteadas estas inquietudes.

Por otro lado, y atinente a la Orientación 8, reiteramos el llamado de atención a la crisis que se está viviendo en muchos países en desarrollo productores de café por la ruptura del Convenio Internacional del Café y la consiguiente caída de los precios del grano a la mitad o más. Esta crisis, vivida en países donde ya de por sí la economía está resquebrajada, tiene consecuencias graves. Señalamos que los países consumidores que han contribuido a romper el Convenio deben reflexionar y, en conjunto, buscar medidas correctivas. Nos sumamos también aquí a la preocupación manifestada por otras delegaciones, en particular por la Delegación de Colombia.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, no podemos dejar pasar la mención que se hace a la situación de la reducción que sufrirá la ayuda alimentaria y la merita de la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia.

Estas son preocupaciones que, junto con otras expuestas por numerosos colegas, deben quedar bien recogidas en nuestro informe.

Pascal BRIODIN (France): Sans revenir longuement sur la ligne d'orientation 7, je souhaiterais mettre en valeur trois des idées fortes qu'a exprimées le représentant de la Commission au nom de la communauté européenne et des Etats Membres: la première de ces lignes directrices est la politique courageuse suivie par la Communauté en matière agricole (baisse des prix de soutien, mise en place de stabilisateurs budgétaires, etc.); la seconde est la facilité d'accès au marché communautaire pour la très grande majorité des produits agricoles des pays associés; la troisième est la volonté de réussir les négociations commerciales en cours en s'attachant notamment à ce que les pays en développement fassent l'objet d'un traitement spécifique.

Cette Commission No 1 aura remarqué que, sur les sujets de compétence communautaire, les douze Etats Membres de la Communauté européenne s'expriment d'une seule voix.

La Communauté européenne est ainsi devenue un partenaire important dans la coopération internationale, et l'un des plus gros contributeurs de l'aide publique au développement.

La deuxième partie du document C 89/18 est consacrée à la ligne d'orientation 8 et dresse l'état des lieux dans le domaine des accords internationaux de produits. Notre délégation tient à souligner qu'elle déplore que l'époque soit défavorable à la plupart de ces accords. La France a souvent exprimé le souhait d'une meilleure coopération internationale pour la régulation des marchés de matières premières, et le maintien pour les pays exportateurs de prix rémunérateurs: à ce titre, mon pays a toujours exprimé une position de principe en faveur de ces accords internationaux de produits.

Nous nous joignons aux nombreuses délégations qui déplorent les échecs des Accords cacao et café. Mais nous constatons que d'autres accords fonctionnent de manière plus favorable, notamment l'Accord caoutchouc; il faut donc, à notre sens, poursuivre dans la voie d'une meilleure régulation des marchés.

La mise en place du Fonds commun pour les produits de base est pour nous une source d'espoir. Ce fonds dispose de deux guichets. Le premier doit servir à soutenir les accords internationaux de produits. Le second, quant à lui, doit permettre de soutenir des actions propres à améliorer le fonctionnement des marchés.

Sans préjuger l'efficacité d'un outil qui ne peut à lui seul tout résoudre, nous nous réjouissons des voies nouvelles qu'il est susceptible d'ouvrir. Les marchés internationaux sont instables par nature; c'est pourquoi les solutions passent, de notre point de vue, par une organisation des marchés aux niveaux national et régional. Il faut promouvoir des dispositifs de angulation des marchés qui s'appuient sur une analyse complète des besoins nationaux, sur une meilleure maîtrise des flux aux stades de la production, de la transformation et de la distribution, sans se priver pour autant de la souplesse que procure le recours au marché mondial pour les produits les plus courants.

La troisième partie de ce rapport traite de l'aide extérieure fournie à l'agriculture des pays en développement. Ma délégation déplore la baisse considérable des transferts de ressources vers les pays en développement et regrette que l'objectif de 8,3 milliards de dollars E.-U. (aux prix de 1975) n'ait pas été atteint.

La France, pour sa part, n'a cessé d'accroître les transferts publics vers les pays en développement, et je veux insister sur le fait que le pourcentage de l'aide française accordée au secteur agricole et, plus généralement, au développement rural, est et restera élevé.

Enfin, je serais incomplet si je ne mentionnais pas plus particulièrement l'importance et l'originalité profonde du dispositif d'aide mis en place par la Communauté européenne. Comme l'a rappelé M. Ray Me Sharry, membre de la Commission des Communautés européennes, celle-ci gère un budget de plus de 2 milliards d'écus destinés à la coopération avec les pays en développement. J'ajoute que les sommes consacrées à l'agriculture représentent près du quart de ce montant; d'autre part, la Communauté privilégie l'aspect qualitatif de l'aide et offre une large gamme d'instruments. Deux de ces instruments concernent directement les produits de base: il s'agit du Stabex et du Stabex à destination des PMA. Nul ne peut nier l'effort consenti en ce domaine et il faut souhaiter que l'initiative européenne puisse être relayée par d'autres.

Je ne voudrais pas terminer sans souligner de nouveau l'ampleur de la tâche qui reste à accomplir et souhaiter que la communauté internationale sache tirer les leçons des échecs et des succès de la coopération dans le domaine abordé sous ce point de l'ordre du jour.

João LUSEVIKUENO (Angola): Monsieur le Président, ita délégation, comme celles qui l'ont précédée, souhaite vous rappeler toute l'importance qu'elle accorde au Rapport intérimaire sur les lignes d'orientation 7, 8 et 12, relatif à l'ajustement agricole international.

Avant de commencer l'examen de ce point, ma délégation souhaite présenter quelques observations d'ordre général sur le document. Quand on parle de l'ajustement structurel, ma délégation sous-entend "une révision de la structure d'un système, lequel peut être monétaire, commercial, agricole ou autre". Dans ce cas précis, il s'agit de la restrurturation d'un système mondial agricole où la tendance qui se dessine actuellement est celle qui consiste à prendre des mesures à caractère conjoncturel sur des problèmes d'ordre structurel. Ma délégation considère que ces mesures sont palliatives, sinon éphémères, du fait que les véritables causes structurelles n'ont jamais été démantelées; à ce titre, si on ne fait pas très attention, les résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent, bien que substantiels, risquent d'être effacés.

Heureusement, en dépit de tous les défis, le système des Nations unies a survécu à toutes les épreuves de notre temps et même ceux qui voulaient ignorer l'Organisation des Nations Unies en tant que tribune pour l'action collective des Etats réalisent de plus en plus que l'Organisation mondiale constitue un instrument irremplaçable de régulation des relations internationales et de solution des problèmes internationaux qui nous concernent tous. Sans les Nations Unies, il ne serait pas possible de parvenir à la démocratisation la plus profonde et la plus vaste possible des relations internationales. Cela nous pousse à nous poser la question suivante: sans la FAO, quel serait l'avenir de l'humanité d'ici l'an 2000, surtout celui des pays les plus démunis?

Ma délégation profite de cette occasion pour rendre hommage au Secrétariat qui nous a présenté un document complet et très riche d'enseignements, bien que ne comportant pas de recommandations. Je comprends que la FAO ne soit pas l'enceinte appropriée pour résoudre un certain nombre de problèmes.

S'agissant de la ligne d'orientation 7, ma délégation manifeste sa préoccupation du fait que, malgré les engagements répétés des principales nations marchandes de maintenir le statu quo et de refouler le protectionnisme, l'encadrement du commerce international s'est plutôt accentué. Un quart des exportations des pays en développement de produits autres que les combustibles vers les pays développés à économie de marché est en butte à une vaste gamme de mesures non tarifaires telles que les mesures paratarifaires, les restrictions quantitatives, la surveillance des quantités importées et des prix, le régime des licences non automatiques et les limitations volontaires des exportations.

A la différence des droits de douane qui s'appliquent de la même manière à tous les partenaires commerciaux, les mesures non tarifaires, et en particulier les limitations volontaires après négociation des exportations, peuvent être employées à l'encontre de tel ou tel partenaire commercial. L'abandon progressif du multilatéralisme en faveur du bilatéralisme pour la solution des conflits commerciaux est lourd de conséquences pour les exportations des pays en développement et l'absence de négociation est un handicap évident dans les négociations bilatérales. De ce fait, ma délégation exprime sa profonde inquiétude quant au déséquilibre naissant dans la série de négociations de l'Uruguay Round, à cause de la finalité inadéquate donnée aux domaines intéressant spécialement les pays en développement ainsi qu'aux pressions croissantes exercées sur eux pour qu'ils acceptent de nouvelles obligations et fassent des concessions incompatibles avec leurs besoins de développement, financiers et commerciaux.

Sur le plan de l'agriculture, il importe que des mesures adéquates soient prises pour libéraliser le commerce international en éliminant progressivement les subventions à l'exportation pour les produits agricoles, en n'imposant pas de nouvelles restrictions et en facilitant l'accès aux marchés pour les produits des pays en développement. Etant entendu que l'agriculture est d'une importance capitale pour les pays en développement et que, dans ces pays, la majorité de la population en dépend pour ce qui est de l'emploi et de la subsistance, il importe que les pays développés honorent les engagements relatifs au statu quo et au démantèlement pris dans la Déclaration sur la série de négociations commerciales multilatérales (NCM) et l'examen à mi-parcours.

Concernant la ligne d'orientation 8 et plus particulièrement les accords de base, ma délégation souhaite rappeler que, suite à la baisse drastique des prix, les pays en développement exportateurs de produits de base connaissent

depuis dix ans un important déclin de leurs recettes d'exportation, ce qui détériore leur situation économique, provoque une stagnation de leur développement/ alourdit le fardeau de leur dette et dégrade le niveau de vie de leur population.

Toutefois, la délégation angolaise se félicite de l'entrée en vigueur, le 19 juin 1989, du Fonds commun de base et du fait que sa mise en oeuvre imprimera une forte impulsion à la recherche d'une solution durable aux problèmes de produits de base; elle profite de cette occasion pour lancer un vibrant appel à tous les Etats Membres qui ont signé et n'ont pas encore ratifié l'Accord sur le Fonds commun, en particulier les grands exportateurs et consommateurs de produits de base, pour qu'ils adhèrent sans délai à ce Fonds commun et contribuent de façon constructive à l'établissement de conditions stables sur le marché mondial des produits de base qui profiteraient éventuellement aussi bien aux producteurs qu'aux consommateurs.

Josef FOJTL (Czechoslovakia) : Allow me to comment briefly on the fulfilment of the individual guidelines in Czechoslovakia.

On Guideline 7, the access to markets, Czechoslovakia is a traditional importer of a number of agricultural commodities which do not grow in our conditions. Access to the Czechoslovak market is promoted in favour of the developing countries. The 42 least developed countries have duty-free access. Other developing countries are free from 75 percent or, for some products, from 85 percent of import duties. This policy was simple to follow in the old centrally planned system. As is known, however, economic reconstructions are being implemented, and elements of the market system are being introduced. In addition, a policy leading to a continuous limiting of subsidies is being practised. This creates a new situation. In the new conditions Czechoslovakia wants to continue to apply the preference system favourable for developing countries.

On Guideline 12, concerning external assistance, Czechoslovakia well understands and supports the desire of developing countries for diversification of their economies and especially of the agricultural sector. We support the desire of those countries for a larger participation in processing, marketing and distribution of agricultural products. Czechoslovakia is aware of the problems and difficulties which affect a number of developing countries in this area.

That is why we give assistance to developing countries which is focused on the field of granting credits under favourable conditions, completion of investment projects, delivering Czechoslovak experts and training people from developing countries in Czechoslovakia.

In our opinion, the human factor is the most important one. Good knowledge, organization and management are the keys to development. Technical assistance should lay more stress on this area in the future, in our view. We shall probably discuss this point in detail this afternoon. Especially in this field Czechoslovakia is interested in further extension of technical assistance and of cooperation with FAO.

**Paul R. ERYDEN (Australia):** My delegation has made its views on the GATT Uruguay Round in our earlier intervention on that item. We do welcome the intervention of the United States, with much of which we agree, and I generally associate my delegation with the sentiments of the interventions by

Colombia and Argentina. There are some developed countries, such as those in the Cairns Group, which very much share the interests of the developing countries in meaningful agricultural liberalization and adjustment. In my delegation's view, the pace of agricultural adjustment, as outlined in document C 89/13, has been disappointingly slow, particularly in the developing countries.

While the paper is essentially a list of policy reforms in developed countries, the agricultural policy reforms recently undertaken by Australia, have been overlooked and for us this is a serious deficiency.

Our comments on specific paragraphs in the document can be summarized as follows : paragraph 3 - it is not clear whether the FAO considers that input support prima facie distorts trade. These policies affect domestic consumption, and production, and thus trade flows. The cost of trade distorting policies can include significant losses arising from the misallocation of resources within a country, in addition to budgetary costs. This point is not made. In general, budgetary costs are a poor measure of the true efficiency cost of the support programme, as these tend to fluctuate with world price and exchange rate changes. In addition, relatively low support levels in large countries are more likely to distort international trade to a greater extent than similar support levels in smaller countries.

Regarding the suggestion of a footnote on the total costs listed in paragraph 3, presumably that footnote would note that the figure might indeed be larger.

Paragraph 4 states that certain industrialized countries have introduced changes in agricultural policies, which have the effect of reducing barriers to trade, reducing subsidies on production and limiting growth of agricultural support expenditures. This is not the case for cereals.

The EEC has introduced measures aimed at constraining budgetary expenditure and production through reducing support prices. However, translation of these price reductions through the green currency system often means increases in prices in domestic terms. The EEC import levies which reflect internal support prices remain high. The United States has recently increased the area wheat growers are permitted to plant to 115 percent of their base acreage and still remain eligible for programme benefit. For both, export subsidy programmes are still distorting world cereal trade.

In paragraph 9 there is some debate as to the effectiveness of EEC "stabilizers". In particular, Australian research authorities have argued that the policy controls could be weakened by the lack of fully binding expenditure limits and the existence of loopholes which could result in a circumvention of agreed disciplines over time. It is also argued that the net effect of stabilizers on production and exports will be limited in many cases, and that changes in green currency exchange rates have the potential to further weaken stabilizers. In our view, there has been a disappointing response to the set-aside programme, underlining the need to lower price support before land set-aside programmes become attractive.

In paragraph 10, the first sentence seems to contradict the last. The first one states that "significant steps to reduce price support for wheat and coarse grains" have been taken by the EEC, Canada and the United States, If this assertion is based on reduction in PSEs, these were significantly influenced by higher world cereal prices, rather than reductions in assistance.



Paragraph 10 also states that land farmed was reduced under the United States' Area Reduction Programme in 1989-90. In the 1990.91 season, land allocated to wheat farming was increased to 115 percent of the base rate.

Paragraph 11 indicates that a number of countries have cut their quotas and a tariff arrangements for certain grains. We are not aware of any. Perhaps the Secretariat could clarify that.

Paragraph 12 ignores entirely the significant liberalization of wheat-support arrangements in Australia during 1988-89 and 89-90. These include the elimination of the Australian Wheat Board's monopoly of the domestic market, the termination of administrative pricing arrangements, determination of guaranteed minimum pricing arrangements, and the phasing down of the level of guarantee to 90 percent of the net pool.

Paragraph 20 - again recent reforms in the Australian dairy sector have been overlooked; for example, the removal of the product levy on cheese and butter.

Paragraph 22 addresses Guideline 8 and indicates slow progress on the negotiation of international commodity agreements to stabilize agricultural product markets. Australia is not in favour of such agreements, which seek to defend designated prices. Australia supports the GATT position, that international negotiations should aim establishing a market-oriented agricultural system.

Paragraph 25 - while purchases and sales through the buffer stock under the International Natural Rubber Agreement may have been profitable, this does not imply that the Agreement promoted an efficient allocation of resources.

Paragraph 40 talks about increasing Third World debt. We reiterate previous comments that low agricultural prices have limited the export earnings of developing countries and increased their indebtedness.

In summary, progress in adjustment has been disappointing, but the opportunity is now there in the GATT Round to make progress. We must not let that last chance slip by.

Janusz ROWINSKI (Poland): Poland shares the opinions expressed in the document and by many previous speakers, that in the last years the trade liberalization process has been slow and uneven. Therefore, we attach great importance to the Uruguay Round of Negotiations, and especially to the efforts to achieve multilateral regulation of international trade in food and farm products.

Poland is an active participant in these negotiations. At the same time, we are rapidly transforming our economic system. One of the most important parts of the programme of reforms is the opening of the Polish economy, inter alia, through the liberalization of imports as well as of financial flows and direct foreign investment. The principal regulator of foreign trade is to be the exchange rate of the Polish currency. We also intend to negotiate the protocol of Poland's access to GATT, changing the obligation to increase the volume of imports to tariff liberalization. As a result of this, the position of Poland would be identical to that of the other GATT members.

The effect of all the transformations will be the liberalization of our foreign trade, food and farm products included.

Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for preparing a very informative and impartial document on the progress in the implementation of the Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment. These Guidelines are very important to us, and Kenya, like other developing countries, looks forward to their speedy implementation. Therefore, we appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat to bring forward the progress report for discussion during this year's Conference. We concur with the Secretariat and with many other delegations who have spoken before us, that implementation of these Guidelines has been very slow.

Regarding Guideline 7, my delegation has already expressed its views and strong desires to see the removal of the barriers to agricultural and agro-based products, particularly from developing countries, in order to improve their access to international markets. This calls for the goodwill of the developed countries, deliberately to encourage trade in agricultural products from developing countries, in order to help them to overcome their economic difficulties. Kenya, as an agricultural country, relies heavily on agriculture for the livelihood and the future development of its people. Currently 50 percent of the total export earnings are derived from the sale of agricultural products, including coffee, tea, horticultural crops and other minor agricultural commodities. These export earnings enable the country to import industrial goods, machinery and agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, none of which are manufactured in the country.

The recent rapid decline of coffee prices following the break-down of the international coffee agreement has therefore dealt a hard blow to the economy of our country and no doubt other countries similarly placed. The overall incomes and profitability of this enterprise has been reduced drastically. This in turn has made it difficult for farmers to purchase necessary inputs and rendered it irrational to apply good husbandry techniques in many cases. The repercussions of this situation are beginning to be felt in the area of employment and the overall economy of the country and will, if it continues longer, bring about long-term negative influx on the general performance on agriculture and the economy.

This situation, I am quite sure, obtains in most of the developing countries which depend on coffee. Coffee prices, as we all know, have fluctuated widely for many years, crossing corresponding fluctuation and uncertainties in the economies of producing countries. It is the opinion of my delegation that the long-term solution to this problem lies in the diversification of our agricultural export commodities which will bring about more stable incomes.

While we appeal for the cooperation and goodwill of the producers and consumers of this commodity to urgently work out a new agreement designed to restore and stabilize coffee prices at an acceptable level, we would also appeal to the developed countries, the FAO and other international donor agencies to assist our countries to establish new alternative enterprises which in the long run will diversify our exports and stabilize our incomes. We are sure many opportunities exist which could be exploited towards this end.

Mahmoud SAMY (Egypt) (original language Arabic): I shall try to be very brief as far as I am able in reviewing document 89/18. I would like first to express our disappointment because, as you all know, we are very soon going to be starting on the decade of the '90s, whereas the Guidelines which are the main subject of this document have not yet been agreed upon and the

indications for the '90s are not optimistic, and in spite of the efforts which have been made, countries have not taken into account the criterion which is of assistance and help to others. We must stress the present economic circumstance which is, of course, as usual the developing countries who suffer from these unacceptable situations. Developed countries, of course, speak from time to time of the free market and from time to time they speak of protectionism, and this depends on the commodity to be imported or exported and, this disrupts the international market.

I must also underline the lack of progress in applying Guideline number 8, because the food-importing countries have not been in a position to meet their need totally, and as underlined in paragraph 36, the price of cereals for import is increasing, and this worsens the debt problem for developing countries. It must also be remembered that developing countries are suffering from a lack of demand for their national commodities, and my delegation still hopes that developed countries will make greater efforts to make progress in applying the Guidelines which are mentioned in the document, and this will help us to achieve international balance in agricultural trade which will be of great help to everybody.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): The Ghana delegation shares with other delegations in deploring the snail progress made so far in imniting Guideline 7 as contained in document C 89/18. Of course, we are not unaware of the fact that budgetary and agricultural policies differ from country to country and from one regional grouping to another. We are therefore not surprised at the somewhat "free-rider" trading behaviour exhibited by some countries and regional groupings. As set out in paragraph 4 of the document C 89/18, industrialized countries have brought about some changes in their agricultural policies which have the effect of reducing barriers to trade and reducing subsidies on production and slowing down the growth of agricultural support expenditures. However, it is regrettable to observe that the level of suport still being provided to agriculture through the policies of most of the industrialized countries remains high and market failures and distortions stemming from unfair competition continue to create problems for importing countries, especially the developing countries.

The problem of market access in agricultural trade involving processed and tropical horticultural products from the ACP countries remains unresolved. The Single European Market concept is of concern to exporters of tropical fruits, especially from West Africa, my delegation believes that this concept ought to be reviewed to harmonize with the provisions in Guideline 7.

Ghana believes that animal production in Africa, particularly west Africa has been suffering for many years from cheaper, subsidized imports of meat and skim powdered milk. The traditinal natural markets for these are at present over-supplied with cheap meat and skim milk powder (some of which are of doubtful quality and wholesomeness) from the EEC and some countries in South America. The effect has been not only reduction of meat and milk production in these countries, but also strangulation of meat and milk production in these countries, and of domestic development of the industry. The reason is that this has a disincentive effect on local production and frustrates efforts at innovation and intensification among the affected African livestock producers My delegation would therefore urge that the implementation of Guideline 7 be effected unconditionally in order to help develop our livestock industry.

We have a few comments to make on Guideline 8. Ghana has demonstrated its comparative advantage in the production of such industrial crops as coconut, palm oil, rubber, cotton, and tobacco and other products such as coffee and timber. But after encouraging rapid growth from small pockets of communal production in the mid-70s output collapsed in the deteriorating economic environment.

Regaining the prior growth trends and injecting new dynamism into the sub-sectors under the export diversification programme is an achievable and important priority because of the contributions such crops can make to rural incomes, existing under-utilized processing industries and export earnings. But we believe that development in these areas of Guidelines 7, 8 and 12 will determine the extent of our success.

The crucial contributions of cocoa, not only of rural incomes and domestic savings mobilization, but also to fiscal and foreign exchange, makes it a keystone in mapping out an agricultural growth strategy for my country.

However, prices of cocoa and coffee have fallen precipitously during the past two years as a result of the markets remaining heavily in surplus. In the face of the mounting surpluses we urge the FAO to look into the economics of introducing for the first time quality related price differentials for cocoa and sell the idea to the participants of the cocoa agreement negotiations. With supply outstripping demand, and the dwindling exports earnings from the crops, there is an urgent need to accommodate new consumers from the non-traditional consuming countries, so that the cocoa market will be widened and pave the way to reach an equitable agreement before the current International Cocoa Agreement expires in September 1990.

Finally, our recovery efforts continue to depend to a significant extent on the mobilization of adequate external resources to make the investment capital requirements. External resource mobilization has acquired even greater importance with the unprecedented collapse of primary commodity prices. Given our high dependence on these primary commodities for export earnings and the increase in production resulting from the initial rehabilitation emphasis on our recovery programme, it would be a cruel irony if Africa's efforts at national recovery should fail because of the current trends in the international primary commodity markets. We therefore urge all consumers of goodwill to make the necessary concessions that would lead to early conclusions of primary commodity agreements.

As we have said in the Plenary, FAO can make a great contribution to ease the situation by re-activating the Inter-governmental Group on Cocoa.

**Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** We are all aware the four-year round launched in 1986 in Uruguay aims to fight increasing protectionism and update GAIT's 40 year old World Trade Rules. But facts and figures show all these rules are more in the favour of western industrialized countries than developing countries. However, the ongoing meeting of 27 Ministers of countries participating in Tokyo in the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has not yet reached the conclusion, but during recent years in which some countries have taken into account to some extent the Guidelines 7, 8 and 12, Terms of Trade for Developing Countries, has declined to 19.6 percent in 1986, particularly for the Middle East to 48.6 percent in the same year, and to 15.6 percent 1988 (Table 1-1 C 89/2).

The overall value of exports by developing countries expressed in Terms of Special Draw Right (SDR), increased only slightly in 1988, but their Terms of Trade deteriorated because of the sharp fall of world oil prices.

In many developing countries, 1987's high inflation accelerated in 1988, particularly in Latin America, where stabilization programmes in several countries encountered severe difficulties and consumer prices reached historic heights.

The currencies of most developing countries continued to depreciate in 1987, though more slowly than in previous years. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) the real effective value of their currencies declined by 31 percent during the three years ending October 1987.

All these events show unfavourable conditions for the Third world. Nevertheless, some people hoped that the Tokyo meeting would help break a stalemate over tariff cuts, the most fundamental area of negotiation in the 97-nation GATT.

For the time being, most countries advocate tariff reduction by a mathematical formula for all participants, but the United States prefers direct bargaining between trading partners.

Another issue vital to the success of the Uruguay Round is extension of GATT's rules to cover services such as banking and tourism, intellectual property rights such as copyrights and patents, and regulations governing foreign investment. Moreover, the final position reached on this issue would decide the extent to which developing countries committed themselves to GATT.

One point which has vital importance is that industrialized nations are eager to extend GATT's rules, but many Third World countries fear that open competition in services and tighter control of copyrights and patents could damage their infant industries.

In agriculture, the United States, which has proposed ending subsidies which distort trade in farm products, remains far apart from the 12-nation European Community, which is still committed to its common agricultural policy.

All these discrepancies should be deliberated by developing countries.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic) : On behalf of my delegation, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the document containing guidelines and which appeals to all countries to eliminate tariff barriers and make easier the access of agricultural products to markets, especially as these are so important for developing countries. This appeal might enable the international market to improve.

As far as my country is concerned, we should point out that our main crop is cotton. Cotton irakes slow progress, but the meat we produce encounters difficulties, and this affects our balance of trade. As far as livestock exports are concerned, there is a slight improvement. After the desertification in the Sahel countries, of which Sudan is one, we are aware of the difficulties which natural resources have suffered. Our government has accepted its responsibility and has paid compensation to all those affected. It should be said that FAO has made every possible effort to help our country.

I vjelccme what is said in Guideline 8 which appeals to the international cannunity to take measures to protect importing countries, expecially those with low incomes, such as my country, to ensure the establishment of acceptable conditions, especially when, as now, there is food deficit. We should point out that Sudan has encountered these difficulties during the 1980s.

Makhtar NAANANI (Maroc): Ma délégation est satisfaite de l'évaluation faite par la FAO au sujet de l'application des trois lignes d'orientation, 7, 8 et 12. Si la Conférence, à sa 24ème Session, avait retenu de suivre plus particulièrement les progrès accomplis dans les domaines couverts par ces orientations, c'est que celles-ci revêtent un caractère prioritaire et urgent.

Ma délégation se félicite de la tendance prise par les pays iustrialisés quant à l'application de ces orientations, et notamment celle relative aux politiques du commerce extérieur. Néanmoins, comme il est bien souligné dans le document C 89/18, l'application de l'ajustement s'effectue à un rythme très lent, et de ce fait son impact sur le commerce international, et plus particulièrement sur les exportations des pays en développement, est insignifiant.

Ma délégation se réjouit de voir certains pays développés adopter des programmes visant à supprimer les restrictions quantitatives applicables aux importations des pays agricoles. Ce sont là des mesures encourageantes qui vont dans le sens de l'assainissement du commerce international.

Toutefois, nous déplorons que le soutien apporté par un grand nombre de pays industrialisés à l'agriculture demeure extrêmement important. Le document cite que pour certains grands produits la concurrence à coup de subventions à l'exportation est restée acharnée et s'est même parfois exacerbée.

Ma délégation espère voir plus de progrès accomplis dans le domaine couvert par les trois orientations. A cet effet, nous lançons un appel pour accélérer l'application des mesures relatives plus particulièrement aux échanges commerciaux de produits agricoles.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE): Je vous remercie pour avoir bien voulu me donner la parole. Je vous félicite pour votre élection et je remercie le Secrétariat pour l'excellente documentation qu'il nous a fournie.

Le problème que nous sommes en train de traiter est d'une importance primordiale et vitale, et les distingués délégués qui m'ont précédé n'ont pas manqué de mettre le doigt sur certaines plaies qui restent encore ouvertes malgré les efforts déployés jusqu'ici.

Le Conseil de l'OCDE, réuni à Paris au niveau des ministres le 31 mai et le 1er juin 1989, a passé en revue la situation économique générale et a examiné les activités de l'action gouvernementale nécessaire au progrès économique et social dans la zone OCDE et dans les pays en développement.

Les ministres ont déclaré que la coopération économique internationale sera intensifiée sur le plan des politiques aussi bien macroéconomiques que structurelles afin de soutenir, entre autres, le processus d'ajustement extérieur.

Ils ont pris note du rapport conjoint du Comité de l'agriculture et du Comité des échanges de l'OCDE et ont souscrit à ses conclusions. La baisse de la production résultant principalement de la sécheresse en Amérique du Nord mais aussi, dans une certaine mesure, de l'action gouvernementale, a contribué à la réduction des aides en 1988, telles qu'on peut les évaluer au moyen des ESP/ESC (Equivalents des subventions à la production et Equivalents des subventions à la consommation) • Les aides à l'agriculture supportées par les contribuables et les consommateurs ont atteint, comme cela a déjà été dit, environ 270 milliards de dollars. Ce chiffre est inférieur à ceux de 1986 et 1987 mais dépasse ceux de 1985 et des années précédentes. Il faut reconnaître que l'accès aux marchés a été amélioré dans une mesure encore modeste. Par conséquent, les ministres ont confirmé que le processus de réforme de l'agriculture doit être poursuivi énergiquement. Ils ont aussi déclaré que la réforme devrait être assurée sur le plan national comme sur le plan international.

L'OCDE poursuivra son travail de suivi de la réforme agricole, lequel consistera surtout en l'amélioration des indicateurs quantitatifs (notamment les ESP et les ESC) et en l'analyse des tendances des marchés à moyen terme et des mesures spécifiques.

Les travaux en cours sur les politiques de développement rural seront poursuivis pour aider à déterminer les mesures propres à stimuler dans les zones rurales des activités économiquement viables afin de favoriser le développement et la croissance dans le respect de l'environnement. Les ministres ont reconnu que la détérioration continue de l'environnement compromettra la réalisation d'un développement économique durable et l'amélioration de la qualité de vie de tous et que les pays industrialisés ont une responsabilité particulière à cet égard. Il faut reconnaître que tout le monde a intérêt à résoudre les problèmes très graves que nous venons d'évoquer mais, comme cela a été répété plusieurs fois, cette réforme dont on a beaucoup parlé ne pourra être réalisée que progressivement et, par conséquent, prendra du temps. Il faut donc faire usage d'une certaine prudence.

Je suis peu convaincu de l'efficacité de la politique des petits pas mais j'ai pu aussi constater que, dans certains cas, pour accélérer la guérison d'un malade, on lui a administré une dose excessive de médicaments qui a fini par le tuer. Je me permets donc de penser que, dans l'intérêt de tous, il faut éviter de se précipiter sans avoir bien étudié les pas à faire. J'ai confiance dans les négociations du GATT et je concorde avec les déclarations faites par les délégués du groupe des pays de l'OCDE et avec celles de l'observateur de la CEE.

J'espère de tout coeur que cette Conférence constituera un grand pas en avant sur la voie d'un développement général équitable et durable, porteur de bien-être, de paix et de sérénité pour tous. Mais pour arriver à cela, il faut surtout faire preuve de compréhension et de solidarité réciproques afin d'avancer main dans la main sur un chemin qui peut aussi présenter des obstacles.

CHAIRMAN: To conclude our debate, we shall hear the answers to the queries and points raised by delegates. These will be presented by Mr Dutia of the Secretariat.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, I have a few specific questions that have been raised by the distinguished delegates during the debate to which I will now try to respond.

The distinguished delegates of Colombia yesterday asked for information on the FAO's activities which are geared to the promotion of International Community Agreements. There are several ways in which FAO's activities have a bearing on the work of the International Community Agreements. Considerable analytical work is undertaken by FAO, that is diagnostic analysis on the reasons for the failure or lack of success of International Community Agreements which would serve as a basis for learning lessons for the future. One example of this, was the work we did a few years ago on the International Sugar Agreement, which was done incidentally in full collaboration with the staff of the International Sugar Organization. Another example is the comparative analytical work done in the past and published in the Community Review and Outlook on the performance of different International Community Agreements.

The second type of activity which we undertake is to have a close liaison with the Secretariat of the International community Councils. We have maintained very close contact in terms of providing and exchanging information, and also to attend and participate and provide such information as is needed in many of the meetings and in re-negotiation sessions. These include the meetings held on sugar, coffee, cocoa, natural rubber, etc., and, of course, wheat also.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, the activities of FAO's intergovernmental community groups themselves also include the analysis in technical terms and the drawing up of options for the international community arrangements. This has been attempted, for example, for bananas and tea in recent year years and through cooperation with the UNCTAD Secretariat in the context of the integrated programme for communities.

In some cases, it has been very clear that international cooperation in the form of formal community agreements could not have been developed, and in such cases certain of our community groups have developed voluntary guidelines for international cooperation in the communities concerned, and examples of this are the guidelines on rice, oilseeds, oils and fats, and the meat and livestock sector.

I would now like to respond to some of the observations made by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom regarding the estimates of the total net resource flows to developing countries. We have included data only up to 1987 and we know that the estimates have been made by the Development Assistance Committee for the total net resource flows to developing countries for the year 1988. We have not included that information in the document because the estimates made by the Development Assistance Committee for 1988 do not include the estimates of external assistance to agriculture. In fact, such estimates are not made by the Development Assistance Committee, nor are such estimates available as yet cm the OECD. In view of this, we have not been able to provide complete estimates for 1988, but we do hope that in our future reports we shall be in a position to report on that information.

Another question that was raised by the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom was regarding the inclusion or non-inclusion of the value of food aid in our estimates. It is true that the value of food aid is not included in our estimates for the external assistance to agriculture because



it is not possible to have complete and adequate information on the share of food aid that has been allocated to agriculture. However, food aid is included in the figures presented in the documents for the total net resource flows to developing countries.

The distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom also mentioned that the structural adjustment credits are not included in the data provided by us. I would like to point out that the FAO data bank on external assistance to agriculture includes sector structural adjustment loans, and they are included, therefore, in the figures which are presented in the document, but I must agree that we have not been able so far to determine the share of general structural adjustment loan that is in support of agriculture, and therefore, this element of the resource flow is not included in the data of external assistance to agriculture.

The distinguished delegate of Australia also raised a number of questions. Firstly, he wanted to have our views on the input subsidies, whether they have a trade distorting impact or not. One can recognize that there is a prima facie case that input subsidies can affect trade through their effect on stimulation of production. Whether they distort production patterns or not depends on whether such subsidies are commodity specific or general in their applicability.

A major consideration which should be taken into account is the usefulness of such subsidies in promoting production and productivity and hence, agricultural development and rural incomes, and this has been recognized in the study of price policy which was undertaken by FAO some time ago. One can even concede that the input subsidies by raising incomes and consequently demand for products, including agricultural products and including demand for imports, can have some positive impact on trade in the longer term.

The distinguished delegate of Australia referred to paragraph 10 and observed that there was some contradiction between the first sentence and the last sentence of that paragraph. We feel that there is no contradiction because while the support has been reduced in a number of countries, such as the EEC cut support in terms of ECU, and US also cut the loan rates, and Canada also did so so far as 1988 initial payments are concerned, the last sentence refers to the weather. Of course, while these supports were reduced, at the same time because of the drought, the impact of the drought, the prices in the world markets increased, and therefore the reduction in the PSEs has been much sharper than what it would have been if the prices had remained the same.

The distinguished delegate of Australia also wanted to have information on the countries which are reported to have reduced their import quota arrangements, or increased their import quota arrangements and have cut their tariffs. There are a number of countries which have done so. The information for example of Colombia which increased the wheat import quota; the Republic of Korea put up the grains animal feeds, and Sri Lanka lifted restrictions on rice and so on.

Instead of taking the time of the Conference, I would share this information with the distinguished delegate of Australia at a convenient time.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank Mr Dutia for his answers and clarifications, and this concludes for now our discussion of item 6, with the debate on item 6.2 International Agricultural Adjustments: Progress Report on Guidelines 7, 8

and 12. Of course, we will have to resume the discussion on item 6 when we address the two drafting resolutions which are now being scrutinized by the Resolutions Committee.

During the debate on item 7 you will be pleased to note that the Vice-chairman, Mr Detraux, will replace me in the chair. I ask Mr Detraux to come and preside over our deliberations.

E. Detraux, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the chair

E. Detraux, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia E. Detraux, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

7. Preparations for an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade - FAO's Contribution

7. Contribution de la FAO à la préparation d'une stratégie internationale du développement

7. Preparación de la nueva Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo - Contribución de la FAO

B.P. DÛTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): Mr Chairman, as you and the distinguished delegates already know, the United Nations General Assembly has embarked upon lei and interrelated activities in the field of development. The first is the decision to convene in April 1990, a Special Session devoted to international economic cooperation, in particular to the revitalization of growth and development of the developing countries. The second activity concerns the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the fourth UN Development Decade; that is, the decade of the 1990s, and this international strategy is to be considered by the UN General Assembly towards the end of 1990. The preparatory work for both these events, which is carried out by Committees of the Whole of the General Assembly, draws on, among other things, appropriate contributions from the entire UN system, including FAO. Indeed the General Assembly Resolution on the International Development Strategy requests specifically the specialized agencies of the UN to include in their agendas during 1989 items regarding their contribution to the preparation of the International Development Strategy.

The Director-General responded positively to this request, both at the inter-secretariat level in the context of the ACC and its appropriate subsidiary bodies, by arranging for FAO participation in the sessions of the two Committees of the Whole of the General Assembly and by supplying appropriate information to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The Director-General informed the Council at its Ninety-fifth session of these developments. The Council emphasized the particular importance of FAO's contributions. Given the vital role of the food and agriculture and the rural sector in development and in achieving the objectives of both the Special Session and the International Development Strategy, the Director-General has decided to prepare a "Long-Term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector", on the basis of which further FAO contributions to these two events can be made.

The Strategy itself would be a synthesis of the findings of a number of recently completed FAO global and regional studies, such as the "Agriculture: Toward 2000," and the Regional Studies on Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe. Additionally, the Strategy to be developed by FAO would draw upon existing FAO or FAO-sponsored sectoral strategies, plans of action and undertakings, for example Guidelines and Targets of the International Agricultural Adjustment, the WCARRD Programme of Action, the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, etc. A FAO-wide Task Force has been set up to prepare the Strategy. The document to be discussed under the present agenda item is the Outline and Preview of Contents of this Strategy. After its discussion, and taking into account the Conference recommendations on this document, we intend to revise it and develop it further.

The document which the Conference is about to discuss is structured around a number of central themes, namely revitalization of economic growth in the developing countries, development of human resources and poverty alleviation, and issues of natural resources, environment and sustainability. These are indeed the main themes which, together with their manifold ramifications, have received particular attention and emphasis in the preparatory work undertaken so far, at both the inter-secretariat level as well as in the two Committees of the Whole of the General Assembly. I should, however, add that in the session held so far by these two Committees, no final decisions have been taken on the structure of the two documents to be prepared for the General Assembly, let alone on the detailed contents. Both the Committees of the Whole in the United Nations have decided to continue their work in the form of informal consultations to be held between their respective chairmen and the regional groups and delegates, pending their further planned sessions. It is to be noted that the delay in reaching agreement so far reflects essentially differences of position of the different country groups and delegations as to the relative emphasis and priority that should be given to each one of the above-mentioned themes and their manifold ramifications.

I will now give a brief account of the key strategy recommendations that are contained in the document before you.

This document emphasizes agricultural growth as an important component of the total strategy to revitalize economic growth in the developing countries. There is indeed a close interdependence between policies to stimulate agricultural growth and policies pursued for improving the macro-economic situation and the external environment. The agriculture-specific policies must continue to emphasize the four "i's", as we call them - that is, achieving progress in the areas of inputs, incentives, institutions and infrastructure.

The document recognizes that progress towards the objectives of poverty alleviation and human resources development has much to do with the macro-economic policies required for revitalizing economic growth and achieving internal and external balance. In particular, the austerity measures in the stabilization and structural adjustment policies need to be formulated, sequenced and implemented in ways that would minimize their adverse effects on poverty, and that such policies do not undermine efforts to upgrade the human resources via their adverse effects on nutrition, health and education. In the more specific area of agriculture and rural development, the document emphasizes the WCARRD policies to achieve objectives of access to productive resources, inputs and services, people's participation and enhancing the role of women in development.

Finally, the area of natural resources, environment and sustainability, the document recognizes that progress depends greatly on success in tackling the related problems of human needs satisfaction and poverty alleviation. The main thrust is that agricultural development must be promoted, recognizing that the use of resources on a sustainable basis is in the self-interest of the people depending on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It is also emphasized that an important factor in meeting this objective is the extent to which alternative employment and income-earning opportunities are created outside agriculture, particularly in the context of equitable rural development. The Conference has already gone over the issues of sustainable development and natural resources management in the discussions under the agenda item 6.1, State of Food and Agriculture.

Mr Chairman, as I said earlier, we shall revise and further develop this document and the strategy contained in it, with the benefit of the Conference discussions and recommendations. As requested by the Council at its Ninety-fifth Session in June 1989, the revised Strategy document will be presented to the Council at its Ninety-eighth Session in November 1990. Also, the Strategy document, as revised in the light of the Conference comments and recommendations, will serve as a framework for FAO's contributions to the International Development Strategy and to the Special Session which will need to be made during the course of 1990.

LE PRESIDENT: Je remercie M. Dutia pour l'introduction qu'il a bien voulu faire relativement à ce point qui est particulièrement important pour ce qui concerne l'avenir.

J'invite maintenant les délégués à intervenir sur ce sujet, étant donné, comme l'a dit M. Dutia, que leurs commentaires seront tenus en compte pour la révision dans les perspectives de ce document.

John PONTOPPIDAN (Denmark): I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the five Nordic countries, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

The Nordic countries welcome the quality of document C 89/19, prepared by the Secretariat for the discussion taking place under this item. We are in full agreement that food, agriculture and the rural sector in general have a vital role to play in achieving the most important objectives of the new International Development Strategy, namely growth, development of human resources, reduction of poverty and deprivation, and the promotion of sustainable development.

The Nordic countries also adhere to the notion that structural adjustment, stabilization and sustainable development will continue to be very important policy issues at both national and international levels, and that recognition of the interdependence between these two levels is crucial to the implementation of the new Strategy.

We note the specific recommendations in paragraph 123 in the document and look forward to the discussion of the full strategy document to be submitted to the Council meeting in November next year.

Reverting to the objective of accelerated economic growth, the Nordic countries acknowledge the fact that growth is a pre-requisite for the development of human resources and for poverty alleviation. However, this

forum in particular should pay special attention to the interrelation between economic growth and sustainability: it is of utmost importance that short-term progress is not made at the cost of medium- and long-term economic and environmental sustainability. Developed and developing countries alike must make all efforts in order that the pursuance of immediate results does not further hamper the basis of development for future generations.

As the ultimate responsibility for economic policy rests within the sovereign states, it is important that domestic policies be growth-oriented and sound, with a greater reliance on the private sector, thus achieving a more effective functioning on markets through competition. Especially with regard to production and distribution of food and agricultural products the release of individual initiative is important to achieving accelerated output, thus the enhancing of the private sector is essential. The Nordic countries do, however, recognize that sound domestic policies alone cannot bring about economic growth. A favourable international economic climate is necessary as open multi-lateral trade, finance and investment systems, and effectively working international markets contribute powerfully to successful development.

The question of debt and financial flow and the question of further reducing the former for the highly indebted developing countries and increasing the latter for all developing countries should be addressed, especially for the poorest developing countries official development assistance programmes specifically designed to strengthen the base of human institutional and infrastructural capacities of these countries are of great importance. The fulfilment of the 0.7 percent target for official development assistance remains a crucial objective in this regard.

Investing in people is critical in development, as the strengthening of human capacities is the basis for self-reliant development. Developing human resources through education and training therefore must be one of the main elements of the new development strategy and should be presented as such. The issue of women in development is basically an issue of human development economics - making the best use of economic potentials in order to obtain growth and development. One major shortcoming of previous development strategies has been the failure to take into account the important role that women play - especially within the process of producing and distributing food - and to realize the even greater potential of the women in developing countries. Popular participation in the development process - and in political and economic decision-making - is vital to the success of this process, and the Nordic countries believe that respect of human rights must be an essential element in the new strategy. Finally, the issue of population growth will need to be addressed in the coming decade, as will the issues of health and nutrition.

Poverty continues to be a basic phenomenon in most developing countries. We would like simultaneously to stress the issue of reducing poverty and deprivation as well as the importance of recognizing that the poor segments of any population have a considerable production potential which is not being realized presently.

Even though the number of people living in extreme poverty is high in all regions, and numerically places Asia as the region most severely affected, the number of poor is increasing more rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa than anywhere else. Priority to redress the situation in sub-Saharan Africa is bound to be reflected in the new international development strategy.

It is a fact that the majority of the poor are living in rural areas. The creation of job opportunities and a more equal distribution of farm land for the benefit of the poor will be crucial, if efforts to reduce poverty in rural areas are to succeed.

The basic relation between growth and reduction of poverty remains simple: a more equal distribution of income and assets - of the benefits of growth - is necessary if poverty is to be reduced and the development potential of the poor is to be released. Investments in reduction of poverty are likely to provide a very high rate of return.

The Governing Council of UNEP last May recommended that sustainable and environmentally-sound development should be a central guiding principle in the new development strategy. The Nordic countries fully support this recommendation.

It is of utmost importance that environmental concerns be integrated into the development planning and decision making processes in all countries, thus penetrating all sectors of the economy. These efforts at country level, must be supported by technical assistance, where needed, and supplemented by strengthening of international cooperation in the field of environment.

The Nordic countries agree and there will be a need for additional resources from the donor community to assist the poorer developing countries in addressing their environmental concerns and participating in the efforts to combat the global threats. It is important, however, that this issue is not seen only in the context of "compensation" of developing countries responding to calls from donor countries and financial institutions and requesting these to cover additional costs. We believe that especially our organization should look more closely into the potential for economic development inherent in environmental efforts in the area of food and agricultural production and the potential longer-term returns of investments in this area.

These are the four main considerations that in our view should form the basis of an international development strategy for the 1990s, and indeed FAO's contribution to the preparatory process of IDS. The Nordic countries firmly believe that FAO, within its mandate, can offer a substantial input to the preparatory process.

Josef FOJTL (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovakian delegation welcomes the item concerning forced participation in preparing and implementing the international development strategy for the UN for the last decade of the century and its inclusion in the agenda of this Conference. Evaluating the results obtained in implementing the objectives of the past decade, we cannot avoid the feeling of disappointment when seeing in the majority of indicators the gap between the planned objectives and the results actually obtained. It should be mentioned here that even the task in the field of food and agricultural development laid down for the third UN Development Decade are far from being fulfilled. If all the causes which have led to these disappointments were to be considered, the main phenomena of the past and present periods would have to be analyzed as characterizing the development of the international, political and economic situation. It is important, in our view, for the successful implementation of the fourth International Development Decade of the UN to know what are the conditions and prerequisites that already exist, or that are or should be gradually graded already now in the stage of preparing the decade.

It is now widely recognized that new views and non-traditional approaches based on the priority of general human values and on the philosophy of the new political thinking are essential for the survival and future development of human civilization. Now, under the conditions of multiple global threats which mankind has to face, we are convinced that when considering the problems associated with the UN Decade for the last period of this century, it is our duty to make maximum use of the improved conditions of political climate in the world and also the vast potential offered by the UN and its specialized agencies.

There is a whole range of proposals and views concerning the fields and objectives that should form the basis of the prepared international development strategy of the UN. The opinion of the Czechoslovakian delegation is that the strategy should be focused on a solution to problems associated with the spreading of the areas of poverty and under-development and with the crisis caused by external indebtedness, chronic unemployment in many countries, deteriorating environment, lack of food and non-stability of energy supply. At any rate, this strategy should point out realistic objectives, and this is the only way to attract the interest and active participation of the highest possible number of countries in making the strategy a reality.

In the view of the Czechoslovakian delegation, special attention in elaborating the strategy should be paid to general development of human resources, education and training of personnel, organization of various training courses, seminars and meetings, exchange of experience and information on the latest advances in research and development associated with the most urgent scientific and technological problems. All these are important requisites for implementing the objectives and intentions involved in the strategy itself.

In the view of the Czechoslovakian delegation, environmental conservation should be another area of top priority. This problem is particularly important considering the need to secure the nutrition of mankind. It is obvious that there is concord and mutual agreement among members of the international community as far as the need for environmental conservation is concerned. However, differences in views arise when considering actual measures aimed at environmental conservation and securing acceptable development. Czechoslovakia is of the opinion - and experience confirms this view - that thinking of a balanced social and economic development without due respect to environmental conservation would be illusory and harmful both nationally and internationally. In this connection, we agree with the view that it is incorrect to seek short-term benefits to the detriment of long-term objectives.

Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh): First, let me congratulate the Secretariat for producing this excellent paper C 89/19.

The Bangladesh delegation is happy to note, as mentioned in the document, that, in view of the need to contribute FAO inputs to both the Special Session and IDS, the Director-General has initiated work for the preparation of a long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector for the 1990s and beyond. We heartily welcome this initiative and hope that the FAO will successfully accomplish the tasks that it has set for itself.

The document under review covers extensively almost all major issues related to agriculture under broad headlines, current issues and prospects for the 1990s and for strategies for the 1990s.

We have noted that world agricultural production grew rather unevenly during the current decade. Many countries suffered serious setbacks in their agricultural sectors due to natural calamities. As we prepare ourselves to enter the next decade, it is necessary for us to work together to render strong support to FAO in its endeavour to improve the world agricultural situation.

While my delegation will follow with great interest the deliberations of other delegations on the prospects and strategy for the 1990s, I should like to say a few words on these aspects with regard to agriculture in Bangladesh.

The agricultural production system, which is often closely interlinked with other agro-systems, is often complex and diverse. It is also influenced by agro-climatic and socio-economic factors which can lead to significant variations from traditional and improved agricultural technology. In spite of the serious constraints, there is considerable development potential in Bangladesh. The country is endowed with abundant water resources, while its soils are generally productive. The climate is conducive to continuous cropping throughout the year. Agriculture is still the largest source of employment for the labour force in Bangladesh, and thus the high growth rate in agriculture can alleviate rural poverty to a very large extent.

The strategy for agricultural development in Bangladesh will have three broad themes: growth in agriculture, rural poverty alleviation and environmental development and sustainability in agriculture.

My delegation has been pleased to note that the document under review covers at length the environmental issue while dealing with the prospects and strategy for the 1990s. Bangladesh attaches great importance to the environmental and ecological issues. Being a country with a dense population and limited land, we have reasons to be alert.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I have some very brief comments to make on what was said by the delegate of Denmark, who spoke in the name of the five Nordic countries. When he spoke of poor countries in need of support, he spoke of the countries of Asia and South-East Asia. I believe that there are countries in Africa - East, West or Southern Africa - which are as much in need of assistance as are the people of Asia. Therefore, when we talk about a fair distribution of assistance, it would be desirable that FAO should be able to follow up and review the situation in poor countries which have enormous needs and that the aid should be distributed on a fair basis.

Jose TUBINO (Canada): The Canadian delegation congratulates the Secretariat on the preparation of this important document and the establishment of a task force to consider the findings and recommendations of FAO's global and regional studies for the formulation of a long-term strategy for the food and agricultural sector. We believe that this initiative will allow the UN General Assembly to make good use of the specialized knowledge accumulated in FAO in the formulation of the UN Fourth Decade Strategy. On the other hand, it will also allow FAO to elaborate a long-term strategic framework to guide its operations. The emphasis placed on the goals of economic growth, poverty alleviation, human resources development and sustainable development coincides with the first of the Canadian international aid strategies.



Furthermore, the Canadian delegation concurs with the policy issues identified in paragraphs 25-32 inclusive. However, we consider that the implications of sectoral adjustment and energy supply for rural areas are also policy issues worth considering in Chapter II.

Concerning the contributions of the agricultural sector to economic growth, Canada recognizes the importance of improved economic incentives for farmers and the critical need for ensuring that macro-economic policy does not discriminate against the agricultural sector. We concur with the assessment made of the importance of improving support services and agricultural infrastructure. We approve the recommendations for policies designed to encourage rural savings and to increase the efficiency of public expenditure in rural areas.

Because of the key role which producer organizations play in Canadian agriculture, we particularly support a strategy which puts emphasis on the strengthening of producer organizations to provide farmers with bargaining power, appropriate coordination, economies of scale, direct channels for the transfer of information and innovation and other benefits.

In the context of international agricultural trade, the document wisely recommends several remedial steps that agriculture-supporting countries should undertake, such as diversification of agricultural exports, enhancement of export marketing skills, opening of access to markets and competitiveness through research and development.

We see it as particularly important that the strategy for growth and structural adjustment addresses the issues of poverty, income distribution, human resources and other special dimensions of development.

The objectives of agricultural growth and rural poverty alleviation are mutually supportive, but, as the document notes, there are also trade-offs. This is an important area where the FAO contribution to the IDS is critical and warrants careful study by the task force. In this context, Canada would like to see more emphasis on secondary agricultural industries as an important source of rural income generation, especially for women and youth.

In the section on poverty alleviation, the document also notes that emergency food aid, on a more predictable basis, must continue to provide a buffer for cushioning the effects on nutrition caused by climatic conditions and man-made disasters. The Secretariat has, in the past, suggested a legally binding annual contribution of emergency food aid, which Canada has opposed on the grounds that, by its very nature, emergency food aid requirements are unpredictable and that the donor community is already doing its best to respond to emergencies when they arise.

On the issue of environmental aspects of development, Canada supports the view that the strategy should prevail around considerations of human needs, poverty alleviation, natural resource management and conservation and incentives to promote sustainable practices and approaches.

while supporting the contents of the document, it is Canada's view that the FAO contribution to the IDS must not stop with the formulation of the strategy but that FAO must provide, according to its comparative advantages, the means for the implementation of the UN Strategy in the agricultural sector.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished delegates, if the Commission so agrees, we will hear a brief statement by Dr Rafael Moreno on the World Food Day. It is a communication from the Secretariat for the information of this Commission and not an item on our agenda, and therefore, we are not expected to engage in a debate. However Dr Moreno is prepared to answer any questions that the delegates wish to submit, and provide further clarification if the delegates so desire.

WORLD FOOD DAY

JOURNEE MONDIALE DE L'ALIMENTATION

DIA MUNDIAL DE LA ALIMENTACION

Rafael MORENO (Presidente del Comité Asesor del Director General sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación): Señor Presidente, en los momentos en que nos acercamos a la conclusión de la discusión del tema 6 de nuestra agenda, dedicado a analizar el "Estado Mundial de la Alimentación y la Agricultura" le ha parecido oportuno a la Secretaría realizar una declaración respecto del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Materia que en el pasado ha sido tratada bajo este mismo punto en pasadas Conferencias.

Como seguramente algunos de los delegados presentes recuerdan, el día 20 de noviembre se cumplirá exactamente una década desde que los representantes de los países miembros de la FAO aprobaron la Resolución 1/79 que instituyó el Día Mundial de la Alimentación para que fuese celebrado el 16 de octubre, en coincidencia con la fecha de la fundación de la FAO.

Cuando el Día Mundial de la Alimentación fue establecido en 1979, pudimos escuchar más de una voz, escéptica sobre la utilidad que podría tener el celebrar un día que sólo una vez al año recordara a la opinión pública mundial el derecho básico a la alimentación que asiste a todos los seres humanos. Hoy, en cambio, podemos decir que el objetivo propuesto no sólo ha sido cumplido, sino que ha sido superado en las expectativas que lo originaron.

Resulta imposible y no es el propósito en estos momentos enumerar la infinidad de iniciativas llevadas a cabo por los países miembros de la FAO por contribuir, tanto a sensibilizar a sus respectivas opiniones públicas sobre la naturaleza y las dimensiones del problema del hambre en el mundo, como a estimular acciones concretas a fin de asegurarles a sus poblaciones un acceso permanente y seguro a los alimentos que necesitan para desarrollar una vida digna.

A pesar de ello, queremos mencionar muy brevemente algunos de los aspectos más relevantes que tuvo la celebración en el año 1989, la cual fue desarrollada bajo el tema: la alimentación y el medio ambiente.

En primer término, la ceremonia internacional que se realizó aquí en la sede central de la FAO el día 16 de octubre, contó con oradores principales que acompañaron al Director General en el uso de la palabra: el Excelentísimo Señor Ruud Lubbers, Primer Ministro del Reino de los Países Bajos, el Excelentísimo Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de la República Italiana, Onorevole Giulio Andreotti, el Excelentísimo Señor Henri Nallet, Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques de Francia, -el cual a su vez habló a nombre de todos los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea-, y la Señora Tina Anselmi, Miembro del Parlamento y Presidente del Comité Italiano Permanente del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. La Asamblea también escuchó la lectura del mensaje enviado a nombre de Su Santidad Juan Pablo II por el Cardenal Agostino Casaroli.

Al día siguiente, el 17 de octubre, se realizó en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas una ceremonia especial para conmemorar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, cuyo orador principal fue el Ministro de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, Su Excelencia el Señor Clayton Yeutter. En dicha oportunidad además de los discursos del Presidente de la Asamblea y del Presidente del ECOSOC, se escucharon los mensajes del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, Señor Pérez de Cuellar y el mensaje del Director General de la FAO.

El tercer punto que quisiéramos reiterar, y que ya ha sido mencionado en algunas de las intervenciones del Plenario de esta Conferencia, es el gesto de lo que ocurrió en Djakarta (Indonesia) el día 16 de octubre, en la cual con la participación y presencia del Presidente de la República, Soeharto, los representantes de la Asociación de Pequeños Agricultores de Indonesia donaron a la FAO en esta oportunidad un millón de dólares en efectivo para que fuese destinado a financiar proyectos en beneficio de los campesinos pobres del Tercer Mundo. Esta donación, que se surta a los seis millones de dólares que en fecha anterior habían sido entregados por la misma Asociación de Pequeños Agricultores, es una muestra, es un gesto humanitario que proviene de los sectores probablemente más necesitados, y crea una solidaridad entre los más pequeños, lo cual le da, obviamente, una dimensión desconocida a lo que puede ser este tipo de colaboración entre los sectores más pobres del medio rural.

Finalmente quisiera citar, que con motivo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y quiero expresar muy especialmente la satisfacción y el reconocimiento del Director General de la FAO, a la iniciativa que se llevó adelante para organizar una exposición de pintura y escultura contemporánea, organizada en Roma y que gracias a la generosidad de más de 160 artistas italianos y extranjeros que donaron sus obras, obras que fueron sacadas a una subasta pública, que se celebró en uno de los lugares más prestigiosos y bellos de Roma, y cuyos fondos fueron destinados a financiar actividades de la FAO.

Es altamente reconfortante leer los informes que en este momento nos están llegando desde todos los países miembros de la FAO y que detallan el impacto que ha logrado el Día Mundial de la Alimentación en todos ellos. Deseo, por lo tanto, agradecer desde esta tribuna a todos los miembros de los Comités Nacionales que este año organizaron actividades alusivas a este día en sus respectivos países, y felicitarlos por el íto alcanzado.

Especial mención requieren también las innumerables organizaciones no gubernamentales que se han sumado a esta iniciativa de manera tan creativa, y en particular aquellas que participarán a fines de este mes en la Segunda Reunión Internacional sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación que se realizará aquí en la ciudad de Roma. Tenemos la certeza de que hoy, mejorando aún lo hecho en años anteriores, se está llegando a través de esta red de iniciativas espontáneas, a los lugares más apartados de la tierra llevándoles a ellos el mensaje de esperanza en relación a lo que son los objetivos del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Es ésta una nueva comprobación de que esta idea, así como la presencia de la FAO, está significando un testimonio real de reconocimiento a quienes trabajan y contribuyen en el medio rural a generar los alimentos para toda la humanidad.

En este mismo sentido quisiera recalcar que no fue casual la decisión del Director General de la FAO de seleccionar para 1989 el tema de "La Alimentación y el Medio Ambiente", ya que tenemos plena conciencia y ha sido reiteradamente repetido en esta Conferencia, que los efectos negativos que la propia acción de los seres humanos está provocando en el equilibrio ecológico

del planeta, es uno de los puntos que no podemos ignorar. Es este un tema de validez universal. Producto de esta interdependencia y de la gravedad que el desafío ambiental ha alcanzado, el Director General ha decidido que el tema para 1990 sea denominado: Alimentos para el futuro, Food for the future, en la lengua inglesa, Nourrir pour l'avenir, en la lengua francesa, Cibo per il futuro, en la lengua italiana, Alimentos para o futuro, en la lengua portuguesa.

Por la importancia que la FAO le atribuye a la Conmemoración Internacional del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, quisiéramos reiterar nuestra firme decisión de seguir apoyando en todo el mundo la celebración de este día, en línea con las resoluciones aprobadas por la Conferencia de la FAO 1/79, 7/81, 5/83 y 2/87 y con los contenidos del documento C 87/29 que recibió un consenso tan positivo y unánime en la última sesión de esta Conferencia.

Permítasenos en esta oportunidad, señor Presidente invitar a los gobiernos miembros y a las organizaciones no gubernamentales a unirse aún más a la FAO para seguir desarrollando los máximos esfuerzos por dar a la celebración de este día la significación y contenidos necesarios en cada país.

En este sentido le asignamos gran importancia al fortalecimiento del futuro de la Confederación Internacional de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, en tanto estructura que está llamado a dar una gran contribución al reforzamiento de la colaboración tripartita que debe existir entre los gobiernos, las organizaciones no gubernamentales y la FAO, para aumentar el impacto del Día Mundial de la Alimentación a nivel internacional, regional y nacional en todo el mundo.

Por último, quisiéramos que todos los organizadores del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, sean ellos representantes de gobierno, organismos no gubernamentales, organizaciones internacionales o personas individuales, se sumasen con entusiasmo y con espíritu de solidaridad a la conmemoración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación de 1990 que, como ya lo he dicho estará dedicado al tema de "Alimentos para el futuro" para que entre todos asumamos la responsabilidad que nos corresponde en la protección del medio ambiente, que asegurará la continuación de la vida de la especie humana en este planeta.

CHAIRMAN: Would any members of the Commission like to address any questions to Mr Moreno?

Gerard VAN DER GRIND (The Netherlands): First I should like to thank Mr Moreno for his explanation about World Food Day activities in Rome and also in different countries. I have one question. Mr Moreno mentioned the item for next year "Food for the Future". I am very pleased that he has done so at this moment, because it is very important for countries to begin soon with their preparations for next year's item. Is it possible, however, for him to give us a little further explanation of the meaning and the goal of the item?

Rafael MORENO (Chairman, Director-General's Advisory Committee on World Food Day): I can give some details. Obviously, as we normally do, there is an annotation on the justification for the topic or the theme. The main reason for selecting this topic is that the environment, ecological considerations, poverty and the challenge for the future are the predominant factors of

influence, and FAO should highlight to the world community the importance of this topic. This theme will allow governments to link the theme from 1989 to selected realities in each specific country.

As you know, World Food Day is just a suggestion to governments, and it is up to them how they observe it and how they present the topic in each respective community. Consequently, "Food for the Future" is very much in line with the concept of sustainable development, with the concept of environmental protection, as well as with the main basic challenge for the future which is producing and providing food for mankind.

Briefly, that is the basic justification for the selection of the topic this year.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? Are there any clarifications required? I see none, so I should like to thank Mr Moreno for his communication to the Commission.

I think that special reference should be made to the very generous gesture by the Indonesian peasants to commemorate World Food Day. It is suggestions like that which give us faith in humanity and faith in this Organization.

I should like also personally to thank Mr Moreno for the small reference in my own language. I think the delegates from Portugal, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe and Guinea-Bissau will allow me to do so in our name. We so seldom hear our language here that it is a joy to hear it, even if they were only three words.

The Meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas



**conference**

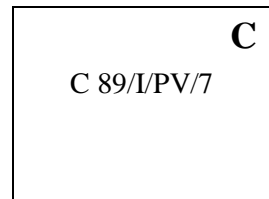
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING  
SEPTIEME SEANCE  
SEPTIMA SESION

(17 November 1989)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
E. Detraux, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de E. Detraux, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de E. Detraux, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. Preparation for an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade - FAO's Contribution (continued)
- 7. Contribution de la FAO à la préparation d'une stratégie internationale du développement pour la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement (suite)
- 7. Preparación de la nueva Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo - Contribución de la FAO (continuación)

Gonzalo BULA HOTOS (Colombia): Gracias,. señor Vicepresidente, distinguido colega y amigo de Bélgica, con quien he tenido el grato placer de trabajar en tantas otras reuniones anteriores. Estoy seguro de que, como usted conoce mi estilo, entenderá algunas de las reflexiones que haré a la manera como se comportan en la cooperación internacional ciertos Estados industrializados.

El mandato específico de la FAO abarca campos de tanta significación en la economía de los países del Tercer Mundo, que nuestra Organización tiene la obligación de hacer contribuciones verdaderamente eficaces, concretas, específicas y positivas que puedan representar aportes válidos a la reactivación del crecimiento económico de los países en desarrollo, que será tema fundamental del próximo período extraordinario de la Asamblea General, y que igualmente será elemento esencial en la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio.

Los organismos dedicados a la agricultura y la alimentación fueron víctimas privilegiadas de la acción negativa permanente que durante todos los años ochenta se ha cumplido sin pausa, sin vacilaciones ni piedad contra los más elementales principios de la cooperación internacional, y especialmente contra el multilateralismo.

En su contribución a la Estrategia, la FAO debe reiterar el concepto ya generalmente aceptado de que el decenio de los ochenta ha sido completamente perdido para los países en desarrollo.

En los últimos 30 años, los representantes de Colombia hemos participado con inútil esperanza en la elaboración de tres Estrategias anteriores, y luego hemos asistido con desencanto y asombro al canto de toda esa música celestial, letra muerta, sin que jamás se haya logrado ningún objetivo, ninguna meta, por modestos que fueren.

Es así como pensamos que un aspecto fundamental de la contribución que la FAO debe hacer en esta oportunidad es la de señalar a la comunidad internacional la necesidad imperiosa de que en esta ocasión se elabore una cuarta Estrategia sobre bases realistas, con objetivos cuantitativos concretos y detallados, como dice el párrafo 36 de este documento.

Aunque parezca un poco pesimista la frase final de ese párrafo 36, los representantes de Colombia preferiríamos que se seleccionasen pocos objetivos pero realistas y viables, estableciendo prioridades.



Pensamos que ha llegado el momento de que no se sigan elaborando estrategias como las tres anteriores, que sólo han sido catálogos imaginativos de esperanzas irrealizables que han causado males profundos a los países en desarrollo al ilusionarlos con metas y objetivos que de antemano se sabía que nunca se iban a lograr.

En el aporte de la FAO a la Cuarta Estrategia será necesario que se enumeren los puntos sobresalientes de los fracasos anteriores y las medidas que podrán de verdad contribuir a la reactivación del crecimiento económico de los países del Tercer Mundo, en los campos de la agricultura y la alimentación naturalmente.

Deberemos decir franca y categóricamente que en el seno de la FAO los representantes de Gobiernos consideramos que la falta de voluntad política real y decidida de la mayoría de los Estados industrializados -su país está en esa afortunada minoría, señor Presidente- ha sido factor esencial en el deterioro de la difícil situación que afrontamos.

Afirmaremos que el proteccionismo, sobre todo los subsidios, han afectado considerablemente al comercio internacional de productos agropecuarios, con perjuicios enormes para los países en desarrollo.

Diremos también que la deuda externa sin solución y el alto costo del servicio de esa deuda han convertido, paradójicamente, a los países en desarrollo en exportadores netos de capital al mundo industrializado.

El ajuste estructural a que forzosamente han debido someterse muchos países en desarrollo está teniendo graves efectos negativos sobre la pobreza, tal como lo dice el párrafo 75.

Si éstos, entre otros, son los factores negativos, en una Cuarta Estrategia será necesario tratar de contrarrestarlos, si en realidad ahora los gobiernos de los Estados industrializados quieren hacer un acto de contrición y permitir que este siglo, que esta Cuarta Estrategia que va a elaborarse antes del año 2000 no se lleve a cabo, ahondando aún más la brecha amplia, injusta, insondable, inaceptable, que sigue existiendo entre el Norte y el Sur.

Por ello apoyamos en general los principios contenidos en el párrafo 6, sobre los medios más indicados que deberán incluirse en la estrategia para reactivar el crecimiento y el desarrollo económico de los países del Tercer Mundo. Será necesario que los Estados industrializados ofrezcan asistencia técnica y financiera en términos, volúmenes, oportunidades y condiciones que puedan representar un catalizador serio y consistente a los grandes esfuerzos que vienen realizando los países en desarrollo, que están asignando alta prioridad a la agricultura en sus planes nacionales y el máximo de los recursos posibles, dentro de las limitaciones existentes; pero, no obstante, ellos requieren y demandan esa asistencia externa que complemente sus propios esfuerzos y sacrificios internos.

Esperamos, señor Presidente, que la Cuarta Estrategia pueda consolidar con resultados verdaderamente positivos la Ronda Uruguay, que avanza, como lo hemos visto aquí mismo, entre lentitud, tibio optimismo y pequeños pasos de progreso. Porque será necesario que en la última década de este siglo se logre conformar una estructura libre de comercio internacional, que fortalezca el sistema comercial y permita el libre acceso a los importantes mercados de los Estados desarrollados de los productos de exportación de los países en desarrollo.

En la Cuarta Estrategia deberemos insistir en que los países en desarrollo reclaman con justicia y hasta el cansancio mecanismos libres y equitativos, que les permitan obtener ingresos a base de su propio trabajo y producción; ingresos que son mucho más importantes, que tienen mucho mayor impacto en sus débiles economías que cualquier nivel de préstamo y asistencia que se nos conceda en términos paternalistas.

A los representantes de Colombia nos complace que la FAO esté participando activamente en el Comité preparatorio plenario para el período extraordinario de la Asamblea General, al cual nos referiremos más adelante, y también que la FAO participe en el Comité especial plenario para la EID. La importancia de la agricultura y de la alimentación y el trabajo eficaz de la FAO demandan y justifican esa participación, que la Conferencia debe alentar en el informe sobre este tema.

En Naciones Unidas, los representantes de Colombia hemos apoyado la celebración del período extraordinario de la Asamblea General previsto, en principio, del 23 al 27 de abril próximo. No obstante el desaliento que nos causan todos los fracasos de estrategias y reuniones anteriores, pensamos que es necesario confirmar nuestra fe en un futuro mejor para el mundo en desarrollo. Somos conscientes de que la lucha contra la pobreza es un problema a muy largo plazo, que no se va a resolver en los últimos diez años de este siglo que abarcará la Estrategia, ni en una Asamblea Extraordinaria más de las Naciones Unidas. Esa es una lucha que corresponderá a dos o tres generaciones, a cuarenta o cincuenta años en el porvenir.

Cuando tratamos estos problemas y sus posibles soluciones, los representantes de Colombia reflexionamos acerca de como es posible que todavía haya algunos -pocos, afortunadamente- Estados industrializados que siguen actuando en busca sólo de su propio beneficio, muchas veces a expensas de los intereses, las necesidades y las justas aspiraciones del Tercer Mundo. Los Gobiernos de esos Estados deberán darse cuenta algún día, ojalá antes de que llegemos al año 2000, de que las poblaciones de esos Estados no podrán disfrutar plenamente sus sociedades de consumo y de todos los privilegios que han conquistado dentro de una estructura social inigualitaria e injusta mientras subsistan esas desigualdades y esas injusticias, que parecen desbocar continuamente en conflictos regionales en los diversos ángulos de la tierra.

Temas como éste, señor Presidente -una Cuarta Estrategia, una sesión extraordinaria de la Asamblea General, todos en torno a la necesidad de rectificar la acción injusta de la comunidad internacional contra el mundo en desarrollo- suelen suscitar evocaciones de palabras autorizadas, como las del gran líder espiritual, Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II, quien ha dicho: "Es necesario denunciar la existencia de unos mecanismos económicos, financieros y sociales, los cuales funcionan de modo casi automático, haciendo aún más injusta la situación de riqueza de los unos y de pobreza de los otros. Esos mecanismos", continúa el Papa, "maniobrados por los países más desarrollados, favorecen los intereses de los que los maniobran y terminan por sofocar o condicionar las economías de los países menos desarrollados". Los representantes de Colombia esperamos que una Cuarta Estrategia y que una Asamblea más de Naciones Unidas no deba defraudar en otra oportunidad las esperanzas del mundo en desarrollo.

Señor Presidente y distinguidos colegas, puede que nos hayamos desviado un poco del contenido mismo de los temas a nuestra consideración, pero esta declaración ha pretendido ser humildemente parte del testimonio de una larga aunque modesta experiencia, con un resultado decepcionante y triste, pero todavía con una fe profunda e inquebrantable en el futuro mejor del Tercer Mundo.

Sra. Concha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Señor Vice-presidente, señores Delegados, en el debate sobre este tema la Delegación de Honduras desea hacer algunos comentarios.

Consideramos que el inicio del Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo coincide con un periodo sumamente difícil para la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo, especialmente los países de América Latina. El inicio del Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo coincide con la convergencia de una serie de factores y eventos que han producido un fuerte impacto en las condiciones económicas, sociales y aun políticas de nuestros países.

En primer término, resalta la crisis económica mundial de la presente década y la recesión económica en algunos países y el constante ajuste estructural que varios países se han visto obligados a adoptar y su impacto en la pobreza, especialmente la pobreza rural y el consecuente fenómeno de la migración a los centros urbanos.

En segundo término, se reconoce la pesada deuda externa, que en algunos países ha alcanzado cifras astronómicas que representan compromisos superiores a la capacidad de exportación y generación de divisas e ingresos de los países.

Además de estos dos factores, de un fuerte impacto negativo en las economías nacionales, cabría mencionar el deterioro de los términos del comercio exterior, el cual se traduce en bajos precios de los principales productos de exportación y en una serie de barreras al comercio internacional, como ser: licencias, cuotas, impuestos y subsidios. Como resultado de todo ello, la capacidad generadora de divisas ha sido substancialmente reducida. Todas estas políticas y medidas de proteccionismo han sido analizadas en otros foros internacionales, pero, lógicamente, dada la importancia del sector agrícola, merece la mayor consideración de parte de los países miembros y de la FAO y, sobre todo, de parte de los países industrializados.

En el año 1988, se produjo un mejoramiento en los precios internacionales de varios productos que la región exporta, pero ese aumento en el valor de las exportaciones no facilitó mayores tasas de expansión económica. Esto se debió, en parte, a que el incremento en el valor de las exportaciones fue neutralizado por el considerable aumento de la transferencia de recursos hacia el exterior, el cual fue causado por altas tasas de interés y por el limitado acceso a nuevos recursos financieros.

Las altas tasas de inflación y las constantes devaluaciones monetarias de varios países han agravado aún más las condiciones económicas y sociales. El aumento de las tasas de interés ha limitado en forma considerable el acceso del crédito a los productores agrícolas, especialmente a los pequeños y medianos agricultores, precisamente los productores de alimentos para consumo nacional.

Todo ello ha producido una contracción en la disponibilidad de recursos para inversiones, sobre todo en programas y proyectos dirigidos al desarrollo de las áreas rurales y en programas de apoyo a los grupos marginados y más necesitados, como son los pequeños agricultores, los campesinos sin tierra, las poblaciones indígenas, la mujer y la juventud rural.

Todo lo anterior nos lleva a sugerir a la FAO que en la preparación del documento de estrategia a ser presentado en el 98<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo, a celebrarse en noviembre de 1990, se consideren los elementos cruciales para el desarrollo y para la erradicación de la pobreza.

Además en la elaboración de la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo se deben considerar los principios fundamentales del Plan de Acción sobre Potencialidad del Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural, aprobado en la última Conferencia de la FAO en Recife, y los principios contenidos en el Programa de Acción adoptado hace una década por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, programa de acción que aún tiene vigencia y validez.

En el caso específico de la sub-región de Centroamérica -y aclaro que no pretendo hablar a nombre de todos los países, pero del mio propio, Honduras-, en este caso, señores Delegados, la crisis cada vez se vuelve más aguda, los niveles de pobreza se han incrementado y se ha llegado a un punto en que los esfuerzos nacionales no podrán tener éxito sin la ayuda y la decidida cooperación internacional.

La comunidad internacional y el sistema de las Naciones Unidas han analizado y comprendido la situación, y como respuesta a la problemática se ha elaborado el Plan Especial de Cooperación Económica para Centroamérica, comúnmente conocido como PEC, que en la actualidad está en la etapa de negociaciones para obtener los recursos financieros.

La estrategia para la próxima década tendrá que considerar los lineamientos y directrices del PEC.

NI HONGXING (China) (original language Chinese): Allow me first to thank the Secretariat for having prepared document C 89/19 for the Conference on the basis of the documents dealing with Agriculture Towards 2000, the reform in rural areas and rural development, and international agricultural adjustments. This document has analysed the present situation, the existing problems, as well as future perspectives in global agriculture. On the basis of three elements, economic growth, the fight against poverty, and environmental protection. The document has described the framework for the long-term strategy on food development and agriculture. I would like to make a few comments on this.

We feel that the lack of progress in developing countries as regards agricultural production, is at present the major problem being faced by the world food and agriculture sector, as well as representing the main obstacle to the global agricultural growth and development. The development of agricultural production in these countries is the condition sine qua non for the establishment of greater prosperity within their economies and in this way putting an end to poverty and malnutrition, as well as controlling environmental problems. But they also make it possible to promote the growth of international trade of agricultural commodities and the development of the agriculture of developing countries. Therefore, the development of agricultural production is a very important means of solving some of the major problems which have arisen in the food and agricultural sector. Therefore, whether we consider the interests of developing countries or the common interests of all countries throughout the world, the objectives of the agricultural sector in the Fourth Development Strategy should certainly consider the promotion of agricultural development in developing countries. There are many conditioning factors which exist in developing countries, they may be economic, social or technical, as well as the international economic and environmental factors. The inter-connection and interaction of all these factors have an extremely negative influence on agricultural growth and sustainable development in developing countries and the world as a whole. Nò

effort which can be made to accelerate agricultural development can really lead to any tangible results, if we do not radically take into consideration all these factors. That is why the new agricultural development strategy should on the one hand establish the basic guidelines for food and agricultural development of the countries and regions, so as to make it possible to accelerate the whole process of reform and change in rural development. It should also try to establish the basic guidelines for the strengthening of international cooperation so as to promote measures against protectionism against developed countries, improving the international terms of trade for agricultural commodities, and try to establish an international, political and economic environment which would make it possible to promote development further. As regards its contents, this strategy needs to be complete and take into consideration all these factors so that it can viably respond to the needs of the different regions and countries at different levels of development. Furthermore, it should also emphasize the most important points and give them priorities to those areas which are of most vital importance for developing countries. We have realized that over preceding years as regards the efforts that were made to accelerate reform and development in the rural areas in the struggle against poverty and the efforts to establish food security, international agricultural adjustment and the international community has drawn up strategies and programmes which cover these various elements. However, the international community has not actually made positive progress to date. Certain resolutions and proposals are still simply verbal or down on paper. Therefore, we hope that when the time comes to draw up the new strategy, the FAO will make sure that the action undertaken will be more viable and that the objectives established will be both quantitative and realistic as well as assuring that there exist the necessary mechanisms for control and monitoring, so that it is possible to consider the development in the implementation of this strategy in the future.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): I thank the Secretariat for paper C 89/12 and Mr Dutia for helping us through the complexities of FAO 's contribution to the two General Assembly initiatives, that is the Special Session directed to economic recovery and development and the preparation of an international development strategy.

The membership has three particular interests. One is to ensure that FAO's contribution is helpful and correct. FAO must be and must be seen to be a cooperative of the UN system. The second is that the input is in keeping with the views of the membership. The third is that it is influential, and that the wisdom contained within the Organization and the Member States on matters in the sphere of FAO is used to the full in developing the international endeavours of the 1990s.

FAO's input for the Special Session must clearly be a secretariat one, drawing on the guidance given by this Conference, and perhaps it is not realistic for the membership to identify itself with the many contributions which will be necessary between now and the Special Session in April.

My delegation would ask first that the contribution should reflect FAO's importance in achieving objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development and the environment. Secondly, that the practical nature of practitioners of farming, fishing, and forestry should be allowed to influence the direction of the Special Session and later the International Developing Strategy and ensure an element of realism which is not present in the previous strategy document, notably that for the Second Budget Decade.

In this connection, we were glad to note in paragraph 36 of the paper, referring to the IDS preparation that it appeared to be the intention that as few targets as possible should be included, and that they should be realistic in terms of the feasibility of their achievement.

As to our contribution to the preparation of the strategy itself, I note that frati Mr Dutia the plan is the same as the Council made in the summer. There is a chapter outlined for this Conference that will be submitted for consideration by the Council in its session next November.

I commend the administrative arrangements which have been made for this and repeat (for the record) the wish expressed by the Council that good time will be given for members to study the draft chapter before they consider it in Council. Of course, we have had the advantage of looking at the mock-up.

Our contribution to the ideas should be in keeping with the emerging consensus over the nature and content of the strategy. The IDS should not duplicate the Special Session. Instead it should focus on a limited number of things and outline ways in which the international community might respond to the challenges of the 1990s. The UK shares the view expressed by colleagues today that the strategy should be concerned with poverty alleviation and growth with equity, as so well put by the delegation of Denmark on behalf of the Nordic countries, with the human aspect of development as described by our colleague from Czechoslovakia, and the sustainability of the development which Bangladesh did.

We are also of the view that the IDS should not, as in the past, focus on world economic questions to the exclusion of consideration of the economic policies of developing countries. Economic problems of developing countries are not totally caused by external factors. Any new international development strategy must include provision for commitments by developing countries as well as by donors. It should also widen its focus beyond north/south relations and consider south/south cooperation and east/south trade and development flows - to use New York terms for these things rather than Rome terms. These points are perhaps almost too obvious to make in an organization like FAO, but they become less obvious, however, the further away one gets from grassroots.

I now turn to the mock-up of the chapter which is proposed should be our contribution to the IDS. It is a good paper. We commend the analysis and its emphasis on the central importance of sustainability and environmental aspects. In fact, we, as an organization, have made a good start with the preparation of our input. Such remarks as I make will sometimes concern points where we disagree somewhat with the emphasis or with the content, and I hope these will be read against my delegation's general support for the outline. I assume, in fact, that this is the sort of input which will be most helpful for the draftsmen at this stage.

First, my delegation found the paper too critical of structural adjustment policies in, for example, paragraphs 45 and 75. Many of the problems of economic decline and poverty are the result of policies now acknowledged to be mistaken and of the overall economic crisis rather than the structural adjustment measures themselves.

As the paper points out, structural adjustment programmes have helped restore economic incentives for agricultural producers and thus encourage agricultural production, as well as benefiting large numbers of poor farmers.

The paper is right to recognize in paragraph 77 the need for a link between structural adjustment programmes and sustainable economic recovery.

We would agree with paragraph 55 that greater emphasis should be given to removing constraints on growth while maintaining sound macro-economic links. Effective adjustment will usually require overall cuts in government spending, combined with effective management of budgetary resources.

In this context, we find it hard to justify significant subsidy of inputs, and the protection of social and economic infrastructure programmes will require difficult economies in other areas of government spending. Government revenues must be considered, too, including cost recovery measures on government services and agricultural taxation.

We can therefore endorse the importance accorded to economic incentives in paragraph 67, but we question the advocacy of stabilization schemes in paragraph 69. Past experience suggests that they often distort incentives by being used as a channel for taxing or subsidizing agricultural producers.

I realize that I have gone on rather long about this, but it is because I wanted to say that this is the area where the UN system can most help developing countries carry out programmes of structural adjustment, ensuring adjustment with growth and protection of vulnerable groups and the capacity to produce. I have dealt with the point at some length to try to ensure that nothing which emerges from this discussion could be read as suggesting that FAO was in any sense in conflict with the Bretton Woods institutions or in any sense holding the ring between these bodies and developing countries.

With regard to paragraph 27 of the paper, we recognize the importance of stimulating the demand side of the equation through the creation of alternative rural employment and income generation opportunities. This is a measure which can be expected to work in favour of disadvantaged groups in particular, and this point should appear more fully in our document.

The question of poverty alleviation has also a significant bearing on the issues of the environment and sustainable development, and this is fully recognized in paragraph 48. We should like to see this developed. The need to develop a strategy and approaches which balance both environmental and developmental requirements and objectives on an integrated basis will, we think, be essential if the ultimate goal of sustainability is to be attained.

Turning to research and development, which has already been mentioned by a colleague, we think that research and development, particularly in less favourable areas for rain-fed agriculture, and with a view to environmentally sound production systems, should be emphasized. We would point particularly to the need for intensified research into perennial vegetation, in particular exploration and conservation of genetic diversity.

We support the call for a policy framework to integrate food, fodder and fuelwood systems into a better agricultural and forestry relationship. This, of course, is a prime objective of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, particularly through the component of forestry and land use.

We were, I think, disappointed in the paper as regards the importance of livestock. Perhaps it will be expanded more fully in the final document. It seems to give insufficient attention to the role and importance of livestock to the agricultural sectors of developing countries. Particular efforts must

be made to improve productivity of local breeds of livestock by upgrading and judicious crossbreeding rather than by the introduction of exotic stock which may be poorly adapted to local conditions. The widespread genetic diversity of domestic livestock in developing countries must be exploited more fully and not squandered by focusing too much attention on selective breeding of small numbers of exotic breeds.

We would emphasize the need for strengthening livestock health and extension services, which must be seen as an integral part of improving livestock productivity in developing countries.

I turn now to fisheries. We liked the paper on this, but we would emphasize that developing countries took an increasingly large proportion of the catch in later years, and further progress in redistribution of the benefits of fishing in the EFZs of coastal states is essential in the next decade. A long-term strategy should include a commitment to assist further in the development of national capacity to replace licensed foreign fishing effort, with parallel support for international marketing and the removal of tariff barriers. Paragraph 118 is, in our view, inadequate on this and should be expanded.

We were glad to see in paragraph 118, however, the view that a high priority must be assigned to the improvement of fisheries management practice and performance in the face of the rapidly approaching full exploitation of conventional fishery resources. In this respect, paragraph 100 describes important initiatives in artisanal fisheries involving self-management of exclusive rights granted to fishing communities which must be pursued rigorously during the 1990s. Actions which remove or reduce the competitive element in exploitation of these common property resources will act to the benefit of resource sustainability and should be supported. The principle involved in paragraph 100 exactly parallels that described in paragraph 105(e) and will also require a greater effort in developing integrated activity in primary fishing communities to relieve, where necessary, pressure on fishery resources.

The major elements of the fisheries sector strategy outlined in paragraphs 115-118 correctly follow the action plan established at the 1984 World Fisheries Conference. However, it is important to note that support for artisanal level aquaculture has not been uniformly successful to date and has significantly failed to achieve any nutritional or social impact on most African countries. Some priority attention to the underlying socioeconomic or technical constraints to small-scale aquaculture development in Africa must be an essential part of our strategy.

Finally on the draft of the paper, the conclusions lay correct emphasis on some important issues of social needs, sustainable environment, and so on, and the need for synergistic actions and coherent strategies. While this is not, strictly speaking, a point one should make in connection with the paper, we encourage FAO to ensure that its own internal organization is fully adapted to achieve the efficient integration called for here.

Finally, I come to the separate question of the link which has been suggested in the Review of the Goals and Objectives of FAO between this chapter we are preparing and our own long-term planning. The proposal was that the one could be a substitute for the other. My Minister referred to this point in her intervention in the general debate, but for convenience I can perhaps quote in an abbreviated form what she said on this.



The UK agrees that the longer-term planning should be carried out at the same time as we prepare the International Development Strategy and our own contribution to it, and perhaps this chapter which goes into the Strategy will be enough. In it, FAO should take account of the contribution by other members of the UN family, including the excellent study just done by the World Bank on sustainable growth with equity over the longer term in Africa. But, as the Minister said, we do not yet know whether the Strategy will be a coherent and consistent blueprint, and if it summarizes all the aspirations of the human race in every sector, then it may give us only limited guidance, little focus and no sense of real priorities.

However - and I am no longer quoting our Minister - if the draft we have before us is a reflection of the eventual chapter, and the points made today by me and others are taken account of, we would perhaps not see difficulty in this being our strategy in the longer term than any term covered by any medium-term planning which we agree.

Engelbert MOYO (Tanzania) : Thank you very much for giving the Tanzanian delegation another chance to intervene at this session.

The Tanzanian delegation is very encouraged to note that FAO is, and maybe will also be, involved in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade and the convening of a Special Session of the General Assembly. FAO's contribution to the IDS and to the Special Session is important. This is based on the fact that FAO is the world authority in the crucial sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and nutrition, and rural development, which are all vital in the revitalization of economic growth and achieving the objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development and the environment, as has been stated in the document.

As I have already mentioned earlier, agriculture continues and will continue to be the largest sector in my country's economy, and its role is crucial in its effort of breaking off the vicious circle of its economy. My delegation fully supports the recommendation put forward under paragraph 55 of the document under discussion, i.e. document C 89/19, that for the developing countries, including my country, Mr Chairman, the structural adjustment should put greater emphasis on growth-generating aspects by removing constraints - this is very important - and bottlenecks to growth in order to achieve the economic growth in agriculture. This is also endorsed very much by our delegation from UK just now.

It has also been clearly stressed in paragraph 62 of the document under discussion that the greater majority of developing countries will have to depend on the use of inputs to increase their yields in meeting their food and other agricultural product demands.

My head of delegation has mentioned during the general discussions in the Plenary that my country is experiencing adverse effects in implementing the structural adjustment programme to the agricultural sector, in particular to the small farmers. The programme is accompanied by massive devaluation of the country's currencies, and strong insistence on the removal of subsidies, including subsidies on production inputs. This has resulted in very high costs of the inputs, and in the absence of subsidies, farmers are compelled to withdraw from using the inputs, thus resulting in very poor low yields and decline in agriculture growth.

Paragraph 70 of the document under discussion emphasizes the importance of formulating producer prices to enable small farmers to pay for their purchased inputs. But under the current world market price fluctuations, my country finds it almost impossible to avoid subsidizing farmers for quite a period of time and not temporarily.

Mr Chairman, my country strongly requests FAO as a contributor to the two activities under review, to consider some of the inconsistencies, including the removal of input subsidies, put forward under the external assistance given to developing countries, including my country.

I would very much request the Secretariat if possible to comment on this issue when summarizing the discussions in future, because this item of subsidizing inputs to farmers is vital to my country.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan) : It is indeed a welcome sign that the UN General Assembly has, inter alia, asked FAO to contribute in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade. In view of the dominant role of food, agriculture and rural development in the world economy, a development strategy, a priori, has to address the fundamental questions of food security and agricultural development. This in itself, eloquently speaks of the role of FAO in providing the necessary input for IDS with a view to revitalizing economic growth and achieving the objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development, and environment.

The methodology envisaged in paras 14-16 of document C 89/19 for making contribution to the preparation of IDS seems fairly exhaustive, and encompasses almost all the fields of competence of the Organization, as also the specific sectoral issues and priorities. We feel that "Agriculture Towards 2000" "WCARRD Programme of Action", "Plan of Action for Women's Integration into Development" and the "Tropical Forestry Action Plan" etc., and the "Cooperative Action Programme" of WFC could be meaningfully incorporated for preparing the FAO Strategy document.

We are also in full agreement with the point made in the document that the development strategy should clearly indicate the areas of priority action appropriate to different geographic regions and to countries at different levels of economic development, and with different resources situations and endowments.

The provisional outline and tentative preview of the Strategy document, after reviewing the food and agricultural situation in the 1980s and the possible trend for the 1990s basically dilates upon the three inextricably interwoven themes of Economic Growth and Agriculture, Poverty Alleviation, and Human Resources Development, and Natural Resources, Environment and Sustainability. The Pakistan delegation would like to contribute on these three themes one by one.

As regards economic growth and agriculture, we are inclined to agree that the strategy of development for the 1990s should concentrate and focus on macro-economics and structural adjustment reforms by removing the constraints and bottlenecks to growth and engendering resource generation to give sustainability to the agriculture sector. However, we would like to stress that unless and until international economic order and trade in agriculture and agro-based products are rationalized, and distortions and imperfections besetting it are removed, all efforts on macro-economic and sector-specific

structural adjustment reforms are likely to encounter failure and may well be counter-productive in terms of causing political instability in most of the developing countries with fragile systems.

The present scenario of the international trade environment is asymmetrical. The end result of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is not yet known, although April 1989 negotiations culminated in agreement on a framework approach setting out long-term and short-term objectives to eventually eliminate protectionism and other forms of imperfections and imbalances, yet without sounding too pessimistic and in view of the past experience of protracted parleys and polemics, we would like to strongly urge that the development strategy must address this issue of international trade and order in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

We also tend to generally agree with the remedial actions proposed in para. 60 of the document aimed at improving the agricultural sector of the developing countries. The four I's - inputs, incentives, institutions, and infrastructure - ought to receive due attention, particularly in the wake of structural adjustment reforms. We would, however, stress that agricultural research and development, which rank not too high in the developing countries, need to be provided with greater impetus to be able to involve appropriate technological package for agricultural development and sustainable growth.

As regards poverty alleviation and human resources development, it hardly needs emphasis that the economic growth and agricultural development have a direct bearing on the state of poverty. Similarly, human resource development plays a decisive role in increasing the efficiency of the productive sectors. These are crucial social dimensions to the economic growth. However, agricultural policy reforms and structural adjustments strategies, predominantly influenced by the economic and fiscal considerations of the international financial institutions and bilateral-multilateral agreements, tend to relegate poverty, hunger, inequitable distribution of wealth, malnutrition and health to the periphery. The complementarity and inalienability of economic, social and human resources sectors need to be recognized. We have all along advocated that FAO can play a leading role in this regard. We will, therefore, reiterate that the international development strategy ought to address these key aspects as an integral part of development combining growth with poverty alleviation and equity.

As regards external assistance and the direct food aid to combat malnutrition, we would stress that, in view of the unfortunate trend and progressive decline in the world food security and, particularly, for the least developed countries, the flow of uninterrupted aid, either in the form of emergency relief or augmenting the food supplies or in the shape of food-for-work, will have to be unequivocally enshrined in the development strategy. The WHO/WFP and other programmes of the UN system and different affluent countries have contributed considerably in this regard; size and scope of these programmes commensurate with the enormity of the problem would have to be suitably enhanced.

The issue of environmental degradation is of high priority and there is no denying the fact that the development, which destroys the natural resources that sustain it, is not development. Unfortunately, during the recent decades, environmental degradation and resources depletion have assumed appalling proportions progressively putting the destiny of future generations to peril. The phenomenon is not confined to underdeveloped countries; it is inter-related and has global, regional and national dimensions. Environmental

degradation is manifest in a variety of ways ranging from climatic changes, loss of genetic resources, diminution of aquaculture, acid precipitation, desertification, deforestation, sub-soil water contamination, and soil erosion.

On the top of this, there exist conflicts of interests between individual and the private interests on the one hand, and the collective interest of nations on the other, primarily due to the reasons of immediacy of the need of the individual for food and fuel, and that the benefits of conservation measures tend to accrue in the long run and they accrue to the beneficiaries who did not make sacrifices.

Furthermore, the lack of awareness amongst the population creates a situation in which hardly anyone pleads for a programme to protect the country's natural resource base. There is no effective lobby that puts the case before the public and influences the allocation of the public expenditure for this purpose. Short-term expediency and pressures for a broad array and other causes have resulted in very meagre provisions of funds and scant organizational attention.

Absence of appropriate technology for environmental protection and conservation of resources further aggravates the situation. Mr Chairman, we recommend that the strategy, besides the priority indentified in para 101 of the document, should encompass the measures:

To evolve a long-range policy for creating awareness of the importance of environmental consideration amongst the nations and the peoples at the grass-root level, and to undertake and promote appropriate research activities for resources conservation and management, and for the benefit of appropriate technological package.

Mr Chairman, before I conclude, allow me to highlight sane of the broader issues which ought to figure prominently in the agenda for development of a viable strategy:

1. How to transform agriculture in the developing countries from traditionally constrained activity to commercially viable ventures and, related to this, what measures need to be adopted to sustain and strengthen the process of transition in the countries where it has already started.
2. How to ensure food security to all the people living on this planet before the end of this century.
3. How to improve prospects for agricultural trade and replace the present system based on myopic protectionist framework within a more unified global economy.

Each of these issues involved a wide range of policy options, some straightforward and relatively easy to implement and others very complex and politically sensitive. The task that lies ahead is difficult. We hope FAO, while providing input to the International Development Strategy, will be living up to its traditions and attend to these issues comprehensively.

Horacio Daniel FIGUEIRAS (Argentina): Nuestra delegación recibe con agrado la invitación del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para que la FAO esté presente en la preparación de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo del Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo. Felicita además, a la Secretaria por su importante aporte preliminar a la iniciativa, el documento C 89/19, que hoy analiza esta Comisión.

Coincidimos en general con la evaluación de los hechos y tendencias de la década que termina, tal como lo refiere el Capítulo II .A, que son descritos considerando los tres ternas principales a tratarse en las Naciones Unidas.

En lo que hace a las Perspectivas para los años 90, Parte II,B, el tono del documento es francamente pesimista. Dadas sus conclusiones, poco o nada se puede esperar de mejoría en la situación de la agricultura que dependa específicamente del hambre rural, menos aún si este hombre habita un país en desarrollo.

Como ejemplo, en la tabla del párrafo 36 se aprecia una clara diferencia a favor de las tasas de crecimiento de la producción agrícola respecto de las de crecimiento de población. Sin embargo, en el párrafo 38, esta diferencia queda aniquilada al ser enlazada con las cifras estimadas de la reactivación del crecimiento económico global. Un crecimiento económico cuyo principal sostén es, para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo, su producción agropecuaria, forestal e ictícola. Más desalentadoras se nos hacen aún las perspectivas, si observamos en el párrafo 40, que los países industriales seguirán con tasas de producción en aumento, aunque menor que en los años 80, y que en el párrafo 41, Europa Oriental y la Unión de Repúblicas Soviéticas Socialistas seguirán incartando iguales volúmenes que hasta ahora.

En varias partes del documento se mencionan factores macroeconómicos que, con mayor o menor intensidad, inciden negativamente en el progreso de los países en desarrollo. En los párrafos 38 y 39, se citan la deuda externa, las corrientes de recursos, el acceso a los mercados, el proteccionismo. También en la parte de Estrategias, párrafos 56, 57 y 58, se listan otros elementos limitantes del crecimiento agrícola como las tasas de inflación (no se mencionan, sin embargo, las tasas de interés internacionales), los tipos de cambio, las relaciones de intercambio, y cito: "la tendencia de los países industriales a generar excedentes estructurales de productos propios de las zonas templadas en el marco de regímenes de apoyo de alto costo, las tendencias a sustituir productos naturales por sintéticos y su capacidad -de los países industriales- financiera para subvencionar sustituciones". Como ve, Sr. Presidente, parece poco lo que se nos permite planificar a nuestros países en desarrollo.

Compartimos, sin embargo, las esperanzas en el progreso de la Ronda Uruguay del GATT para reducir los obstáculos al comercio, así como las sugerencias de la Estrategia, de los párrafos 72 y 73, para mejorar la situación de la agricultura.

La parte del documento que trata sobre Pobreza y Recursos Humanos es quizás de pronósticos aún más sombríos. A pesar del estimado, aumento de la mano de obra agrícola en los países en desarrollo más pobres (párrafo 44), los trabajadores rurales ganarán menos y bajará la productividad per cápita, con lo cual seguirán empobreciéndose. En el párrafo 43 ya se menciona la perspectiva del aumento de la desnutrición en Africa.

En el documento se subraya la íntima relación entre pobreza y producción y productividad, insistiendo en la incidencia negativa de los programas de ajuste estructural (párrafo 75), que muchos de los países en desarrollo están tratando de implementar a sugerencia de los organismos financieros rectores. Recomiendo la atenta lectura de los párrafos 75 y 76, que se refieren a la "inevitabilidad" de estos programas para conseguir, a la luz del texto, un dudoso "equilibrio interno y externo", con cuyos resultados bien se puede

"minar", cito, "la base misma del desarrollo, es decir, la salud y la calidad de los recursos humanos". Nuestra reflexión es que si estos programas de ajuste no ayudan al desarrollo y, más bien, consolidan o agravan la pobreza, la FAO debería proponer las modificaciones pertinentes o sugerir en las Naciones Unidas la sustitución de los programas por otros de efectos más favorables.

La última parte del documento (Recursos Naturales, Medio Ambiente y Sostenibilidad) es una excelente evaluación de la degradación y destrucción de los recursos, tanto en los países en desarrollo como en los países industrializados. Se plantean con todo rigor las consecuencias del efecto invernadero, en los párrafos 50 al 52. Se debe destacar la necesidad de fomentar el uso de fuentes no convencionales de energía, con el doble propósito de atenuar este problema debido a polución por gases atmosféricos, y a la vez para paliar la carencia de leña en algunas regiones citadas en otro lugar del informe. En cambio, el informe no menciona el peligro que implica la disminución de la capa de ozono, debida al uso masivo de fluorocarbonados, para uso doméstico, con efectos ecológicos aún incalculables por el incremento de radiación ultravioleta que va a provocar este efecto. Recordamos que otros polutantes, no tratados en el informe -caso de agroquímicos, anabólicos veterinarios, etc- son producidos en los países industrializados, y sus concentraciones en alimentos se usan luego como barreras no arancelarias al comercio. Los países en desarrollo esperamos en esta área un "ajuste", que sea expresado como recomendación en las Naciones Unidas.

Nuestra delegación comparte en un todo la parte III C del documento, así como sus sintéticas conclusiones del párrafo 123.

Queda claro, del análisis del trabajo, que la Estrategia depende de la voluntad de las naciones más poderosas, de modo de poner al hombre por encima de la economía, sin subestimar a ésta. Las políticas macroeconómicas deben considerar con máxima seriedad y urgencia los tres temas principales de la Estrategia y hacerse cargo de que el progreso es, cada vez más, patrimonio de todos en este mundo ecológicamente uno.

Aminoti TASSIOU (Niger): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté C 89/19, qui traite des stratégies à long terme pour le développement du secteur alimentaire et agricole. En particulier la rubrique II, c'est-à-dire les paragraphes 18 à 52, a le mérite de dresser une analyse succincte des problèmes actuels et des perspectives d'avenir qui malheureusement, pour les pays en voie de développement, ne sont pas très encourageantes. Le paragraphe 25 est à nos yeux très pertinent, car il signale la marginalisation des pays les moins avancés en même temps que leur exclusion du processus de développement. Pour preuve, les perspectives d'avenir dans les pays d'Afrique subsaharienne par exemple montrent que la croissance agricole annuelle projetée pour la période 1990-2000 sera inférieure à la croissance démographique. Ceci m'amène à évoquer ici le cas spécifique du Niger comme modèle par excellence de la zone sahélienne.

C'est une chose connue des honorables délégués ici présents, la zone sahélienne connaît des problèmes dont la solution est un défi non seulement pour ces pays, mais pour la communauté internationale toute entière, à cause de la spécificité et des particularités de ladite zone.

Nous appuyons donc le fait que la stratégie internationale de développait pour les années 90 doive, pour l'Afrique saharienne du sud et subsaharienne, prendre en compte les éléments mentionnés dans les documents que nous avons cités; le document C 89/19 en particulier, dans sa partie III, paragraphes 53 et suivants, à savoir: la relance de la croissance économique, la lutte contre la pauvreté et la mise en valeur des ressources haitaines, et surtout -comme l'a souligné le représentant du Danemark au nom des pays Scandinaves, la solution des problèmes liés à la sauvegarde du cadre de vie, c'est-à-dire l'environnement et la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Permettez-moi cependant d'attirer l'attention sur les effets pervers des mesures d'ajustement structurel comme facteur freinant dans une très large mesure la croissance dans le domaine agricole. Pour illustrer mon propos, je signalerai dans le contexte actuel le désengagement progressif de l'Etat des circuits d'approvisionnement des producteurs en facteur de production, de libéralisation des circuits de commercialisation des produits agricoles tant internes qu'externes, auquel se superpose la diminution notoire de la subvention aux intrants, l'absence d'un système viable de crédit agricole. L'ensemble de ces éléments fait planer une insécurité réelle pour les petits producteurs.

J'illustrerai cela par des phénomènes récents. En cas de bonne année, comme c'était le cas en 1988 au Niger, les prix aux producteurs en ce qui concerne en particulier les céréales accusent une baisse vertigineuse qui limite leur capacité de réinvestissement. En cas de mauvaise année, c'est le cas en 1989, c'est le consommateur dont le pouvoir d'achat est limité qui se trouve confronté aux problèmes de satisfaction des besoins élémentaires à cause de l'absence de flexibilité et de dynamisme dans le circuit d'approvisionnement et d'importation.

Nous voulons donc appuyer le paragraphe 55 et souligner à ce niveau l'importance qu'il y a à formuler une résolution pour le suivi des effets pervers des mesures d'ajustement structurel, en particulier dans cette zone névralgique, et la prise en compte de ces effets dans le cadre de la stratégie actuelle pour la décennie à venir.

Par ailleurs, la situation géographique et écologique des pays subsahariens fait de ces derniers le lieu de prédilection d'un certain nombre de ravageurs. Je ne citerai ici que le cas des criquets pèlerins pour lesquels l'année 1988 a démontré de manière évidente la faiblesse du dispositif de prévention et d'intervention. Cela risque d'être le cas aussi pour un danger qui actuellement menace le secteur de l'élevage, celui de la lucilie bouchère. Mieux vaut prévenir que guérir. Nous souhaitons donc qu'une résolution soit prise pour que ces deux fléaux similaires, qui ont un caractère endémique dans des zones écologiques particulières, fassent l'objet d'une attention particulière dans le cadre de la stratégie du développement à adopter pour la prochaine décennie.

Ms Sin BALKISH SHARIFF (Malaysia) : We would like to commend the Secretariat for a comprehensive document focusing largely on economic growth and agriculture, poverty alleviation, human resource development and the promotion of sustained development. Prospects of realizing these objectives depend, however, on progress in reducing the debt burden and the outcome of the developing countries in implementing the adjustment measures to overcome macroeconomic mismanagement, strong inflation and a narrow production base.

In addition, the sizeable transfer of resources to creditor nations has to decline to enable developing countries to reach more creditable rates of growth.

While a new debt initiative, the Brady Plan debt reduction programme, provides hope for the realization of growth for indebted countries, the slow progress so far has raised concern over the eventual success of this debt initiative.

We find this document timely and useful in our current efforts to formulate the Sixth Malaysian Development Plan for the period 1991 to 1995 which, among others, will emphasize economic growth, human resource development, environment and sustained development, as well as poverty alleviation, which are areas already addressed in the strategy outlined for the 1990s.

The Malaysian delegation believes that growth is paramount for the future survival of developing countries. This is largely based on our experience during the economic downturn of 1986 when development programmes, including those designed to eradicate poverty, suffered downward adjustment in their financial allocation.

The low income groups also suffered the most from the recession. Fortunately, however, this setback was transitory and was arrested by commodity price improvements and adjustment measures specifically undertaken to strengthen economic growth.

Agriculture has been the mainstay of the Malaysian economy, and although it has been overtaken by the manufacturing sector in terms of contribution to the GDP, it is still the main employer of labour. The Government will continue efforts to modernize and commercialize this sector as this is the key to poverty eradication. This sector is also important in food production.

Future efforts will be aimed at maintaining Malaysia's leadership position in the production and processing technology of rubber and palm oil. Simultaneously, the implementation of policies and programmes aimed at agricultural diversification as well as value added enhancement of primary commodities through more processing and downstream activities will be intensified.

The Government will also continue to provide allocation for strengthening the basic infrastructure in rural areas and to provide direct assistance aimed at improving the welfare of the poor, such as resettlement, cottage industries and agricultural projects which can help supplement household incomes.

All development efforts, however, will give cognizance to the protection of the environment for sustained development. In this regard, environmental impact assessment will be undertaken for future development projects.

We compliment the Secretariat on the work done in preparing this important document. We give our full support to the strategy outlined in paragraph 123, and we look forward to a more detailed document.

Sra Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba) : La Delegación de Cuba ha estudiado con interés y agradece a la Secretaría la preparación del documento C 89/19, así como la presentación hecha por el doctor Dutia.



Consideramos, señor Presidente, que la estrategia para la agricultura y la alimentación y el desarrollo rural juegan un papel preponderante en toda la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo. A este respecto, coincidimos con el documento cuando nos plantea, en su párrafo 4, que el mandato de la FAO y su función reconocida de autoridad mundial en los sectores cruciales de la agricultura, incluyendo la silvicultura, la pesca, la alimentación y la nutrición y el desarrollo rural en su conjunto, la colocan en una posición única para contribuir a los preparativos y al éxito de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo y del período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General.

Coincidimos también en que dicha contribución debe estar a la altura de la importancia que tienen esos sectores en las economías y las sociedades de la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo.

Durante el 95<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo, mi Delegación se refirió a la especial importancia de la FAO en la EID y al período extraordinario de sesiones, teniendo en cuenta que la agricultura y la alimentación y todo el sector rural tienen una función decisiva que desempeñar para revitalizar el crecimiento económico y lograr los objetivos en los sectores de la nutrición, el alivio de la pobreza, el desarrollo humano y el medio ambiente. Hoy, nuevamente, la Delegación de Cuba recalca en esos aspectos tan importantes.

También, señor Presidente, consideramos que la estrategia en el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación cuenta con una buena base para establecer sus conclusiones y recomendaciones en el estudio, ya realizado por la FAO, "Agricultura Horizonte 2000"/ en el cual se efectuaron análisis globales y regionales de extraordinaria importancia.

También el Plan de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, continúa siendo una buena base de recomendación.

En lo que se refiere a las cuestiones actuales y perspectivas para los años 90, mi Delegación debe referirse con pesar a la crisis económica general de los años 89 y, en especial, a la situación de América Latina y el Caribe.

En realidad, señor Presidente, lo que al comienzo de la década de los 80 se vislumbraba como una recesión en las potencias occidentales, ha demostrado ser, en realidad, la crisis económica y social más profunda, prolongada y generalizada que ha sufrido el mundo subdesarrollado en los últimos cincuenta años, como bien apuntara el distinguido Delegado de Colombia, debe recalcarse que han sido años perdidos para los países subdesarrollados.

Para nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe, las consecuencias de esta crisis han sido particularmente graves debido, fundamentalmente, a sus elevados y siempre crecientes niveles de endeudamiento externo, así como al enorme pago de sus intereses, lo cual nos coloca en una situación menos ventajosa aún en el marco de las relaciones económicas internacionales contemporáneas•

Usted conoce bien, señor Presidente, que maestros países del Tercer Mundo no son subdesarrollados por naturaleza. El subdesarrollo es la consecuencia impuesta a un conjunto mayoritario de países, a través de largos años de explotación colonial y neocolonial, ejercida sobre ellos por grandes potencias que imponiéndonos estructuras económicas deformadas y dependientes, nos han imposibilitado un proceso de desarrollo sostenido.

El sector agrícola en particular no ha sido capaz, en la mayoría de los casos, de cubrir ni siquiera las necesidades alimentarias de nuestras poblaciones, debido, en lo fundamental, a la estructura de la tenencia de la tierra, caracterizada por una extendida economía campesina minifundista, de gran atraso tecnológico, que subsiste junto a importantes empresas agrícolas de propiedad transnacional y de grandes latifundios insuficientemente explotados.

El papel de la FAO en la solución de estos problemas, que juega un papel fundamental en la Estrategia a largo plazo para el sector de la agricultura y la alimentación dentro de la estrategia internacional del desarrollo, sería un paso significativo hacia el establecimiento del nuevo orden económico internacional que hace años proponemos y que se ha convertido en una divisa común de nuestros pueblos, puesto que queremos abolir la explotación donde ésta sigue imperando.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, quisiera expresar que si se cumplimentan los principios elaborados por la FAO para el cuarto decenio de la estrategia internacional del desarrollo, con objetivos realizables, si son aprobados por esta Conferencia, si en el Informe que se nos presentará en el Consejo de noviembre de 1990 se plasman los intereses del mundo en desarrollo de manera clara, precisa y con prioridades realistas, podremos demostrar que juntos la FAO, los Países del Tercer Mundo y los Países desarrollados de buena voluntad, todos juntos, somos una fuerza que puede y tiene derecho a exigir que no continúe prevaleciendo el egoísmo, la agresión y el desprecio a nuestros derechos.

**Hartmut STALB (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):** Document C 89/19 meets with our full approval • We certainly support the opinions expressed by the Secretariat saying that the FAO contribution to the Fourth Development Decade should concentrate on the following sectors: 1. productivity growth, 2. fight against poverty and increase of human resources, 3. natural resources, environmental protection and sustainability in agriculture.

The FAO "Agriculture towards the year 2000", and also different regional studies, we believe have been very good preparatory documents Which we will be able to use when devising FAO's contribution. Allow me, therefore, to make a few comments on the document.

First of all, I believe that the fight against poverty especially, means the creation of jobs and, therefore, it is vital to provide jobs also in rural, and not only in urban areas. In my opinion, this can be seen in a logical chain of events. Employment, if it is lacking, brings about poverty, undernourishment and the destruction of the environment. This is not taken into sufficient account when looking at ecological developments.

Secondly, let me look at the subject of population growth. I know that this is not a theme for FAO's contribution to the Fourth Development Decade. However, in our opinion, the development of the population cannot be separated from any effort that we may make in the field of agriculture and protection of the environment. My Minister has already said in the Plenary that we need not only to ensure sufficient food for the present generation, but also for the 220 000 new arrivals every day. They also have a right to qualitatively and quantitatively sufficient food. "Ms is a prerequisite for healthy bodily and mental development.

One may wonder whether, in the long-term, it will be possible at all to be able to keep up economic development with a population growth of more than 3 percent.

Finally, let me mention environmental protection, which has been given broad coverage in this document. If we cannot manage carefully to use the resources with which we have been entrusted, then even future green revolutions will not prevent an even greater threat to future generations than we can ever imagine now.

**Mohamed Badr El Din EL MASOUDI (Libya) (original language Arabic) :** My delegation would like to begin by congratulating the Secretariat on document C 89/19 dealing with long-term strategy for the food and agricultural sector which give to the development of human resources its just importance as regards sustainable development efforts. We feel that structural assessment and sustainable development are of particular importance at all levels and therefore it is necessary to bring together the efforts of both developed and developing countries if we want to overcome the obstacles facing mankind. There is no doubt whatsoever that the problems of foreign debt and the payment of interest on foreign debt, as well as the flow of foreign aid and access to markets, are all very important elements in the development of an international strategy and its implementation. The document in paragraph 43 states that poverty alleviation and the fight against nutritional problems and under-nutrition are elements which are certainly important for future strategies and which are therefore worthy of our full support. My delegation would also like to support what is found in paragraph 21 and that is that there exists an imbalance in international markets due to export subsidies which have led to unfortunate competition in agricultural products. Therefore, what we need to do is to establish guidelines which can be helpful in making the necessary changes in such policies.

My delegation would also like to express its support to the increased role in women in all development aspects and this is what is being done in our country. We also want to support the ideas with respect to human rights which we think are very vital elements in the international strategy as well as recognizing the importance of health and sanitation.

I think when we look at paragraph 84 and the importance given to the forestry sector, we realize that this importance is quite rightly established because we have for many decades been fighting against the deforestation and the competition between agricultural and forest land. We, at the same time, need to realize how important fuelwood may be for our rural populations and recognize their basic needs. Because of this, in many cases, the forests are in constant threat and to this we also need to add the need of preserving our forestry genetic resources. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to make an appeal so that a durable and viable solution can be found. I think we all recognize the very important ecological role played by forests and the important role they have in maintaining an ecological balance, and food production must be developed with this in mind. It must be a type of vertical growth and not a horizontal growth which damages other areas. We need to realize the mutual balance which must exist between agriculture and forestry. I think the role of FAO in improving agricultural production in cutting the cost of production is a very important one. They can develop strategies which will be very important in the future, and we are certain that FAO will be very important in the future, and we are certain that FAO will be able to play this role very usefully, particularly when we recognize the excellent experience and practice that they have had for many years.

**Ms Ann M. VENEMAN** (United States of America) : I would like to focus my remarks on three topics: the Special Session; the preparation of an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade; and FAO's input into the processes.

With regard to the Special Session, we believe that a desirable outcome from the Special Session would be a relatively brief document, adopted by consensus, which reinforces the central role of the World Bank and IMF in international economic and financial policy issues and the central importance of market-oriented reforms for achieving growth and development •

Turning to the International Development Strategy, for its part, the United States is committed to the case-by-case approach to resolving the economic problems of developing countries. The diversity of the economies of developing countries calls for differentiated approaches to growth and development.

With regard to FAO's input, we strongly agree with paragraph 73 of the FAO document that the strategy should address the need for developing countries to promote an enhanced role for the private sector, including cooperatives, and to remove "undue impediments" to economic growth.

Paragraph 17 of C 89/19 rightly stresses that the primary role for implementing the strategy falls to the governments of the developing countries and that the role of the international community should be to backstop these efforts by fostering a more supportive environment for international economic relations.

Despite its real short-term difficulties structural adjustment will contribute to broad-based and sustainable economic growth and improvements in living standards of the poor in the medium to long term.

The United States is fully supportive of the concept of sustainable development, in the economic and environmental sense, and believes it should be a basic principle governing all development efforts.

Given the uncertainties of the 1990s, we believe it would be an unproductive exercise for an IDS to attempt to set specific quantitative targets for economic growth, aid flows, or trade. The United States will not accept an IDS that sets growth or ODA targets.

What is needed on the part of many recipient countries is better coordination of development assistance among multilateral and bilateral donors and a more efficient focus of technical assistance on building up these countries' capacity to manage development programmes.

As paragraph 58 of the FAO document rightly emphasizes, the IDS should address a number of issues in the area of international agricultural trade. The United States believes that all countries should be committed to an open and expanding trade system and can make a contribution to strength that system by lowering trade barriers, eliminating agricultural subsidies, and supporting full achievement of Uruguay Round objectives.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** As usual the documentation produced by the FAO Secretariat on the agenda is of a very high quality. I must congratulate the Secretariat for the apprehensive document C 89/19. I have very carefully gone through the paper and find that there is hardly any area left uncovered or any nuance missed in dealing with the subject.

We agree with the analysis of the past trends and the issues and the outline of the strategy for economic growth and agriculture, poverty alleviation human resources development, natural resource based development as also sustainable development.

The Indian delegation therefore commends this outline for adoption as a basis for preparation for the full strategy document for submission to the Ninety-eighth Council in 1990.

My delegation has, while making its interventions on earlier agenda items, already dwelled at length on various issues concerning international agricultural trade, external assistance for development of agriculture, sustainable development, and therefore would not like to take your time in repeating them again.

We would be content making a few observations on some of the aspects under this agenda item. One area which my delegation would like to be given a pride of place in the list of priorities for the future agricultural development strategy is the field of research and development. International efforts should be directed towards development of technologies, especially in the field of rainfed farming. Countries like India where most of the agricultural land is dependent on rainfall, need to concentrate on increasing productivity and production from these lands. Such development would bring about growth of agriculture with greater justice for the millions of small and marginal farmers. In India, learning lessons from the green revolution, we have now moved on to agricultural planning based on regional potential and characteristics. It will be undertaken on the basis of 15 agroclimatic zones identified in terms of soil type, rainfall, temperature and water resources. These climatic zones are further divided into sub-zones and sub-regions. These sub-regions vary considerably in their potential for agricultural development. The strategy of agroclimatic regional planning aims at assessing these potentialities zone by zone and integrating them into a national perspective. On similar lines, we would commend regional planning in different geographical zones of the world to exploit the full agricultural potential of these different lands by evolving viable technology packages, providing efficient delivery, services, and ensuring remunerative and stable market prices for their farm produce.

The IDS for the Third Development Decade aimed at 4 percent growth in agricultural production, however, the actual growth rate achieved has been much lower, that is 2.5 percent during the years 1980-1986, 0.9 percent in 1987 and 0.1 percent in 1988.

Recurrence of such divergence between what is aimed at and what is achieved can perhaps be avoided by detailing measures to be taken by the national governments and the international community and organizations. It is also necessary to make reasonable estimates of technical and financial resources, including external assistance needed by the developing countries, and to include them in the IDS so as to commit the international community to their requirements. According to the FAO study "At 2000", during the 1990s agricultural production in the developing countries is likely to grow at a compound growth rate of 2 percent per annum, population at the rate of 2 percent per annum and agricultural demand at the rate of 3.1 percent per annum. This can only leave the world with many more undernourished people at the end of the century than we have today. These figures therefore need to be looked at again in order to make them more realistic and acceptable.

On the subject of nutrition and food aid, I should like to state that food aid to developing countries is related basically to fighting the problem of hunger and malnutrition, which is a problem of humanity as a whole, and therefore food aid should not be tied to conditions of structural adjustments in the developing countries.

To conclude, I should like to reiterate the validity of the agenda document and would express the hope that the task force working on these outlines and the preview will be able to prepare the FAO, the UN and the world to rise to the challenge of food and agriculture and rural development in the decade heralding the 21st century.

Mrs Rudene F. WILKINS (Liberia): As seems to be the trend, the Secretariat continues to excel itself in the production of documents which are excellent and concise. I join with other speakers in congratulating this hardworking group.

The Government of Liberia has food and agriculture as the number one priority programme for its economic and social development and is endeavouring to improve its overall agricultural production. Currently, policies and efforts are directed towards the utilization of idle agricultural land for a productive use and the providing of services such as extension, credit, marketing and some basic inputs. Our integrated rural development programme continues to dwell on the enhancement of the economic and social status of the rural populace.

Document C 89/19 concurs with the emphasis which my government places on its agricultural growth. We therefore wholeheartedly endorse this document. Preservation of the environment to sustain this growth, as mentioned in paragraph 60, suggests among other things the diversification of agricultural export commodities for developing countries. My delegation recommends that, in view of the many obstacles and price fluctuations which developing countries, especially African nations, encounter to the export of their commodities, emphasis should be put on the production of finished products which will be utilized for domestic consumption and export, which would in time save much of our needed foreign exchange.

Women's role in agriculture is as vital as is birth to the human race. It is time that decisions concerning women were made by women. We encourage FAO's efforts to integrate women in agricultural activities and decision-making. We hope that Member Nations will implement these programmes in their respective countries.

Noboru SATTO (Japan): We should like to recall the fact that former International Development Strategies have resulted in the economic gap among developing countries owing to the unexpected oil crisis in the 1970s, worldwide recession in the 1980s and, particularly, the worsening of debt problems in the latter half of the 1980s. On the other hand, in the 1980s there was also progress in the Uruguay Round negotiations and the establishment of cooperation systems among industrialized countries such as the Group of Seven.

Taking account of these facts, my country stresses the following points with regard to establishing the new Strategy: firstly, further promotion of self-reliance efforts by developing countries themselves with regard to

development; secondly, more efforts by the international community to cooperate with such efforts of developing countries; thirdly, more efficient management of UN system.

Mme Cristina MONTEIRO DUARTE (Cap-Vert) : La délégation cap-verdienne félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document et sa présentation.

Discuter ici et maintenant d'une stratégie internationale de développement impose que l'on rappelle le contexte international qui a caractérisé les années 80 comme il est indiqué dans le document.

L'aggravation de la dette extérieure démontre à nouveau le déséquilibre du flux de capitaux entre les pays développés et les pays en développement, à tel point que l'on se demande quels pays financent quels autres.

Il faut noter les conséquences néfastes d'un commerce international où les termes de l'échange ne cessent de se détériorer, et où le protectionnisme est de plus en plus renforcé; il faut également noter l'insuccès de plusieurs politiques appliquées au niveau national dans les pays en développement, insuccès dû non seulement à des causes exogènes déjà citées mais aussi à l'ensemble des contraintes internes dont il convient de citer: la forte croissance démographique surtout dans le continent africain et ses conséquences néfastes sur l'éducation, la santé et la sécurité alimentaire entre autres.

Tout cela constitue sans aucun doute les termes de référence clés qu'il faut prendre en compte pour la définition d'une stratégie internationale de développement efficace et conséquente.

Dans ce contexte, nous espérons que toute stratégie tirera profit des leçons des résultats atteints au cours des années passées.

Je me réfère à la participation active des pays du tiers monde surtout pour ce qui concerne la conception de la stratégie. Nous connaissons tous les résultats contestables des si classiques politiques d'ajustement structurel proposé aux gouvernements africains, à tel point que l'on sent actuellement la nécessité de renforcer son contenu humain en relativisant quelques mesures notamment:

- entière et totale libéralisation des prix, sans prendre en compte les mesures structurelles qui corrigent le déséquilibre entre le milieu rural et le milieu urbain;
- totale privatisation de l'économie, ce qui amenuisera le rôle potentiellement positif de l'Etat, bien que la théorie des forces du marché soit loin d'être efficace à 100 pour cent.

Permettez-moi à ce propos de dire que nous sommes d'accord avec le paragraphe 73 du document que nous examinons. L'importance de l'infrastructure et des institutions qui, dans l'ensemble, sont du ressort de l'Etat, fait surgir la question du rôle du secteur public dans la vie économique.

Actuellement, les théoriciens du développement semblent favoriser une réduction de ce rôle; toutefois, personne ne conteste ce rôle dans certains aspects fondamentaux du développement agricole.

La FAO estime qu'il ne faut prescrire aucun dogme mais plutôt encourager le pragmatisme.

Se référant toujours au document, la délégation cap-verdienne souscrit au paragraphe 35 tout en ajoutant cependant, en ce qui concerne les aspects macro-économiques, que l'hémorragie financière provoquée par l'endettement des pays en développement constitue sans aucun doute un très fort étranglement; il semble inutile dans ce cas d'appliquer des palliatifs qui ne font que cacher ou reporter le problème•

Nous aimerions affirmer ici que la définition d'une stratégie est étroitement conditionnée par le contenu du diagnostic de la situation, ou plus concrètement par l'ordre d'importance attribuée aux problèmes inventoriés; les problèmes qui, pour nous, semblent les plus importants ne le seront pas pour les pays développés.

J'en viens maintenant au chapitre des conclusions. Je ne crains pas d'affirmer que les directives A et B doivent passer - ou passent nécessairement - par la mise en place d'une base interne qui priorise le secteur rural; ce n'est possible que si l'on adopte la directive F comme étant stratégique, fondamentale et prioritaire.

En ce qui concerne les politiques spécifiquement agricoles et alimentaires, la délégation du Cap-Vert a eu l'occasion de s'exprimer soit pendant la dernière Conférence mondiale, soit pendant la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique.

Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya) : Allow me first to thank Mr Dutia for the clear introduction and the detailed documentation.

My delegation wishes to underline the emphasis on agricultural growth with the aim of stimulating economic growth. We believe that priorities in agriculture should be focused in the long-term strategies of the International Development for the Fourth UN Development Decade. We agree that FAO has therefore a very important input in the development of these strategies.

On the indicated priorities which include the WCARRD Programme of Action, TFAP, the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, the International Code of Conduct on the use and distribution of Pesticides, and the guidelines and targets for International Agricultural Adjustment, we agree that they should be the focus under the strategy being developed by the FAO. We think the Co-operative Action Programme on the Cyprus Initiative against poverty, hunger and malnutrition will be an important input among the strategies directed towards agricultural development and increased food production.

We reiterate that research programmes and the transfer of technology remain a very critical catalyst in the field of food and agriculture. Undeniably there is interdependence of the agricultural sector and the overall economy of developing countries. We believe therefore that impediments that constrain the global economic environment and in particular, agricultural trade, will need to be addressed under the forthcoming conference on the Fourth UN Decade. We encourage the FAO to pursue the areas of action outlined in paragraph 60 subsections A-E regarding the sector specific policies referred to in the documents. We note for the developing countries'



inputs in particular fertilizers, pesticides, improved seeds, agricultural machinery, continue to drain limited resources of developing countries. We urge that these be given greater attention under the strategies being developed.

We also agree on the importance of the strengthening of the infrastructure and the institutions. We see the need to revitalize growth in achieving the internal and external factors that relate to poverty, income distribution and human resource development. We also support the views on paragraph 77, particularly A and B.

We also subscribe to the importance of national resources, the environment and sustainability, and in particular forestry and fishery resources. In this regard, we wish to underline the need to focus on the development of marginal lands as these have remained under-utilized and are for many countries the remaining frontiers for increased agricultural production and creation of rural employment opportunities.

We hope the proposed strategies will lead to the realization of a new economic order and provide developing countries with the opportunity to contribute and share equally in the world economy, and at the same time overcome the crippling external debt problems and the food shortages facing our countries.

In conclusion, Sir, We wish to note that a number of strategies and action programmes have in the past been drawn, but unfortunately, a number of these have as yet not been effectively implemented. We think it is imperative that these should be carried out in order to reverse the current trend of declining growth and negative trends in the economies of developing countries.

**Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique):** C'est la première fois que j'interviens dans les débats de la première Commission. Je voudrais dire combien je suis heureux, Monsieur le Président, de vous voir vous, Citoyen belge, présider cette réunion.

C'est un honneur pour moi que de pouvoir intervenir dans un domaine extrêmement vaste. La stratégie à long terme dans le secteur alimentaire et agricole est évidemment à la fois une utopie, parce qu'on ne sait pas très bien où l'on va dans les années qui viennent, compte tenu des immenses défis qui se posent à nous, et en plus il s'agit d'un véritable challenge que non seulement nous devons pouvoir réussir, mais que nous avons le devoir de réussir.

La stratégie nécessite bien sûr toute une série de reconversions de structures mentales, d'options et de choix qui sont, par exemple, des options politiques. Il n'y a pas de développement dans le secteur alimentaire et agricole sans donner à ce secteur prioritaire les moyens d'assurer un véritable développement. Tous les pays qui le peuvent devront résolument, dans la décennie qui vient, accepter une reconversion fondamentale d'un certain nombre de points de vue. Nous avons tous consacré, et vraisemblablement gaspillé, des sommes d'un montant hallucinant dans le cadre de ce que l'on a appelé l'équilibre, qui en réalité n'était que l'équilibre de la terre.

Il est certain que le bouleversement du monde, les énormes masses monétaires qui ont été consacrées à des dépenses d'armement devront, dans la décennie qui vient, être concentrées sur d'autres objectifs. Incontestablement, le secteur alimentaire et agricole, qui implique une stratégie à long terme, doit pouvoir être doté des moyens voulus. Je crois qu'il faut dépasser aussi l'élément purement caritatif en considérant que nous avons de véritables obligations, qu'à l'heure où des centaines de millions de gens sont mal nourris ou sous-alimentés, il est du devoir de la communauté internationale de trouver rapidement des solutions à ce problème.

Ces solutions nécessitent - et ce n'est évidemment pas suffisant - une planification financière indispensable. La priorité à l'agriculture nécessite bien sûr une vision globale, une approche et une stratégie qui ne soient pas limitées à des relations bilatérales, mais qui s'inscrivent dans un contexte multilatéral. Dans ce domaine, incontestablement, la FAO a un rôle extrêmement important à jouer.

On a parlé de libéralisation et je dirai oui à la libéralisation mais pas n'importe quelle libéralisation, à une libéralisation raisonnable, étudiée. Pas de libéralisation sauvage, rendant les riches plus riches et les pauvres plus pauvres. Il faut arriver à des mesures de libéralisation qui au contraire puissent protéger les plus pauvres et les plus démunis du monde. Là, il est indispensable notamment de veiller au respect des accords sur les produits de base, car le démantèlement d'un certain nombre d'accords - je pense à l'accord sur le café, à l'accord sur le cacao et à bien d'autres - risque de porter un coup extrêmement grave à un certain nombre de pays en voie de développement qui vont se trouver confrontés à des situations dramatiques.

Je voudrais aussi souligner, après avoir étudié attentivement le document - nous y reviendrons lorsque nous aborderons à la Conférence le problème de la nutrition - l'indispensable liaison qui existe entre la nutrition et l'agriculture. Incontestablement il s'agit d'un problème où la FAO également a un rôle important à jouer, car nourrir mieux signifie également une alimentation plus équilibrée (on dépense dans un certain nombre de pays des sommes considérables pour mieux maigrir, mais ces sommes pourraient peut-être servir à un certain nombre de personnes pour mieux grossir. )

Je crois vraiment que dans le monde de demain, dans la stratégie de la nouvelle décennie, il y a un certain nombre de choses qui méritent d'être reconsidérées.

Il nous faut aussi souligner l'interrelation extrêmement étroite qui existe entre les différents secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et du secteur forestier. On parle souvent de développement global, intégré, harmonisé. Ne faut-il pas adopter des politiques au niveau mondial qui permettent une bonne intégration des secteurs? Pour le moment on n'en est même plus à reconstituer des secteurs menacés qui sont en train de se dégrader, mais à prendre des mesures partielles et insuffisantes pour essayer de sauver le patrimoine commun de l'humanité.

On parle beaucoup de développement durable. Je crois qu'il s'agit d'un pléonasme, car il n'y a pas de développement réel s'il n'est pas durable. C'est un développement qui se prolonge, qui continue, et qui va bien sûr à l'encontre d'un certain nombre de notions où l'on examine la possibilité de faire mieux avec moins. Je crois qu'il est possible de faire beaucoup mieux avec beaucoup plus. Cela est une option politique fondamentale importante.

L'ajustement structurel dont on parle également ne doit pas se limiter uniquement à un certain nombre de pays. Il doit être vu dans un cadre global où les responsabilités de tous les pays doivent être clairement déterminées car l'ajustement structurel implique nécessairement non seulement structurel des pays en voie de développement, mais l'ajustement structurel des économies des pays développés.

Il existe, comme vous le savez beaucoup mieux que moi, Monsieur le Président, une interrelation extrêmement étroite des politiques agricoles, des politiques industrielles, des politiques économiques, des politiques commerciales et des politiques monétaires. Je crois que cette interrelation mérite d'être soulignée car mettre l'accent sur un aspect sans toucher les autres aspects me paraît un élément d'antidéveloppement. Il n'y a pas de développement possible si simultanément on ne crée pas un certain nombre d'incitations. Je prendrai l'exemple le plus patent du paysan africain, du paysan de l'Asie, du paysan des Andes. Comment pouvez-vous imaginer une production meilleure, une production de qualité, si le produit de son travail ne lui permet pas d'améliorer ses conditions de vie, si la monnaie n'est pas stable, et s'il ne trouve pas la possibilité dans les marchés voisins de se vêtir, de s'équiper, d'obtenir un certain nombre de produits dont il a besoin pour lui-même et sa famille? C'est pourquoi mettre l'accent sur un secteur sans l'intégrer dans sa globalité serait regrettable.

On dit *in fine* du document qu'il s'agit d'un défi que la FAO doit assumer. C'est un défi extrêmement complexe. Je crois que si la FAO doit assumer ce défi, elle ne doit pas l'assumer seule, mais elle doit l'assumer dans la solidarité et dans une étroite collaboration de l'ensemble de tous ceux qui sont ses Etats Membres.

**Pascal BRIODIN (France):** Tout d'abord je rejoins d'autres délégations pour dire que le document préparé par le Secrétariat est réellement d'une grande qualité et montre une fois de plus que notre Organisation dispose d'une excellente capacité à analyser les problèmes du développement.

Ma délégation insiste en outre sur le fait que l'OAA, par son mandat de chef de file dans les secteurs de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, se trouve bien placée pour contribuer à la préparation de la stratégie internationale de la quatrième Décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement.

Le rapport qui nous est présenté brosse un tableau complet aussi bien des obstacles au développement que des facteurs capables de mettre les pays défavorisés sur la voie du développement.

Je ne veux pas entrer dans le détail des propositions du rapport, ni mettre en exergue les analyses que ma délégation juge pertinentes. Pour cela, je vous demande de bien vouloir vous référer aux précédentes interventions de la délégation française qui a insisté sur la nécessaire prise en compte des objectifs de développement durable, de sécurité alimentaire, de lutte contre la pauvreté et d'un fonctionnement satisfaisant des marchés.

En fait, ma délégation, sous ce point de l'ordre du jour, voudrait poser au Secrétariat une simple question:

Pour établir une stratégie à long terme, ne faut-il pas tout d'abord hiérarchiser clairement les priorités en fonction d'objectifs précis? C'est pourquoi ma délégation souhaite que le Secrétariat identifie ces priorités et nous expose le schéma détaillé de la stratégie qui sera mise en oeuvre dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation.

Roberto PONCE (Ecuador): Mi delegación no desea repetir los comentarios que ya se han hecho en torno a este importante tema de la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo, pero algunas de las declaraciones realizadas esta tarde nos han impulsado a señalar brevemente dos aspectos, considerados por algunas delegaciones como componentes importantes de esa Estrategia.

Por ejemplo, coincidimos en el papel fundamental que organizaciones como el Banco Mundial y el FMI deben jugar en el resaneamiento de la economía internacional. Pero para que esto sea una realidad práctica, creemos que es absolutamente indispensable que se libere a estos organismos de las ataduras que en la toma de decisiones y en la concesión de los créditos les impone la vinculación entre contribuciones y número de votos; vinculación de la cual, felizmente, la FAO está libre.

Igualmente, complace oír en esta sala que hay países desarrollados que están dispuestos a incrementar la cooperación a los países en desarrollo en forma individual, reconociendo las particularidades de cada caso. Creemos ver en esta disposición la reafirmación de una política de cooperación basada en el mutuo respeto y que lleve implícito el reconocimiento a la plena y soberana capacidad de cada país para fijar sus prioridades. También esperamos que esta manifestación no signifique una merma del apoyo que estos países desarrollados, importantes miembros de esta Organización, deben continuar otorgándole, justamente como reconocimiento del papel fundamental que deberá jugar la FAO en la aplicación de la futura Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): We consider that the document on the long-term strategy is very interesting because it gives a clear and comprehensive outline of FAO's views on the subject. Before commenting further on the three themes as mentioned in the document on the preparation of the IDS, I should like to emphasize that in our view there should be a strong interrelationship between macro-economic adjustment and sector policies, most importantly for agriculture. The relation with social adjustment should also play an important role.

In general terms we recognize the importance of structural adjustment programmes as a means of achieving sustainable growth. Sustainability of growth is a precondition for the realization of a balanced development process aimed at improving the situation of the poorest groups in the long run. Many developing countries have embarked upon these programmes and also on sectoral adjustment programmes with a view to obtaining more macro-economic stability. However, until now the experience has not always been a positive one, certainly not as far as short term effects are concerned. I shall come back to this later.

Economic growth, the debt and balance of payments situation, has not improved as much as had been hoped. Therefore, in our view additional measures are deemed necessary to improve productive investment, rural infrastructure and elementary public services at acceptable levels. We consider FAO to be the best equipped organization to assist countries in designing agricultural policies and programmes for rural development.

We regard external financial assistance as essential. Net outflows should be turned into net inflows. Moreover, these resource flows to developing countries should be tuned to priorities that are set out by the countries in question themselves. Donor activities are most effective when well coordinated.

For optimum results in relation to structural adjustment programmes a number of principles should be adhered to in our view. Structural programmes should be fully adapted to the realities of developing countries; they should be of long enough duration; various measures to be taken must be coherent; concrete objectives as regards the agricultural sector are imperative; incentives for farmers in addition to price rises are necessary; when necessary, there should also be temporary input subsidies; and full participation of the private sector is an item to be considered.

I now come to the second item of poverty alleviation. As far as poverty alleviation is concerned, there is a growing concern about the position of the poorest population groups, mostly formed in rural areas. They are the ones whose suffering is severest under deteriorating economic circumstances in developing countries.

The relation between structural adjustment and poverty alleviation needs to be strengthened, firstly through their integration. This means that the programmes should be designed and implemented in such a manner that, without interfering with their main objectives, adverse effects on the poorest groups are reduced to a minimum. Secondly and at the same time, additional activities should be undertaken to allow for possible negative side-effects on the situation of the poor.

Important donors will have to realign their policies regarding structural adjustment by taking into account measures required for poverty alleviation. Possibilities to protect and improve living conditions for the poor differ according to the country in question. As mentioned, hunger and malnutrition depend mainly on the ability to acquire food - in other words on purchasing power. In many cases reduced access to food is not always completely compensated for by targeted food programmes. Therefore food programmes should be aimed at categories of persons that are not capable of attaining food security. In this respect we support the World Food Programme projects.

In order to secure the income position of rural populations, appropriate measures should be taken to create employment opportunities outside agriculture. Effective and full participation of the local population in decision-making processes is a prerequisite for the efficient use of human resources. The same applies to implementation and evaluation of agricultural and rural reform measures.

I should now like to deal with the subject of natural resources, environment and sustainable development. The crucial importance of environmental factors for a sustainable development cannot be emphasized enough. We are therefore pleased to note the growing awareness that sustainable development is impossible without taking environmental factors into consideration, and that responsible use of natural resources, whether replenishable or not, should prevail in order to obtain sustainable development.

Our delegation would also like to emphasize the importance of controlled population growth and poverty alleviation; otherwise, strategies to attain sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries production are doomed to

fail. The adjusted figures in paragraph 36 concerning population growth shew an increase to the end of the century for all developing countries as a whole and a situation in which food demand surpasses production capacity. This means more pressure will be put on productive natural resources thereby endangering susta inability and a healthy maintenance of natural resources. Increase in productive capacity, in high potential areas as well as in more marginal areas, should therefore be achieved by environmentally sound practices, and environmental damage should be reduced to a minimum. In this context I should like to state that our delegation strongly supports the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. We also applaud the efforts made by the World Bank to integrate environmental aspects in its policies and in the preparation and implementation of projects. Also the guidelines and procedures for assessment of environmental compatibility that are being improved are an important step forward. More integrated plant protection measures and integration of forestry and agriculture must lead to less soil degradation.

Finally, as Minister Braks stated in his speech, the realization that agriculture should be sustainable is growing, and much depends on a change in mentality. I may recall Minister Braks' offer to host a world conference on the theme of agriculture and the environment.

Jaime **GARCIA BADIAS (España)**: Deseamos felicitar a usted, señor Presidente, y a la Secretaría por la elaboración del documento e iniciamos lo que, a nuestro entender, significa el contenido y la gran repercusión que tiene este documento en toda estrategia a largo plazo a niveles agrarios.

Nuestro país cree que cualquier estrategia a largo plazo de las economías agrarias, es necesario no olvidar que toda estrategia en sí misma puede tener xana visión excesivamente técnica y de macroeconomía, que no contemple a su vez al individuo y todas la connotaciones que ello representa.

Sabemos, señor Presidente, que el desarrollo agrícola es necesario si pretendemos realmente dar posibilidades de nutrición a las poblaciones que tienen deficiencias alimentarias. Para ello creemos que se deberían tener presentes varios factores, a nuestro entender básicos, para un éxito en la estrategia a desarrollar, tales como contemplar el medio ambiente, donde una estrategia no lo degrade a niveles irreversibles y sí contemplar un desarrollo sostenible mediante una aplicación sensata de los medios de producción, especialmente abanos y pesticidas.

Otro capítulo importante es la participación de la mujer, básica en muchos países, para la obtención de alimentos, pero descuidada - nosotros diríamos muy descuidada - a la hora de aplicar una programación en la fornación que la contemple positivamente y no sólo como un medio de trabajo y reproductor.

Otro capítulo importante: los jóvenes. Porque de ellos es el futuro, futuro en el cual estamos implicados y en el cual estamos planteando, sin contemplarlos en todas las connotaciones que ello requiere, ya que su participación no será posible aplicarla sin programas ni estrategias agrícolas que permitan a los jóvenes ser formados, y programas de formación que los contemplen.

Otro capítulo a tener en cuenta, son las cooperativas y el asociacionismo. Desearíamos diferenciar ambos conceptos, ya que, señor Presidente, creemos que un primer paso asociativo nos puede llevar a un cooperativismo equilibrado tal como lo entiende la Alianza Cooperativa Internacional y sus fundadores en el siglo pasado.

Por ello nos encontramos con que las políticas económicas, los procesos de evolución y los ajustes estructurales tienen que estar coordinados y, a nuestro entender, la FAO tiene un papel de primera magnitud.

En consecuencia apoyamos el documento y hacemos votos para que se consiga, primero: un aumento de las autocapacidades mediante todos los procesos de formación a que hemos hecho referencia. Segundo, un aumento de la colaboración entre los países a fin de que estas medidas se puedan llevar a cabo y que tengan el éxito que todos deseamos. Tercero, una mejor gestión de los recursos, ya que esto es básico dado que son pocos y muchas las necesidades. Todo ello representa a la postre la salud, la seguridad alimenticia, en una palabra, el futuro de aquellas poblaciones que están inmersas a largo plazo, en este proceso de seguridad alimentaria.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): Desearía, señor Presidente, referirme a cinco aspectos de la estrategia internacional de desarrollo planteada en el documento.

En primer lugar creo que es importante expresar la necesidad de lograr una aplicación efectiva de todas las recomendaciones que emanen para esta estrategia. Anteriormente se han llevado a cabo otros esfuerzos acerca del nuevo orden económico internacional; pero desafortunadamente, su aplicación ha sido parcial y ha sido incompleta. Sería de gran utilidad y beneficio para todos los países que se pusiera una práctica efectiva en la aplicación de esta estrategia.

En referencia al párrafo 58, sobre el comercio agrícola internacional, sabemos que la promoción y fomento del incremento productivo en el sector agropecuario depende directamente de la existencia de mercados accesibles. Estos mercados accesibles tienen que significar que no existan barreras artificiales, que no existan subvenciones a los productos similares de países de una alta demanda, que hagan imposible una competencia abierta y una competencia libre. Es necesaria una competencia que pueda permitir el incentivo económico necesario a los países en desarrollo para que abastezcan, bajo condiciones iguales, las necesidades de alimentación al resto de los países del mundo.

Deseo utilizar el ejemplo de la producción de hojas de coca, ya que es un ejemplo de reactivación agrícola y reactivación económica que ha surgido directamente en función de la demanda del mercado.

El párrafo 67 del documento se refiere a los incentivos económicos. En el caso de la producción de hojas de coca en mi país, se ha incrementado diez veces la superficie, y quince veces la productividad en un período de diez años, respondiendo a esta demanda de los países consumidores. Esto ha sido hecho sin tener ningún programa especial de créditos de fomento, sin proveer ningún tipo de asistencia técnica y sin desarrollar ningún tipo de facilidades de mercado. Esto ha respondido directamente a un incentivo económico.

No es afortunado que el ejemplo que debo utilizar sea un ejemplo de una producción agrícola que ha sido convertida en un producto que es dañino. Habría sido de gran beneficio para Bolivia y, estoy seguro para muchos otros países subdesarrollados, que la demanda que se hubiese generado de los países desarrollados fuera para un cultivo legal, para un cultivo beneficioso. De ahí que menciono la necesidad imperativa de hacer accesibles los mercados de los países desarrollados.

Haciendo referencia al párrafo 73 del documento, mi delegación desea expresar su acuerdo de modificar el rol del Gobierno para que no tenga una participación directa en obras de producción en el desarrollo. Es necesario movilizar toda la fuerza creativa y todo esfuerzo humano que existe en los sectores productivos privados, llámese campesino, o llámese agricultores comerciales.

El Gobierno de Bolivia ha establecido una nueva política agropecuaria que fundamentalmente tiene tres puntos que establecen el marco de acción del Gobierno en este campo. En primer lugar, se establece que el rol principal del sector agropecuario estatal estará dirigido hacia definición de políticas; hacia el establecimiento de normas; a la fiscalización y hacia la producción de incentivos para dirigir el desarrollo.

En segundo lugar, señor Presidente, el Gobierno dedicará sus esfuerzos a la producción de servicios de necesidad colectiva que no puedan ser previstos por entidades particulares en un nivel regional o nacional.

En tercer lugar, reconociendo el hecho de que aún no existe ningún modelo económico de desarrollo que sea perfecto y, por último, el Gobierno dedicará su atención a la aplicación de acciones de equidad que protejan a grupos vulnerables.

Para una mayor participación del sector privado es necesario, sin embargo, fortalecerlo y proveerlo de las mismas facilidades, de la misma asistencia y de la misma cooperación que anteriormente ha sido provista al sector estatal.

Es necesario elaborar programas específicos para permitir el desarrollo del sector privado.

El otro aspecto se refiere a los recursos humanos capacitados, citados también en el párrafo 76 sobre políticas macroeconómicas, y el siguiente, el párrafo 77, considerando que el conocimiento, la tecnología y la experiencia son aspectos fundamentales para el desarrollo. El conocimiento profesional, la tecnología adecuada y la experiencia local son factores que hacen posible llevar adelante un desarrollo.

Desearía hacer recuerdo de la Resolución n<sup>o</sup> 3405 emitida en la 20<sup>a</sup> Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en la cual se establece la necesidad de fortalecer la capacidad local. Este aspecto ha sido también citado en el párrafo 4.11 del documento C 89/4 que está siendo considerado por esta reunión.

Hemos visto con mucha preocupación que a lo largo de los últimos años la asistencia técnica provista por varios organismos internacionales, incluyendo entre ellos a la FAO, ha provisto a profesionales y consultores extranjeros para realizar labores que son de conocimiento y que son dentro de la capacidad de profesionales nacionales.

Esta práctica infortunadamente sustituye en forma explícita y desplaza en forma implícita a los recursos humanos capacitados nacionales, y consideramos que se debe poner en verdadera aplicación la Resolución 3405 citada; y se deberían emitir instrucciones precisas a todas las Agencias y Programas que dependen de las Naciones Unidas, y específicamente dentro de la labor de la FAO, para que en primera instancia, para cualquier tipo de asistencia o cooperación técnica se busque el personal nacional capacitado.



Como quinto y último punto, en referencia al párrafo 112 sobre la estrategia para las zonas forestales, me permito hacer el recuerdo de la declaración del Sr. Ministro de Asuntos Campesinos y Agropecuarios de Bolivia, Dr Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez, quien ha propuesto una histórica pausa ecológica. Esta pausa de 10 años significa para nuestro país el no emitir más concesiones de explotación forestal, el de suspender concesiones de nuevas tierras, y el de ejercer un control estricto respecto a la explotación de las áreas que están ya concedidas.

Esta pausa, este período de análisis, este período de estudio nos permitirá elaborar los documentos de estudio necesarios que nos provean los elementos de juicio imprescindibles para determinar las áreas de reserva, para establecer las normas de utilización de recursos y para definir el sistema de control fiscal.

Indudablemente es muy difícil que un país en forma aislada pueda ejercer de manera efectiva una pausa, si es que no es acompañado de actitudes similares por países que pueden demandar el producto resultante de la explotación de nuestros recursos naturales.

En ese sentido, desearía invitar a todos los países que comparten este problema a sumarse a una pausa histórica. Y desearía solicitar la reflexión de los países que demandan productos naturales originarios de nuestras reservas a meditar y encontrar una manera de disminuir esta demanda durante nuestra pausa.

Paul R. ERYDEN (Australia): We believe the Special Session of UNGA should elaborate a conceptual policy framework and that the IDS-IV should address in greater detail the practical and operational policy elements of development, drawing on input from UN specialized agencies such as FAO and others. The objectives might be to develop complementary strategies which generate faster increases on a sustainable basis in agricultural production, the creation of on-farm and off-farm jobs, and improved nutrition. We agree that, as put forward in the Cairo Declaration of the WFC, preparations for IDS-3V provide an excellent opportunity to focus on the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

FAO affiliated contributions to the IDS will need to address issues such as food for emergencies; food for market needs; problem support capacity; and timing of deliveries. A clearer focus is needed to consider how development strategies and aid packages, including food and non-food components, can be focused on rapid growth in incomes for those who are hungry.

In addressing FAO's attribution to the IDS, in our view the following issues will need to be considered. Firstly, agriculture debt: the indebtedness of the developing countries, and how developed countries, including Australia, should address this issue. Opening up trade and more liberal trade policies by industrialized nations would help and benefit the poorer nations. Export subsidies: the USA, EEC, Japan - the need for reform in their policies. The combined annual cost of agricultural support policies as we know, is estimated to exceed US\$ 280 billion. Food production, is unlikely to match population growth in many countries and regions. Population growth is a fundamental issue. The need to increase land use intensity, greater inputs per hectare. The effect on input and output prices and marginal lands on the environment.

Secondly, fisheries: the issue of resource depletion; the effect on some fisheries of developing countries.. The need for distant water fishing nations to reduce fishing effort in sane fisheries, especially in the Pacific. Gill netting and the effect on localized fisheries in the South Pacific, and environmental concerns such as the destruction of a number of non-utilizable species.

Thirdly, forestry: the depletion of tropical rain forests and the need to maintain support of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan and FAO/UNDP activities. The environment and the need for environmentally sustainable assistance projects in developing countries and a global view of environment which is required for domestic planning and development activities.

Fourthly, with regard to FAO policy/ my delegation believes that this should focus on technical issues where FAO is best equipped to supply Member Countries with high level technical expertise and advice.

FAO should also be seeking to influence international trade, resource flow and debt policy-making by collaboration with other institutions. Whilst noting FAO's competency in structural adjustments and stabilization is limited.

In general we feel FAO should assess more critically what it is best equipped to offer.

Overall, in our view, FAO's contribution should firstly reflect its mandate in the UN system, complement the contributions of other multi-lateral organizations, and provide the unique perspective which the FAO has on growth and development issues as they relate to food and agriculture, and secondly, provide a durable basis for promoting global economic growth and development and international economic cooperation.

A. Alim FAOZI (Indonesia): I would like also to join the other delegates to congratulate the Director-General and Secretariat for initiating a comprehensive work and providing such a document as C 89/19 which is very informative.

The world economy remains caught in prolonged disarray and relations between developed and developing countries continue to be afflicted by equities. The rapid advance in science and technology, Which is drastically altering the patterns of agricultural production, consumption and of international economy, offer new possibilities for more prosperity of nations in an increasing integrated global economy. However, it could also at the same time implicate negatively on the position of the developing countries in terms of comparative advantage, terms of trade, and the international division of labour.

My delegation's attention also goes to the progress on the GATT Multi-Lateral Trade Negotiations which We believe has implications directly or indirectly for the works of FAO. In a situation where the agricultural sector is the most important contributor to the national economy and provides the largest employment opportunity for the people, changing agricultural policies mean changing economic policies.

I, therefore, wish to express here that changes in agricultural policies, as a consequence of the progress in the multi-lateral trade negotiations, have to be carefully considered because of its possible negative effect on the

livelihood of millions of farm families. Developing countries need special and differential treatment in the reform process to liberalize agricultural production and trade. Direct and indirect government assistance wishes to encourage agricultural and rural development which are an integral element in the development programme of developing countries. In developing risks, the risk commitment and support protection and strengthening disciplines, we have to take into account the possible negative effect of the reform process on importing developing countries. With respect to negotiations on natural products, Indonesia shares the same views as other developing countries that negotiations be emphasized on access to the markets and not on access to supply. With respect to sanitary and phytosanitary problems we recognize the need to protect consumers, but the sanitary and phytosanitary research should not be used as non-tariff barriers to restrict access to the markets. Provided there is strict adherence to the Punta del Este commitment, the Uruguay Round does offer the prospects of a more open trading system.

It is in the light of the above reality that Indonesia welcomes entertaining the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1990 devoted to the trade-related session of the economic growth development of the developing countries. The operation of a new international development strategy (IDS) for the 1990s will likewise provide an opportunity to concentrate our thoughts on effective ways to enhance international cooperation for development.

My delegation was of the view that it is important for FAO to actively be involved in the preparation of IDS and the Special Session of UNGA as the food and agriculture and the rural sector have a vital role to play in achieving the objectives in the areas of nutrition, poverty alleviation, human development and the environment. My delegation noted with appreciation that the Director-General has already contributed input to the preparation of IDS, especially in the field of agriculture with its strength in the FAO strategy for the near future.

**SECRETARY, COMMISSION I:** Firstly, I have been asked to remind delegations that there are two deadlines for nominations for elections, both of which fall due at 12 noon on Monday 24 November. These are for elections to the Council and for elections for the Chairman and members of the Programme Committee and of the Finance Committee. Further details can be found in today's issue for the Journal of the Conference.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La session est levée à 17h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

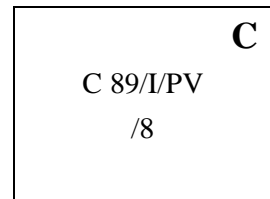
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING  
HUITIEME SEANCE  
OCTAVA SESION

(20 November 1989)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
E. Detraux, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de E. Detraux, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de E. Detraux, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. Preparations for an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade - FAO's Contribution (continued)
- 7. Contribution de la FAO à la préparation d'une stratégie internationale du développement pour la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement (suite)
- 7. Preparación de la nueva Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo para el Cuarto Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo - Contribución de la FAO (continuación)

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): We are going to engage in the preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade and the Special Session of the General Assembly against the background of the very divergent and inequitable results of the 1980s. During this decade, we witnessed a sustained expansion in the industrialized market economies and moderate growth in the centrally planned ones. Among the developing countries, save for a few overpublicized success stories, stagnation was the rule and retrogression a frequent case. The number of the least developed among the developing countries was considerably increased from thirty to forty-two, a clear sign of the impoverishment in the Third World.

In the Eighties, contrary to what had been envisaged in the UN Development Strategy for the Decade, the gap between developing and developed nations actually widened rather than narrowed.

The decade that is coming to an end was indeed a very turbulent and troubled one. The world economy has drifted in the absence of a coherent system of multilateral rules. The volatility in exchange rates, very high real interest rates, large imbalances among the main trading partners, breakdown of commodity agreements, a drastic fall in commodity prices, increased protectionism in industrialized market economies, managed trade, and above all, substantial net transfers of financial resources from developing to developed countries, compounded by the inherent and substantial domestic difficulties, have defeated the extraordinary efforts engaged in by the developing countries to develop on a sustained basis.

The multilateral system is under severe strain and this is true not only of the United Nations system but also of the Bretton Woods institutions, the IMF and the World Bank. In fact, these two have retained much of their prestige thanks to the role they have been given by the creditor nations in the management of the so-called "debt strategy". The Special Session and the IDS are occasions for the UN system to take a fresh, close look at itself. It must meet firmly and without evasion its responsibilities, and assume a leading role in the formulation of a system of rules to govern international economic relations into the twenty-first century.

The FAO is well placed to contribute to this effort. Document C 89/19 gives us reason to expect that the Organization's contribution to the Special Session and to the IDS will live up to its potentialities. We are basically

in agreement with the main thrust of the document which tries to look at all issues affecting the development of agriculture, in their complex inter-relationship, from a wider perspective. Nevertheless, the Brazilian delegation would like to stress one of the considerations contained in the conclusions, and that is item (f) which touches upon the external environment for development.

The 1980s were a lost decade for development largely because of an extremely adverse international economic situation. Developing countries as a whole, and this is particularly the case of Latin America, were struck by the fall in commodity prices and by the steep rise in the interest rates, resulting in a crushing debt burden. To cope with that burden, those countries underwent macro-economic adjustment which went far beyond anything the developed countries have ever attempted, even in immediate post-war periods. From a balance-of-payments deficit of two or three percentage points of GDP, most Latin American countries were forced, almost overnight, to generate surpluses amounting to four or more percentage points of GDP. Similar shifts occurred with regard to government budgets, with severe consequences for economic and social stability.

Some developed countries, on the other hand, have been unable to adjust to much smaller imbalances in relative terms, but which by their magnitude in absolute terms are the source of many of the problems which we face today. If I make once more a remark on this subject, Mr Chairman, it is only because we cannot overemphasize the need for a change in international economic relations so that all nations can live and prosper.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Thank you Mr Chairman for giving Ghana the opportunity to speak on the subject. A great deal has been said regarding the role of FAO and other UN agencies in the preparation of the IDS and I need not repeat them. My delegation shares the opinion with others that FAO's mandate has already been spelled out unambiguously in the Review of FAO's operations, and it is now the responsibility of the Director-General and his competent Secretariat to assess their authority in the key sectors of agriculture, fisheries and food and nutrition in rural development for the purposes of creating the environment for the implementation of the IDS by member countries.

The Conference document C 89/2 provides a brief review of development and also up-dated information on a number of subjects as provided in Council document CL 95/17. Since the FAO Council was informed of developments relating to this topic it has continued to follow closely system-wide matters concerning operational activities in the various UN fora. My delegation shares the FAO concern that the existing accumulated technical experience and expertise of the system should continue to be fully available to recipient countries through its operational activities.

Ghana believes that the FAO strategy for the 1990s and beyond will become the integrated focus for providing guidance and technical backstopping for individual countries to operationalize their development objectives into easily implementable action programmes. One area where FAO can be of assistance is the arena programme formulation and implementation in cooperation with national development experts.

Section II of document C 89/19 - Current Issues and Prospects for the 1990s - covers all the inter-related issues of poverty, resource flows, debt, trade, rural development and environmental degradation. My delegation supports the views so eloquently expressed in this Commission and the Plenary. We, however, urge that the expression of concern does not become mere rhetoric, but is translated into concrete action to give the FAO full backing, including increased resource flows, so that the developing countries can fully realize the benefits from the IDS.

The strategy to provide growth in the food crop sector in the developing countries in general and in sub-Saharan Africa should be based on increasing productivity within the presently cultivated area, using existing proven technology to ensure sustainable use of the land resources. At the farm level there are few, if any, novel solutions to increasing productivity, and the strategy would depend on application of known technology in a systematic manner.

Where pockets of increases in population make increases in the area cultivated inevitable, the strategy should ensure that development takes place in the most suitable areas, minimizing adverse environmental effects.

The IDS in individual countries should promote crop diversification although the opportunities for diversification of food and primary commodity production may be limited by lack of access to domestic and foreign markets, or the fact that the viability of cultivating some alternative crop remains to be proven. The strategy should at the same time provide for future growth by improving on existing technology through research.

Technical programmes related to productivity increases, and sustainable use of the land resources should be addressed. Those linked to varietal improvement, soil fertility maintenance, cropping systems, cultivation practices, crop production and post-harvest activities have important research elements, and FAO should assist member countries to address them also. Others, such as seed production and mechanization, require specific interventions. Successful implementation of the programme would depend on parallel actions to improve institutional support for research and extension, input supplies, credit, marketing arrangements, farmers' organizations and the supporting infrastructure of roads and portable water supplies. Pricing policies that ensure a fair return to the producer and an appropriate macro-economic framework are also essential to the proposed strategy, and these facts are synthesized in paragraphs 69, 70, 71, and 55 of C 89/19.

My delegation believes that one area that should be endorsed for priority action under the IDS are the World Bank's conclusions on "policy priorities" for food and agriculture which emphasize the importance of technology, incentives to producers, and investment in rural infrastructures in irrigation, storage and transport. These priorities are in line with Guideline 3 in paragraph 90 of C 89/19, and my delegation is supportive of them.

In most sub-Saharan African countries, the strategy should also call for the restoration of the capital base in the agricultural sector.

In Ghana, for instance, years of neglect and low investment have led to erosion of the capital base in the agricultural sector. This is evident not only in the advanced age of economic trees, such as cocoa and coffee, but also in the inadequate stock of implements needed for the most basic



provisions of storage, processing, and distribution. Investment in public service - water supply, health, education, women's organizations, communication, rural electrification and even recreation - will be an important avenue for making the rural areas livable to facilitate rapid socio-economic transformation of the areas. It will guarantee grass-roots participation in decision-making in the rural areas, and this is very much in line with the policy of my country, and also in Guideline 4. My Government's development strategy places a high priority on this.

To conclude, the World Bank, FAO, ADB, IFAD and UNDP are currently and in a pragmatic way addressing investment and assistance needs of the developing countries, but support from the developed world must be predictable and sustained. In this connection, Ghana calls for further replenishment of concessionary funding sources to facilitate the implementation of the IDS. Assurances should be sought from all donor countries and organizations that further replenishment of the World Bank, IDA, ADB and IFAD will be forthcoming which, combined with bilateral funding sources, will provide an essential basis for steadily implementing the IDS.

The potential of the livestock and fisheries sectors remains untapped, and under the IDS encouragement should be given to studies for each of those to identify the key policy actions needed in the 1990s to create appropriate strategies involving improved technology, encouragement of the private sector and appropriate extension.

Finally, the IDS calls for commensurate action in member countries to embark on structural adjustment programmes. Policy instruments in the monetary and fiscal areas may adversely affect the poor through increased food prices, reductions in real wages, food subsidies and other transfer programmes to the poor, including women and rural youth.

Ghana has already put in place a Programme of Action to Mitigate the Social Cost of Adjustment called PAMSCAD, and urges the institutionalization of PAMSCAD in IDS for all countries.

Chang Hyuk SUH (Korea, Republic of): On behalf of the Korean Government I should like to stress the need for FAO's initiative role in implementing an International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade as concerns the agricultural sector.

Particularly because the rural sector has a vital role to play in achieving the objectives of the development strategy concerning growth, poverty alleviation, human resources development, and the environment and sustainability, the strategy for food and the agricultural sector must be created with full consideration of human needs. Among others, I especially emphasize the strategy for eliminating inequitable distribution of productive resources in the developing countries because, in most cases, policies aiming at rapid economic growth do not guarantee a balanced development. Accordingly, in the preparations, a balanced development strategy must be created.

Lastly, I stress the necessity for international cooperation in achieving the objectives of an International Development Strategy.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): En primer lugar, señor Presidente, damos las gracias a la Secretaria por la presentación de un documento tan rico y completo que presenta la problemática de la agricultura en todos sus matices de forma tan clara y detallada. Definitivamente es un buen instrumento para introducir la discusión de un tema tan importante como es la Estrategia Internacional del Desarrollo.

Señor Presidente, nuestra delegación considera que uno de los principales logros que hemos alcanzado consiste en que tanto a nivel de los foros regionales, como a nivel mundial, se ha llegado a reconocer que el sector agropecuario es el sector primordial para sacar a los países en desarrollo del atraso y la miseria y, por tanto, hay que dotarlo de suficientes recursos para su reactivación y crecimiento.

En el párrafo 5 del documento que nos ocupa, se refleja lo que el Consejo recalcó en su 95<sup>Q</sup> período de sesiones. Esta misma decisión, que como decíamos se ha tomado también a nivel de organizaciones regionales que tratan del desarrollo del sector agropecuario, hace que políticamente exista una coincidencia de voluntades en torno a la necesidad de reactivar el sector agropecuario por jugar éste un papel primordial en las posibilidades de desarrollo económico de nuestros países. En América Latina y el Caribe en particular, el Plan de Recife de FAO, con los Planes Nacionales de Desarrollo y el Plan de Reactivación del Sector Agropecuario para América Latina y el Caribe coinciden y se complementan en este objetivo.

Nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, al abordar algunos aspectos que consideramos necesario resaltar, sin ánimo de ser exhaustivos, quiere dejar claro que, a nuestro juicio, no podemos hablar de una estrategia para el próximo decenio si no hay un clima diferente en todo el entorno internacional.

El Consejo, en su 95<sup>Q</sup> período de sesiones, habló claro en este sentido. Es necesario que se den condiciones totalmente diferentes a las que han acompañado al desastre de los años ochenta.

En el párrafo 28 del documento C 89/19, se señala claramente el efecto devastador que ha tenido la guerra y los conflictos dentro y entre los estados para la economía de los países afectados: destrucción, hambre, desnutrición, desplazados, miles de refugiados, miles de muertos y heridos, ha sido el saldo desgarrador de esta situación, frecuentemente agravada por la intervención extranjera como es el caso de la situación que aún vivimos en mi país y en otros de Centroamérica.

El documento habla claro de que, y cito: "No basta con tener una estrategia encaminada a mejorar la condición humana mediante políticas que permitan combatir los efectos de las fuertes fluctuaciones climáticas y estimular la agricultura y la economía rural, sino que igualmente importante es progresar hacia condiciones políticas más estables y con mayor respeto de los derechos humanos, lo que también permitiría reducir los gastos en armamentos". Y continúa citando que: "la paz interna y entre los Estados es condición indispensable para lograr la seguridad alimentaria".

Entonces, señor Presidente, queremos hacer un fuerte hincapié en este aspecto del problema que consideramos imo de los más importantes, si no el más importante.

¿Como podemos hablar de Seguridad Alimentaria, PAFT, Desarrollo Sostenible, Integración de la Mujer, Políticas de Ajuste y Desarrollo, y planificar el futuro para dentro de 10 años, si no podemos planificar el mañana? ¿Si estamos tan atrasados en Centroamérica, y en concreto en mi país, que hay un país de América, grande y poderoso que financia bandas de asesinos armados que en acciones terroristas incendian los bosques destruyendo los proyectos forestales, destruyen maquinaria agrícola, atacan a cooperativas campesinas asesinando a nuestros dirigentes, destruyen beneficios de café, de tabaco, represas con proyectos de riego y de energía, escuelas campesinas, hospitales, postas médicas rurales, etc.? ¿Qué desarrollo sostenible puede darse en estas condiciones en que estamos hablando, de salvar la vida de centenares de miles de campesinos, mujeres y niños? Y esta situación ha sido parte del desastre, para nosotros, de los años ochenta. Ya llevamos 10 años de esta injusticia. Por eso decimos que estamos de acuerdo con FAO en que es condición sine qua non que esto cambie para poder implementar una estrategia.

Pero bien, suponemos que una parte de la Estrategia es lograr el cumplimiento de esta gran condición. Logrado esto, sí cobra para nosotros verdadera importancia la elaboración de una Estrategia ya que podemos dedicar menos tiempo y recursos para defendernos de la agresión y más recursos para el desarrollo.

Sin embargo, nos preocupan algunos otros aspectos sobre los cuales habrá que trabajar duro. En los párrafos 43 y 44 se presenta un panorama sombrío en cuanto a las posibilidades de combatir el hambre, la desnutrición y la pobreza rural; y el párrafo 45 es claro al atribuir parte de las causas de esta situación a la falta del cumplimiento del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Señala que: "no se han adoptado las políticas necesarias para lograr los objetivos de acceso a bienes productivos, insumos y servicios, participación popular, reconocimiento del papel de la mujer, etc.". Y señala que "las cosas no han ido en la dirección justa y que ha habido frecuentes reveses y la crisis económica general y las políticas de ajuste estructural han creado un clima contrario a los progresos". Este Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural lo considera el documento válido, y estamos de acuerdo en los párrafos 89, 90, 91 y párrafo 100, que dejan claro que sigue siendo necesaria la realización de una reforma agraria que democratice el acceso a la tierra, al agua y a otros recursos naturales, y a los insumos necesarios para cultivarla, especialmente en América Latina y el Caribe, ya que son áreas donde hay grandes extensiones de tierra mal utilizadas o inutilizadas.

O sea, encontramos por un lado una crítica seria a las reticencias de quienes se han resistido en sus países a aplicar medidas de política agraria para mejorar la pobreza rural y, por consiguiente, elevar la producción y la productividad.

Y por otra parte, una reafirmación de que es necesario que se tomen medidas profundas en muchos países para cambiar las actuales estructuras de propiedad de la tierra, como medida necesaria para resolver el problema de la pobreza.

Estamos de acuerdo y vemos como un signo alentador que esto se aborde nuevamente tan claro. Por propia experiencia sabemos los beneficios de una reforma agraria verdadera. Sin una seria y justa redistribución de la tierra y de la riqueza es difícil aspirar al desarrollo de nuestros países. En Nicaragua hemos logrado una profunda transformación de la estructura de tenencia de la tierra, y una transformación y ordenamiento de su utilización. La Reforma Agraria en nuestro país ha sido la clave para lograr sortear con

éxito la crisis económica mundial que nos golpea como a todo otro país del área, y la crisis más seria que ha significado la agresión y el bloqueo económico y financiero. La Reforma Agraria ha sido fundamental en la defensa de nuestro pueblo, de su soberanía, y ha sido la clave para la transformación de la base operativa de nuestra fuerza de trabajo rural.

Hoy consideramos estar mejor preparados para hacer frente al reto del futuro, con una fuerza de trabajo fogueada en 10 años de defender lo propio, con mercados diversificados para nuestros productos. Por eso decíamos que si terminan las dificultades que nos generan desde fuera, en esas condiciones la Estrategia cobra mayor validez para nosotros, y creemos que también para otros pueblos del área, al poder dedicarnos con mayor atención y orden a resolver toda esta problemática que en el diagnóstico de la situación se hace, y a tomar las medidas efectivas para impulsar el desarrollo. Tenemos como ventaja que algunas de estas medidas que se mencionan en la Estrategia, ya las hemos tarado. A pesar de las condiciones adversas en que hemos vivido estos 10 años, decíamos que hemos aplicado una Reforma Agraria que ha cambiado para siempre la estructura de explotación que existía; que hemos organizado el sector campesino en miles de cooperativas de producción con cada vez mayor conocimiento y preparación técnica; que hemos elaborado un plan nacional forestal siguiendo las orientaciones del PAFT y hemos creado una Zona Protegida para la Paz y el Desarrollo de casi 50 000 kilómetros cuadrados, casi un tercio del país; proyecto ambicioso de trascendencia internacional con el que hacemos un llamado a la comunidad internacional para que contribuya con nosotros en hacerlo realidad. Hemos llevado a cabo también proyectos de Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo, que cumplen con el Plan de Integración de la Mujer.

Por otro lado, creemos que no puede dejar de preocuparnos la persistencia de los ya tradicionales obstáculos al desarrollo que conforman el injusto Orden Económico Internacional; relaciones comerciales injustas; deuda externa no resuelta y agravándose; inflación; planes de ajuste estructural que no se sabe dónde llegarán; reducción de la ayuda exterior a la agricultura; menos ayuda alimentaria; crecimiento demográfico desmedido, etc. Es decir, una Estrategia que está siendo elaborada en condiciones de egoísmo internacional que no han desaparecido.

Creemos que la Estrategia Internacional de Desarrollo debe contar primero con un compromiso internacional de actitud diferente, que debe lograrse sin que haya lugar a equívocos. Si no se logra un apoyo serio y unánime de todos los países a esta Estrategia bajo las condiciones de un compromiso de relaciones de nuevo tipo, nos estamos engañando.

Sin embargo, debemos estar claros de la necesidad urgente de componer la actual situación y acabar con la crisis. Otro decenio como el actual no lo resistiríamos; ni nosotros, ni creemos el mundo entero. No se puede hablar de Estrategia de Desarrollo si no se superan las causas fundamentales de la pobreza. En ese sentido, son muy claros los conceptos contenidos en los párrafos 55 a 59, y en los párrafos 73 y 74.

Finalmente, en general nuestra delegación está de acuerdo con la orientación de la Estrategia que se nos plantea en forma de estudio preliminar. Su enfoque abarca los principales problemas que hay que resolver y los aborda directamente. Nuestra delegación estará en condiciones de profundizar su análisis, cuando se presente el documento definitivo al Consejo, en noviembre del 90. Francamente, esperamos que se logre elaborar una verdadera Estrategia sobre la base de un gran acuerdo y de relaciones de nuevo tipo en el campo internacional.

Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Mr Chairman, it is a great pleasure for every Member of FAO that the United Nations General Assembly has initiated for FAO two sets of activities to which the Organization will make a significant contribution.

The first one, preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, which is due to the nature of the work in connection with the sustainable development coordinating with agriculture, forestry and fishery development, and, above all, the environmental aspects, could play a vitally important role in the whole world. The second one, convening a special session of the General Assembly in this regard is significantly indispensable.

My Delegation expresses its profound congratulations to the Director-General in his tireless efforts, and his colleagues who have shown the capability and competency of FAO in performing such an important function.

I was in the process of speaking about the outlook of future populations which affects our social, economic and political situation, and threatens the environment, particularly the food security situation, but since some of my distinguished colleagues have spoken about it, I only wish to add just one thing.

For several years following World War II, the Malthusian theory gained considerable popularity. The world geometric population growth rate and an arithmetic food production rate would bring about the inevitable starvation of a large percentage of the world's future inhabitants.

Man's new scientific achievements with respect to the relationship between consumption and production, as well as between production and distribution, and the introduction of modern agriculture, birth control and family planning techniques, have resulted in more sophisticated approaches to the problem of feeding a fast-growing population on earth.

However, the questions of food supply and population are undoubtedly linked and are especially urgent for the future of developing countries. Therefore, population is the fundamental section of the preparation of the International Development Strategy.

Having gone through the items of document C 89/19, I want to point out some important actions which have been taken on Item 9 in this regard. It is well done, the establishment of the Committee of the Whole for the preparation of the IDS and appointment of the independent advisers by the Secretary-General, because it has a considerable contribution in the making of IDS.

I am quite sure that there is nobody who would deny the fact that sustainable development is impossible without taking into consideration the environmental aspects and the optimization of the utilization of natural resources. Nowadays the world has become like a family, where any changes occurring in the status of a member would affect the whole family. Thus, in such circumstances, we should not ignore any aspects of environmental pollution and contamination of natural resources in any region of the world.

Helmut HAUSER (Austria) (original language German) : The Austrian Delegation has studied in depth the document before us concerning the long-term strategy for food and agriculture. We also listened with keen interest to the contributions of various Members of this Assembly on this highly significant

issue. My country would like to take the opportunity here to thank the Secretariat for this very important and valuable document which does make some very meaningful statements and gives pointers as regards economic growth, rural development, resources, production technologies, fight against hunger, structural readjustment problems and environmental issues. We think it is absolutely essential that FAO be actively involved at the Special United Nations General Assembly, and that the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade be also the subject of a strong input on the part of FAO.

We are only 10 years removed from the year 2000. There will then presumably be 6.2 billion people living on this globe. All of these have the right to a decent human existence and at least to have more or less enough to eat. However, fighting hunger is not the only major challenge for us; we also see here the need to have agriculture, forestry and fisheries given enough supplies in order to have the necessary raw materials to produce energy. In connection with the fight against hunger in the world, we also have to take care of the necessary preservation of natural resources. In agriculture, we should be careful that soil fertility does not become depleted.

A permanent solution to the world food problem requires apart from effective population policy measures, a healthy global economic development, which Mr Dutia already referred to in his introductory statement in very striking terms, because only positive economical developments can generate jobs and thus incomes for many people.

It also appears to us very necessary that, in future, we handle with much greater care our prime natural resources, soil, water and air, and that the problems of an energetic environmental policy which will protect nature from over-exploitation and destruction be developed, and that it be given stronger focus by FAO. This is something to which our fellow Minister has already referred on addressing the Plenary meeting.

Fertilizer, plant protection, pesticides, at least also do harm our ground table; single crops and intensive agriculture also over-exploit the soil and we get many problems when it is a matter of mass animal husbandry.

We must also think in terms of the forestry industry, which has also become further exacerbated through over-exploitation. What we need here is training, advisory services, particularly concerning young people and women, in this way to sensitize them as to how we can correct the whole handling of our approach to nature and nature resources.

In connection with the preparations of the International Development Decade, FAO has already done many preliminary studies. I need only refer to one, Agriculture: Toward 2000. FAO has already done very high quality preparatory work. Hence, I think FAO is particularly destined to give a strong contribution to the Special Session of the United Nations and to the International Development Decade.

Taking into account what has already been said, we in our Delegation can fully welcome the arguments contained in the document before us, and we particularly appreciate the conclusions in paragraph 123, on page 32. We hope that the long-term strategy for nutrition and agriculture on the part of FAO will also be reviewed in the course of this Conference, and that the Ninety-eighth Session for December 1990 will develop a successful strategy for the 1990s, for the benefit of all mankind.

I believe FAO, with respect to this global challenge is fully armed and prepared.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola) : Dans le cadre des stratégies internationales du développement, les Nations Unies déterminent pour chaque décennie les objectifs fondamentaux du développement dans le monde et tracent les orientations de base et les moyens de leurs réalisations. Donc le nouent est arrivé de concevoir de nouvelles stratégies puisque la troisième décennie du développement touche à sa fin.

Mais parler de la préparation de la stratégie internationale pour le développement pour la quatrième décennie des Nations unies pour le développement sous-entend, pour ma délégation, procéder d'abord à l'appréciation d'une façon globale des résultats de la décennie en cours. Le développement qui devrait profiter non seulement aux pays riches mais aussi aux pays en développement, considérés comme pauvres, n'a eu lieu que dans un seul sens. Malgré l'appel lancé au monde développé pour l'amélioration des relations économiques internationales, nous remarquons que le fossé continue à se creuser entre la richesse et la pauvreté, entre les pays développés et en développement. Ceci fait que la FAO ne constitue pas une organisation spécialisée en la matière, compte tenu de l'interdépendance existant dans les différents domaines repris dans la résolution des Nations Unies. Je citerai les questions monétaires, financières, commerciales, industrielles, le transfert de technologies, etc.

Au cours de cette décennie, la FAO s'est toujours penchée sur les problèmes qui minaient les bases du développement de l'agriculture dans les conditions mondiales. De cette façon, elle nous a éclairé sur ce qui était nouveau et prioritaire dans les domaines qui l'intéressaient. Ceci est d'ailleurs très bien présenté dans le document C 89/19. Compte tenu de l'importance que les pays en voie de développement attachent à l'agriculture, à l'alimentation, à l'environnement, etc., ma délégation estime que la FAO doit réaffirmer son rôle technique et de coordination irremplaçable sur le plan du développement, de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, surtout dans les pays en développement.

A cet effet, hormis les éléments pertinents présentés par le Secrétariat dans le document C 89/19 relatif à la stratégie à long terme pour les secteurs alimentaire et agricole, lesquels viennent d'être appuyés par les précédents orateurs, nous pensons que la nouvelle stratégie internationale, avant sa réalisation, doit prendre en compte les objectifs du système économique international comme des catégories particulières de l'ordre établi. Elle aura comme tâche la mise en oeuvre, sur l'ensemble des reproductions sociales, des solutions directives, des règles, approches, mécanismes et mesures économiques auxquels se conformeront tous les pays afin que la reproduction mondiale agisse de façon stable et dans l'intérêt de tous. Ainsi le système économique international et ses sous-systèmes, en particulier commerciaux, financiers et monétaires, vont créer des motivations supplémentaires et externes pour un développement fluide, stable et dynamique dans le monde.

Ade]ani A. ARINOLA (Nigeria) : The delegation of Nigeria hereby associates itself with the distinguished delegates who have complimented the FAO Secretariat for the excellent work in the production of the document C 89/19 on the Long-term Strategy for the Food and Agriculture Sector.

We wish to submit that the International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade should consider past and present trends in the socio-economic development in the different regions of the world in determining the framework and guidelines for the much-desired balanced growth and development in the various countries.

My delegation endorses the views expressed in Para. 2 that revitalization of economic growth in the developing countries will require greater emphasis than in the past on the central role of agriculture and the rural sector.

Varying experiences of the different developing countries should be brought to bear on the pursuit of growth revitalization, but the focus of the strategy should be renewed efforts at the complementarity of policies, plus their implementation between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy to produce synergistic positive effects.

For the agriculture and rural sector, the need is more urgent now than ever before for integrating crops production, livestock, forestry and fisheries development as a harmonious system so that all resources - natural and others - are optimally and efficiently managed. Such integration must, however, take into due consideration the sustenance of the environment so that necessary restorative actions to an already degraded environment will be taken with the active involvement and participation of individuals, communities and the private sector from planning to implementation stages, with the government playing a leading role. In this connection, cooperation among all countries and the specialized agencies of the UN and other bodies is likely to be assured. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and FAO should be involved in such cooperative endeavours. Cheap and alternative sources of energy to fuelwood will assist in reducing deforestation. Poverty alleviation and human resource development are crucial issues to be addressed in the strategy. We agree with Para. 45 that prospects for rural poverty alleviation will depend to a large extent on policies for achieving the objectives of the World Conference on Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (WCARRD) Programme of Action, i.e. access to productive assets, inputs and services, people's participation, especially women and youths.

Training (formal and informal), education and public enlightenment on preparation of locally available food items to produce balanced diets in improving the nutritional status of the vulnerable groups, especially in the rural areas, should be pursued.

While supporting Paras. 60-64 of the document, we would like to stress that agricultural research and development should, among others, improve agricultural data generation and information dissemination; should be relevant to solve problems identified in the agricultural development process, and should take into cognizance as much as possible agro-ecological diversity and potential plus the need for involving experienced and active practising farmers.

Specifically on livestock research, efforts at improving the productivity of local breeds, especially small ruminants adapted to the ecology of the area, should be given greater attention, particularly aspects like dry season feed supply of better quality, effective control of livestock diseases at minimum cost, and better management generally.



Under the new agricultural policy for Nigeria, small-scale but efficient production activities are emphasized. The strategy for the fisheries sub-sector fits into the guidelines and principles enunciated at the World Fisheries Conference - thus encouraging deep-sea artisanal, fresh water and aquaculture fisheries. Regarding water resources, construction of small earth dams, boreholes and washholes in the fadamas is replacing construction of large dams. The small-scale rural farmers whose efforts are responsible for over 90 percent of agricultural food production are the focus of development strategy under the Agricultural Development Projects (ADPs). ADPs provide essential production inputs in infrastructures; extension via training and visit; and marketing of agricultural produce for the farmers. A substantial measure of success has been achieved to the extent that the ADPs are going statewide and covering the entire country. This is through a tripartite agreement between World Bank, federal and state Governments.

The Government's policy of disengagement in direct agricultural production encourages the private sector (medium- and large-scale farmers) including cooperatives. The private sector is expected to provide a preponderant proportion of storage structures under the National Strategic Grains Reserve Programme.

A National Agricultural insurance scheme to protect farmers against the adverse effects of natural disasters as a further incentive to farming has been put in place and is compulsory for agricultural loan beneficiaries. The initial cover will be for maize, rice, poultry and cattle, with expansion later to other areas of agricultural production. Now small-scale farmers have greater access to loans of N 5 000 without collateral, and the organization of cooperatives as a viable organization for production and marketing activities is being encouraged. Other non-agricultural vocations also have opportunity for snail loans up to N 2 500 to improve their business under the pilot phase of the recently established People's Bank. All these are expected to be continued as a strategy for development in the 1990s.

An Agricultural Perspective Plan 1990-2005 is in place as part of a National Strategic Planning. The three-year Rolling Plans starting in 1990 will be sub-sets of the Perspective Plan.

Exchange of experience/information in agricultural research, science and technology, and control of diseases and pests of agriculture etc. should still attract the attention of FAO in assisting developing countries. Technical cooperation among developing countries themselves needs intensification.

The debt burden, which has affected in a negative sense most developing countries in this decade, should be realistically addressed by the creditor nations, especially as the effects of structural adjustments embarked upon by these nations have adversely affected the standard of living of the majority of rural people and the development of the economies of such countries. We support any genuine effort including the revision or even outright writing-off of part of the debts, as suggested by some delegations.

It is our view that the Fourth UN Decade Strategy should try to reduce substantially the widening gap between North and South, as reflected in the various indicators of development. Developing countries need global systems which are equitable and can transform the present economic crisis to that of economic prosperity for the 1990s; for it is in so doing that the millions of rural people can hope for a better and satisfying future.

Remunerative prices for agricultural commodities as incentive for production, equal access to economic activities and trade will surely enhance self-reliant growth and rational development and truly reduce the poverty in most of the developing countries. The Uruguay Round of negotiations is relevant here.

Better coordination of efforts, programmes and projects at national levels; setting-up realistic priorities and targets and efficient management of resources, are essential for progressive and sustained economic development. Diversification of the economic base and appropriate linkages between agriculture, industrial/manufacturing sectors, social and health sectors without sacrificing the sustenance of the environment require greater attention. The world environment is linked by soil, water and air. All groups and professional bodies should be mobilized to increase this awareness in all countries. We therefore support the FAO/UNEP on the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) clause and urge its full implementation in the Fourth UN Decade.

Needless to say, meaningful development can only take place in an atmosphere of peace and stability. One of the ways of ensuring peace and stability is the achievement of self-reliance in food production, especially of items each country has the comparative advantage for, and the creation of satisfying job opportunities for the unemployed and the under-privileged wherever they may be on the globe. There is no doubt that the industrialized world (governments, organizations and people) will join hands with the determined efforts of the developing countries in this regard. The motto for the long-term strategy should be "Development for the greater good of the silent majority".

We therefore call on all nations and international organizations of influence, including the FAO, to ensure the establishment of a just socio-economic order that enhances fairness to all regions and reinforces their capacities to develop their potentials to the optimum.

Finally, my delegation supports Paras. 113, 119 and 120, as well as the conclusions in Para. 123 of the document and the need for periodic monitoring of the achievements made in the Fourth UN Development Decade.

**Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic):** We must pay tribute to this International Development Strategy for the Fourth UN Development Decade, a strategy which pinpoints ways and means for achieving economic recovery and reactivation of development in countries such as mine. Obviously FAO has a prime role to play in this context because it is the international reference for this highly sensitive area of agriculture, fisheries, forests, nutrition, food and rural development. All this means that FAO has a unique role to play in preparing this kind of international strategy. FAO's participation should be at the level of this important sector I have just described, in order to bring it to a successful conclusion.

We all know that agriculture, food and rural development play a cardinal role in economic development and in achieving those targets which FAO has set: that is, the elimination of hunger and malnutrition; the strengthening of international cooperation, which FAO has been ceaselessly promoting and working towards, and which can also help to reinvigorate development, one of

our prime targets; the solving of problems relating to debts and the flow of resources to developing countries such as my own; and the improvement of terms of trade and of regional and inter-regional development and cooperation. We totally approve and endorse everything which FAO does in this area.

**Khaled J. AL-MASBAHI (Kuwait) (original language Arabic):** The Kuwait delegation also wishes to stress the importance of this document, C 89/19, which sets out strategies for the food and agricultural situation in preparation for an International Development Strategy. I should particularly like to focus on paragraphs 55-57 on economic growth and agriculture, because this is the very cornerstone of economic development for developing countries, which will enable these countries to escape the problem of debts by way of improved policies and work towards targets for bringing about internal/external balance.

With regard to structural adjustments, main focus should be given to the specific characteristics of each country in an attempt to avoid all the pitfalls which hamper and impede development. This is a higher target than in short-term stability. We shall also have to strengthen stability targets by way of enhanced financial long-term assistance. We shall also have to work towards debt rescheduling and the wiping out of some of the interest which has to be paid by developing countries. FAO can play an essential role in this whole context and can help contribute to the solution of these problems.

I concur with that part of the report which refers to natural resources, environment and sustainable development, paragraphs 93-102. We need to give greater focus and priority to the safeguarding of the environment. We must also wipe out deleterious spin-offs of technological developments. Unfortunately, the document does not mention the problems related to pollution due to technological development in developing countries. The gases produced will have harmful effects not only on human beings and living resources but also fisheries resources.

**Mokhtar NAANANI (Maroc):** La délégation marocaine a examiné avec grand intérêt le document C 89/19 relatif à la stratégie à long terme pour le secteur alimentaire et agricole. Ma délégation se félicite de la qualité de ce document et de la cohérence qui caractérise toutes les propositions qui y sont consignées.

Nous ne pouvons que nous réjouir de la décision du Directeur général de la FAO quant à la contribution de notre Organisation (en l'occurrence la FAO) à la préparation d'une stratégie internationale de la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement.

Ma délégation appuie totalement les grands axes de la stratégie pour les années 90, à savoir:

- la croissance économique,
- la lutte contre la pauvreté,
- la mise en valeur des ressources humaines et la protection des ressources naturelles.

Pour ce qui est du premier axe, tout en appuyant l'ensemble des mesures proposées, ma délégation voudrait insister fortement sur l'aspect réduction des distorsions des échanges agricoles et amélioration des relations économiques internationales.

Le document précise bien cet aspect dans le paragraphe 57. Nous pensons qu'il s'agit d'un préalable pour la promotion des exportations agricoles des pays en développement.

Concernant le second axe, le document pose clairement la problématique de concilier les objectifs de croissance et ceux de la lutte contre la pauvreté. Toutefois les orientations proposées, notamment celles relatives au ciblage des populations pauvres (orientations consignées dans le paragraphe 84) nous semblent peu applicables. Il nous paraît en effet très difficile et peu réaliste de trier ou de classer les populations pauvres pour pouvoir leur offrir des produits alimentaires subventionnés. Il y a donc là, à notre avis, matière à réfléchir pour le Secrétariat. Le problème demeure entier pour les pays en développement.

Enfin, pour ce qui est du premier axe, ma délégation est très satisfaite de l'analyse faite par la FAO qui fait ressortir que la dégradation des ressources naturelles est intimement liée au niveau de vie des populations rurales. Nous sommes donc convaincus que la solution pour la protection des ressources naturelles passe inéluctablement par l'amélioration des revenus des agriculteurs.

L'esquisse de stratégie que nous examinons est tout à fait équilibrée et compatible avec les objectifs du développement agricole et alimentaire que nos pays cherchent à atteindre. Reste que cet esprit devra s'intégrer dans la stratégie internationale du développement.

Or nous savons, comme il est bien souligné dans le document, qu'il existe un large impact des autres composantes de la Stratégie internationale de développement sur la politique agricole - et vice versa. C'est la raison pour laquelle ma délégation voudrait insister sur la cohérence entre les différentes composantes de la SID. Ma délégation est persuadée que la FAO veillera à cette cohérence car il y va de la réussite de la stratégie agricole.

**LE PRESIDENT:** Avant de passer la parole aux observateurs, je souhaiterais dire à la Commission que la délégation de Myanmar souhaite insérer son intervention écrite au procès-verbal. Il en sera ainsi fait.

**U Tin HLAING (Myanmar) :** Allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this important commission since this is my first intervention. I would also like to congratulate FAO for the introduction of an excellent document dealing with long-term strategy for food and agriculture.

The topic has currently assumed global dimensions and the FAO Secretariat deserves due credit for their courage of all pertinent aspects. I am sure that the discourse has instilled a high sense of responsibility in the Conference.

If I may be allowed to touch poverty alleviation and human resource development, it could be contended that member countries, on the whole, have during the past decades attained substantial progress in agricultural development and increase in food production. However most of the developing countries will regretfully remain poor beneficiaries in terms of the said economic gains, Under these circumstances, the widening gap between developed

and developing countries has been further extended. The export earnings of the developing countries continue to decline, and the adverse impacts have steadily eroded their fragile economic foundations and worsened their external debt burdens. These situations indicate the need for structural economic reforms. Many developing countries have diligently responded. The Government of Myanmar had also similarly instituted drastic changes in its economic policies in mid-1988. A liberalization program has since then been initiated in the production, processing, and trading of previously controlled commodities with the exception of a few items. Moreover a foreign investment law of 1988 has also been promulgated so as to attract and facilitate foreign investment.

The Union of Myanmar is rich in natural resources. There is a great potential for increased production of food and agricultural commodities. However, as a developing country, it needs a supportive combination of financial and technical inflows in order to achieve economic growth aiming at poverty alleviation and human resource developments as outlined by FAO. In this regard we are highly appreciative of the assistance rendered to us by FAO and other UN agencies, other multilateral organizations and also of the respective governments for their grants and aids. We also look forward to continued cooperation in our pursuit of economic development.<sup>1/</sup>

**Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'OCDE):** Monsieur le Président, je vous remercie d'avoir bien voulu me donner la parole et je vous félicite de votre élection, dont je me réjouis car vous me faites revenir en arrière de presque 25 ans, du temps de notre collaboration auprès de l'OCDE à Paris.

Je désire encore une fois remercier et féliciter M. Dutia pour son excellente introduction, ainsi que le Secrétariat pour ce document si riche et si complet que nous venons d'examiner.

Les arguments prévus par le programme dans le contexte de la stratégie internationale de la quatrième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement, et de l'organisation d'une session extraordinaire de l'Assemblée générale (également proposée comme une contribution de la FAO) représentent un choix complet et intelligent qui tient compte des problèmes les plus graves et les plus importants dont la solution peut encore sauver l'homme et sa terre.

Dans le vaste et ambitieux programme proposé, la partie qui concerne l'amélioration de la condition humaine et la lutte contre la pauvreté m'a particulièrement touché parce que tout effort de développement se tourne vers l'homme, vers cette créature dotée d'un organisme précieux, pas toujours traité ni considéré comme il le mérite.

La valorisation du capital humain est indispensable pour parvenir au développement. L'homme possède des ressources puissantes qui ne doivent pas être seulement reconnues mais encouragées et aidées à se tourner vers les autres car nous sommes tous des frères sans différence de couleur, de race, de religion et d'idéologie.

Nous combattons tous pour une cause commune et toutes les initiatives proposées par l'Organisation des Nations Unies et ses agences (et dans le cas particulier par la FAO) doivent conduire à une vraie communion sur le plan de la coopération et du développement.

1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Un des problèmes les plus graves et urgents est celui du commerce international ainsi que celui de l'environnement. Les ressources actuelles et potentielles de notre planète, que nous sommes en train de polluer et de raréfier, sont immenses et doivent suffire à donner à l'homme la possibilité de pouvoir manger à sa faim, et de lui éviter de mourir asphyxié ou atteint des maladies que lui cause la poursuite effrénée vers les richesses.

Il faut que chacun de nous sache regarder autour de lui avec l'oeil de la conscience. Et alors, dans cet esprit, tout pourra réussir. Et ce que nous considérons comme une utopie peut devenir une réalité d'équité et de justice.

Tout le programme que nous examinons comporte des choix essentiels. Je me permets à cet égard de mettre aussi l'accent sur le problème, intéressant et vital, de la nutrition. La malnutrition tue les pauvres par carences, mais elle tue aussi les riches par suralimentation.

Je me souviens entre autres que, dans les années 60, au sein du Comité des pêcheries, j'ai eu plusieurs fois l'occasion d'attirer vivement l'attention sur l'exploitation exagérée et incontrôlée des ressources de la mer, et j'ai parlé de la nécessité de se préoccuper du respect de la biologie marine. Mais tout cela n'a pas pu être réalisé pendant plusieurs années. On commence seulement maintenant à ouvrir les yeux sur ce grave problème en espérant que ce ne soit pas trop tard.

Monsieur le Président, j'espère ardemment que toutes ces initiatives pourront trouver un accord unanime en cette importante conférence de la FAO. Ce qui pourra donner à chacun de nous la conviction d'avoir agi selon sa propre conscience.

Idris NUR (Observer for OAU) : My delegation agrees with the contents of document C 89/19. we would also like to endorse the following points:

- (1) With respect to the African continent, the 1980s decade would be considered as one of the catastrophies and of poor performance in the agricultural sector and African economy. Per capita food production has fallen by 5 percent, cash crops have also fallen, and at the same time there has been no compensating rise in non-agricultural output to finance food imports.
- (2) Prices of commodities of interest to Africa have collapsed and are generally about 57 percent of what they were in 1981. This means that Africans have to produce about twice as much of the same commodities in order to remain where they were in 1980.
- (3) Instead of external resources flowing into Africa for development, Africa has been, during the last few years, a net exporter of resources to the outside world particularly to the IMF.
- (4) About five years have elapsed since the adoption of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (i.e. UNPAAERD) in a UN Special Session for Africa held on 27 May to 1 June, 1986, to cope with Africa's deep and worsening crisis. Priority areas have already been identified in the document. The African countries committed themselves to providing 66.7 percent of the total cost of financing the implementation of UNPAAERD, whereas the international community promised to provide the remaining 33.3 percent. External resources flows are not forthcoming and are yet to attain the targets called by UNPAAERD.

(5) The FAO strategy for the 1990s could include the following:

A. It is therefore logical to review UNPAAERD with the purpose of rewriting it and reusing it as part of the strategy for the 1990s. The new version of UNPAAERD could last for a duration of five years. Appropriate measures and renewed commitments at the national and international levels should be stressed as they are necessary to tackle the food and agriculture problem.

B. The external resources needed require a deep commitment from the donor community whose efforts must be accompanied by a change of attitude to trade and debt obligations as well as by major policy adjustments in favour of improved food and agriculture.

C. All agencies and organizations concerned with food and agriculture should cooperate and harmonize their efforts as this is the only way for effectively tackling the problems of food shortage and agriculture. Multiplication of organizations and fragmentation of programmes and projects will only lead to loss of resources and duplication of efforts.

D. We agree on the utilization of the World Food Council Declaration that was adopted in its 15th Ministerial Session held in Cairo, Egypt in May 1989. We would also like to endorse the following points:

(i) The 1990s could be considered as a decade for fighting hunger in the world.

(ii) Access to adequate food should be proclaimed by the international community as a basic human right.

(iii) Considerable human efforts, technology, financial resources and political will will be required to eliminate hunger in the world and to sustain human dignity.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): First of all, on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to express our gratification on the general support that the delegates have given to FAO, making contributions to the preparation of the International Development Strategy as well as to the Special Session, and also, to the Outline of the long-term strategy for the food and agriculture sector that we have presented to you in document C 89/19. This has assured us that we are on the right track.

The distinguished delegates have also made a number of very useful suggestions during the course of the debate, and have highlighted certain aspects and issues which will greatly help us in the development of the full strategy which will be considered by the FAO Council in November 1990, and also in preparing our contributions both for the Special Session of the United Nations' General Assembly in April 1990, and also to the International Development Strategy.

I would like to take this opportunity first to provide some new information on the United Nations' General Assembly decision concerning the International Development Strategy, then I will answer some questions that have been raised by the delegates.

First, the new information. As the distinguished delegates will recall, while introducing this item, I stated that no decision had yet been taken by the ad hoc Committee on the structure of the document on the International Development Strategy. Now we have received information from New York that the Second Committee of the United Nations' General Assembly have adopted by consensus the resolution on the preparation of the International Development Strategy to which an outline of the document on the International Development Strategy had been attached with the recommendation that the ad hoc Committee should adopt it as the basis for the elaboration of the International Development Strategy. In this outline, food and agriculture as well as food and agricultural policies are specifically mentioned, both for the reactivation and acceleration of economic growth and development, and also as priority aspects of developments to be addressed in the International Development Strategy. This will greatly facilitate the FAO contribution in the development of the International Development Strategy.

I will now turn to answering some of the specific questions that have been raised during the course of the discussion. First, the distinguished delegate of Tanzania requested our views on the input subsidies. The policy concerning the input subsidies needs to be considered in the context of the overall strategy for the development of agriculture sector. This is so because input subsidies are but one of the many instruments available to the policy maker in achieving the desired objective of providing incentives to producers. Whether the desired improvement in the productivity of agriculture is best accomplished by government action in the form of an input subsidy or through other measures, such as an increase in the price of the agricultural produce, can be answered only in a specific context after careful assessment of likely costs and benefits. The remedial levels of producer prices are in most circumstances powerful instruments to increase production and to encourage the adoption of modern production techniques. However, input subsidies can be very useful or even indispensable in promoting wider use or quicker adoption of modern production technologies involving the use of purchased inputs. Such subsidies may also be necessary in moderating increases in prices of inputs of major importance, especially when such increases are likely to be temporary. However, experience in numerous countries shows that the administration of input subsidies is difficult and can lead to a distorted pattern of resource use unless carefully and continuously monitored. Moreover, to be effective it would be necessary that the input subsidy policy is accompanied by the availability and assured supply of subsidized input. Such inputs should be made available at the right place and at the right time.

In general, while input subsidies have a useful role to play in certain circumstances, especially during the promotion stage of modern technologies, any substantial input subsidies should normally be temporary, with the objective of gradually phasing them out once the promotional objective is achieved and their productivity increasing function is clearly demonstrated. However, where input subsidies have been firmly entrenched they should be reduced by stages so as to minimize the incentive effect. Moreover, if producer prices can be raised, for example by removing price controls, input subsidy reduction and producer price increase may be linked.

I now move to the question raised by the delegate of France regarding the priorities for a long-term strategy. It seems to us that the focus of this strategy document is on the long-term strategy in the long-term context. As such, all the objectives and issues that have been considered in the document require priority. Also, the interlinked nature of these priorities must be



recognized. For example, the issue of economic growth and rural agricultural development is inextricably linked to poverty alleviation, which in its turn is related to the management of natural resources and environmental sustainability, as many delegations have already stressed.

Viewed in that broad perspective, which is necessary for a long-term strategy, concerted action in all these areas is called for if the desired objectives are to be attained on a sustainable basis. It should also be recognized that within this broad context FAO's actions and contributions in the area of its competence and expertise have to be seen as an integral part of the UN system-wide efforts. Further, such actions should be viewed in the context of the efforts of the countries, both developed and developing.

In short, to be effective in achieving the objectives that the international community seems favour for the Fourth International Development Decade, it seems to us that concerted action on a broad front would be essential.

LE PRESIDENT: Je souhaiterais demander s'il y a des délégations qui souhaitent apporter un commentaire supplémentaire à ce qui a été dit?

Si ce n'est pas le cas, nous allons passer au point suivant de l'ordre du jour. Je vous remercie.

J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair

J.A De Medicis, Président de la Commission I, assure la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia, J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: On resuming the Chair, I should like to thank Mr Detraux for the able way in which he conducted the debate on item 7 of our agenda. we thank him very much for his collaboration and his very able conduct of the debate.

9. Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking: Progress Report

9. Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et engagement international: rapport intérimaire

9. La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional

CHAIRMAN: we now come to item 9 on the agenda, Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking: Progress Report. The documents before us are C 89/24 on Interpretation of the International undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and C 89/LIM/29, First Report of the Resolutions Committee, Which informs the Commission that the draft resolution on Farmers' Rights contained in document C 89/24 has been found receivable and can be discussed by the Commission. This matter ves taken up by the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council in June this year, which approved the text for an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources and recommended a complementary draft resolution regarding farmers' rights for consideration and adoption by the Conference after it has been discussed by this Commission. This paper will be introduced by Dr Bonte-Friedheim, Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture Department.

C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department):

It is my honour on behalf of the Secretariat to introduce agenda item 9.

The International Undertaking is regarded by many, certainly even by most, of our member countries, by nearly all NGOs and by many scientists and specialists as a major step forward in dealing with our heritage of plant genetic resources, and ensuring that present and future generations will benefit. The document before us, C 89/24, provides full information on the activities during the last two years. It includes a draft resolution on farmers' rights. In addition, we believe that it might be necessary to prepare a second resolution to deal with the text of the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking and to put it also into a draft resolution.

In view of the importance of this topic, may I highlight in a few minutes the matters we consider to be of major concern with regard to plant genetic resources, as well as the work which we have undertaken in the past two years.

Plant genetic diversity, also called plant genetic resources, not only provides the basic material necessary for the production of new varieties either through classical plant breeding or new biotechnologies, but also serves as a buffer against harmful environmental changes. Its role in agricultural and forestry sustainable development as well as environmental conservation and stability cannot be over-emphasized. The preservation of the genetic diversity of our planet is a matter of both insurance and investments for the future and of a moral obligation towards future generations.

No country or region can be self-sufficient in its needs with respect to genetic diversity, and according to current academic studies the average interdependence between all regions of the world is more than 50 percent, and for some regions it may go up to 100 percent for the most important crops. This is therefore an area in which all countries are at the same time donors and recipients and where global collaboration is a vital imperative.

In the UN system work on the conservation of plant genetic resources started in FAO in 1947, and since 1957 FAO has had a periodical publication on the subject. As early as 1965 the Organization established a panel of experts to deal with plant germplasm collection, conservation, and exchange of material and information; parallel panels of experts on forest genetic resources and animal genetic resources were established in 1968 and 1983 respectively. In 1968 FAO set up a Crop Ecology and Genetic Resources Unit to coordinate and backstop projects and activities in this field. Following a number of international technical conferences sponsored by FAO and after the UN Conference on Human Environment in 1973, which gave FAO responsibility for the establishment of an International Genetic Resources Programme, FAO submitted to the OGIAR, through TAC a proposal that ultimately resulted in the establishment in 1974 of the IBPGR as a non-governmental organization under the FAO umbrella. FAO agreed to provide central coordinating staff to IBPGR out of its regular budget, and also the FAO's Crop Ecology and Genetic Resources Unit was re-oriented in order to have a joint international technical programme together with IBPGR.

However, it was soon obvious that the problems derived from the conservation and use of plant genetic diversity were not only of a technical nature. As the germplasm of the major crops was collected and stored in genebanks, the safety of the material, the ownership of collections, the development of

national laws restricting the availability of germplasm, and the property-rights on newly developed varieties soon became the subject of continuing debate. Within FAO, these discussions were already significant in the Twentieth Session of the Conference in 1979 - ten years ago. During the same period and as activities related to the use of genetic resources increased, the need arose to have intergovernmental coordinated action at a global level, so as to avoid duplications, and foster complementarity among all national, regional and international organizations concerned. It was recognized that the system to be established should be a solid and equitable one, so that it would take full account of the rights and obligations of donors and recipients of germplasm, funds and technology, and be based on the well-accepted principle that plant genetic resources are the heritage of mankind.

Resulting from these discussions and at the request of its member countries, FAO has developed since 1983 a Global System on Plant Genetic Resources aimed at ensuring safe conservation, sustainable use and unrestricted availability of plant germplasm for the present and future generations. The System includes: i) a legal framework, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, ii) an intergovernmental forum, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and iii) a financial mechanism, the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources. The International Undertaking, Commission and Fund cover the conservation and use of ex situ and in situ biological diversity, in plant genes, genotypes, and gene pools at the molecular, population, species and ecosystem level. To date, 122 countries are members of the commission or have adhered to the International Undertaking, or have taken both steps.

Since its establishment, the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is the intergovernmental forum where discussions take place and consensus is reached in the continuous development of the system. Some of the new elements that, at the request of the Commission and within the framework of the Undertaking, are currently being prepared or considered by FAO in cooperation with the appropriate international, regional and national institutions, are: a periodical publication of a report on the State of the World Plant Genetic Resources; furthermore, the establishment of a Global Information and an Early warning System, the preparation of a global plan of action on genetic resources, the establishment of a network of ex situ base collections under the auspices of FAO, the establishment of a network on in situ protected areas, and the development of a Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it affects the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. It is a long list. In this respect, the Commission also requested that FAO, in cooperation with relevant organizations, continue to monitor actively the evolving new biotechnologies, in line with the International Undertaking. The 95th Session of the Council last June noted that many of these developments are likely to influence, for years to come, policies, programmes and activities of FAO and of other international organizations. It should be emphasized, however, that all these important activities cannot be financed from regular programme resources. The Secretariat, therefore, appeals to governments, donors, financing institutions, industries and others, to provide evidence of their concern on plant genetic resources by contributing with extra-budgetary resources to these activities.

With respect to the relationship with IBPGR, our Commission recommended the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding that will be aimed to ensure cooperation and avoid duplication. The cooperation will concentrate mainly on

the follow-up of technical recommendations of the Commission that relate to the mandate of IBPGR. The preparations of the Memorandum of understanding is now well advanced and the Working Group of the Commission is assisting FAO and is monitoring progress.

As one of its major tasks, the Commission has also tried to improve the participation of countries in the International Undertaking, in order to make it a fully global system. To facilitate this work the Secretariat provided the Commission in its Second Session in 1987 with two background documents: the first one provided extracts from countries' replies to the invitation of the Director-General to adhere to the undertaking. It showed that some countries have adhered to the Undertaking with reservations, while others have indicated difficulties in adhering to the Undertaking because of possible conflict with their international obligations and existing national regulations, mainly related to Plant Breeders' Rights legislation in developed countries and to the limitations imposed to the exchange of certain species in developing countries. The second background document made available provided an analysis of these replies and suggested three possible courses of action to improve the participation in the International Undertaking: (a) recognition of the status quo (b) agreement on an interpretation of the undertaking, and (c) an amendment to the Undertaking.

During the Second Session of the Commission a Contact Group of members and observers was established to discuss the matter; the Contact Group included countries that did not adhere to the Undertaking or that have adhered with reservations, as well as countries that were not members of the Commission or even not members of FAO; for example, the USSR. This Contact Group suggested the second course of action, that is, to try to achieve an agreed interpretation of the undertaking, which should take into consideration plant breeders' rights, farmers' rights and the need for free exchange of germplasm. The Commission and its Working Group agreed that this interpretation should preserve the principle of unrestricted availability of germplasm while recognizing the legitimate rights of donors of technology (breeders) and donors of germplasm (farmers) to benefit - all of them - from their contributions. The Commission then requested its Working Group to develop the text of the agreed interpretation.

A text for the agreed interpretation and a complementary draft resolution on farmers' rights have been prepared and are in front of you. These texts were discussed and amended by the Third Session of the Commission, held in April 1989 with the participation of interested observers, non-members of the Commission. The amended texts were then discussed by the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council of FAO. The Council, with some members - very few members - indicating that they were yet to finalize their positions, welcomed the proposals, approved the text of the agreed interpretation of the Undertaking, recommended the draft resolution on Farmers' Rights for consideration and adoption by the Conference and recommended that both texts become annexes of the International Undertaking.

As you can see, the texts presented to you now are the final product of a large number of discussions and negotiations with the participation of countries that wished to do so, including non-members of the Commission and those that did not adhere to the Undertaking. As I have indicated, their participation was, firstly, through the Contact Group; secondly through the debates of members and observers during the meetings of the Commission; and, thirdly, the debate in the FAO Council Session last June.

Given the utmost importance of preserving for the present and future generations, both germplasm and the principle of its unrestricted availability, I would like to make to you an appeal for the unanimous endorsement of these texts. They represent, in my opinion, the best and most realistic of these texts. They represent, in my opinion, the best and most realistic compromise we may reach in the present circumstances. In doing so, it will be realized that the current opportunity of substituting confrontation with cooperation and consensus in this important matter is a chance we should not miss.

CHAIRMAN I thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for this very clear and comprehensive presentation. we will now start: the debate on this item. As has been pointed out, there are a few issues which we should address, the interpretation of the International Undertaking, the Report of the Council, the Resolution of Farmers' Rights and, of course, the work of the Commission over the last two years.

Mete BASCI (Turkey): The Turkish Delegation is pleased to take the floor in the discussion of this extremely important item. The meeting of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources is one of the most important technical meetings in the current biennium, because of the very large implication for action in the future.

We would like to express our appreciation for the important work done by FAO on Plant Genetic Resources, in establishing the International Undertaking to ensure conservation, utilization and the availability of plant genetic resources, and for the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources, funding conservation and management of these resources.

In addition to that, the achievements of the Commission itself are worthy of praise, such as the establishment of an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking, and the preparation of a draft resolution on farmers' rights.

Many of the reservations on the Undertaking are concerned with the free availability of plant genetic resources, while some countries expressed their reservation regarding free availability of wild and primitive cultivars/landraces based on concerns of national act or protection of certain species of special economic interest to the country.

A number of countries argued on the availability of cultivated varieties and special genetic stocks as defined in Article 2.1 of the International Undertaking. Given this situation, the countries who have some reservations should carefully study the text of the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking, by taking into account their national legislations. Although Article (b) of the text gives some opportunity to these countries to impose a state with minimum restrictions on the free extent of materials covered by Article 2.1 (a) of the International Undertaking to conform to its national and/or international obligations, such statements may not apply to cover all reservations expressed by the countries who have adhered to the International Undertaking with restrictions.

The undertaking of "the term of free access and benefits from the International Undertaking which should be limited to the adhering countries", are fully accepted.

The concept of farmers' rights is one of the most significant developments achieved in the Commission. It is the first time that an international forum recognized the concept of farmers' rights which is a relatively new concept. The enormous contribution of the farmers, particularly in the centre of origin/diversity cannot be denied. However, it is difficult, or it may not be possible to adequately assess in the past, presently, or in the future, the contribution of farmers to the development of plant genetic resources material.

Having recognized that plant genetic resources are a valuable property of mankind and the accepted contribution of farmers, particularly in the past in the centres of the origin/diversity, the rights may be vested in such countries as trustees for present and future generations of farmers for the purpose of especially supporting the continuation of the farmers contributions in those countries.

It is fully recognized that the full advantage can be derived from the utilization of wild and old landraces genetic resources found in the developing countries, and those resources are indispensable for the genetic improvement of cultivated plants. But it may not be generalized that the plant genetic resources have been insufficiently explored in every area of the world because, in some countries, especially as the centre of the origin/diversity of plants has well-developed and organized programmes to conserve in situ and ex situ those resources against the danger of erosion and loss for many years.

Turkey is one of those countries who has continuously conducted its plant genetic resources programme in an extended frame to facilitate the conservation and utilization of ex situ and in situ biological diversity in plant genotype populations, species and eco-systems since 1964. But it is considered that there is a need to continue the conservation, development and use of plant genetic resources in all countries and to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in these areas.

The Turkish Delegation also agrees that the International Funds should be used to support plant genetic resources conservation, management and utilization programmes, particularly within the developing countries and those which are important sources of plant genetic material. Special priority should be placed on intensified educational programmes for biotechnology specialists. The progress of biotechnology may fill the gap between the developing countries and the developed countries.

Finally, the Turkish Delegation would like to emphasize that FAO will have a very important role to play in the establishment of Global Network of Plant Genetic Resources regarding the wider adherence to the undertaking and the wider acceptability of the system.

CHAIRMAN: This Chair has been approached by one delegation that said they would prefer to have all the debates on this issue postponed to the afternoon meeting. In the opinion of this delegation, a number of experts that were supposed to participate in this debate are not yet present. Of course, the Chair does not want to impose on the Commission at a pace quicker than necessary, although we believe that we should not stop our work because it might happen that later on we could repent on having relented at delaying it. We have 25 speakers on our list. Perhaps a flexible way of doing so is that we continue with our speeches and those delegations that either are not

prepared to speak right now or would prefer to speak in the afternoon meeting, they could indicate so, and we could have the statements transferred to the afternoon meeting. I think that could somehow balance the two positions.

If there is general agreement on that proposal, we will continue as I indicated.

Point of order

Point d'ordre

Punto de orden

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México): Siento mucho, señor Presidente, intervenir sobre este asunto; pero independientemente de quien haya sido la delegación que ha sugerido posponer el tema, mi Delegación lo considera oportuno ya que, además, creo que estaremos muy cercanos de la interrupción de las labores. Por tanto consideramos oportuna la posibilidad de posponer el debate para esta tarde, ya que nos consideramos en la misma posición y además debemos contar con una persona, con un experto para intervenir sobre este tema, ya que estamos apuntados en la lista de oradores.

Le agradecería, señor Presidente, que considerase esta posibilidad.

CHAIRMAN: I see very clearly the point raised by the delegate of Mexico, which is similar to the one raised before. My only fear is that as we have really a very long list of speakers (I mentioned 24, but there are actually 29), that if we postpone the beginning of our debate to the afternoon, we might have to prolong the session on this issue for longer than we expected, and so delay the whole work of the Commission.

D. A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : May I suggest that we adjourn for lunch half an hour earlier and return a half-hour early.

SECRETARY, Commission I: Here are three new documents which have recently become available and which are related to the draft resolution which has been proposed by the Nordic delegation under item 6.1. These are: C 89/LIM/27, which is the text of the draft resolution, FAO Activities related to Sustainable Development; the second one is C 89/LIM//29, which is the first report of the Resolutions Committee, Commission I, and this meeting of the Resolutions Committee found the draft Nordic Resolution to be receivable and transmitted it to this Commission; the third document is C 89/LIM/16, which is the text of the UNEP decision 15/24 on Sustainable Agriculture. This UNEP decision is referred to in the Nordic Resolution and the Resolutions Committee recommended that it be considered by the Commission together with the draft Nordic Resolution. All these three documents will be considered by the Commission when it returns to item 6.1 later in the week.

The meeting rose at 12.00 hours

La séance est levée à 12 heures

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.00 horas





**conference**

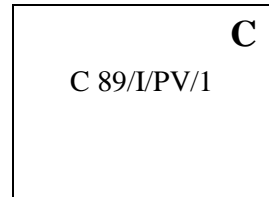
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING  
NEUVIEME SEANCE  
NOVENA SESION

(20 November 1989)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 9. Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking; Progress Report (continued)
- 9. Commission des ressources phytogénétiques et engagement international: rapport intérimaire (suite)
- 9. La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional: Informe parcial (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I call the meeting to order. The first speaker on the list is the delegate of Czechoslovakia.

Josef FOJTL (Czechoslovakia): The Czechoslovak delegation very much appreciates document C 89/24, Interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and all FAO activities in this area. We have only minor remarks to make on this topic.

If we understand the Interpretation correctly, Chapter IV and Appendix 1 (a) emphasize the recognition of the rights of both the plant breeders and the farmers. This should establish the equity between the owners of the means of production and technologies, on the one hand, and the owners of the genetic resources on the other hand. The equity establishment would stimulate the free exchange of resources. This way of interpreting the matter seems to be correct, and we cannot but agree.

In our view, the formulation in Appendix 1 (a) does not say much. This could perhaps be helped by saying that the samples of genetic resources would only be used for breeding and scientific purposes and not for commercial purposes: in other words, for multiplication of the seed stock and growing.

We believe it is right that the limitations on the exchange of genetic resources should be minimized. Only two limitations seem to us to be necessary. First, the recognized varieties should be supplied only for breeding and scientific purposes, in accordance with the International Juridical Regulations. Second, as for the special genetic lines of varieties, free availability should not be announced. The statement in page 8 that free availability does not mean free of charge does not settle the problem.

It should be up to the owner if he offers such materials as freely available in exchange for other materials for sale or if he does not announce them at all. We think that in general no duty nor of moral nature should be combined with the ownership of these genetic resources.

It might be helpful to classify the genetic resources by their availability in two or three groups:

- 1. freely available: it has to be sent on request;

2. available with owners' agreement, which means that in case of interest the Gene Bank mediates the conduct with the owner of the sample and acts according to his instructions; and
3. samples stored only and not destined for distribution, which are not on the list of the Gene Bank.

At the present time Czechoslovakia is accomplishing the legislative measures needed for joining the Convention on Plant Genetic Resources, We believe that in the near future it will become a member country of this Convention.

José BOLIVAR SALCEDO) (España) : Mi delegación desea presentar un Proyecto de Resolución sobre la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional. En este Proyecto únicamente se da forma de Resolución al texto que al respecto se encuentra en el documento C 89/24, en las páginas 7 y 8. El texto está disponible, o estará disponible en breve, en las distintas lenguas oficiales a disposición de quienes deseen conocerlo.

El objeto de presentar este Proyecto de Resolución es que nos parece que un hecho tan importante como el llegar a una Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional requerirá al mismo tener el mismo nivel que se pretende con la Resolución relativa a los derechos de los agricultores.

En el texto sobre la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional se recogen conceptos que han sido ampliamente consensuados a lo largo de un proceso que se inició con la creación de un Grupo de Contacto durante la segunda reunión de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos, que tuve el honor de presidir.

A esta reunión del Grupo de Contacto se invitó a los países más críticos, que tuvieron la oportunidad de participar en ella; y a ella incluso asistieron algunos países no miembros de la FAO, como es el caso de la Unión Soviética.

Las recomendaciones del Grupo de Contacto fueron aprobadas por la Comisión en su segunda reunión, que encargó al Grupo de Trabajo que preparase el texto para llegar a esta Interpretación Concertada.

Presentado a la Comisión, en su tercera reunión, el texto que hoy tenemos a la vista -no este texto, sino el primitivo que presentó el grupo de trabajo-fue discutido y enmendado, y nuevamente volvió a reunirse el grupo de trabajo conjuntamente con aquellos países que habían propuesto enmiendas, particularmente con el Reino Unido, que tuvo una participación muy activa en estas reuniones del grupo de trabajo; se modificó el texto inicial y, finalmente, se presentó el que hoy nos encontramos, que fue aprobado por la Comisión, con la petición al Director General de que fuese presentado a esta Conferencia a través del Consejo.

Desde la última reunión de la Comisión, celebrada el pasado mes de abril, he observado con satisfacción que seis nuevos miembros se han adherido a la Comisión y otro más al Compromiso, siendo en la actualidad 122 países los que pertenecen a la Comisión: se han adherido al Compromiso, o bien toman parte en ambas actividades.

Mi delegación quiere expresar su confianza de que, con esta interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional que hoy examinamos, se ampliará la adhesión al Compromiso Internacional, y quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad

para expresar la confianza de mi país en el sistema global de recursos fito genéticos de la FAO y el convencimiento de que es un elemento totalmente necesario en el momento histórico en que vivimos.

A este respecto, desearía resaltar la importancia de los últimos acuerdos tomados por la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en su última y tercera reunión: en particular, el acuerdo sobre los informes periódicos sobre la situación mundial de los recursos fitogenéticos; el establecimiento de un sistema global de información y de alerta; el establecimiento de una red de relaciones base bajo la jurisdicción o auspicios de la FAO; el establecimiento de una red de zonas de conservación in situ, que incluiría plantas y animales, y el estudio de unos códigos de conducta sobre las colectas de germoplasma y sobre la biotecnología aplicada a los recursos fitogenéticos, así como el establecimiento de un comité asesor que incluya las distintas organizaciones que trabajan en recursos fitogenéticos y la preparación de un plan global de acción que esté en línea con el Plan de Acción Forestal para los Trópicos.

Pero dentro de la importancia que sin duda tienen todos estos acuerdos tomados por la Comisión, deseo destacar, entre todos ellos, recomendaciones que al respecto se hacen de esta interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional, que trata de obviar las reservas que hasta ahora se han presentado.

Svetoslav JTVKOV (Bulgaria): Mi delegación ha estudiado detalladamente los documentos C 89/24 y C 89/LIM/29, y considera que en ellos están reflejados los puntos principales del Compromiso Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos y se da la posibilidad de una discusión constructiva. Nosotros valoramos la gran importancia de la presente y futura utilización de los recursos fitogenéticos para el trabajo selectivo. En relación con esto, quisiéramos mencionar que la colección nacional de Bulgaria contiene más de 40 000 especies genéticas. Con la colaboración de la FAO, en mi país se creó y organizó un instituto nacional, en el cual existen condiciones perfectas para la preservación de los recursos fitogenéticos. Nuestro país está dispuesto a colaborar más estrechamente con la FAO y con los países interesados en el intercambio de recursos fitogenéticos; lógicamente, en condiciones previamente coordinadas.

También nosotros estamos interesados en el intercambio de visitas de expertos científicos que están trabajando en la rama de los recursos fitogenéticos. En cuanto al programa internacional para la formación de especialistas, estamos dispuestos a organizar, con la colaboración de la FAO, cursos para el perfeccionamiento de especialistas de los países en vías de desarrollo.

Quisiéramos también informarles que en los últimos años el Instituto para la Introducción y Recursos de Plantas está cumpliendo proyectos para la recolección e investigación de salvajes parientes de plantas cultivadas en territorio búlgaro, como, por ejemplo, vicia, trifolium, egilops, vitis y prunos.

Señor Presidente, en cuanto al párrafo 5 del documento 89/24, nosotros apoyamos las recomendaciones formuladas por la Comisión y el Consejo en relación con el establecimiento de un sistema mundial de información. También es importante la preparación de un código de conducta para los recolectores internacionales y otro sobre la biotecnología, en cuanto relacionada con los recursos fitogenéticos. Consideramos que con esto se mejorará considerablemente el trabajo en esta rama.

Nuestra delegación apoya el proyecto de resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor. Consideramos que el intercambio futuro de recursos fitogenéticos debe respetar los acuerdos firmados en los distintos órganos internacionales y se debe asegurar un intercambio libre de recursos fitogenéticos.

En conclusión, y a pesar de que la sede del IBPGR no está ahora aquí, en Roma, pensamos que las relaciones con este organismo de la FAO tienen que continuar, porque ello será útil para toda la Organización.

**Fiori jan KOVAC (Yugoslavia):** Mr Chairman, the Yugoslav delegation is very interested in the subject under the review, since Yugoslavia has been the member of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources ever since its establishment and was also a member of the Working Group entrusted with the preparation of the 1987 session. In addition, Yugoslavia joined the International Undertaking this year, and it is currently pursuing a number of related activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my delegation, the satisfaction over the comprehensiveness of the material prepared and analytical approach followed.

I wish to emphasize in particular our appreciation of the fact that this International Undertaking leads to intensified FAO activities in the sphere of plant genetic resources, and to point to the fact that many initial problems were successfully overcome. An increasing number of countries and NGOs displayed their interest in joining the International Undertaking, and as a result of that, the membership in the Commission substantially increased as we were just told here to 122. We are confident that this trend will continue in the future as well.

Mr Chairman, the justification of the FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is becoming increasingly expressed. Therefore, this time again, on behalf of my country's delegation I wish to express our unreserved support to the undertaking and to endorse the Report of the Third Session of the Commission for Plant Genetic Resources.

I especially wish to emphasize our support to the Resolution on Farmers' Rights, which coincides with the objectives of Yugoslavia in this area and constitutes the proper way for the conservation of plant genetic resources as the common heritage of mankind making them available for the usage of and benefitting the present and future generations.

I should like to brief you, Mr Chairman, and all delegates here on the project of plant genetic resources of Yugoslavia. We wish to set up a national programme for plant genetic resources through the establishment of a genes fund and plant genes bank as a federal institution with an international centre for the study of the impact of new bio-technologies on the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. So far, we have undertaken a number of actions. Yugoslavia has prepared a programme for plant genetic resources, elaborated a feasibility study for the construction of a plant genes bank of Yugoslavia, established a commission of the Federal Executive Council for Plant Genetic Resources, made a decision on the construction of the plant genes bank, selected the designer and coordinator, and earmarked a certain amount of money for the work.

We expect FAO assistance and cooperation in our future activities.

**Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh)** : Allow me to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for presenting this excellent document C 89/24 on a very important subject. I should also like to thank the Assistant Director-General for his lucid presentation of the topic.

The document under consideration contains text for an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as approved at the Ninety-Fifth Session of the FAO Council, and the draft resolution on farmers' rights. These have been presented for adoption by the Conference in order to append them to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The document also contains useful background information on the developments leading to formulation of the proposed text and the resolution.

For a country like Bangladesh which has a large population with a limited land area, the importance of plant genetic resources and the need for deriving benefit accruing from research and development in this field through international cooperation does not need to be re-emphasized. My delegation, therefore, commends the continued activities of FAO endeavouring for a global system to coordinate activities in the field of plant genetic resources. We can hardly over-emphasize our concern for collection, conservation and evaluation not only of the cultivated crops and their wild relatives, but also of the non-crop plant species. We must find ways of preserving the plant species along with their genetic diversity for future use within the country as well as worldwide. For dissemination of information for the common benefit of mankind germplasm has to transcend national boundaries. That is why international cooperation is the imperative need here.

**Allan Neal SMITH (Australia)**: Australia places great importance on the preservation of plant genetic resources, as witnessed by the extensive network of centres which we have throughout the country. Nevertheless, Australia did not sign the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources since we have some reservations, particularly with regard to the proposal to give FAO full control of the germplasm collection in adhering countries. Australia also had some concerns about the definition of germplasm that was to be made available; the position of collections not owned by the Australian Government; and the possibility of compulsory contributions to a fund.

Since the International Undertaking was formulated, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has proposed four models, countries being able to select their preferred method of adherence to the Undertaking. This has removed one of the major obstacles to adherence as far as Australia is concerned. However, there are still some reservations.

First, in relation to the type of material available, material in private collections could not be committed by the Australian Government. It should be noted also that the collections in the National Network of Genetic Resource Centres are owned and operated by State Governments. Agreement of the States would be necessary before Australian Government participation in any undertaking could come into effect.

Secondly, Article 8 asks adhering nations to give special consideration to requests for extra funds where necessary to secure the objectives of the Undertaking. Australia could not agree to such contributions being made mandatory.

Thirdly, Australia understands the concerns of developing countries concerning the use of their material by plant breeders, often without payment, but my country considers that this could be better resolved with free exchange of germplasm were the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources to be used rather than the setting up of yet another FAO Fund.

Fourthly, concerning the draft resolution on farmers' rights, the paper before the Conference recognizes the contribution from farmers throughout the world in maintaining plant varieties. It is Australia's view, however, that the term "farmers' rights" is antagonistic to many countries, carrying with it legal complexities and connotations of special rights for one sector of the community. We consider that the title for the resolution would be better as "Recognition of the Contribution of Farmers".

In summary, Australia could endorse the agreed interpretation were the words "Farmers' Rights" to be replaced by other less emotive ones.

Australia could take steps to adhere to the International undertaking on the basis that there is no compulsory contribution to the International Fund, that the material to be made available can be specified, and that the agreed interpretation be annexed to the Undertaking.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La France, qui a adhéré à l'engagement international sur les ressources phylogénétiques en 1984, a exprimé également certaines réserves, comme l'ont fait aussi 28 autres Etats Membres qui ont adhéré à cet engagement.

Nous avons donc suivi avec un grand intérêt l'ensemble des travaux qui se sont déroulés au cours des quatre dernières années en vue d'élargir la participation des Etats Membres et de lever le plus grand nombre possible des réserves exprimées.

La solution proposée à la Conférence, consistant à adopter une interprétation concertée, représente un progrès important et recueille dans son principe l'accord de ma délégation.

En ce qui concerne le contenu du texte proposé à l'Annexe 1 du document C 89/24, la France appuie pleinement le paragraphe a) qui déclare que les droits des obtenteurs tels qu'ils sont reconnus par l'UPOV ne sont pas incompatibles avec l'engagement international.

Ma délégation considère également aussi comme essentiel de mentionner comme c'est le cas dans le paragraphe c) du texte proposé, que ce sont les agriculteurs de toutes les régions du monde qui contribuent à la conservation et à la mise en valeur des ressources phylogénétiques. Ces dernières sont en effet - comme le reconnaît fort justement le projet de résolution - le patrimoine commun de l'humanité.

S'agissant du paragraphe d), ma délégation a deux réserves à présenter.

La première concerne la proposition faite de soumettre au contrôle de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques les modalités de conservation, de gestion et d'utilisation de ces ressources. Le terme de "contrôle" ne me semble pas approprié car il reviendrait à reconnaître un droit de regard sur les activités des Etats Membres à une Commission qui n'a, en fait, qu'un rôle consultatif. Il serait donc préférable de parler d'examen ou d'étude.

Ma seconde observation concerne le Fonds international pour les ressources phytogénétiques, vis-à-vis duquel la France a toujours adopté une attitude réservée, considérant avec d'autres pays qu'il existe par ailleurs de multiples possibilités de financement international pour de telles actions et qu'un fonds spécifique n'est pas indispensable.

Ma délégation souhaite donc que le caractère volontaire des contributions à ce fonds soit maintenu et confirmé.

En adhérant à l'engagement international, il y a maintenant 5 ans, la France avait demandé que soit clairement définie l'articulation entre la FAO et les centres du GCRAI, et plus particulièrement l'IBPGR.

Cette question a été largement débattue tant au sein de notre Organisation que dans le cadre des diverses instances du GCRAI.

Tout récemment encore, et M. Bonté Friedheim le rappelait encore ce matin, il a été convenu de mettre au point un mémorandum d'entente qui définirait les modalités de coopération entre les parties concernées.

La France demeure convaincue de la nécessité de maintenir des liens très étroits entre la FAO et l'IBPGR et elle émet le voeu que le mémorandum d'entente soit établi très rapidement dans cet esprit.

J'en viens maintenant au projet de résolution sur le droit des agriculteurs.

Je ne m'attarderai pas sur les aspects proprement juridiques de cette notion, bien qu'ils aient en eux-mêmes une grande importance. Le métier d'agriculteur répond en effet dans la plupart des pays à une définition précise impliquant des droits et des obligations déterminés par des textes législatifs et réglementaires très différents d'un pays à l'autre.

S'agissant du projet de résolution soumis à la Conférence, il est clair pour ma délégation que le terme d'"agriculteurs" doit être entendu au sens le plus large, c'est-à-dire s'adressant de la manière la plus générale aux hommes et aux femmes de tous les pays et des générations tant passées que futures qui cultivent la terre pour leur subsistance ou pour se procurer un revenu.

Il est bien difficile aujourd'hui de dire d'une manière générale et définitive que le mérite d'avoir fourni les ressources génétiques actuellement exploitées revient très précisément à tel pays, telle région ou telle catégorie de pays. Qui peut le dire?

La notion essentielle dans ce domaine est celle d'un patrimoine commun de l'humanité qu'il convient de préserver et d'utiliser dans l'intérêt des générations présentes et futures.

Dans ce contexte, ma délégation estime qu'il conviendrait de revoir la rédaction du considérant b) du projet de résolution car le texte actuel fait un amalgame entre deux notions très différentes:

- d'une part celle de l'origine des ressources phytogénétiques,
- d'autre part celle des besoins particuliers des pays en développement pour leur permettre de tirer le meilleur parti des ressources phytogénétiques.

Je disais il y a un instant qu'il est difficile de savoir d'où proviennent les ressources génétiques. Si l'on se penche sur les décennies et les siècles passés, beaucoup d'experts ont des difficultés à savoir d'où elles proviennent effectivement.



S'agissant des besoins particuliers des pays en développement, cette notion tout à fait légitime et qu'appuie la France, est en fait exprimée très clairement dans le considérant c) qui traite spécialement de ce sujet.

Ma délégation propose donc que le considérant b) soit rédigé d'une manière plus claire, qui pourrait être: "ces ressources proviennent souvent de pays différents de ceux qui les ont utilisées pour développer leur agriculture".

La délégation française tient à exprimer le vœu que sur ce projet de résolution, comme sur l'interprétation concertée, la Conférence puisse aboutir à un consensus car il s'agit d'une question vitale pour la Communauté internationale.

Enfin, je voudrais indiquer à la Conférence la position prise par la France au Comité de l'Agriculture en ce qui concerne les ressources génétiques animales car ces deux points avaient été évoqués de façon assez jointe.

Il s'agit d'un domaine essentiel dans lequel il importe de développer les activités de la FAO mais qui, sur le plan scientifique et technique, fait appel à une expertise et à des pratiques très différentes de celles utilisées pour les ressources phylogénétiques.

C'est la raison pour laquelle la délégation française estime qu'il ne serait pas opportun d'élargir aux ressources génétiques animales le mandat de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et qu'il est préférable de chercher à mettre en place des dispositions adaptées aux problèmes posés par la conservation et la mise en valeur des ressources génétiques animales.

**MA GENG-OU (China) (original language Chinese)** : Document 89/24 provides us with a unified interpretation of certain Articles on the International Agreement. This is the result of a common effort on the part of participants at meetings of the Committees on Agriculture and the Council. This document not only recognizes the rights of breeders and farmers with regard to the use of plant genetic resources, but it is also stressed that free access does not mean free access. The use of this material should be based upon a principle of reciprocity. This interpretation upholds the principle of freer access, whilst it also takes account of the rights and duties of those providing material and technology, and does away with the discrepancies and differences between the language and policy. This interpretation provides a base to allow us to move towards a more general acceptance of the Understanding. The Chinese delegation would like the present Conference to adopt the interpretation of the Document and the Resolutions and it will make a contribution in this effort.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India)**: The subject as brought out in the documentation of this Agenda has been discussed in extenso in the Intergovernmental Commission, and also the Ninety-fifth Council. What we have before us now is the agreed text of the interpretation on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for consideration and adoption.

India has already agreed to adhere to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which provides the legal framework to ensure conservation, use and unrestricted availability of plant genetic resources. We believe in the genetic diversity being the common heritage of the entire mankind, to be used for the benefit of society as a whole. We consider the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking as an important development in the direction of wider acceptance for adherence to this undertaking.

India considers the recognition of the principle of farmers' rights as a significant achievement of the Third Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. India has already agreed to be a member of the FAO network of base collections, and will continue to extend the necessary support to the base collection activities under FAO's proposed legal network, subject to our adherence to the Model D, with slight modifications already communicated. For in situ conservation efforts are being made in India for the creation of biosphere reserves and gene sanctuaries. These efforts will be further intensified with the possible support of FAO, IUCN, UNEP, and other international organizations.

We are however, concerned that future biotechnologies might become subject to intellectual property rights which may have adverse implications for the undertaking. FAO should closely monitor the new evolving biotechnologies, to keep the developing countries informed of progress in this field and to facilitate their use to advance sustainable agriculture in their marginal ecosystem. We, therefore, support the Resolution of the Commission for a Code of Conduct to be developed for biotechnology.

India is a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the Working Group, as well as the Council. It is in complete agreement with the two texts under consideration.

Finally, we commend both these drafts relating to the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking and the draft Resolution regarding farmers' rights for adoption without any modification by the Conference.

Doddy SURACHMAN SUKADRI (Indonesia): The Indonesian delegation would like to inform you that we have signed the International Undertaking Base Collection. In this connection, we have decided to take Category D as our choice, based on the reality that Indonesia is blessed as one of the richest countries of genetic resources. Therefore, we have a responsibility to maintain and control the genetic resources on a sustained basis.

Indonesia also fully supports FAO in initiating steps towards animal genetic resources.

Indonesia recognizes the importance of plant and animal genetic resources for sustainable development and for the future of mankind. Indonesia is also aware of the species richness of the tropical rain forests. Accordingly, we have designated 18.8 hectares of forest for nature conservation and 30.3 million hectares as protection forests. A special directorate general has been established in the Ministry of Forestry to take care of the forest, namely the Directorate General for Nature Conservation and Forest Protection.

To conclude, our delegation would like to express our appreciation for, and full support of, the concept of farmers' rights which basically would enhance the role of farmers towards genetic resource utilization and sustainability.

Barviz VOJDANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): Firstly, I should like to thank you for giving the floor to the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As you know, the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the countries that has formally accepted the regulations of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources since about four years ago. However, this Agreement certainly does not mean that we forgot the breeders' and farmers' rights. In fact, we deeply believe in the main goals of the International undertaking on

Plant Genetic Resources, concerning the exploration, collection, conservation, evaluation and utilization of the common heritage of mankind, and we have high respect for the breeders' rights as the technical users of the plant genetic resources and producers of new improved genotypes, as well as for farmers' rights, which have been arising from very ancient times.

My delegation greatly appreciates and thanks the Commission, its relevant working Group and also the Council for proposing, amending and approving the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking with the reviews for overcoming the difficulties raised by different states, and the complementary draft Resolution, the the Appendices to document C 89/24.

On behalf of my delegation, I should like to present a short statement about the present situation of plant genetic resources, and its relevant activities and difficulties in our country.

As you know, Iran is a relatively large and geographically variable country. It is also located in one of the most important and strategic centres of origin and/or diversity for very many plant species. Fortunately, this makes our country one of the richest countries for valuable plant genetic resources. However, previous activities on different aspects of plant genetic resources have, unfortunately, been considerably restricted and limited. It is also very sad to say that various erratic factors are affecting this valuable human heritage at tremendously high rates and causing them to be in very severe danger of extinction in this particular part of the world.

My delegation is glad to express its deep thanks to God for providing us with such a valuable natural wealth in the country, and our appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their high consideration and specific attention to the plant genetic resources activities during the last five years.

We can now claim that, due to the special attention of our Government, considerable technical assistance by the IBPGR and specifically the continuous and unceasing activities and attempts of the staff of the National Plant Genebank of Iran, we have a solid base and very efficient potentiality for genetic resources activity through a national network system in our country.

A large number of agriculturalists, including research staff, extension service and agricultural cooperative members, students of agricultural colleges and schools are assisting the National Plant Genebank of Iran, especially for the exploration and collection of plant genetic resources. It is clear that this huge national network system could not be successful without specific attention and investment on training and equipping the National Plant Genebank at both national and international levels.

Since, with regard to my previous words, we made serious and extended attempts at investment at national level, on behalf of my delegation I would like to draw FAO's attention and ask for very considerable investment, both financial and technical assistance, in our country by IBPGR and/or any other organization, especially UNDP. We are suggesting that an IBPGR office be established in Iran to assist us in the collection of wild species. We are also requesting considerable assistance on biotechnology at the service of our National Plant Genebank, as well as our plant breeding activities.

José TUBNO (Canada): Since Canada is one of those countries which did not express its views on this topic in the last Council, because we needed time to carry on consultations in Canada on this important topic, we very much appreciate the opportunity we have here now in this Commission to share with you the results of the consultations in Canada.

Mr Chairman, Canada is encouraged with the progress reached in the Agreed Interpretation of the undertaking. We believe this progress is a step forward towards the development of a universal system for the preservation of plant genetic diversity. The Agreed Interpretation of the Undertaking is particularly relevant considering that much of the future research for the development of new agricultural varieties and pharmaceutical products for the benefit of mankind, depends upon the acceptance of a plant genetic resource conservation system. In the spirit of participating in the creative process evolving from the discussion of this topic in the Conference, the Canadian delegation would like to contribute with some substantive comments.

Because plant genetic resource conservation and utilization are interdependent activities, the legal framework provided by the International undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources has to take into account the requirements which are indispensable for safeguarding conservational activities, while also encouraging plant breeding. Without the application of scientific knowledge, technology and financial investment to plant genetic resources, these resources are of little use to solve the pressing problems and challenges facing agriculture, medicine and other disciplines. In recognition of this concept, Mr Chairman, is that the Canadian delegation welcomes the acceptance of plant breeders' rights in the International undertaking. At the same time, we recognize also the importance of providing support to developing nations for strengthening their capacity to carry on national plant breeding programmes, especially in the centres of genetic diversity.

Mr Chairman, there is an important substantive detail that requires consideration in the International Undertaking to enhance its universal character. Countries around the world with plant breeding programmes are constantly developing breeder lines, which are germplasm in the process of being developed and therefore not covered by breeders rights. We consider that, in order to improve the transparency of the legal framework, the special situation of breeders lines should be made explicit in the Agreed Interpretation of the undertaking. Therefore, the Canadian delegation would like to propose that point B of the Agreed Interpretation should read as follows : "A state may impose only such minimum restrictions on the free exchange of materials covered by Article 2.1(a) of the International Undertaking as are necessary for it to conform to its national and international obligations" and we would like to add a sentence here, such as "germplasm that is being actively developed in plant breeding programme and that, therefore, is not covered by plant breeding rights". This is of course only a temporary restriction designed to continue encouraging plant breeding in the world. Considering that the International Undertaking is based on the accepted principle that plant genetic resources are a heritage of mankind, set out in Article one, we also hope that no country would use point B of the Agreed Interpretation as an escape clause to arbitrarily block exchanges of other material, such as cultivated varieties, landraces, wild varieties and widely available special genetic stocks.

Regarding the concept of farmers rights, Canada subscribes to its fundamental principles. We certainly recognize the elements on which the draft resolution is based. Nevertheless, we believe that some of the language used in the elaboration of the resolution could lend itself to different

interpretations. For instance the name given to the concept does not seem specific enough. we all know that farmers have many rights, but which rights are we referring to in this resolution? To enhance the definition of the concept, we would like to propose that its name be better qualified as "Farmers Genetic Rights".

The conservation of plant genetic resources is a complex process involving many actors and diverse methods and techniques. Hence, we concur with the statement made in point B in the first part of the resolution, where the need to strengthen training and plant survey and identification facilities in developing countries for genetic resource conservation is recognized. In light of this concept and of Article one of the Undertaking, we would like to propose that point B of the endorsed text be amended to read: "to assist qualified groups engaged in genetic resource conservation in all regions of the world" which we believe world include farmers, but also those groups which are assistant farmers, to carry on with this particular activity. Then at the end of that paragraph we would like this language: "in the protection and conservation of plant genetic resources".

Mr Chairman, Canada considers that a universal system for the conservation of plant genetic resources has to be realistic. Most farmers conserve and improve plant germplasm basically for their own needs, not with the goal of conserving plant genetic resources as we understand the term today. It is therefore difficult to clearly understand what the resolution means when it refers to the concept of "supporting the continuation of their (farmers) contributions" in the endorsing paragraph. Surely we support the work of trusted experts, particularly the work of the FAO, the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) and of many national programmes, to best assist farmers and farming communities in the protection and conservation of plant genetic resources. Perhaps the statement in this sentence should not be limited to the efforts of farmers alone but better reflect the collective effort that, in reality, takes place and that is inquired. We consider that the words "ensuring full benefits to farmers, and supporting the continuation of plant genetic resource conservation" better embodies the essence of the concept.

Finally, we would like to state our agreement with the recommendations of the Expert Consultation on Animal Genetic Resources that took place in FAO last September. We would also like to express our support to the statement just made by the distinguished delegate of France regarding the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between FAO and the IBPGR.

**Mme Maria de Lourdes DUARTE (Cap-Vert):** Merci, Monsieur le Président. Permettez-nous tout d'abord d'exprimer notre reconnaissance au Secrétariat de nous avoir préparé un document simultanément complet et concis, ainsi qu'à M. Bonte-Friedheim pour sa brillante présentation. L'interprétation concertée qui nous est soumise, reconnaissant légitimement les droits tant des donateurs de matériels génétiques que des donateurs de fonds et de technologie à un dédommagement, devrait conduire à un état tel que les réserves émises et les difficultés présentées n'auraient plus de raison d'être.

Mon pays, représenté au sein du groupe de travail et aussi membre de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques, a suivi attentivement le processus et a eu l'occasion de s'exprimer à cet égard à d'autres reprises au sein de ces organes. Toutefois, le moment venu ma délégation aimerait apporter son

plein soutien à l'interprétation concertée de l'engagement international et au projet de résolution sur les droits des agriculteurs tels qu'ils figurent aux annexes 1 et 2 du document C 89/24, et elle estime qu'ils doivent être annexés à l'engagement.

Avant de terminer, nous aimerions aussi vous faire part de notre appui sur l'idée de résolution annoncée par l'Espagne, portant sur l'interprétation concertée de l'engagement.

Victor Eduardo **MACHINEA (Argentina)**: Bueno, esto ha sido negociado a través de mucho tiempo. Por lo tanto, mi delegación apoya los textos de la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional y del Proyecto de Resolución sobre los Derechos del Agricultor, y que se incorporen como anexos al Compromiso Internacional Sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Pero deseamos que su seguimiento, por supuesto, quede en el ámbito de la FAO. Solicitamos que esta tarea realizada en fitogenéticos se extienda al ámbito de los recursos zoogenéticos, como oportunamente lo señaláramos.

**Bernd VON SYDOW (Genteny, Federal Republic of)** (original language Genran):

The German delegation welcomes the efforts of FAO to coordinate and promote the maintenance and utilization of plant genetic resources. We welcome all efforts, that they as the inheritance of mankind be made usable and available worldwide. No doubt the maintenance and the utilization of genetic resources urgently needs international cooperation. The access to the existing genetic diversity and the availability of for example, the biotechnological methods for maintenance and breeding are a most important pre-requirement for the biological contribution to the solving of the world hunger problems.

It is a credit to FAO, and in particular to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and the interpretation which we have in the document before us has been set up as a basis for fruitful international cooperation. In the light of the very different interests and circumstances, it was not easy to achieve this. We are of the opinion that the interpretation which we now have will facilitate the agreement of more countries with the International undertaking and will thus raise the efficiency of the global FAO system.

The International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which is supposed to protect the legitimate interests of plant breeders, takes account of the general interests in the availability of these genetic resources. At the same time it provides a basis for effective private plant breeding. Therefore, we welcome and support that part of the Interpretation which says: "Plant breeder's rights as provided under UPOV are not incompatible with the International Undertaking".

The fact that generations of farmers in both developing countries and developed countries have established with the development of primitive varieties a basis for subsequent uses is not something which anyone would disagree with. Thus it is also farmers who should benefit in the future. It will not be possible in the future either to quantify the contribution which has been made by different parts of the world.

It seems to us that it is important and correct to stress that the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources can only be one means for promoting the maintenance and utilization of plant genetic resources. The past has shown that existing institutions and programmes can contribute very

effectively to improving genetic resources. The approach should therefore also in the future be flexible in order to make best use of available financial resources. The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany is prepared to contribute further in accordance with its abilities.

Finally, the work of FAO in the area of the maintenance of plant genetic resources certainly requires further support on the part of a scientific institution. We hope that also in the future effective cooperation between the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources and FAO will be assured.

Tammie SJOBERG (Sweden): On this Agenda Item 9 I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

On behalf of our delegations I would like to express our appreciation of the fact that the question of plant genetic resources has been given continued attention in the overall work of FAO. In this way FAO has focused on the necessity of further strengthening activities pertaining to collection and exchange of plant genetic resources for scientific purposes and use in plant breeding programmes, in order to improve agricultural development and food security. Furthermore FAO has focused worldwide attention on the most important subject of conservation of plant genetic resources to ensure their availability for future generations. This gives evidence of the important role FAO continues to play in this area, namely to promote international cooperation to ensure that all nations are in a position to exploit the benefits of plant genetic resources in a sustainable way.

The Nordic countries attach great importance to these questions. This is documented by the fact that the Nordic countries jointly operate a Nordic Genebank located in the south of Sweden serving the whole region since 1979. The Nordic Genebank also actively cooperates with the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, and has international responsibility for some major genoplasm collections. Furthermore, the Nordic countries are taking part in, and supporting on a cost-sharing basis, a 20-year project aimed at establishing a SADCC Regional Gene Bank.

The Nordic countries have taken an active part in the discussions on the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. The governments of the Nordic countries have also adhered to the Undertaking. However, we have agreed to the Undertaking with reservation as to Article 2.1 (a) (v). The reason for this reservation was the potential inconsistency with the principle of plant breeders' rights. The Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and its Working Group have analysed such reservations, which we share with other countries.

The Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has elaborated and proposed an interpretation of the Undertaking. We would like to thank the Chairman and the members of the Working Group for the work they have undertaken on this matter. Their work provides a basis for an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking.

The Nordic countries consider the proposed agreement to be a well-balanced text, taking into consideration the concerns both of countries with an established private plant breeding industry and developing countries whose plant resources are not privately owned.

The wording of section (b) of the proposed agreed Interpretation solves our problems with the present wording of article 2.1 (a) of the Undertaking as it seems to be compatible with the principle of breeders' rights and thus excludes free access to property from private sources. If proposals (a), (b) and (c) will be agreed upon, the Nordic countries are now prepared to withdraw their reservation regarding the International Undertaking.

As to proposal (d), the Nordic countries share the intentions behind this proposal.

We agree with the need to find ways to strengthen scientific efforts in plant genetic resources in a manner that helps farmers, particularly those who are economically or ecologically underprivileged in developing countries.

At the same time, the Nordic countries are concerned about current threats to global plant genetic resources. A concerted effort is needed to enable financially poor and genetically rich areas to ensure the survival of the genetic heritage. This should include measures at both the international and the national level, including adequate mechanisms for financial transfers from those who benefit from the exploitation of biological diversity to the owners and the managers of biological resources.

The International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources is proposed to be one such mechanism. We doubt, however, that a fund like this will attract the additional resources needed to secure for developing countries a more equitable share of the profit from the exploitation of genetic resources.

The Nordic countries are prepared to accept the wording of proposal (d), while taking into consideration our reservation regarding the International Fund.

The concept of farmers' rights has been much discussed. The discussions have shown that there is a feeling that such a concept is valid, but there is different understanding of what should be comprised by this concept. However, the Working Group has put forward a proposal for a definition of the concept. In our opinion, the proposed definition is well-balanced. The Nordic countries are prepared to accept the proposed definition and to support the draft resolution on this matter.

Although there are signs of positive development, much more needs to be done. We believe that a fruitful way of achieving further progress would be to supply information and raise awareness of the importance of conservation and improved use of plant genetic resources. In this context, the proposed report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources could prove very valuable. In carrying out this work, FAO should make efforts to ensure that this study also will contain information from countries which are not able to become members of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

Finally, the Nordic countries have advised the Secretariat previously that they are prepared to adhere to an International Network of Base Collections in Gene Banks. To this end, the Nordic countries are in a position to consider the proposed model (c), modified after consultations. We are waiting for the Secretariat to initiate consultations on this matter with the Nordic countries.



J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America): The United States delegation would like to compliment the FAO Secretariat on seeking to accommodate member-country concerns in the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. We regard this issue of the utmost importance, and we appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat.

The recognition of plant breeders' rights is appreciated. As a country with an active plant breeding programme, it is important that special genetic stocks, including elite and current breeders' lines and mutants, be protected in accordance with the UPOV Convention.

Regarding the question of rights, which has been discussed by other delegations, we in the United States delegation are not certain why plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights are being discussed together. Our recollection is that most countries which had difficulties with the International Undertaking were concerned with the former, not the latter, yet the proposals before us focus much of their attention on farmers' rights. Under the present system, plant breeders' rights do not come into effect prior to a patenting process. In our view, similar protection must be accorded to germplasm that is being actively developed.

Paragraph (d) raises several questions. The definition of activities to be supported by the International Fund appears to extend beyond the domain of plant genetic resources. There are basic FAO IBPGR responsibilities which must be specified. In addition, there are other jurisdictional concerns relating to the coordination of base collections and adoption of genebank management standards which are not addressed in the agreed Interpretation. The definition of "free access" may raise more questions than it clarifies. We raise the question: is it meant to allow genetic resource centres to recover normal handling expenses, or does it suggest that additional charges may be imposed?

Finally, regarding the draft resolution on farmers' rights, we support the proposed changes offered by the delegate from Canada.

Noboru SAITO (Japan) : My country had already expressed the view in the June Council session that the proposal for an agreed Interpretation of the International Undertaking constituted progress. Under these circumstances, we are now still considering participation with the Commission and adhering to the Undertaking.

Chang Hyuk SUH (Ehrea, Republic of): To begin with, the delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express its support for the recommendations made by the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and endorsed by the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council, the establishment of Global Information and Early Warning Systems, suggestions for the establishment of the Advisory Committee to the Commission, and especially for the adoption of an agreed-upon interpretation of the International Undertaking and draft resolution on farmers' rights.

As noted in Appendix 1, document C 89/24, the rights of germplasm donors, donors of funds and technology should be compensated through a formulated mechanism. Also the benefits should be limited to countries adhering to the International Undertaking.

In the viewpoint that Plant Genetic Resources are a common heritage of mankind to be preserved, the draft resolution of farmers' rights can contribute to assist farmers and farming communities in the protection and conservation of their plant genetic resources. Moreover, the farmers in the areas of diversity of plant genetic resources are needed to be assisted. Especially financial support for preserving genetic resources should be considered by the nations concerned as well as international organizations. In Korea, as there had remained a typical agricultural society for several thousand years up to very recently, many valuable genetic resources are still preserved.

However, along with the rapid economic growth and successful dissemination of newly developed varieties, most indigenous crop species including wild and closely related species are rapidly disappearing or have already reached extinction. Fortunately, the Korean Government established the Seed Management Division under the Rural Development Administration in 1976. Thereafter, integrated and systematic exploitation and conservation of crop genetic resources were implemented.

Nowadays, over 90 000 seed samples out of 133 crop species are under conservation. A new international standard scale RDA Gene Bank was constructed in 1988 and a UNDP Project for the strengthening of RDA's plant germplasm resources was begun from early this year.

Though the UNDP project for the strengthening of RDA plant germplasm resources would increase the seed sample numbers of major cultivating crops and enhance the systematized gene bank management skills, there still remains collecting some crops, medicinal herbs, wild varieties of crop species which are endemic to the Korean peninsula, and a need for more technical biological knowledge for modern sense of gene bank management.

At the same time, much easier and more reliable methods for both preservation and utilization, including the creation of new valuable variants from the exploited materials, are to be studied.

In this respect, the Republic of Korea would like to propose a "'90/'91 FAO/TCP project on Collection, Preservation, Evaluation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources". We look forward to FAO's positive support for this Project.

Ali ARHOUMA (Libya) (original language Arabic): My delegation considers plant genetic resources as being an area for international cooperation. We consider that one of the major challenges facing mankind is precisely the development of plant genetic resources, and the problems facing developing countries vary greatly from those facing developed countries. For example, in my country, we have difficulties in finding cereals able to resist salinity and drought. That is why we think that this sector would be of benefit for our country, and also the regional cooperation between the countries of the Maghreb for the establishment of a gene bank could be effective, in particular if the bank could have FAO assistance.

We think that FAO's role for the safeguarding of phylogenetic material is very important, crucial in fact, and I think the countries can benefit from the experience of FAO in this field.

Libya wishes to support the rights of breeders and farmers in the production of these new plants for coming generations, in particular since it is a new sector. Libya is of the opinion that the IUPGR is a very good thing and we also share the view that there is the need to protect plant genetic resources for coming generations.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua): Nuestra Delegación considera de gran valor los avances a que llegó la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos en su tercera reunión, de abril de este año, cuyo informe tuvimos oportunidad de estudiar en el 95<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo, en junio pasado. Consideramos también y agradecemos la excelente presentación que la Secretaría nos ha hecho del documento que nos ocupa.

Al intervenir sobre este tema en ocasión del Consejo, señalábamos nuestra aceptación a los conceptos planteados y nuestra aprobación a presentar a la Conferencia, para su aprobación, los textos de la interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional y del proyecto de resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor.

Creemos que es sumamente importante que el Compromiso Internacional sea adoptado sin reservas por el mayor número de países. Sólo así logrará cumplir a cabalidad su objetivo y asegurar la utilización adecuada y equitativa de los recursos fitogenéticos y su conservación.

Es sabido que los países en desarrollo, poseedores de la mayor parte de estos recursos, hemos sufrido durante siglos la extracción indiscriminada de nuestros recursos, sin que después tengamos ni siquiera acceso al resultado de su producto mejorado. Estamos seguros de que la FAO debe continuar jugando un papel pionero como garante de un trato equitativo en el uso y conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos y en la transferencia de tecnologías a los países en desarrollo que permitan a estos países una utilización adecuada de los mismos.

Reiteramos, señor Presidente, que los recursos fitogenéticos deben ser patrimonio universal bajo normación internacional que asegure un adecuado aprovechamiento y una adecuada distribución a todos los países.

La conservación de los recursos genéticos y su libre intercambio no deben ser objeto de manipulación política, económica o social bajo ninguna circunstancia.

Creemos que se debe incrementar el apoyo financiero a los países en desarrollo en capacitación para el buen manejo, conservación y evaluación de los recursos genéticos. Se hace necesario que se revierta la corriente, que los países desarrollados pongan a disposición de los países en desarrollo los recursos genéticos que han obtenido durante décadas. Se debe incrementar también la cooperación entre países en desarrollo en esta área.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, nuestra Delegación desea dejar constancia de su apoyo a la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos y al Proyecto de Resolución sobre los Derechos del Agricultor, que reconoce finalmente el papel que han jugado los agricultores de nuestros países en la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): The Government of Brazil views with great interest the FAO's activities in the area of plant genetic resources. Concern with the preservation and the integrity of genetic resources is clearly laid down in the 1988 Constitution's chapter on the environment and a modern and efficient infrastructure has been set up to that effect. Accordingly, we have followed closely the activities of the system that the Organization has been developing since the 23rd Conference in this field.

As regards the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, there are still some outstanding issues. The Undertaking has wide legal, financial and even ethical implications which require close scrutiny. Brazilian legislation on scientific expeditions is currently under review. A new law will establish the parameters for the conduction of scientific missions. Moreover, there are some lingering doubts about the possibility of a fair deal being struck, solely by reference to the Undertaking, between the interests of germplasm donors, breeders, farmers, and supporters.

However, in recognition of the importance of international cooperation in this area, Brazilian authorities are considering the possibility of adhering to the Undertaking, and of participating in an international network of base collections in gene banks. In any case, respect for sovereignty and the need to maintain the necessary flexibility to deal with requests on a case-by-case basis are fundamental concerns for Brazil. Thus, specifically with regard to the arrangements outlined in document CPGR/87/6 for such participation, model "D" appears, in principle, to be the most suitable.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): The objectives of the Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources is to ensure the free availability of genetic resources worldwide for the further improvement of crops. The Netherlands Government supports the view that genetic resources should be seen as a "Heritage of Mankind" handed to us by previous generations and held in trust to conserve for the future. The delegation of the Netherlands is encouraged by recent discussions in the Commission on Genetic Resources supported by its Working Group.

The acceptance that Plant Breeders Rights protection in no way interferes with the availability of protected cultivars as a resource for further breeding is an important step forward. Similarly the interpretation of "special genetic stocks" is becoming more realistic.

The Netherlands, as a member of the Working Group of the Commission has contributed to the formulation of a draft resolution on Farmers' Rights as in Appendix 2.

It fully supports the notion that such a right should include: the need that conservation of landraces be globally recognized and that sufficient funds for these purposes will be available; secondly, the need to assist farmers and farming communities in all regions of the world, but especially in the areas of origin or diversity of plant genetic resources, in the protection and conservation of their plant genetic resources, and of the natural biosphere; and thirdly, the need to allow farmers, their communities, and countries in all regions, to participate fully in the benefits derived at present and in the future from improved use of plant genetic resources through plant breeding and other scientific methods.

This represents a real agreement. The need for genetic conservation is accepted by the Netherlands as a worldwide responsibility. The Netherlands provides active support through its own Centre for Genetic Resources, adhering to the principles of the Undertaking. Furthermore, it provides financial support to the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources. While also in bilateral assistance genetic conservation is receiving attention.

In conclusion, we can say that we fully support the draft resolutions on the agreed interpretation and on farmers' rights.

The need for an International Fund for Genetic Resources is accepted. However, questions remain as to the most suitable form of governance of such a Fund in view of developments in other agencies involved in the conservation of biodiversity. These developments are under review, and the Netherlands Government is not yet able to make a clear commitment.

Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal): Monsieur le Président, intervenant pour la première fois dans cette Commission, je voudrais en profiter pour vous féliciter de votre nomination ainsi que de la façon dont vous conduisez les débats.

J'en profite aussi pour saluer le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui sont à la base de nos travaux.

Le Portugal a toujours donné son appui à l'action de la FAO à propos du système mondial sur les ressources phylogénétiques.

Nous considérons qu'il s'agit d'un sujet de grande importance au niveau mondial pour lequel tous les pays doivent être concernés quels que soient leurs niveaux de développement, leurs potentialités économiques et techniques.

La récolte, la conservation, la distribution et l'utilisation des ressources phylogénétiques constituent aujourd'hui un ensemble de préoccupations qui nous concernent tous et en premier lieu les agriculteurs dont le travail doit être dirigé.

Il y a peu d'années on disait que le monde serait dominé par ceux qui auraient les ressources phylogénétiques et non les armements. Nous pensons ainsi qu'il est dangereux qu'un matériel si important pour toute l'humanité soit mis à la disposition, ainsi que géré et distribué seulement par quelques-uns, car ils restreignent l'utilisation de ressources qui doivent être considérées comme un patrimoine commun de toute l'humanité.

Récolter et conserver les ressources phylogénétiques est aujourd'hui une tâche très importante. Beaucoup de ces ressources existent cependant dans des pays qui ne possèdent pas la technique nécessaire pour effectuer cette tâche.

La communauté internationale doit collaborer à ce travail de récolte et de distribution car l'avance de la désertification, le surpâturage, les feux de brousse, l'agriculture intensive, sont en train de détruire beaucoup de ces ressources phylogénétiques.

Nous ne devons cependant pas oublier que les pays où ces ressources existent doivent avoir le droit de les utiliser à partir des centres de récolte et de conservation.

Mon pays pense qu'on doit créer des centres de stockage et de distribution écologiquement répartis dans le monde; et il n'accepte pas que nos ressources puissent être concentrées en un seul centre.

Mon pays accepte et recommande cependant qu'une certaine coopération existe entre les centres de façon telle que l'utilisation des ressources phytogénétiques soit appropriée.

Le Portugal a participé à des actions internationales sur ce sujet et a même fourni du matériel utilisé sur son territoire. Le Portugal a déjà des centres phytogénétiques alimentés par ses propres récoltes ou par des échanges avec d'autres pays.

Je veux dire pour finir que mon pays a contribué avec ses ressources dans le domaine des lupinus et d'autres protéagineuses, des céréales, notamment du blé, du seigle et de l'orge; du trifolium, du trèfle souterrain et des graminées pour les pâturages.

José Ramón LOPEZ PORTILLO) ROMANO (Mexico): Agradecemos, señor Presidente, a la Secretaría de la FAO por el excelente documento que ha puesto a nuestra disposición para la realización de nuestros trabajos.

La delegación de México, señor Presidente, recoge con gran beneplácito los resultados de la Tercera Reunión de la Comisión, que fue positiva y constructiva y que llevó finalmente al triunfo de la moderación, de la cooperación y del compromiso. La importancia de los recursos fitogenéticos para todos los países resulta evidente en el desarrollo de todos los campos de la agricultura, de la silvicultura, de la seguridad alimentaria y de la conservación del medio ambiente y el desarrollo económico viable.

En materia de recursos fitogenéticos ningún país puede pretender ser autosuficiente y la cooperación internacional, por tanto, resulta una necesidad vital, ya que todos los países eventualmente son donantes de recursos fitogenéticos, de recursos financieros, y a la vez receptores también de recursos fitogenéticos y de recursos financieros relativos.

Pero, señor Presidente, hay una tendencia creciente en el mundo a ver los problemas de la erosión genética, los problemas ecológicos, los problemas del medio ambiente, como aquéllos en donde se deben establecer o imponer restricciones que, ciertamente, tienen efectos diferentes y desiguales entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo, porque los países desarrollados pueden pagar y pueden, quizá, realizar correcciones a sus modelos de desarrollo industrial y económico; pero para los países en desarrollo la implicación de un control y de una restricción en el uso de sus recursos implica una limitación grave para su desarrollo.

Evidentemente, una de las grandes preocupaciones en un mundo que se ve cada vez más restringido por el impacto contaminador que está teniendo la naturaleza y por tanto en su viabilidad misma, es el de cómo distribuir las cargas, de un ataque, un contrataque a este proceso. Tememos, señor Presidente, que muchos países están pensando que resulta mucho más barato controlar, restringir y hasta castigar a los países en desarrollo que hacen uso de sus recursos o que por su desarrollo crean efectos indeseables, porque esa estrategia les parece a muchos, en el corto plazo, mucho más barata; pero si observamos los efectos de castigos y restricciones implícitas o explícitas a nuestros países y el resultado sobre el medio ambiente, la preservación de la diversidad biológica, etc, creo que esa estrategia está condenada a

fracasar. Y en un mundo como éste que debe retomar una idea vieja, pero vigente, de cuando se planteó la necesidad de un nuevo orden económico internacional; es decir, que tal orden tenía implicaciones positivas para todos los países y era de beneficio mutuo.

Creo que en lo que se refiere a los problemas relativos a la diversidad biológica, y en este caso a la erosión genética, y a la necesidad de su conservación, estamos hablando de un problema cuya solución es de beneficio mutuo, y que, por tanto, exige cooperación y distribución equitativa de las cargas que implica reconocer la desigualdad entre los países. Decimos esto, señor Presidente, con el ánimo de apoyar la labor pionera de la FAO que se viene realizando desde 1947 y, en particular, la importancia y congruencia del sistema global de la FAO desarrollado a partir de 1983, que comprende el Compromiso Internacional como marco legal, la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos como foro intergubernamental y el Fondo Internacional, como mecanismo financiero.

Se han dado muy importantes avances y los debates durante este período de sesiones nos llenan de ánimo por el apoyo extraordinario que ha tenido el Compromiso internacional que quizás, comparado con otros compromisos o acuerdos similares, ha recibido una sustentación mayoritaria de todos los Estados Miembros.

Ciertamente ha habido problemas de interpretación y consideramos que éstos han sido recogidos y sustancialmente resueltos en la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso. Por la importancia de ese documento aparecido en el Apéndice 1 del documento C 89/24, apoyamos plenamente y con entusiasmo la propuesta de la delegación de España de que se incluya tal Apéndice, tal interpretación, como una Resolución sujeta a aprobación de nuestra Conferencia.

Varias delegaciones han expresado preocupación en torno a los derechos del obtentor, y consideramos que ese asunto ha sido revisado exhaustivamente, y que quizás lo dicho en la página 7 del documento 89/24 mencionado en el párrafo a) relativo a que los derechos del obtentor tal como están contemplados por la UPOV no son incompatibles con el compromiso internacional, les pueda tranquilizar y coincidir el que la interpretación cumple o satisface sus preocupaciones.

Por otra parte, la delegación de México desea apoyar también la Resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor, porque considera que en el esquema de compromiso y de cooperación internacional necesario para hacer viable el desarrollo no sólo de una parte de la humanidad sino de toda, porque toda está comprometida, es fundamental entender que tales derechos, implican un mecanismo de cooperación y de distribución equitativa de las cargas a fin de que los países en desarrollo no se vean castigados en sus perspectivas de desarrollo, que puedan explotar ampliamente sus recursos en beneficio de sus generaciones presentes y futuras, pero también sin deteriorar las condiciones futuras del desarrollo de esos países y de toda la humanidad.

Debemos también dejar bien claro que no hemos estado discutiendo, y que no se podría aceptar que se discutiera de nuevo el compromiso internacional, sino exclusivamente la Interpretación Concertada al mismo; y pedimos por tanto a todas las delegaciones que dejen saber muy claramente que están hablando exclusivamente de la Interpretación Concertada, tema de nuestro programa.

Para terminar, deseamos enlistar simplemente los apoyos de nuestra delegación a diversas actividades de la FAO en ese sentido. Uno a la publicación periódica sobre el Estado Mundial de los Recursos Fitogenéticos, que ha servido y seguramente servirá de base a las discusiones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos. Apoyamos el establecimiento del Sistema Global de Información y del Sistema de Alerta Rápida, según el Artículo 7 del Compromiso. También la Red de Colecciones Base bajo los auspicios o jurisdicción de la FAO. Y nuestra satisfacción por los progresos realizados y las ofertas generosas de tantos países de poner sus bancos de germoplasma en dicha red, o/y del ofrecimiento de espacio y germoplasma para colecciones internacionales. El apoyo al papel de la Comisión de desarrollar acuerdos internacionales para la conservación y uso de recursos fitogenéticos, teniendo por supuesto en cuenta sus impactos económicos, sociales, legales, políticos, éticos y técnicos. Nosotros hemos apoyado en ocasiones anteriores, y lo volvemos a hacer ahora, la recomendación de que la Comisión prepare un Código de Conducta para Colectólas Internacionales de Germoplasma, y un Código de Conducta para Biotecnología, así como el que dé seguimiento al desarrollo de las nuevas biotecnologías y las implicaciones de las mismas, especialmente para los países en desarrollo. Apoyamos los trabajos de nuestra Organización para la conservación y uso de los recursos genéticos in situ, y el establecimiento de una red de áreas de conservación in situ que incluya plantas y también animales.

Aclaremos, por supuesto, que se trata de proteger ecosistemas en los que no se pueden separar los recursos genéticos vegetales y animales; y en ese sentido, expresamos nuestra inquietud porque se amplíe el sistema global de la FAO para recursos genéticos vegetales a fin de cubrir también los animales, y la conveniencia de que se amplíen gradualmente hasta cubrir eventualmente toda la diversidad biológica de interés actual o potencial para la agricultura, silvicultura, ganadería y pesca.

Ya para terminar, recientemente en el campo de la conservación y el uso de recursos fitogenéticos y de diversidad biológica en general, se han dado, se han producido y han proliferado iniciativas de diverso tipo como respuesta sin duda al creciente interés político y social de atacar esos problemas. Pero esa proliferación quizás no haya llegado a producir una Estrategia uniforme que a todos ayude, simplifique los mecanismos y evite complicaciones. Por eso pedimos al Secretariado de la FAO que mantenga informados a los cuerpos gubernativos de nuestra Organización sobre esos desarrollos. Y en ese sentido, apoyamos las recomendaciones de la Comisión que incluya principales organizaciones involucradas con esas actividades. La forma y las implicaciones financieras de un plan de acción sobre recursos fitogenéticos que se prepare y se lleve a cabo en cooperación con dichas organizaciones.

Y, finalmente, hacemos notar que tanto ese Comité Asesor como el Plan de Acción deberían estar orientados al fomento del diálogo, la armonización de responsabilidades y a asegurar la cooperación entre todas esas organizaciones.

**Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic):** It is obvious from this excellent document C 89/24 prepared by the Secretariat, whom we should like to thank, that we have the result of an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking. Obviously the use of various species and their varieties and the result of bio-technology will bind us in supporting this effort. This is the attitude of a developing country such as mine.



As regards economic and social profitability, it is clear that despite the tremendous importance of the social and economic objectives that are sought, the costly access to these resources is such that we have many problems because of the rights involved.

We agree with the objectives sought, but developing countries are finding it difficult to satisfy the terms of the Undertaking. As regards the collection and maintaining distribution of these resources, of course this difficulty is due to the limited technological, financial and scientific means we have at our disposal. What is very important for us and for the Organization is that these countries should be able to obtain access, overcoming the problem of high costs. My delegation acknowledges the right of Donors of genetic resources to be fairly compensated in a simultaneous acknowledgment of the rights of farmers and breeders. This is the very basis of a new system whereby we can share the costs and the advantages of plant genetic resources.

I should like to react to what was said by the distinguished delegate of France. He mentioned certain reservations on the possible question of animal genetic resources. If I understood the delegate of France properly, he is bringing these two plant and animal genetics together. Perhaps this is an artificial dichotomy that he is referring to, because they are all part and parcel of agricultural production. My country hopes that FAO will support us, along with other organizations, in so far as concerns technology - and animal genetic technology in particular. Improvements of species and so on are important. That is all I need to say on that subject.

However, as regards plant genetic resources, the majority come from developing countries; nevertheless, there is no genuine acknowledgement or even a will fairly to compensate the producers. They need such protection, however. They are the depositories of this corpus of species. It is a question of supporting the potential of developing countries, and this should be in harmony with the International Undertaking and the support being given to the Consultative Commission.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan) : My delegation would like to compliment the FAO Secretariat for presenting very concisely and clearly the two items, namely the Agreed Interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, and a draft Resolution on Farmers' Rights, for consideration and adoption by the Conference. Indeed, FAO is doing a commendable job in terms of the development of a global system to coordinate actions in the field of plant genetic resources, and monitoring the conservation and use of biological diversity in plant genes, genotypes and gene pools at molecular, population, species and ecosystem level. This is a matter of vital significance for developing countries, particularly in the context of their technological and indigenous needs. We are confident that the FAO troika of International Undertaking, the Commission and the International Fund on Plant Genetic Resources will greatly contribute in the important and emerging field of conservation, preservation and promotion of plant genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

we are fully cognizant of the fact that the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, which, inter alia, envisages free availability of the plant genetic resources of economic and social interest, particularly for agricultural breeding and scientific purposes, involves delicate and contentious issues of private rights, national interests and international obligations. Therefore, it appears to us a perfectly plausible and viable

solution, in the wake of the prevalent situation, to have recourse to an agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking and parallel recognition of farmers' rights so as to avoid possible conflicts of interest, and violation of rights and obligations of donors of germplasm and technology, and simultaneously preserve the principle of full availability of germplasms. We are pleased to note that the Working Group, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and, finally, the Council in its 95th Session, where my country was also represented, have approved and recommended the adoption of the agreed interpretation of the International undertaking and the draft resolution on the concept of farmers' rights, by the Conference.

My delegation fully supports the texts of the two documents and agrees that these be annexed to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Maris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): Cyprus is between those countries who have become members of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and has agreed to the Undertaking. We did so because we believe that plant genetic resources are a common heritage of mankind. Their conservation and free use is a matter which concerns everyone, and we believe that the Commission and the Undertaking facilitate such an objective.

We have participated in the three sessions of the Commission and we have therefore endorsed these reports. We have no difficulty to accept the new interpretation of the Undertaking. We hope that this new interpretation will facilitate the position of other countries to adhere to the Undertaking and make it indeed international.

We are also in agreement with the text of the draft resolution on Farmers' Rights and the suggestion that the text of the interpretation and the resolution will become annexes to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Marcos NIETO LARA (Cuba): No nos gusta ser extemporáneos, y le ruego que me permita felicitarlo a estas alturas de los trabajos, pero no podía dejar pasar esta ocasión. Nos complace mucho verlo presidir esta Comisión.

Desde que se levantó el tema de los recursos fitogenéticos en la Conferencia de la FAO, Cuba ha tenido una posición muy firme y muy concreta respecto al apoyo del Acuerdo Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. A partir de ese momento, se dio a la tarea de trabajar y de apoyar las gestiones de la Secretaría en el sentido de ir consolidando progresivamente este Acuerdo; y no solamente consolidar el Acuerdo sino consolidar las acciones concretas de la Organización y de los países en la conservación y preservación de los recursos fitogenéticos como patrimonio de la humanidad.

En otras intervenciones nos hemos referido a que muchas veces se atribuye falta de recursos para impulsar un grupo mayor de actividades dentro de este programa de trabajo, y la delegación cubana ha expresado que sería conveniente estudiar alternativas de cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo que pudieran no implicar recursos financieros netos, pero sí recursos en materia de información, quiero decir, intercambio de información, intercambio de expertos a un nivel de costo realmente mínimo.

Queremos señalar también que Cuba conjuntamente con otros países de América Latina, está trabajando en el marco del CELA en actividades de protección y conservación de recursos fitogenéticos. Creemos que, en este sentido, pudiera tratarse de buscar una mayor cooperación entre el CELA y la FAO en el marco de la Región.

Nos conplace ver que todos los debates que se han sostenido en Conferencias pasadas y reuniones de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y en el grupo de trabajo han dado como fruto un documento para hacer más viable la interpretación del Acuerdo Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos. Creemos que se ha avanzado mucho y que existe la voluntad y el consenso de seguir avanzando en esta dirección. Por lo tanto, esta interpretación que se ha dado al Compromiso Internacional es expresión de una concertación y merece nuestro apoyo y reconocimiento.

Por otro lado, el hecho de tratar de proteger los derechos del agricultor constituye una novedad muy interesante, que merece también el apoyo de la delegación cubana.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, quisiéramos expresar que estamos dispuestos a trabajar y aun considerar algunas otras propuestas de resoluciones, como la que ha sido planteada por la Delegación de España, para hacer que el Compromiso sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos sea cada vez más completo y mucho más eficaz,

**Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia):** Primero que todo, quiero agradecer al Sr. Bonte Friedheim la exposición de este documento, que recoge en forma adecuada el resultado de un proceso ponderado, serio y constructivo, a través del cual se ha llegado a la propuesta a esta Conferencia de aprobar la interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional y el proyecto de resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor.

Los representantes de Colombia opinamos que, en esa forma, se facilita muy bien el retiro de algunas reservas y la adhesión de importantes países desarrollados al Compromiso Internacional. La interpretación es equilibrada y evita una revisión del texto del Compromiso, al cual sería bastante difícil introducir cambios después de los largos debates a que todos hemos asistido. Pensamos que, de esta manera, la FAO ha avanzado muy satisfactoriamente en el cumplimiento del deseo de los Estados Miembros de coordinar las acciones en materia de recursos fitogenéticos. Esa labor de nuestra Organización podrá sentirse adelantando a través de los tres elementos básicos de que ahora se dispone: la Comisión, el Fondo Internacional y el Compromiso Internacional. Venimos participando activamente en la Comisión y consideramos que éste es un foro intergubernamental propicio para discutir asuntos técnicos, jurídicos, financieros y de políticas en general relacionadas con los recursos fitogenéticos. Apoyamos plenamente ciertas recomendaciones hechas por la Comisión con base en la labor del grupo de trabajo, recomendaciones que aparecen en el párrafo 5 de este documento. Estamos de acuerdo de que en todas estas actividades deben estar dirigidas al establecimiento de un sistema global equitativo y duradero que permita compartir los costos y beneficios de los recursos fitogenéticos mundiales.

Por ello, así como auspiciamos la adhesión al Compromiso -ahora sabiamente interpretado- de aquellos importantes países desarrollados que aún no han podido adherirse, por razones que respetamos, sería igualmente conveniente y necesario que se facilitara y asistiera a todos los países en desarrollo para que puedan éstos también participar plenamente en todas estas actividades. Es así como nos llama la atención el contenido del párrafo 11, según el cual varios países en desarrollo no han podido adherirse al Compromiso por no estar debidamente capacitados y carecer de recursos financieros, técnicos y económicos.

No obstante la limitación de los recursos de nuestra Organización, debido sobre todo a la crisis de liquidez, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que la FAO debe ofrecer asistencia a esos países desarrollados y promover posiblemente la movilización de recursos extrapresupuestarios para que estos Estados del Tercer Mundo puedan estar en condiciones de adherirse al Compromiso, cuyos objetivos compartimos firmemente, y cumplir las obligaciones dimanantes. Creemos que el Director General ha actuado con tino, prudencia y amplia competencia en todo este proceso al presentarnos ahora los Apéndices 1 y 2 a este documento.

Pedimos a esta Conferencia apruebe el texto de la interpretación concertada del Compromiso Internacional y apruebe igualmente el proyecto de resolución sobre los derechos del agricultor; textos ambos que deberán ser incorporados como anexos al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos.

Queremos recordar también que en el grupo de contacto, en 1987, participó un país no miembro de la FAO, que fue la URSS.

Apoyamos la propuesta hecha por España, como también todo lo dicho por las delegaciones de México y Cuba.

**B. PALESTINI (Italy):** Since it is the first time I am speaking at this meeting, allow me to congratulate you on your election and for the very efficient way you are conducting the debate.

My country fully endorses document C 89/24 on the interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. Italy, which has followed as a member the work of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, has also attended its Working Group meetings.

My delegation supports the agreed interpretation of the International Undertaking and the draft resolution on Farmer's Rights. As a member of UPOV, as well, my country fully agrees on the statements reported in points (a) and (b) of Appendix 1 of the document.

My country is also willing to give technical assistance to those countries which require it in this particular field.

**Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia):** Indudablemente, el tema es un tema difícil y se hace evidente que la interpretación concertada fue muy necesaria ante los puntos de vista contradictorios sobre el tema que fueron expresados por los países miembros y que se reflejan en los párrafos 7, 8, 9 y 10 del documento C 89/24. Seguramente se requerirá una mayor dedicación para conseguir un documento final que logre una ecuanimidad más precisa y un pragmatismo más claro. La interpretación de la redacción presentada en los Apéndices 1 y 2 es de particular importancia para esta Delegación, ya que en Bolivia, al igual que en otros países en desarrollo, existen también varios recursos fitogenéticos nativos que poseen un potencial grande, de significado mundial, como fuentes de alivio a la desnutrición que cunde en los países del Tercer Mundo.

Bolivia también ha estado realizando esfuerzos propios para mantener y recuperar estos recursos. Quisiera citar como ejemplo que actualmente se encuentra en creación el Centro Internacional de la Quinoa, esfuerzo que estará respaldado por los países del Grupo Andino, dentro del Acuerdo de Cartagena. Es necesario recordar que hace varias décadas la Amazonia brindó el producto de la gota para beneficio del mundo, y esto ha significado un avance muy grande en la humanidad.

He observado que el inciso d) del Apéndice 1, específicamente en la parte de redacción que dice -y cito-: "En particular, el Fondo Internacional para Recursos Fitogenéticos ya establecido por la FAO", en punto seguido, "para reflejar la responsabilidad de los países que se han beneficiado principalmente del uso del germoplasma", el Fondo "podría" -y enfatizo: "podría"- incluir contribuciones de los Gobiernos adheridos."

Al mismo tiempo, el Fondo propuesto en el párrafo 2, inciso 3, del documento, debe definirse en términos cuantitativos, así como se define que los recursos fitogenéticos son herencia común de la humanidad y que deben estar libremente disponibles. Se aclara, desde luego, en la página 8, que "libremente disponible" o "libre acceso" no significa gratuito, pero sería necesario que en el inciso d) de la página 7 se aclarara también una disponibilidad mucho más amplia hacia los países en desarrollo que hacen el aporte de su germoplasma. Esta Delegación desea expresar su acuerdo con la aclaración que ha presentado la Delegación de Checoslovaquia en las tres jerarquías de definición.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): When so many countries asked to speak, we feared many objections to these proposals. we are glad that this has proved not to be the case.

It has already been mentioned by the representative of Spain that the UK played a part in the drafting of the contents of the appendices. It proved a difficult task. The drafts cover a number of issues important to many countries, not least the UK. In sane respects they go beyond what we would wish, but we have accepted them in a spirit of compromise in order to establish these important understandings. we make just one point: we would not favour financing the Fund by mandatory contributions.

The experience of the earlier drafting suggests that further material changes at this time could easily undermine what has already been achieved. I would urge everyone to bear this in mind in suggesting further modifications in this forum.

The question of animal genetic resources has also been raised. We believe that their preservation and conservation should be the subject of a separate commission and expert working group. In this work there may well be lessons to be learned from the experiences of the Plant Genetic Resources Group on some of the legal, economic and social aspects of these problems.

Assefa YHIALA (Ethiopia): Like all delegations which have spoken previously, the Ethiopian delegation would like to thank the FAO Secretariat and Mr Bonte-Friedheim for the introduction of the document before us. The proposed addition of the agreed Interpretation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, as formulated on page 7 of document C 89/24, is a result of discussions held at various levels, including the Consultative Group, the Working Group, the last Commission and the 95th Session of the Council.

The Government decisions on which we have instructions are based on these intensive studies and the gradual consultation upon which the decisions we have are based. We feel that, since the present text which we have before us is the result of the intensive discussions which we have had over the last two or three years, and since we have participated in almost all the levels of discussions which we have had, we should like to express our support for the recommendations as contained in the document before us, C 89/24.

we also agree to the annexation of the resolution on the agreed Interpretation and the resolution annexed to the document as called for by Mr Bonte-Friedheim. We have no objection to that, but at this late stage there seems to be some divergence and some changes being recommended. If this continues, we might be forced to reserve our position because we are obliged to stick to the document before us, on which our instructions are based. Any change proposed might prolong the discussion and hinder our position because we might be obliged to refer back to our own authorities before accepting any change.

Finally, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the contribution they have made. We feel that this document will take us a step forward from the level we were at some two years ago.

E. DETRAUX (Belgique): La conservation des ressources phytogénétiques est, vous le savez, d'une importance primordiale et nous nous félicitons du travail effectué par la FAO à cet égard. La Belgique adhère déjà à l'engagement international tout en ayant exprimé des réserves. Nous sommes le dernier membre de la CEE à ne pas faire partie de la Commission. J'ai le plaisir de vous annoncer notre intention d'en faire désormais partie. Pour ce qui est de l'interprétation concernant l'engagement international, nous sommes en général satisfaits de son contenu, tout en soulignant plus particulièrement les paragraphes a) et c). Toutefois, pour ce qui est du point d), nous estimons que le mot "contrôler" n'est pas approprié et nous exprimons une réserve à son égard.

Quant aux contributions et au Fonds, il est bien entendu qu'elles ne pourront être que volontaires.

Enfin, pour ce qui est du droit des agriculteurs, nos remarques à cet égard vont dans un sens similaire à celles exprimées par la France.

**Pisan LEUTONGCHARG (Thailand)** : Thailand, as a member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources Working Group, and having a wide diversification of food crops, especially rice varieties and tropical fruits, recognized the International undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as an important international coordination. From the past to the present, Thailand has exchanged quite a number of plant genetic resources for research and breeding purposes with many countries in Asia and other regions of the world through the coordination of FAO.

Regarding document C 89/24 before us, my delegation would like to make the following comments. Firstly, Thailand has no difficulty in giving full endorsement to the agreed Interpretation of the international Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources. My delegation considers that the agreed Interpretation is very useful for international coordination in this matter and gives wider acceptance to the countries which have not yet adhered to the International Undertaking. Secondly, my delegation fully supports the draft resolution on farmers' rights, as contained in Appendix 2 of this document.

**Crispus R.J. NYAGA (Kenya)** : I thank you, Mr Chairman, for allowing my delegation to contribute to this important and rich discussion.

The Kenyan delegation appreciates all the efforts made by FAO in developing a global system to coordinate action in the field of plant genetic resources through the establishment of the International Undertaking, the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Fund for Plant Genetic Resources. we agree that this is a major step in handling the very important issue of our heritage of plant genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Kenyan delegation has studied in detail the text of the agreed Interpretation of the International Undertaking in Appendix 1 of document C 89/24 and the draft resolution on farmers' rights which is contained in Appendix 2 of the same document. we are satisfied that, while ensuring the unrestricted availability of germplasm, provisions have been made to recognize the rights of both donors of germplasm and donors of funds and technologies to ensure that both are compensated.

The modalities for compensation in respect of farmers' rights are acceptable to my delegation in so far as they are geared to support plant genetic conservation and management and the utilization programmes within developing countries, including the intensified education programmes for specialists and the improvement of plant breeding and seed production in developing countries.

The Kenyan delegation therefore concurs with the recommendation that the text of both the agreed Interpretation of the International Undertaking and the draft resolution on farmers' rights should be adopted as annexes to the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources.

Alberto **MURILLO (Venezuela)**. Deseamos, señor Presidente, felicitar a la Secretaria por el documento presentado.

Estamos de acuerdo y apoyamos la recomendación y especialmente el párrafo 5 del documento. Igualmente quisiéramos apoyar la Interpretación Concertada del Compromiso Internacional, así como el Proyecto de Resolución y veríamos con agrado su incorporación al Compromiso Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos..

Por último desearíamos también que este Compromiso fuese extendido a los Recursos Zoogenéticos.

Yun Su CHUNG (Korea, Democratic People's Republic of): First of all, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission. Also in the name of my delegation of the D.P. Republic of Korea, I express thanks to the Secretariat of the FAO for their presentation of the very variable and comprehensive document on the Plant Genetic Resources.

My country is a member of Committee on Plant Genetic Resources of the FAO and also adheres to the undertaking under Plant Genetic Resources.

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports the intimation and interpretation of the undertaking on the Plant Genetic Resources. My Government, the People's Republic of Korea, already attaches great attention to plant genetic resources in order to increase food and agricultural production. My country will do its best to strengthen the cooperation in the field of Plant Genetic Resources through the activity of FAO in international Plant Genetic Resources.

Russell R. MULELE (Zambia): I will be very brief. First, I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretariat for the very good documentation and the clear manner in which the Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department, introduced the subject. I would like to endorse the interpretation and the draft of the resolution of the document under discussion. However, I would like to stress the importance of establishing and maintaining closer linkages and liaison between the FAO and other organizations in this field which may be national, regional and international bodies. In our view, this is important so as to avoid duplication and rivalry.

We are pleased to note the FAO's proposed memorandum of understanding with the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources in this regard.

Moukia Mbome GOTTLIEB (Cameroun) : La délégation du Cameroun adresse ses compliments au Secrétariat, à la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et à son groupe de travail, ainsi qu'au Conseil, qui ont beaucoup travaillé et permis que le texte de l'interprétation concertée de l'Engagement international soit examiné pendant cette session et recommandé que le projet de résolution sur le droit des agriculteurs le soit également et soit adopté par la Conférence.

Le Cameroun a adhéré à l'Engagement international de la FAO sur les ressources phylogénétiques en décembre 1984. Il est membre de la Commission des ressources phylogénétiques et l'Institut de recherches agronomiques de notre pays est régulièrement invité aux réunions de la Commission et il en reçoit les rapports.

La position du Cameroun sur le libre accès au matériel génétique d'un pays membre ne devrait se faire qu'après avoir rempli toutes les formalités de contrôle propres à ce pays, ceci dans le cadre du respect de la souveraineté nationale.

Nous espérons et souhaitons que les pays qui avaient émis des réserves sur le principe de libre accès aux ressources phylogénétiques les retirent après l'interprétation de l'Engagement et la reconnaissance des droits des obtenteurs et des agriculteurs.

Nous croyons que les pays qui n'avaient pas encore arrêté leur position l'ont fait après et suivront la recommandation du Conseil de juin dernier pour l'adoption de ces textes. /

Pat Roy MOONET (Observer for IOCU) : From some of the references made earlier today on the role of farmers' rights, I was afraid there might be some misinterpretation of some of the discussion that took place during the Third Session of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources. Farmers' rights was never put solely in the context of conservation. It was also in the context of developers, in creators of genetic diversity. Farmers' rights was seen to be the work being done by farmers currently not simply historically. When scientists go collecting in the Third World for plant genetic resources, they do not collect ten thousand year old seed; they collect the currently developed modern material developed by farmers for the current growing

1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.



season. This should always be understood. In fact the tragedy of the work being done now in many quarters related to plant breeders' rights is that it seems to allow for the pattern being of almost every kind of biological product and process, and only excludes the products of the genius of farmers around the world who are currently, with current wisdom, developing new material. Farmers' rights then should not be seen as simply a historic obligation of sane kind or romantic initiatives of sane kind, but is in fact a recognition of the genius of farmers today developing new material for the entire world.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): A very brief point. I think the distinguished delegates from France and Belgium have made reference to the word "controlled" in sub-para (d) of Annex 1. I think the equivalent English translation appears to be "monitored", and so maybe something needs to be looked at there.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) :

Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to thank all speakers who participated in the debate on this very important item. I think the Secretariat would like to join those who have expressed their great satisfaction and pride that we have made considerable steps forward in the last two years. I also would like to thank those who have already in their statements provided some of the answers to some of the problems which have been raised.

Mr Chairman, out of the forty-one statements which we have heard, six countries had reservations in some form or another or amendments to the texts in front of us. As I pointed out at the beginning, it was a long process to arrive at where we are today. The two texts in front of you and one to be changed into a resolution, the text on the agreed interpretation as well as on the resolution on farmers' rights, are certainly not the most perfect and they certainly can be improved but we have grave doubts that they can be improved now and during this Conference. The process which we have is a Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, the Commission itself, COAG, Council and then Conference, so on behalf of the Secretariat I would plead with those who have made specific proposals for amendment of the texts to not raise them when the resolution is being adopted. On behalf of the Secretariat, we will prepare a paper for the next meeting of the Working Group to consider them and to see whether there will be agreement, because most of the points have been discussed at length in the Working Group and in the Commissions, and it is a compromise in many respects, and I do not think that a meeting now of a Drafting Committee or of a Contact Group with non-specialists can improve the texts that we have in front of us and get consensus and agreement, and it is a compromise in many respects, and I do not think that a meeting now of a Drafting Committee or of a Contact Group with non-specialists can improve the texts that we have in front of us and get consensus and agreement.

The delegate of Ethiopia made it quite clear that many representatives here, and many distinguished delegates, have the agreement of their governments on the texts in front of you and not of any amended text. Therefore, on behalf of the Secretariat, I hope it will be acceptable that those specific amendments which have been made will be considered in the next meeting of the Working Group and then will go forward through the whole procedure which

means, I hope, that this Conference will be able to adopt both resolutions, the one resolution proposed by Spain with regard to the agreed interpretation, and the other draft resolution on farmers' rights which is already in your document.

Mr Chairman, I would like to say a few words on some of the points that have been made. First of all, I am indebted to the delegate of the United Kingdom who pointed out that there is a difference between the French word and the English word in (d) of Appendix 1, and I can confirm here that it is the English word which is the correct word; it says "monitored", and the French word must be adjusted to reflect "monitored" and not to say "controlled". I hope this will take care of the reservation by both France and Belgium.

The delegate of Australia has mentioned that in his country there are state governments and private firms that have plant genetic resources under their control. It says of course, in paragraph 5 of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources as adopted by Conference and I will read it: "It will be the policy of adhering governments and institutions having plant genetic resources under their control to allow access" - not under somebody else's control, it says "their control". So I hope this will be acceptable for those who have reservations about some genetic resources that they, the governments, cannot control.

The distinguished delegate of Czechoslovakia and the distinguished delegate from Bolivia and also Canada have talked about maybe there should be something done about breeders' lines and about germ-plasm which is, at the moment, used for the active development of plant or with implant breeding programmes. In my own view, and it is a personal view, the text as it stands now covers it, and I cannot see how anybody can request something for which he does not have a name because it is secret and in most plant breeders' programmes these germ-plasms are his own secret and there is no knowledge about what he uses, so how anybody can ask to please have the material which he uses at the moment without identifying it specifically, I cannot see, but again I hope that this will be discussed in the Working Group, and it will be seen whether any amendment to this can take place.

The French delegation with regard to the resolution on farmers' rights has made some proposals for amendment in the section on "considering that"; modern day section on endorsing and considering that, and the way I have understood it, it deals with (b) and (c) of the second part of that resolution.

In the discussions of the Working Group and in the Commission, and in the English text, (b) quite clearly relates to the past. It says "the contribution of whose farmers has not been sufficiently recognized or rewarded". That is in the past, whereas in (c) we talk about the future, where it is stated "the farmers, especially those in developing countries, should benefit" which means benefit in the future. They are two different ideas, and I do not think you can say one is redundant and it is covered by the others.

I have clearly noted that the words "farmers' rights" are not the best. There has been some discussion as to who are farmers and how one defines a farmer. There are many different forms of farmers' rights. I think it is quite clear that here we are talking about plant genetic resources, but we shall report this view to the Working Group and have them look at it to see if they can come up with better words than "farmers' rights". So far we have been unable to do so.

Similarly Canada made a proposal with regard to point (b) of the farmers' rights resolution under "Endorses", which tries to widen the scope of "farming communities". To me, a farming community is not only a community of farmers but also everybody who works in the rural area. But again I do not want to answer these points for the Working Group. I would plead with everybody to leave this to the Working Group to consider and see if they can agree to come up with some improvements.

There were three other major comments made, and I should like to confirm the Secretariat's understanding.

First, I confirm that we are actively cooperating and collaborating to define the Memorandum of Understanding with the IBPGR. It was decided, and it will be done, that the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources will be involved in the final version of this Memorandum of Understanding. A meeting took place at the beginning of this month in Washington together with the CGIAR and the IBPGR, and we also have agreement on the present state of affairs from the OGIAR.

The second comment concerns a point on biotechnology. The FAO Secretariat joins in the fear that if care is not taken there will be losers on biotechnology, not only gainers, and we feel it is this Organization's task to ensure that there will not be too many losers, and if possible that there will be no losers. Here FAO will do its best to provide information, to inform all member countries on what is happening in the various fields of biotechnology.

The Secretariat has also noted the many references to the wide field of animal genetic resources and that this Organization must do something. This was not a topic here, and certainly there was no agreement in Commission I on how this should be handled, and there will be certain other fora where this will be discussed, but we have noted the frequent references in statements to animal genetic resources.

My last point is to welcome Belgium as the youngest member of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his answers to the Commission. Dr Bonte-Friedheim made a very constructive suggestion to us to further the work being done by the Working Group and the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, that is that if possible we adopt the resolution contained in C 89/24 and the resolution that is going to be presented to us by the Spanish delegation which actually reflects the agreed consensus, the agreed interpretation on the Undertaking. It is suggested that we adopt that by consensus and that all the amendments, proposals and suggestions on the two documents be conveyed to the Working Group on Genetic Resources for further study and analysis.

Of course, the process is a dynamic one, and when we accept this resolution nobody is engaging the position of its country forever, we are still open to further negotiations, further changes and progress.

If that proposal is acceptable we shall be discussing those two resolutions in the agreed form in the afternoon of Wednesday, 22 November. On that occasion we hope that Dr Bonte-Friedheim will be in a position to present this commission with an indication or perhaps a comprehensive paper on the

various amendments, proposals and suggestions for alterations. Is that generally agreed by the Commission? I see no opposition to that idea, so I think we can accept Dr Bonte-Friedheim's proposal.

Irte have six resolutions yet to be discussed, one resolution on the occupied territories, one resolution on the environment, two resolutions on genetic resources, and two resolutions still to be presented, one on women in agriculture and the other on pesticides.

we should like to have those six resolutions discussed on Wednesday, 22 November, so it would be, most helpful if the two resolutions which have not already been presented, one on women in agriculture and the other on pesticides, could be presented as soon as possible so that they may be conveyed to and studied by the Resolution Committee.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I should like to take this opportunity to present a resolution on the inclusion of prior informed consent in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. I will not present the substance of this resolution, but just say that it will be on this topic and it will be in conformity with the consensus arrived at in the various meetings of COAG and in the Council regarding this.

CHAIRMAN: Now the only resolution that is missing that we expect to have for discussion is the resolution on the integration of women into agriculture and rural development.

Sra. Yolanda GAGO PEREZ (Costa Rica): Deseo presentar un Proyecto de Resolución relacionado con el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Esta Resolución reafirma el empeño de la Organización en implementar con efectividad el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Como es sabido, dicho Plan de Acción fue aprobado por el Consejo en noviembre de 1988, recomendándose la realización de un informe de progreso para su presentación en la 25<sup>a</sup> sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO.

La Resolución pone énfasis en el empeño de la Organización en continuar los esfuerzos para la integración del tema de la mujer rural en todos los aspectos del trabajo de la FAO, y en la importancia del trabajo a llevarse a cabo por los diferentes servicios y divisiones técnicas de la FAO como parte integrante de su tarea diaria, y no requiere la asignación de recursos extraordinarios del Programa Regular. A este respecto, la reorientación de las actividades de campo y del Program Regular, lo cual reforzará la implementación de estrategias para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo, puede realizarse con efectividad sin necesidad de recursos presupuestarios adicionales.

Diversos países se añadirán a este Proyecto durante la discusión del tema 11 de la Agenda de esta Comisión.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas

**conference**

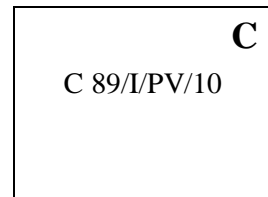
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING  
DIXIEME SEANCE  
DECIMA SESION

(21 November 1989)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours

J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

la dixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45

sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 9.45 horas

baio la residencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRIOLTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN IA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 10. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" Clause (C 89/20)
- 10. Introduction du principe de l'information et du consentement préalables (ICP) dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (C 89/20)
- 10. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución de la cláusula relativa al "consentimiento previo" (C 89/20)

CHAIRMAN: The draft resolution proposed last night by the Philippines delegation has been sent for consideration by the Resolutions Committee. The resolutions will be properly discussed tomorrow. The Commission will recall the decision of the last Conference that the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The paper before us provides a progress report on a number of initiatives taken since then by the Director-General. It will be introduced by Dr Brader, Director of Plant Production and Protection Division.

**L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division):** It is now two years since the Conference decided to include the principle of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) into the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Since then the Director-General has taken a number of initiatives to implement the Conference decision, and paper C 89/20 provides details on the current status of implementation.

Before introducing the subject I wish to acknowledge the financial contribution of the Government of the Netherlands which was instrumental in enabling the Secretariat to undertake a number of activities resulting in the proposal before you. I would like to highlight some of the salient point on document C 89/20.

As a first step, in March 1988, the Director-General convened a Group of Expert at which observers from UNEP, WHO, NGO's and Industry were also present. The meeting agreed a set of basic principles under which PIC should operate, and explored various options for operating a scheme. Following this meeting, wide consultations were held with interested parties, including visits to a number of developing countries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific for discussions with government officials and pesticide specialists.

This was followed by a Government Consultation on PIC, in January 1989. The deliberations and recommendations of this Consultation were considered by CQAG and subsequently, by the Council. The Council reached agreement on the operation of PIC, as outlined in paper C 89/20 before you.

Throughout all these deliberations the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/IRPTC) has been fully consulted having attended the various meetings in FAO, while members of the FAO Secretariat have also attended UNEP meetings. The UNEP

developed its scheme on Prior Informed Consent parallel with FAO. The result of this is reflected in the amended London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade that were accepted by the UNEP Governing Council in May 1989. The UNEP text is fully compatible with the FAO proposal.

In the implementation of the PIC procedure FAO will be largely responsible for pesticides, while UNEP will be responsible for industrial and other chemicals. UNEP will operate the computerized data base which will have an on-line connection to FAO. FAO will maintain contact with countries through designated national authorities on matters relating to pesticides. It should be noted that such contacts not only refer to Prior Informed Consent but to all activities concerning the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

UNEP and FAO have sent simultaneously letters to Member Nations requesting them to appoint designated national authorities. It is hoped that countries will nominate a single national authority to deal with PIC, both for pesticides and other chemicals, as this will assist in the operation of the scheme. As pesticides are generally reviewed and evaluated in a more thorough and organized way than other chemicals, we are of the view that the most effective contact point would be the Pesticides Registration Board or its equivalent.

The need to have a single contact point to which countries should forward information has been recognized as being important in the operation of the scheme. The intention is that all countries communicating on any aspect of PIC should send, concurrently, identical letters both to FAO and UNEP. This will enable prompt actions to be taken, as required, by both organizations each of which will be fully informed of actions.

It is very important for the successful operation of the programme that countries advise FAO/UNEP as soon as possible after actions have been taken to ban or severely restrict chemicals and that they respond as quickly as possible. Quick transmission of information and decisions to all parties will be of critical importance.

Decision Guidance Documents (DGD's) concerning pesticides in the PIC procedure will be prepared to provide countries with information to assist them in reaching a position on the pesticide. The documents will contain a summary of information including chemical and physical properties, uses, sources of exposure, toxicity profile, countries which have taken control actions and the reasons for these actions.

In order to establish priorities for the vast amount of work which is involved, FAO will, in the first instance, develop DGD's for those pesticides which have been banned or severely restricted in 10 or more countries. Drafts of the first of these are now being reviewed by technical experts, with further Decision Guidance Documents under development. Decision Guidance Documents will then be developed for those pesticides for which control action has been taken by the five to nine countries, then for those pesticides which have been banned or severely restricted in one to four countries. When the back-log is caught up with, any one single action taken by any one country to ban or severely restrict a pesticide for health or environmental reasons will mean that the pesticide in question will be introduced into the PIC procedure.

Finally, I would like to point out that although the proposal may not be perfect, nevertheless, it is based on many months of work and effort by many experienced people and it is compatible with, and therefore acceptable to, UNEP. Therefore, the possibility of any further improvement would have to be counterbalanced by possible delays in the commencement of the scheme. It is hoped that the Conference will bear this important fact in mind in its deliberations.

Experience has shown that when introducing a complex scheme such as PIC, it is necessary to review procedures from time to time. This will be done by the FAO and UNEP Secretariats one year after the start of the scheme and the results will be reported back to you.

Fiori jan KOVAC (Yugoslavia): When speaking of pesticides, we should always bear in mind that, in spite of their evident favourable effects, their inadequate use can have grave consequences, particularly in those countries which do not have pesticide registration and control schemes.

Therefore, the Code of Conduct in the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, along with the introduction of the International Prior Informed Consent Clause is of particularly importance, according to our assessment.

During inter-governmental consultations held in January 1989, a general agreement was reached on the operation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause and supplements required in order to incorporate the Clause into the Code. The proposals to review and amend Articles 2 and 9 of the Code, as well as the guidelines for the operation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause were adopted by consensus in the Committee on Agriculture, while the Council agreed with further supplements to Article 2, 9.81 and 9.84.

On this occasion, I wish to point out that the Yugoslav delegation fully supports the amendments to the Code (Article 2 and 9) as well as the guidelines on the operation of the Prior Consent Clause.

Yugoslavia gives its full support to the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP, and to FAO's initiative in the elaboration of the Proposed Procedure for the implementation of the Clause, and to UNEP's action to incorporate the procedure into the principle of the "London guideline for the exchange of information on chemicals in international trade."

Once again we would like to underline the need for FAO to continue with its activities in regard to the practical application of the Clause, especially in the developing countries which are primarily in need of assistance in personnel, so they can adequately implement the Clause and other provisions of the Code. Therefore, FAO should continue to give this issue high priority through technical assistance to the developing countries.

The implementation of the Code, as well as of the Clause in the pesticide importing countries, in particular the developing ones, is required before all with a view to protecting the health of the population. Until all countries establish pesticide registration and control procedures the Clause should serve to protect human health.

Until that time, the Clause as a provisional solution must exist. In our opinion the amendments to Articles 2 and 9 should be adopted in full, as well as the proposed guidelines on the operation of the Prior Informed Consent Clause.



**Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines):** The Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference decided in 1987 that the Principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated into the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides within the next biennium. We now have before us the amendments approved by the COAG; by the Council, which would enable the inclusion of the said Principle in the Code. We fully support such amendments and, for this purpose, we have submitted a resolution approving these amendments.

However, as everybody would notice, there is in the Report of the Council which is before us, document C 89/20, on page 4 paragraph 70, a paragraph where the Secretariat was requested to determine the status of compounds which either have not been registered or been withdrawn by countries, which were still being traded. These pesticides which have been withdrawn or unregistered cannot be sold in the countries where they are manufactured, precisely because they have been banned or because they have not been tested.

As recent studies have indicated, a quarter of all pesticides exported in some countries are not registered for use in those countries. These unregistered exports include, one, cancelled or suspended for use because they may cause cancer or otherwise endanger humans or the environment; two, products that have never been registered, including those chemicals whose contents are unknown, and whose human and environmental aspects have not been conclusively evaluated; or chemicals that have been voluntarily taken off the market by the registrants because of adverse health or environmental effects or because the cost of complying with the testing requirements exceeds the anticipated markets in those countries.

We consider that these pesticides, therefore, are dangerous. If they cannot be sold because they are dangerous in the countries where they are produced, why in the world can they be exported without even giving notice to those countries to which they are going to be exported? I think this is a loophole in the procedures that have been established to comply with the pesticides. Therefore, it has been agreed by the Secretariat that they would look into this matter. However, if I may be permitted, I would propose a very small amendment in the procedures of the Code which would enable us to handle this question with great efficiency. I am referring to document C 89/20 again, page 10, step 4, selecting pesticides to be included in the PIC procedure. I read: "FAO will, in cooperation with UNEP/IRPTC and other relevant organizations, review all notifications to ensure conformity with the definitions. Pesticides will be included in the PIC procedure when FAO is advised by a government that it has taken final control action consistent with the definition of banned or severely restricted pesticides for health or environmental reasons in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides."

I would add a small phrase, "or that a manufacturer has voluntarily withdrawn a pesticide"<sup>1</sup>. After the paragraph, I would put a comma and then "or that a manufacturer has voluntarily withdrawn a pesticide" period.

I would then propose the addition of another sentence: "Member States will notify FAO of any pesticide compounds that are not registered for use in their country but are still being traded." I think that with these two small amendments FAO would be able to look also on those pesticides and if need be they could provide the appropriate information so that the the countries, before importing unregistered or overdrawn pesticides, would be able to make a sound judgement on their safety, or whether they, after making their cost and benefit analysis for their own country's conditions in their own country,

can make a decision on whether they should or not import these pesticides. After all, the objective of this Code is to provide for the safe use of pesticides. This amendment will close a loophole that now exists in the present procedures. If not, what would happen would be that pesticides which are going to be banned would simply be withdrawn and they would continue to be merrily exported to other countries to the detriment of those countries which would then suffer the consequences?

I hope this brief amendment will merit the consideration and approval of this Commission.

Parviz VOJDANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for the very comprehensive and informative review of the state of distribution and use of pesticides. I would also like to congratulate the Conference and Commission for preparing the comprehensive documents for this very important item under discussion today.

On behalf of my delegation, I would express our acceptance and support of the Prior Informed Consent on the issue of the distribution and use of pesticides with regard to the Code of Conduct, and all the relevant amendments. The official organization for these affairs in our country is, of course, the Plant Protection Organization.

This delegation also suggests and proposes the following matters on this very important item. Firstly, since it is seen that some of the pesticide manufacturing countries or companies discard some pesticides just to introduce new brands and to create new variations in the market, special care should be taken by FAO to avoid such cases. It is also recommended that some specific pesticides which are planned to be discarded due to some reasonable and technical reasons be discarded for all countries through international procedures or regulations.

Secondly, we deeply believe and recommend that there should be large investment and serious attempts by FAO to reduce significantly the consumption of pesticides through more efficient utilization of biological controls of pests.

Thirdly, the prices of similar or generic pesticides differ very much in the market which certainly affects their use. Our delegation suggests that FAO should identify similar or generic pesticides through publishing specific bulletins, and should act as a feedback for this system.

A. Alim FAUZI (Indonesia): we would like to inform you that Indonesia has long been concerned with the Code of Conduct of Pesticides. For the purpose of protecting the people and the environment from the toxic adverse effects of pesticides, the Government of Indonesia has instituted pesticide regulation. An inter-Ministerial technical committee called the Pesticides Committee has been established to assist the Minister of Agriculture in particular, in formulating policies on all matters pertinent to pesticides. Realizing the position of Indonesia as both a pesticide importing and exporting country, and in view of the need for all countries, and noting the importance of international cooperation to protect human beings and the environment from deleterious effects of hazardous substances, including toxic pesticides, the Government of Indonesia would like to underline the acceptance in principle of the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) in

the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as adopted by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) , and fully supports the implementation of the Code as revised and amended by following the Guidelines on the operation of PIC adopted by COAG.

We would like now to refer to document C 89/20 concerning the revision of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The Indonesian delegation would like to insert a word "social" on the Article 9.2, line 5 from the top sentence so that the Article would read as follows: "The purpose of notification regarding control action is to give component authorities in other countries the opportunity to assess the risk associated with the pesticide and to make timely, informed decisions as to the importation and use of the pesticide concerned after taking into account local, social, public health, economic, environmental and administrative conditions. The minimum information to be provided for this purpose should

Furthermore, on Article 9.10.1, the Indonesian delegation would like to propose to replace the words "on future accessibility" with the words "to accept or to ban importation", so that the Article would read as follows: (9.10.1.) "To decide to accept or to ban importation of that pesticide in their country and advise FAO as soon as that decision has been made".

The reason for this change is that in the original statement, this definition is valid for a pesticide which in the beginning is permitted for general usage, but later on it was changed to the limited usage.

Finally, let us refer to page 10 of the document of C 89/20. We here would further like to add after the end of the first paragraph of page 10, so that the sentence would read as follows, "Severely restricted - a limited ban means a pesticide whose previously registered uses have already been prohibited from regulatory action for health and environmental reasons, but specific registered use or uses retain authorized or a pesticide for which government regulatory action in force approved only specific registered use".

Allan Neal SMTTH (Australia) : Australia has supported information exchange between countries on pesticide issues and it supported the need for Prior Informed Consent provisions of the 1987 FAO Conference. The proposed amendments to Articles 2 and' 9 of the Code of Conduct to incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent adequately address the complex issues associated with the principle.

Australia notes with pleasure the cooperation between FAO and UNEP leading to the development of a mutually acceptable position on Prior Informed Consent and its inclusion in the UNEP London Guidelines.

Australia strongly supports continued cooperation between FAO and UNEP to ensure effective introduction and operation of Prior Informed Consent in both UNEP and FAO areas.

Australia supports the proposed amendments to Articles 2 and 9 of the Code of Conduct which will give effect to the principle of Prior Informed Consent and adoption of the procedures for, and guidelines on, the operation of Prior Informed Consent.

José TUBINO (Canada): Mr Chairman, having participated in the expert and government consultation on PIC and in the COAG and council deliberations, Canada has contributed, with other nations, in the formulation of the PIC clause. Because of this participation, Canada has also witnessed the elaborated process undertaken to achieve the results that we have before us today.

Canada supports the PIC principle and agrees to the provisions as outlined in the document C 89/20, and is in agreement with the guidelines and procedures for the implementation of this principle. Canada is also pleased with the efforts made by FAO and UNEP to harmonize the prior consent clause with UNEP's London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and to establish a joint FAO/UNEP data base. We now look forward to complementary inter-agency action in the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure.

Finally, we understand the good faith behind the reasons for presenting substantive amendments to the PIC proposal in this Commission. We have no doubt that the PIC proposal could be and should be improved. Nevertheless, at this juncture Canada is not prepared for such substantive changes bearing in mind the elaborate process of the consultation already undertaken to bring us to this agreed clause. In our case, and we are sure it is also the case of other countries as well, we are unable to accept such changes without consulting with our capitals.

We are for the implementation of the agreed PIC procedure without further delay. We are sure that proposals for substantive amendments could be taken into consideration at a later stage.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : The United States supports the proposal before the Conference to incorporate the Prior Informed Consent into the Code.

We congratulate the FAO Secretariat and staff for the way in which they have developed this provision. The cooperation and inputs from the many sectors set a high standard for handling other issues which may arise here in the FAO.

The need to assure continuing cooperation with UNEP in the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure cannot be overemphasized. We believe it will assure a coherent, non-duplicative and cost-effective approach to help importing countries in making sound decisions about the pesticides which they wish to import and use.

Prior Informed Consent will not be a panacea which will solve all the problems of importing countries with respect to pesticide use. They must develop a capability to decide which pesticides they wish to use and make provision to control entry of pesticides and regulate their use, distribution, transport and disposal.

The United States is prepared to provide assistance and technical expertise to help developing countries make these decisions and to strengthen the ability of importing countries to control pesticides. We are participating with FAO in a number of training sessions designed to strengthen the regulatory capability of countries. In addition, we will provide some experts for specific country training both in-country and on-the-job in the United States. USAID has already sponsored training and technical assistance, particularly in Africa.

We do not want to make any substantive changes in the proposal. We in fact support the distinguished delegate of Canada in his comments regarding the need to maintain the substantive form of this proposal. We do, however, have two very minor editorial suggestions. "The first one is in Step 8 of the guidelines (p. 12, C 89/20). This document does not track exactly with 9.11.2 of the changes to the Code and we believe the last sentence needs to be amended to read Governments would "take appropriate measures within their authority and legislative competence, designed to ensure that exports do not occur contrary to ...".

The other minor editorial change is on the same document, page 12 of C 89/20 - the paragraph entitled "National Control On Imports". We suggest that the last two sentences should be replaced with the following wording, "where such exist, production for domestic use will also be subjected to the control action. Importing countries would take all necessary measures to prohibit importation and production for domestic use."

The explanation for this editorial suggestion is that countries should cease production for domestic use if importation for use in the country is banned or restricted so that domestic production is not simply substituted for imports of the same pesticide.

Finally, I would like to say that the United States will also provide resource support to UNEP and FAO in the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure.

Shamim AHMED (Bangladesh) : My delegation has gone through document C 89/20 with great interest. It is an excellent document, and I commend the Secretariat for producing it.

Bangladesh strongly endorses the proposal for implementing the clause concerning Prior Informed Consent in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and Use of Pesticides which is adopted in 1985. In this connection, my delegation has noted with satisfaction the ongoing collaboration between FAO and UNEP with a view to working out an effective joint programme on the operation of the joint informed consent.

My delegation feels that the Prior Informed Consent clause, as proposed in the document for approval of the Conference, would provide the much needed support for Bangladesh and other developing countries in their efforts to identify the dangerous pesticides in order to protect human health and the environment.

Nikola MICHAYLOV (Bulgarie) : La délégation de Bulgarie présente ses vifs remerciements au Secrétariat de la FAO pour la parfaite présentation des propositions devant la Conférence du Code de conduite (document C 89/20). Nous estimons que c'est un problème qui est très important tant pour l'environnement que pour l'agriculture elle-même. Nous présentons notre plein appui aux principes de "ICP", ainsi qu'aux amendements proposés aux articles 2 et 9.

Néanmoins, nous proposons dans la partie des obligations de la FAO (article 9) parallèlement avec l'information, de l'expédition internationale de pesticides et des mesures de sécurité, de préciser la possibilité de présentation par le Secrétariat, de solutions technologiques alternatives visant l'utilisation des biométhodes ou autres méthodes, au lieu des pesticides dangereux.

Notre pays prévoit de participer activement dans l'application de "ICP".

Paulo ESTIVALLET DE MESQUITA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation welcomes the progress achieved since the last Conference towards the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We believe this progress to be in line with the growing awareness of environmental issues in FAO and in the international community as a whole. It is also a logical extension of decisions taken in FAO and other fora to increase transparency and harmonization with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary regulations. The principle that a pesticide which is banned or severely restricted should not be exported without the prior informed consent of the importing country is fully in accordance with Brazilian legislation on agro-chemicals. The Brazilian delegation is therefore ready to approve the revisions and amendments to the Code of Conduct and the Guidelines on the operation of Prior Informed Consent as contained in document C 89/20.

Leo GRANBERG (Finland) : The delegation of Finland believes protection against the hazards of pesticides to be extremely important. We therefore gave support to the implementation of the Code of Conduct at the 24th Session of the Conference and in several other meetings thereafter. We appreciate the work and efforts of the Secretariat since the last Conference with regard to the principle of Prior Informed Consent. Our delegation's position was expressed at the last session of the Committee on Agriculture and at the 95th Session of the Council in June this year.

Finland strongly supports the incorporation of the PIC clause in the proposed form in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and use of Pesticides. My delegation hopes that it will be agreed upon and adopted by this Conference.

One of the main elements necessary in the implementation of PIC is close cooperation between FAO and other relevant organizations. We welcome the news about negotiations taking place between UNEP and FAO in order to reach a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. We are confident that this course of action will lead to positive results.

Finland is prepared to bring its legislation and administrative actions in conformity with the requirements of the proposed PIC clause when needed. We look forward to being informed about the progress in the incrementation of the PIC procedure in the future.

Mete BASCI (Turkey): Although pesticides constitute risks to human health, they need to be used to increase crop yield in order to provide sufficient food for man. However, as much as possible should be done to reduce the risks presented by the use of these compounds to as low a level as possible. It is clear, however, that not all countries may reach this optimum level since abilities and conditions vary between countries. Although some countries may be able to determine the correct doses and methods of application of pesticides and their various effects on plants, soil and the environment, it is usually very difficult to take the immediate measures necessary to prevent the side effects on human health and environment as well as the occurrence of resistance in the ecosystem, since all this needs a great amount of information from all over the world.

Turkey has strictly monitored the damage to the environment caused by chemicals and has taken the necessary measures to reduce the effects of this

damage. A Commission for Environment Research has been established in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in order to monitor more sensitively environmental pollution matters at the highest level.

Pesticide exporting countries should also have as much information as possible about the use of their pesticides throughout the world since banning of them is sometimes dependent on rough examinations and investigations, which then spread throughout the world, resulting in upsets in the investment and production policies with regard to the chemical concerned.

Since 1957, registration, production, import, export and selling of agricultural compounds has been regulated under registration by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Rural Affairs. The Government of Turkey is very sensitive about the effects of such compounds on human health and the environment, as are other countries, and has banned seventeen active ingredients since 1971.

Turkey imports active ingredients, technical compounds or preparations from other countries. It can produce twelve technical compounds within the country, and exports some of them abroad. Being an exporting and importing country of pesticides, Turkey believes that the PIC principle of FAO which aims to introduce regulations with regard to the banning and restriction of use of some compounds which comprise risks to human health and the environment will reduce these risks and help to ensure a safer environment. In light of the fact that environmental pollution will be the most important subject at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century, Turkey has placed great importance on this subject. Biological protection measures are being carried out in Turkey aimed at reducing the use of pesticides for plant protection.

Turkey will be glad to join these activities for the benefit of all mankind.

MA GENG-OU (China) (original language Chinese) : I am very grateful to you for giving me the floor to speak here.

Now I would like to make a few comments on the PIC concepts. First of all I think the PIC is a concept to guarantee human health and food security, and also to protect the environment's security. Of course, in practice, it will not be very easy to exercise because it will affect not only the pesticide-importing countries, but also those of the pesticide-exporting countries, and also it will involve the interests of the producers and users of pesticides.

You know that China imports and at the same time exports pesticides. Therefore, the Chinese delegation is pleased to note that after serious efforts, the 95th Session of the Council has presented to the Conference a revised text. I think this revised version is a very good compromise because not only has it taken into account the interests of the pesticide-importing countries but also those of pesticide-exporting countries. That is why it is feasible and easier to be accepted by all parties concerned.

Now I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for its efforts exercised for the PIC, but I think in practising the PIC we have to pay attention to two points. The first is aggregate information exchange; that is pesticide-producing countries should inform FAO about the pesticides they produce which have been banned and which are still in use. And then FAO should, in turn, inform the pesticide-importing countries.

Secondly, the pesticide-importing countries should kindly inform FAO about their regulations, what pesticides they have banned, and what pesticides they wish to import. Another point is that in pesticide-importing countries, there should be sane mechanism to deal with such matters, and I think these are the essential factors in practising the PIC concept.

The third point is that PIC is only a temporary measure aimed at helping the developing countries to gradually establish effective management of pesticides, but fundamentally speaking and from the long-term point of view, it is essential to help developing countries to set up a proper mechanism for the distribution, use and management of pesticides, and in this respect it is highly necessary to provide technical assistance to developing countries and in particular to train their people. We think that in the light of the short-term PIC requirements and the long-term needs of integrated pesticide management, it is also necessary to do as I have mentioned just now, and the Chinese delegation is happy to note that our view in this respect has been reflected in para. 72 of document C 89/20.

Finally, the Chinese delegation believes that FAO has the full capacity to help with information exchange and assist developing countries to establish a proper management mechanism, and in this FAO is duty-bound, and of course we appreciate the efforts FAO has made and is going to make in this regard. The Chinese delegation pledges our full cooperation with FAO in this field.

Ms SITE BALKISH SHARIFF (Malaysia) : The Malaysian delegation had supported the adoption of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution of Pesticides during the 22nd Session of the FAO Conference by way of Resolution 10/85. The delegation further supported the adoption of Resolution 5/87 calling for the incorporation of the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the Code during the 24th Session of the Conference in 1987. Today will be the third consecutive time that Malaysia gives full support to the adoption of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution of Pesticides and the inclusion of the principle of Prior Informed Consent.

Malaysia has a well-recognized and effective pesticide registration scheme whereby only approved pesticides are permitted to be imported, manufactured, packed or labelled for sale in the country.

Under the present registration scheme Malaysia has not registered several pesticides and therefore they are not allowed for import or manufacture in the country. This is necessary in order to protect the health of those who apply pesticides which are hazardous when handled under the hot and humid conditions of the tropics where the climate is not conducive to the wearing of suitable protective clothing.

The action being taken by the FAO and other agencies such as UNEP on PIC and information exchange is highly commendable. The Pesticides Board of Malaysia will be nationally responsible for the implementation of the PIC scheme. The Board will be supported by the Secretariat to the Board which, among others, will establish internal procedures for the receipt and prudent handling of information received under the PIC procedures.

In considering applicants for approval of pesticides in the country the Board will take into consideration information obtained through the PIC and information exchange procedures being proposed in this Commission.



Malaysia will also establish a mechanism to advise pesticides exporters and the industry on the decisions of participating countries. If necessary, legislative measures will be taken to ensure that export of pesticides is controlled, and that pesticides are not exported, contrary to the decision of participating importing countries.

In recognition of the expertise that FAO already has in the field of pesticide use, management and control, we support the proposal that FAO operates the PIC scheme as far as pesticides are concerned.

On the selection of the pesticides to be included in the PIC procedures the proposed FAO expert panel should not only consider acutely hazardous pesticides formulations which are in Class 1A of the WHO Hazard Classification but should also consider pesticides which are known to have caused significant cases of poisoning and fatalities in developing countries. The performance of pesticide under practical conditions of use is of more significance than toxicity data derived from animal tests.

Malaysia would like to support the proposal that FAO maintain a database on country decisions and make such information available to National Authorities at regular intervals. In addition we would suggest that FAO should also, for the benefit of developing countries which do not have facilities or expertise to evaluate the toxicological data on new pesticides, look into the establishment of expert committees to review such data and make recommendations for consideration by these countries. This would help developing countries in making sound decisions on pesticide registration and necessary restrictions, if any, for the handling and use of pesticides under their respective socio-economic and climatic conditions.

We would also like to propose that the expert committee look into the possibilities of the PIC procedures being evaded by exporting countries such as in the situation where a highly restricted pesticide is exported to a country with no registration scheme, which in turn exports the pesticide to another country. The PIC procedures do not provide for the onward transfer of the information to the next country which imports the pesticide. We hope that the expert group formulating further details on PIC procedures will look into this and other possibilities, and ensure that the objectives of PIC are fulfilled.

Josef FOJTL (Czechoslovakia): Permit me please to make a short statement on behalf of the Czechoslovakian delegation. We consider the document C 89/20 as very important and well prepared. We give our full support to the FAO activities in this area.

In Czechoslovakia a unified system of registration, distribution and application of pesticides and other chemicals has already been used for several years. This system secures all the conditions necessary for the safe application of different chemical means against harmful agents.

Czechoslovakia supports and will continue to participate actively in the collaboration of the FAO proposals for registration, distribution and application of pesticides. We agree with the introduction of the clause Prior Informed Consent, and we agree particularly with the revisions and amendments to Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code and the Guidelines for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

In view of strengthening the control over the distribution and use of pesticides, we think that it would be useful to establish a central information data base, recording the registration and the range of use of different pesticides, by FAO member countries as was already mentioned by the distinguished representative of Malaysia.

Yong Kyu CHOI (Korea, Republic of): On behalf of the Korean delegation, I welcome the introduction of the PIC clause to the FAO rules which will contribute to the health of farmers and consumers as well as the improvement of the rural environment. In this regard, I express my gratitude to the FAO experts who have endeavoured to implement the PIC clause.

The Korean Government has strictly restricted the use of deadly and highly poisonous agricultural pesticides to protect the health of citizens as well as prevent environmental pollution.

Therefore the efficient operation of PIC will contribute to our Government's management of agricultural pesticides. In this respect, the Republic of Korea agrees to the introduction of PIC and hopes to be a participating country.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, the Korean delegation would like to stress the importance of sincere exchange of information not only from importing countries but also especially exporting or producing countries.

Crispos R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): On behalf of the Kenyan delegation, I wish to thank FAO for the efforts taken, leading at once to an agreement on the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and the Use of Pesticides. This is very important, particularly to many developing countries, as it provides the basis for greater cooperation and the protection of the end-users, who often are unable to read and hence are unaware of the dangers involved in the use of pesticides.

Kenya has been involved in forums where the Code was discussed in detail, and our views have since been incorporated. We commend the steps that have been taken to arrange consultations to develop an acceptable modality for Prior Informed Consent and to draft the revised text for Article 9 of the Code of Conduct.

The Kenyan delegation has studied the revisions and amendments made in the Code to Articles 2 and 9, and the guidelines on the operation of Prior Informed Consent. In this connection, I should like to convey our agreement with the additional definitions and provisions made for information exchange in the PIC. In addition, we are pleased and encouraged by the cooperation between UNEP and FAO on the operation of a joint programme on PIC as we believe that this is very important for the success of the scheme. However, the Kenyan delegation wishes to emphasize the need for the FAO to assist the developing countries in developing their national pesticides registration and the control units to enable them fully to implement the PIC procedures as recommended in paragraph 72 of the Report of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council. This would involve assistance in the training of staff, and in addition providing equipment and, where necessary, laboratory facilities.

**Noboru SATED (Japan):** My country supports the amendments to the Code and the introduction of PIC as proposed by the Secretariat. This is the final result of the long discussions following governmental consultations held in January this year, as has already been pointed out by many delegates. In this sense we feel that it is not appropriate to make further substantial modifications at this final stage, as the Canadian and United States delegates stated.

I should like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat that the consultation between FAO and UNEP has already been started, as described in paragraph 5 of document C 80.

Further cooperation with related international organizations such as UNEP and WHO is of vital importance for its success, as was pointed out during the last Council session.

**Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana):** I should like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation and eloquent presentation of the document before us.

The Ghana delegation at the Twenty-fourth FAO Conference supported, the resolution to incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Recognizing that more data and analysis were needed to arrive at an informed decision, Ghana also supported the establishment of a Working Group to consider the issues involved in the incorporation of the PIC in the Code. My delegation would like to express its gratitude to the FAO for promptly undertaking actions defined for it under Conference Resolution 5/87 which was adopted by consensus.

As is very well known, the reality of the situation is that an increasing proportion of our traditional farmers, the majority of them illiterate, have come to be involved in the use of agrochemicals in food production, but the use of these chemicals involves risks to the user or applicator, to the consumer and the environment. Pesticide residues enter the human body through dermal absorption through the skin and eyes, by entry through the mouth and by inhalation into the respiratory system. These helpless farmers are completely at risk.

My delegation need not overemphasize the importance of the PIC. The year 1972, for instance, saw nearly 500 000 pesticides poisoning cases around the world. In 1981 it was 750 000, and it keeps on growing. It is estimated that every year almost two million people worldwide are poisoned by pesticides, and 40 000 of them die as a result.

Of the over 15 000 different pesticides produced in the world, 28 of them have been either severely restricted or banned in many countries. Among these are DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, captafol and paraquat, all of which have been reported to be in use in developing countries. The irony of the situation is that nearly 85 percent of world pesticide production is consumed in industrialized countries; yet the incidence of pesticide poisoning is 13 times higher in the developing world. Commercial fisheries have been destroyed, and bird species have been endangered by pesticides.

The number of pesticide-related deaths is rising as much as are heroin-related deaths. They are both common enemies of the environment and concerted international action is needed to contain them. My delegation therefore sees in the PIC an extension of the new awareness of environmental

degradation - an issue which we all address. Ghana applauds the efforts of certain pesticide-exporting countries to regulate the export of pesticides to developing countries, USAID, for instance, has for a long time put tight restrictions on the supply of pesticides under the commodity import programme. USAID had reportedly supplied officially pesticides only through development projects under tight controls, including environmental assessment. Other industrialized countries have a large number of pesticides on the market.

The many ways in which they are applied, the large number of pesticides on the market and the difficulties in assessing some of the risks makes pesticide regulation difficult. Having said that, my delegation wishes to note, however, that it is difficult to rely on manufacturers and exporters of pesticides to attend to risks that do not affect their profits directly or the perceived welfare of their workers. Governments should therefore recognize their responsibilities to regulate the production and export of banned and severely restricted pesticides. In this regard, my delegation appeals to governments of pesticide-exporting countries to subscribe to the implementation of the PIC.

Ghana supports the guidelines of the operation of the PIC executing agency, except that we wish to sound a caveat regarding the reservation in the footnote on page 11 of C 89/20: "An import order by a Government authority will be assumed to have the consent of the Government and, thus, to have precedence over the PIC procedure." This is indeed a tricky balancing act. The truth is that most programmes and aid-in-kind have large components for pesticides and other agrochemicals. Even the USAID - and I stand to be corrected - which previously placed severe restrictions on pesticides supplied to aid recipient countries now seems to have new guidelines that have resulted in more provision of free pesticides under the commodity programme.

My delegation believes that this proviso will defeat the purpose of the PIC and recommends that it be dropped.

My delegation endorses the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP on the implementation of the PIC, in particular the establishment of the joint programme and a common data base. This will enable FAO to corroborate actions to be taken with the programmes of national institutions such as the Environmental Protection Council and the Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, both in Ghana. These two institutions have been set up inter alia to regulate pesticide importation and use.

Finally, Ghana supports the revision of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The revised form is reflected in the guidelines on the operation of the PIC.

Ghana welcomes technical assistance from the FAO to national institutions such as the two in Ghana already mentioned in training local people to be able to assess the risks associated with the use of pesticides and to make timely and informed decisions as to the importation and use of pesticides taking into account local and public health, economics, environmental administrative conditions as detailed in paragraph 9.2 of C 89/20. We also urge that training be given to the farmers whose sophistication and understanding of label instructions are very limited due to widespread illiteracy.

Chrysanthos LOIZIDES (Cyprus): The delegation of Cyprus has strongly supported the idea of adopting the International Code of Conduct for the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Considering the dangers that these chemicals represent for users, consumers and the environment, we believe that appropriate notification of their possible action should be provided to all parties dealing with them.

When adopting the Code, we believed that the Prior Informed Consent Clause should have been incorporated because it represents the most critical aspect of the Code. We accepted its exclusion then, however, in an effort to reach unanimity in its acceptance.

We have noted and we welcome the measures taken since the last Conference to facilitate the inclusion of the PIC in the Code of Conduct. It is our belief that the inclusion of the PIC will make the Code of Conduct more comprehensive and it will protect human lives and the environment in developing importing countries.

It is widely accepted that we live in a common environment. If, therefore, a pesticide or any other chemical is banned or severely restricted in one exporting country due to its effect on the environment, its use should be banned or severely restricted elsewhere as well.

It is not reasonable to assume that if one product has negative effects on the environment of an exporting country it will not have the same effect in an importing country. Along this line of thought, we believe that importing countries should be informed appropriately on any action that exporters are taking relating to the use of any product that will be sent elsewhere. We would like, therefore, to join others and support the inclusion of the PIC Clause into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and we approve the revisions and amendments of Articles 2 and 9 of the Code and the Guidelines on the Operation of the Prior Informed Consent.

Sra. Grafi la SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Agradecemos la documentación preparada por la Secretaría así como la presentación del tema que nos ocupa.

La delegación de Cuba considera que el uso de los plaguicidas puede tener efectos nocivos, especialmente para los países que no tienen un control adecuado de su uso. De tal manera que, a nuestro entender, la inclusión del consentimiento Previo al Código de Conducta reviste una importancia fundamental.

Las enmiendas de los Artículos 2 y 9 del Código de Conducta que fueron aprobadas por consenso y aprobadas justamente también por nuestra delegación, juegan un papel también muy importante.

El papel de la FAO y del PNUMA en este sentido son dignos de elogio. La delegación de Cuba reafirma su apoyo a las enmiendas en cuestión.

El trabajo realizado por el Grupo de Expertos, tanto de la FAO y del PNUMA, debe continuar.

Estamos cumplimentando la propuesta hecha en el 24<sup>o</sup> Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia, e insistimos en que debe haber un examen periódico por parte de la FAO, el PNUMA y la CMS a fin de dar continuidad a su cumplimiento.

En realidad, el hecho de que se exporten a los países en desarrollo productos tóxicos que no son admitidos en sus países de origen, es un aspecto muy preocupante. En tal sentido y para no ser repetitivos, nos adherimos a la declaración que en ese sentido ha hecho el distinguido delegado de Filipinas. La delegación de Cuba considera que esta Comisión, a través de la Conferencia, debe solicitar al Director General que se continúen las informaciones a los países a través del COAG, el Consejo y la Conferencia misma, si posible, con la realización de un estudio que pueda convertirse en un instrumento jurídico obligatorio, o sea, de aplicación obligatoria para todos los países.

**Russell R. MULELE (Zambia):** Firstly, I should like to thank the Secretariat for their preparation of the very good document under discussion and the excellent introduction by Dr Brader.

At the outset I should like to commend FAO for the initiatives and speedy actions they have taken to implement the incorporation of the Principle of PIC into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

we are also pleased to note the cooperation taking place between FAO and UNEP as regards the operation of PIC. We fully endorse this move. My delegation has participated in the debates and the meetings on the inclusion of the PIC in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Therefore, we wish to state that we support and approve the revisions and amendments of the Code and the guidelines on operation of PIC as given in Appendix E.

Finally we should like to underscore the need, as stated in paragraph 72, page 5 of the document under discussion, for FAO to provide technical assistance to developing countries in regard to PIC implementation procedures.

**Berrai VON SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):** We wish to point out that the Federal Government has reiterated a number of times that the Code of Conduct should be further completed by an appropriate Prior Informed Consent clause. We refer to the wording approved at the Ninety-fifth FAO Council meeting and recommend adoption of this text now at this Conference.

Together with the Canadian and other delegations, we are of the opinion that any amendments should not delay the implementation of PIC. We feel that, everything is open to further improvements. Therefore, appropriate amendments - I repeat - should not delay the adoption of the Resolution.

I have some matters of substance at this point. We are convinced that PIC is very useful for those countries which today have neither an adequate infrastructure for monitoring and control, nor a set of regulations covering their approval. The introduction of the PIC procedure, however, should not prevent importing countries from striving towards such rules and control mechanisms. Those mechanisms are necessary in order to have a better opinion on whether certain pesticides may be imported or even have to be imported in certain cases.

Such mechanisms are also necessary in order to ensure appropriate utilization of pesticides. Therefore, in countries where such rules and control mechanisms are insufficient or do not exist at all, the introduction of PIC should not prevent these countries from creating such mechanisms.

In conclusion I should like to refer to Article 9.8.4 of the Code of Conduct concerning advice at regular intervals and review of criteria for inclusion of pesticides in the PIC procedure. We wish to declare our willingness to make our expertise available. We will also gladly come back to the Secretariat's wish to have a single contact point appointed.

Tommie SJOBERG (Sweden): The Swedish delegation notes with satisfaction that FAO, in the preparation of texts now presented, has closely cooperated with UNEP to reach compatibility between the texts of the London Guidelines and the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the Swedish delegation notes with satisfaction the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP on the implementation of the PIC scheme and welcomes the steps being taken by both Organizations to establish a joint programme and a common data base.

Sweden supports the revisions and amendments of the Code and the proposed Guidelines. However, allow me to make a few short remarks. In Article 9.1 it is stated that the Government of any country that takes action should notify FAO as soon as possible of the action. The wording "as soon as possible", in my opinion, needs a specification. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the wording "but not later than six months" be inserted after "as soon as possible".

In Article 9.5 it is said that it is the intention that the information should be provided prior to export. The last sentence of this sub-Article should be specified too. I should like to suggest that the wording "or at the time of export at the latest" be added to the last sentence.

In the Guidelines it is said that superseded pesticides will not be submitted to the procedure described on page 10 of the document. In my opinion these pesticides should, however, be submitted to the procedure as long as there is no guarantee against, that the production and exportation of such pesticides will be resumed by some other countries.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola): Merci M. le Président. Après avoir entendu 27 délégués, mon intervention sera brève.

Le document C 89/20 a suscité un vif intérêt dans mon pays, puisque l'utilisation des pesticides augmente de plus en plus dans les zones rurales. La délégation angolaise tient à remercier le secrétariat pour le travail combien louable qu'il nous a présenté. Elle appuie les nouvelles versions révisées des articles 2.9 du Code international de conduite, et le principe de l'ICP.

Au nom de la délégation angolaise je félicite et encourage la collaboration entre la FAO et le PNUE pour la mise en oeuvre de la procédure d'information et de consentement préalable.

Mauricio CUADRA (Nicaragua) : Nuestra delegación desea felicitar en primer lugar a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento C 89/20, el cual hemos revisado con detenimiento. Conocemos también el resultado de la Consulta intergubernamental que recomendó la incorporación del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos en el Código de Conducta para la Utilización y Distribución de Plaguicidas. Consideramos que es muy valiosa la labor que se ha realizado y estamos de acuerdo con las recomendaciones.

Nuestro país adoptó el Códex de acuerdo a la Resolución 10/85 de la Conferencia de FAO aprobada en 1985. Aún cuando nuestra legislación en la materia es todavía incoompleta, está siendo revisada y las reglamentaciones internas para Registro y Uso de Plaguicidas se adaptan muy satisfactoriamente a las necesidades de este Código y a su aplicación práctica.

En nuestro país, el Registro de Plaguicidas es un instrumento fundamental para controlar que los productos que se comercializan y usan cumplen con los requisitos y normas de eficiencia biológica y seguridad pública y ambiental.

Nuestras reglamentaciones son rígidas en la aplicación de normas para introducción de nuevos productos, y se puede decir que al menos un 90 por ciento de los productos considerados como no deseados no se usan, ni se han importado en los últimos años. El PICP vendrá a ser pues un instrumento nuevo y mejor para el control.

Creemos que es abundante la información que existe sobre el daño enorme que hacen en los países en que se distribuyen y aplican aquellos plaguicidas que son peligrosos, e incluso prohibidos en los países donde se producen; y estamos de acuerdo con la delegación de Filipinas en que hay que reforzar el mecanismo de control actual, y creemos que sería lo más lógico que si un país productor de un determinado plaguicida lo tiene prohibido en su propio país, se le debe prohibir incluso su producción.

No sólo la salud humana es afectada por el uso de los plaguicidas prohibidos; los animales y el medio ambiente son afectados también, y se afecta además la calidad de los productos de exportación de los países en desarrollo, a los que se imponen medidas restrictivas en los mercados de los países desarrollados, por estar contaminados. Y, paradójicamente, muchas veces son estos mismos países los productores y exportadores de los tóxicos. Esto produce un doble daño a nuestros países, afectando la salud y además el comercio. Por eso consideramos que la introducción del PICP será un paso importante en la protección de la salud humana y animal, el medio ambiente y además otros aspectos, como el comercial, que ya hemos señalado. Al apoyar la introducción de PICP, consideramos que la FAO debe jugar un rol principal en la aplicación práctica de este principio, en coordinación con otras organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas y con organizaciones regionales que se ocupan de la materia. Adem, creemos que la FAO debe poner un gran esfuerzo en el apoyo a los países, sobre todo a los países en desarrollo, con programas de capacitación que hagan factible una aplicación adecuada del Codex y, ahora, del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos. Existen grandes deficiencias en nuestro país en este campo, y la necesidad de una correcta regulación del uso de los plaguicidas es urgente.

Hemos escuchado también con agrado la disposición de algunos países desarrollados, productores y exportadores de plaguicidas, de brindar asistencia a los países en desarrollo para que perfeccionen sus sistemas de control. Saludamos esta disposición, ya que si estos países controlan a sus productores y además ayudan a los importadores de países en desarrollo a que controlemos mejor nuestras importaciones, el beneficio será mayor.

Nuestro país, finalmente, deja sentado su pleno apoyo a la introducción del PICP en el Código de Conducta para Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas.

Magnar SONDFOR (Norway): On the TWenty-fourth Session of the Conference, Norway supported Resolution 5/87, Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, proposed by Colombia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia.



"The resolution invited the Conference to amend the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" to Article 9 of the Code of Conduct.

From our point of view, protection against the hazards of pesticides for individual users and the environment as a whole, is extremely important. The principle of "Prior Informed Consent" urges exporters of pesticides to make all relevant information on the actual pesticides available for importing countries. So far, experience has shown that particularly the developing countries are facing huge difficulties in establishing effective control measures concerning imported pesticides.

"Prior Informed Consent" may therefore be of substantial help to importing countries - and in particular the developing countries - in dealing with the influx of hazardous pesticides. Thus, the inclusion of the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" into FAO's Code of Conduct can be a relevant measure to protect both the environment and individual users.

On the Agenda Item 6.1 "State of Food and Agriculture", the Nordic countries underlined that FAO must respond to the environmental challenge and strengthen its international cooperation. We believe that international cooperation is :required if we are to solve the environmental problems in the 1990s.

On this matter, FAO and UNEP have cooperated closely, and we are very satisfied with what is proposed in the document C 89/20 to the Conference. We have seen it as important that FAO's guidelines for Prior Informed Consent in the Distribution and Use of Pesticides are in conformity with the guidelines for chemicals agreed in UNEP. We would also underline that we are satisfied with the establishment of a joint FAO/UNEP data base.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan) : The document C 89/20 regarding the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent clause in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides succinctly describes the process and the technical scrutiny through Which the issues involved in the PIC have passed in pursuance of the decision of the 24th Session of the FAO Conference of 1987.

It is a matter of immense satisfaction that the Expert Consultation of March 1988, consultations with the member countries, government consultations of January 1989 and COAG approved the incorporation of PIC in the Code of Conduct. In the process, FAO and UNEP closely collaborated, which culminated in the amendment of London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade making the guidelines compatible with the provision for Prior Informed Consent. The 95th Session of FAO Council also examined the amendments adopted by COAG to Articles 2 and 9 of the Code and the guidelines on the operation of PIC and recommended approval of the same by the 25th Conference.

The FAO Code of Conduct is designed to encourage the safe and efficient use of pesticides including minimizing the adverse effects on human life and the environment and preventing accidental poisoning f ran improper use of toxic pesticides. The success of the Code of Conduct depends on how far the pesticide importing and distribution companies would observe various practices and recommendations incorporated in the Code and also regulatory instruments and mechanisms evolved by the individual countries.

In Pakistan, the import, manufacture, formulation, distribution and sale of pesticides are being regulated through an Agricultural Pesticides ordinance of 1971. The Directorate of Plant Protection of the Ministry of Food and

Agriculture is the designated national authority to register and regulate the use of pesticides. Besides governing the pesticide registration procedures in the country, it also provides quality control through government-appointed inspectors, guidelines for manufacturing, formulation, packaging, labelling, storage and safety measures to be adopted in handling and use of pesticides. These procedures and practices conform to the 22nd FAO Government Consultation on International Harmonization of Pesticides Registration Requirements held in Rome in October 1982,

The Government of Pakistan attaches high priority to the task of proper and safe use of pesticides and extends its full support to the inclusion of the PIC clause in the FAO Code of Conduct as placed before this house.

We will also recommend that the lacunae identified by the distinguished delegate of the Philippines in the existing arrangements on the use of pesticides should be given due consideration with a view to eliminating the use of hazardous pesticides in the developing countries.

Issan Eldin MOHAMED EL SAYED (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Allow me, first of all, to convey our approval for all the amendments which have been tendered for the International Code of Conduct. We support the principle of the inclusion of the PIC. We would also support the proposals made by the Philippines regarding Step 4 of the guidelines related to PIC. We consider that the introduction of these amendments will lead to a reduction of the use of such pesticides. We quite approve the continuing cooperation between FAO and UNEP in this matter. In order to achieve this aim, we would suggest an amendment to Step 4 of the guidelines contained in this document on page 10 in the English version.

We believe that the necessary technical support should be sought and included in Category 1A of WHO. We would also suggest that the rest of this paragraph should read as follows: "in WHO class 1" - we would delete "A" and this in order to be able to apply the London Guidelines.

We have a second amendment to suggest. At the bottom of page 10 there is a footnote that says, "import approved by one government will be considered to extend to other governments and therefore extend over and above PIC. " We think that the approval of one government is a misleading expression and may have a negative effect for the importing countries. We suggest the following amendment - in other words, we say that it should say: "a designated official or authority."

D.P.D, VAN RAPPARD (Netherlands): Much has been said about PIC and I will be brief. The document gives a good picture of the background of the proposal, the definition of PIC has been improved.

Regarding the procedure of PIC it has been mentioned many times that full clarification is required and therefore we regret that the guidelines for the procedure as developed by FAO and UNEP are not completely in line. My government however is fully confident that in practice it will be possible that FAO and UNEP work out together a satisfactory approach. On a single point, however, we should like to make a comment.

It regards the footnote for step 6 of the Guidelines on the operation of PIC. It says that "an import-order by a Government authority will be assumed to have the consent of the Government and thus have precedence over the

PIC-procedure". The UNEP-guidelines do not know this addition. We can understand that in this situation it is not necessary to follow the PIC-procedure and that the mentioned footnote will enable to avoid delay in the implementation of the order.

On the other side however, we would like to stress that confusion might occur concerning the authority of semi-governmental organizations, etc. Moreover/ it is possible that a decision which has still to be made on the basis of the PIC procedure, could be negative for the forthcoming use of this chemical on basis of the provided information about the pesticide.

We therefore would like from our side to propose to clarify the following: the note will have the meaning that an import order of a Government authority can be implemented as long as no official reaction on the notification has been received, but this does not mean that an official reply of the participating country is not expected any more. A clear government decision in the frame of the PIC procedure and provided by the designated national authority is required in order to be sure about the government policy of the importing country regarding the involved chemical.

In the case of a reply of the designated national authority of the importing country, this reply should have precedence above the import order.

Mr Chairman, as said, we should like to have clarification on this point.

**N.D. ERASER (New Zealand):** Mr Chairman, New Zealand is pleased to inform the Conference that we are now in a position to support the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent principle, as tabled in Document C 89/20.

We have not as yet completed consideration of the New Zealand official contact point to be designated for implementing the PIC procedure. The decision, when made, will be quickly conveyed to the Secretariat.

We note that Prior Informed Consent will not provide all the requirements that importing countries need but recognize that it serves as an effective interim measure while developing countries improve institutional and regulatory capabilities to ensure that concerns about pesticides are able to be handled.

We are aware, Mr Chairman, of the FAO regional project, based in Bangkok, which is instrumental in advising and assisting countries to develop their regulatory systems.

Further, with regard to establishing or strengthening these regulatory capabilities, the Conference may be interested to know that New Zealand has been actively providing expertise to South Pacific Island countries with their development of regulatory systems.

**B. PALESTINI (Italy):** My delegation welcomes the decisions put forward in document C 89/20, which introduces the PIC clause in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

My country is very much in favour of introducing the PIC procedure in the FAO Code of Conduct and, furthermore, as a member of the EEC, is working on a proposal for introduction also in Community Regulations.

Italy also agrees on the revision of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct and on the Guidelines as they appear on page 6 and following of the document.

Italy is very much concerned about the environmental changes which are taking place on our planet due to pollution by chemicals and dangerous wastes. This does not mean excluding all chemicals from agriculture, as some would want us to do, but giving better tools and information for the correct use of pesticides and fertilizers, without which we could never have attained today's standards of production. On the other hand, we consider very important the research that is going on in this field in order to obtain less toxic substances and the introduction of genetic resistance in cultivated plants.

Italy has also approved and implemented a national plan for integrated pest control which should bring about a reduction in the use of pesticides of the order of 30 percent to 50 percent and promote a more rational use of these substances. We consider this only a small step towards a wiser use of our natural resources, which must be preserved and defended for the benefit of all mankind and for the very survival of future generations.

KIM YONG CHANG (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): On behalf of my delegation, I should like to express my thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat of FAO for the presentation of the excellent document before us, C 89/20. Environmental protection is a very important question for human health and, particularly, the agro-ecological environment and food production. At the last Conference, it was decided that the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated in the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides in the present biennium, and the Director-General was asked to arrange for the establishment of a working group to consider issues involved in the operation of the Prior Informed Consent clause in the Code, including those of implementation. The Director-General has taken a number of initiatives and actions to implement the decision of the 24th Session of the Conference, including the convening of expert and government consultation and the operation of a joint FAO and UNEP programme.

The delegation of the DPR of Korea highly appreciates the progress and success achieved in the activities on PIC during the last two years. We fully support the revised text of Articles 2 and 9 of the Code and the Guidelines on the operation of PIC. Our government gives great attention to environmental protection and conservation for human health and agro-ecology in all activities of the national economy, including the production and use of, and trade in, pesticides.

We believe that FAO should continue to attach priority to its activities in helping the establishment of a registration and control system in developing countries and the successful implementation of the revised text of Articles 2 and 9 of the Code and Guidelines on the operation of PIC. I should like to invite this Conference to adopt unanimously document C 89/20 on the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the introduction of the Prior Informed Consent clause.

Theodor GLASER (Suisse) : Le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides a certainement une grande importance pour la Suisse et c'est pourquoi nous sommes très heureux qu'une bonne formule ait été votée pour l'introduction de la clause de l'information et du

consentement préalable (ICP). Je suis particulièrement satisfait que l'on ait trouvé les moyens d'oeuvrer pour une bonne et étroite coopération avec le PNUE.

J'ai un petit problème pratique car nous sommes tellement en avance sur l'horaire que les experts de ma délégation, qui devaient traiter de ce point de l'Ordre du jour, ne sont pas encore arrivés à Rome. C'est pourquoi j'aimerais vous demander la permission, le cas échéant, de vous fournir plus tard, par écrit, des notes et observations additionnelles dans le procès-verbal.

CHAIRMAN: We should be very pleased to include in our verbatim records any technical and specific points that the delegation of Switzerland would like to make to us, I would just like to point out that we are not exactly ahead of time. We are half a day ahead. This is because we need the extra time for discussion of our resolutions. we are not forcing the Commission to go at a faster pace than necessary because we understand that there are a lot of other matters which will discussed by our Commission.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALEA (México): Señor Presidente, nuestra participación, por el contrario, no tiene un contenido fundamentalmente técnico, sino de carácter social. Por ello queremos expresar nuestro beneplácito por el hecho de que varias delegaciones hayan hecho explícito lo que en muchas ocasiones es simplemente obvio; es decir, que consideraciones de tipo técnico en muchas ocasiones adquieren relevancia porque tienen una proyección claramente social y humanitaria, ya que cuando estamos hablando del uso de las restricciones a plaguicidas, estamos hablando de la protección a la salud y al bienestar humano. Por tanto, estamos hablando del desarrollo social, elemento fundamental para hablar también de agricultura sostenible que es finalmente el objetivo de todo proyecto de agricultura sostenible: el desarrollo social, el bienestar, la preservación de la salud.

Hechos estos comentarios, señor Presidente, de carácter general, nuestra delegación quiere apoyar las dos propuestas de enmienda del Artículo 2 y el Artículo 9 del Código y, al mismo tiempo, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo al contenido general de las Directrices para la aplicación del PICP.

Uniéndonos también a las inquietudes y a las sugerencias expresadas por varias delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, consideramos oportuno que la FAO incremente sus esfuerzos en el proceso de elaboración y de actualización de un banco de datos sobre plaguicidas prohibidos o severamente limitados.

También, y en consonancia con lo que expresó el distinguido Delegado de Bulgaria, que la FAO, en la medida en que fuese posible, sugiriese a los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo la gama de fitofármacos alternativos a aquellos que han sido incluidos en esta lista de plaguicidas prohibidos o de uso limitado.

Steen SONDERGARRD (Denmark): I will try to be brief, but a lot has been said. Denmark welcomes the introduction of Prior Informed Consent in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and Use of Pesticides in order to ensure that the most dangerous pesticides are not exported to countries which do not want this import. Furthermore, we welcome the practical guidelines for the implementation of the PIC principle. We think that the work done in the

expert group, COAC and the Council, has resulted in a proposal with logical and practical guidelines for the future use of  $r$  and work with, the PIC principle.

The registration of information about banned and severely restricted pesticides will take place, as we note with great satisfaction, in close cooperation with UNEP. UNEP already operates a data base with information about dangerous chemicals. It is therefore natural that the two UN organizations should have close cooperation on this matter.

However, although much work has been done, there are still details to be clarified. The effect of the PIC principle will depend on the notification of dangerous pesticides, but a few pesticides which are not registered in any country but are nevertheless produced, exported and used seem to fall outside the PIC system. Furthermore, there seems to be a possibility that dangerous pesticides which are only registered in one country, or which have been withdrawn, fall outside the PIC system. The Philippine delegate has already spoken about this problem, and I should like to urge the Secretariat to look into his suggestions for amendment.

Furthermore, we support the proposal made by the US Delegation that, if a country bans the import of a certain pesticide, this should influence the eventual domestic production of the pesticide concerned.

We do not expect a new system to be perfect from the very start, but we would expect that the system would be refined over the next couple of years to ensure that all dangerous pesticides are included in the PIC system.

The governments recognizing the PIC system are obliged, within their authorities, to ensure that exports of these pesticides do not occur contrary to the decisions of participating importing countries. In this connection, it must be stressed that the effect of the PIC principle also depends on the ability of the importing countries and their institutions to handle the provided information. It is therefore important to develop and strengthen the relevant institutions in the developing countries to ensure that they are able to handle and act on this information and either avoid import of dangerous pesticides or handle them properly.

Denmark is most satisfied with the incorporation of the PIC principle in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. This is a very important step on the long road to a more secure trade in, and use of, pesticides.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Señor Presidente, los representantes de Colombia pensamos que la Secretaría de la FAO ha seguido, en forma adecuada y positiva, todas las recomendaciones de los gobiernos para que la tan controvertida decisión de la pasada Conferencia, sobre inclusión del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos en el Código, se pueda ahora adoptar de manera definitiva y, ojalá, por consenso.

En efecto, la FAO convocó el Grupo de Expertos y celebró amplias consultas con todas las partes interesadas, así como una Consulta Intergubernamental en enero de 1989. Fue así como los representantes de gobiernos y de todos los sectores interesados tuvieron ocasión de discutir ampliamente ese largo proceso que ahora se ha decantado de manera muy clara y equilibrada.

Hay otro aspecto importante que deseamos destacar y es el de la estrecha cooperación entre la FAO y el PNUMA, principio que concuerda con el propósito esencial de evitar duplicación de actividades y complementar las acciones comunes de las organizaciones en favor de un mismo objetivo.

Encontramos muy acertada la participación de la FAO en las reuniones organizadas por el PNUMA para la introducción del principio de información y consentimiento previos en sus Direcciones de Londres para el intercambio de información acerca de productos químicos, objeto de comercio internacional, como dice el párrafo 3 de este documento.

En el extracto del informe del 95<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo, que aparece como apéndice a este documento, ya el Consejo expresó su aprecio positivo por la cooperación FAO/PNUMA y acogió con satisfacción las medidas que estaban adoptando ambas organizaciones para establecer un programa conjunto.

Opinamos que la Conferencia debe apoyar esos puntos de vista del Consejo, sobre la indispensable cooperación FAO/PNUMA, pidiendo que se mantengan informados los órganos rectores sobre el memorando de acuerdo y, en general, acerca del desarrollo futuro de todas estas actividades.

Apoyamos plenamente el párrafo 72, en el sentido de que será necesario que se ofrezca asistencia a los países en desarrollo, particularmente para la capacitación del personal nacional.

Los procedimientos del PICP, y muchas otras disposiciones del Código de Conducta, son complejos y difíciles de aplicar si se carece de los medios y de los conocimientos indispensables. Por ello el resultado de este largo ejercicio debe tener uso eficaz, y esto hace necesario la preparación pertinente de los funcionarios de los países en desarrollo.

El COAG primero, y luego el Consejo, tras largos y profundos debates, lograron ponerse de acuerdo sobre las revisiones y enmiendas del Código, Artículos 2 y 9.

Consecuentes con nuestras actuaciones en todas las reuniones anteriores, los representantes de Colombia reiteramos nuestro apoyo a esas revisiones y enmiendas y a las Directrices para la Aplicación del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos, tal como aparecen en el Apéndice de este Documento.

Señor Presidente, teniendo en cuenta que existe consenso sobre el Código de Conducta sobre la distribución y uso de plaguicidas, la delegación de Colombia considera pertinente solicitar al Director General la realización de un estudio sobre la posible conversión del Código de Conducta en un instrumento jurídico de aplicaciones obligatorias para los países y que sea presentado a la próxima Conferencia a través del COAG y del Consejo, tal como lo expresara la delegación de Cuba y otras.

Mme Maria de Lourdes DUARTE (Cap-Vert) : La délégation cap-verdienne se joint aux orateurs qui l'ont précédée pour appuyer les amendements des articles 2 et 9 du Code de même que les directives pour le fonctionnement du système d'information et de consentement préalables.

Ma délégation fait sien le contenu du paragraphe 72 du document examiné. Notamment pour l'application pratique de la clause ICP, il est prioritaire d'accorder une assistance technique aux pays en développement qui n'ont pas de système d'homologation et de contrôle des pesticides.

Nous soulignons aussi l'importance du paragraphe 70 à propos des produits chimiques qui n'ont pas été homologués ou qui ont été retirés dans des pays et qui font l'objet de l'exportation. À cet égard, nous soutenons les amendements concernant le point 4 des directives sur le choix des pesticides incluant les systèmes d'ICP, proposés par les Philippines et le Soudan.

A cette heure tardive de nos débats, permettez-nous toutefois de nous réjouir de l'étroite coopération qui prévaut entre la FAO et le PNUD dans la mise en oeuvre de la procédure de l'ICP.

Mohammed Badr El Din EL MASOUDI (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for this excellent document C 89/20 on pesticides. We would like to deal with the PIC which is pertinent to the banning of exporting any dangerous pesticides to any country which does not wish to receive such pesticides, i.e. such a country is fully competent to accept or to refuse the receipt of such pesticides according to the guidelines of the Organizations. We agree with other delegations that this Organization should have a close cooperation with UNEP in order to have the necessary coordination, such coordination which will be beneficial to the health of man, to animals, and will be safe for the environment. We want to limit the negative effects of such pesticides as much as possible.

We would like to reiterate that success in implementing and accepting the PIC as far as pesticides is concerned, is conditioned by the freedom to exchange information which is provided by different countries, as well as the speed with which such information is provided.

Finally, this excellent document C 89/20 which has been submitted by the Secretariat, is indeed the basis to deal with all the problems pertinent to pesticides and the measures we have to take in this regard.

Zeid ABDEL RAHMAN (Yemen, Arab Republic of) (original language Arabic): The

topic of pesticides is indeed a very sensitive and important topic. It is especially pertinent to all developing countries. In spite of the very worthy results which are gained by the use of pesticides on crops, the negative effects of the pesticides on these very societies and on these very developing countries are enormous indeed. If we should take a look at the position prevailing in developing countries, we would find that there are some problems which determine the use of pesticides. Those are ignorance and illiteracy amongst the rural section of the population. This in turn is represented in the type of use of these pesticides, but we find that some producer companies, some trading companies, are not interested in anything but profit, and very quick profit at that, so that these very companies can take advantage of those countries and take advantage of the poor state of scientific knowledge in those importing countries such as laboratories to test the pesticides, and the general formulae of different types of pesticides. So we, the importing countries, we who have absolutely no such laboratories, we have no knowledge whether these pesticides are of the right formula - are they all right to use, are they safe to use?



There is a further problem indeed, which is to encourage some of the agents or some of the companies to use a concentrate and to smuggle those pesticides which have been banned. So there again, we do not know whether the pesticides we are receiving have been smuggled, whether they are old, whether they are dangerous. This leads to numerous problems and especially in the background of ignorance as a whole. We are not very aware of the importance of preserving our water and our environment, the effects that may harm those, so there is a great necessity today to coordinate closely between the PIC and the International Code of Conduct, and we would like to ask the Organization to give us the means and the modalities to get rid of all dangers and of pesticides, whether that be by bilateral cooperation or multilateral cooperation.

F. BATURE (Nigeria): Thank you Mr Chairman for giving my delegation the opportunity to make an intervention on this important subject. I wish to congratulate the Secretariat for producing this excellent document C 89/20.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to FAO for taking the initiative on this subject, and also to express our satisfaction with the action taken by the FAO Director-General on the issue of Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, with particular reference to Prior Informed Consent. We wish also to acknowledge the contribution of the delegation of the Republic of the Philippines for introducing the resolution which has made it possible for our discussion this morning.

The issue of Prior Informed Consent in the international trade in pesticides is crucial, and my delegation would urge all delegations to treat it dispassionately to enable us to arrive at successful conclusions for the benefit of humanity.

In our opinion the issue is not contentious, and we should not allow the huge profits accruing from the pesticide trade to cloud objective decisions. The Report of research carried out on this subject in several developing countries by NGOs is instructive. FAO and UNEP should also take the necessary steps to foster proper pest management by farmers in developing countries with a view to eliminating easy and cheap recourse to pesticide use which does incalculable harm to human health and the ecosystem.

Before I conclude, I should like to suggest an amendment be made to Step 4 on page 10 of document C 89/20, that in the second paragraph after the words "WHO Class 1A" in the seventh line the following words be added "and in addition they will keep the issue of acutely hazardous pesticide formulations under continuous review after completion of the initial task".

Roberto PONCE (Ecuador): La delegación ecuatoriana desea apoyar las modificaciones de los Artículos 2 y 9 que permitirían la incorporación del PICP en el Código. Somos conscientes de que esto no soluciona totalmente el problema del uso indiscriminado de plaguicidas pero será de grande ayuda para llegar a un uso más racional de los mismos.

Sin embargo, sobre este tópico mi delegación desea volver a llamar la atención a las dificultades que enfrentan los países en desarrollo para lograr una efectiva aplicación del Principio cuando éste entre en vigor, y a la necesidad que estos países tienen de recibir la asistencia de organismos internacionales como FAO y el PNUMA y de países industrializados productores y exportadores de plaguicidas, para conseguir este objetivo especialmente a

través de la capacitación del personal que pueda evaluar las consecuencias del uso de estos plaguicidas en la salud humana y en el medio ambiente; y también pueda, en su momento, capacitar al agricultor y al campesino en el adecuado uso de estos productos.

Es por ello que nuestra delegación considera que la concreción de un Programa Conjunto FAO/PNUMA para la aplicación práctica del PICP es urgente y prioritaria.

Igualmente, la delegación ecuatoriana piensa que la aplicación del PICP no podrá ser eficaz si es que no se tiende a convertir el Código en un instrumento de carácter obligatorio, y si no se involucran en el Principio todos los productos nocivos, y no solamente aquéllos que constan en la lista elaborada por la Organización Mundial de la Salud.

En este mismo orden de ideas, la delegación ecuatoriana desea apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Filipinas en lo relacionado con el cambio de las directrices, a fin de evitar que eventualmente ciertos productos prohibidos puedan escapar al ámbito de aplicación del PICP.

Finalmente, la delegación ecuatoriana espera que esta Conferencia pueda alcanzar el acuerdo necesario para aprobar la incorporación de la Cláusula de Información y Consentimiento Previos en el Código de Conducta, que muchas delegaciones ya han señalado es producto de un largo y paciente proceso de negociación que puede llegar a su culminación en este momento.

**S. Gblorzuo TOWEH (Liberia):** My Government supports the Prior Informed Consent clause to be incorporated into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We should like to thank the FAO and UNEP for this very significant contribution to the safety of our environment. As was observed, the merging of food production and the environment cannot be over-emphasized.

As was mentioned in my country's statement, it would seem that developing countries, particularly in Africa, have been targeted as dumping sites for dangerous chemicals. This move by FAO and UNEP is therefore timely, because this action will guide countries, especially importing countries which until now have not had pesticide registration and control institutions and which have to rely on the sincerity of exporting countries.

We are grateful to the United States Department of Agriculture which periodically provides us with such vital information. Like the delegation from the Democratic Republic of China and that from the Republic of Ghana, we should like to join those requesting that you go a small step further by assisting developing countries through technical assistance to set up their own institutions for the control and use of pesticides.

**Abdullah M.K. BQOANG (Gambia) :** We should like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent document and their introductory statement. We welcome the close cooperation between FAO and UNEP on the introduction of PIC, and we would support the adoption of the Code.

My delegation supports all the amendments proposed by the delegate of the Philippines which are designed to address a serious loophole in the system. Like Sudan and Nigeria, we do not believe that the work of the expert panel should be restricted to reviewing Class 1A products only. We therefore

propose, on page 10 of C 89/20, Step 4, paragraph 2, line 7, the deletion of the letter "B". Such a minor amendment would merely remove an obstacle for the expert group and would bring its mandate closer to that of UNEP, which will review all acutely hazardous pesticides, not only those in WHO Class 1A.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Hemos pedido la palabra para unir nuestra voz a lo ya ampliamente expresado por los delegados que me han precedido en el uso de la misma, aprovechando la ocasión para reafirmar el apoyo y aceptación que concedemos al Principio de Información y Consentimiento previos, así como de su inclusión en el Código.

Con relación al documento en estudio, consideramos un deber hacer mención al rol fundamental que está llamada a desempeñar la FAO en la implantación de este Principio como norma reguladora en la distribución y utilización de los plaguicidas, y en la atención de la salvaguardia de la población y del medio ambiente.

Dentro de este marco de ideas, reafirmamos nuestro apoyo a lo señalado en el párrafo 67 relativo al asesoramiento a países miembros sobre la mejor forma de aplicar el Principio, así como el contenido del párrafo 72 sobre la capacitación de personal nacional; aspectos ambos que consideramos indispensables para que los países en desarrollo logremos alcanzar los niveles de conocimiento adecuados para establecer los procedimientos eficaces de registro y control de plaguicidas.

De igual manera, nos hacemos copartícipes en el agradecimiento a los donantes a que se hace mención en el párrafo 72, invitándoles a la vez a que continúen brindando su apoyo y asistencia en la programación de planes comunes para su aplicación.

Celebramos igualmente la colaboración existente entre la FAO y el PNUMA en la medida que los conocimientos técnicos de este último redundan en beneficio de un mejor y eficaz asesoramiento en la aplicación del Principio en cuestión; cooperación que debería igualmente involucrar los esfuerzos regionales que necesitan de la guía y apoyo internacionales.

Por último, y dada la importancia que reviste la aplicación de este instrumento en la salud, bienestar y desarrollo social de la humanidad, nos unimos a las sugerencias de varias delegaciones que nos han precedido en el uso de la palabra, en el sentido de que la Secretaría de la FAO realice un estudio sobre la posible conversión del Código como un instrumento de cumplimiento obligatorio. Dicho estudio podría ser presentado a la consideración de la próxima Conferencia por intermedio del Comité de Agricultura y del Consejo.

Para terminar, apoyamos la propuesta del delegado de Filipinas que tiende a garantizar las escapatorias en este sentido.

José Ramón RAPADO BRRAZTI (España) : Nuestra delegación observa con agrado el contenido del documento C 89/20 que contempla el Código de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas mediante la introducción del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos, el cual podríamos definir como la recta final para la aplicación del procedimiento del ICP después de las enmiendas del 95<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo de FAO y el Comité de Agricultura, 0083.

En ambas oportunidades, nuestra delegación defendió la conveniencia de modificar el artículo 981, reafirmandonos en las medidas de control para asegurar que se ajuste a definiciones formuladas de el artículo 2 del Código y preparar el documento de orientación pertinente.

Igualmente, creemos que la FAO deberá prestar asesoramiento a intervalos periódicos y los criterios para la inclusión de los plaguicidas en el procedimiento de información y consentimiento previo, informando a los Estados Miembros acerca de sus conclusiones. En esta línea de actuación, nuestro país ofrece su colaboración y asistencia técnica a nivel de expertos que presten este asesoramiento in situ a aquellos países que lo soliciten a la FAO.

Por todo ello, nuestra delegación apoya el principio de aplicación del Código de Conducta y el PICP.

Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina): Mi Gobierno apoya las enmiendas propuestas a los artículos 2 y 9 del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas, así como las directrices para la aplicación del principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos. Aunque sabemos que el PICP puede llegar a significar la pérdida de la posibilidad de exportación de varios productos que se encuentran en el mercado, para nuestro país es más importante la protección de la salud y el medio ambiente, por lo que la Argentina continuará adherida al Código de Conducta y trabajará activamente en el Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos.

Con respecto a la planilla de plaguicidas prohibidos o severamente limitados, que figura como Anexo de las Directrices, se considera oportuna la inclusión de dos nuevos datos, con información sobre la importación, por un lado, y sobre la posible fabricación y su exportación en el país que los prohíbe, por el otro. Por separado, se hará llegar a esa Secretaría la planilla corregida que se propone. Para terminar, queremos reafirmar nuestro apoyo a la acción conjunta de la FAO y del PNUMA en la formulación de las normas sobre la información y el consentimiento previos en la utilización de plaguicidas.

Nos reservamos el derecho a intervenir nuevamente, cuando se conozca el texto del proyecto de resolución que se proponga sobre este tema.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom supports the proposals in C 89/20. We strongly endorse cooperation between FAO and UNEP to achieve compatible procedures.

Some delegations have suggested that if a country bans the use of a pesticide within its boundaries it should also ban the manufacture and/or export of that pesticide. I understand why this has been said, but I do not believe it is necessarily an appropriate attitude to adopt, for several possible reasons.

First, a country may ban use because it has virtually no problems with the target pests and any minor health or environmental hazards outweigh the benefits. In another country where the pest is serious the balance may be grossly in favour of benefits against minor hazards. Secondly, it is quite possible that some chemicals will be of much less serious a hazard in one climate, say hot and dry, as against another, say cold and wet, and different

degradability and polluting factors may influence decisions to ban or to use. Thirdly, there may also be economic considerations which tilt the balance of judgement towards a ban in one country but not another.

We share the views expressed by some delegations that we should not pursue amendments today that might delay interpretation of the PIC procedure agreed at COAG and the Council. Of course, we realize that this would not prevent subsequent further consideration, and we urge all delegations to bear this in mind.

Alberto MURILLO (Venezuela) : Nuestra Delegación apoya lo reseñado en el extracto del informe del 95<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo. De igual manera, las enmiendas a los artículos 2 y 9 del Código de Conducta sobre la Distribución y utilización de Plaguicidas y las directrices para la aplicación del Principio de Información y Consentimiento Previos.

Apoyamos lo dicho por el delegado de Filipinas en relación con la enmienda al trámite 4, página 10 del documento C 89/20.

Asimismo, apoyamos lo dicho por las distinguidas delegaciones de Colombia y Cuba, entre otras, acerca del estudio de la posibilidad de conversión del Código de Conducta en un instrumento jurídico de aplicación obligatoria.

Ms E. D. OLET (Uganda): The Ugandan delegation would like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on the preparation of this document C 89/20, which is presented to this Commission. This was a result of a decision made at the last Conference in 1987, which proposed that the Code should be amended. The Prior Informed Consent Procedures and the Guidelines presented in the document are clear and precise. Therefore, my delegation approves the amendment of Articles 2 and 9 of the Extract Report. Furthermore, in the Extract emphasis has been placed on the close cooperation of FAO and UNEP in pesticide integration and management. We are pleased to note that FAO in its Regular Programme of 1988/89 has concentrated on the situation where there was a clear mis- or over-use of pesticides. The major activity has been on the South East Asian programme. The result of this is that there has been a changing attitude in the use of pesticides since over 200 000 farmers were trained. In Uganda the use of pesticides remains a worrying factor. Recently FAO and UNDP have discontinued the use of dieldrin to combat tsetse flies when it was discovered that the chemical would eventually seep into the rivers and, therefore, make the water toxic to animal life. We fully appreciate this action by FAO and UNDP, and hope that other organizations and countries will follow the example, by discouraging the use of dangerous chemicals, especially in developing countries.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): India is a party to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides adopted by the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference in 1985. We feel that the inclusion of the Prior Informed Consent clause in the Code will greatly increase its effectiveness. The provision of expressed consent of the importing countries after being informed of the existence of the ban or severe restrictions applying to the pesticide in question, together with information on the hazards, will substantially increase the safe use of pesticides in the world.

We were initially of the view that no pesticide banned or severely restricted in its country of origin might be exported, except under the PIC procedure.

We were also of the view that all extremely hazardous and highly hazardous pesticides should be included in classifications 1 (a) and 1 (b) of WHO and must fall within the ambit of PIC. However, we want along with the consensus on these two issues concerning the threshold for triggering the PIC clause and the alert list. We hope that the FAO Expert Panel mentioned in the Guidelines will consider the problem of these acutely hazardous pesticide formulations, and include them in the trigger list for application of PIC procedures in the future.

The current definition of "severely restricted pesticides" applies only to use restrictions and not to restricted uses. We would have liked to see both the criteria included in the definition. This is necessary, as in the developing countries the hazards due to toxicity are significant due to lack of training, protective equipment and the lower awareness to the hazards of pesticide use. However, for the present we would leave these issues to be addressed by the FAO Secretariat and to put up proposals in this regard, whilst reporting progress on the implementation of PIC and the Code.

India has agreed to the operation of the PIC clause under the auspices of FAO. We have agreed that FAO shall be the clearing house for the information relating to pesticides banned or severely restricted for use, and getting the consent of the intending importing countries for the import.

We commend and encourage cooperation between FAO and the UNEP in the field of the principle of PIC and its inclusion in their London Guidelines for Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade. We are of the view that such cooperation in the implementation of the PIC procedure would lead to a better and safer environment. For the sake of a better environment and human safety, it is incumbent on the developed countries as exporting countries to ensure that exports do not occur contrary to the decision of the importing country. As developed industrialized countries are better equipped to take the relevant export control actions, they should ensure compliance to the PIC procedure. Developing countries should also endeavour in due course to ensure that exports do not occur contrary to the decision of the participating importing countries.

In conclusion, I should like to say that India supports the inclusion of the PIC procedure in the Code. The consequential proposed amendments to Articles 2 and 9 of the Code, as recommended by the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council, may be approved by the Conference to give effect to its earlier decision taken at the Twenty-fourth Session.

Mahaman **Sanousi TIDJANI ALOU (Niger)** : Beaucoup de choses ont déjà été dites sur le CIP. La délégation du Niger tient aussi à faire savoir qu'elle tient à faire quelques commentaires: compte tenu des ennemis des cultures de tout genre qui assaillent notre agriculture, le Nir ne peut qu'apporter beaucoup d'intérêt à cet important point de notre ordre du jour. L'introduction du CIP est donc un bon pas vers la prise en compte des risques réels que nous avons toujours déplorés et que constitue l'utilisation de certains pesticides. Mais une chose est de reconnaître le bien-fondé d'une innovation et une autre est de pouvoir bien garantir son efficacité. Force nous est de reconnaître que nous n'avons pas toujours les moyens d'assurer un bon contrôle des produits que nous utilisons. Aussi voudrions-nous attirer l'attention de la Commission sur la nécessité qu'il y a à rendre effectif le CIP en dotant les pays démunis d'infrastructures et de moyens humains conséquents. Dans ce sens nous voulons appuyer toutes les propositions faites par la délégation guinéenne.

CHAIRMAN: We conclude the debate. We have a request from the delegation of Belgium that we include in our verbatim record some remarks that have been prepared.

E. DETRAUX (Belgique): Nous pouvons marquer notre accord sur les lignes de force de la proposition de révision des articles 2 et 9 du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous formulons une réserve, toutefois, sur ce qui est de l'obligation des restrictions en matière de manipulation des pesticides, paragraphe 9.1.

En effet, les réglementations nationales en ce domaine nous paraissent divergentes et peu susceptibles d'être appliquées telles quelles dans certains pays tiers dans lesquels les conditions de stockage ou la formation de la main-d'oeuvre ne sont pas comparables.

Il ne paraît guère possible de notifier systématiquement toutes ces restrictions qui, par exemple, touchent actuellement un tiers des produits phytopharmaceutiques agréés dans mon pays.

Il serait, par contre, peut-être utile que la FAO, sur la base de l'avis d'experts (cf. étape 4 dans les directives) publie une liste des pesticides qui, tout en restant acceptables, présentent un danger important lors de manipulations. L'étiquetage devrait être suffisamment complet pour pouvoir fournir cette information aux distributeurs et aux utilisateurs.

La formulation du texte à propos de l'intitulé "Signification du défaut de réponse", page 11 du document C 89/20, n'est pas acceptable. Nous proposons a contrario que l'absence de réponse du pays importateur soit considérée comme un consentement tacite à l'importation. 1 /

Gérard KIELY (EEC) : In the European Community the export of dangerous substances is governed by regulation which came into force in June 1989. Under this regulation a notification procedure was introduced for the export of dangerous substances whereby the importing country was informed of the regulatory restrictions in the Community and the reasons for them. The dangerous substances covered are listed in the regulation and are those which are banned or severely restricted in the Community. More than half of the substances are pesticides, the others are industrial chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls and asbestos.

The Community also decided to examine the question of Prior Informed Consent in greater detail, and, in the light of developments in the relevant international bodies, to amend the Community regulation if necessary.

In the meantime, considerable progress has been made on this subject at international level. At its meeting in May 1989 the Governing Council of UNEP amended the London Guidelines for the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade by introducing the principle of Prior Informed Consent into these Guidelines.

1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

The Community is at present studying the possibility of introducing Prior Informed Consent into the Community regulation, and we appeal to this meeting that the Prior Informed Consent procedure also be introduced into the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In our view, this would be a major step towards the better protection of the population and the environment in developing countries.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas



**conference**

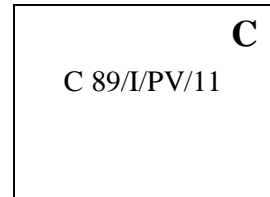
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING  
ONZIEME SEANCE  
UNDECIMA SESION

(21 November 1989)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 14,45 hours  
J. A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la undécima sesión a las 14.45 horas  
baio la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

SECRETARY, Commission I: The Fourth Report of the Resolutions Committee became available this morning. The number of this document is C 89/LIM/34. The Report informs the Commission about the draft resolution proposed by the Group of Arab Member Countries concerning the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. The Report gives the views of the Resolutions Committee on the draft resolution and transmits it to Commission I. The same document LIM/34 also contains the text of the draft resolution. That is, LIM/34 concerning the draft resolution from Arab Member Nations on provisions for technical assistance to the Palestinian people. .

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 10. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" Clause (continued) (C 89/20)
- 10. Introduction du principe de l'information et du consentement préalables (ICP) dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (suite) (C 89/20)
- 10. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución de la cláusula relativa al "consentimiento previo" (continuación) (C 89/20)

Aboubakar KOLY-KOUROUMA (Guinée): Nous commencerons notre intervention par une citation de l'intervention du Directeur général de la FAO à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation en octobre 1989 - je cite:

"L'agriculture, une victime du désastre écologique, devient un redoutable agent de ce même procédé par sa consommation d'énormes quantités de produits chimiques, notamment de fertilisants et de pesticides, et leur déversement dans les milieux ambiants. Le dopage a été impitoyablement combattu dans le milieu sportif, et cependant l'homme poursuit un processus d'auto-empoisonnement en dopant systématiquement et sans restrictions les végétaux et les animaux qui sont la base de notre alimentation. "

Connaissant le contexte dans lequel cette intervention du Directeur général de la FAO a été faite, et surtout le thème principal de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation en 1989 "Agriculture et environnement", nous nous rendons compte des préoccupations de la FAO pour l'amélioration de la qualité de la vie et de l'alimentation de la population, sans cesse grandissante de notre planète.

Or l'accès des pays en développement à l'agriculture moderne (aux cultures intensives), implique nécessairement l'utilisation des pesticides, des fertilisants, et des produits phytosanitaires.

Nos agriculteurs, qui sont en majorité analphabètes, sont en danger permanent face à l'utilisation de ces produits qui, bien qu'utiles, n'en demeurent pas moins dangereux.

Des cas d'intoxication et d'accidents mortels enregistrés ces dernières années dans mon pays amènent ma délégation à accorder une importance capitale au système d'homologation et de contrôle des pesticides. Nous souhaiterions que la FAO nous accorde son assistance pour établir dans mon pays un système de contrôle de ces pesticides.

Nous attachons également une grande importance à l'introduction du principe de l'ICP dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

La délégation se félicite de la coopération entre la FAO et le PNUE.

Elle adhère au principe de l'ICP avec la révision des articles 2 et 9 et elle accorde son appui aux Philippines.

Abdel aziz ARIFI (Maroc): La délégation marocaine appuie les propositions mentionnées dans le document C 89/20. Nous souscrivons pleinement à la mise en oeuvre de l'ICP dont le rôle premier tend à réduire et à minimiser l'impact des pesticides sur la santé et l'environnement. Nous pensons néanmoins qu'il est possible dans le même ordre d'idées d'élargir les éléments de la procédure proposée de l'ICP en incluant d'autres renseignements pertinents tels les stocks de pesticides périmés détenus par les pays importateurs depuis plusieurs années. Le cadre ainsi élargi de la procédure point 6, page 2 du document français C 89/20, permettrait à la FAO et au PNUE de solliciter les pays détenteurs à notifier les stocks de pesticides inutilisables.

La base des données ainsi recueillie serait transmise aux pays exportateurs de ces molécules toxiques, en vue de les inciter à considérer cette problématique. L'aide de ces pays et surtout des sociétés productrices de toxiques devrait être prépondérante pour aider les pays en voie de développement à détruire ou à dénaturer ces pesticides. Je voudrais rappeler qu'il existe à l'heure actuelle des stocks énormes d'acryticides accumulés depuis les deux dernières années pour la lutte contre le criquet.

Ce produit avec l'aide d'organismes internationaux et surtout celle des pays l'ayant exporté auparavant devrait être recyclé avant qu'il ne soit laissé comme déchet toxique. Merci M. le Président.

CHAIRMAN: The delegates from Algeria and Lesotho ask that their statements be included in the verbatim records. If I see no objection, this will be done.

I see no objection.

Mustafa SHABOUR (Algérie): Permettez-moi tout d'abord d'exprimer notre satisf action pour la qualité des documents qui nous sont présentés à la discussion par le Secrétariat. Les amendements des articles 2 et 9 du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides constituent une percée significative vers l'instauration d'une véritable coopération internationale dans ce domaine en vue de préserver l'environnement, la faune utile et la santé publique. Au nom de ma délégation, je souhaite exprimer mon appui pour la mise en oeuvre de la clause de l'informatiçi et du consentement préalable (ICP).

Notre pays dispose depuis déjà longtemps d'une Autorité nationale phytosanitaire, organe d'homologation et de décision pour tout ce qui concerne l'utilisation des pesticides, secteur en expansion.

L'ICP ne devrait pas constituer néanmoins la seule alternative à la disposition des pays importateurs. Il importe également de renforcer les capacités d'expertise de ces derniers par la mise en oeuvre des plans de formation spécifiques. La FAO pourrait dans ce cadre y apporter une contribution non négligeable. Ma délégation interviendra au besoin lors de la discussion du projet de résolution.<sup>1/</sup>

M.F. MOEKETSI MOKATI (Lesotho): Thank you again Mr Chairman for the able manner in which you have guided these deliberations. I will be very brief on this topic, but this brevity should not be construed to mean that the topic is not important.

This is indeed a very important topic, especially when seen against the light of environmental damage that has already been done in most countries.

In Lesotho, we have just abolished all the monopolies in distribution of fertilizers and pesticides. This will mean that all types of fertilizers and pesticides will flood the market. Control mechanisms need to be in place, therefore to prevent environmental harm as well as preventing or controlling distribution of hazardous pesticides.

In anticipation of these control functions, we are embarking on an extensive training programme. We are greatly encouraged therefore by the recommendations contained in this document, especially paragraph 72.

My delegation would therefore like to register full support of the introduction of Prior Informed Consent into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.<sup>2/</sup>

CHAIRMAN: Having concluded our debate, I now give the floor to the observers. The first observer on my list is the distinguished observer, United Nations Environment Programme.

**J. W. HUISMANS (UNEP)** : UNEP is extremely gratified with the strong support expressed by virtually all delegations to the UNEP/FAO cooperation related to the incrementation of the Prior Informed Consent procedure. With our colleagues from FAO we are confident that this cooperation will be fruitful and productive and will be of considerable help to developing countries in strengthening their capabilities and infrastructure to ensure the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

UNEP is also committed to work with FAO in improving information exchange on pesticides, and work is already under way to enhance our capabilities to include all relevant information on pesticides for countries' needs, for informed decision-making on their continued use or control. We hope to be able to allow all countries easy access to this data base as soon as possible.

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1 Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

In May 1989 when the UNEP Governing Council adopted the amended London Guidelines incorporating the principles of Prior Informed Consent, the Council expressed the hope that the FAO Conference decision on cooperation of PIC and the Code of Conduct would be fully compatible with the Council's own decision.

The Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO have exchanged correspondence and views on this issue which both organizations consider of the utmost importance for a strong and efficient joint programme. Confusion about procedures would be very unfortunate. The PIC principle is too important to become confused.

The UNEP Governing Council also realized that the present PIC procedure is possibly not perfect, but insisted nevertheless that it should now be implemented as soon as possible with the active cooperation of all governments and others to gain experience, with the procedure and start alleviating serious problems with banned and severely restricted pesticides from the earliest possible date. The Council also requested however, that the mechanism be established in the form of an ad hoc Working Group of experts to monitor implementation of the London Guidelines, and to report back to the Council in 1991 on any further steps which should be taken to supplement the amended London Guidelines including even the possible need for a convention.

With regard to acutely hazardous pesticide formulations, the Governing Council expressed a wish that these should be kept under the continuing review of the group of experts with a view to formulating any recommendations for additional action. Mr Chalaran, UNEP, like FAO, has written letters recently to governments inviting them to nominate a single contact point for operating the PIC procedure. With FAO we have done the utmost to ensure that all our activities are properly coordinated to ensure an efficient implementation of the PIC procedure by all countries. This we feel is the only sensible way forward to an environmentally sound, that is, the safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Thank you very much Mr Chairman for having allowed UNEP to speak at this late point in the debate.

Mrs Sarojini REWGAM (Observer for the International Organization of Consumers' Union): The International Organization of Consumers' Union with 160 member organizations in over fifty countries, a participant of the Pesticides Action Network (PAN) and the PAN Regional Coordinating Centre for Asia and the Pacific has been concerned about the misuse and over-use of pesticides for many years.

We have been encouraged with the progress in FAO on the adoption of Prior Informed Consent, the resolution in 1987 and the discussions on its implementation.

We would like to bring to the notice of this Conference and the FAO recent research that was undertaken by the Pesticides Action Network in seventeen countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa, published by the Pesticides Trust in the United Kingdom. The report shows prevalent dangers of the pesticides in the WHO Class Kb) which are likely to be excluded from the proposed PIC procedures. Another recent report from the US General Accounting Office reveals problems with the unregistered and voluntarily withdrawn pesticides. Unfortunately, these categories of pesticides would fall outside the proposed PIC procedures.

We do not wish to disturb the consensus that has been reached after two years. However, the working groups might not have been aware of these recent reports which show the seriousness of excluding the acutely hazardous pesticides and the lack of information on the unregistered and voluntarily withdrawn pesticides. It would thus be important that the Conference give guidance to the working groups that would work further on this.

Finally, I would like to add that the principle of Prior Informed Consent which has been supported by every member country of FAO, has been put forward as a means of curbing the tragic human health and environmental consequences. Let us not detract from that purpose, and ensure a PIC scheme that is not only implementable but also safeguards our health and environment.

Antoine SENDAMA (Observer for the Environment Liaison Centre) : The

Environment Liaison Centre International is a global coalition of over 250 non-governmental organizations around the world who are working for sustainable development. The majority of our membership work in southern countries. From EDC'S beginning in 1972, we have worked productively with several UN agencies, notably UNEP and FAO.

ELCI is also a founding member of the African Regional Coordinating Centre for the Pesticide Action Network, (PAN) International. As such we have been involved in the development and evaluation of the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides from the beginning. We are therefore pleased to see the substantial progress that has been made in implementing Prior Informed Consent into the Code since the Twenty-fourth Session, two years ago. Nonetheless, we also note that pesticide use over the next decade is projected to increase in developing countries, precisely where the vast majority of pesticide poisonings and fatalities occur. Therefore, while noting the progress made, we remain with a situation that concerns us deeply.

If PIC is to serve its intended function as an instrument for environmental and health protection, it is crucial that it encompass especially those pesticides that are highly acutely toxic and widely available. It is also imperative that pesticides that are unregistered for use in producing countries, but exported from them, and pesticides that are voluntarily withdrawn by manufacturers, be reviewed for inclusion in the PIC scheme. We are concerned that if this is not the case, then PIC cannot fulfil the vital and extremely important tasks for which it is intended.

In the end, of course, the challenge before all parties addressed by the FAO Code of Conduct - that is governments, industries and concerned citizens - is to implement more sustainable agricultural practices that are not reliant on pesticides.

In the meantime, PIC is an important means of ensuring that governments have access to the health and environmental information they require to make informed decisions in the case of pesticide importation. Therefore the inclusion of all acutely hazardous pesticides, and the review of unregistered and voluntarily withdrawn pesticides in the PIC scheme remains essential.

**C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) :** My thanks this afternoon go to all the delegates who have taken the floor on this matter. All of them - and I want to repeat all of them - have given their agreement to the document in front of us.

Those of us who were around two years ago will remember that there was no consensus then, that the House was divided, but today we have a unified House. It is thanks to a number of institutions which have worked hard, to the governments who have participated, and to individual experts from the various institutes and from industries who participated with their experience and knowledge, that you have in front of you a proposal for PIC which has the widest possible acceptance, according to my notes.

The 1987 Resolution speaks of the dynamic nature of the Code, and the debate this morning has been the best proof of the dynamic nature of the Code. Many of the things that have been said today had not been thought of two years ago, or even one year ago when we tried to core up with an acceptable form of PIC.

The question is: what are the next steps that should be taken? From the Secretariat we plead with the Conference to adopt the PIC and the guidelines in their present form as a symbol of consensus in unanimous form.

We note with all seriousness that there have been some proposals for changes in the Code and a large number of suggestions for strengthening, modifying, amending and editing the guidelines. The changes in the Code are few, and they should be very few because the Code is the overall umbrella and should not be overloaded with specific instructions. It is the guidelines which should include specific instructions on how to implement the Code.

It is our proposal that contrary to normal procedure in FAO the report of this Conference should include in writing a few paragraphs identifying specifically all of the amendments, suggestions and proposals which have been made today so that they do not get lost. We must certainly also indicate that there were a few proposals which have very wide but not unanimous support from the Commission, that means from the Conference.

We will submit these proposals to the panel of experts which will meet in December this year. We will ask the panel of experts to look at them and to use the established procedure for the panel of experts - and there will be more than one meeting - to go to COAG and to Council, and hopefully they will be in agreement in COAG and in Council to come to the next Conference in 1991 not only with a progress report on the implementation of PIC but also with suggestions of how to amend - I hope again in consensus - the Code as well as the guidelines. This is the proposal from the Secretariat.

Secondly, the Secretariat has noted a relatively large number of delegates who have indicated that maybe the time has come to change the voluntary Code into a convention. We have just heard from the representative of UNEP that the UNEP Governing Council has also requested the UNEP secretariat to review the possibility of changing the London Guidelines, equivalent to PIC, into a convention. The FAO Secretariat will certainly take this task very seriously and will report in two years' time again, going through the various established procedures and governing bodies and reporting on what the possibilities are of changing the Code into a convention.

A number of delegations have said that they have the mandate to approve the document before us. All of us hope that we will keep the consensus and will adopt Articles 2 and 9 of the Code by consensus, and also adopt the guidelines as they are before us because we have a consensus.

Mr Chairman, I would like to ask you to allow Dr Brader to answer some of the technical questions which were raised during the debate.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): In addition to the various amendments proposed, three technical matters have been emphasized in the debate this morning. In my opinion, these concern the FAO/UNEP cooperation, the matter of information exchange, and the question of technical assistance.

In addition to this, a particular question was raised by the delegate of the Netherlands to clarify the footnote on page 11, and a suggestion was made by the delegate of Bulgaria with respect to the preparation of lists of alternative pesticides. I should like to address these last two matters first, and would say that we agree with the delegate of the Netherlands that the fact that a shipment falls under an import order does not exclude the responsibility of the importing country to provide an official reply under the PIC procedures. Moreover, I would also like to note that, as stated in the first paragraph on page 12 of the document before you, in the case of no response the status quo with respect to the importation of pesticide shipments will continue.

The delegate of Bulgaria, who was supported by the delegate of Mexico, urged that FAO should provide advice on alternative pesticides in the case where certain pesticides had to be banned or withdrawn. I would say that we will do this as much as we are able to, but would like to insist on the importance that any pesticide used in a country should preferably have been adequately studied under the local conditions before any final use recommendation should be made. You will easily understand that the amount of work involved in this cannot be handled by FAO alone, and thus we can only give such advice where we have firsthand experience. An example that comes to my mind is the work on locust control in regions where we have regularly provided advice on alternative pesticides, but we will not be able to do that in cases of all pest problems.

Moreover, I should like to say on this particular point that FAO can certainly assist countries on this matter but we cannot replace the responsibility of the national authorities to make final recommendations on the types of pesticides to be used.

As already indicated this morning in the introduction, FAO will continue fully to cooperate with UNEP to implement the various arrangements falling under the PIC procedure, and this morning I gave various details of that. At this stage I should just like to emphasize that this work of cooperation on these various matters on PIC procedures will require considerable extra efforts and resources of both secretariats, and in that respect I sincerely hope that adequate financial resources will be available to carry out all this work. I do not need to repeat that information exchange is needed - indeed, is of predominant importance - in the PIC procedures, and the aforementioned FAO arrangements will be used to undertake most of this task. However, these two organizations can only carry out this work effectively if they succeed in obtaining the full support of all parties concerned. Exporting and importing countries need to provide their full cooperation in order to provide the Secretariat with the necessary data in a timely manner. I am pleased to note that in the debate this morning some delegates indicated that they had taken action on designating a national focal point.



We shall also have to rely on the question of information exchange, on continuous support of the pesticide industry and various NGOs, for example, to make available the necessary data for the preparation of the decision guidance documents that fall under the PIC.

Technical assistance will indeed be of major importance to the successful implementation of the Code. There is no doubt about that. One only needs to draw attention again to the questionnaire that we sent around to various member countries when we prepared the first Progress Report on the Code. That clearly showed the various weaknesses in many developing countries to implement the recommendations of the Code. These countries lacked, infrastructures, trained manpower and even appropriate pesticide legislation and rules and regulations.

Since the adoption of the Code, FAO has been strengthening its efforts to provide technical assistance. We do this either through national or regional programmes. With respect to the latter, I should particularly like to note the project we have been implementing in South-East Asia and the Pacific for the last two or three years, to provide training and advice to various member countries in the Region on all matters related to the implementation of the Code. This particular project has been financed by Japan and I would, of course, like to acknowledge with gratitude and the support of the Government of Japan.

I think it is useful for the Commission to note that we are in the progress of developing two similar regional projects for Africa and Central America. These projects are currently under discussion respectively with the UNDP and the Government of the Netherlands. We hope that these discussions will soon lead to a final decision and that we can start implementing these projects.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Dr Brader and Dr Bonte-Friedheim for their conclusions and for the answers they have given to the Commission.

I am afraid I will not be very original as I shall repeat to you an appeal on the same lines as has been conveyed to you by Dr Bonte-Friedheim. We had a very long and fruitful debate. Fifty-five delegates spoke on this matter, and also four observers. I believe that all of us recognize that there was general agreement on the Principles of Prior Informed Consent and on the Revisions of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution, and Use of Pesticides.

As has been pointed out, this is a dynamic and evolving process that will not stop here; it will go on as dynamic and evolving as society as a whole.

If we accept here the two amendments and the revisions put forward in document C 89/20 we do not block the process, we do not freeze the process. We go on. I think it will be a great step forward; we accept that by consensus. Dr Bonte-Friedheim rightly reminded us that two years ago we were not able to reach any consensus on this issue. Now we have consensus on the major aspect of the issue.

Therefore, if the Commission is in agreement, I propose that we accept the procedure put forward by Dr Bonte-Friedheim, that we adopt the revisions of Articles 2 and 9 of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides under Guidelines on the operation of the Prior Informed Consent by consensus; that all those amendments and suggestions and proposals

that have been formulated here be transmitted to the panel of experts that will start its deliberation in December, I think; and that perhaps in two years' time we shall take another step forward and will proceed on this never-ending road for the betterment of the system of international distribution and use of pesticides.

If there is no objection ---

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I fully agree with your summing up, Mr Chairman. We should accept the amendments to Articles 2 and 9 and adopt the procedures as they have been presented to us in the document. In general we should transmit the amendments that have been proposed today to the CQAG and to the Council for submission later to the Conference.

Nevertheless, I would ask the Drafting Committee to find out whether some -one, two, three or several - of the proposals that have been presented here meet with the general approval of the Committee and, if so, they should also be incorporated in the procedures, if they find that it is so.

Therefore, I submit this submission to you and I hope it is not too late for me to express our gratitude to Donors that have made possible the technical consultations that have brought the PIC and the Code to this stage, and especially to the Netherlands which have also funded an integrated pest management in our Region.

CHAIRMAN: If the Drafting Committee sees it is possible to incorporate some of these, let us say, non-contentious amendments, I do not think anybody will see any problem with that. What I would suggest - is that perhaps, if this is easily acceptable and we do not engage in a long discussion in trying to reach agreement on a principle that is very, difficult to arrange, the proposal made by the Chair with the suggestion made by the delegate of the Philippines could be accepted.

Therefore, we will close the discussion on item 10 of our Agenda. However, before doing so I should like to ask Dr Bonte-Friedheim to make another announcement.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I

would like to thank the Commission for having accepted in principle this proposal. A large number of suggestions, proposals and amendments have been made. Some of them were made more quickly than our ability to write them down. Since we do not have time to wait for the Verbatim Report we shall leave this afternoon on this side of the podium one of our colleagues and I would like to ask you, please, especially those who made some lengthy proposals for amendments to give us the text, to ensure that they will be all recorded in the Draft Report, be looked at by the Drafting Committee and come into the Final report.

- 11. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development
- 11. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural
- 11. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural

CHAIRMAN: The documents before us are C 89/14, Progress Report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development; and C 89/14-Supp.1 FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. The Draft Resolution proposed last night by the delegate of Costa Rica has been sent for consideration by the Resolutions Committee. This resolution will probably be discussed by the Commission either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow.

The vital role of women in agricultural production and rural development was stressed by the last Conference in 1987, and the two Resolutions were adopted: one Resolution requested the preparation of a plan of action for the Integration of Women in Development. This plan was considered and unanimously approved by the Ninety-fourth Council and is now to be considered by this Commission. The Item will be introduced by Mr B.P. Dutia, the Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department).

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): It is with great pleasure that I introduce Agenda Item 11, the "Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development".

As you reminded the delegates, Resolution 3/87 of the Twenty-fourth Session of the Conference requested that a FAO plan of action for the Integration of Women in Development be prepared for consideration by the Council at its Ninety-fourth Session. Accordingly, the Council discussed and approved the Plan of Action at that Session in November 1988. As the Plan envisages programmes for the years well beyond the biennium, the Council agreed that it should be referred to the Conference for endorsement. The Council also agreed on a step-by-step implementation and requested that a progress report on the implementation be presented to the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council in November 1989. Accordingly, you have two documents at hand for consideration under the present Agenda item; one, document C 89/14 Supplement 1, which contains the FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development; and two, document C 89/14, which is the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action. As it will be recalled, due to lack of time, the Council at its recent session could not discuss the Progress Report and decided to forward it to the Conference for its consideration.

The Plan of Action - document C 89/14 Supplement 1 - as approved by the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council is a comprehensive document that provides a broad charter to guide the Organization in Women in Development Issues, articulates objectives that need to be achieved and identifies the main areas of action.

The Plan focuses on four spheres of action: the civil or legal, the economic, the social and the decision-making spheres. A wide range of activities is proposed in each. The civil or legal status sphere focuses on improving woman's access to land, credit and membership in development organizations

and cooperatives. The economic sphere focuses on women's critical roles in agricultural production, food processing and marketing, formal and informal sector employment, and income generation. The social sphere focuses on nutrition, education, home economics and population. Lastly, the decision-making sphere focuses on improving women's participation in institutions and in people's organizations.

The Plan states that for the objectives to be realized, the entire FAO staff should be aware of the WID issues; the Organization should continue to integrate WID concerns into its development programmes and projects. In addition, the Plan calls for actions by Member Governments for achieving the objectives of the Plan at national and local levels.

The Plan also stresses the importance of improving the instruments of action. In this regard it singles out firstly, the collection and utilization of statistics and indicators; second, training and public information; third, interaction with other UN agencies and Member Governments; and lastly, the delivery of technical assistance.

The Plan endorses a two-pronged approach to deal with women's concerns. On the one hand, it suggests the integration of women's issues and of women as beneficiaries and participants in mainstream projects and programmes. At the same time it envisages the possibility of some specific projects for women that play a demonstrative role and help to test and improve mechanisms and methodologies of technical assistance to rural women.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council regarding the Plan of Action and its Resolution 1/94 on the subject are summarized in the introductory part of the Progress Report, which is in document C 89/14.

The "Progress Report" itself contains three main elements: first, the identification of priorities for the implementation of the Plan; second, information on the efforts to strengthen administrative capacity to implement the plan of action, including the resource considerations; and third, a report on the specific substantive activities undertaken and to be undertaken along with an indication of progress achieved.

All the technical units in the Organization, as suggested in Annex II of the Plan of Action, are participating, and information on their programmes and projects covering WID that are under way or planned is reported in the document. The document lists the activities envisaged by the technical units in terms of the civil, economic, social and decision-making process.

The document suggests seven programme priorities. While the FAO staff training is the first priority, as action has to be completed in the 1990/91 biennium, the other priorities are not listed in any rank or order. As regards the FAO staff training in WID, it is proposed to carry out the training of approximately 1 200 FAO staff members at Headquarters, Regional Offices and Country Offices by 1991. The training programme is divided into three phases as outlined in the Progress Report. Stage One, the Preparatory Phase, has already been completed, and Stage Two, the Design of Materials and Courses, is in progress. It should also be mentioned that materials on WID have also been prepared for FAO's ongoing courses for the National Project Directors and on Project Formulation.

Another important priority is to provide policy advice and assistance to Member Governments in implementing the plan. FAO will make all efforts within available resources to provide technical assistance, and training to Member Governments in developing the policies to assist rural women and to create or strengthen appropriate technical units to deliver agricultural services to women agriculturalists.

The third priority area concerns project development and monitoring. The two-pronged approach of including both women-specific projects and the integration of women into mainstream projects as was approved by the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council will be maintained, with more emphasis on the latter. Special attention is being given to the identification of women as project participants, in presenting agricultural data by sex, and in the inclusion of women in project formulation.

The fourth priority is the reorientation of home economics and agricultural curricula. The aim is to help interested Member Governments in updating the home economics curricula, and including WID issues and women participants in agricultural courses, so that extension workers of both sexes are better equipped to give appropriate advice and training especially to rural women.

The fifth priority is the preparation and proration of guidelines and manuals. Guidelines will be developed on specific sectors such as forestry, fertilizer utilization, horticulture, seed selection, integrated pest management, and animal husbandry as well as on gender analysis in project formulation and project reviews. I should also add that TCP guidelines for the formulation of TCP projects have been modified to include WID concerns.

The sixth priority area concerns data collection, research studies, communication and public information, in order to improve the basis for policy-making and implementation of agricultural and rural development programmes and projects.

We plan to intensify our efforts to strengthen the data base on women in agriculture, to collect and analyse standard agricultural data by sex, and to carry out studies on women's participation in agriculture and their access to rural services and technology.

The seventh priority is on population education and women in development. This priority focuses on the agricultural components of population, as distinct from the health or reproductive component. The purpose is to collect more information on the relationship between women's economic and social status, demographic factors and agricultural development and to use findings to enrich educational contents of projects that aim at improving the status and quality of life of rural women and their families.

The document also describes certain administrative measures, for better implementation of the Plan of Action. Organization-wide efforts have commenced with the Director-General's instructions to all departments and divisions to identify resources that could initiate the implementation of the Plan and identify financial provisions required for the following biennia. In addition FAO has strengthened its IDWG-WID by upgrading its membership, and its terms of reference are under review. Also, divisional focal points have been established as foreseen in Resolution 1/94. Furthermore, the FAO Country Representatives have been apprised of the Plan. The Plan has been widely distributed, and a popular version has been prepared. As enjoined by the

Resolution, the Committees on Agriculture, World Food Security, Commodity Problems, Fisheries and Forestry have included or will include in their agenda the consideration of WID issues • Papers on WID were also prepared for consideration by the regional WCCARD sessions in 1989.

The second set of measures concerns the provision of financial resources. The Progress Report estimates the resource needs for the Service in charge of overseeing the implementation of the plan of the ESHW over the seven-year period. This unit has reoriented its programme of work and resource use in 1990-91 to reflect the priorities. Regular Programme funds available have been augmented, and the cost of the training programme of staff at Headquarters, in the Regional Offices and in the FAO Country Offices will be financed in its entirety from the Regular Programme budget. In addition, the other technical units are also supporting WID activities through staff time and other resources, even if these additional inputs are not always visible at the subprogramme and programme element levels. Nonetheless, the need for extra-budgetary resources is great to contribute towards the implementation of the plan. We appreciate the support already being provided by some Governments through Trust Funds. But specific proposals for augmenting these resources will need to be elaborated.

Another area of administrative attention is the increase in the number of women professional staff as called for by the Plan. A strategy to increase the recruitment of female professional staff has been developed, as outlined in paragraphs 44 and 45 of the Progress Report.

Thus, the recommendations of the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council and of Resolution 1/94 have been and are being followed systematically by the Organization. It is important to recall in this context that the Council also invited Member Governments to take into consideration the full integration of women in their development programmes, that strong central focal points in related ministries of government be promoted and that suitable women candidates for posts falling vacant in the Organization be proposed. We hope and trust that Member Governments will take these actions, as the ultimate success of the Plan in achieving its objectives depends vitally on the priority attached and measures adopted by the Member Governments.

In the light of the above, the Conference may wish to first approve the Plan of Action as contained in document C 89/14 Supplement 1, and secondly to give its views on the Progress Report in document C 89/14 including the proposed priorities and related activities.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr Dutia for a truly comprehensive presentation of the issue and I now open the floor for the debate on Item 11.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): On this item I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The question of integrating women in development has for a number of years been discussed at FAO conferences. We recall that in 1975, the year of the first global UN conference on women, the FAO Conference adopted a resolution with recommendations addressed both to member countries and the Secretariat on actions to be taken to integrate women in agricultural and rural development. Subsequent Conferences, including the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979, did address the issue of women and adopted action programmes to promote development efforts in this field.

Sane progress during these years was also registered. Action was taken within some areas of FAO's fields of competence at various levels. Actions were supported by individual donors and member countries. However, no comprehensive or systematic programme of action covering the whole of FAO was developed. Thus member countries again, at the last Conference, took the initiative of requesting the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive plan for the integration of women in development. To assist the Secretariat in this work, an expert meeting to advise the FAO was also called for. The resolutions in question were 3/87 and 4/87.

Having been part of this process, together with a number of delegations from all parts of the world, we are now pleased to see before us the Plan of Action prepared by the FAO Secretariat and already adopted at the Ninety-fourth Council in November 1988 and the progress report on its implementation so far. We listened with great interest to the presentation made by Dr Dutia and feel encouraged that progress is under way.

This process serves as an example of the increased influence on the activities of the Organization that we want member countries to have. Members set the priorities and give the general policy directives. The Secretariat transforms these decisions into concrete plans and action programmes. After this the Secretariat has a dual task. On the one hand the Secretariat should implement FAO's part of the action programmes; on the other, it should monitor their implementation by the member countries, other international organizations in cooperation with FAO or NGOs as the case may be.

As envisaged, the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development covers three biennia, starting with the 1990-91 period. As resources are limited everything cannot be implemented at once, and certain of the actions proposed merit very high priority in order for the Plan to be effective. Such a prioritization was agreed upon with the adoption of Resolution 1/94 at the Ninety-fourth Council. This resolution also stated that these activities could be carried out within existing resources.

The Nordic delegations support the proposed strategy framework which aims at ensuring that in FAO's sphere of responsibility women are accorded the same rights and opportunities as men, and that their potential is put to use in their respective societies. We also support the three-step approach: information gathering, policy formulation, action programme development.

The Nordic delegations are specifically satisfied with the emphasis given in the strategy to the support for women in their role as producers and income generators in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, FAO's particular fields of competence. This is not to underestimate the other roles women, like men, have in society, as parents, family members, leaders, teachers, bearers of traditions, innovators - all the roles and duties we as active members in our respective societies may have. It is generally agreed upon that in the past women's role as producers and income generators has not been given sufficient recognition and support, and therefore it needs to be stressed.

The contents of the Plan have already been discussed at the Ninety-fourth Council. As regards the progress report, I refer to the Nordic statement included in Council document CL 96/FV 1 Sup.1, in which the Nordic countries expressed their general satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of the Plan so far. Here I shall just comment on the priorities for its implementation during the next two years in particular, but also for the following two biennia.

The Secretariat has, in the progress report, proposed a few more priorities in addition to those already agreed upon in Resolution 1/94. While supporting all the seven priorities in general, we would, however, like to stress that they fall into two different categories. FAO staff training, project development and monitoring, preparation of Women in Development guidelines and manuals, as well as data collection, specifically gender based, research, studies, communication and public information, are all primarily tasks to be carried out at FAO's initiative and by FAO itself. They can also be considered prerequisites for the other activities in the sense that they provide the tools for these. Policy advice to Member Governments, reorientation of home economics and agriculture curricula, as well as population education, depend on FAO having the tools, so to speak, and upon the initiatives coming from the member countries.

Among the priorities, we want in particular to stress the need for staff training on Women in Development aspects. We know that in some of the departments Women in Development training has been going on already for some years, but no systematic training programme has to our knowledge been developed earlier for the whole organization. Women in Development aspects are to our mind similar to environmental aspects in that they have a bearing on all the activities of the Organization and are not something that can be added later after projects and programmes have been planned and designed. Both require a change of attitudes and a new approach.

Another priority we want to take up is policy advice to member countries. This is one of the priority functions of FAO that has been stressed by the member countries in the review process just being discussed now in Commission II.

The other five priority areas also deserve mentioning. In order to save time, however, we just want to underline the importance we attach to project development and monitoring, the preparations and promotion of guidelines and manuals, and data collection. These three areas are all interrelated.

While recognizing that in certain circumstances there might be a need for specific projects or components for women, the Nordic countries prefer the integrated approach. Thus we note with satisfaction that more emphasis will be given to the inclusion of women in mainstream project activities related to economic and technical aspects of agricultural production.

As for the measures proposed within the different spheres, we wish to support in particular those aimed at bringing about changes in the legislation on women's access to land. At the Conference two years ago the Nordic delegations spoke of the importance of improving women farmers' access to land. The study then presented pointed to an increasing landlessness among women. For female farmers, lack of control of land also follows difficulties in access to cooperatives, credits, marketing services and to agricultural extension and training. We again want to urge governments and FAO to address this issue with vigour.

The strategy that has been prepared to increase the access of women to professional posts within FAO is to be commended. In this connection, the important role to be played by Member Nations in identifying suitable candidates should be stressed. We look forward to seeing concrete results of the strategy in the near future, noting that at the end of October 1989 the percentage of women of the total FAO staff, field staff included, was still only 10.2 percent.



The Nordic delegations have, through the years, followed with interest the FAO activities related to women and have often urged the Organization to increase its attention and resources to these activities. We are pleased that the Plan of Action has been presented, and we recommend its approval also by the Conference.

The Plan of Action stresses the important point that efforts to integrate women should be made as part of routine procedures. Every division should be made aware and responsible for this work within FAO. Even if focal points are established within the division, it should not be the sole responsibility of the one or few persons at that focal point, but should be part of the normal work of all officers.

Finally, we are somewhat hesitant about the suggestion found in the concluding note that the Plan of Action should be supported by member countries through extra-budgetary resources. In the long run this may be counter-productive to the goal that integration of women should become part of the normal procedures. In our view, to the maximum extent possible all activities should be financed within the regular budget. The need for extra funds would need to be well motivated and planned for for a specified time period. The member countries should rather support the Plan of Action by pressing for its implementation and by monitoring its progress. The Nordic countries premise that they will continue to do so. I might, however, be allowed to add that the Swedish Minister for Development has promised to increase substantially the Swedish contribution to the UN Fund for Women in Development (UNIFEM).

In order to be able to do the monitoring, we expect to see further reports on the progress of the implementation not only within the framework of the WCARRD reports but also in the form of specific reports to the Conference, in particular on those activities that have been defined as first priorities to be carried out by FAO itself.

As to the resolution that is to be presented, the Nordic delegation will come back later when it is officially presented as a document.

Ljiljana VELASEVIC (Yugoslavia): On behalf of the Yugoslavian delegation, I wish to express our appreciation to the Organization, and in particular to the Director-General, for attaching justified importance to the issue of the Status of Women. FAO's Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development is an important contribution to bringing about changes in the basic conditions of women's lives in present day society. At the same time, it represents a genuine step in the implementation of the Nairobi Strategy. The measures proposed by FAO should help improve the status of women including their legal, economic, and social positions, and greater participation in the decision-making process dealt with in the framework of FAO and the member countries.

For years now, the status of women has not received adequate consideration. The deteriorating economic conditions in many developing countries as well as the deepening of the debt crisis have a negative effect on the status of women both economically and socially. If we add the fact that in most developing countries women are the main food producers, it is clear that the women's issue cannot be ignored in any considerations devoted in the first place to agricultural and food production issues, including discussions on other economic sectors too, such as the textile, electronics and other industries.

The very fact that this issue is on the agenda of the General Conference implies that FAO attaches genuine importance to this topic and that it considers the Nairobi Strategy as the basis for further activities for promoting the status of women and their role in economic development.

The Yugoslav delegation supports the proposed strategy of FAO's activities, and stresses once again that the Plan with its comprehensive and multi-disciplinary approach represents a sound base for future work. The Plan clearly identifies future measures in all spheres, economic, social and administrative, and each one of them contains a wide range of possible activities. It is of particular importance that for each of these activities, the FAO Action Plan envisages flexible approaches and variety of options for their promotion.

The Plan of Action identifies priorities in implementation. Yugoslavia supports the set priorities, before all in the following fields: training of personnel, consulting policies to the governments of member countries, development and follow-up projects, as well as the remaining 4 programme priorities.

As regards administrative priorities, evidently they must be accompanied by corresponding administrative and operational agreements. In other words, it is necessary to provide specific financial resources. Yugoslavia supports the proposal of the Director-General on increasing the resources for ESHW by US\$ 218 000, each year, 9 percent, as well as the need to increase the number of women within FAO's professional staff.

The strategy for increasing the number of women in FAO's professional staff according to which women should make up 30 percent of the staff by 1995, at the same time respecting fully the principle of professional quality and adequate geographical distribution, represents a sound basis for promoting the equal position of women.

Likewise, Yugoslavia supports the proposed strategy, primarily in respect to the increased employment of women, as well as the directives of the Director-General to the effect that when individuals of the opposite sex and of same professional qualifications apply for the same job, priority should be given to women, that a maximum number of qualified women be included in the Roster, including the modification of job vacancies so that the greater participation of women is ensured.

In respect to financing, we welcome the fact that the resources earmarked for ESHW in 1989 have been increased. Regardless of the level of the increase, it opens possibilities for further progress to be made. The Yugoslav delegation supports the proposed budget for ESHW in the amount of US\$ 2 728 000 for the period 1990/91 as well as the proposal on extra-budgetary resources in the amount of US\$ 780 000.

On this occasion the Yugoslav delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the governments of Norway and Holland for providing the additional funds. At the same time we support FAO's cooperation with other organizations from within the UN system, governmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions and other relevant bodies.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize once again that the Yugoslav delegation supports the principle trends in the future activities, proceeding from the stands and activities of Yugoslavia to date with the UN in respect to the social status of women, as well as from the options which were reasserted at

the Ninth Summit Conference of the Non-Aligned Countries in Belgrade, which emphasized the need of creating possibilities for the greater participation of women in development, not only as users but of protagonists of development. Due to the forthcoming very important meetings in 1990, the Ministerial Meeting of the non-aligned countries on the status of women in the developing countries, and expanded session of the UN Commission for the status of women, there is a need for more intensified activity through the Group of 77, on the implementation of the existing general stands of the Group of 77 as well as of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit. On this occasion I wish to underline in particular the stands reached at the Summit regarding the debt crisis which has a direct negative bearing on status of the population, including women. The stands pertaining to the improvement of the status of women in the process of resolving the debt crisis should be incorporated into the IV Development Decade of the UN. The Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women is one of the most important documents adopted during the UN Decade for Women. We consider that it is necessary to underline the importance of implementing the Convention on the national level (including my country) as well as the need to all countries which have not done so, accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

Finally, I wish to stress once more that all the agencies and organizations from the UN system should set upon the realization of the above mentioned stands at both the international and national levels. In that respect FAO is a noteworthy example.

Ms Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all, my delegation welcomes the document C 89/14 and C 89/14-Sup.1. My delegation strongly supports the Conference Resolution 3/87 and 4/87. My delegation appreciates that FAO has put forward their endeavours to the area of women in development in the main field of FAO activities. We also support the idea that FAO urges member countries to propose qualified women as candidates for FAO vacant posts as mentioned in the progress report. This is because it will provide access opportunities for women to the professional posts.

The strategies of the UN Decade for Women has influenced the development of women in various countries, especially in my own. Thailand always responds positively to the goals and objectives of UN's Development Plan for Women.

My delegation also fully recognizes the important contribution women can make to the national development process. In fact, women in many societies throughout the world are the providers not only for food, fuel and water, but also of the family income. They are the sustainers and developers of their families, communities and countries. We need to improve the financial and technical input to enable women better to achieve the long-term goal of integration in all development activities. What is most required at the moment is the new development; that is, the belief that when women can contribute equally to development, they not only improve the status of women themselves but also contribute to overall betterment of mankind.

Finally, my delegation strongly supports the FAO Plan of Action.

Mme Françoise TOURE (Burkina Faso): Tout d'abord, notre délégation salue l'heureuse initiative qu'a eue la FAO d'élaborer ce Plan d'action des femmes dans le développement.

Au niveau des documents qui nous sont présentés, notre délégation n'a pas de remarque à faire car ils sont très complets.

Au Burkina Faso, nous sommes en train de finaliser également un plan d'action en faveur des femmes, qui s'articule pratiquement de la même façon.

Nous sommes donc réconfortés car, pour l'exécution de notre propre plan, nous avons besoin de l'appui et du soutien d'organisations comme la FAO. Je voudrais présenter brièvement la situation de la femme (en particulier la femme rurale) au Burkina Faso, ainsi que les efforts qui sont déjà déployés en faveur de son intégration dans le processus de développement.

Les femmes représentent 51,8 pour cent de la population totale et sont dans une grande majorité rurales. Elles prennent une part importante dans les activités de production, de transformation et de commercialisation et cela dans des conditions précaires. En effet, elles sont confrontées aux problèmes d'accès aux facteurs de production (c'est-à-dire terre, intrants, matériel, crédits, etc.), de santé, de nutrition, de formation, d'organisation, de pénibilité des tâches domestiques.

Depuis la révolution d'août 1983, l'orientation politique dans ce domaine est caractérisée par une volonté très nette d'améliorer la situation de la femme afin qu'elle puisse jouer pleinement son rôle dans le processus de développement économique et social.

Cette volonté s'est traduite par:

- la création de l'Union des femmes du Burkina Faso;
- la réforme agraire et foncière qui définit des conditions d'attribution, d'occupation et d'exploitation des terres du domaine foncier national sans distinction de sexe ou de statut matrimonial;
- le plan quinquennal 1986-90 qui s'est proposé de valoriser le statut de la femme en tant qu'agent de développement afin de lui permettre, entre autre, d'accéder à toutes les activités productives;
- l'adoption d'un code des personnes et de la famille qui améliore le statut de la femme;
- la nouvelle loi coopérative en voie d'adoption interdit la discrimination basée sur le sexe afin de favoriser l'accès des femmes dans les coopératives et mouvements mixtes;
- des efforts sont faits pour que tout projet de développement comporte un volet féminin;
- un certain nombre de projets féminins sont en cours d'exécution dans des domaines tels que: l'amélioration de la situation économique, sanitaire et alimentaire; l'allégement des tâches domestiques; la formation;
- un projet "Banque de la femme" est en préparation actuellement;
- une opération d'équipement des groupes féminins en moulins à grains vient d'être entreprise.

Je ne voudrais pas abuser de votre respect et j'arrêterai donc là ma déclaration afin de permettre aux autres délégués d'intervenir.

Ms SITI BALKISH SHARIFF (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation welcomes the FAO papers before us, C 89/14 and 89/14-Sup.1, which were clearly presented by Mr Dutia.

In supporting the Plan of Action we would like to share our experience in integrating women's full participation in our country's economic development.

Women account for about one half of the population in Malaysia and constitute one third of the labour force. In the agriculture sector, about 65.5 percent of the labour force are women. Recognizing the important contributions of women as partners in development, they play an increasingly active role in the socio-economic development of the country through their involvement in the mainstream of economic activities. Equal opportunities have been and will continue to be given to women with respect to employment, education and access to other social benefits. At the same time, the role of women in family development remained important towards developing a united and self-reliant society through the inculcation of good and lasting values in their children.

Malaysia has been implementing a wide range of programmes benefiting rural women from the early 1950s starting with the establishment of the Women's Institute in 1954. Since then, many organizations both in the governmental and non-governmental sector have been established with specific programmes for women in the area of home economics training; applied nutrition programmes; income generating activities in food processing, food catering, vegetable gardening, cash cropping and crafts; literacy child care and development including the running of child care centres/kindergartens and community kitchens; as well as the establishment of women's groups to encourage and nurture leadership among women.

In 1976, the National Advisory Council on Integration of Women in Development was established under the Prime Minister's Department to spearhead the integration of women into the mainstream of economic development. In 1983, the Secretariat for Women's Affairs was formed under the Prime Minister's Department to monitor and evaluate projects and services for women implemented by the public and private sectors.

Malaysia reaffirms its commitment on women's participation in development by endorsing a report tabled during the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting entitled "Engendering Adjustments for the 1990s", which stressed the importance of adopting policies which facilitate women's full participation in public and private sectors, as well as the importance of integrating women into the development process, including equitable access to education, training, credit, land and employment.

Under the auspices of the Council of ASEAN Director of Extension, a project entitled "ASEAN Regional Programme for Farm Women in Agricultural Development" has been approved and currently submitted to UNDP for funding. One of the major components of the project is the establishment of a regional research and development centre which will undertake research, training, development of appropriate technology and exchange of expertise within the participating countries. The establishment of this centre is in consonance with the concerns of the FAO Plan of Action, which stressed the need to systematically enrich the body of knowledge and understanding on women in development to assist in policy formulation and programme planning.

As indicated in our earlier intervention, Malaysia is currently undertaking the formulation of policies, programmes and projects for our next Five-Year Plan, the Sixth Malaysia Plan, 1991-95. The preparation of this important development document includes the instruction to all ministries and agencies in the public sector to address women's issues and to identify programmes and projects in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, that will promote the generation of income for the women. The integration of women's concerns in the planning process has been and will continue to be important in enhancing women's participation in the overall economic development of the country.

The Malaysian delegation notes the progress reports on the Implementation of the Plan of Action. Malaysia endorses the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development and gives its total support to the resolution proposed by the distinguished delegate from Costa Rica.

**R.C.A. JAIN (India):** The Indian delegation fully endorses the general line of thinking of FAO on the need for a special effort to integrate women into the development process as detailed in the documentation on the subject.

India has since prepared a National Perspective Plan for Women 1988-2000. This Plan is more or less similar to the FAO Plan of Action for Integration of women in Development. India is very alive to the importance of including women as recipients of development strategies and involving them in the process of: decision-making.

The overall approach of our National Perspective Plan is to perceive women in a holistic manner. While the programmes for women will continue to be implemented by different ministries as part of their development plans, there will be a strong inter-ministerial coordination and monitoring body along with its own supportive facilities.

All programmes will reflect the concern for the all-round development of women. The concerned ministries will all have a women's cell which currently only exists in the Ministries of Labour, Small-Scale Industry, Science and Technology and Rural Development and Agriculture.

An essential prerequisite for the implementation of these new policy directives would be a women's unit in the Planning Commission, to redefine categories of data (Collection for women, modify existing terminology and identify gaps; in data collection relating to women and to give direction to plans and programmes for women's development. It is also essential to analyse the impact of the different macro-policies on women while planning new endeavours.

Financial and fiscal resources have also been apportioned and preferential allocations; for women's employment and mainstream programmes and projects have been made. This would imply the rationalization of resource allocation within mainstream programmes so as to benefit women, rather than only seeking separate allocations; for women.

In terms of programme implementation, one of the two major implementing bodies envisaged is the Women's Development Corporations. These corporations would be responsible for the implementation of economic programmes through non-governmental and governmental agencies/departments wherever necessary, concentrating on technical inputs like credit, marketing, design development etc., and reaching out to women at the district and village level.

Women will be entitled to a package of services at the block level created by the convergence of schemes such as Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas, Integrated Child Development Schemes, Adult Education, Health Care, etc., at the grassroots administrative level. Since decentralization of planning, monitoring and implementation of development programmes for women is suggested as also devolution of finance at district level, appointment of District coordinators for women's programmes would facilitate this process, and control over finance would empower them.

"Here are today a sufficient number of programmes in the Government of India as well as innovative programmes in many States and sectors. What is needed is not merely larger resource allocation but technical inputs for greater effectiveness of these programmes, to guarantee better resource utilization. Emphasis has been placed on more effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of existing programmes through a result-oriented mechanism operating at different levels.

Recognizing that a critical input for women's development would be a new thrust to training and wider dissemination of information backed by research data and documentation, it is proposed to set up a National Resource Centre for Women. This resource centre would translate national development needs of women into a systematic grid of programmes and schemes for training at different levels in skills, knowledge and attitudes.

Reorientation and sensitization of the administrative machinery at all levels in the Government of India States as well as specialized technical agencies to the issue of women in development is also being attempted.

Involvement of women in forestry has hitherto been only incidental, and specific measures are being initiated in this regard. The National Wasteland Development Board is promoting active involvement of women in its Decentralized Nurseries Scheme, Women's groups are playing an important role in collection of seeds, raising nurseries and managing seed banks. The Grants-in-Aid Scheme for voluntary agencies envisages support to women's groups and NGOs. The Tree Patta Scheme provides for the issue of tree pattas to women or as a joint patta in the names of the husband and wife. Conferring usufruct rights through this helps to enhance the income accruing to women, directly contributing to their social and economic development. Efforts are being made to ensure that women get at least a minimum stipulated share of the employment opportunities in forestry projects.

We feel that FAO has already made a good beginning in implementing various components of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development.

We also endorse the efforts made by FAO to cooperate with other organizations in the UN system in the WID areas. Areas where special emphasis needs to be given are mobilization of women, awareness building regarding women's issues and improvement of access of adolescent girls in particular to nutrition, health and education programmes in developing countries.

We commend the Plan of Action for adoption by the Conference.

**Shamin AHMED (Bangladesh):** Documents C 89/14 and C 89/14-Sup.1 are excellent papers which contain comprehensive explanations on the topic concerning the Plan of Action on Integration of Women in Development. The FAO Secretariat deserves to be congratulated for producing these two extremely useful documents.

The Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development is in pursuance of the guidelines contained in the Resolution 3/87 frtiich was adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Session of the FAO Conference in recognition and reiteration of the vital role of women in agricultural production and rural development. The Plan seeks to bring about change in order to ensure that, in FAO's area of responsibility, women are accorded equal rights and opportunities and their potential uses are put to use by their societies. As we have noted, the Plan is a comprehensive and multifaceted charter, identifying measures in civil, economic and social and decision-making spheres.

The Bangladesh delegation is happy to note that the Director-General of the FAO has instructed all departments and divisions at the headquarters of the Organization and the regional offices to initiate implementation of the Plan in their respective fields.

May I, at this stage of my intervention, say a few words in the context of Bangladesh, in as much as it relates to the topic of our deliberations?

Women in Bangladesh are being increasingly associated with the process of development in the country. The Government has adopted effective policies towards this objective. As the majority of the population of Bangladesh live in the rural areas, the Government policy has laid maximum emphasis on the need for creation of conditions and opportunities for the rural women to contribute to the process of development. These measures have brought about significant results with regard the participation of women in economic activities in rural areas, particularly in agriculture which is the most important sector both in terms of contribution to the GDP and employment generation. Steps have been taken to increase female employment in both private and public sectors of the country, as well as to generate self-employment in non-farm and informai sectors. There is a fully-fledged Ministry of Women's Affairs in Bangladesh.

The measures that have been taken in Bangladesh to facilitate the integration of women in the process of development is in recognition of the vital role that can be played by them in our endeavour for the overall development of the country. In this endeavour Bangladesh looks forward to benefiting from the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women as drawn up by FAO.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): My country's delegation wholeheartedly supports the documents presented by the Secretariat, C 89/14 and C 89/14 Sup.- 1, relating to the integration of women in development. We wholeheartedly support the Strategy drawn up by FAO. It is an excellent exercise. We think this strategy perfectly wall lays down the action that can be taken nationally, regionally and internationally, with a view to promoting the part played by women in development, and in order to ensure greater equality of opportunity in all areas.

Women represent half of the human race, and we should recognize the active half. The Nairobi Strategy represents a commitment entered into by the international community so as to adopt effective measures aimed at eliminating various forms of discrimination between men and women, be it in the political, economic, or social sphere. I think that we should extend our thinking about the role of women in development, particularly when it comes to agriculture and the rural environment. On the basis of these new concepts we should adopt a series of policies which are conducive to promoting this development.

My country's delegation is only too avere of the role played by women, particularly in rural areas and we fully support the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development in all sectors: in teaching, education, technology, in all areas which can contribute to promoting the integration of women in development. We have legislation guaranteeing equality of rights between men and women. These provide women with a full guarantee that they can participate fully in the decision-making process, in a fashion which respects the dignity of women as human beings. It is true that theoretical equality before the law is not the same thing as actual equality. The concepts must



evolve, must be changed, so that the true equality between men and women is recognized, genuine equality in all areas which reflects the physiological abilities of women and guarantees their position in society.

we talk of equality between men and women and in so doing we do not imagine we are one day going to see a boxing match between a man and a woman, or that women will undertake hard manual labour, road-building, or building work. There are many areas in which women are superior to men: woman as a mother, woman as a wife, woman as a sister, woman as a daughter. we should assist women in developing their potential in all these areas.

In talking about these fundamental problems within the FAO framework, we should encourage the Secretariat to assist women to increase their participation in various areas of social life and the Organization should assist women in rural areas so that they can have access to education, to marketing and so on.

Engelbert MOYO (Tanzania) : Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me the floor on this agenda item on the ERO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development as presented in document 89/14 Sup. 1.

My delegation appreciates the plan submitted and endorses it accordingly. we also endorse the Progress Report and the priorities.

At least we all know that equity involves adequate attention to the needs of the economically, ecologically and socially disadvantaged sections of our population. Achieving growth with equity demands concurrent attention to economics, ecology, gender and generations. In terms of gender the emphasis has to be on enhancing the productive role of women and reducing drudgery and danger respectively in the household and productive aspects of their life.

FAO has clearly identified and put forward actions to be taken on the real issues confronting women in their triple role in different spheres outlined in the document under discussion. The situation in my country is also that, in spite of the key role of women in the field of agriculture particularly, crop husbandry, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry, irrigation projects and post-harvest technology, both in the past and now, and although the equality of women is in fact legally recognized through the women's organization established in my country, those in charge of formulating packages of technologies, services, and public policies for rural areas have often tended to neglect the productive role of women. Consequently, the development of technologies specifically tailored to women's specific occupations and the involvement in technology development and transfer have received inadequate attention from both the scientific and administrative departments of my Government. The majority of women in my country are equally experiencing, among other things, hardship arising from unemployment or uncertain unemployment, lack of flexibility in terms of working hours, place of work and duration of work; lack of adequate maternity and health care and associated needs; little or no access to credit and other productive inputs; inadequate opportunities for the acquisition of new skills and for extension assistance; discriminatory land or other asset ownership rights and social status.

In response to these constraints my country has established a women's organization, known as UWT, through which the equality of women is legally recognized. The Organization provides opportunities for women to participate

in decision making at all levels, their proper rights and full sharing of political, economic and social life. This opportunity has not been fully exploited.

With regard to agricultural production, women play a very big role in agricultural production in my country, but they receive very limited services to support their contribution. My country has currently established strategies to support the group by speeding up technology transfer to the women farmers or by training extension agents to service the women; but we have a problem here that, even if we turn out a lot of extension agents or direct agents to the field, the cause of conditions which is really not very good at field level also leaves professionals as women to go back to urban areas. Maybe the Secretariat will tell us about the experience in other developing countries or other countries in connection with the migration of professionals - vanen professionals - from the field to the urban areas.

Simultaneously we are training women farmers in some basic agricultural technology at field level which can easily be adopted. At the same time, financial institutions like the banks, are also currently providing some credit facilities to finance specifically viable projects under the management of women, but they require some technical assistance in the management and planning of these projects where possible. We very much endorse the assistance given by the delegation from the Nordic countries in providing additional funds to support these components.

Nevertheless, the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development presented by FAO is fully endorsed by my delegation.

**Jean A. YENNEMATAS (Grèce):** On se souvient que le Plan d'action de la FAO pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement a été discuté et adopté durant le Conseil du mois de novembre 1988. La Grèce a déjà exprimé son soutien à cet effort considérable de notre Organisation.

Ce Plan ne se limite pas uniquement au renforcement de la participation et du rôle de la femme dans les mécanismes du développement; il vise à établir une plus grande égalité de chances et de meilleures opportunités pour les femmes dans les années à venir.

Dans mon pays, la femme a toujours joué un rôle prédominant dans la société. C'est pourquoi la Grèce soutient la participation active de la femme dans les divers secteurs de notre société.

Il est en effet vraiment primordial de pouvoir suivre et soutenir les diverses étapes auxquelles la FAO s'engage, en proposant des solutions et des mesures concrètes pour faire face aux problèmes socio-économiques de la femme dans le cadre de ses responsabilités, à savoir l'agriculture, l'alimentation et le développement rural.

Dans le domaine social, permettez-moi de souligner, sans pour autant vouloir sous-évaluer les autres priorités, le chapitre consacré à l'éducation. C'est un chapitre que nous considérons fondamental et dont l'influence s'exerce tout particulièrement sur les structures sociales des pays surtout pour les années à venir.

Pour conclure, la délégation hellénique souhaiterait à cette occasion évoquer la participation de la femme, notamment dans les pays en développement, aux petits commerces des produits agricoles. Toute attention ainsi que tout soutien de la FAO dans cette direction serait un hommage à la courageuse et dynamique "maman africaine".

Sra. Ana Maria NAVARRO ARRUE (Cuba): Como es la primera vez que hago personalmente uso de la palabra en esta Comisión, permítame felicitarlo a usted, señor Presidente, por la forma brillante, ágil y dinámica que caracterizan los trabajos de esta Comisión bajo su presidencia, al tiempo de expresarle que mi Delegación les reitera su disposición de colaboración en los asuntos que hoy nos ocupan y que constituyen por demás factor importante en el marco de nuestro país cotidianamente.

De igual forma mi delegación aprovecha esta ocasión para agradecer al Sr. Dutia su presentación que complementa el informe sobre la aplicación del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural, que nos ha sido suministrado con antelación a esta Conferencia y al cual le conferimos sinceramente un gran valor por su contenido y objetividad.

Por otra parte, es también oportuno hacer llegar nuestro apoyo a la Dra. Spring y, por su conducto, al colectivo que con ella labora por la muestra de dinamismo desplegado tanto dentro de la Organización como fuera de ella, durante estos meses con vistas a promover, concientizar y dar cumplimiento al programa elaborado y a las recomendaciones emanadas del Consejo de la FAO efectuado en noviembre de 1988.

Señor presidente, la delegación cubana, antes de realizar algunos comentarios sobre el tema, desea expresar su acuerdo a la Resolución que en el día de ayer ha sido presentada en Plenaria sobre Medidas para la implementación y seguimiento del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. Somos de la opinión que la misma pudiera ser de incalculable valor, tanto para sus ejecutores como para los beneficiarios.

Este documento, junto al informe presentado por la Secretaría, agilizarán nuestras discusiones hoy día, ya que constituyen de por sí una buena base para orientar nuestros comentarios.

La delegación de Cuba, señor Presidente, durante el 94<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, apoyó ampliamente el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo, apoyo que deseamos reiterar hoy en el marco de esta 25<sup>a</sup> Conferencia General de la FAO.

De igual forma, y por considerarlo de gran importancia y utilidad para el ulterior desarrollo de este Plan de Acción, nuestra Delegación desde el primer momento convino en co-auspiciar la Resolución 1/94 del Consejo, que como principal objetivo tenía impulsar y fortalecer este Plan al interior de la FAO, tanto en la sede como en el campo, a la vez que acelerar urgentemente el conocimiento del Plan, así como su puesta en marcha.

Urgía lograr además la formulación de lineamientos básicos de acción de parte de las diversas dependencias, que de una forma u otra, deben tener relación directa en su implementación. En aquella ocasión, fuimos partidarios de que la FAO, que ya había identificado teóricamente los problemas que continúan siendo obstáculos reales para la plena integración de la mujer en el desarrollo de nuestros países, y que además había legitimizado esta justa

causa al incorporarla como vino de sus objetivos concretos para los próximos bienios, ya estaba en condiciones de pasar a la acción. Pasar a la acción, repetimos, como imperativo impostergable de priorizar y dar cabal cumplimiento a lo acordado hace cuatro años por 157 naciones en Nairobi. Nos referimos a las Estrategias orientadas hacia el futuro para el Adelanto de la Mujer.

A nuestro juicio, señor Presidente, un nuevo discurso y una nueva mirada se han abierto pasos hoy dentro de esta prestigiosa Organización. Mi delegación se siente complacida ante esta importante acción que significa una vez más estar al lado de los campesinos y campesinas pobres del mundo entero, para luchar junto a ellos contra el hambre y la miseria.

En fin, señor Presidente, esta Organización camina con pasos firmes y seguros en busca de más justos caminos en favor de las que, de manera silenciosa y estoica, casi se ocupan de la mitad de la producción alimentaria mundial. Justos caminos, señor Presidente, para la mitad menos favorecida de la humanidad que ha enfrentado valientemente las crisis en sus países, sin poder jamás ceder ante el cansancio, para dar de comer a sus hijos y convertirse en un sostén importante en el seno de la familia.

Hoy, sin triunfalismos, pudiéramos plantear que las acciones por la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo entraron a la FAO, para quedarse y no salir jamás.

Esta acción irreversible tiene que dejar de ser una preocupación solamente de la Comunidad Internacional. Preocupación debe, señor Presidente, convertirse en ocupación plena de ella misma.

Mi delegación suscribe las prioridades y los programas tal y como han sido identificados en el Informe sobre la Aplicación del Plan de Acción para el período 1990-1995. A su vez, creemos oportuno se continúen los esfuerzos por integrar a la mujer en todos los programas y proyectos de la FAO.

En tal sentido, la delegación cubana saluda los pasos que hasta hoy se han dado, sobre todo en estos últimos meses, de parte de los principales Comités de la FAO, que han incluido en sus programas el examen de los problemas que plantea la participación de la mujeres en las esferas de su competencia.

Si recordamos, el 94º Consejo de la FAO señaló que la ejecución del Plan de Acción debería realizarse dentro del núcleo principal de las actividades de la FAO, y financiarse con cargo al Programa Ordinario, pero prestando la debida atención a la realización de otros aspectos decisivos de los programas básicos de la Organización. Sin embargo, también se planteó que esto no debería impedir el uso de recursos extrapresupuestarios, si se necesitase.

Debemos tener presente, Señor Presidente, que estas prioridades corresponden a la labor de diversas dependencias técnicas de la FAO, y su participación se hace precisa en lo concerniente a la concepción, preparación, y ejecución de las actividades. Es por ello que además, reconocemos la validez que tiene el Programa de Capacitación del Personal de la FAO, al dotársele de una mayor ilustración que ayude a comprender y tarar en cuenta la integración de la mujer en sus respectivas esferas técnicas, e incluir estos problemas en la planificación de proyectos y programas.

A la delegación de Cuba le añina un positivo propósito al expresar que para que este Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo alcance resultados significativos en la ejecución de sus prioridades, debemos hacer todos los esfuerzos posibles para que el mismo cuente con los recursos necesarios.

Mi delegación aprovecha esta oportunidad para saludar a los países nórdicos que contribuirán con ayuda suplementaria a la implementación de este valioso Plan.

Por otra parte, creemos también oportuno el ingreso de mujeres en puestos profesionales a todos los niveles de la Organización sin que esto afecte la calidad y la profesionalidad que los mismos requieren.

A mi delegación le parece razonable la propuesta sobre el total de los recursos que necesita la dependencia de coordinación para ejecutar el Plan a lo largo de siete años. Igualmente, es razonable lo que se prevé para el Programa Ordinario y los recursos extrapresupuestarios.

Permítaseme llamar la atención nuevamente sobre un aspecto, y es que otras dependencias y divisiones deben incluir en sus respectivos presupuestos o programas, de manera integral, la acción de la mujer en el desarrollo. Mi delegación confía en la capacidad de la FAO para equilibrar de manera justa y real estas necesidades.

De esta forma, este Plan de Acción estaría en condiciones de alcanzar la integralidad necesaria, ya que no se trata de que sólo el Servicio de Promoción de la Mujer en la Producción Agrícola y el Desarrollo Rural tenga esta responsabilidad, y otros no. El adelanto y promoción de las mujeres es un fenómeno que atañe a toda la sociedad en su conjunto. Esta afirmación es válida y oportuna también al interior de la FAO.

Por último, no creo necesario expresarle que mi país se ha distinguido modestamente en estos últimos años por su sostenida voluntad política en favor de la igualdad de la mujer. Esta voluntad política no ha sido de palabras sino de hechos concretos. Indudablemente, estos años abrieron a las mujeres cubanas nuevos horizontes en la vida económica, social y política del país, significando este profundo cambio un sustantivo paso superior de sus condiciones de vida y de su desarrollo mismo.

Hace hoy precisamente un año que se celebró en La Habana un Seminario Nacional para evaluar el cumplimiento de las Estrategias orientadas hacia el futuro para la Promoción de la Mujer, acordado en Nairobi 1985. Este encuentro resultó una rica reflexión colectiva acerca de cuánto se ha alcanzado en nuestro país en materia de participación de la mujer, especialmente en áreas de salud, empleo, educación, mujeres rurales y difusión masiva. Se analizó lo que falta por hacer en esas esferas y muchos de los elementos que enriquecerían las Estrategias Cubanas de desarrollo, y la inserción de la mujer en ese proceso económico y social.

Le pido excusas por haberme extendido en esta explicación acerca de mi país, pero al hacerlo pienso en el papel que los Estados Miembros podemos jugar en ayuda de la FAO para el cumplimiento exitoso de este importante Plan de Acción de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Rural.

Mlle Catherine KOUASSI (Gôte d'Ivoire): A ce stade aussi avancé du débat, il me plait de joindre ma voix à celle des orateurs qui m'ont précédée pour vous exprimer la satisfaction de ma délégation de vous voir présider cette Commission et vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection; je me permets de joindre également mes félicitations aux membres du Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui sont soumis à notre bienveillante attention.

Ce point inscrit à l'ordre du jour de notre Commission, à n'en point douter, est une excellente initiative du Directeur général de la FAO de proposer à la Conférence un plan d'action de développement de nos économies. Mon pays appuie les propositions énoncées et se réjouit qu'elles s'intègrent dans l'effort de nos gouvernements car elles visent à encourager l'insertion de la femme dans toutes les initiatives de développement.

Dans cette optique, la Côte d'Ivoire apprécie hautement la sensibilité de la FAO dans la mise en oeuvre des programmes pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement au bénéfice des ruraux. Nul ne doute que l'approbation des recommandations du plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement ouvre de nouvelles perspectives et permet à celles-ci d'accroître leur contribution de façon significative, en premier lieu, la reconnaissance de leurs responsabilités dans le processus de développement économique et social de nos pays respectifs.

**Jorge Alberto DE OLIVEIRA (Guinée-Bissau):** La délégation de la Guinée-Bissau, carme les autres délégations qui l'ont précédée, remercie le Secrétariat et la FAO pour l'insertion de ce sujet dans l'ordre du jour de la Conférence et aussi pour l'opportunité qu'il représente pour notre pays. Comme nous l'avons déjà dit dans notre intervention à la Conférence plénière, en Guinée-Bissau, la femme participe activement, aux côtés de l'homme, aux diverses tâches agricoles allant de la culture des terres jusqu'à la récolte et au traitement des produits. Parallèlement, elle participe aux diverses activités de productions populaires, notamment à la fabrication du sel, à la vente des fruits d'espèces forestières, à la coupe, à la collecte et à la vente de bois de feu, à la fabrication de savon, à l'élevage, et à la vente de petits animaux, etc.

Sur le plan social, on constate une amélioration qualitative de la participation des femmes, surtout dans le domaine de l'éducation et de l'alphabétisation, et des progrès considérables réalisés au sujet de la santé des femmes, de la planification familiale, ainsi que des projets de soins de santé primaire.

Au niveau de l'encadrement, la femme est sur un pied d'égalité avec l'homme puisque l'encadrement est fait par une équipe mixte au niveau des villages. Dans notre pays, il existe une organisation nationale des femmes appelée U.D.E.M.U. (Union démocratique des Femmes) qui participe activement à toutes les activités politiques du pays et joue un rôle dominant dans l'évolution de leur émancipation au niveau des structures sociales et économiques du pays.

Notre délégation a participé à la consultation sur le suivi des résolutions du CMRADR réalisée à Addis-Abeba au mois d'octobre dernier où ce thème a été bien discuté, et des conclusions très intéressantes ont été dégagées.

C'est pourquoi nous voudrions exhorter la FAO à continuer ses actions en vue d'alléger dans toute la mesure possible les souffrances et les charges des femmes et d'essayer de modifier leurs conditions de vie pour mettre fin à leurs injustes épreuves. Pour cela, nous voudrions aussi apporter tout notre soutien au plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, et demander que notre pays soit inclus dans les actions préconisées par la FAO dans ce plan, surtout dans la sphère économique, notamment dans les aspects des professions agricoles, transformation et commercialisation des produits alimentaires.

Pour terminer, nous voudrions exhorter les pays nantis à envisager une contribution extrabudgétaire pour la mise en oeuvre des actions préconisées,

Crispus R. J. NZAGA (Kenya) : Allow me first to commend the Secretariat on the detailed document covering the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development• From the outset, the Kenyan delegation wishes to acknowledge the very important contributions made by women, in the family, in the community and especially in agriculture, which forms the backbone of many of our economies.

In this connection, Kenya would like to recall the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies on the role of women in development and urge their speedy implementation. I wish, therefore, to commend FAO for the increasing attention that is being focused on gender issues. We agree that every effort must be made to ensure that the contribution by women in development efforts is enhanced.

In the statement given by the Kenyan delegation in the Plenary, we advised caution in our approach to issues concerning women in development. We emphasized that any plan of action which advocates change in the roles and relationships within the society must, as a matter of priority, ensure that the unity and integrity of the family as a vital unit of the community is maintained. We know that our present cultures have evolved and have been fine-tuned over thousands of years with the sole aim of ensuring the survival and destiny of mankind.

When we look at successful societies in our contemporary world, we note that one of the main factors influencing their performance in all spheres is discipline based on strong family traditions and ties. The Kenyan delegation would therefore like to urge FAO to employ the services of sociologists and anthropologists to study, advise and guide on rational plans of action based on conditions existing on a country-to-country basis to ensure that family and social harmony are maintained. This is important, in particular in dealing with some of the sensitive issues.

In my country, gender issues in all aspects of development and social life are being given due attention, and provisions for equal opportunities in education and employment have been made.

In the field of agriculture, for example, the extension service is directed at the farmer, and in our own context, the majority of these farmers are women, who make the day-to-day decisions on the management of the family farms. The extension workers do not therefore, distinguish between the women and men farmers on day-to-day extension activities.

In addition, we also have a home-economics programme which focuses on specific activities to improve family life, nutrition, child and mother care and promoting income-generating activities to help in the welfare of women. We also focus on rural youth development to develop skills and positive attitudes towards life and development in rural areas.

There are, however, many problems that women face in the rural areas. Women spend many hours trying to fend for their families which, among other things, requires fetching firewood and water over long distances. They also have to use tools and implements that are inappropriate or outmoded. In recognition of such constraints, the government, in cooperation with non-governmental

agencies, is developing appropriate technologies geared to solving them. The artisanal industries, commonly referred to in Kenya as "Juakali", are now manufacturing some of this equipment. One of the successful examples of this is our energy-saving charcoal burner.

We would in this respect call upon FAO and other development agencies to focus on technologies that reduce drudgery in all aspects of farm and home activities.

In addition, we call for support in strengthening the use of the women's group approach. This should include training programmes and credit and savings schemes to foster self-reliance and strengthen these activities.

In conclusion, we support the proposal in paragraphs 44 and 45 in document C 89/14.

**John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom):** First of all, I should like to join previous speakers in welcoming both the Plan of Action and the Progress Report on its implementation and thank Dr Dutia for his clear introduction.

The United Kingdom Government's policy on this topic is based on the belief that an appreciation of women's contribution to economic and social development should be integrated into all aid activities. We regard this as a more effective way of helping women than by allocating special funds for women's projects, because, with such an approach, there is a danger that the issue will be marginalized. Thus we do not set out to finance projects just for women, though many projects may, by their nature, concern women rather than men. We are also prepared to fund components of projects to ensure that women, as well as men, benefit.

Women are often the agents of development, particularly in the agricultural sector. They are also potential consumers of the output, and consistent consideration of both aspects is necessary everywhere. In many countries there may be a need to discriminate positively in favour of women to provide them with genuine equality of opportunity, but we, like the FAO, can only go as far as the recipient country allows.

My Minister, in her address last week, recognized the importance of this topic and particularly welcomed the Director-General's proposal to begin by training all professional FAO staff in the so-called gender issues.

In welcoming the Plan of Action, we feel, however, that the Plan tries to cover too much ground. In doing so, it impinges on the remit of some other agencies, especially in population education.

We also think that since many activities are inter-disciplinary there are formidable problems of coordination. This links with the question as to whether the Secretariat should be restructured to reduce such problems, which was another matter which my Minister spoke about last week.

Within FAO there is a clear need for social development skills in every Division, and some will need strengthening in this respect.

Turning to the Progress Report, it is clear that action is beginning in the right place, with training on gender issues. A strong base is essential for FAO to be effective in helping Member Governments to introduce WID concerns in policy, projects and training.



There is some risk in using words such as "virtually deemed necessary" in the preparation of guidelines and manuals. There is an example of this at paragraph 30 of the document. It is necessary for all staff to understand the priority of the work on women's issues and that it should cover all FAO activities.

We feel that project development is the next most important area after training. FAO should direct that active search be made for projects in which women as agents and beneficiaries are identified explicitly as part of the target group of the main components of the project.

We agree strongly that the Plan is important and that progress in implementing it should be pursued vigorously. Monitoring of compliance is crucial, and we support the need for this on a regular and continuing basis.

Finally, on finance, it seems right that extra-budgetary money should be used for most of the programme activities. However, some items, such as impact evaluation, improved statistics and preparation of guidelines and manuals, would seem more appropriate for Regular Programme funding.

Ms E. D. OLET (Uganda): The integration of women in development in Uganda was recognized by the government as long ago as 1975. The Ugandan delegation endorses with great appreciation the FAO's concern on the progress made on the integration of women in agricultural and rural development, which is thoroughly dealt with in document C 89/14. We also support the Plan of Action as discussed in document C 89/14-Sup.1.

Our delegation appreciates the intervention of the Kenyan delegation, which has clarified the role of women in development in the developing countries.

The Ugandan Government, having realized that women's problems are many and complex, decided to create a fully-fledged Ministry of Women in Development, and this is being headed by a woman. It deals mainly with women's affairs. The head of the Ugandan delegation to this Conference is a woman, who is the Minister of Agriculture.

The Government is devising rural development projects. Most of them will be implemented by women, while others will be implemented by integrating women in the system. Such projects as community forestry for environmental protection, family planning, poultry production, etc., are good examples.

We should also like to propose the training of Ugandan nationals in project planning and implementation so that we have sustainability in the projects.

The delegation therefore appeals to FAO and other organizations and countries to offer assistance, financially or morally.

Finally, the head of the Ugandan delegation, in her statement during the Plenary session, concluded by hoping that FAO should have some women as directors to concentrate on women's issues.

Leslie Robs BROWNHALL (Australia): I should like, first of all, to thank the Secretariat for the preparation on the Plan of Action and for the Progress Report. We have read both of these with interest and are gratified with the progress being made.

Australia strongly supports FAO's Plan of Action. The Plan aims to ensure that women are accorded equal rights and opportunities and that their potential contribution is recognized through economic, social, decision-making and legislative measures. Specifically, Australia endorses the mainstreaming approach whereby Plan activities are mostly funded from Regular Programme budgets, with extra funds for Women in Development advisory resources and cross-organizational programme analysis to assist in integration; new data being disaggregated by gender; a strong monitoring component allowing progress assessment; and a staff Women in Development training programme being implemented.

Australia also supports the proposals to assist Member Governments to strengthen Women in Development policy and operations through legislation, food and nutrition policy, technical planning, environmental and population measures and staff and consultant training.

Australia suggests that further attention may be needed for:

- briefing or training of non-FAO staff, particularly consultant members of FAO review and appraisal teams;
- introduction of special analytical methods into project development and assessment, for example, gender analysis;
- special efforts to ensure that women are able to participate in planning and implementation of aid activities.

Women form an essential group of both recipients and participants in Australia's programme of development assistance. Australia's Women in Development Policy has these aims:

- to improve the developmental effectiveness of our aid programmes by taking account of women's as well as men's needs and preferences in the planning, implementation and evaluation of aid projects;
- to strengthen the impact of Australia's aid programmes by securing the participation of all available resources (women and men) in its planning and implementation ;
- increase the productivity of women's activities, and
- promote a balanced share in the benefits derived from development for men, women and children.

The policy is monitored by a Women in Development Task Force through a Plan of Action which sets out Women in Development objectives across the full range of aid activities.

**Mme Cristina MONTEIRO DUARTE (Cap-Vert) :** La délégation du Cap-Vert aimerait avant tout remercier le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document et la clarté de son exposé.

L'intégration de la femme dans le processus de développement rural apparaît en ce moment comme un impératif du développement. Sur ce point, il semble y avoir un accord général.

La question de fond est comment le faire? Tenant compte que dans beaucoup de sociétés la position et la situation de la femme appartiennent à une culture qui s'est structurée tout au long des siècles, parler de l'intégration de la femme implique nécessairement d'agir avant tout sur les aspects culturels d'une société ou bien sur sa mentalité.

Une fois encore nous posons la question: "Comment faire cette intégration?" L'analyse de la stratégie d'action a bien recensé quatre domaines d'intervention :

- juridique,
- économique,
- social, et
- prise de décision.

De l'expérience de quelques pays africains, parmi lesquels le Cap-Vert, il a été constaté que même s'il y a eu de grands progrès au niveau juridique, la réalité ne change pas grand chose.

D'autre part, en ce qui concerne une intervention conséquente dans le domaine social, nous savons tous quelles sont les limitations financières, particulièrement au niveau des budgets nationaux dans l'appui de programmes élargis à caractère social, car nos pays manquent d'une base de création de richesses. Cet étranglement économique et financier provoque en outre, dans quelques pays, une timide privatisation de ces secteurs pour lesquels il n'est pas toujours facile de trouver un grand volume de ressources financières dans le cadre de l'aide publique pour le développement.

C'est dans ce contexte que parmi les quatre niveaux d'intervention nous jugeons que toute stratégie souhaitée doit donner une priorité au niveau économique pour deux sortes de raison:

Premièrement, un changement de mentalité qui amène à une authentique émancipation de la femme doit compter sur une femme "agent social" conscient et revendicatif. Ce fait exige qu'au préalable elle consolide son pouvoir économique ou bien qu'elle se transforme en un agent économique actif, indépendant et conscient de ses droits.

Pour que cette lutte ne soit pas douloureuse, un cadre juridique et politique favorable constitue sans aucun doute une condition sine qua non.

Le second ordre de raison s'attache au fait que les femmes, du moins dans les pays africains, constituent un important contingent populationnel. En d'autres termes, cela veut dire qu'elle est l'élément ayant le plus de poids pour la création de la richesse nationale. Ce fait acquiert une importance spéciale dans les pays où plus de 40 pour cent des femmes sont chef de famille (soit un potentiel micro-entrepreneur) si l'on tient compte que la famille est aussi une unité de production.

L'appuyer économiquement ne signifie pas seulement appuyer un groupe social discriminé mais avant tout appuyer une nation, à travers son principal élément: la force de travail.

Quand nous parlons de la femme "agent économique", nous aimerions manifester notre accord quant aux domaines recensés dans le Plan d'action. Ce sont des domaines où la femme possède déjà un certain savoir-faire acquis au sein de l'économie familiale.

A son tour, la concrétisation de ce Plan d'action exige que la FAO renforce non seulement la division compétente en lui donnant les moyens indispensables, mais également en renforçant ses moyens financiers et humains. Toute l'Organisation doit s'incorporer dans cette ligne stratégique.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FAO peut jouer un rôle inestimable mais nous devons nécessairement appuyer cet effort. Cela veut dire aussi que nous devons appuyer cet effort par des politiques nationales.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITEA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation wishes to thank the Secretariat for its progress report on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, and takes note with satisfaction of the measures already undertaken with a view to ensuring the inclusion of WID concerns in FAO programmes.

The Plan of Action spells out a timely and much needed set of objectives and strategies for the promotion of the rights and opportunities of rural women, and that their contribution to the development of their societies be fully recognized.

The document covers rather comprehensively the main complaints of rural women in Brazil, as witnessed by the coincidence of topics covered by the document and the agenda of the several meetings, seminars and congresses held in Brazil over the last few years.

The Brazilian Government has engaged in effort, along the lines of the Plan of Action, to improve the relative situation of women. This is being carried out mostly through the National Council for Women Rights, and through the Agricultural Extension Services. Their priorities include the improvement in the quality and quantity of statistical information on the situation of rural women, and the execution of specific programmes aimed at the provision of opportunities for the full integration of women in the development process.

Among these programmes, I will mention briefly the provision of technical assistance, geared to women's needs, covering all phases of the production, marketing and consumption of agricultural products; support and assistance to organizations and movements of rural women, including exchanges among organizations from different regions; training of rural women and of women extensionists, with a view to increasing awareness of the concerns and needs of women in rural development programmes.

In this context, Mr Chairman, the Brazilian delegation is prepared to endorse the progress report and the priorities for future implementation of the plan, contained in document C 89/14.

Richard SEIRMAN (United States of America) : The US delegation commends the Plan of Action which is well conceived and far-reaching in scope, and notes FAO's progress in implementing the Plan and moving closer to the goal of institutionalizing WID concerns into the Organization. With respect to the Progress Report, it was indeed unfortunate that time did not allow discussion

of this document at the just-concluded Council session. This should in no way be interpreted as any lessening of interest in moving quickly and effectively on WID matters. We appreciated the effort the Secretariat has put into the programme to date, which we view as movement in the right direction.

The US delegation supports the choice of priorities for implementation of the Plan, discussed in paragraphs 23-32 of document C 89/14. They are all relevant, but obviously all cannot be dealt with simultaneously, successfully. (The Secretariat has indicated that training is their first priority, and we are supportive of this choice. At the same time we would welcome any further amplification the Secretariat might provide as to how they see the relationship between, and sequencing of, the other very important priorities identified.)

Related to this question, my delegation would appreciate having the Secretariat comment on how it views the current state of gender data collection. Are there substantial qualitative or quantitative gaps in available data, data collection methodology or techniques on gender matters, and if so, broadly how will they be addressed by FAO, the Service and elsewhere, in the institution in the coming biennium?

Both the quality of policy advice to Member Governments and project development are very dependent on the soundness of the data on which they are based. The point is reinforced in the FAO document C 89/2 Supp. 2 on "Sustainable Development and Natural Resources Management". Paragraph 74 points out that "Social indicators have been incorporated into the System of National Accounts only imperfectly and with great difficulty. For most practical purposes, social indicators are treated separately. Most non-market production (for example, women's work in the household) and much investment in human capital (for example, parenting) are still unaccounted for in the System of National Accounts. Determining shadow prices, for example to estimate the value of non-market household work (such as drawing water, transporting fuelwood, and preparing food) can help bring national accounts

closer to economic values ..... ". And further in the same document in

paragraph 54 that "An understanding of household decision-making is an essential pre-condition for strategy and policy formulation." Both, we think, underscore our point while demonstrating that matters relating to gender increasingly seem to be permeating FAO thinking.

The high priority given to training parallels the approach being used in our bilateral programme. The US Department of Agriculture is working cooperatively with the Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service, on this initiative. Our experience indicates that for any training programme of this sort to have lasting effect, it must have both the clear support and indeed the participation of senior management a means to monitor what "graduates" do afterwards, and some consideration of continuing education to reinforce what has already been learned. Senior management engagement and follow-on monitoring in terms of staff output are key ingredients in a high impact, cost-effective programme.

We agree with the increased emphasis on mainstreaming WID concerns, as well as the recognition given to women's needs for income-generating activities. We also support the establishment of WID focal points in each technical unit to implement and monitor the inclusion of WID concerns in FAO projects. FAO technical divisions will have to ingest gender concerns, which in measurable terms means resources allocated and actions taken to implement the Plan of Action. It would be useful, at the next Conference, to have a report on what has happened in this regard.

We note the plans for preparation of guidelines and manuals on the integration of WID concerns in policy and programme development, implementation and evaluation, as well as for increased data collection and research. We urge continued close cooperation and coordination between FAO and multilateral organizations such as UNIFEM, UNDP, UNICEF, IFAD and WFP in Rome, as well as bilateral programmes, on mutual WID concerns. The sharing of information and experience in these areas should be emphasized in this rapidly growing field of endeavour FAO's programme should set the pace as to how duplication of effort can be avoided.

We welcome the report of the development of a strategy to increase recruitment and promotion of female professional staff. We would hope that periodic reports could be provided to the Council, and subsequently to the Conference, on progress in implementing this strategy.

We were pleased that most of the resources required over the seven-year implementation period of the Plan are anticipated as coming from regular resources. We join others who have pointed out that, if institutionalization of WID is to become a reality, then the principal costs to ensure that gender issues are addressed appropriately in all of FAO's work must be a part of Regular Programme funds and must be absorbed within existing resource levels.

In closing, my delegation looks forward to the incorporation of WID concerns in FAO in the future. We consider the Progress Report presented and the Plan of Action a promising beginning.

**Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of):** My delegation is very pleased that FAO decided to prepare a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development during the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference in 1987. We believe this decision should have been made long ago because in many countries, particularly in African and Asian countries, the role of women and their contribution in agricultural operations is indispensable.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating the Secretariat on the very informative and comprehensive work on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development. I hereby announce the acceptance and full support of my delegation of FAO efforts in this regard. I am very glad to inform you of the achievements we have attained in this connection in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

With regard to the items in document C 89/14, Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, I will explain the four measures in civil, economic, social and decision-making spheres which have been considered for women based upon our Constitution.

In connection with item 7 of this document, accessibility to land, credit and membership in development organizations and cooperatives are already in existence since women and men have equal rights in this respect.

On item 8, in the economic sphere our women - not only in agriculture but in any economic activities - are authorized and entirely independent, and they have the right to do anything with their own benefits. In this respect I will

give you an example. Last year one of the women who was involved in farming and animal husbandry activities won a special prize which was awarded to her by the Government for her outstanding output in agriculture among other farmers in the region.

On item 9, in connection with the social sphere, Iranian women's right to education at any level has not only been recognized, but women are encouraged to advance their knowledge to the highest level since it benefits and improves their lives.

With respect to the decision-making sphere, item 9, I would like to point out that the women in the Islamic Republic of Iran have authority to participate in any legal, social, economic and even political institution and people's organizations.

Finally, I should like to read Article 20 of our Islamic Constitution, which has a close relationship with the subject: "Every individual citizen of the nation whether female or male shall enjoy equal protection under the law and is entitled to all human, political, economic, social and cultural rights in accordance with Islamic precepts. "

**Jaime GARCIA RADIAS (España):** Deseamos, señor Presidente, felicitar al Dr. Dutia por la presentación que nos ha hecho y a la Secretaria por el documento elaborado.

El Plan de Acción que se presenta a la consolidación y consideración de la Conferencia es consecuencia de la Resolución 3/87 del 24º período de sesiones de la Conferencia pidiendo al Director General que presentara al Consejo en su 94º período de sesiones un Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo.

El Consejo en su 94º período de sesiones ratificó el Plan presentado y pidió a la Conferencia su aprobación. El plan presentado a la actual Conferencia está estructurado como el plan de mediano plazo para la mujer y el desarrollo a nivel de todo el Sistema que, como se sabe, establece los subprogramas que el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas debería desarrollar en el período 91/96, de acuerdo con las Estrategias de Nairobi orientadas hacia el futuro para el adelanto de la mujer.

El objetivo principal de la actualidad de la FAO será el de ayudar a la mujer en cuanto productora agrícola y, por lo tanto, se tendrán en cuenta las necesidades de la mujer en relación con las actividades generadoras de ingresos y el control de los mismos, oportunidades de educación y capacitación, la tecnología y otros medios que permitan aliviar la carga que recae sobre la mujer y aumentar su productividad.

El Plan después de establecer el marco de la estrategia va analizando las siguientes esferas, tales como el Estatuto jurídico, la esfera económica, la esfera social y la esfera de la toma de decisiones para, a continuación, proponer planes concretos para mejorar los resultados nacionales e internacionales en las esferas antes citadas, en materia de estadísticas e indicadores, capacitación e información pública, acuerdos y convenios internacionales y asistencia técnica. En cada uno de dichos planes se especifican los problemas existentes, los objetivos que se persiguen y las iniciativas de la FAO previstas.

Eh. el documento elaborado por la Secretaría se nos proporcionan una serie de visiones globales de necesidades que continúan preocupándonos profundamente.

En resumen hay aspectos que consideramos deben ser muy tenidos en cuenta: el escaso aporte financiero proveniente de los fondos públicos que tiene una gran repercusión, negativa lógicamente, unido a la constatación de los siguientes hechos: primero, la dificultad de la mujer para acceder a la propiedad de la tierra; segundo, la dificultad de acceso al crédito y, tercero, la escasa presencia de la mujer en el mundo cooperativo y asociativo.

Ante estos hechos, que además tienen difícil solución por las connotaciones jurídicas, religiosas, políticas, sociales y económicas que concurren, pedimos a los países que todavía han avanzado poco, atiendan estos aspectos y estimamos que la FAO debe dar prioridad a proyectos que vayan dirigidos en este sentido.

Creemos necesario dedicar agentes de extensión agraria dirigidos específicamente a la mujer rural y a su entorno social, incluida la economía doméstica. En nuestro país esta experiencia ha dado magníficos resultados y hemos colaborado en proyectos que en este aspecto se han realizado en América Latina.

Pensamos que son muy útiles los programas de fomento de empleo en aquellos sectores productivos donde se considere que la población activa femenina está subrepresentada como efecto compensador de la emigración rural.

Es cierto que el problema debe estudiarse en el contexto general y no podemos olvidar que todavía hay países en los que más de dos tercios de la población rural no tienen acceso a la tierra.

Nos gustaría que esto no se quedase en buenas intenciones, sino que se le diese la prioridad necesaria para lograr un máximo de eficacia en el tiempo y en los proyectos, mediante lo que nosotros definiríamos como un programa de formación integral.

Nos permitimos, señor Presidente, sugerir y apoyar los servicios de extensión y capacitación agraria dirigidos a la mujer, no sólo en los temas de producción, sino en los del entorno social.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, creemos que el gran reto de la FAO es lograr superar las desigualdades jurídicas de la mujer y la formación que la afecta y, en consecuencia, apoyamos plenamente el documento presentado C 89/14.

CHAIRMAN: That concludes this afternoon's session. Tomorrow morning we will continue with the discussion on this item. The Chair intends to close the list of speakers at the beginning of tomorrow morning's session. Of course, every Member Country has the right to speak and the Chair will not deny the floor to any delegation. Tomorrow morning we intend to have the continuation and, hopefully, the conclusion of the debate on Item 11. If we finish in time, we intend to start the discussion of our Report tomorrow afternoon. This will leave the discussion on the Resolutions for our Thursday meeting. If by any chance we conclude the debate on our Report by tomorrow evening we might turn to the Resolutions, but I do not think we will have time for everything.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

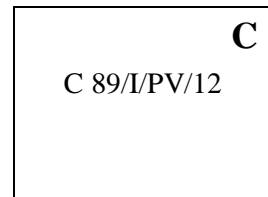
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING  
DOUZIEME SEANCE  
12ª SESION

(22 November 1989)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours  
J. A. De Madicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième séance est ouverte à 10 h 15  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis. Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 10.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- II. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development (continued)
- II. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural (suite)
- II. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural (continuación)

**Noboru SATTO (Japan):** My country, appreciates the efforts made by FAO for implementing the Plan of Action since its approval by the 94th Session of the Council. The seven priority areas proposed for 1990/91 are appropriate for carrying out this programme, after having started the training of FAO personnel this year. We expect a successful achievement of this plan, with necessary inter-divisional cooperation within FAO and also with inter-agency cooperating among UN and other organizations. From the viewpoint of the importance of training, my country has been organizing a training course for rural life improvement for women governmental officials in developing countries. It is mainly for South-East Asian countries to promote women's participation in rural development.

**Chang Hyuk SUM (Ehrea, Republic of):** The delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express sincere appreciation for FAO's concerns and preparation for the integration of women into agricultural and rural development. We fully support the Plan of Action prepared by FAO.

In connection with women in development, I should like to stress the important roles of women in many areas of development activities. The activities are not only related to agricultural production and marketing but also related to off-farm works and improving rural living conditions. Until recent years, the Korean government only emphasized the roles of women in agricultural production, and thereby only training programmes for agricultural production. However, in the process of a nation-wide rural development in the 1970s, rural women began to participate in various activities such as construction of village facilities, contributing to a village common fund for development, and non-farm works for income generation. Considering the increasing role of rural women in development activities, we propose that more opportunities for training should be given to rural women in the fields of farm machinery operation, sanitation, family planning, rural construction and marketing activities. I especially stress the importance of family planning in developing countries because economic development is highly affected by population growth. Moreover, special government subsidized loans should be given to women who are actively participating in income-generating activities such as animal and fishery production and off-farm works.

**Bernd VON SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German):** Thank you for giving me the floor. Already at the 94th Council Meeting of FAO in November 1988 the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany welcomed

the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Rural and Agrarian Development • My country can endorse this comprehensive and very convincing guideline.

The Plan of Action takes into account all factors which are necessary for the successful promotion of women in the agricultural sector. These include improved legal structures, giving women access to credit and inputs, inclusion of women in mainstream activities together with the systematic and consistent procedures for women in the UN system.

With this excellent plan, we feel that FAO is truly in the forefront of the United Nations system, but FAO does not stand alone. We therefore ask FAO, in preparing projects and programmes with UN partners who already hold a mandate in this sector, such as ILO, Unesco, UNIDO, INSTRAW, and UNIFEM and so on, to see to it that there be close cooperation. In this way, overlapping and duplication can be avoided, and the work can be organized more efficiently and lead to tangible and sustainable results.

We also welcome that this new priority by way of appropriate reallocations will be given adequate resources in the medium-term. Finally we would like to state that the progress report, we feel, is a very promising document.

Ni HONGXING (China) (original language Chinese): First of all, I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the document C 89/14 for this Conference.

Now I would like to briefly express our views on this item. We have noted that to implement the resolution and Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, FAO has done work and achieved good results in training their staff, increasing the number of staff engaged in activities concerning women, allocating more budgetary funds, mobilizing extra-budgetary resources, giving policy advice to Member Governments, establishing a working criteria and preparing manuals, and engaging in TCDC activities.

We have also noted that FAO will further carry out the above mentioned activities utilizing Regular Programme and Extra-Budgetary Resources, and at the same time regularly monitor progress in the WIP plan. All this will help to improve the social, economic and political status of women and allow them to participate more fully in rural development work. We therefore support the WIP plan and also hope that activities in this field will be further strengthened.

It is our belief that the problem of women is not an isolated one; rather, it is closely linked to social and economic development as a whole. At present, the situation of women's low social status and the discrimination against them is more serious in developing countries than in developed countries, and is more serious in rural areas than in urban areas. This shows that guaranteeing equal rights for women is not merely a question of laws and traditional ideas, but also a matter of social and economic development. The final solution of this problem lies in the social and economic development. Therefore what is needed is not only the introduction of legislation and new ways of thinking to improve women's social status, but also in-depth reforms to be carried out in the existing social and economic structure. The solution of the problem of women should be viewed as an organic integral part of the strategy for social and economic developments. In the course of development, ways should be found to solve the problem and guarantee equal rights for them.

Since the founding of new China, the Chinese Government has attached great importance to improving women's social and economic status, particularly enabling them to play their role in socialist economic construction. Towards this end, we have adopted a series of new policies and taken concrete measures which legally ensure all women the same political and economic rights as those enjoyed by men, as well as equal access to education and development activities. Moreover, the Women's Federation at all levels has also done its best to guarantee these rights. All this has greatly improved the social, economic and political status of Chinese women, enabling them to play a more and more important role in economic development and modernization construction. However, due to the influence of the traditional feudal mentality, in some regions, poor and remote rural areas in particular, women are still denied equal rights as provided for by law, and still encounter many restrictions keeping them from taking part in development work. The Chinese Government will make further efforts and would like to strengthen cooperation with FAO and other friendly countries, and share experiences with them in order to ensure an even more effective integration of women in development.

Russell R. MULELE (Zambia): Following your call for brevity, I shall endeavour to be brief. My delegation commends FAO for its efforts, as reflected in the Progress Report on the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, in implementing Resolution 3/87 passed by the 24th Session of the Conference in 1987.

Mr Chairman, I wish to state that my delegation is happy with the Administrative Priorities and Actions taken in pursuit of the Plan and Council Recommendations. Furthermore, we note with satisfaction the series of interactions between FAO and its Governing Bodies set in motion through the Internal Machinery for Women in Development. It is our firm belief that this measure will go a long way in enhancing the understanding of the dire need to properly accommodate women in agricultural and rural development endeavours.

Mr Chairman, with regard to the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, the Zambian delegation wishes to join all those who have indicated their support. We thus endorse this Plan. But in doing so we would like to stress the importance of addressing the fundamental issues highlighted in Section Ia on page 6 because in our view these issues impede the full production capacity of women, particularly those who happen to be head in households.

Finally, my delegation wishes to concur with the distinguished delegate from Kenya about the input of rural sociologists and anthropologists. We believe that they have an important role to play in the implementation of the Plan of Action at field level - aimed at giving women equal opportunities.

Jamil M. DABBAGH (Iraq) (original language Arabic): As well, on your request, I will try to be brief, and I will content myself with speaking about a few points regarding the documents. I will not go into detail about the importance of the role of women in development, but very briefly I shall reiterate once again the very clear fact which is that there is no economic or social development in any country without giving due importance to the role of women. In my country the development policy has given women a much larger role to play so that they can enjoy their natural right in participating in all fields of life, especially with regard to agricultural production and rural development.

As far as civil rights are concerned, there are several laws, especially those of rural women, which allow them to participate in everything, especially that she can own properties, she can cultivate her own land, she can obtain credit and profit from cooperative societies, etc., as well as taking decisions in these societies and at home, but despite all legislations and laws that have been enacted, yet there are still some social barriers Which we have inherited from the past which still impede wowedn from fully enjoying their role in social and economic development.

My country, Iraq, endorses the point of view and the Plan of Action that those legislations are not enough to fully integrate women in the development process. Therefore, we feel that we should do a lot, and we are hoping that the FAO through its Plan will accelerate the appropriate measures which will enable us to achieve progress in this field.

Finally my country endorses the Plan of the Organization in integrating women in the development process and especially with the decisions taken in the 94th Session in November 1989, and we thank and appreciate all the efforts in implementing this Plan.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México) : La delegación de Mexico ha analizado el informe preparado por el Secretariado. Comparte de manera particular la prioridad que se asigna a la formación de personal, la misma que vemos acompañada por la inquietud que se señala en el Plan de que se requiere incrementar la cuota de contratación y premoción del personal profesional femenino. Creemos que se deben reforzar los mecanismos que favorezcan la integración e interacción de la mujer en los órganos rectores de la FAO.

México coincide en que para favorecer la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural, en coincidencia con las estrategias planteadas por la FAO, es menester apoyar su incorporación de manera más activa y equitativa en las diferentes fases de la cadena productiva agropecuaria, así cerno también, y de manera específica, la generación de empleos, el aprovisionamiento de servicios educativos, la capacitación técnica y facilidades de acceso al crédito.

Por cuanto concierne al Plan de Acción, compartimos la doble preocupación esbozada en él. La primera, en el sentido de que la mujer debe tener igualdad de derechos y de oportunidades. Y la segunda, en el sentido de que la mujer pueda participar en las actividades agrícolas y en general de desarrollo rural, de manera apropiada a sus peculiaridades y posibilidades.

Estamos conscientes de que los instrumentos de acción deben ser más eficaces. Se requieren planes más firmes y claros y de myores apoyos estadísticos y de indicadores sociales y económicos.

Sin embargo, si nos referimos a puntos específicos, Sr. Presidente, es sólo por oportunidad y conveniencia metodológica. Las asignaciones presupuestarias serán las que dirán la última palabra sobre el interés de nuestra Organización en la integración de la mujer a un desarrollo rural equilibrado y equitativo.

Concedáanos la posibilidad de insistir; que la mujer participe más activamente en el desarrollo significa estructurar un modelo de convivencia social y económico que no sólo beneficia a ellas sino a toda la especie. Teniendo claro lo anterior, creemos que el Plan es coherente, es realista; que sus objetivos convienen a todos los Estados Miembros de esta Organización. Por

eso, será objeto de un atento seguimiento por parte de nuestro Gobierno. Observaremos su evolución en el Informe de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Creemos que sobre este tema, preocupación central de todo país debe ser que la realidad no rebase a lo ya conquistado en las leyes y en los programas nacionales de promoción de la mujer. La única forma de lograrlo es incidiendo en el entorno económico y social con una orientación claramente proclive a las mujeres.

Finalmente, de manera específica queremos hacer un par de referencias. La primera es para expresar nuestro reconocimiento al Gobierno y al noble pueblo de Noruega por sus contribuciones con fondos extrapresupuestarios. Dicha actitud constituye un ejemplo digno de emular. La segunda mención es para dar nuestro apoyo al Proyecto de Resolución que ha presentado la hermana delegación de Costa Rica. Coincidimos plenamente con su contenido.

David DRAKE (Canada): Canada has already stated its full support for the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development at the Twenty-Fourth Conference and in subsequent Council sessions. Many previous speakers have stressed the importance of this document, and I would be hard-pressed to improve upon their presentations. My delegation's comments will therefore be focused on the Progress Report.

The Canadian delegation wishes to state its appreciation for the clarity of the Progress Report submitted to the Conference. It is a thoughtfully prepared document, which concretizes the approach set out in the Plan of Action for Women in Development adopted by the Council in November 1988. The report sets out relevant priorities for programming while simultaneously establishing institutional mechanisms to achieve better integration of women in the development process.

The Progress Report is also informative on what has been accomplished by the FAO Secretariat since November 1988. We are particularly pleased by the work initiated in relation to FAO staff training on gender analysis and the adoption of a strategy to increase the representation of women, particularly women originating from developing countries, at all professional levels within the Organization in order to make progress towards reaching the United Nations' target of 30 percent by 1995. Canada encourages the governments of developing country Member States to give special consideration to proposing qualified women to FAO recruitment. We are pleased that a staffing strategy has been put forward. We would like to know how the Secretariat intends to monitor this strategy.

The Canadian delegation is supportive of the priorities identified in the report and of the time frame set for their implementation. As far as funding is concerned, we believe that because of the special importance of this issue, and if the gender consideration is to become fully part of the mainstream of FAO programming, the core priorities of the Plan of Action should be financed exclusively through FAO's Regular Programme resources. However, we understand that some extra-budgetary financing is welcomed to accelerate the implementation of certain activities for the 1990-91 biennium.

The Canadian delegation has noted that some FAO reports submitted to the Conference do not yet clearly incorporate the results of gender analysis or contain sufficient gender-disaggregated data. The Canadian experience would indicate that the institution-strengthening approach that FAO is recommending

it adopt should produce the most dividends once all FAO staff have been fully trained in that area. In this regard we would appreciate clarification on how this will be followed up by the Secretariat. The issue of institutionalizing gender considerations within the FAO is especially important from the Canadian perspective, because having gone through a similar, albeit imperfect, exercise ourselves, we can now see its advantages. Effective utilization of resources to face the challenges of agricultural development, such as featured in the address of the Director-General to the Plenary, depends fundamentally upon equality for women and the full participation of women in the development process. In this way, women in development is not only a women's issue; it is also the issue of all men and women, because the need for maximizing our development resources is indeed universal.

The introduction of gender sensitization techniques in the Canadian International Development Agency, for example, has enabled virtually all those working in development at CIDA. to acquire tools which allow them to address women's concerns throughout the course of their work. My delegation is confident that the FAO, in choosing a similar course of action, in which all FAO staff in headquarters and in regional or country offices should participate and with the full support of senior management at the highest levels, will soon see positive results throughout its own activities and operations. This will in turn inevitably result in better agricultural development for beneficiaries of FAO programmes.

Finally, given the importance of closely monitoring the implementation of the priorities listed in the Progress Report, my delegation recommends that an interim report on further measures taken to implement the Plan of Action be tabled at next year's November Council session. Furthermore, we feel that it is essential that a biennial progress report, which should include a full report on progress made in recruiting and promoting women, complete with gender-disaggregated staffing data and reporting on the incorporation of women in development, as well as the resources allocated to this purpose at the divisional level, be submitted to the next Conference.

As far as any resolutions on this item are concerned, like Sweden, Canada would like to reserve the right to intervene at an appropriate point to give its commentary on whatever resolutions are before the Commission in this regard once these are generally available to the members.

Mohammed Badr El Din EL MASOUDI (Libya) (original language Arabic): Ohe

delegation of the Libyan Jamahiriya would like to associate itself with all those delegates who have supported FAO in these actions. We should like to reiterate our support for FAO's actions aimed at integrating women in rural development.

We would like to point out that the document pertaining to this matter, C 89/14-Sup.1, receives our full and total support. We consider that women should be entitled to exactly the same rights as men enjoy. Indeed, women can only exercise these rights if they have the same opportunities in terms of education and jobs. This is what we have achieved in our country.

We feel that women are not only teachers, are not only responsible for the wellbeing of their family but are true agents of production. This is precisely the role that women play in my country. Women have the same rights and responsibilities as men. They have the right to development inputs and should benefit from all the opportunities that men have.

In our plan for development we take into account the extremely important part that can be played by women. In the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, our basic text includes the rights of both men and women and approves the principle of integrating women in development. We know that women account for half our population, and therefore their integration is the best proof and the best way to strengthen efforts towards development and to help the country conquer its dependence.

Shahid NAJAM (Pakistan) : We first of all wish to congratulate and compliment the FAO Secretariat for producing all encompassing Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development (as embodied in document C 89/14 and C 89/14-Sup.1). The plan is multi-faceted and exhaustive and proposes wide range of activities for integration of women in the major spaces of civil, economic, social and decision-making processes.

Mr Chairman, before dwelling upon the various aspects of plan, my delegation will like to preface with a note that the strategy of implementation of this plan of action and extent of its espousal by the member countries, will vary from country to country in view of this particular threshold of its socio-economic development and the prevalent cultural milieu. Of necessity, this would entail flexibility and adaptability to be able to reflect on and be responsive to the conditions obtained in a particular country.

We will also like to stress that there are quite a few societies and countries characterized by potent inherent traditionalism and colossal gender barriers where participation of the women in various facets of national life is severely hampered and the women find it extremely difficult (well nigh impossible), to give manifest expression to their collective will. In order to be able to break the obstacles of antiquated taboos and customs, a massive attitudinal change would essentially be required. This is a key factor.

Hasty actions may boomerang; delayed actions may procrastinate the process of induction of women in development. We will, therefore urge that the implementation of the plan of action need to be carried out through concerted, assiduous and well gauged efforts. There are certain universal imperatives which also need to be specifically articulated and highlighted.

The first imperative is to acknowledge that women have been neglected and to affirm that the result of this neglect in terms of low productivity illiteracy and poor health are an unacceptable cost, both morally and economically.

The next imperative is to pledge that, within an overall development context, special efforts will be made for the uplift of women through programmes based on provision of full equality of opportunity in education, health, employment and all other spheres of national life.

A third imperative is to create an awareness among both policy-makers and the public at large of the discrimination women suffer and its social and economic costs. A major effort must be made to convince the people that the subjugation of women is not a national fact but a costly and reversible human choice.

Turning to the plan of action, the plan aims at ensuring that in FAO's spheres of activities, women are granted equal rights and opportunities to participate in and contribute to the development of their societies. The strategy proposed for this purpose revolves round the collection of



information and data on the status of women, policy advice and development of adequate action programmes initially covering three biennia with a total budget of US\$ 11.8 million including US\$ 2.26 million from extra budgetary resources.

We have examined the specific issues, objectives and FAO actions envisaged for the integration of women in the development under the civil status sphere, economic sphere, social sphere and the decision making sphere devised for implementation of strategy. These have been comprehensively spelled out and we generally endorse them. However, we would like to stress and highlight some of the points under these spheres which warrant more rigorous scrutiny while carrying out the implementation. In regard to the economic sphere, more specifically the issue of access of women to labour and employment, the problem of unemployment is phenomenal in the developing countries and together with under-employment, it makes it extremely difficult for creating additional employment opportunities for women. The existing opportunities will have to be tapped to give equitable share to women. It is also to be recognized that the women are doing a commendable job and making immense contribution in the field of agriculture, food processing and marketing. Their productive capacity and efficiency are being considerably benefited from in the ever expanding economic base. What is required is the recognition, identification and projection of their quantitative contribution in the various spheres of activity.

As regards income control and economic adjustment, the state of abject poverty hardly leaves any scope for segregation of income between male and female members of the family. In fact even small children have to contribute to be able to feed the family. The income is jointly controlled in which women do have a say. However, wherever it is possible, share of the income of the women should be controlled by them.

Under the social sphere we would, in particular like to emphasize the status of nutrition and quality of life of women. The lactating mothers and pregnant women exhibit chronic malnutrition and health deficiencies. Therefore, the nutritional and health aspects are to be given special attention. The World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and UNICEF are already doing a commendable job in this regard in the developing countries.

As regards education, there is no denying the fact that the literacy rate of females has to be improved. However, the dilemma is that quite a few of the educated, trained and professionally qualified females abandon the income-earning activity after marriage. This dilemma needs to be addressed and appropriately reflected in the Plan of Action, so that the capacity of women for making a useful contribution to the national economy can be fully harnessed.

We also agree with the analysis and the actions envisaged under Part VII regarding the improvement of the Instrument of Action; we particularly emphasize that the role of technical assistance to WID should be given due weight.

As regards the Progress Report, it is a matter of immense satisfaction that specific actions and measures have already been initiated by FAO to expedite the process of induction of women in the development process.

We generally agree with the Programme priorities outlined for 1990/91 biennium in paragraphs 23 to 32. However, we would like to stress that more emphasis should be placed on the creation of awareness and bringing about attitudinal change among the countries and the peoples to the essentiality of gender equality.

The administrative priorities spelled out in paragraphs 33 to 36 in terms of staff training and awareness, funding arrangements, increase in the number of women staff and inter-agency mechanism for coordinating the activities, are also supported. We hope that FAO will be able to raise extra-budgetary resources in view of the tight budgetary position of the Regular Programme for funding additional inputs and initiatives for women's integration in development. It is heartening to note that Norway and the Netherlands have already lent a helping hand to FAO in this regard, for which both these countries deserve appreciation.

It is also a step in the right direction to bring the process of the integration of women into the mainstream of FAO's activities in terms of assigning it to various FAO governing bodies and main committees. This will certainly facilitate greater recognition of women's special needs and ensure them a proper and equitable place in developmental activities.

Mr Chairman, we entirely agree with the FAO's assessment given in the concluding note that the implementation of Plan of Action would depend on the interest and commitment of the respective governments. In this connection, we would like to point out that the Government of Pakistan, fully cognizant of the role and importance of participation of women in development, is already implementing policies and programmes in various spheres of our national life through well defined constitutional, institutional, administrative and financial arrangements.

Pakistan being an Islamic state, is committed to safeguarding the rights of women duly enunciated in the Islamic Law and tradition. Our Constitution which is based on Islamic tenets, accordingly enshrines the rights of women in terms of equality of citizens (article 25), full participation of women in national life (article 34), promotion of family (article 35), etc. comprehensively. Besides, statutory and legal codes on specific subjects and spheres of activity ensure that women are not subjected to discriminatory or unequal treatment.

Women play a key role in agricultural development in Pakistan including the livestock sector, food preparation and processing and in other diversified activities relating to agriculture. According to estimates, women are responsible for 60-70 percent of feeding, harvesting and marketing of the produce. Out of the total female labour force, 72.25 percent are engaged in agriculture related activities. They have ownership rights, including joint ownership and co-ownership of land and have accordingly free access to land and credit resources.

A full fledged Ministry of Women has been created at the Federal level to articulate and formulate, policies and programmes of action for uplifting the lot of women in conjunction with provincial government agencies, NGOs and voluntary organizations. The main strategic thrust is towards accelerated expansion of opportunities of technical education skill development, professional and entrepreneurial training and employment. Rural education also ranks high and the seventh five-year plan has fixed a target of 47 percent increase in the female literacy rate. A special emphasis has been given to organizing the cooperatives in the agriculture, cottage and small

industries sectors. The Government has also decided to establish a Women's Bank for advancing loans to poor women for productive purposes in rural and urban areas.

The Ministry of Women in Development has also conducted many fruitful studies on the vital areas of women's interest, findings of which are being appropriately incorporated in the policy process. The very fact that the first ever woman Prime Minister in the Muslim countries has been elected from Pakistan is in itself a palpable manifestation of the role which women play in our society. This is further borne out from the fact that there are five lady Ministers on our Federal Cabinet in addition to the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. Adequate representation to our women in the provincial legislative assemblies and local government institutions has also been given which is indicative of their active involvement in an hierarchy of decision making at all levels.

In conclusion, while we fully endorse the Plan of Action for the integration of women in development and recommend the Conference to approve it, we state with satisfaction that our own efforts at national level are reflective of our commitment and resolve to ensure fuller participation of women in our national life.

Sra. Marta VAZQUEZ SANDOVAL (Nicaragua): Hemos leído los documentos del Plan y escuchado la clara exposición del mismo. Nos agradan los avances, a pesar de las dificultades ya conocidas por todos. Señor Presidente, para lograr el éxito de este Programa en cada una de las etapas, es necesario destacar el papel fundamental y decisivo que tienen que jugar los gobiernos, ya que sólo existiendo una voluntad decisiva se puede superar la discriminación de que ha sido objeto una gran parte de la población: la mujer. Esta discriminación afecta notablemente al desarrollo integral de los hijos, volviéndose así un factor que, a su vez, influye sobre el desarrollo de la sociedad en su conjunto.

Queremos destacar, entre otras cosas, la importancia que tiene el reconocimiento de parte de la sociedad del principio de igualdad, de derechos y deberes del hombre y de la mujer de acceso a la tenencia de la tierra, al crédito, a la educación, capacitación, trabajo, salud, alimentación, etcétera. Y para esto, repito, existe la necesidad de una aceptación global de la sociedad en su conjunto y una voluntad política de parte de los gobiernos que concrete estos principios a través de la Constitución.

En este sentido, en mi país se han promulgado leyes que promueven la integración de la mujer en la sociedad y en el desarrollo rural. La Ley de Reforma Agraria y la Ley de Cooperativas reconocen la igualdad jurídica de hombres y mujeres y establece claramente el derecho de la mujer de acceder a la propiedad de la tierra, a través de cualquiera de las formas organizativas de la producción social. De hecho, en el movimiento cooperativo, a nivel nacional, el 8,3 por ciento de los socios son mujeres, y así podríamos seguir enumerando actividades que impulsan la integración de la mujer. Sin embargo, esto no significa que estemos libre de pecado. En mi país existe discriminación de la mujer; es claro que no institucionalizada, sino producto del machismo. En el siglo XX aún persisten actitudes esclavistas medievales en la humanidad. La guerra y el bloqueo económico impuesto en mi país es parte de esta mentalidad, que afecta doblemente a la mujer en su desarrollo.

Con esto, señor Presidente, quería ilustrar que no sólo es necesaria la formulación de leyes; también se requiere una campaña educativa permanente, a todos los niveles. Y, dado que éste es un problema histórico crónico, creemos

que es fundamental la educación a la niñez para incidir en otra raíz del mismo. Consideramos fundamental que las políticas sociales públicas deben proporcionar los instrumentos, como servicio de guarderías y asistencia a la niñez, para permitir la plena integración de la mujer al proceso productivo.

El servicio de asistencia infantil, sin embargo, debe entenderse cada vez más como un apoyo a la familia en su conjunto y no sólo a la mujer. Consideramos que el Plan, con sus objetivos y actividades, es un instrumento que coadyuvará a que la mujer ocupe el rol que merece en la sociedad.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, nuestra Delegación aprueba plenamente el Plan de Acción de Integración de la Mujer y manifestamos el apoyo decidido para la ejecución del mismo. Esperamos que la FAO cuente con los recursos necesarios para su implementación, y también queremos unirnos a otras delegaciones para expresar nuestro agrado ante los gobiernos que han manifestado apoyo para la ejecución del mismo.

Assefa YILALA (Ethiopia): The Delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia have had the opportunity to examine the document on the Integration of Women in Development, both in relation to the Progress Report and the Plan of Action. We would like to thank FAO for the comprehensive documents we have before us and for the introduction which has been provided.

Ethiopia's views in relation to this item were positively expressed in the statement of the Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture, where he reiterated our support.

Although the two documents that were presented for our consideration deserve our support, we should like to make some observations in relation to the realities of Ethiopia.

The central problem of the Ethiopian economy, and most probably that of developing countries as a whole, is the low level of development of the productive forces, including the low level of capital accumulation, the low level of technological development, subsistence production and vulnerability to drought. We believe that any development strategy designed to tackle these fundamental issues of development in Ethiopia will also have a positive impact on women. Conversely, whatever is done to address the issues of women in development will contribute positively towards the socio-economic transformation of the whole population and its economic development.

With this as a rationale, the issues of women are addressed and incorporated in the various sectors of development. Development plans where such implicit and explicit incorporations are evidenced include the National Food and Nutrition Strategy, the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Strategy, the Population Policy - just to mention a few. We believe that the full integration of women in development is a process that will require gender information, social awareness and sensitivity. We feel that the integration of women in development will need to address itself to a wide scope of development arenas.

Plans are under way to integrate women in all developmental programmes, based on the broad policy guidelines and legislative acts in Ethiopia, which include the National Democratic Revolution Programme, the Programme of the Working Party of Ethiopia, the Constitution, the Labour Proclamation and the establishment of the Ethiopian Womens' Association - areas which we consider

will assist in this endeavour of women's integration in development and include areas in agriculture, technology, industry, energy, education, population and health.

### 1. AGRICULTURE

- a) Facilitation of the participation of women in training on improved methods and agricultural technologies.
- b) In view of the objective of food self-sufficiency, agricultural extension in all its aspects should encompass women on an equal footing with men. The current bias towards home-economics should be rectified,
- c) To encourage and provide the necessary extension services for women to participate in such activities as horticulture, poultry, improved cattle breeding etc., that would bring additional incomes for the family.
- d) To train and actively involve women in forestry and soil conservation and development and fuelwood plantation projects.
- e) To examine the constraints and bottlenecks that have hindered women's participation in such institutions as Peasant Associations, Producers and Service Cooperatives so that women can play a more active role and thereby derive the benefits that accrue to members.

### 2. INDUSTRY

- a) Increase the production of improved agricultural implements and other inputs.
- b) Expand small-scale agro-industries with the view to increase off-farm employment and particularly to increase processed food production to gradually substitute the time-consuming and burdensome traditional food preparation.
- c) Establish modern grain mills, manufacturing plants with the view to replace the traditional grain-milling method which consumes much labour and time of, particularly, rural women.
- d) Promotion of handicrafts such as pottery, basketry, garment, spinning and weaving, leather works to increase off-farm employment and income. In this regard, the necessary supports in terms of market, credit, improved implements, upgrading of traditional skills and on-the-job training shall be given priority.

### 3. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY

- a) Develop and increase the availability of appropriate technology, based on the felt needs of women. These could include the introduction of labour-saving technology for household chores, transport equipment, etc.
- b) Properly evaluate these new technologies to make sure their adaptability to community needs as well as their acceptability by the community.
- c) Provide technical advice, as well as training women in the use and maintenance of improved technologies.

4. ENERGY

- a) expansion of fuel-efficient cooking stoves
- b) expansion of fuelwood plantations
- c) expansion of rural electrification
- d) expansion of biogas and briquette fuel

5. EDUCATION

- a) continue and strengthen literacy and post-literacy programmes
- b) expansion of primary education
- c) expand adult education particularly strengthening of community Skill Training Centers
- d) expanding day-care centers as well as training of child minders

6. POPULATION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- a) expand and strengthen the on-going national health programme of Primary Health Care (FHC), particularly
  - Health education
  - Food and nutrition
  - Maternal and Child Health (MCH) / Family Planning
- b) formulate and implement appropriate population policy

We feel that assistance towards implementing these programmes of action for the integration of women in development will face little or no difficulty, these being programmes of action in the present and immediate future, long-term plans to address issues relating to the population and to the integration of women in development as an independent and separate chapter in the draft stage. As the government is already convinced and pushing towards its implementation, the chances are very high that it will be implemented in the next five-year plan, which is a successor to the present plan which is at its completion stage.

The plan is basically a "Comprehensive and Multi-faceted" one. It identifies measures in the civil, economic and decision-making spheres. It advocates the focusing of activities to support women in their roles as producers in agriculture, including fisheries and forestry.

The FAO Plan does not substantively differ from that of UNICEF, UNDP, and other international organizations or the many NGOs who are operating on women focused interventions in Ethiopia. In fact, one would say they complement each other. Therefore, FAO should carefully design its country specific Plan of Action - programme and projects - taking due consideration of:

- The plan of action of other international organizations and NGOs, so that duplication of efforts and wastage of resources may be minimized especially if applied in the same area or region. For example, when the plan considered nutrition intervention and planning, we have already started initiating a coordinated national nutrition surveillance system under the chairmanship of ONCCP - and supported jointly by UNICEF/FAO/WHO. The same thing applies for population education which has been started by the Ministry of Education.
- The conceptual issues as elaborated in the above few pages and as they pertain to the Ethiopian condition.
- The broad policy guidelines, programme and sectoral activities which are stipulated in the draft FYP.

In conclusion, I am of the opinion that a cursory look at the contents of the FAO Plan of Action for WID and the Progress Report for the same, strongly complements and enforces the efforts being made, here at the ONCCP, with regards to the issue of integrating WID in our development planning process.

Turning to FAO's Plan of Action 1990/95, the FAO Plan of Action for Women's Integration in Development or the Progress Report on the Implementation of Women in Development is an adaption and amplification of the objectives and strategies in FAO's specific areas of responsibility. It is an application of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategy principles to the sector of agriculture, food and rural development to which FAO is mandated. The strategy of the Plan of Action is, on the whole, congruent to that of our Five-Year Development Plan. However, there are some sweeping statements here and there, as in Strategy No. 2. This implies changing traditions, economies and societies in a profound way. I would say that care should be taken for such statements not to imply disrupting the basic household economy and household division of labour.

Additionally, there are no explicit statements in the Strategy, nor in the objectives that pertain to the efforts being promoted in Ethiopian conditions and reality with regard to cooperatives, grassroot womens' groups as intervention targets for woraens' projects, settlements and villagization programmes, etc. Support, both technical and financial, that would build up the capacity of women in Ethiopia as per the above should be given priority in designing Ethiopia's development efforts, so far as the item under discussion is concerned. Ultimately, the Plan of Action that we have before us is given clearance for implementation and is supported by our delegation.

Mone Diaka KEBE (Guinée): Ma délégation se félicite de l'heureuse initiative de la FAO d'avoir inscrit à l'ordre du jour l'examen de ce problème important qu'est l'intégration des femmes dans le développement rural. La participation de la femme au développement économique revêt une importance particulière pour l'émancipation de nos populations. Dans les pays en développement tels que le mien, la femme participe en effet pour plus de la moitié au processus de développement rural car la majorité des populations rurales est constituée de femmes.

Conscient de cette situation, le Gouvernement de la deuxième République de Guinée, dans son oeuvre de reconstruction nationale, accorde une place de choix à l'agriculture et surtout à la participation effective de la femme au développement rural. C'est ainsi que, par le biais des collectivités décentralisées, des groupements féminins de cultures maraichères, de commercialisation de produits du cru constituent la cheville ouvrière du développement rural; ce sont des exemples parmi tant d'autres de l'action positive de la femme dans l'économie nationale.

Le plan proposé dans les différents domaines juridique, économique et social, et dans le domaine des décisions, mérite d'être mis rapidement en action avec les instruments énumérés dans le rapport adopté par la quatre-vingt-quatorzième session du Conseil.

La délégation guinéenne appuie les mesures fondamentales et les recommandations du Conseil, en particulier en ce qui concerne le programme de formation et, dans ce cadre, la réorientation des programmes d'enseignement d'économie familiale et d'agriculture qui représentent la base d'un développement économique solide.

Nous soutenons la proposition d'une augmentation budgétaire faite par le Directeur général pour l'exercice biennal 1990-91.

Pour terminer, la délégation guinéenne se félicite du contenu du Plan d'action tel qu'adopté par le Conseil et souhaite que notre commission l'examine favorablement.

Masuhla Amphrey LETTERA (Lesotho) : My delegation commends the Secretariat for the detailed document before us and also congratulates Dr Dutia for his excellent introduction of the document. The discussion of women's integration in development has been going on for some time now. Progress seems to have been slow to come, as reflected in the number of debates which took place in different fora.

we are happy to know that, on the basis of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies towards the year 2000, increasing emphasis recently seems to have been given to a multilateral approach taking into account women's multiple roles combined with efforts, to develop and assess practical approaches in field-level projects and programmes. The Plan of Action of the FAO on Women in Development should be seen in this light as a sound basis for serious cognition as a dynamic force in the development process of many developing countries. The experience in Lesotho has been different compared to other countries. The economy is solely run by vanen especially in the rural areas whereby agriculture forms the livelihood of the rural population. It is in this area whereby the majority of households are headed by women, because 60 percent of the able-bodied males are migrant labourers in the Republic of South Africa. Women's involvement in the mainstream of women's development, therefore, as part of the débat in the recent past has been on the need to change the gender-orientated legislations. The main focus has been the Land Act because of the realization that women are an indispensable force in this sphere; not only in this sphere but in other managerial and professional positions do women play a better role in Lesotho. We therefore endorse the conclusions of the Progress Report that there is a need to support women in their role as producers in agriculture.

The priorities are suggested, and the fields in which they focus, all go well with what we consider as relevant development strategies, and we support the idea that governments should give them serious consideration. The comparative advantage of FAO in the field of information analysis and dissemination, policy formulation and guideline, and technical assistance can contribute to our changing attitudes of many governments.

We share the sentiments that access to and means of production, in this case land capital and other related facilities, will lay a basis for smooth decision-making and full participation of women in the full production process. This, together with legislature, we shall ensure and guarantee their rights to participate in development-orientated activities in their respective societies and this also would, of necessity, mean creation of conditions for improved output and innovations, improved socio-economic standing of women to become equal partners society and in development generally. We too recommend adoption of this Plan of Action and its implementation as recommended by Council. Let us disregard the sad legacy brought by all modes of production which reduced women to subordinate partners and dormant instruments in the production process.

In conclusion, we are happy to observe that Plan of Action focuses not simply on agriculture but on the rural sector as a whole. It promotes a style of development where women play a major role in generating production growth and receiving the benefits of that development.



We also urge the need for greater responsiveness to the needs of women in the design and implementation of development projects by governments.

Hein COPPER (Netherlands): As a consequence of the Nairobi-Women Conference on Forward-looking Strategies and of the FAO World Conference Agrarian Reform and Rural Development held in 1979, the Member States requested FAO during the FAO Conference of 1987 to design a Plan of Action for the integration of women in FAO's programmes and projects.

The Plan of Action that is now presented to the Conference for endorsement is aimed at reaching women in development to ensure that women are equally involved in Rural Development activities. In the Plan of Action detailed proposals are presented for the improvement of the social status of women, their economic position and especially the involvement of women in decision-making process.

The Netherlands have always been a strong advocate for Women in Development affairs since, in so many countries, women play an important and often crucial role in farming and marketing, be it as farmers, farm workers or members of the household.

The Plan of Action that has been developed by FAO is a good starting point on the long way we still have to go. And I would like to congratulate FAO and especially the ESHW Service for this Plan of Action. The Plan is analytic, comprehensive but very ambitious, and I would like to call on all the Member States to accept this Plan of Action.

The Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action is in effect a more detailed programme, in which ESHW develops step-by-step its plans on how to proceed in the six years to come. In general I can agree with these plans, however I would like to make some observations.

First of all I would like to discuss here the training programme for FAO staff. My delegation feels that this part of the programme is the core of the matter.

It is a good sign that FAO reserved US\$ 572 000 for training for the coming biennium. However, we have our doubts where it would be possible that the FAO staff, with its inherent variety of training needs, can be trained well and in such a fairly short period, with this relatively small amount of money.

The participatory training methodology such as rightly chosen by FAO, after intensive consultations with experts of various training institutes, requires in our view highly experienced trainers. Moreover, while various training institutes have a lot of know-how and experience on WID training, little ready-made training materials are yet available. These will have to be worked out by external consultants, in close cooperation with FAO staff members, on the basis of FAO's specific requirements and experiences.

Learning from experience should, in our view, become the FAO practice. This would imply that an in-service training approach is followed.

We should like to propose to the ESHW Service to call a meeting with the different training institutes and consultants already involved to discuss, together with the officers concerned in FAO, possible ways of operationalizing the training strategies and possible contributions from their part to the implementation of this training programme.

Another observation I would like to make concerns the involvement of the different technical divisions in FAO.

In reading the progress report on the implementation of Women in Development, I have the impression that so far the involvement of the technical divisions in this important issue is somewhat lagging behind. A stronger commitment of all the relevant technical divisions to the integration of WID should therefore be prorated in order to ensure that it becomes an integral part of FAO and the great majority of its staff.

Just as sustainability has become a leading principle behind development efforts, the effects of those development efforts on people, both men and women, should get similar attention. It is therefore important, if not essential in our view, that the technical divisions take these WID aspects into account from the very beginning whilst drawing up development plans and programmes. The Women's Division cannot possibly do it all alone. It must be a joint effort, which should be reflected in the progress report to the next Conference.

We would also like to call on ESHW to draw more on the experience of the People's Participation branch. This branch of the ESH Division has more than 10 years of fruitful experience of involving the rural population in the process of development.

When one discusses the involvement of the People's Participation experience in the development of women in rural areas, it is logical that also the involvement of NGOs in this respect is considered. In the progress report little is written on NGOs. Nevertheless, the report states that they will be involved when necessary. In our view, People's Participation is not possible without sufficient involvement of the rural people's participation. We would like to stress that FAO supports those NGOs that have proven their commitment to the rural poor in rural areas and that FAO tries to work out, together or in consultation with these NGOs, what specific extra input FAO could provide to strengthen and support the work being done by these NGOs.

In this respect, I may express our disappointment that this Conference has not received any documentation, or even a progress report on the People's Participation Plan of Action, the design of which was recommended earlier this year during CQAG and Council meetings.

The integration of WID is basically a matter of integrating socio-economic and cultural aspects of development with technical aspects. Therefore, we are of the opinion that these areas of prime concern to the various ESH sections should be more integrated within this Division as well as within the whole of FAO's technical Departments.

Finally, regarding the draft resolution on Measures for the Implementation and follow-up of the Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development, I can be very brief. We can support it, assuring however, that the phrase under point 3 reading, and I quote "subject to the availability of Regular and extra-budgetary funds", is deleted. We feel this a superfluous addition for such a clear priority area.

I ask the Secretariat to do its utmost to ensure that sufficient funds became available.

Mme. Evelyne SENGStWAN (France): La délégation française souhaite féliciter le Secrétariat pour la présentation des deux documents qui sont soumis à notre examen. Nous tenons à le remercier du travail ainsi accompli.

Le "Plan d'action pour l'intégration des formes dans le développement" servira dorénavant de repère fondamental pour mesurer les progrès établis dans l'application des résolutions des Nations Unies adoptées au long des quinze dernières années et qui concernent l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

Nous savons que les femmes jouent un rôle décisif dans de nombreuses productions. Elles représentent parfois l'essentiel de la main-d'oeuvre mais aussi du savoir agricole.

Nous ne reviendrons pas cependant sur les raisons essentielles qui ont conduit à souhaiter puis obtenir que ce problème déterminant soit intégré dans la conduite quotidienne des actions de développement.

Je préfère m'attarder sur le contenu clair et détaillé du Plan d'action.

Outre les problèmes généraux, mais qui ne sont pas mineurs, du droit à l'égalité dans l'éducation, du statut juridique, de la participation à la décision, vous abordez les questions techniques quelquefois délicates, qui permettraient d'aboutir à terme à l'accroissement de la productivité du travail et à la promotion sociale des femmes rurales. Ce sont des questions bien connues, sans cesse répétées de l'accès à la terre, à la vulgarisation agricole, aux intrants et aux technologies nouvelles, au crédit, et du droit à la juste répartition des fruits d'un travail familial.

Affirmant la pratique, vous consacrez un chapitre au changement des mentalités et à la nécessité d'amener des évolutions dans ce domaine, sans lesquels aucun progrès n'est possible.

L'amélioration de la situation matérielle de la femme n'est pas seulement liée au progrès que l'on pourrait constater dans les sphères de la production, de la transformation et de la commercialisation. Elle est également liée aux progrès apportés à l'allègement du travail domestique. Les progrès technologiques importants constatés dans le monde rural devraient avoir absolument des retombées au niveau de ce travail.

Elle est également liée à l'existence, la proximité et la qualité des "services sociaux" mis à la disposition des populations. Le temps des femmes, le capital le plus précieux et le plus rare, ne peut être gaspillé dans des parcours longs et fatigants, jusqu'à des centres de santé, de surcroît souvent démunis.

Elle est aussi liée au plus haut degré, à la démographie et à la nécessité de permettre aux femmes d'espacer les naissances, dans le but de sauvegarder leurs vies, celles de leurs enfants et de procurer à toute la famille une qualité de vie décente. En liant comme vous le faites démographie et développement, vous posez le problème dans une réalité complexe, variée, riche de traditions, mais que les moyens de communication appropriés, aujourd'hui connus, devraient permettre de faire évoluer par une compréhension juste de la dimension du problème. Le taux inacceptable de la mortalité maternelle dans les PED, particulièrement dans le monde rural impose de la part de tous une recherche de solutions urgentes et durables.

Adoptant une approche réaliste, il semble désormais admis que des négociations puissent systématiquement être menées avec les Etats partenaires, pour que les actions conjointes soient conduites avec le souci de faire leur juste place aux besoins et aux droits des femmes.

Et c'est en les aidant à s'organiser, en groupements, associations, mutuelles, que l'on fera comme vous l'indiquez, progresser la situation favorablement.

Enfin, dans une approche exhaustive, vous tracez le schéma de ce que doit être désormais à l'intérieur de l'OAA le parcours d'un projet de développement qui enfin prendrait en compte, dès la première étape de l'identification et jusqu'à l'évaluation finale, la dimension féminine.

Et ceci en se munissant d'outils nécessaires pour le recueil de données, la tenue de statistiques différenciées par sexe, la connaissance de la division traditionnelle des tâches et des rôles entre les hommes et les femmes ainsi que des conséquences sur les femmes des politiques d'ajustement structurel.

Avant de terminer, je souhaiterais apporter quelques brefs commentaires sur le Rapport d'activité pour la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action. Incontestablement, l'OAA a joint la parole à l'acte; des mesures concrètes ont été prises, au cours de l'année 1989, que ce soit au niveau:

- du fonctionnement des services de l'Organisation
- de la coordination avec les autres agences des Nations Unies et les donateurs
- de la définition de priorités et d'un calendrier des activités.

A cet égard, la formation du personnel de l'OAA tant au Siège que sur le terrain constituera un des axes prioritaires du premier biennium du programme. Nous soutenons les initiatives prises dans ce domaine. Mais nous souhaitons que les principales activités du programme soient éventuellement financées par le Programme ordinaire.

La délégation française souhaite un plein succès à la réalisation du Plan d'action de l'OAA. Mais nous avons conscience que l'amélioration des conditions de vie de la femme dépend largement d'une volonté bien affirmée des responsables politiques.

Mme Ivone DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon) : Intervenant pour la première fois au sein de cette Commission, la délégation gabonaise voudrait tout d'abord vous féliciter pour votre nomination à la Présidence et vous dire le plaisir qu'elle a à vous voir présider nos débats.

Par ailleurs, nous voudrions remercier M. Dutia pour la présentation très claire du document C 89/14 et son supplément.

Ma délégation est heureuse d'examiner le Rapport d'activité sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, Plan d'action qu'elle avait appuyé lors de sa présentation durant la 94ème session du Conseil.

Nous voudrions réaffirmer ici notre soutien à ce Plan d'action et à sa mise en oeuvre. Nous appuyons totalement l'objectif du Plan et les 7 priorités de programmation énoncées.

Nous approuvons les domaines d'action dans lesquels le Plan se propose d'intervenir et aimerions mettre l'accent sur l'importance du domaine économique et social.

Nous voudrions à ce sujet reprendre à notre compte l'intervention de la déléguée du Cap-Vert. Nous estimons qu'il est important de permettre l'accès des femmes à l'Education à tous les niveaux et de leur apporter des facilités d'accès au crédit, aux ressources, et un soutien dans leur rôle de producteur agricole.

Nous estimons que le Plan doit viser par ses interventions dans les domaines juridique, économique, social et de décision, à une reconnaissance économique et sociale du rôle effectif et primordial de la femme dans le développement.

A cet égard, et partant de l'idée que les mentalités changent bien souvent après les faits, tout en reconnaissant l'importance des bases culturelles du problème, nous appuyons toutes les mesures d'aide aux Gouvernements et aux institutions financières afin de leur permettre la mise en oeuvre des programmes nationaux destinés aux femmes. En ce qui concerne les projets pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, ira délégation, tout en reconnaissant la valeur et l'Importance des projets spécifiques aux femmes, estime qu'ils ne doivent représenter qu'une étape initiale et qu'une partie des projets et serait plutôt en faveur d'une prise en compte des femmes et de leur intervention progressive dans toutes les activités des projets généraux.

En ce qui concerne les priorités administratives et l'action à mener au niveau des cadres organiques, ma délégation soutient le même type de raisonnement à savoir que nous concevons la création d'une unité spécifique comme une étape initiale du processus, qui devrait se poursuivre par une prise en compte progressive, dans tous les services, de la notion d'intégration des femmes dans le développement et par l'application des mesures correspondantes.

A cet égard, nous approuvons toutes les activités de formation de personnel et la stratégie visant à augmenter le personnel féminin à tous les niveaux du cadre organique ainsi que l'idée de renforcement du nombre de femmes intermédiaires dans la mise en oeuvre des projets de développement.

En ce qui concerne les ressources nécessaires à la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action, ma délégation appuie la position exprimée par d'autres délégations, notamment les pays nordiques, à savoir qu'elles doivent être prises en compte par le Budget ordinaire, avec toutefois la possibilité d'un financement extrabudgétaire pour certaines activités bien définies (et à cet égard, nous remercions les pays donateurs).

Pour terminer, nous voudrions appuyer ponctuellement quelques mesures citées dans le rapport comme par exemple, l'encouragement du respect des normes juridiques internationales du statut de la femme, l'attention réservée à l'accès au crédit et à l'accès à la terre, la campagne visant à éliminer les préjugés concernant la femme dans le développement et tous les programmes qui ont pour but de faciliter et moderniser toutes les activités agricoles de la femme.

Helmut HAUSER (Austria) (original language German) : The Austrian delegation has studied most carefully and with great satisfaction and interest the two documents C 89/14 and C 89/14-Sup.1 concerning the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in

Development. We have listened to the most valuable contributions made by delegations on this very important issue. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of this very comprehensive survey and for the excellent introduction by Mr Dutia.

With regard to document C 89/14, the seven priorities listed in paragraphs 86 through 104 have our complete approval. We particularly approve the areas of focus such as training of staff, counseling of Member States and project developments, together with compilation of data and research studies. We can fully endorse the Progress Report in its present version.

Regarding document C 89/14-Sup.1, we wish to emphasize that the following four areas of focus are the subject of our special attention: the legal status of women, economic activities of women, social aspects and the essential involvement of women in decision-making processes as an equal partner in society. We are therefore very pleased with the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development because we recognize the importance of their role in the rural areas, particularly in the social field and in society as a whole.

By way of appropriate training, further training and ongoing training and advisory services, women should be prepared for their responsible role in agricultural development more than ever before, and also be guided towards the role and the task they have to fulfil there. Looking at the importance of this FAO Plan of Action, we agree with many delegations who have expressed a hope that this important document would be unanimously adopted by our Conference.

Allow me Sir, as representative of a European country, to make one brief further remark. In the European region we have the FAO Working Party called "Working Party on Women and the Agricultural Family in Rural Development" which our country feels to be particularly important and where Austria has always been very active. We are happy that in the context of this working party, this Working Group, next year in Spring there will be a special meeting held in Vienna where the whole idea of training, further training and advisory activities will be given broad focus. The Federal Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of my country declared at the Plenary of this Conference the importance of the role of women, and has also extended officially the invitation to this meeting to be held in Vienna next Spring.

In conclusion, we would like to say that according to our views, the Plan of Action should be funded by the ordinary FAO budget, and we furthermore welcome the wish already expressed by many delegations that FAO in this important area should involve women and rural families in development, and that this whole be further pursued together with all other appropriate international organizations.

We thank again for this excellent document and are pleased that the role of women and their significance in rural development has found the necessary focus.

Javier TANTALEAN ARBULU (Perú) : Señores conscientes de la existencia de la discriminación de la mujer en muchas de las dimensiones y esferas de la vida en mi país; y por supuesto, esta discriminación está presente en el ámbito del sector agrícola. Todo ello, a pesar de las iniciativas que ha tenido mi Gobierno en relación al tema, y a las medidas que se siguen tomando. Creemos

que el problema se encuentra en estructuras históricas que tienen que ver con la mentalidad, las costumbres, las normas jurídicas, los comportamientos, las actitudes, etc. Todo lo cual es parte del modelo cultural institucional ctaej^ante. Inclusive la discriminación es palpable en las células sociales más antiguas y ancestrales de mi país, que son las comunidades campesinas andinas.

De 3 000 comunidades campesinas abarcando 5 millones de seres humanos, sólo una comunidad es presidida por una mujer.

Por eso, compartimos la preocupación básica del Plan de Acción de la FAO para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo, consistente en la necesidad de cambiar las tradiciones, las economías y la sociedad en su conjunto; preocupación bastante ambiciosa, pero en estos temas se tiene que partir de visiones globales y de grandes objetivos.

Nos parece que la función de la FAO debería tener una doble dimensión: de un lado, lo que puede hacer la FAO en sus programas y proyectos que ejecuta, así como en la asistencia técnica a los gobiernos; de otro lado, lo que la FAO debe realizar dentro de la Organización. Como delegación, pensamos que ambas dimensiones están consideradas y recogidas en el Plan de Acción de la FAO y que el documento como tal está bien estructurado. De ahí nuestra felicitación a la Secretaría.

Quisiéramos insistir en dos aspectos del plan: el de educación y el de la esfera de toma de decisiones. En el caso de la educación, nos parecen urgentes las acciones que se puedan tomar, ya que la formación tiene que ver con el cambio de mentalidades en hombres y mujeres, puesto que en la mentalidad está la base de la discriminación hacia la mujer. La otra esfera, la de toma de decisiones, tiene que ver con los mecanismos en que se desarrolla el poder en una sociedad, desde sus células de base hasta el poder nacional. En el ámbito agrario, los mecanismos de toma de decisiones están presentes en lo político, lo económico, lo social y la propia vida cotidiana en las mujeres campesinas. Aquí pueden desarrollarse proyectos específicos por parte de la FAO para alentar a la integración de la mujer en la toma de decisiones, asumiendo esto como un componente básico al desarrollo rural.

Señor Presidente, si bien es cierto que es necesario tener un marco global o visión integral de los problemas de la mujer, mucho es lo que se puede avanzar en el plano sectorial, y aquí nos parece fundamental el rol de sensibilización que la FAO puede cumplir; para ello contará con todo el apoyo de mi Gobierno.

Para terminar, quisiéramos expresar una duda respecto a los recursos que se necesitan para ejecutar el Plan de Acción. Por eso quisiéramos preguntar a la Secretaría cómo se va a hacer frente a esta cuestión, ya que los puntos 50 a 59 del informe dan lugar a dudas sobre la forma en que se van a financiar las demandas del Plan.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Primero que todo, queremos agradecer al Dr. Dutra la presentación de este tema y felicitar a la Dra. Spring y todo el equipo que ha colaborado en la preparación y elaboración de estos documentos.

La delegación de Colombia considera que, dos años después, esta Conferencia debe reconocer que el Director General acogió positivamente y en forma eficaz la Resolución del anterior período de sesiones cuando, mediante

Resolución 3/87, pedimos que se presentara al Consejo un Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. En efecto, la primera versión del plan fue presentada al Consejo en su 94<sup>s</sup> período de sesiones y ahora está ante nosotros. En el Consejo, la Delegación de Colombia participó activamente en las discusiones, y ese Plan, que fue recomendado unánimemente, sigue mereciendo nuestro más pleno apoyo, con algunas consideraciones que nos permitiremos hacer.

Estimamos que ésta es apenas una primera contribución de la FAO, Organización que abarca importantes aspectos de su mandato y que puede acentuar su acción en favor de la igualdad de las mejores oportunidades para las mujeres. Esta Conferencia debe apoyar mejor y reforzar el documento adoptado por el Consejo. En efecto, este Plan tiene carácter indicativo, basado en recursos humanos y financieros limitados, y aunque se afirme que el principio fundamental incorporado ha sido el de la eficacia, se requiere una acción decidida y un grande apoyo político para que estas buenas intenciones se conviertan en realidad.

Con honestidad, el párrafo 8 de este documento dice que "parte de las propuestas aquí presentadas se encuentran ya en la inspiración básica y en las iniciativas de anteriores programas de la FAO". Entonces, lo que ha faltado en realidad es ponerlas en práctica. Por ello, estamos de acuerdo con las conclusiones que aparecen en la nota final, en el sentido de que, sin el interés y la participación de los Gobiernos, de nada servirán las medidas previstas ni las iniciativas de la FAO para integrar a la mujer en el desarrollo.

Pudiera parecer que las mujeres somos desafortunadas, en cuanto a estas iniciativas se refiere, en el seno de la FAO, porque este despertar en favor de la reivindicación de los derechos femeninos se ha producido justamente en momentos de grave crisis financiera de nuestra Organización. Sin embargo, expresamos la esperanza de que la falta de recursos no vaya a impedir la implementación de este Plan, al cual, estamos seguros, muchos Gobiernos progresistas ofrecerán recursos extrapresupuestarios para que se usen específica y exclusivamente en la ejecución de estas propuestas.

Opinamos que esta Conferencia debe apoyar el más alto nivel que en el seno de la Organización se les está concediendo a estas actividades, bajo la orientación del propio Director General, como dice el párrafo 9. Esto es esencial para que todo el personal de la FAO tome muy en serio estos propósitos y contribuya a la justa recuperación de las oportunidades y de los derechos que en el pasado se han desconocido a las mujeres.

Encontramos muy bien que en el marco de la FAO el objetivo principal sea el de asistir a la mujeres para que gradualmente se vayan transformando en verdaderas productoras agrícolas, con plenos derechos. Para ello, será necesario modificar radicalmente las obsoletas bases jurídicas y culturales, que tradicionalmente han sido barreras infranqueables para el completo desempeño de la mujer. La FAO debe intensificar su campaña para que los Gobiernos y la opinión pública en general promuevan la modificación de normas internacionales que consagren definitivamente a la mujer en un adecuado plano de igualdad. En las labores agrícolas, la mujer debe tener completo acceso y plenos derechos a la tierra, al agua, al crédito y a la participación en todas las actividades inherentes al ejercicio de sus derechos. Con respeto por la soberanía de los Estados, la FAO tiene los medios para promover intercambios de experiencias entre los Gobiernos y ofrecer asesoramiento a los países en desarrollo, a fin de que transformen sus anticuadas legislaciones nacionales, para adaptarlas a las más avanzadas normas internacionales.



Concedémos gran importancia a la educación y a la capacitación de la mujer para que ésta esté en condiciones de entender y ejercer sus responsabilidades y derechos. Los cursillos de capacitación podrán desempeñar un papel importante.

Atribuimos mucha significación a la parte VI, "La esfera de la toma de decisiones". Estamos de acuerdo en que la participación activa y equitativa de la mujer en todos los aspectos económicos, sociales y humanos, la vinculará efectivamente a la toma de decisiones, aspectos con los cuales se sentirá así solidaria. Deseamos preguntar a la Secretaria hasta qué porcentaje ha avanzado en el personal de la FAO el cumplimiento de la Resolución 40/285 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, aprobada a fines de 1985, en el sentido de que el personal profesional y directivo de los organismos del Sistema debe alcanzar el 30 por ciento en personal femenino. ¿Cuál es hoy este porcentaje en la FAO?

Finalmente, señor Presidente, la delegación de Colombia apoya plenamente el párrafo 5 de la nota final, en cuanto a que este Plan de Acción sea objeto de seguimiento continuo y su evolución se incluya en el informe que sobre los resultados de la Conferencia Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria se presentará periódicamente a la Conferencia. Pensamos que este seguimiento continuo nos permitirá controlar y vigilar muy de cerca el cumplimiento de estas propuestas, que, sobre el papel, parecen satisfactorias y constituyen un primer paso hacia la reivindicación de las aspiraciones justas y a los derechos indiscutibles de la mujer.

Apoyamos, con reservas, las medidas para la implementación y seguimiento del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo propuestas por la señora Delegada de Costa Rica.

Ahyan ELCI (Turquie): Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de remercier le Secrétariat pour la documentation très instructive qui a été préparée pour cette session. Cerarne c'est toujours le cas, l'exposé de M. Dutia était très clair. Nous remercions de même Mme Spring, Chef du Service des femmes dans la production agricole et le développement rural, qui est l'unité coordinatrice, au sein de l'Organisation, des activités concernant les femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural.

Ma délégation est d'accord avec l'information présentée dans le Rapport d'activités sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Nous sommes satisfaits des priorités telles que mentionnées dans le Rapport. Nos commentaires sur les points substantiels du Rapport susmentionné sont les suivants:

Nous sommes en plein accord avec la première priorité, qui concerne la formation du personnel de la FAO en vue de l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Nous pensons, en effet, que celui-ci n'est pas seulement un thème important concernant l'égalité, mais qu'il revêt aussi une importance significative pour la planification. Nous observons souvent que les projets de développement sont formulés sans qu'une attention particulière soit portée aux caractéristiques de la participation de la population cible aux activités du projet et au profit des bénéficiaires du projet lui-même. L'Organisation accorde une grande importance au Programme de formation du personnel de la FAO, tel que mentionné dans le paragraphe 25 du Rapport d'activité. Toutefois, il est indiqué dans le paragraphe 53 qu'un montant de 780 000 dollars au titre de ressources extra-budgétaires sera nécessaire pendant l'exercice 1990-91 pour le soutien de ces activités. Monsieur le

Président, ma délégation aimerait avoir plus de détails à ce sujet, à savoir de quelle source ce montant sera obtenu, et, au cas où ces fonds ne se matérialiseraient pas, est-ce que cela pourrait affecter la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action?

Une mise en oeuvre effective du Plan d'action pour les femmes dépend en grande partie de la participation active de toutes les divisions techniques de la FAO. Le Rapport d'activité décrit tout d'abord les priorités qui doivent être adoptées par la Division des ressources humaines, des institutions et de la réforme agraire du Département des politiques économiques et sociales.

Le Rapport fournit aussi des informations sur les activités d'autres divisions, mais il n'indique pas clairement les priorités des autres départements et divisions techniques en faveur des femmes rurales. Ma délégation voudrait proposer que le prochain rapport d'activités établisse les priorités d'actions à adopter et à réaliser par tous les départements et divisions de la FAO, tels que l'agriculture, les forêts, les pêches, et l'information, et que soient indiquées les ressources à affecter.

En Turquie, nous attachons une grande importance à l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. De ce fait, dans le but d'apporter notre contribution à la mise en oeuvre du plan d'action, je voudrais vous faire part ici de notre souhait de voir une réunion internationale se tenir dans mon pays. Nous pensons que le thème de cette réunion pourrait être choisi parmi les priorités du plan d'action. Ma délégation prendra contact à ce sujet le moment venu avec le Secrétariat.

En dernier lieu, je voudrais souligner ici qu'à notre connaissance la FAO est l'une des agences des Nations Unies qui compte le plus petit nombre de femmes dans le cadre de notre Organisation. Nous aimerions qu'un objectif soit fixé pour que la proportion des femmes dans le cadre de l'Organisation, soit au siège, soit sur le terrain, atteigne un niveau satisfaisant.

**Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela):** La Delegación de Venezuela se complace en expresar su satisfacción por ver a nuestro amigo, el Bribador Medico, presidiendo esta Comisión, especialmente en esta tenida de la mujer, y agradece al Sr. Dutia la presentación, junto con el equipo de mujeres que trabajó en este plan.

Nosotros consideramos que es un progreso notable el que vamos logrando desde que en 1985 se presentó en la Conferencia la Resolución 2/75 sobre la mujer en el medio rural. En aquella oportunidad habíamos pedido al Director General que se estudiara la posibilidad de que en todos los programas de la FAO se prestara especial atención a la participación de la mujer campesina que desarrolla tareas de agricultura, de pesca y actividades forestales y que se le brinden oportunidades apropiadas para su capacitación.

Indudablemente que la FAO está cumpliendo con esta tarea a través de sus programas de campo y de cooperación técnica. La preparación de este plan, si bien no se le presta una atención específica, haciendo énfasis en la mujer campesina, se ocupa de los problemas de la mujer y esto es lo que nosotros deseamos solicitar, porque en la Conferencia de 1987 fue aprobada la Resolución 4/87 en que se solicitaba del Director General una reunión de expertos para examinar, junto con la Secretaría, la manera de integrar y sistematizar los programas y orientaciones necesarias a fin de poner en práctica las estrategias de integración de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo rural y en las diversas actividades de la Organización.

No hay duda de que todavía en el plano mundial hay unos cuantos países en que todavía no le han prestado la atención - y esto lo podemos deducir por las intervenciones que hemos escuchado ayer y hoy - en que todavía se está aspirando, y simplemente como aspiración, la igualdad jurídica de la mujer. Hay muchos países en que todavía este proceso social no incorpora a la mujer en general a las actividades a que tienen derecho como miembros de una comunidad, en cuanto a educación, capacitación, igual salario a igual trabajo, que son principios que ya son realidad en los países desarrollados y que, naturalmente, los países del Tercer Mundo seguirán inscribiendo esto entre sus aspiraciones; pero no por eso la FAO puede hacer énfasis en un plan de acción de la mujer, olvidando poner en letras muy sobresalientes, que es la mujer en el medio rural a la cual la FAO ha dedicado todo un año como su tema principal, así como se lo dedicó a la juventud rural en la cual está involucrada la joven rural, a quienes debemos prestar atención específica con programas para la mujer en el medio rural - aunque a algunas personas no les gusta usar este término, pero hablando castellano se dice mujer campesina, y así es como debemos llamarla, ya que no tenemos porqué sentirnos mal hablando de la mujer campesina, porque tenemos un alto porcentaje de mujeres campesinas que trabajan la tierra con todo su esfuerzo, que contribuyen a sostener sus hogares y actúan como jefes de familia y justo es que se les reconozca el derecho de igualdad cuando se trata de la tenencia de la tierra, cuando se trata del crédito y cuando se trata de la asistencia técnica. Aquí es donde debe actuar la FAO y nosotros esperamos que así lo haga.

La capacitación de la mujer no es necesario que la hagan mujeres, ya que eso sería caer en un feminismo a ultranza, del cual estamos a leguas. Nosotros podemos perfectamente lograr la capacitación de la mujer campesina integrada a su medio, que es lo que queremos. Nosotros hemos planteado siempre la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, y especificamos "en el desarrollo rural", porque hay muchos países que ya tienen, afortunadamente, establecida la igualdad jurídica de la mujer, la igualdad de educación en el medio urbano, pero hay una verdadera distancia, de siglos a veces, entre la mujer del medio urbano y la mujer del medio rural. Sin ánimo de que cualquiera pueda pensar que no estoy de acuerdo con que los planes de este Plan de Acción se dediquen a las mujeres profesionales de la FAO; pienso que está bien que se entrene, que se eduque, a las mujeres que están trabajando en FAO, para que puedan comprender el problema de las mujeres del medio rural, de la mujer campesina, prácticamente abandonada de los organismos técnicos internacionales. Porque cuando preparan proyectos para la mujer, generalmente se dedican a la mujer del medio urbano, y las mujeres campesinas se quedan siempre rezagadas. Debemos hacer, por tanto, énfasis en la mujer campesina, y para eso no necesitamos un proceso largo de entrenar primero a las mujeres de la FAO para, en el año 2000, cuando tengamos el 30 por ciento de las mujeres en FAO, organizar los cursos o los programas preparativos de la mujer en el medio rural.

Yo creo que la FAO tiene ya dos programas esenciales, sus verdaderos instrumentos de trabajo que son el Programa de Cooperación Técnica y el Programa de Campo, a través de los cuales puede lograrse perfectamente la integración de la mujer del medio rural al desarrollo rural. En esta Conferencia, cuando está poniendo en una reorientación de la agricultura lo que ahora estamos llamando "agricultura sostenible" y "desarrollo sostenible", estamos poniendo en vigencia de nuevo la "agricultura de subsistencia", como la llamamos quienes estudiamos hace unos cuantos años. Entonces hablábamos de la agricultura de subsistencia. En mi país, eso se llama conuco, un término indígena, vernáculo, que significa el cultivo mixto, el cultivo integrado de diferentes tipos de plantas que se atienden simultáneamente y que tiene la gran ventaja de que incluso se fertilizan unas a otras, como ocurre en el caso de las plantas nitrificantes. Tenemos el

frijol negro, que nitrifica el suelo y eso les sirve de ventaja al maíz, de manera que el campesino que siembra frijol negro y maíz está haciendo un buen trabajo. Esto lo reconozco, yo lo he estudiado en la universidad.

A eso está llegando ahora la agricultura sostenible, estamos regresando, entonces, a una agricultura que será más adecuada para la situación de hambre, de pobreza, de malnutrición que está viviendo el mundo.

Con esa agricultura sostenible la familia campesina podrá tener una parcela en la cual producir los alimentos básicos de su dieta, y es ahí donde quiero traer a la mujer; es justamente esta mujer campesina la que se ocupa del cultivo de esa parcela que va a alimentar a su familia.

En países como el mío, Venezuela, donde los jefes de familia suelen ser mujeres en cientos de hogares rurales, y las razones no las vamos a analizar porque van a salir perdiendo los hombres, y por esa responsabilidad que obliga a la mujer a ser la jefe de familia, ya que ella tiene que hacer frente al cultivo de su parcela, es justo que a esa mujer se le dé el derecho a la posesión de la tierra, se le dé el derecho al crédito y, en consecuencia, a esa mujer debe llevar la FAO la cooperación técnica y el trabajo de campo para darle la asistencia técnica de una tecnología de acuerdo con esta agricultura sostenible que pueda ayudarla a salir adelante del estado de pobreza crítica en que se encuentran la mayoría de estas familias campesinas.

En este sentido veo yo la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural, de la mujer campesina -y dejo que otras compañeras se dediquen a las mujeres del medio urbano-, pero yo me dedico a la mujer campesina, porque por ella estoy yo aquí luchando en la FAO en beneficio de ellas. Por esta razón creo que integrar a la mujer en el desarrollo en cualquiera de los niveles, estamos de acuerdo, pero integrar a la mujer del medio rural a su desarrollo, significa capacitarla por medios técnicos, técnicos elementales, técnicas muy sucintas, que ella es muy capaz de hacer, ya que ancestralmente ella se ha dedicado a eso. Igualmente que las familias peruanas durante siglos han estado haciendo lo que hacen en el cultivo de la papa, en cualquiera de nuestros países tenemos familias que ancestralmente han ido heredando lo que es la agricultura tradicional para atender a su alimentación, y que hasta ahora lo habían estado haciendo bien hasta que llegó la situación trágica que estamos viviendo, algunos países con la deuda externa, y otros con la falta de créditos.

Por esa razón, cuando yo hablo de la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural estoy hablando de una transformación de la posible familia campesina que está ahora en la edad de la infancia, o en la edad de la adolescencia, es la que va a recibir una educación para atender a las necesidades de sus familias con otro criterio diferente del que lo hicieron sus abuelas. Es a esas generaciones a las que la FAO debe ayudar a través de este Plan de Acción de la Mujer. Por eso, repito, no voy a estudiar las diferentes esferas sociales, jurídicas, y otros de que habla el Plan, que me parece excelente; pero me parecen excelentes para estudiarlas y para ponerlas en práctica, pero yo me voy a dedicar a atender lo que la mujer campesina necesita tanto en América Latina, como Africa o Asia; no hay mucha diferencia. Conozco esos países ya que he andado por ahí muchas veces y sé perfectamente que no hay mucha diferencia entre una mujer de Kenya, donde he estado, o una mujer del Irak, o una mujer campesina venezolana, o de cualquier país latino americano. Todas están haciendo frente a una vida de necesidades, y de necesidades que comienzan con la posesión de la tierra que no es de ellos, con gente que ha vivido sembrando una tierra ajena con desmedro de esa tierra, con daños de

esa tierra en donde el terrateniente les permite cultivar en el orlo de su posesión un pedacito de tierra, que ellos cultivan con amor, que lo convierten en tierra fértil y cuando se dan cuenta de que esto produce les ponen en otra tierra y así se reinicia el proceso de ir convirtiendo en tierra fértil lo que era un erial. De manera que ésta es la mujer que yo quiero que la FAO recuerde en su Plan de Acción, la mujer campesina; a esta familia campesina que son millones en el Tercer Mundo, las cuales están en niveles de pobreza crítica, que saben lo que es el hambre, lo que es la malnutrición, donde hay niños que están muriendo trágicamente de necesidad en toda la superficie de la tierra; esa mujer es la que interesa a la FAO. Mujeres jóvenes, viejas, niñas y adolescentes, cada una en su nivel. Esa es la mujer a la que debemos capacitar para que reciban la educación y puedan ser eficaces cuando lleguen a la edad de producir y de tomar decisiones en relación con los problemas de su comunidad. Ellas son las que deben pertenecer a las organizaciones.

En Venezuela las mujeres son dirigentes de las ligas campesinas, son dirigentes sindicales agrarios igual que los hombres, no hay ninguna diferencia, y si los dueños quieren pagar menos a la mujer que al hombre es sencillamente porque sai mujeres. Son discriminaciones que se deben superar. Hay que capacitar a la mujer campesina para que sepa reclamar sus derechos y pueda tener parte en la toma de decisiones cuando le llegue su oportunidad de ser dirigentes de su comunidad.

Nosotros hemos pedido al Director General que prestara especial atención en las actividades de la Organización al estudio de los problemas de la mujer y, particularmente, los dedicados a la capacitación y al acceso de los insumos y a la tecnología. Nosotros no estamos pidiendo una tecnología de la revolución verde, eso no nos interesa; nosotros nos interesamos en los fertilizantes, pesticidas, plaguicidas, en esta nueva ola que en buena hora ha traído la FAO a esta Conferencia, pidiendo la agricultura sostenible, está pidiendo el desarrollo sostenible que nos llega como a la medida de los países que todavía no hemos alcanzado el desarrollo y estamos en camino de lograrlo.

Por esa razón insistimos en el desarrollo rural, que es la única manera de que el mundo progrese cuando podamos ir superando esta diferencia tremenda que existe entre la ciudad y el campo. Los europeos no saben de eso, no saben que hay diferencias entre la ciudad y el campo, ya que para ellos el campo es una delicia. Yo me entristezco algunas veces con eso que se dice de la tristeza del bien ajeno, que es la envidia. Cuando yo recorro los campos italianos y cuando pienso en los campos nuestros, en los campos latino americanos cuando sale uno de la ciudad y llega al campo, y se pasan kilómetros en donde no hay cultivo porque es tierra baldía ¿y qué significa tierra baldía? significa latifundio, posesión de la tierra por pocas manos en grandes extensiones, y significa que no hay campesinos dueños de un pedazo de tierra para cultivarlos con amor, para cultivarlos como algo que les pertenece. Esa es la diferencia del europeo. El europeo cultiva su tierra con amor hace más de 3 000 años, en este país donde vivimos y que nos admiran, que siguen conservando un suelo fértil porque ha sido cultivado con amor. Nuestros campesinos ponen amor en ese trocito de tierra hasta que el terrateniente lo echa. ¿Creen ustedes que puede cultivarse algo con amor sabiendo que tienen que ser echados? Por eso nosotros tenemos que insistir en que parte de la educación de la mujer y parte de este Plan de la Mujer debe ser el acceso a la tierra para la mujer. ¿Y por qué para la mujer? Porque ellas son las que conservan el hogar en la mayoría de nuestros medios rurales. Son las mujeres las que mantienen no el fuego del hogar, sino la posesión de la tierra y de la familia.

Desearíamos que este desarrollo sostenible, que esta agricultura sostenible incidiera fundamentalmente en la colaboración que la mujer puede prestar en la horticultura, en los viveros forestales que de esta manera colaborarían en los planes de acción forestal en los trópicos, en la acuicultura. Hemos visto en China, y yo me quedé impresionada cuando vi aquellas familias con una inmensa canasta al lado de su barco que tenían su cría de peces y que todos los días podían temar la pesca de su canasta.

En China hacen lo mismo con las verduras, y también lo están haciendo en Africa. Yo me pregunto, ¿por qué no podemos generalizar esto, si la mujer puede perfectamente colaborar? Eso no es un trabajo tan difícil, no es un trabajo que requiera una fuerza especial para poder cultivar unos peces en una laguna. Esto puede ser uno de los programas para incorporar al desarrollo rural a la mujer. El cultivo de peces mediante un programa de acuicultura en cualquiera de nuestros países, porque todos tienen agua y todos tienen un pedacito de tierra donde poder cultivarla. De esta manera nosotros podremos capacitar a la mujer en técnicas que no son tan elevadas, que no requieren tanto talento ni tanto ingenio y que requiere aquello que la mujer tiene: dedicación, paciencia, tiempo que lo tiene incluso para aburrirse porque no tiene nada que hacer. Eso sería pues lo que nos interesaría desde el punto de vista de lo que yo llamo el desarrollo rural y la participación de la mujer en las actividades para ese desarrollo rural.

Yo creo que los estoy aburriendo un poco, pero no temo, porque esta lucha es larga. Hace muchos años que yo estoy en esto, y algunas veces con oídos que retumbaban y que no me hacían caso. Por esa razón pues, nosotros creemos que si seguimos machacando en los oídos de los hombres, los hombres van a poder aceptar este plan de acción de la mujer que me parece excelente; y podemos perfectamente seguir adelante, insistiendo en que la FAO puede lograr incorporar a la mujer a este desarrollo a través de sus programas de campo, de sus programas de cooperación técnica y con pequeños proyectos a través de este nuevo concepto de agricultura sostenible y de desarrollo sostenible.

Ya voy a terminar. Quiero decir que para que este Plan de Acción no se pierda, porque aquí dice que esto tiene un plan de siete años, sería conveniente que los gobiernos, en colaboración con la FAO desde luego, porque los gobiernos siempre necesitan alguien que les llame la atención, y las mujeres muchas veces se olvidan de eso cuando regresan a sus países; porque vienen aquí y hablan en esta Conferencia cosas muy hermosas, pero después regresan a los países, y como que se olvidaron de lo que hablaron en la Conferencia, y no vuelven a pensar en eso. Pues las mujeres que regresan a sus países deben insistir con sus gobiernos que este Plan de Acción es para ponerlo en práctica y para llevar a cabo, no todo lo que dice el plan de acción, pero sí algunas de las cosas, las que vienen a medida de los países.

Y luego, lo que voy a sugerir aquí, porque no sé si estoy en condición y capacidad de proponer, es que de aquí a estos próximos siete años para los cuales está contemplado el desarrollo del Plan, cada año estas mujeres presionen a sus gobiernos para que se convoque una reunión de lo que yo Hartaría evaluación, balance o como ustedes quieran llamarlo, pero examen del Plan, y ver qué es lo que se está haciendo.

Yo por mi parte pediré siempre para las campesinas. Insistiré en lo que he dicho hoy. Pienso que ellas son las que necesitan mayormente, porque una mujer que ya ha llegado a tener un título universitario y que ha llegado a tener una educación superior de este nivel, si no es capaz de arreglárselas por sí misma, ha perdido todo su tiempo. Entonces, esas pobres campesinas que no han podido ir a la escuela son las que más nos necesitan a nosotros para que las ayudemos.

Entonces, sugiero pues esa reunión anual para examinar el Plan y como va progresando. Y finalmente, además de la divulgación del Plan, ya me falta expresar solamente un deseo. Y es poder ver en una realidad que la FAO cree un grupo de trabajo que se ocupe de los problemas de la mujer en el desarrollo rural; bueno, que no dejen atrás a la del medio urbano pero que hagan énfasis en la del medio rural, a ver si podemos progresivamente alcanzar mi verdadero deseo, que es que entre las Comisiones de la FAO figure una Comisión de la Mujer, que sería la meta a la que podemos y tenemos derecho a perseguir. Que entre estas Comisiones podamos tener una Comisión de la Mujer para su integración; no para tratar los asuntos de la mujer separadamente porque el feminismo está trasnochado y ya en desuso. Nosotros tenemos que hablar de la mujer integrada a su comunidad, como debe ser, para poder realizar la tarea que nuestro mundo espera de ella. Y me perdona. Sr. Presidente, por haber hablado tanto.

EL PRESIDENTE: Agradezco a la distinguida representante de Venezuela de decir lo que siempre oímos con interés y atención, y que no nos aburre nunca.

Oloche EDACHE (Nigeria) : My delegation seeks your indulgence to present Nigeria's intervention as prepared, as we consider the issue of rural development and women's participation of vital importance. The issue has in fact become very topical in my country in recent years. "The Nigerian experience in integrating women in agricultural and rural development has attracted considerable international attention in recent times. Just last week we hosted an international seminar on Women in Development under ECA sponsorship as a follow-up to the Nairobi Strategy, with participants attending from all over Africa. The World Bank has also shown keen interest in our programme of integrating women in agriculture, as has UNDP and ILO. We look forward to closer collaboration with multilateral and bilateral organizations in programme planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring in this key area, so as to enhance the potentials of our rural women. Nigerian women are quite resourceful and hard-working; they are actively engaged in agricultural production, trade and home-making which we hold quite dear to our hearts. The percentage of women engaged in agriculture varies from state to state, which is a reflection of our cultural and religious diversities. In some states, it is over 80 percent. The national average is estimated at 50 percent. Rural women allocate approximately 14 percent of their time schedule to agriculture, compared to men, 29 percent. Processing takes 14 percent of women's time as compared to half of one percent which men put into processing.

Child care and housekeeping take about 16 and 15 percent respectively of women's time schedule, compared to only one-half of one percent which men devote to each of these activities. Men, on the other hand, have more than two times the leisure time at the disposal of women. It is our intention to strengthen our gender data base, to enhance proper need-identification and programme development.

Under the national policy on agriculture, we have formulated broad development strategies on the basis of the dual role of women in farm production and home management. The Governments of the Federation have established home economics and community development units in their respective Ministries of Agriculture with a mandate to develop and implement those programmes which will lead to the uplifting of the quality of life of rural women. Some of the major activities include women in agriculture, which aims at fully integrating women in agricultural development through their full participation in the agricultural development programmes being executed

throughout the country with the World Bank assistance. Under this Programme we intend that women benefit from the resources being targeted primarily at naive farmers, including access to credit, technical information and production inputs.

The appropriate technology and skilled training scheme aims at fostering the acquisition of income-generating skills among rural woman in diverse fields. The Programme aims at identifying labour-saving devices which will reduce the drudgery of womens chores so as to free time for socio-economic activities and leisure. Multi-purpose centres have also been established by Governments in several locations of the country as learning and social centres for women. No account of integrating women in development in Nigeria would be complete without mentioning the contributions of the First Lady, Mrs. Maryam Babangida, who, over the past two years has spear-headed the Better Life for Rural Women Programme. The First Lady has awakened the conscience of the nation to the poor life conditions of rural women and has, in concert with the wives of State Governors, developed a pragmatic plan of action towards improving and enriching the lives of rural women and mobilizing them towards effective participation in the development process through education, creative employment and agricultural production. Urban women in non-governmental voluntary organizations, such as the Soroptomists, Zonta International, the Lions Club, National Council of Women, National Council of Women's Societies, etc., have in recent times been quite active in promoting the cause of rural women.

In the area of legislation, there are no separate strategy provisions targeted at the constraints of women's participation in development. However, statutory provisions on working women do exist. They include: by-laws which compel parents to send their children to school; by-laws which permit pregnant women to continue their education; and by-laws which grant paid leave to pregnant working mothers. It is of interest that there are no discriminatory wage rates for women workers in the public service of the Federation.

I have taken quite a bit of your time already, but please do permit me to briefly address the documents before us, that is C 89/14 and C 89/14 - Sup.1. The initiative of the FAO and the quality of the documents are quite commendable. Their essence, in our opinion, is to provide women with the opportunities that will enable them to develop their potentials and contribute optimally to development.

My delegation shares the view of the British delegation that the objectives embodied in the documents might be too many. The implication could be lack of focus leading to poor results. One way of avoiding such a problem, of course, would be to prioritize, and to restrict efforts to critical areas of need at a time in order not to dissipate scarce resources too thinly.

The campaign for a change of image of women embodied in the documents should be subtly handled in traditional societies in order not to offend long-held value systems and jeopardize success.

My delegation is totally in support of the call for assistance to enhance planning and policy formulation at national levels. Such support will enhance coherence of policy and consensus building.

Finally, I wish to thank you for giving my delegation the opportunity for this intervention.



**Christodoilos CHRISTODOULOU (Cyprus):** the Plan of Action for Integration of women in Development has been prepared after extensive consultation with many parties concerned as most of the documents submitted by the Secretariat for the consideration of the Conference.

We find the plan of action to be coherent, realistic and comprehensive and wish to express our full support to the FAO's efforts and activities for the implementation of this important plan- We also agree with the proposal of the Council that the implementation of the Plan should take place within the mainstream of FAO's activities and should be basically funded from the Regular Programme. However, extrabudgetary resources will facilitate the implementation of this plan and possible donors should be urged to come forward.

Among the most important aspects of the Plan we believe that more emphasis should be placed on legal aspects, education and training.

Discriminatory perceptions and attitudes towards women are deeply rooted and women do not yet enjoy equal rights and treatment in all parts of the world. It will take considerable time to change this situation. "The most important tool to pursue such a goal is education and training which should follow legal recognition of women's equality. In this respect let me inform you, Mr Chairman and the distinguished delegates, that recently the House of Representatives of Cyprus has unanimously approved a Bill providing for equal pay for men and women doing the same work. This pleasant event places Cyprus in line with its international obligations on equality between sexes and is in conformity with the objectives of the Plan under discussion.

Regarding training, we believe that FAO has an important role to play in providing in-service training as well as the systematic organization of training courses for women in basic fields such as technology, nutrition and marketing.

In concluding, Mr Chairman, let me emphasize the fundamental role of women in the development of all societies. We believe that all necessary activities should be undertaken in order to promote and expand the interest of the governments and the people in general so that this important role of women would be widely accepted.

Mme. Piera MARIN (Italie): La délégation italienne se félicite pour le travail que la FAO a produit dans la présentation du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. L'expérience italienne nous a montré que le développement industriel entraîne l'abandon des campagnes par les hommes et l'entrée des femmes dans le marché du travail agricole. Afin que cette substitution se fasse dans des conditions meilleures, nous souhaitons qu'il soit principalement possible de développer les services d'information et les activités de formation pour les femmes. En même temps, on doit donner priorité à l'amélioration de la législation qui régit l'accès des femmes à la terre afin qu'elles puissent faire reconnaître leur travail avec toutes les garanties de la loi.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas



**conference**

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 89/I/PV/13

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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING  
TREIZIEME SEANCE  
13ª SESION

(22 November 1989)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours  
J. A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 14.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

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

**CHAIRMAN:** The delegate of Indonesia would like to take the floor on item 6.1.

Widayat Edi FRANATO (Indonesia): The delegation of Indonesia would like to present a resolution on the issue of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan under item 6.1 of our agenda.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the delegate of Indonesia. The text of his resolution will be conveyed to the Chair and transmitted to the Resolutions Committee, and then back to our Commission.

**Grégoire NIKEOUA (Congo):** Je voudrais informer la Commission que le Congo envisage de soumettre à son approbation une proposition de Résolution sur la foresterie. Cela se justifie simplement par le fait qu'il y a nécessité de mener des actions de plus en plus intégrées étant donné que le domaine d'action est le même, c'est-à-dire le monde rural. Je voudrais rappeler que cette session se tient au moment où la déforestation a atteint des proportions inquiétantes et que l'agroforesterie est une action salubre pour lutter contre la déforestation, étant entendu que l'agriculture constitue l'une des principales activités qui dégrade la forêt car la population rurale défriche pour les besoins de l'agriculture ainsi que pour les besoins en produits forestiers.

- II. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development (continued)
11. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural (suite)
11. Plan de acción para la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola y rural (continuación)

Gabriel FIO-NGAINDIRO (République centrafricaine) : Prenant la parole pour la première fois à cette commission, ma délégation se joint à celles qui l'ont précédée pour vous présenter, M. le Président, nos vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection et pour la perspicacité avec laquelle vous menez les

débats. Sans être intervenus, nous avons suivi avec un intérêt tout à fait réel la plupart des sujets qui ont été traités dans la commission; et ma délégation fait siennes toutes les résolutions issues des différents débats.

Pour le sujet qui nous préoccupe en ce moment, la délégation centrafricaine félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à notre analyse, et M. Dutia pour la clarté avec laquelle il nous en a présenté la synthèse.

Enfin nous félicitons le Directeur général qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour mettre en application la Résolution 4/87 de la vingt-quatrième session de la Conférence de la FAO en 1987 afin de nous permettre de traiter en ce moment de l'important sujet qui est celui d'un Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement.

La délégation centrafricaine apprécie à leur juste valeur les mesures préconisées pour la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement, et l'approuve. Cependant, la spécificité de chaque pays nous amène à en orienter les priorités.

Juridiquement, les femmes détiennent les mêmes prérogatives que les hommes en République centrafricaine. Elles ont accès à toutes les professions au même titre que les hommes pour peu qu'elles en aient la qualification. Il demeure cependant une préoccupation, et non des moindres, dans le fait que plus de 80 pour cent de nos femmes sont encore des rurales avec un taux de scolarisation assez bas.

Ces femmes doivent faire valoir leurs droits, prendre conscience de leur rôle dans le développement, chercher à diminuer la pénibilité de leurs charges quotidiennes. C'est pourquoi la priorité des priorités pour les femmes en République centrafricaine demeure la formation et l'éducation. Cette formation devra s'acquérir dans les groupements car, au sein des groupements, les femmes pourront obtenir une caution solidaire pour l'obtention de crédits.

La formation et l'éducation permettent aux femmes non seulement de s'affirmer mais de comprendre tout mécanisme susceptible de permettre l'accès au crédit et l'introduction de toute innovation en ce qui concerne les petites unités de transformation en milieu rural pour alléger la pénibilité du travail et en accroître la productivité.

Le Plan d'action soumis à notre analyse prévoit une bonne préparation des cadres de la FAO pour s'acquitter de leur tâche. Ma délégation se permet d'insister sur la formation des formateurs nationaux qui sont eux-mêmes déjà dans le milieu.

C'est vous dire que nous comptons sur la disponibilité de la FAO pour un appui à:

- la formation des formateurs des femmes,
- la formation des femmes,
- l'organisation des festines en groupements,
- l'introduction des unités de transformation en milieu rural,
- la création des conditions propices à l'accès au crédit.

Pour conclure et pour illustrer son intervention, la délégation centrafricaine tient à vous indiquer qu'en matière de production vivrière, la République centrafricaine est globalement autosuffisante et que les cultures vivrières sont essentiellement l'affaire des femmes.

Denezio J. BISIKA (Malawi): Since the Malawi delegation is taking the floor for the first time, please accept our warm and heartfelt congratulations on your election, Mr Chairman.

The Malawi delegation wishes to reaffirm what was said by the leader of the delegation in the Plenary regarding the integration of women in agriculture and rural development. We welcome the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development and endorse the priority ratings. We should also like to commend Dr Dutia for the clarity with which he introduced the subject.

The role of women in development is crucial. Apart from their household role in child rearing, carrying water and firewood, food production and processing, women are capable of playing a major role in the socio-economic activities. For women to play this role some basic conditions must be fulfilled. In the first place appropriate time-saving and drudgery-reducing technology is needed so that less time and effort is spent on the household role. Secondly, women should have direct access to technology, inputs and other factors of production. They should participate in decision-making and all other planning processes and income-generating activities.

The political will to integrate women in development in Malawi manifests itself in the very existence of the League of Malawi women in the Malawi Congress Party right from the time of independence.

Already in Malawi steps have been taken to integrate women in development along the lines proposed in document C 89/14-Sup.1. A National Commission for women in development to coordinate the participation of woman is in full operation.

Four years ago a women's organization called Chitukuko Cha a Mai M'Malawi (CCAM) was established and is contributing to development in the field of health, social welfare and agriculture.

Recognizing that about 30% of households are female-headed, and that around 69% of labour in agriculture is provided by women, a women's programme section was established in the Ministry of Agriculture to cater for the interests and needs of women farmers in agricultural extension and training, credit, marketing and income generation. It is a policy of the Department of Agriculture to include no less than 30% of women in all agricultural extension and training programmes.

To monitor this, data collection has been dis-aggregated into men and women.

The women's programme section has been strengthened by the provision of technical assistance financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Malawi Agriculture Research and Extension (MARE) project. An FAO-executed project financed by UNDP on income generation activities for women is being implemented. Steps are being taken to ensure that there are more female staff in agriculture and other sectors of development.

The Malawi delegation, therefore, commends the FAO Action Plan for the Integration of Women in Development for adoption by the Conference.

**Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLMONTE (Panamá):** Permítame en primer lugar, señor Presidente, agradecer al Sr. Dutia por la excelente presentación del tema, así como a la Dra. Spring y a su equipo por el dinamismo demostrado en promover y poner en práctica el Plan de la Mujer.

Mi delegación aprueba el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo por considerarlo un instrumento válido para promover en todas las esferas mayor igualdad y mejores oportunidades para la mujer, en particular los lineamientos y estrategias que tienden a reforzar a la mujer en cuanto productora agrícola y su contribución al desarrollo rural.

De igual manera, consideramos de capital importancia los esfuerzos programáticos contenidos en la parte tercera del Plan, relativa a las normas jurídicas. Le damos especial atención en la medida de que en muchos de nuestros países, incluso el mío, existen un sinnúmero de disposiciones legales, pero que en la práctica distan mucho de propiciar la integración de la mujer a las fuerzas productivas.

En este sentido, damos nuestro apoyo a las iniciativas sobre este aspecto contenidas en el documento, por considerarlas como mecanismos básicos para combatir la actitud discriminatoria hacia la mujer sin menoscabo de su rol fundamental dentro del marco de la familia, y sin los cuales, a nuestro juicio, ningún progreso será posible.

En lo que se refiere al papel de la mujer en las organizaciones populares, consideramos oportuno señalar que durante el 94<sup>o</sup> Consejo de la FAO se aprobó solicitar a la Organización la preparación de un plan de acción para impulsar la participación popular en el desarrollo agrícola. Plan que vemos, igualmente, como una oportunidad para que se incluya e impulse la participación de la mujer en el mismo.

Para terminar, no podemos pasar esta oportunidad sin expresar nuestra preocupación, y a la vez lamentar, que debido a las circunstancias impuestas a la Organización, la puesta en práctica del Plan esté condicionada a la disponibilidad de recursos en el Programa Ordinario, o que deba recurrirse a recursos extrapresupuestarios. Ello podría interpretarse como que un elemento determinante en el desarrollo agrícola y social en muchos países en desarrollo, reciba desde sus inicios, dentro del marco del sistema de Naciones Unidas, una priorización de segundo orden, como es propio de nuestros precarios presupuestos nacionales.

Por ello, confiamos que la Secretaría de la FAO hará un esfuerzo dentro del marco del Programa Ordinario para dar inicio a su aplicación.

**Sra. Cencha Marina RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras):** La delegación de Honduras apoya el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo y que concuerda con los tres niveles de la estrategia diseñada; es decir: aumentar la base de información sobre las mujeres en el desarrollo agrícola, elaborar y fomentar políticas basadas en este conocimiento, y preparar programas adecuados.

También consideramos útil para los gobiernos en la planificación de ejecución de políticas y proyectos, el marco presentado en el Plan en sus distintas esferas: estado civil, social, económico y tenencia de decisiones.

Nos parece, sin embargo, que la planificación del Plan debería estar más orientada hacia la acción y hacia las necesidades de los países y, sobre todo, de la mujer rural. Eso es consecuencia de las prioridades, y la asignación de recursos debería estar también conforme a dichas necesidades.

En lo que se refiere a la capacitación del personal de la FAO, la delegación de Honduras considera que nuestros contactos de trabajo con el personal de la Organización han demostrado que se cuenta con profesionales altamente calificados en distintas disciplinas y en capacidad de ejecutar cualquier plan de acción.

En el párrafo 40 del Informe presentado a la Conferencia se hace una breve relación a las áreas en las cuales la FAO debería dar asistencia a los países, previa solicitud de los gobiernos. Consideramos estas cuatro áreas tan limitadas para las necesidades y para el campo tan amplio como es el de la integración de la mujer, considerando sus múltiples actividades y su contribución en los sectores domésticos y de madre en el crecimiento, formación y conducción de la familia y del hogar, la acción productiva de la mujer en el campo agropecuario y en actividades no agrícolas como son la artesanía y la pequeña industria. Además, la mujer juega un papel importante en la comercialización de los productos.

Todo lo anterior nos hace pensar que el Plan de Acción debería incluir peticiones de los gobiernos en otras áreas que vayan dirigidas a las necesidades de la mujer. Como ilustración podríamos citar: formulación y ejecución de proyectos en el campo agrícola y actividades de la pequeña industria y artesanía, y en el establecimiento de sistemas y mecanismos de comercialización; apoyar a los países en la búsqueda de financiamiento para la puesta en marcha de proyectos y de aplicación de políticas y estrategias; apoyar una acción más amplia y armónica con los organismos no gubernamentales; y asistir en el diseño y establecimiento de indicadores pertinentes y de un mecanismo de seguimiento y evaluación.

La delegación de Honduras también estima que la efectiva integración de la mujer se logrará únicamente si se atacan desde sus raíces, los obstáculos que históricamente han frenado la incorporación de la mujer.

Se hace necesario un conocimiento más amplio y profundo de estos obstáculos y barreras para hacer diseñar políticas o acciones tendientes a eliminarlas o superarlas. Podríamos mencionar, como ejemplo, factores o elementos culturales, sociales, tradicionales, religiosos y algunas costumbres y disposiciones que norman los procedimientos de herencia.

Sin embargo, es necesario reconocer que en los últimos años se ha logrado avances importantes en el campo de la integración de la mujer; y sobre todo, se ha dado reconocimiento a la importancia de su acción en las distintas actividades. Pero aún falta mucho por hacer, y en esta tarea esperamos que el Plan de Acción sea revisado para orientarlo hacia la superación de obstáculos y el diseño de programas y proyectos acordes con la necesidad de la mujer.

Muy a menudo escuchamos que las mujeres ya están integradas por el simple hecho de las distintas labores que desempeñan. Sobre este punto, nosotros desearíamos hacer una reflexión y una aclaración, y es la de que no se confunda esa excesiva carga de trabajo con un proceso de integración de la mujer en el desarrollo.

Tassiou AMINOU (Niger) : La délégation nigérienne a le plaisir de prendre la parole pour exprimer son point de vue sur le thème en discussion, à savoir l'intégration des femmes dans le développement. Sur ce sujet, les documents de travail présentés par le Secrétariat sont d'une qualité irréprochable; il y a donc lieu ici de l'en féliciter, en particulier pour l'analyse très édifiante qui a été faite sur les 6 aspects suivants:



- la condition juridique de la ferme,
- la sphère économique,
- la sphère sociale,
- la sphère des décisions,
- l'amélioration des instruments d'intervention et, de manière plus générale,
- les faunes dans le développement.

Bien évidemment l'hétérogénéité des situations rencontrées sur les différents continents est un handicap pour proposer des mesures standardisées en réponse aux problèmes rencontrés; il y a donc lieu ici de maintenir une flexibilité des mesures envisagées au sujet des 6 points évoqués tantôt.

Comme vous le savez, il y a très souvent une marge entre les déclarations de bonnes intentions et la traduction de ces déclarations en actes concrets à cause de la lenteur qui caractérise les changements de mentalité de manière générale.

Ainsi par exemple, certains changements dans ce que le document intitulé "Plan d'action de la FAO dans l'intégration des femmes dans le développement", qu'il s'agisse d'un équilibre plus favorable à la femme dans l'occupation des postes au niveau de la FAO ou qu'il s'agisse de l'indication plus grande et plus équitable de la femme dans les occupations des postes de responsabilité dans les administrations nationales, quoi qu'il en soit ces différents aspects ne sont pas toujours suivis d'effets à l'échelle de la grande majorité des femmes concernées par les problèmes c'est-à-dire les femmes rurales. A ce dernier niveau, des changements sensibles ne seront obtenus qu'en attaquant les maux à leur racine c'est-à-dire en ayant une compréhension totale et complète de la dynamique sociale et en envisageant des réformes appropriées ce qui est une oeuvre de longue haleine.

Au Niger, où la population féminine est estimée à 53 pour cent de la population, l'action gouvernementale a depuis le début des années 70 inclus la nécessité d'encourager une intégration plus efficace des femmes dans le développement. Cette option a été traduite dans les faits ces dernières années, par la création d'un ministère à part entière chargé de la condition féminine et des affaires sociales (dirigé par une femme), et par la mise en oeuvre d'un certain nombre d'actions allant dans le sens de la promotion féminine, les actions développées jusqu'à présent ont, à défaut d'avoir appiané toutes les ségrégations dont les femmes font l'objet, permis de jeter les jalons d'un développement équitable à travers l'élaboration en cours actuellement d'un code rural qui règlera les questions foncières et leur implication sur le processus du développement rural, d'un code de la famille qui codifiera les responsabilités respectives de la femme et de l'homme au regard des obligations des ménages et au regard des actions de développement.

S'agissant maintenant des actions menées jusqu'à présent elles ont porté sur l'allègement des tâches féminines en milieu rural car le problème se pose, dans nos conditions au terme d'allègement des tâches, dans un premier temps. En effet, la femme joue un grand rôle dans toute la chaîne de production alimentaire des aliments et supporte souvent seule le fardeau si je puis dire, de la chaîne de transformation de ces aliments. Cela se traduit par des tâches pénibles au niveau:

- de la collecte du bois de chauffe (principale source d'énergie),
- de l'approvisionnement en eau potable parfois à partir de puits très profonds,
- des tâches pénibles comme la transformation quotidienne de graines en aliments.

Les actions menées à travers les projets de développement se sont traduites souvent par un transfert de charge de la femme vers l'homme qu'il s'agisse des questions d'adduction d'eau, qu'il s'agisse d'autres actions en relation avec le moulin à grains, il s'agit là d'opérations qui se traduisent par un transfert de charges de l'homme vers la femme.

Dans ce contexte, on imagine aisément la résistance que cela peut susciter dans une communauté rurale où le pouvoir d'achat en général demeure très stationnaire pour ne pas dire en baisse.

C'est donc dire que le problème doit être perçu dans un processus global de développement améliorant les conditions et la qualité de vie en milieu rural, impliquant une juste répartition des revenus et des bienfaits du développement, ainsi que la mise en place à tous les niveaux d'un programme éducatif dont on pourrait escompter à moyen et long terme un effet de transformation des mentalités.

Nous supportons donc les différentes orientations proposées par le document intitulé "Plan d'action" en insistant cependant sur la nécessité d'éviter que les instruments d'intervention ne soient que des mesures dont l'effet s'arrêterait uniquement au niveau des couches justement les plus favorisées de la population, qui pensent, par quelques actions de saupoudrage, se donner bonne conscience, mais il s'agit bien plus des actions susceptibles de provoquer des changements fondamentaux dans le processus du développement en milieu rural.

**Oscar Sales PETINGA (Portugal):** La délégation portugaise félicite le Secrétariat pour l'élaboration des documents tels que le C 89/14 Rev.1 et C 89/14 Sup.1 qui nous ont facilité notre travail et ont permis des interventions plus approfondies.

Face aux documents présentés nous pouvons apprécier l'action de la FAO pour que la résolution 3/87 de la Conférence, ainsi que les recommandations du Conseil soient accomplies. On considère aussi très satisfaisant tout le chemin parcouru pour promouvoir tout d'abord l'égalité des ouvertures pour les femmes, ainsi que leur intégration dans le développement. Dans mon pays, depuis longtemps, les femmes ont une situation identique sur le plan juridique, c'est-à-dire qu'elles peuvent occuper toutes les places et responsabilités dans la société portugaise.

L'accès à l'éducation est égalitaire et les établissements d'enseignement sont mixtes à tous les niveaux. Pour cela il existe une égalité en ce qui concerne l'enseignement et les opportunités.

Cependant, pour certains travaux, le nombre d'hommes à l'enseignement est supérieur mais il y a aussi d'autres métiers dans lesquels les femmes sont largement majoritaires, comme par exemple les services sociaux, certaines branches des sciences, comme la biologie, la littérature et l'histoire.

A la moitié de la décade des années 50 le nombre de femmes intéressées par l'enseignement agricole n'était pas supérieur à 10 pour cent de leurs élèves. Aujourd'hui, dans les universités et les écoles supérieures agricoles, le nombre de filles est supérieur à 50 pour cent et beaucoup manifestent le désir de travailler plus tard dans le monde tropical, profitant de l'expérience et de la vocation existant dans cette zone.

Sous l'aspect social au niveau du secteur rural qui est plus arriéré, la femme a seulement une fonction domestique, ne participe presque en rien aux décisions de l'exploitation agricole. On a alors initié un travail de valorisation de la femme aux tâches de la maison, par des cours de ménage domestique et d'artisanat.

La situation a beaucoup changé ces dernières années et des cas identiques déjà mentionnés font maintenant exception au Portugal. D'un autre côté, la modernisation de l'agriculture et l'adhésion de mon pays à la Communauté européenne a dynamisé et fait développer une grande quantité de jeunes agriculteurs dont beaucoup sont des filles qui gèrent leurs exploitations.

Je voudrais encore parler de l'agriculture en "part-time" dans la zone mini-foncière où l'homme travaille dans une usine ou aux services et la femme s'occupe des travaux de l'exploitation. Cette activité de la femme est très normale aux environs des villes industrialisées du nord du pays, où l'industrie et les services sont bien développés et les hommes ont en général des emplois en dehors de l'agriculture. Nous ne devons pas aussi oublier la femme qui exploite les petites exploitations rurales quand les hommes émigrent.

La nouvelle génération des femmes rurales a l'opportunité de trouver dans l'agriculture une activité comme exploitant agricole.

Mon pays a toujours suivi avec beaucoup d'intérêt les échanges d'expériences au niveau européen que la FAO a favorisés et nous croyons que cette activité doit être renforcée et intensifiée et pour cette raison nous ne nous accordons pas avec les quelques réductions des dotations pour les activités au niveau de la REUR.

Cependant, ces frais représentent un pourcentage trop petit sur le budget global de la FAO et ainsi cette contribution n'a pas d'influence significative sur les programmes des pays moyens développés qui, à notre avis, devront recevoir l'appui principal de la FAO. Nous acceptons la priorité mais non son exclusivité.

Je voudrais encore faire référence au fait que dans mon pays la législation décide que les hommes et les femmes qui réalisent les mêmes tâches ont les mêmes salaires. Cependant, au niveau des travaux plus lourds de l'agriculture, de l'industrie et des services, les entrepreneurs donnent la préférence aux hommes. Pour cela le chômage est plus fréquent parmi les femmes. Nous avons vérifié, au niveau de l'agriculture, que les femmes ont plus de facilité pour créer et développer des organisations de coopération et d'autres genres d'associations similaires, ce qui représente une donnée très intéressante dans les zones où l'agriculture se réalise à temps partiel et l'entreprise agricole est presque toujours inférieure à cinq hectares.

Seul l'homme, pendant les jours plus longs de l'été, travaille à l'agriculture après la sortie de l'usine ou du service. La femme répartit ses occupations domestiques avec les travaux agricoles dans une agriculture basée surtout sur l'horticulture intensive, la fluviculture et la production laitière.

Ms Fatina H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Secretariat and the FAO Secretariat for preparing the document we have before us. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about rural development and women's role in the Near East where I come from. Enormous

progress has been made recently with a view to improving the economic and social conditions of women. Progress has been made mainly, in my opinion, thanks to the response given by governments to the United Nations appeal in the course of the United Nations Decade for Women. Progress was also made as a result of FAO's Conference on Agrarian Reform. Apart from the role played by women in producing food and rural development, she also contributes to ensuring food security for the family. There is a growing awareness that there should be equality between men and women so that women can play their role as a social agent and mother fully, they contribute to food and agricultural production and in other sectors too.

In surveys carried out in the past, we have seen that, for example, in the rural exodus, mothers have been left behind in the country-side when their menfolk went to look for jobs in the towns. The results of surveys such as this show that we have already gone through the preliminary stages. Now we are hearing appeals for integration. It is important, therefore, for us to concentrate upon the support that we can offer rural women and her urban counterparts.

In fact, there are four main subjects that we are concentrating upon now. In the first sphere, it has turned out that women in rural areas do not compose a homogenous group and therefore it is important to organize women's roles in rural development in different activities. For example, we now have irrigation projects which are being paid for by the Government. We also have irrigation mini-projects in order to develop the growing of various crops. There is no discrimination made between men and women when these projects are proposed.

Women from both rich and poor families are treated alike. There is absolutely no discrimination made between professional families and working-class families. Women's roles must not be studied in the family alone. Her role must be studied insofar as it affects the relationship between rural and urban families, including the different types of kinship. This is done to help us pinpoint our targets better.

The second phenomenon we are studying is done to ensure that the efforts made by women in rural areas are not concentrated solely upon productive activities, because it is there women work more than anywhere else. But we also want to ensure that such factors as child-protection, health and hygiene, are included in these projects. We also want to ensure that these components are fitted in despite the tight budget. This type of development will be useless without a greater increase in resources. Women can play a fully productive role of benefit to her family if given the opportunity. That is why she must be integrated into all agrarian development efforts. In order to do this, women and her problems must be taken into consideration when drawing up plans and programmes. All economic and social obstacles must be removed, even with banks and financing institutions so that women can apply for loans and credit to help them in their production efforts and also market them.

We must also do away with all kinds of discrimination. This kind of discrimination prevents women from obtaining credit, for example, and other facilities. In the Near East many women are unable fully to enjoy their rights of inheritance. They are deprived of their property by their male kin. Only the boys or the men in a family are allowed to inherit, and they are the ones who take over fixed and other assets. I therefore urge that

women be allowed to take part in decision making, both regionally and nationally, so that they can help to evaluate the programmes and projects which involve them, especially the rural projects, which would then better serve their interests.

when we look at the document before us, I think we have to say that there is a lack of recognition of the role of women in producing food. I think the position and role of women should be recognized everywhere, not just in rural areas. Obviously we must consider women and include them in all developments so that they can enjoy all possibilities and opportunities. There are many bureaucratic obstacles. Women suffer from lack of information, and new obstacles are constantly being put in their way which prevent them having access to higher positions.

We need new initiatives to enable to overcome past social practice. We have already urged that training plans be prepared and workshops and seminars held which will help women to carry out tasks in management and take decisions. Despite the progress that has been made as a result of the Decade for Women, projects and plans which are put into practice in the Near East do not sufficiently emphasize the integration of urban and rural women. We must put this right. I have noticed that women's participation in the planning, evaluation and implementation of plans in the Near East has not been very marked. Nobody has tried to ensure that women play a greater role in that. In fact, women very rarely work as managers in the Near East; they are few and far between indeed. This is due, I am sure, to lack of information and training.

In conclusion, I should like to say that my delegation fully supports the resolution to increase women's participation in all areas.

**Sidi Ould ISMAIL (Mauritanie):** Merci M. le Président. Au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais manifester à l'endroit du Secrétariat ma satisfaction pour les efforts déployés à la préparation des documents intitulés "Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement" et "Rapport d'activité sur la mise en oeuvre de ce Plan d'action".

Mon pays, conscient du rôle éminent et irremplaçable que doit jouer la femme dans le développement de la société, a toujours accordé tout l'intérêt requis pour son épanouissement et son intégration dans toutes les activités. C'est à ce titre qu'un département ministériel chargé de la condition féminine a été créé en guise de reconnaissance pour son rôle vital et pour identifier et lever toutes les contraintes au plein exercice de son rôle. Le titulaire de ce poste est également une femme.

Cette initiative, bien que relativement récente, s'est déjà traduite par des résultats concrets qui encouragent à persévérer dans cette voie. Mon pays, qui compte parmi les plus petits pays sur le plan démographique et qui a donc besoin de la participation de toute la population à l'oeuvre de l'édification nationale, est conscient du rôle que doit jouer la femme dans ce contexte, et souscrit pleinement au Plan d'action soumis aujourd'hui à notre examen.

Je me réjouis de constater que le Secrétariat a défini les priorités en se basant sur les recommandations de la 94ème session du Conseil, tout ce que je relève avec satisfaction que les divisions techniques ont inscrit dans leur programme l'intégration effective des femmes par le biais d'activités techniques concrètes.

Il faut espérer que dans le futur de telles initiatives iront en s'améliorant afin que les femmes soient des participants et des bénéficiaires à part entière des programmes et des projets.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais revenir sur les priorités et faire des remarques sur quelques-unes d'entre elles: au niveau de la formation de personnel, pour le sensibiliser aux connaissances et aux méthodes de travail nécessaires pour réussir l'intégration réelle des femmes, il est recommandé que cette formation soit aussi entreprise pour les responsables nationaux des pays membres directement concernés par la planification ou l'exécution technique des programmes.

Par ailleurs, j'adhère à l'idée de réorienter la formation des agents chargés de la vulgarisation qui sont en définitive le fer de lance pour le transfert des nouvelles technologies. Cette formation doit à mon avis concerner les institutions de formation à tous les niveaux.

Au niveau de l'assistance technique, il est important de créer ou de renforcer dans les pays membres des unités spécialisées dotées de l'expertise technique nécessaire pour promouvoir le rôle des femmes dans le développement.

Enfin, si nous convenons que le temps des petits projets de bien-être social des femmes est révolu, et qu'avec ce Plan d'action nous entrons dans une nouvelle ère, qui je l'espère, contribuera effectivement à aider les femmes des zones rurales, il est donc capital que le Secrétariat soit doté des moyens nécessaires pour la réalisation de ce vaste programme.

**Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentine)** El tema que nos ocupa tiene gran significación para la República Argentina. Nos unimos a las manifestaciones de aprecio a la Secretaría expresadas por todas las Delegaciones que nos precedieron en el uso de la palabra. Estimamos que la Conferencia debe expresar su complacencia con lo actuado por el Consejo en seguimiento de las resoluciones adoptadas durante su 24<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones.

En lo que se refiere al trabajo efectuado por la Secretaría de la FAO y a la documentación presentada para este tema del Programa, hacemos nuestra la intervención del señor Representante de Canadá, que apoyamos plenamente. Quisiéramos señalar, sin embargo, a la atención de la Secretaría que la comunicación mencionada en el párrafo 40 del documento C 89/14 no ha sido hecha al Gobierno de mi país.

En relación con el proyecto de resolución que figura en el documento C 89/LIM/37, la Delegación argentina tiene objeción en lo que se refiere al párrafo 3, en su introducción y en su inciso c), los que esperamos que sean modificados en el momento de considerarse su texto.

**Raphaël RABE (Madagascar):** Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. La délégation malgache félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document présenté. Elle note avec satisfaction que, depuis l'approbation du Plan d'action par la 94<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil, des dispositions utiles ont été prises, notamment la définition des priorités.

Nous sommes en particulier satisfaits de la sélection des sept priorités sur le plan du programme. Bien qu'elles soient aussi importantes les unes que les autres, nous voudrions attirer l'attention sur trois d'entre elles qui nous paraissent très importantes pour notre pays.

Tout d'abord, pour mieux former et sensibiliser les femmes, ainsi que les agriculteurs qui travaillent dans la production agricole et le développement rural dans nos pays, la formation du personnel sur les questions relatives à l'intégration des femmes dans le développement est nécessaire. Sur cet aspect fondamental, dans la mesure où cette intégration nécessite des connaissances, des méthodes et des outils de travail, il faudrait que les experts de terrain et le personnel de bureau de la FAO soient aussi formés, car ils sont bien entendu en contact direct avec nos responsables techniques et politiques.

Ensuite les conseils et assistance technique aux gouvernements membres pour constituer des unités techniques valables, pour promouvoir des programmes et projets pour les femmes, nous semblent d'une grande importance.

Enfin le développement et le suivi de projets de terrain, ici nous sommes particulièrement satisfaits de l'approche à deux volets adoptée par le Plan et confirmée dans le Rapport d'activité. Il faut déployer tous les efforts nécessaires pour que les femmes ne soient pas marginalisées dans les ghettos de petits projets sans envergure. Au contraire, leur rôle dans les grands projets de développement doit être amplifié et soutenu grâce à un accès plus grand à la terre, aux crédits et à tous les facteurs de production, au même titre que les hommes. Il est évident que la mise en oeuvre d'un programme aussi vaste nécessite des moyens à la hauteur des objectifs que nous voulons atteindre. Le Rapport d'activité mentionne l'allocation de budgets supplémentaires pour la mise en oeuvre du plan. Cependant, nous estimons que ce qui est inscrit est insuffisant et doit être augmenté. Nous recommandons donc que l'on en tienne compte, en tous cas lors du prochain biennium.

En outre, les ressources extrabudgétaires devraient être constituées. Nous lançons un appel dans ce sens auprès des donateurs. L'augmentation et le renforcement des ressources humaines est aussi nécessaire tant dans nos pays que dans les structures de l'Organisation. Nous souscrivons à l'objectif de 30 pour cent de personnel féminin dans le cadre organique à atteindre d'ici 1995, et recommandons un accroissement sensible des candidats provenant des pays du Tiers Monde.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola) : En ce qui concerne les documents C 84/14 et C 89/14-sup.I, je me félicite du travail de qualité que le Secrétariat a réalisé pour présenter à la Conférence des documents riches en informations.

C'est avec une attention particulière que la délégation a parcouru les deux documents qui nous présentent, d'une part, le Rapport d'activité de la FAO sur la mise en oeuvre du Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement (PAIFD) et, d'autre part, le Plan d'action pour l'intégration dans le développement.

En Angola, l'intégration de la femme dans le développement est pris dans un contexte général pour la reconstruction nationale. Quatre-vingt pour cent de la population vit de l'agriculture et se trouve dans les zones rurales; 60 pour cent de cette population sont des femmes, ceci montre quelle importance la délégation angolaise attache à ce Plan d'action.

L'Organisation de la femme angolaise a organisé son Congrès en 1983. A l'issue de celui-ci, d'importantes décisions ont été prises. Sa matérialisation bien que lente est la tâche non seulement de cette organisation féminine mais aussi de toutes les structures de notre parti et de l'Etat.

Les décisions dont je viens de parler figurent dans le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des faunes dans le développement. Par conséquent, ita délégation, cerane celles qui l'ont précédée, partage les mêmes avis en appuyant le document C 89/13 et C 89/14-sup.l. Elle demande à tous les pays membres de la FAO que les éléments qui y sont repris soient matérialisés. Pour terminer mon intervention, je voudrais attirer l'attention de l'auguste Commission sur le fait qu'il est prévu au début du mois de décembre 1989 l'élection des membres du Conseil qui vont siéger dans le Cernite du prograitme et dans le Cernite financier. S'il est vrai que nous satmes tous en faveur de l'intégration de la femme dans le développement, nos déclarations ne seront pas lettre morte. Je propose aux membres d'appuyer en premier lieu, les candidatures des pays au Conseil, qui vont présenter des femmes. Je vous remercie.

**Marco ALANDIA (Bolivia)** : En primer lugar, la delegación de Bolivia felicita a la FAO por el documento propuesto del Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo. En seguida haré una breve reseña de la situación de la mujer en mi país.

Tradicionalmente, la mujer en Bolivia ha sido considerada como el centro del núcleo familiar. En el sector agrícola, una vez hecha la reforma agraria en 1952, la mujer inició un papel de creciente participación en la sociedad. El Estado, consciente de la necesidad de promocionar a la mujer, dictó una serie de medidas legales que manifiestan su voluntad de incorporarla a diversas esferas de la vida y a la protección de sus derechos. Tal es el caso de los códigos civiles, la legislación sobre familia y menor, la ley general del trabajo y otras disposiciones. Esto ha permitido que la mujer esté mejor integrada a la sociedad, por lo menos teóricamente. Considerando que la población campesina en Bolivia es el 60 por ciento del total, la legislación indicada tiene una gran importancia para nosotros. Sin embargo, estamos conscientes de que aún existe un largo camino por recorrer para la incorporación de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo.

Por todo lo anterior, la delegación de Bolivia expresa su apoyo al documento del Plan de Acción de la FAO.

**Calixte ALAPINI (Bénin)**: Monsieur le Président, ma délégation prenant la parole pour la première fois au sein de notre Commission, je voudrais tout d'abord vous remercier pour la manière très sage et très remarquable dont vous assurez la conduite de nos travaux. Je voudrais dire surtout la satisfaction de ma délégation pour ce point que vous nous donnez l'occasion d'examiner depuis hier. Je crois que nous avons, au cours de cette conférence, abordé des points et formulé des propositions qui, si elles sont bien exécutées, permettront à notre grande Organisation qu'est la FAO de faire un grand pas en avant.

Ce que ma délégation retire particulièrement de toutes les séances de travail, tant en plénière que dans les cornassions, c'est la volonté manifeste des uns et des autres de rendre la FAO plus forte que jamais. C'est la preuve qu'aucune nation n'a rien à gagner de l'appauvrissement d'une autre.

Pour en venir à ce point précis sur le rôle de la femme dans le développement, je voudrais me permettre de poser quelques questions: quelle place tient-elle dans le développement de notre société et de nos économies d'aujourd'hui? Peut-on vraiment prétendre à l'autosuffisance alimentaire et à



la sécurité alimentaire sans se préoccuper davantage dans la libération de la femme? Dans le contexte des pays en développement où le secteur primaire est le secteur dominant, comment la femme contribue-t-elle à la survie de la famille?

Les réponses à toutes ces questions permettent d'affirmer ce que nous savons tous déjà, à savoir que la femme occupe une place de choix dans le processus de développement. C'est malheureusement la femme qui assure encore les corvées les plus rudes: la collecte de l'eau qui demande de longues heures de marche, ainsi que la participation à des activités souvent bien peu rémunérées par l'homme.

En République populaire du Bénin, où les femmes occupent 52 pour cent de la population totale, on note aujourd'hui beaucoup de groupements de femmes autour des activités telles que la transformation des produits agricoles, la production maraîchère et le petit élevage, la commercialisation des produits agricoles, des produits d'élevage et de pêche. Ces actions méritent d'être soutenues car elles constituent des garanties sûres pour la survie des ménages et pour le développement de notre économie. Certains partenaires du développement soutiennent déjà ces actions à travers des programmes de fonds de développement villageois, et financent ces microprojets.

Il est souhaitable que la FAO joue un rôle de plus en plus prépondérant dans ce cadre. C'est pourquoi l'examen de ce point doit recevoir une attention toute particulière au niveau individuel et collectif de la part de toutes les délégations.

Pour ma part, la délégation béninoise formule le vœu que tous les Etats Membres approuvent le Plan d'action en faveur des femmes tel que proposé avec les programmes y afférents prévus dans les documents C 89/14-sup.1 et C 89/14/Rev.1.

Roberto FONCE (Ecuador): Mi delegación desea expresar su apoyo al Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural, como una consecuencia lógica del convencimiento que tiene el Gobierno ecuatoriano sobre el papel fundamental que desempeña la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo del país; no solamente en el sector agrícola y rural, sino dentro de una concepción integral, que presupone la participación activa de todas las fuerzas vivas de una nación en este proceso.

Este convencimiento se traduce en varias acciones tendientes a promover la participación de la mujer en nuevas actividades socioeconómicas y a impulsar una mayor presencia de la misma en aquellos sectores en los cuales ya ha tenido una participación tradicional. Sin embargo, buena parte de estos esfuerzos deben necesariamente dedicarse a programas orientados a solucionar algunos problemas graves que afectan a buena parte de la población femenina del país. Especial énfasis se ha puesto en los programas de carácter nutricional y educativo para embarazadas y lactantes, de educación especial para obreras, de alfabetización a todo nivel, de cuidados sanitarios en el campo y otros que sería largo enumerar. Sin embargo, mi país está consciente de que éstos son apenas paliativos que no solucionan el problema de fondo, el cual tiene raíces muy profundas, y por ello pensamos que son elementos prioritarios de todo plan dirigido a colocar a la mujer en efectiva paridad de condiciones con el hombre las esferas de lo jurídico y lo social. Sin una estructura jurídica que la respalde, no podrá la mujer ocupar el sitio que le corresponde, y sin que se le brinden iguales oportunidades para educación, trabajo y perfeccionamiento, no podrá desempeñar el importante rol que debe tener dentro del conglomerado social.

Estos son aspectos que, trasladados al escenario del medio rural, se tornan realmente dramáticos. En mi país, el aporte de la mujer campesina, como bien la ha llamado la distinguida Embajadora de Venezuela, es fundamental y prácticamente insustituible. Cuando el hombre de campo emigra a la ciudad en busca de trabajo, quien sostiene la pequeña parcela agrícola es la mujer, quien mantiene los hijos es la mujer, quien sufre los problemas de la falta de estructura sanitaria, de la falta de asistencia social, de la falta de crédito, es la mujer. Evidentemente, este problema de la mujer en el medio rural, de la mujer campesina, es un problema común a casi la totalidad de los países en desarrollo. Por ello, mi delegación aplaude la iniciativa de la FAO de llevar adelante este plan de acción y tiene la esperanza de que la Organización logre traducir en apoyos concretos, en aportes concretos, tanto en el plano financiero como en el técnico, las numerosas manifestaciones favorables realizadas en esta sala, a fin de que este Plan pueda hacerse realidad en un breve tiempo.

**S.K. JANNEH (Gambia):** I thank you Mr Chairman. My delegation wishes to place on record its unequivocal and unqualified endorsement and support for the document before us, namely the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. In so doing Mr Chairman, I would like to stress the importance my Government attaches to the vital role women play in agricultural production - food production in particular - and rural development. In recognition of this crucial role of women in our socio-economic development, the Government of The Gambia has established a National Women's Bureau and a Women's Council, with the President of the Republic himself holding the portfolio for Women's Affairs.

To accord practical manifestation to the pivotal role of women in national development, my Government has initiated concrete measures to integrate women into those facets of our social and economic life in which they are particularly active, namely in the area of food production and processing, horticulture, handicrafts, health, family welfare, etc.

In pursuit of its development goals and objectives for women, my Government has also recently contracted a sizeable loan with the World Bank to finance a multi-faceted pilot project designed to address the key areas I have just mentioned. The emphasis is on such priorities as training, skills development, credit for agriculture and small-scale industries, livestock production etc.

Mr Chairman, despite this setting up of the national institutions and the elaboration of action plans I have referred to, there are still a number of problems and obstacles on the road to full integration of Gambian women in the development process. There are still a number of social, cultural and religious obstacles which militate against them as equal partners and beneficiaries in socio-economic development.

These developments, obstacles and barriers are of particular relevance to rural women whose contribution to national development and prosperity is crucial, and whose lot so badly needs improvement.

In this context my delegation fully shares the sentiments of the delegate of Venezuela on the plight of rural women throughout the developing world and the dire need to improve the quality of their life consonant with the level of their contribution to development.

To conclude, my Government has taken a modest but significant step towards this topical issue of the integration of women in development. Much remains to be accomplished, but given the level of political will and commitment, as well as international cooperation and assistance, I am confident that we shall succeed.

Ms Leopoldina DÍAS (Mozambique) : Mr Chairman, as this is the first time that my delegation has taken the floor in this Commission, I should like to congratulate you on your nomination to chair this distinguished Commission.

I should also like to congratulate the FAO which has brought to this forum the discussion of this important topic, the integration of women in development.

My delegation is particularly impressed with the way in which this subject has been discussed and supported by all member countries, and would like to take the opportunity to thank FAO and all the governments, in particular the Swedish Government for their special financial support to make effective this Plan of Action.

My Government fully supports the Plan of Action and requests special attention to my country as concerns the subject. For that purpose, we are inviting an FAO consultancy to help the Government design projects not only for women but where they can participate at the same level, considering their present problems and the difficulties of integration.

From the legal point of view there is no difference between men and women in my country in terms of salary or of participation in development in general at a very high level. We have a good example of this in the Ministry of Agriculture where I am. There are a considerable number of women participating and occupying very important positions at the Ministry, but in rural areas women do not have the same opportunities. They are the ones who produce the food for their families, do all the housework, including searching for firewood and water. They have no facilities to alleviate their jobs and tasks.

Apart from other measures which can be taken by any member country to help women in development, my delegation is of the opinion that FAO can contribute and strengthen its efforts in transferring technology to women in agriculture in order to increase yields and productivity. On the other hand, FAO can also play an important role in education programmes.

Speaking as a woman, I want to assure you that we are very strong. If we can change present attitudes in relation to women in development there is no doubt that the goals which countries and humanity in general are expecting to achieve will be multiplied, and it will be possible to reduce poverty and food security problems in our poor countries.

Concerning the integration of women in the vacant posts of FAO, we support this intention, but in order to achieve this goal the FAO has to review the procedures and conditions regarding transfer to other countries. It is not easy to leave the family and children in order to work in Rome or in other countries for some years, so my delegation suggests that FAO also consider that issue.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Disculpe por haberle pedido la palabra a esas alturas de nuestros debates. Sin embargo, el hecho de que intervengamos después de haber escuchado más de 70 delegaciones, lo cual nos demuestra la importancia de este tema, nos va a permitir ser sumamente breves.

La delegación de El Salvador desea ratificar en esta Conferencia el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer al Desarrollo, aprobado por el Consejo de la FAO en su 94<sup>o</sup> período de sesiones en noviembre de 1988.

Considera mi delegación que la aprobación de este Plan es un paso muy importante en el camino hacia una verdadera integración de la mujer en el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos. Este Plan nos llevará a establecer las herramientas adecuadas para lograr la integración de la mujer rural en la vida económica de nuestros países, que es el fin primordial que nunca debemos olvidar.

El informe que se nos presenta en esta oportunidad sobre los avances logrados hasta el momento en la aplicación del Plan, nos parece adecuado. Sin embargo, creemos que debemos hacer todavía más esfuerzos, y sobre todo, como ya lo dijo nuestra delegación en la Comisión II cuando debatimos el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, estimamos fundamental contar con una asignación dentro del Programa Ordinario, que garantice junto con recursos extrapresupuestarios la efectiva aplicación del Plan.

Hay que recordar que el Plan de Acción es de mediano plazo, es decir, que abarca tres bienios. Por ello, consideramos fundamental contar con los recursos en forma bastante segura. No nos gustaría ver disminuir el ritmo de acción de la aplicación del Plan. Aprovecho para agradecer a esta Organización la asistencia que se nos está proporcionando en este campo a través del proyecto; Incorporación de la Mujer Campesina al Desarrollo de Pequeños Proyectos Productivos.

Con relación al Proyecto de Resolución presentado por la delegada de Costa Rica y sometido a nuestra atención en el documento 89/LIM/37, la delegación de El Salvador lo apoya con reservas en el numeral 3 de la misma.

Para concluir, deseamos apoyar la declaración hecha en esta sala por la delegada de Honduras, en el sentido que no debemos entender por integración el dar una mayor carga de trabajo a la mujer.

A. Alim EADZI (Indonesia): Indonesian women play a pivotal role in the development and production of food and agriculture. To be in line with the Plan's objective, where women are accorded equal rights and opportunities, women's participation in development strategies and programmes, as well as in incentive programmes and projects in the field of food and agriculture, need to be designed in a manner that will fully integrate women at all levels of planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and in all stages of the development process, to ensure that women receive proper benefit and remuneration commensurate with their important contribution in this field. Moreover, women should be fully integrated and involved in the technological research and energy aspects of food and agricultural development.

In the civil status sphere, gender-related analysis appears to be the most suitable approach for a pluralistic community like Indonesia. It is therefore suggested that this analysis should be taken into consideration in any approach and methodology of community study.

In the economic sphere, enhancing women's role in agriculture and the rural economy by developing the capabilities of farm women to organize themselves in business activities through training at all levels, and their ability to adapt to the transformation from a subsistence farm into a market oriented enterprise.

In the social sphere, research on women should be carried out to include identification of the problems and constraints faced by women, whether in their position as a social element or as participants in the processes of production and consumption, including nutritional considerations and the socialization of children. Extension programmes should be improved and should take into consideration the needs of women.

In the decision-making sphere, the Plan should also envisage a study which will emphasize the inter-relationship between government and private institutions or non-government organizations dealing with women in every level of society.

CHAIRMAN: We have now reached the conclusion of our debate. We had 65 speakers, of which 19 were women, so we nearly reached the 30 percent proportion that we expect from FAO concerning women's participation in our work.

This has been a very interesting and important debate, and before I give the floor to the Secretariat to answer various questions from the floor, I shall hear observers from 5 international organizations.

The debate on this issue took much longer than expected, so we would like to have their understanding to limit their statements to a brief comment on our work and the work of their organizations on this subject.

The delegations of Egypt and Ghana have asked that their statements be included in our verbatim record. If I see no objection it will be done.

Adel Helmy EL SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic) : The Egyptian delegation, after considering document C 89/14-Supplement 1, dealing with the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, would like to thank the Secretariat for the good preparation of this document. The Egyptian delegation agrees with the meaning of paragraph 4 of this document that the FAO Plan of Action is an adaptation and amplification of the objectives and strategies in FAO's specific areas, and would like to express its satisfaction on the strategy framework of this Plan, with special reference to FAO actions in the following fields, "Economic sphere, Food Processing and Marketing, Employment, and the Social sphere".

Egypt believes deeply that women play an effective and vital role in achieving economic and social development. Therefore my country is doing its best in providing and making available all means to enable women to implement their role in serving the community, especially in the agricultural one.

Women in Egypt enjoy all rights in respect to land tenure, obtaining loans, membership of cooperatives. The Government also provides women with social services. We are looking for a mutual cooperation with FAO within the framework of this Plan in order to increase efficiency in producing food and increasing agricultural production.

In my country women fill some high-ranking posts in the Government.

The Egyptian delegation thanks FAO for this Plan, and hopes that the necessary funds to complement it will be made available.<sup>1/</sup>

Joseph Turkson (Ghana): Like the preceding speakers, permit me to express my sincere thanks for allowing my delegation to put across its view on this very important topic: Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development.

Ghanaian women play a vital role in the country's economy particularly in its agricultural sector. The handicaps and constraints they face in their livelihoods are similar to those faced by many of Africa's rural women. They constitute 51 percent of Ghana's total population and also 51 percent of the country's work force. Ghanaian women are a major force in agriculture and farming is their main occupation in the rural areas. In Ghana women are also an ever-growing proportion of the modern labour force though usually they hold low-, middle-level and service-oriented jobs. In spite of their contributions as both economic agents and as keepers of the family, Ghanaian women after find themselves in a disadvantaged position in terms of the overall benefits of national development and to national services such as education, agricultural extension and credit.

Mr Chairman, it is worth noting that it is the commitment of the Government of Ghana to ensure Ghanaian women full participation in development and equal share in the benefits accruing from overall public investment efforts. Thus efforts are underway at the national and local levels to incorporate women into all mainstream activities.

Many specific agencies and projects for women exist in Ghana both at national and local levels. These, Mr Chairman, focus on women's problems and in particular on the problems of rural women.

Mr Chairman, to name these agencies:

1. The National Council on Women and Development (NCWD) - a statutory body set up by the government to advise on all matters relating to the full integration of women in national development at all levels. Its main task is coordination.
2. The 31st December Women Movement - an activist movement in the current revolutionary process with the aim of mobilizing and organizing the women of Ghana into a concrete form to advance and to defend the interests of women in all spheres of political, economic and social life. One of the objectives stressed is the engagement of women in productive activities which raise their standard of living to eliminate their reliance on men.
3. The Women Farmers' Extension Division - a wing of the Ministry of Agriculture which has the responsibility of ensuring that women farmers have full access to technology and extension services to enable them to improve their productivity. The main focus of their group is nutrition in relation to food production and diet improvement, food utilization, food processing, produce preservation and storage, and farm and home resources management.

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1 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

The delegation of Ghana has taken note of the Director-General's increased allocation of resources to the programme of integrating women into agricultural and development and wholeheartedly supports it. Indeed this action complements our attempts in Ghana to integrate women into the economic, social and decision-making spheres through continuing governmental support.

Mr Chairman, my delegation wants to be brief; it therefore ends its intervention by endorsing without any reservation the resolution on the Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development.<sup>2/</sup>

Bashir S. MUNTASSER (UNFPA) : It is a pleasure for me to attend the meeting of this Commission during the discussion of Item 11, the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development, on behalf of UNFPA. The issue we are discussing is very near to our hearts in UNFPA and it is not by chance that UNFPA is the first United Nations organization to be headed by a woman, and that the percentage of women in UNFPA Professional staff is about 40 this year. This is, in fact reflecting the importance UNFPA and the international community are giving to the issue of women.

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the crucial issues of women's role and participation in population and development activities. Because of the importance of these issues for all aspects of development, including population, UNFPA has devoted its 1989 State of World Population Report to the theme of "Investing in Women".

The UNFPA report argues that the extent to which women are free to make decisions affecting their lives may be the key to the future well-being of humankind. As mothers, as producers or suppliers of food, fuel and water, as traders, as manufacturers and as political and community leaders women are at the centre of the process of change. The report makes a number of specific recommendations and suggests specific goals for the year 2000. One of the most important areas the report addresses is the education of women because of its impact on fertility and the quality of life of the family as a whole.

UNFPA has provided assistance to programmes and projects in more than 140 countries intended to bring about the meaningful involvement of local communities in maternal child health and family planning activities and special programmes for women.

Women were trained in income generation skills and provided with education on counselling services in health, family planning, nutrition and sanitation. Emphasis is given to developing programmes which can be conducted in the villages. These encourage the maximum participation of those women who are generally too busy to attend centre-based activities. Women's greater participation in these activities will help in redefining the role of women within the family, improve the quality of life, increase rural employment and reduce high birth rates and infant mortality.

UNFPA supported FAO's inter-regional programmes which provided technical advice and support for regional and country population projects, for including population in regular projects implemented by FAO, and for including rural education, communication, training and women's concerns. To ensure that women's concerns are taken into account all UNFPA projects are to be appraised against a checklist before approval to ensure that women

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2 Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

participate in the planning, formulation and implementation of these projects, that women are benefitting from these projects, and that their concerns are taken care of.

I will finish by saying that UNFPA has given great importance to its collaboration with FAO since its inception and will continue its collaboration with FAO in implementing and supporting population programmes in rural development and information and education activities and in the implementation of FAO's Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development.

Idris NUR (Observer for the Organization of African Unity) : My delegation appreciates the work of FAO as reflected in C 89/14 and its supplement. We also appreciate the initiative taken by FAO for the implementation of the Plan at the level of its Secretariat. My delegation has the following points to make.

First, when someone talks about a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development, one starts thinking about its implementation in countries that have the same capabilities, the same legal authority, the same level of development, and the same living conditions. In reality the situation is not so. Different countries are at different stages of development; different countries have different resources, different administrative structures; and the national strategy with respect to women differs from one country to another. Also, different countries follow different religions, have different cultures, traditions and legal authorities with respect to women. Thus this document and the reference should not be entitled "FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development"; instead it should be called "Guidelines for a Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development". It could also be called a format or a manual for a plan of action.

There is no standard plan of action for integrating women in development. All possible formats of such a plan must contain certain elements that can make it more effective. Moreover, it is not appropriate to recommend a rigid plan for all countries, since each country has its own peculiarities.

Second, the guidelines for the Plan of Action are multi-sectoral and inter-disciplinary, and, therefore, require the involvement of several organizations at the same time, to be coordinated by FAO.

Third, in the guidelines for the Plan of Action we suggest the inclusion of a section entitled "Follow-up, implementation and monitoring". This could include the following points. Member countries should set up specific annual goals with respect to women in development. Member countries should reappraise the ongoing projects and programmes related to women with a view to ensuring that they contribute to the realization of the objectives contained in the guidelines in the Plan of Action. Monitoring at regional level should be an inter-agency exercise involving all relevant organizations.

Fourth, what is the basic role of women, and what are the problems that women face in rural areas? If the human race is to continue, women have to continue their important role as mothers. The question of women in development is not an issue of controversy. The integration of women in production is a false issue as women have already been integrated in the production and development processes. They grow, process, market, store and prepare food. The role of women was recognized many years ago by different countries, and quite a number of women occupy leading posts in their respective countries and in different international and regional organizations.



Thus, with respect to women in development we have to look at the whole issue as a package, in totality and not in isolation. We have to look at the issue globally. Women's role in development needs to be considered as an important productivity issue which should become an integral part of the planning process. The contribution of women in agriculture has to receive policy recognition. Policy makers have to be sensitized on the issue.

The problems of women in rural areas, especially in Africa, include: illiteracy; scarcity of water in rural areas; firewood collection; presence of small children, which inhibits women's labour availability and mobility; limited access to credit, land and agricultural inputs; marketing.

Fifth, women and men are complementary to each other. Women's problems do not need to be solved by women; men have to be equally associated with women's problems. There are certain tasks reserved for men and there are certain tasks reserved for women. Absence of males or migration of males raises the percentage of households headed by women. In Africa it is 22 percent, Near East 16 percent and Latin America 15 percent.

Sixth, representation by women is minimal, even in this room. The participation of women must come through the process of awareness, assessment and action.

Seventh, there is need for investigation of this situation where male extension workers are expected to advise the women farmers in Africa. Women farmers occupy a dominant role in Africa's agricultural development. This problem could be approached by re-designing the extension training course so that the extension workers are motivated and sensitized to women-felt needs and also by training more women extension workers.

Eighth, we should not run away from religions. Some of the religions spell out certain issues with respect to women.

Gerard KIELY (EEC): On behalf of the European community, I should like to congratulate the FAO on its Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. After the UN Decade for Women and the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, we all agree that there is no longer a need for justifying women in development as a component in any development process. The time has come to develop methodologies that will assist the implementation of women in development. In this process the FAO, too, has an important role to play as it can provide guidance to governments that may enable them to introduce equitable institutional mechanisms, which will govern and facilitate women's access to resources.

In the international community, it is generally acknowledged that an effort must be made to gather gender-disaggregated data, and the Community welcomes the fact that the FAO will set up a global data base on women in development and that the 1990 Round of World Agriculture Census will contain a full analysis of the data by gender. In our view, this will definitely be a useful support instrument for everybody concerned with implementing women in development.

This concern has been expressed by the Council of the European Communities on several occasions, specifically in its inclusion of May this year. I would like to use this opportunity to give you a brief summary of the Community policy on women in development and to touch upon some of the progress made.

Firstly, the Community intends to take systematic account of women's role in all its development programmes. Women are seen not only as beneficiaries of development programmes but as active agents, and their participation must be sought on equal terms with men. This policy will also be further developed in the new Lome Convention which is currently being negotiated with the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Even though the negotiation of the Convention is not yet finalized, it was a joint African, Caribbean and Pacific/European Community wish from the start that the issue of women in development should be reflected in all chapters of the Convention concerning rural development. As regards other women-in-development-related actions of the European Community, I would like to refer to the evaluation of ten mainstream European Development Fund-financed rural development projects which was launched in 1988. This evaluation, which covers the sectors of agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, and drinking water supply, is currently going into its final phase in which a synthesis report with recommendations will be drawn up. Our intention is to follow this up with sectoral guidelines on women in development, as well as to improve project procedures.

Another initiative I should like to mention, is the launching of country profiles which describe women's social, cultural and economic roles in a given country. There has been great interest expressed by the ACP countries, as well as by our delegations in getting such profiles that may assist the national administration, NGOs and the Commission Delegations in identifying areas of concern for women in that specific country.

Let me conclude by reiterating that women's economic roles, whether in agriculture, industry or whatever, are fundamental to the development of all societies. The European Community welcomes this FAO plan of action for the integration of women and appreciates the role the FAO is prepared to play in the development of opportunities for women within the area of its mandate.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développements économiques):  
M. le Président, je vous remercie de me donner la parole et je vous félicite pour votre magnifique façon de conduire les travaux. Je remercie et je félicite aussi M. Dutia pour sa brillante introduction à ces documents si riches et complets. Le Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes pour le développement est justement encadré dans un contexte très large car la femme a les mêmes droits que l'homme.

Son rôle est essentiel tant au niveau de la famille qu'à celui de la société. Sans doute pour l'explication de certaines activités, une relative formation est nécessaire, mais celle-ci est indispensable aussi pour l'homme. Entre autres, je voudrais souligner l'importance de la femme dans le secteur de l'alimentation et de la nutrition. A cet égard, nous pouvons affirmer que la bonne santé d'une famille dépend surtout de la femme, de son intelligence, de son sens de l'économie, de ses connaissances en matière d'alimentation, des normes diététiques, de son intuition, de sa gaieté et de sa bonne humeur, car il est scientifiquement confirmé que la joie de vivre aide l'organisme à créer des anticorps.

En ce qui concerne les discriminations qui existent encore, celles-ci sont souvent de véritables injustices qu'il faut éliminer. La femme mérite tout respect, toute aide, toute compréhension de la part la communauté. Elle est patiente et résistante, elle travaille et sait souffrir jusqu'à aller souvent au-delà du seuil de résistance plus que l'homme. Son rôle est essentiel, sans elle la vie serait impossible.

En général, elle est l'administratrice scrupuleuse et fidèle de la maison.

En ce qui concerne en particulier le droit au crédit, je pense qu'en général la femme assure toute garantie nécessaire, on peut lui faire confiance. Pour la même raison, il faut lui donner la possibilité d'agir dans le secteur des coopératives et dans les associations et groupements de paysans. La femme, carme il a été répété, représente un véhicule précieux dans l'éducation des enfants, sa douceur et sa grâce sont irremplaçables. Ses droits sont les mêmes que ceux de l'homme, et là où elle a pu les exercer, elle a donné la confirmation de ses brillantes capacités. Que le monde rende donc justice à cette merveille de la création.

**Mrs Barbara COLEMAN-SANTQRO (Observer for the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations):** Thank you for giving the World Women's Organization the fial say, last but not least. I am speaking today for the World Union of Catholic Women's Organization, the International Alliance of Women, the Association of Countrywomen of the World, and the International Council of Women, and we are seeking to endorse the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Development. We compliment the FAO on the high quality of documents C 89/14 and C 89/14-Sup.1, and would like to thank Mr Dutia for his fine introduction. We congratulate Dr Anita Spring and her very capable department for the excellence of their work and cooperation.

Together we four women INGOs represent over 70 million women in as many as 75 countries in the world. Certainly, if all the words and good intentions had been translated into reality, we would not have any comment to make today.

Simply stated, when women are not considered or involved, there is no development, rural or otherwise. The majority of inhabitants in most countries around the world are women. The very document that the delegates are discussing affirm that women's dignity as human beings must be the basis of their integration into socio-economic development and inter-rural progress. The United Nations have always pointed the way towards equality of rights and opportunities for women. Many of our INGO projects are based on the Nairobi Declaration, yet many Member Countries have not been able to follow the UN beacon. The delegates tell us of Government Agencies, bureaux, five-year plans - just for women. Yet women are denied access to credit, training, education and technology. Their basic rights are often determined by their relationship to a man, be they single, married or a widow. What about inherited rights? What rights do widows have to rural development when they are stripped of all they have and totally ostracized by social mores and practices in some countries just for the fact that the husband has died.

We urge all members to support the FAO Plan of Action for Integration of Women in Development and accord it top priority morally and financially. We urge those nations who so need to seek FAO expertise in setting priorities and plans of action that are result-oriented. The staff of FAO is undergoing a two-year training period so they may understand the concerns of women in agriculture. No tetter expertise could be offered to all civil servants and government workers who deal with rural development. Perhaps these workers could collaborate with FAO by taking up individual case studies to correlate to the technical department report to the Conference of 1991 to understand the actual extent how women have benefited in FAO projects and what factors have helped or constrained the success of these projects.

Training for women is essential. Yet it is the men who must be trained to change. They must be trained to change their attitudes and their hearts. MI delegates, please rest assured that if women are given the correct economic, civil and social rewards, they can even build roads, if they so desire.

B.P. DUTIA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): In the first instance, on behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to express our gratification for the widespread appreciation for the documents which we have presented as well as for the efforts that the Organization has made and is making in order to implement the Plan of Action. We have benefitted considerably from the rich and full debate that has taken place since yesterday on this very important item. We appreciate many useful citations that have been made as well as the observations made and considerable information that the delegates have given on the action that their governments are taking in implementing the plan. We shall indeed take all these issues into account in our future work.

In view of the limited time, it is not possible for the Secretariat to respond adequately to all the questions that have been raised, but we will try as much as possible. First of all, I would like to refer to the question raised by the distinguished delegate of the United States concerning the ranking of priorities other than the priority related to the training of FAO staff. In this connection, I would like to stress that in our view in order to implement the plan and to achieve the objectives, it is necessary to implement all the other priorities, their implementation is important, and this needs to be pursued.

It should also be recognized that these priorities are interlinked and progress on one is very much dependent on progress on the other.

For example, for rendering policy advice or to formulate projects, availability of relevant data, which would permit gender analysis as a pre-condition.

Similarly, policy advice to Member Governments often requires formulation and implementation of projects. In actual practice, we should also bear in mind that the relative importance of different priorities would vary considerably from country to country, depending on the specific characteristics and the requirements and the problems that need to be addressed.

Thus, while sequencing of action in pursuance of these priorities would obviously vary from country to country, it is difficult, if not impossible, to rank them in any unique manner at the global level.

I would now like to turn to the observation made by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom. He felt that the FAO Plan tried to cover too much ground and in doing so it impinged on the activities of some other agencies. The FAO Plan of Action has been designed following the recommendations of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women with particular reference to the food and agricultural sector.

The broad approach of the Nairobi Plan recommendations, as well as the emphasis given to the establishment of multi-sectoral programmes, necessitate that the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development should be broad based. Further, both the Nairobi Plan and the FAO Plan give high priority to inter-agency collaboration. FAO's collaboration with other agencies in the UN system in this field is briefly reported in paragraphs 65 to 72 of document C 89/14.

Regarding population education, to which the delegate of the United Kingdom specifically referred, I should like to point out that this is fully integrated in many FAO activities, and in particular in the programme for women. In this whole area we are closely collaborating with the United Nations Population Fund, and the Observer from that organization also referred briefly to the state of collaboration between that organization and FAO.

I should now like to turn to the request of the delegate of Canada for the monitoring of the increase in the female staff of FAO. This information is kept up to date by the Organization and it would not be at all difficult to report in our future documents on the progress made in this field. I should also like to mention, in response to the questions raised by some other delegations as to how we have fared in the past few years in this particular area, that at FAO Headquarters the representation of women professionals in 1983 was 15.5 percent, which has now increased to 17.7 percent in 1989, as of 30th September of this year. Of course, if one were to look at the representation of women professionals at all locations - that is, including the posts in the field - the percentage goes down. The percentage is still showing some increase from 1983 to 1989, from 8.9 percent to 10.2 percent. The reason for this is that the expertise which is required by FAO for the field posts in the specialized fields is not readily available. These posts are also hardship postings, for which it is often difficult to find women candidates.

I would also refer to the other question raised by the delegate of Canada as to how the Secretariat intended to follow up on the institution-wide approach on women-in-development concerns. Here our approach has several components. First is the training of FAO staff which will increase the awareness of women-in-development issues throughout the house and should lead to the inclusion of women's concerns and interests in project formulation and implementation. Second, on the Interdepartmental Working Group on WID, technical divisions and departments are represented from all over the Organization and many of these have appointed focal points on WID. These mechanisms would strengthen the Organization-wide approach. Third, the committees of the Organization, such as the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Committee on Forestry, etc., have included, or will include, in their agendas the consideration of women's issues in their respective technical fields. Lastly, the Organization also plans to generate gender-disaggregated data both in the short term and in the medium term. This will progressively permit incorporation of results of gender analysis in various documents and reports which the Organization will prepare in the future.

Many delegations have referred to the question of resources for the implementation of the Plan. As the document clearly states, so far as the 1990-91 biennium is concerned, provision has been made - of course, subject to the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget by this Conference - for some US\$ 2.7 million of Regular Programme resources, together with an estimated need of some US\$ 780 000 of extra-budgetary resources. It is clear from this that, subject to the approval of the budget, the Regular Programme resources proposed for the implementation of the Plan would form the major share of the resources needed to implement it in the next biennium. Over the subsequent two biennia, the Regular Programme resources availability will depend on the Programmes of Work and Budget that will be approved by the Conference in the future. As such, these cannot be anticipated at this stage in any definitive manner. However, if the proposed 1990-91 resource situation were to prevail - and we very much hope that it

will - the Regular Programme resources will again provide the major part of the resources that are needed for the implementation of the Plan. Nonetheless, the extra-budgetary resources will be needed to contribute to the fuller implementation of this Plan. Of course, all this assumes that nomai conditions will prevail with regard to both budget appropriations and contributions.

Rafael MORENO (Subdirector General y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe) : En primer lugar quisiera referirme a dos aspectos que han sido expuestos por las delegaciones durante el curso de este debate: las relaciones de la FAO con otras organizaciones del Sistema de Naciones Unidas en el campo de acción de la integración de la mujer, y los aspectos que tienen que ver con el rol de las organizaciones no gubernamentales, y la forma en que éstas están previstas en la implementación del Plan de Acción que aquí se ha estado discutiendo.

En primer término, quisiera informar y reiterar que la FAO viene ejerciendo desde hace prácticamente diez años el liderazgo en el Grupo de Acción del Cernite Administrativo y de Coordinación en materia de Desarrollo Rural en el seno de las Naciones Unidas. Y este liderazgo, que ha sido claramente aceptado y reconocido por todo el Sistema, en el cual hoy participan más de 27 agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, creó específicamente un grupo de trabajo, el cual originariamente, bajo la denominación de la Participación Popular, posteriormente se subdividió y creó un mecanismo para discutir todos los aspectos relacionados con el trabajo interagencial en materia de la integración de la mujer.

La FAO no escatimó esfuerzos -y lo reitero ante esta Comisión- no ha escatimado esfuerzos incluso en la época en la cual hemos contado con recursos extraordinariamente reducidos, recursos humanos, en el servicio de integración de la mujer, así como también en las divisiones que se ocupan en materia de desarrollo rural para estar presentes, apoyar y participar en todas las actividades que el Sistema internacional de las Naciones Unidas ha venido promoviendo en el campo de la integración de la mujer.

En reconocimiento de estos esfuerzos realizados por la FAO, se reiteró a nuestra Organización el liderazgo en lo que son las acciones en materia de la integración de la mujer rural.

Por lo tanto, todas las actividades que en este momento se están realizando en materia de acción en el campo rural, están orientadas bajo lo que es este Plan de Acción que ha sido conocido y discutido con otras agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas y esperamos que en el futuro la FAO pueda seguir evidenciando las actividades que hasta este momento la han distinguido en esta materia.

El segundo punto, es un aspecto que ha sido específicamente presentado por la distinguida delegación de Holanda la cual, como ha sido reconocido tanto en los documentos de la FAO como en el curso de este debate, se ha caracterizado por su disponibilidad y generosidad para apoyar, tanto el Plan de Acción de la Mujer, como el Plan de Participación Popular. Son dos programas que, si bien es cierto se itane jan por dos servicios distintos dentro de la Dirección de Recursos Húrtaños, instituciones de Reforna Agraria, como bien lo ha señalado la Delegación holandesa, deben en algún momento buscar un grado de complementariedad. Y esto es lo que en estos instantes está precisamente realizándose en la fase en que nos encontramos.

Esta Conferencia ha conocido el informe sobre lo que son los avances del Plan de Acción de Integración de la Mujer, el cual fue aprobado por el Consejo, en junio pasado, y de acuerdo con el mandato recibido viene a esta Conferencia. En el mismo Consejo, ya sea por iniciativa de la delegación de Holanda, como por otras delegaciones que se sumaron a dicha proposición, se le sugirió a la FAO, recordando lo que había sido la discusión del Comité de Agricultura de marzo del presente año, el que iniciase la fase preparatoria para formular lo que pudiera ser un Plan de Acción en materia de participación popular. No se le pidió a la FAO que se presentase en esta Conferencia. En el Informe del Consejo de la 95ª sesión que se celebró en junio del presente año, en el párrafo 157, queda establecido: que la FAO presentará al Consejo y a la Conferencia en su oportunidad un programa de acción en materia de participación popular.

Digo esto porque creo que lo manifestado por la distinguida delegación de Holanda de expresar su desaliento al no haber visto en esta Conferencia la presentación de este Plan, obviamente la FAO no está en condiciones de hacerlo, y además no le correspondía de acuerdo con la agenda. Lo que sí quiero decir, a nombre de la Secretaría, es que la Organización está trabajando en la preparación de este Plan el cual de acuerdo con lo que ha sido establecido, será presentado en el próximo Consejo y en la próxima Conferencia, Conferencia que en el año 1991, cuando corresponde presentar el tercer informe del proceso de las actividades del Plan de Acción aprobado para la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y de Desarrollo Rural, en dicho Plan se establecerá un capítulo especial que bajo la denominación de los avances logrados en materia de participación popular, incorporará lo que aquí se ha planteado: cual es la relación entre dicho Plan y lo que es la ejecución del Plan de Acción en materia de la mujer rural. No hay duda de que aquí hay un punto legítimamente colocado por la Delegación de Holanda, y otras delegaciones en la cual no se puede disociar lo que se hará en el Plan de Integración de la Mujer con aquel plan que será presentado y ejecutado para la incorporación de las organizaciones populares en la cual los organismos no gubernamentales jugarán un rol determinante.

Ms Anita SPRING (Chief, Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service) : I should like to thank the Chairman for his patience on this topic and the delegates who have given such hearty support both to the Plan of Action and to the Progress Report. I will answer questions on extension workers, which were raised by several delegations, on statistics and database within the Organization and on the training programme.

The question which was asked by the delegate from Tanzania and supported by other African countries on how to cope with the loss of women extension workers in the rural areas is also a concern to the FAO. It is a true situation that some women in the extension staff leave the service to return to urban areas or to seek work elsewhere. Examination of worldwide figures on the numbers and percentage of female extension staff has shown that their numbers are usually much lower than those of men and that their proportions are usually much fewer. In Africa only about 5 percent to 10 percent of the extension workers are women; in Asia it is higher, being 20 percent to 45 percent; while in Latin America and the Caribbean the figures are intermediate. Most of these women are concentrated in home economics positions, although some of them have been trained in agriculture.

In order to prevent the widespread migration of these trained women personnel from the extension service and from the rural areas, it is necessary to make changes in their conditions of work and to make these conditions of work more

attractive and to motivate these women through a clear career structure. To improve the conditions for these women in the short run, transportation from urban to rural areas and within the rural areas themselves needs to be improved. In addition, they need housing and medical facilities. They will also be motivated if they know that they can deliver mainstream services to rural women, a point which many delegations raised, these services being credit, agricultural inputs and new technologies.

In addition, new strategies to recruit and train these workers must be made, and this is part of the priority which we have on the assistance in the design of home economics and agricultural training programmes.

In some countries it has been possible for male extension workers to form a large proportion of the extension staff to work with both male and female farmers, often working with women in groups. They can thereby deliver to them the regular agricultural services and they can assist the women extension agent's work with rural women, a topic also of concern to many of those delegations here today.

Turning to the second question. To answer the question Which the United States' delegate raised recording the current state of gender data collection and how these issues will be addressed by the FAO in the coming biennium, I may briefly say the following: of course FAO is very much aware of the gaps, both qualitative and quantitative in available data on gender matters. In pursuance to Council Resolution 1/94, these issues have been very, very carefully considered and a paper that addresses three issues has been prepared. These issues are first:- intermediate steps to be undertaken by the FAO and other organizations of the UN system to improve the presentation of the data that already exists. Second, data collection measures to obtain from the national systems whatever is available to improve the quality and quantity of data; and third, longer-term measures including the development of the series of statistical indicators on women and agriculture, and the routine disaggregation of data by sex as aimed at improving the capacity of national systems to deal with these issues. FAO is taking the initiative to convene an inter-agency consultation in Rome next year in 1990 to cover the aspects that I have briefly mentioned.

The question of non-market production such as women's work in household farming, in the household, and as investment in human capital is still unaccounted for in the system of national accounts. That is true.

This fact has been underlined in the Plan of Action, in particular under the heading of the social sphere and in the economic sphere, and in relation to the subject of orienting farming systems' development and its application to inter-household dynamics and the division of labour.

The methodology to consider these important topics will be further developed as the data base for the Organization is conceived and developed.

Turning to the question that was asked by the distinguished delegate of The Netherlands on the training programme, let me say that I would like to explain the funding set aside for this training programme. Because of the crucial importance of staff training, FAO is devoting one-fifth of the Regular Programme Budget of my service, ESHW, to training activities for the biennium 1990/91. The training programme will be implemented in three phases as outlined in the Progress Report, namely the preparatory phase, the design of materials and course contents, and the implementation of the actual



training. This year, 1989, phase 1 and part of phase 2 were completed for a total expenditure of US\$ 279 000. In addition to this, basic equipment for the training is being acquired with additional funds from the Division, so we are talking about more than the US\$ 572 000 that are listed for the next biennium. Those funds have been mainly allocated to the implementation phase and will be used to train staff and to hire trainers. We will train 800 staff members at headquarters, and FAO representatives and programme officers. There are about 325 of these people in the regional offices and country programme offices. On the model of the experiences gained by the various organizations, such as UNDP, Swedish SIDA, Canadian CIDA, British ODA and US AID the training sessions on women in development will last approximately one and a half days, although some of the sessions may vary slightly for different audiences, in particular the training of trainers for the training of resource persons.

To carry out the training activities we will use these US\$ 572 000 in addition to institutionalize the training by hiring trainers who will be based at FAO headquarters. It has been determined that two trainers are necessary for each course, and this is consistent with various international and bilateral experiences. I am pleased to mention that subject to the will of this Conference, a new post for a trainer will be created and in addition this trainer will be assisted by a long-term training consultant based here at headquarters. Temporary assistance will be needed before each regional office in order to adapt the training content and materials to the region's specific needs, and consultants will be hired for that endeavour. The sum of US\$ 572 000 will also fund these additional personnel.

By having the trainers in residence at FAO, they can institutionalize the training and develop different training methods and materials for the various categories of FAO staff such as senior and managerial staff, technical officers, field and operations officers and personnel officers.

As regards progress to date, in the first phase FAO has secured the assistance of several consultants and training institutions to design our training programme and methods. Moreover, we have carried out a general review of worldwide experiences on women in development training. I am glad to inform the delegates that the Government of The Netherlands was very-active in participating in the definition of the training strategy, using the experiences of various training institutions, and negotiations are now under way for continued participation.

Along the same lines, we are in close cooperation with several training, institution agencies in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, to refine our training materials and to make good use of their expertise and successful experiences.

In order to consolidate the knowledge and skills acquired by staff during the training session, mechanisms and measures have been or will be set up to measure the impact. First we have nominated focal points in core groups in every technical division whose tasks are, amongst others, to provide the necessary information on women in development and on the training to their colleagues. It is also hoped that they will form a core of resource persons at headquarters and adapt the contents of the training programme to their specific needs.

Second, the Organization plans to hold refresher courses and courses for new staff during the subsequent biennium.

Third, the preparation of manuals and guidelines, one of our priorities, will provide technical expertise and practical tools so that officers can integrate the subject of women in development into their daily work.

Finally, the training activities will be evaluated in a two-fold scheme. First, at the end of the training session, and secondly, in terms of an evaluation of FAO's field projects and programmes, based on a coding system that we have set up to determine the inclusion of wOmen as project participants and beneficiaries.

Distinguished delegates we ask for your cooperation and broad understanding of the priorities in both making requests for assistance to the FAO, as well in carrying out the various aspects of the Plan within your own countries.

Mr Chairman, I hope these clarifications provided as the last word by the Secretariat will assist the delegates in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished members of the Secretariat for their explanations. I understand the delegation of Canada wants to take the floor. I hope that we will not re-open the debate and of course I have no power to do so, but I am sure the Secretariat will be happy to address any specific question directly if any of the delegations have any precise points to ask from them, but of course we cannot deny the right of any member of this Commission to address the point once again.

**David DRAKE (Canada):** I will be brief. I just wanted to first of all thank Dr Dutia for his clarifications in response to my questions earlier, and I would just like to add an observation with regard to our experience in Canada with regard to the gender sensitization programme which the FAO is about to undertake. We found that the training is not enough to assure full integration within the Organization. One must pay special attention to following this up with project support. I know that the FAO has taken this into consideration, but I would point out at a later stage, if this project support does not take place, the results of the gender sensitization process tend not to be disseminated the way one hopes, and this means that there is a great pressure upon the group which is leading this within the Organization, such as Dr Springs's unit. This has to be taken into account in terms of future staffing: both in terms of numbers and the qualifications of the people who are taken on in the lead WID unit.

**CHAIRMAN:** I thank the distinguished delegate from Canada. I think that we have now concluded the discussion of item 11 on our agenda, so as we still have about half an hour of time, I propose that we move to the second item on our agenda for today which is the Adoption of the Report. That means document C 89/1/REP/1. For the adoption of the report I would most kindly request that the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr Hamdi, will be so kind as to sit with us at the chair and introduce the report.

**CHAIRMAN:** If we do not receive this on time, it will be technically impossible to put it through the Drafting Committee. I would be very glad if the delegate could convey his draft to the Chair immediately.

ADOPTION OF REPORT  
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT  
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART I (C 89/I/REP/1)  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE I (C 89/I/REP/1)  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE I (C 89/I/REP/1)

Yousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Chairman, Drafting Committee) (original language Arabic): At the outset of my intervention, I should like to express cordial thanks to the Commission for the confidence they accorded me by electing me Chairman of the Drafting Committee. I should also like to thank the members of the Drafting Committee for their honest cooperation. In addition I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank members of the Secretariat for the excellent work they have performed and for their cooperation with the Committee.

The Committee worked in an atmosphere in which peace prevailed. We had convergences and divergencies, but at the end we reached the report which you have before you.

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 16, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS  
PARAGRAPHE 1 A 16, Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTION  
LOS PÁRRAFOS 1 A 16, INCLUIDOS LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION

**CHAIRMAN:** we will take the discussion of our report paragraph by paragraph. Paragraphs 1 to 3 approved. Paragraph 4?

**Stéphane MADAULE (France):** J'ai deux petites remarques à faire au sujet du para.4. Il s'agit de deux propositions d'amendement. Dans la troisième phrase, il est dit "La Conférence a reconnu que tant les pays développés que les pays en développement pourraient tirer de gros avantages de la libéralisation des marchés". J'aimerais une phrase plus nuancée et dire "certains avantages". C'est donc ma première proposition. Voici maintenant ma seconde proposition d'amendement. Il s'agit de la dernière phrase. En effet, il apparaît que la FAO et la Conférence prennent position sur les négociations du GATT en disant "à ce sujet elle a souligné la nécessité d'un traitement spécial et différencié". Je crois que plusieurs délégations n'ont pas souhaité que la FAO prenne directement position sur le fait de tenir des négociations du GATT. J'aimerais que l'on dise à ce sujet "on a souligné la nécessité d'un traitement spécial différencié en faveur des pays en développement". On aurait une formulation plus neutre par rapport à ce para. 4.

**David COUTTS (Australia) :** Could I have repeated the two changes that the French delegate wishes to make?

**CHAIRMAN:** The first change would be to substitute the word "significant" by "some" on the sixth line of paragraph 4. The second one is to substitute "the Conference" by "it was" in the twelfth line.

**David COUTES (Australia):** I thought that was what the French delegate said. I was disappointed to find that I was correct. All I can say is that I strongly oppose the change. I think the Drafting Committee did a very good job in that sentence, and I should like to see it stand as it is. It is a very good reflection of what I thought virtually everybody at the Conference agreed with.

**J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America):** The United States would like to support the contents made by the delegate of Australia. We feel strongly that the results and the analyses show that countries would derive significant benefits, particularly the developing countries.

**Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (Mexico):** Perdón, Sr. Presidente. Con respecto al párrafo 4, en la versión española, en la última parte del párrafo tenemos dificultad en entender el significado. Dice: "A este respecto, la Conferencia subrayó la necesidad de un trato especial y diferenciado a los países en desarrollo, un mayor acceso a los mercados para sus productos agrícolas y tropicales y sustancial y progresiva del apoyo y la protección que provocan la distorsión del comercio". Tenemos algunas dificultades para entender esto en la versión española. Quisiéramos ver que se nos aclarase un poco más.

**CHAIRMAN:** I am not Spanish speaking, but the text in the English and French versions seems to be quite understandable. I wonder if the delegate from Argentina, who was a member of the Drafting Committee, could help us on that.

**Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina):** En la versión del texto que consideró el Comité de Redacción, en primer lugar esta frase estaba comprensible y me parece que salió mal en la versión definitiva. La frase original decía en sus últimas dos líneas: "y se procediera a reducir sustancial y progresivamente el apoyo y la protección que provocan la distorsión del comercio". Creo que con esta frase, si se incorpora esta frase, quedaría clarificado el concepto.

**CHAIRMAN:** As I thought, it is merely a question of translation into Spanish. I thank the delegate of Argentina for his contribution.

we still have the problem raised by the delegate of France and the two suggestions he made on paragraph 4, and we have the positions stated by the delegations of the United States and Australia.

**Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brasil):** Je voudrais me référer à la seconde remarque de la France. Je ne crois pas qu'il s'agisse de vouloir juger d'avance les résultats des négociations de l'Uruguay Round. Le traitement spécial pour les pays en développement étant un des principes généraux de la déclaration de Punta del Este (et je crois que cela a été souligné par plusieurs délégations), je ne pense pas qu'il faille changer ce qui a été mis dans le Rapport de la Commission.

**Stéphane MADAULE (France) :** Je me rends compte que le groupe de rédaction a fait un excellent travail et je l'en remercie. J'aimerais simplement rétablir la réalité. Effectivement, la délégation s'est exprimée sur ce point et elle

n'était pas en accord avec certaines délégations. Je suis très gêné que ce soit la Conférence qui s'exprime à ce point de l'Ordre du jour au para.4. Donc, je réitère ma demande d'amendement puisque je ne me sens pas impliqué par la déclaration de la conférence.

Mauricio CUAERA (Nicaragua): Nuestra delegación se suma a las delegaciones que han optado por apoyar el trabajo del Cernite de Redacción. Consideramos que en realidad el párrafo tal como está recoge con fidelidad lo que aquí se dio y que ha sido ampliamente manifestado por la mayoría, o la Conferencia, o las expresiones aquí vertidas. Optaríamos por mantenerlo así o habría que encontrar algún modo de satisfacer la negativa de la delegación de Francia a que se mantenga. Y, finalmente, como que ya fue corregido, hace falta una palabria, como lo señalaba la delegación de México, en la penúltima frase. Agregando: "reducción sustancial" queda corregido. De manera que esperamos que se resuelva esto manteniendo lo que ha sido el deseo de la mayoría de esta Comisión.

CHAIRMAN: We have two proposals by France. One is for a change in the third sentence of our text, changing "significant" for "some". The other one is to change the last sentence of the paragraph. If we take it one by one it will be easier for us, so let us concentrate on the first proposal by France. Are there any statements on the French proposal?

The Chair is now in an uncomfortable position because we have the French proposal, we have opposition by three delegations, the united States, Australia and Mexico, and no alternatives have been proposed.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): Concerning the word "some" instead of "significant", we could be in agréaient with "some" because we feel it is not so clear what the benefits will be and whether there will be any benefit, generally speaking, on this theme; so we could accept "some".

CHAIRMAN: Hopefully there will be some benefits, at least for the developing countries. Would that be acceptable to the Commission that we delete the adjective; rather than have "some" or "significant", we just have "benefits". Would that be acceptable to the Australian, French, united States and Mexican delegations, who are the contenders in this round?

David COOITS (Australia): I do not want to be difficult. It is a significant reduction in the impact of that sentence. All I can say is that I am very disappointed if France is quibbling on this point. I would have thought it was almost a truism these days, that there were significant benefits from trade liberalization. I had thought that the EC had fully endorsed that concept in the Uruguay Round completely, when the Trade Negotiating Committee reached its agreement in April. In fact, I think that you would probably find some words like that in the document which the EC has accepted.

I think there are only two solutions if the French delegation - which, as I hear it, is the only one supporting this measure - will not change its view, and that is somehow to indicate that one delegation did not agree. I do not think that does much credit to what is going on here. In fact, I am not sure that I can see any other solution. I do not think it does a lot of credit to FAO if we do water down that statement.

Stéphane MADAULE (France): Je suis tout à fait d'accord avec votre proposition d'amendement et je pense que de parler on ne peut qu'en tirer des avantages et ce serait une forme qui pourrait nous satisfaire. C'est une relative avancée pour les délégations qui ont des problèmes avec notre amendement. J'aimerais dire simplement que la délégation française a été appuyée par la délégation des Pays-Bas, cela prouve donc que quelques délégations ont des problèmes avec ce passage. Donc je pense qu'il faut tenir compte de la proposition française, et avoir un texte équilibré qui fait s'exprimer la Conférence sur ce point est une bonne chose pour tout le monde, même s'il y a quelques délégations qui ont des problèmes avec ce passage, d'où la nécessité d'adoucir quelque peu la formulation.

CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegation want to address this amendment?

Paolo PESAROS (Greece) : I should like to add our delegation to the French proposal.

Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina): Como país en desarrollo, y por lo que se está discutiendo en la Ronda Uruguay, creo que los beneficios para los países en desarrollo nadie discute que pueden ser significativos. Podría corregirse de alguna manera esta frase, recogiendo que el adjetivo "significativos" se aplica a los beneficios para los países en desarrollo y separando de alguna manera los beneficios que de la liberalización obtendrían los países desarrollados.

CHAIRMAN: Now we get into deeper waters. How can we do this? "Recognized that developing countries could derive significant benefit", and take the developed countries out of it - would the developed countries be ready to accept that?

David COUTTS (Australia) : It depends whether we are considered these days as developed or developing countries. I do not think we want to quibble too long over this. For my part I would merely indicate my continuing disappointment. Especially, I must say, it surprises me that the Netherlands has supported something like this. However, I could accept the removal of the word "significant", if we changed the word "could" two words before to "would". So it would say "countries would derive benefits". That is just my own thought.

CHAIRMAN: We have very constructive proposal by the delegate of Australia. Hopefully, the delegates from the European Community would be able to accept that.

Carlos GARCIA DB ALEA (México): Se trata también de una pregunta. Se considera que un informe es aquel que refleja grosso modo los debates que se dieron en las sesiones de trabajo. Yo me pregunto si es posible, cuando se está discutiendo el informe, recabar consensos en orden a la declaración de una delegación. Respetuosamente hago esta observación, pensando en los consensos que ahora manifiestan los distinguidos delegados de los Países Bajos y de Grecia. Si la pregunta fuese negativa, en el sentido de que al discutir el informe no se pueden agregar consensos a la declaración de una delegación, yo retoñaría la propuesta que usted hacía, en el sentido de que la delegación francesa hiciese una declaración de reserva en el informe mismo.

CHAIRMAN: The Report tries to reflect what we have discussed here, and the Drafting Committee thought that the proposal before us reflected what has been discussed here. The delegations of France, Greece and the Netherlands do not agree with that. So we have two alternatives: either to accept a middle of the ground proposal, as has been suggested by the delegation of Australia; or perhaps have a statement saying that some delegations do not agree with this statement. I do not think we can proceed at length at this or we shall be going round this text all night.

David GOUTES (Australia): I would only plead again that I thought my suggestion would have accommodated what the French delegation wanted - "would derive benefits" - and I just make one last appeal that perhaps the others could accept that.

Stéphane MADAULE (France): Je pense que cette proposition d'amendement est très constructive, mais pour ma part je me rangerais plutôt à votre proposition, elle me paraissait très équilibrée quand elle disait "pourrait tirer des avantages". Donc j'en reste à cette formulation et je constate que la position française n'est pas isolée puisque la Grèce et les Pays-Bas l'ont appuyée. Donc la phrase qui commence par "La Conférence" ne reflète pas complètement l'intégralité des débats, et je pense qu'on peut dans ces conditions trouver une formule équilibrée.

R. W. Ch. VAN DEN EERGH (Netherlands): I think we could go along with "could derive benefits".

CHAIRMAN: Now that we have some countries of the Camion Market agreeing with the Australian proposal, perhaps the French could have a different approach to that? Could they agree with the Australian proposal and move on to the second sentence in paragraph 4 which is also under review? Would that be acceptable?

Stéphane MADAULE (France) : Non, si on change le verbe en français et en mettant "tirerait" à la place de "pourrait tirer", ça ne change rien en français. Cela amoindrit l'idée que je voulais transmettre en faisant mon amendement. Restons-en donc à votre proposition, je pense qu'elle est relativement équilibrée et que la délégation australienne peut l'accepter.

CHAIRMAN: A Chairman of a Commission, when he makes suggestions, does not expect the suggestions to be readily acceptable. After my suggestion, some suggestions came from the floor and we are discussing those new suggestions. We have the proposal made by Australia which has been supported by the Netherlands and has been refused by France. It is our aim to try to reach some consensus here. We have the text proposed by the Drafting Committee. We have the amendments proposed by France and by Australia. If I see no possibility of rapprochement between the two proposals, the only alternative will be that we indicate a minority view.

I understand the French delegation wants to indicate a minority view here.

Stéphane MADAULE (France): Oui, je pense que dans ce corps de texte on peut exprimer ce que pense une minorité de délégués, et je vous proposerais un amendement à la fin de l'examen de ce rapport, si vous le voulez bien, puisque je n'ai pas de formulation à vous proposer dès maintenant.

CHAIRMAN: we can accept paragraph 4 as it is, and then we have a draft suggestion by the French delegation. So we adopt paragraph 4.

Stéphane MADAULE (France) : Nous avons un second amendement à la dernière phrase du paragraphe 4 qui n'a pas été étudié. En effet, nous souhaitons changer la formulation suivante: "A ce sujet, elle a souligné la nécessité d'un traitement spécial et différencié" par: "A ce sujet, on a souligné la nécessité d'un traitement spécial et différencié".

Cela me paraît être une formule plus neutre et plus propre à représenter ce qu'ont été les débats sur ce point.

CHAIRMAN: Would you reflect your opposition to the whole paragraph and not only to the first sentence, because I understand there is general agreement on the paragraphs as a whole among the other delegations. Is my understanding correct? May I hear from the delegation of France if my understanding is correct, that he wants to have a minority view for the paragraph as a whole as there is no opposition to the paragraph from any other delegation. France has the floor.

Stéphane MADALILE (France) : A titre de compromis nous ferons un ajout de quelques délégués et nous pouvons donc accepter cette dernière phrase telle qu'elle est inscrite dans le projet de rapport.

CHAIRMAN: Can we expect to have the suggestion by the French delegation so that we can have it analysed by the Commission?

Stéphane MADUALE (FRANCE): En fin de séance, je pense que nous serons dans la possibilité de vous donner une proposition.

CHAIRMAN: We have to interrupt now because we are at a quarter to six and perhaps the best thing to do is to start tomorrow morning having the French proposal of his views on paragraph 4 and then continuing with the document from thereon.

Paragraphs 1-16, including draft resolutions, not concluded

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, y compris les projets de résolution, sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1 a 16, incluido los proyectos de resolución, quedan pendientes

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I, not concluded

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie I, est en suspens

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas



**conference**

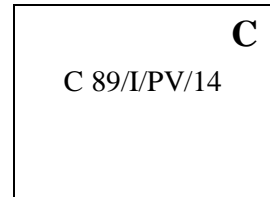
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**conférence**

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

**conferencia**

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING  
QUATORZIEME SEANCE  
14ª SESION

(23 November 1989)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 14ª sesión a las 9.45 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 1 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 16 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 16 Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTION (suite)

PÁRRAFOS 1 A 16 INCLUIDOS LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The 14th meeting of Commission I is called to order. As we all recall, we were dealing yesterday with C 89/I/REP/1, which is a draft report of Commission I part 1. Last night, we got stuck in paragraph 4, page 3 of the English text. This morning, the delegation from France presented an alternative to be submitted to our Commission that I will read to you in French. (Continue en français). L'idée est de maintenir le paragraphe 4 tel qu'il est et d'ajouter à la fin la sentence suivante. Je vais lire: "Cependant quelques délégations ont estimé que c'est en priorité au GATT qu'il appartient de se prononcer sur les mesures à prendre en vue d'améliorer les pratiques commerciales en matière agricole". Comme je viens de le dire l'idée est de maintenir le paragraphe 4 tel qu'il est. (Continues in English). Is this proposal acceptable to the Commission? If I see no objection, I take it that it is acceptable.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): I do not really get the gist of the text, but I would like to comment, anyhow, because I have the impression that some misunderstanding arose yesterday during the meeting on our position. If you allow me, I would like to make another proposal and that is the following one, to insert in paragraph 4 the last sentence starting with "In this connection, the Conference stressed the need for special differential treatment for developing countries, expanded market access for agricultural and tropical products and substantial and progressive reductions in trade-distorting support and protection", to insert this sentence after the sentence we are discussing at the moment, "Countries could derive significant benefits", and not to change anything apart from that. As to our position, let there be no misunderstanding that the Dutch delegation fully supports trade liberalization. We put that in our own statement on this subject, only we do not know to what extent developing countries will derive benefits, and this is fully in accordance with what is stated in the Mid-Term Review of GATT, and according to that developing countries need special treatment. That is all.

CHAIRMAN: I'm afraid I did not quite get all your suggestion. You want to change the order of the sentences, is that so? And to have the last sentence after the third sentence?

Now we are facing two proposals: one from the delegation of France to insert the last sentence on paragraph 4 and not change the paragraph; and the other one is from the delegation of the Netherlands to change the order of the sentence within the paragraph. So, do I have the last sentence as the fourth sentence of the paragraph and not change anything? Would the Dutch proposal be acceptable to the French delegation? France has the floor.

Stéphane MADAULE (France): Je pense qu'on pourrait maintenir les deux propositions mais je voudrais dire un mot sur ces problèmes qui concernent la libéralisation des marchés. Notre délégation souhaite la libéralisation des marchés et la phrase que nous avons ajoutée ne remet pas en cause le bien-fondé de la libéralisation des marchés. Simplement nous disons que les pratiques commerciales en matière agricole doivent être en priorité étudiées au GATT. Voilà ce que nous disons.

CHAIRMAN: I think we should not re-open the debate. I think all delegations here are quite aware of the positions of the delegations that were expressed during the debate of the issue itself. I think perhaps we could concentrate on the proposal of amendments. The Netherlands has the floor.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): Concerning the French text, I have one remark. It says "however, some delegations considered the view" etc.; which are the "some delegations"?

CHAIRMAN: My understanding was that the European Common Market delegation, I see there is some dissent within the European Common Market.

Bernd VON SYDOW (Germany, Federal Republic of): I support the suggestion made by the French delegation.

CHAIRMAN: The last suggestion of the French delegation was to change the order and to add a new sentence. If I see no objection, I think that is quite a reasonable suggestion: we change the order suggested by the Dutch delegation and add the sentence suggested by France. When the paragraph referred to "some delegations", it is indicating a specific group of delegations. Is that acceptable? We change the order of the sentences in paragraph 4 so that the last sentence becomes the fourth sentence and at the end we add the French amendment. It is so decided.

We move to paragraph 5.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALEA (Mexico): Es simplemente una cuestión de forma. En el renglón quinto dice: "la producción de cereales sería inferior a la utilización por tercer año consecutivo". Simplemente considero que el término "utilización" es algo impreciso; quizás nos estamos refiriendo a "la demanda". Quisiera poner a consideración este cambio para hacer más precisa la oración.

Ernesto Pablo DE LA GUARDIA (Argentina) : Sí, me parece que en el texto en castellano quedaría bien si se pusiera "el consumo" en vez de "la utilización".

El PRESUMENTE: Yo veo que la delegación de México acepta la proposición de Argentina. No sé si esto es aceptable en los otros idiomas. (Continúa en inglés.) That is agreed. We move to paragraph 6. I hear no observations. we move to paragraph 7.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): En el párrafo 7, en la tercera oración, se menciona: "Convino en que la subida de los precios... " - que en español podría ser el alza de los precios y no la subida - "de los cereales"; aquí, sí quisiéramos agregar unas palabras que serían: "aun sin alcanzar niveles satisfactorios". Voy a leer el total de la frase para comprender la propuesta. Quedaría: "Convino en que el alza de los precios de los cereales aun sin alcanzar niveles satisfactorios había beneficiado a los exportadores ... etc.", y quedaría la frase como está.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the amendment proposed by Argentina that we add "although without reaching satisfactory levels" in the fourth sentence of paragraph 7? I see no objection, so we approve paragraph 7 and move to paragraph 8?

No comments. Paragraph 9.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : We should like to suggest a minor change in paragraph 9. We should like to strike the "s" from "Palestinians" and insert the word "people" and move the word "territories" to after the word "occupied" and end the sentence there.

CHAIRMAN: We have a proposal by the United States that paragraph 9 should read: "Some Member Nations drew the attention of the Conference to the agricultural situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

Ali ARHOUMA (Libya) (original language Arabic): Libya would like to amend the proposed amendment to paragraph 9, and we shall be working from the English text.

We should like paragraph 9 to read: "Some Member Nations drew the attention of the Conference to the deteriorating agricultural situation in the Palestinian occupied territories and its relation to the negative effect on the agricultural production and hence the food security of the Palestinian people."

CHAIRMAN: Is there any reaction to the two amendments? I wonder if it would be acceptable to the Commission to have the two amendments, in which case paragraph 9 would read: "Some Member Nations drew the attention of the Conference to the deteriorating agricultural situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and its relation to the negative effect on the agricultural production and hence the food security of the Palestinian people."

How would the delegations which proposed amendments react to the third amendment proposed by the Chair?

J. Dawson AHAUT (United States of America) : We are taking a look at your proposal to see if it tracks the comment when this item was brought up. We believe it is feasible. We should like a few moments to check it out, please.

I had suggested that we accept the fusion of the proposed amendments by the United States and the Libyan delegations and the sentence that would read "Some Member Nations drew the attention of the Conference to the deteriorating agricultural situation of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and its relation to the negative effects on the agricultural production and hence the food security of the Palestinian people." Is that acceptable to the two delegations who proposed the amendment? The United States accepts the amendment.

Yosef HASSEN (Israel): The agricultural situation of the Palestinian farmers does not need attention. The concern expressed by some Arab members is based on disinformation, so the text is really irrelevant.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic) : We are somewhat late I believe with our work here. What the first Commission is doing is to approve this report of the discussions that actually went on here. I believe that the Drafting Committee should have reflected all the discussions that went on here. Therefore, my country's delegation has been very careful to reflect the discussions that have been going on in the past two days on this very subject. If some members in this Commission find that the disruption of agricultural lands, destroying trees and water resources, has absolutely no connection with the deteriorating agricultural circumstances, and therefore lower food security for the Palestinian people, what does this deterioration actually mean? Furthermore, my country's delegation would like to say that this topic was indeed submitted for discussion. It was referred to the Drafting Committee, but the Drafting Committee has not reflected faithfully the discussions that went on. Therefore, I insist on this amendment, so that we can reflect exactly on what was said here.

CHAIRMAN: Distinguished Delegate of Libya, the amendment I proposed incorporates all - and I mean all - the words of your amendment, and some alterations of the United States' amendment. That is why I suggested that it could be accepted by the two delegations that intervened on the issue of paragraph 9. Therefore, it would read as follows, "Some Member Nations drew the attention of the Conference to the deteriorating agricultural situation of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, and its relation to the negative effects on agricultural production and, hence, the food security of the Palestinian people." Is that acceptable to the Libyan delegation?

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Yes, we do accept that. Thank you very much. However, we must therefore look at the draft resolution from the Arab group on the agricultural situation in the Occupied Territories.

CHAIRMAN: We will look at the draft resolution in due time. Do not worry, we will get there. So we adopt paragraph 9 as amended by Libya and the USA. Let us move to paragraph 10, Any remarks? Paragraph 10 is approved. Paragraph 11. Approved. Paragraph 12?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I have to apologize that, although Japan has participated as a member of the Drafting Committee and agreed upon the draft presented before us, after consultation with the relevant people among the Japanese authorities I have some difficulty with the legal interpretation

with regard to the penultimate sentence in paragraph 12. The sentence reads: "The Conference recommended that, as far as it was feasible, and in light of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly..." With regard to "resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly", our legal interpretation is that there is significant debate and that the two draft resolutions have been put forward by the UN General Assembly but that the Assembly is still in the process of coming to a consensus.

And at this point and also by the end of this FAO Conference meeting, there is little possibility - maybe no possibility - in its physical meaning considering the timetable. This Resolution be adopted. Maybe some resolutions will be adopted after the FAO Conference has ended, so that in logic, since these resolutions are not existing we have a clear problem in its interpretation, not in the substance. So in that sense, our delegation would like to propose that the deletion of this paragraph which begins from "and in the light of resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, " so the sentence would read "The Conference recommended that, as far as it was feasible, FAO should undertake any further action, including analytic, scientific work to improve the information available."

David COULTS (Australia): I have two small amendments and one somewhat more substantial one which I would like to propose for this paragraph, and then a comment on the Japanese suggestion.

The first suggestion is in the first sentence, and I propose that in the second line we add some words. I will read the whole sentence. "The Conference noted the serious concern expressed by some Member Nations over the" and I would propose adding the words "dangers of the", and then go on to say "increasing use of" and I would then cross out the word "the", "large-scale pelagic driftnets". This is just better English I think Mr Chairman. So I'm proposing adding the words "dangers of the" after "Nations" in the second line: "Nations over the dangers of the increasing use of large-scale pelagic driftnets."

Do you want all the amendments at once Mr Chairman, or do you want each one separately?

CHAIRMAN: Each one. First, as a point of clarification that might solve the question raised by the Japanese delegation. Actually there has been a misprint here and the text as approved by the Drafting Committee, the Secretariat is saying to me here, should be in the text referred to by the Japanese delegation, should read: "The Conference recommended that, as far as it was feasible, and in the light of any resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, FAO should undertake", then we cross out "any", "further action, including... ". I think that might solve the problem raised by the Japanese delegation because it refers to resolutions adopted previously. It is not necessarily in this General Assembly, in the previous years, also.

As far as the proposal by the Australian delegation for the first sentence, I see it refers to the statement made by his delegation and a few others of his area, and I think that could be accepted by the Commission.

David COULTS (Australia): On the Japanese amendments, my own suggestion was exactly the same as you in fact have said, so I can certainly agree to that. My second suggestion, and this again is a fairly small one, is that in the third sentence I would suggest that the word "handle" towards the end of that

sentence by the word "study", "The Conference agreed that FAO was the most appropriate technical Organization to study this matter." I have an associated suggestion and that is that that sentence and the next one I really think ought to be moved a little lower down the paragraph, and I would suggest that they come before the second last sentence. So the sentence starts: "The Conference recommended". I would suggest those two sentences be moved there, the reason being I think it is a bit of an interruption to the thought; you are talking about the problem, what some Members think about it and in the middle you put what FAO should be doing, and I think it connects better at the end of the paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: So I understand the second suggestion by the Australian delegation is to change the word "handle" by "study". Is that acceptable?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan) : Sorry that I interrupt the debate right now, but I am not quite sure that I am following the debate that is put forward. First of all, you are turning to my proposal in respect of "any". Before our delegation can clarify our position, I would like to know if there are any past resolutions adopted by the UN Assembly, and on getting that I would respond, and I would also respond to the insertion of the "danger" put forward by the Australian delegation.

CHAIRMAN: I did not suggest any changes. I admit I was doing a little correction, I should have done it before, to correct in the text that came from the drafting report: a misprint. So the text approved by the Draft Committee says that "in the light of any resolution", and it does not speak of past resolutions and becomes "should undertake any further action", and I wonder if this proposal is acceptable by the Japanese delegation?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I am sorry to intervene quite often but our understanding is that to our knowledge there is no resolution yet in the past and at this current stage, but maybe I am mistaken, so in that sense this is something which we are talking about, long existing sense. If some delegations would like to touch upon any resolution this can be debated with no problem in the future with the Council or other opportunity, so I do not think it is appropriate to insert here which is to our understanding to talk about, which is not existing like now.

CHAIRMAN: A reference to past resolutions made by the Japanese delegate. So we move to Australia.

David COUTTS (Australia): Just on this point to help if it is bothering the Japanese that we may be incorrectly making some reference to non-existent or non-relevant past resolutions, it could say "and in the light of any resolutions that might be adopted, or any relevant resolutions that might be adopted". I am not quite clear what his worry is but if it is to restrict us to any future resolutions that they may adopt on this issue, then we could say "any future resolutions that might be adopted".

CHAIRMAN: I think the proposal made by the distinguished representative of Australia when you say "that might be adopted, or that might or might not be adopted", I think that might solve the question raised by the Japanese delegation.

Masayuki HOMATSU (Japan) : I do not want to prolong this debate but when we talk about "might or might not" we can talk about anything that could be happening in the future, so why do we not just await the next opportunity if it comes to the actual resolutions we can have in future at our Council meeting. In that case I think Australia could have no problem to incorporate this kind of sentence, but at this point we are talking about non-existing things, and if we talk about "might or might not" we can say anything whichever comes to our mind.

CHAIRMAN: So perhaps we can concentrate on this sentence. The proposal by the Japanese delegation is to delete the sentence "and in the light of any resolution adopted by the General Assembly", saying that no resolution has been yet adopted.

J. RYAN (New Zealand) : I am hesitant to weigh in on this because New Zealand was a member of the drafting group, but the significance of the sentence that the Japanese delegation would like removed is that it acknowledges that the General Assembly has this issue before it. If that sentence were removed the implication would be that the FAO is warning the General Assembly off this, which I think is not something which any of us really wishes to accomplish. I would certainly think that the proposal is one that deserves support. I do not like the twist that you gave to it - "might or might not be". I think that the Australian phrasing "any future resolutions that might be adopted by the General Assembly" would cover the matter quite adequately. We do have to take account of the fact that there are two resolutions before the General Assembly.

David OCOTES (Australia): I had another attempt, but I am not sure, I am happy with what I originally proposed. I am not sure whether Japan can accept that or not. If they cannot, then I could make one more suggestion, but perhaps you would like to confirm whether they can accept my earlier suggestion that New Zealand just read out again, because that I think is the most sensible.

CHAIRMAN: Will Japan be prepared to accept the proposal by New Zealand that we put "any relevant resolution that might or might not be adopted", although if you put "relevant resolutions" I think that would be enough? Anyway, would Japan be prepared to accept this proposal?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): I think the argument from our delegation remains the same but I am not quite sure. It seems probably sense to be giving something to us to take care of our concern. We have a concern that we do not



vent to talk about, which is non-existing, but still our position is we prefer, as we mentioned, that we would like to see the deletion in this paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the United States, may the Chair try a proposal, with the help of the Secretariat, that we have the sentence "in the light of the outcome of UN General Assembly decisions on this issue". Would that be acceptable to Australia and to Japan, or to either one? It is acceptable to Australia, if I interpret his nod. Would that be acceptable to Japan? Would the United States accept that?

J. Dawson AHAELE (United States of America) : We would prefer that the word "resolution" remain in that phrase. We agreed with the intervention by New Zealand, and that is what I wanted to express to the Chair. I think that your proposal is a positive one, and we would simply like to see the word "resolution" included.

CHAIRMAN: In fact, "resolution" is included in a previous sentence, where we say "being currently considered in the UN General Assembly, which had draft resolutions before it". So when we speak of decisions on the issue we are referring to resolutions. Perhaps it would be better to put the two sentences closer to make the paragraph clearer.

David CRAKE (Canada) : I should like to support what the Australian, New Zealand and United States delegations have said. It seems to me that the General Assembly operates by resolution rather than decision. We were part of the drafting group and would have had some difficulty accepting this sentence if there had not been a reference to the UN General Assembly resolutions.

CHAIRMAN: If we said "in the light of the outcome of the UN General Assembly decision on the above-mentioned resolutions on the issue", would that be acceptable to Japan, because we have mentioned the resolutions before?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Before responding to your question, I should like to hear from other delegations, particularly the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, whether it is acceptable or not. If we could add to your suggested sentence "draft resolutions" as is written in the previous sentence that is one possibility that we can accept. But it is contingent upon others, and if others do not accept this I have to come back to my original position.

CHAIRMAN: So my proposal would be the following: to substitute the sentence we are studying now by the following sentence "in the light of the outcome of the UN General Assembly debate on the above-mentioned draft resolutions", because we have mentioned draft resolutions and we do not have any resolutions so far. Would that be acceptable to the United States and Australia? I understand that is acceptable by them. It is acceptable by Japan.

•Then we go back to the two proposals made by Australia. The first one is to include in the first sentence at the beginning of the paragraph after the words "Member Nations" the words "over the dangers of the increasing use of large-scale pelagic driftnets". This refers to their own statement, so I believe that that could be acceptable by other Member Nations.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): We oppose the insertion of that because there is no evidence.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think it is a question of whether there is evidence or not. We are referring to a statement by some delegations. We are not discussing the issue itself.

David COUPES (Australia): Mr Chairman, your observation was perfectly correct. In my view the sentence is complete. It is what we and others said. It is as simple as that.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): This is a really important point for my delegation. Maybe Australia, Canada and New Zealand mentioned that statement, but my delegation mentioned that our fleets are properly controlled. They are not a danger, to our understanding, and I think another delegation, the Korean delegation, took the same line as we did. This sentence says the Conference noted the danger, but if you are going to say some delegations said that, why do you not say what other delegations said. I cannot accept this sentence which begins "The Conference noted ... the danger of the increasing use".

David DRAKE (Canada): This sentence describes the concern expressed by some members. I would like to reiterate that my delegation was one of the countries that mentioned the damaging impact, so I think it is more than just the Australian delegation. Would the words "damaging impact" be more acceptable? I throw out that suggestion for consideration.

CHAIRMAN: Would the amendment proposed by Canada be acceptable to Japan?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): No, definitely not.

David COUTTS (Australia): To prevent our staying too long on this paragraph, I will not myself push that amendment, although I do not know if anyone else wants to, but I would reserve the right to come back to it if my last amendment, which I have not yet given you, is not acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it would be best for you to give us your last amendment then.

David COUTTS (Australia): I am looking now at the sentence in the middle of the paragraph which starts "Some Member Nations stated that already there was sufficient evidence of the negative impact of large-scale high seas driftnets". I should like to add to that sentence "to warrant the international community supporting an immediate ban on their use. They also stressed that this action should not be delayed pending the outcome of any further analysis". I would just comment that Japan is one country that is

obviously very sensitive about this issue, but we think the Conference must remember that although what Japan says is quite true, and they have made significant efforts to reduce their activities, there is another nation out there. It is not just Japan that is involved, so the mere fact that Japan is making efforts it does not necessarily solve the problem. I think the Japanese delegate is focusing too much on what Japan is doing. There is another nation which is not a member of this Organization which is very large-scale, and that has to be taken into account as well.

CHAIRMAN: We have a proposal by the delegate of Australia to add some wording to the sentence that reflects his and other delegations' concerns on the subject. Is that acceptable to other delegations?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): My response to the proposal put forward by the Australian delegation is that, since this is the opinion and the view of some members, our delegation does not have any problem in accepting this, if it is mentioned as the opinion of some members, contingent upon one thing; because this stresses the opinion of one other group which does not share the opinion of our delegation. Therefore, if this sentence is incorporated, it will need some sentence which will balance this sentence in the sentence which begins "Some other Member Nations". But I could not quickly come up with the counter-balancing sentence. I am sorry that I am not a native speaker of English but the idea is that we would like to counter-balance this by inserting an idea such as that some other Member Nations were of the view that little scientific evidence was available on this issue; particularly there is a lack of evidence to any nations to ask for a moratorium at this stage; and further, serious measures have already been taken to respond to the concerns of the coastal countries to this issue.

CHAIRMAN: Could I perhaps ask the delegate of Japan to draft his proposal, and we will accept the paragraph with the amendments that we have just accepted. He will then come back later with a specific proposal for a sentence to be added to this sentence that starts: "Some Member Nations"? Would that be acceptable?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Just for clarification, at a later stage the Australian delegation and I will come up with an exact sentence for the proposal and we shall discuss it? Is that a clear understanding?

CHAIRMAN: That is my understanding, but I understand that the Australian delegation has already presented a specific text. We are only awaiting your text.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Yes, that is fine.

CHAIRMAN: So we adopt paragraph 12 with the following amendments: on the second line of the English text we take out the word "the". On the sixth line of the English text, in the sentence starting "The Conference agreed", we substitute the verb "handle" with "study". In the phrase starting "and in the light of any resolutions" should now read "and in the light of the outcome of the united Nations General Assembly debate on the above-mentioned draft

resolutions". Then we change the order of the sentence, putting the recommendations at the end and the reference at the beginning. So the sentences starting "The Conference agreed" and "The Conference noted" would come at the end.

Víctor E. MACHENEA (Argentina): Muy simple: en la versión en español, en la primera oración se habla sobre "artes de deriva pelágicos". Supongo que será "redes de deriva pelágicos".

CHAIRMAN: That would be taken care of by the translators. It is basically a Spanish text problem. If I did not make myself clear on the order of the sentences, those two sentences "The Conference agreed" and "The Conference noted" would come before the sentence that starts "The Conference recommended".

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): With regard to my proposal, seven lines from the bottom, the sentence "However, some other Member Nations were of the view that little scientific evidence was available on this issue", "to justify a ban of large-scale pelagic driftnet and that some measures..."

CHAIRMAN: Would the delegation of Japan repeat his amendment slowly?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): After "on this issue", "to justify the ban of use of driftnets and measures had been already taken by some countries on this matter".

CHAIRMAN: If I can read the sentence proposed by Japan with a small suggestion, it is that we add at the end of the sentence that starts with "However" and ends with "Of this issue", "To justify a ban on the use of driftnets" - and perhaps we could add a verb - "and referred to measures which have already been taken by those countries". Is that correct?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Yes, I would say that maybe we can just have "measures"; and also you say "by those countries" but I would just like to see "some countries".

J. RYAN (New Zealand): In the first version of that drafting that Japan gave us the reference was to a ban on the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets. In the second version it became a ban on the use of driftnets. To my knowledge, there is no proposal for a ban on driftnets generally, and I would much prefer the qualification "large-scale pelagic" to stay in. It gets away from reality if we talk about a ban on driftnets in general.

CHAIRMAN: Could we have a final version from Japan then?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan): Yes, I can accept New Zealand's position with no problem.

CHAIRMAN: So the sentence proposed by Japan would read "to justify a ban on the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and measures that have been taken by sane countries". I think something is missing in the sentence. I propose that we add here, "and referred to measures" because I believe that if we have the sentence as proposed by Japan a verb is missing. However, if Japan insists, that is his own text.

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan) : I am sorry, but I am not a native speaker of English, so if the construction of the sentence is then grammatically correct, I have no problem.

CHAIRMAN: "and referred to measures that have been taken by some countries" -is that all right?

Masayuki KOMATSU (Japan) : Again, I must apologize that my delegation intervenes so many times, but since I could not entirely follow what the Australian delegation put forward as a proposal, I could not understand what was going on - the proposal of the insertion of "danger" - I do not know what has happened. Something is missing as far as my delegation is concerned. However, this is an important issue, and I should like to get sane clarification and a final version from the Secretariat and I could then respond.

CHAIRMAN: The Australian delegation had dropped its proposal on the dangers sane time ago. So, as I mentioned, the paragraph would read: in the second line of the English text the word "the" in "the large-scale" would be dropped, as far as I could understand from our English-speaking colleagues. It is more gramatical, than factual or substantive (I am not an English speaker myself; my language is Portuguese and this can be very hard to understand). The second amendment is that the verb "handle" in the sentence starting "The Conference agreed" would be substituted by "study". This sentence together with the next sentence starting "'The Conference noted", would come imtmediately before the sentence starting "The Conference recommended".

Third, the sentence starting "Some Member Nations already had sufficient evidence", will have the addition by Australia at the end of it, say "to warrant the international community supporting an immediate ban on their use, and they also stressed that the action should not be delayed pending the outcome of any further analysis". The next sentence starting "However, some other Member Nations" will have the addition of the sentence proposed by Japan that reads: "to justify a ban on the use of large-scale pelagic driftnets and referred to measures that had been already taken by sane countries". "In the light of resolutions" would read: "and in the light of the outcome of the United Nations general débate on the above-mentioned draft resolution". Brat is it. Is that acceptable? Is that clear, at least? We move to paragraph 13. Any remarks on paragraph 13?

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : The sentence beginning on the top of page 6, our delegation would like to propose sane alternative phrasing. We would like to remove or replace the wording beginning with "poverty" and ending in the second line with "countries". We would like to insert in place, "the limited availability of scarce resources in relation to heavy utilization".

CHAIRMAN: What is the reaction to the amendment proposed by the US delegation?

Paulo Estivallet HE MESQUITk (Brazil): I am not sure if I get the sense of the change that is being proposed. I think it is a significant change in the sense that it gives the idea that the causes of environmental degradation in developed and developing countries would be the same. I do not think that is exactly the outcome of our debate. I think the text as it stands reflects more accurately the sense of what we discussed here, because the suggestion by the American delegation draws a parallel, in effect, to it saying that environmental degradation is being caused by the same factors in developed and developing countries, and I think it should at least be mentioned that there is a difference in the kind and in the reasons and the causes of environmental degradation in developed and developing countries.

CHAIRMAN: I see the point raised by the delegation of Brazil. It is my assumption that he would rather have the original text.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : I understood the delegate from Brazil's point. You could leave the words "developing countries" in the phrase. My concern with the original construction was that it talks about the poverty of resources in developing countries, and that is not the situation in all developing countries. There are some developing countries that are rich in resources; there are other problems. What I was trying to do was to correct that point. If it would help my suggestion, I think you could insert, "the limited availability of scarce resources in developing countries".

CHAIRMAN: Just a question to the delegation of the USA. Do we keep the expression "and consumerism in the developed countries" or do we strike it out?

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America): I would propose to strike that, partly because I do not understand what it means. Consumerism means different things to different people. That is why I proposed the point to substitute "in relation to heavy utilization".

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I think the modified stand of the US delegation seems to be irrelevant to the phrase you can accept. I think the phrase could read "the limited availability of scarce resources in the developing countries and their over-utilization in the developed countries". Probably that would be acceptable to the US delegation.

Ms Sin BALKISH SHARIEF (Malaysia): The Malaysian delegation supports the arguments put forward by the distinguished delegate from Brazil. We would prefer the original text as it is. Víctor E. MACEHNEA (Argentina): En un intento de tratar de interpretar lo expresado por el distinguido delegado de los Estados Unidos, mi propuesta sería: "Se consideró que la limitada disponibilidad de recursos tanto técnicos como económicos ..." y sigue "en los países en desarrollo". Y no tengo inconveniente en aceptar "el exceso de utilización en los países

desarrollados". No sé si fue interpretada mi propuesta. Voy a volver a repetir: "Se consideró que la limitada disponibilidad de recursos tanto técnicos como económicos en los países en desarrollo y el exceso de utilización en los países desarrollados ...", y sigue la expresión corno está.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal by the distinguished delegate of Argentina goes in a good direction. One that is acceptable to the USA?

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : Vite would be in agreement with it, except for the "excessive utilization in developed countries". I would prefer the original wording of "consumerism in developed countries" and to say "heavy utilization in developed countries". My original phrase was "heavy utilization". One could make the point that there is heavy utilization and resources in developing countries. But if it pleases the Commission, I would in the second part of the phrase accept "and consumerism in the developed countries".

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to Canada, perhaps we will try to see valere we are now. The sentence would read, "It agreed that the limited availability of resources both technical and economic in developing countries and consumerism in the developed countries were the main causes" etc. This is the proposal that is accepted by the USA. Does Canada want to make any remark on this proposal? No, just to support it.

Is the US proposal acceptable then? So the sentence would read "It agreed that limited availability of resources both technical and economic in developing countries and consumerism in the developing countries were the main causes of environmental degradation", and so on. The rest of the paragraph would continue the same. Paragraph 14.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil) : I have a minor change to the proposal and it is the deletion in the first sentence of the particular reference to "tropical forests". we could have a comma after "loss of forests" and delete the part which goes from "in gelerai and tropical forests in particular and those", so that the sentence would read, "lamenting the prevailing rapid rates of loss of forests, which contained irreplaceable genetic resources" and so on.

CHAIRMAN: The proposal by Brazil is to delete the sentence starting "in general" up to "those".

Doddy SURACHMAN (Indonesia): we support the statement proposed by Brazil and we would like to propose another sentence which is in line 4 from the top. It states there, "climate and the atmosphere, the Conference considered". I would like to propose a change of the word "considered" to "is of the view". So the words would read as follows, "climate and the atmosphere, the Conference is of the view that" etc.

CHAIRMAN: we have a proposal by Indonesia to substitute the word "considered" in the fourth line by the words "is of the view". Is that acceptable?

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Disculpe, señor Presidente, porque acabo de descubrir algo que surge de un error del informe del Comité de Redacción. Recuerdo que yo había criticado en el documento, cuando se habla de que "sustentan de forma sostenible a muchas poblaciones indígenas", y había propuesto, aceptándose por el Comité de Redacción, eliminar esa mención específica. En la versión inglesa no está; está en la versión española.

CHAIRMAN: In the Spanish version that will be taken care of.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): With regard to the words "tropical forests" in the second line, which are concerning the delegate of Brazil, we think that the real point at issue here is the loss of natural forests, and we propose replacing the word "tropical" by "natural" and further along, in the same line, after "particular" changing "and" to "as".

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): would we then return to the sentence as it was and change "tropical" for "natural"? It would read, "forests in general and natural forests in particular". Is that what is being suggested?

CHAIRMAN: That is it. Indonesia also referred to the Brazilian suggestion. Is that UK proposal acceptable to the delegate of Indonesia, who supported the Brazilian proposal? The proposal is that we substitute the word "natural" for "tropical" and the word "as" for "and".

Doddy SURACHMAN (Indonesia): Yes, that is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: The UK proposal is acceptable to both Indonesia and Brazil, which have proposed amendments. The first sentence would read: "Lamenting the prevailing rapid rates of loss of forests in general and natural forests in particular as those which contained irreplaceable genetic resources..." The phrase beginning "the Conference" in the fourth line would read, "the Conference was of the view", rather than "the Conference considered". This is acceptable.

Grégoire NKBCXJA (Congo): Je voulais intervenir sur la 5<sup>ème</sup> ligne, je voulais qu'on laisse la nuance car s'il s'agit du boycott des bois tropicaux par les mouvements écologistes, j'aurais souhaité que l'on soit un peu plus clair, parce que tel que libellé on a l'impression qu'il y aurait des gouvernements ou des organisations qui auraient décrété comme une interdiction du commerce international. J'aurais souhaité que l'on soit plus clair en utilisant le terme: "boycott des bois tropicaux par des mouvements écologistes".

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): My point is quite a minor one. With reference to my earlier suggestion, I think we need to clean up the English a little by deleting "which" and changing "provided" to "proving".

CHAIRMAN: The Secretariat has already raised the same point with me. You must pardon my mistakes of English. We can now move to the proposal by the delegation of Congo that we substitute the word "embargoes" by the word "boycotts" and add the words "by ecological groups" so that the last part of the sentence would read "boycotts by ecological groups on international trade in timber products were not a useful method for slowing deforestation".



José TUBINO (Canada) : It is our belief that we are shifting the focus of the actors on this point. We are talking about governments now, and that is why we are referring to embargoes. If we are going to drop the action of governments and put the attention on the action of environmental groups, we believe that this gives a completely different meaning to the sentence. For that reason, we would like to maintain the text put forward by the Secretariat. we do not see how the Congolese proposal fits within the context of this sentence.

CHAIRMAN: I see your point very clearly.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brésil): Je suis d'accord avec la proposition de maintenir le texte comme il est, car si l'on fait une référence particulière à d'autres organisations, en réalité, là on sera en train de mettre une nuance. Ici il s'agit aussi de faire le point, il n'est pas utile pour les gouvernements d'empêcher le commerce des produits des forêts tropicales.

Victor E. MftQHNEA (Argentina): Tratando de hacer un esfuerzo para unir posiciones, nuestra Delegación sugiere que se podría incluir lo propuesto por el Congo, pero sin quitar lo que dice la frase. Por tanto, diríamos: "la Conferencia consideró que los embargos del comercio internacional de productos madereros y/o los boicots por movimientos ecológicos no eran método útil para desacelerar la deforestación", etcétera.

CHAIRMAN: What would the proposal be?

Grégoire NKBOUA (Congp): Cela peut être une information qu'il faut demander: Est-ce qu'en dehors des mouvements écologiques qui pratiquent le boycott des bois tropicaux, il y a des gouvernements ou d'autres organisations qui ont interdit le commerce des bois tropicaux? A ma connaissance, je crois qu'il s'agit d'un boycott des bois tropicaux par des mouvements écologistes. Si l'on m'apporte des informations selon lesquelles il y a des gouvernements ou d'autres organisations qui ont interdit le commerce des bois tropicaux, j'accepterais cet amendement. Sinon, je me rangerais à ma proposition.

LE PRESIDENT: Monsieur le délégué du Congo, l'intention de la Commission et de la Conférence est d'éviter ces embargos. Quand elle dit le boycott, les embargos sur les produits des pays tropicaux, ce n'est pas la meilleure méthode, elle veut avertir les gouvernements contre l'imposition de ces embargos. C'est pour cela que l'on a mis embargo au lieu de boycott. On peut aussi mettre ce qu'a proposé le délégué de l'Argentine. On ne parle pas de choses qui ont déjà existé, mais on avertit les gouvernements de la possibilité que cela puisse arriver. Est-ce que je suis clair maintenant? Est-ce que la proposition argentine qui réunit les deux propositions pourrait être acceptée par la délégation du Congo?

Grégoire NKBOUA (Congo) : Mais dans ce cas-là il faudra inéluctablement changer les verbes ou les temps utilisés, parce qu'il s'agit d'un boycott qui se fait actuellement, et ce que vous dites serait en prévision. J'accepte donc la proposition si on change les temps des verbes pour les deux actes. Je vous remercie.

LE PRESIDENT: Quelle est la proposition de changement du verbe que propose le Congo?

Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo): "estime que le boycott pratiqué par les mouvements écologistes et l'interdiction du commerce international ne seraient pas un bon moyen".

LE PRESIDENT: Est-ce cela qu'il y a dans le texte? "estime" au lieu d'"a estimé". Quand on parle de la Conférence dans le rapport, on parle toujours au passé parce que la Conférence a fini ses travaux. "La Conférence a estimé" vous pouvez voir que l'on parle toujours au passé, mais si vous préférez "estime", pas de problème. Quelle est la proposition de la délégation du Congo?

Grégoire NKEOUA (Gongo): J'accepte votre amendement.

LE PRESIDENT: Merci. Le texte tel qu'amendé par l'Argentine est donc accepté. Est-ce que la délégation de l'Argentine veut prendre la parole?

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Quisiera aclarar que en la version leída, por lo menos, se puso primero los boicots de los movimientos ecológicos, y después los embargos del comercio internacional. Creo que hay que poner primero los embargos y después los boicots.

Quisiera aclarar eso.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : Can we be quite clear what we are agreeing to on this? I am afraid I am confused. I have got to the point where I believe we have text which says that the Conference took the view that boycotting by conservation groups ... etc., which I do not think is a representative view.

CHAIRMAN: No, the idea was that it would read, "the Conference was of the view that embargoes on international trade in timber products and boycotts by ecological groups on those products were not a useful method for slowing down deforestation". Is that clear now?

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): Yes, that is clear.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America): We believe, along with the Canadian delegation, that the wording in the draft report as presented to us is the preferable language. Unfortunately I was not in the room for all the discussion here, but I do not remember this item being discussed earlier during the Commission. Therefore my delegation would prefer to remain with the original language which discusses embargoes on trade.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): We can go along with the agreed formulation except that I would suggest with a slight amount of tentativeness, this formulation would be more a consequence of this Conference if instead of saying "international trade in timber products were not", we could make it "may not", because this is a very sensitive matter for governments who have already taken a decision. We could say "may not be a useful matter".

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : May I support the US proposal on the ground that I do not believe that the Conference as a whole took the view, or even discussed in any great length, the question of bans by ecological groups. If it did, I do not remember a significant discussion along that line.

José Ramon RAPADO ERRAZTI (España): Nosotros queríamos, señor Presidente, matizar simplemente una palabra en el sentido de que, por supuesto, los boicots de movimientos ecologistas o el embargo decretado, digamos a nivel de Estado, más que métodos útiles, se podría sustituir por suficientes. En vez de útil, poner suficiente.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Ante todo, señor Presidente, no tenemos inconveniente en aceptar que el tema de los boicots no se ponga. Simplemente fue una sugerencia para tratar de equilibrar el documento. Pero, desde ya, no podríamos aceptar poner en condicional el verbo, porque los embargos no son métodos, eso creo que está claro para todos o solamente para el área forestal sino para lo cereal, o para lo que fuera.

Por lo tanto, no podríamos aceptar ponerlo en condicional y mucho menos aceptar que sean suficientes, porque parece que el embargo no alcanza para poder eliminar la deforestación. Yo creo que quizá haya un error de interpretación.

CHAIRMAN: I understand from some suggestions, that they could see from here, that the delegation from Spain is not pressing on his proposal.

José Ramón RAPADO ERRAZTI (España): Nosotros, señor Presidente, queríamos recalcar que no era suficiente.

Paulo ESTIVALLET DE MESQUITA (Brasil): Yo señor Presidente, estoy totalmente de acuerdo con la Delegación Argentina. Creo que cambiar útil por suficiente sería un cambio totalmente sin sentido. Soy totalmente contrario a la proposición de España.

CHAIRMAN: I think we are staying too long on this issue, not that the loss of forests is a minor one, but the fact that we are discussing boycotts and embargoes, and I have the same feeling as the delegation of the UK and USA. I did not see any discussion here of boycotts by ecological groupings. I wonder if the delegation of Congo has made any specific remarks on that issue during the debate. I cannot recall having heard any remarks from any other delegations, so what we are doing here is trying to warn that boycotts are not a useful method for slowing down deforestation. We are not discussing any boycotts that were implemented by any countries, so I believe that if the delegation from Congo could have that in mind, I think they could accept our formulation and we could move on.

Grégoire NKBOUA (Congo): Je crois qu'on n'a pas fait allusion à ce texte. J'avais justement posé la question avant de faire cet amendement. Je vous ai demandé, tel que présenté, si on voulait faire allusion au boycott des bois tropicaux pratiqué par les mouvements des écologistes ou s'il y avait des gouvernements ou d'autres organisations qui appliquent l'interdiction. C'est vous qui m'avez tendu la perche pour faire cette proposition.

Si on ne fait pas allusion au boycott des bois tropicaux, je suis d'accord pour retirer cette proposition. Il s'agissait beaucoup plus de ma part de préciser les choses, pour qu'on soit bien clair sur le fait qu'il s'agit d'une interdiction des gouvernements ou des autres groupes ou si on fait allusion ici au boycott proposé par les mouvements des écologistes.

CHAIRMAN: I was misinterpreting his questions and I gave him the wrong impression. So with that explanation, we might move to the next paragraph with the amendments that we have mentioned before.

So paragraph 15? No contents.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: Shall we move to paragraph 16, which of course we cannot discuss because we do not have the resolutions so far.

Paragraph 16, including the draft resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 16, y compris le projet de résolution, est en suspens

Párrafo 16, incluido el proyecto de resolución, queda pendiente

PARAGRAPHS 17 TO 26

PARAGRAPHE 17 A 26

PÁRRAFOS 17 A 26

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 17, 18, 19, 20? Approved.

PARAGRAPH 21

PARAGRAPHE 21

PARRAFO 21

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México): Sin desmerecer, señor Presidente, el excelente trabajo realizado por el Comité de Redacción, simplemente quisiera que se nos precisase un poco más qué se entiende con la afirmación presentada en el cuarto renglón del texto español: la Secretaría analizará la repercusión de la creación del comercio.

Nos gustaría que se nos especificase qué se entiende por creación de comercio. Qué entiende el comité de Redacción.

Paulo ESTIVALLET DE MESQUITA (Brasil): Yo creo, señor Presidente, que lo que debería estar en el texto español, no son las repercusiones, sino los defectos de creación de comercio ya que es un estudio de comercio que va a ser creado, y no de las repercusiones porque ni siquiera se sabe si va a haber una creación de comercio.

Creo, señor Presidente, que en el texto español lo que debería figurar son los efectos de creación de comercio y desplazamiento. Algo así; quizá alguna de las delegaciones de países de lengua española pudieran sugerir algo mejor. Eso quizá también pudiera ser cambiado en los otros textos, no los impactos, sino los efectos o algo así.

Carlos GARCÍA DE ALBA (México): Sí, señor Presidente, ahora me resulta más lógico el sentido de esta afirmación y en ese caso creo que tendríamos que hablar más bien de los efectos de la activación de la ampliación del comercio, o de comercio.

Creo que ahí tendría más sentido la oración sin afectar al fondo del párrafo.

Sí, señor Presidente, los efectos de la activación del comercio.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿No sería más lógico, los efectos sobre la activación del comercio?

Carlos GARCÍA DE ALBA (México): O sobre la activación, señor Presidente, lo que simplemente quiero hacer notar es que sea lógica la afirmación. Estoy de acuerdo con lo que usted propone.

EL PRESIDENTE: En español leería: los efectos sobre la activación del comercio. No sé como sale en las otras lenguas.

Paulo ESTIVALLET DE MESQUITA (Brasil): En realidad, señor Presidente, yo hice una mención a esto durante el debate, y la cuestión es que es una preocupación en que esos nuevos agrupamientos comerciales, no desplacen las importaciones que son provenientes de países en desarrollo hacia otros países desarrollados del mismo agrupamiento, y por eso se hace una referencia a la cuestión de la creación y del desplazamiento del comercio. Me parece importante mantener las dos palabras creación y desplazamiento.

EL PRESIDENTE: No estamos omitiendo la palabra desplazamiento, se está manteniendo.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, I wonder whether it would not be simpler altogether to remove the words "the trade creation and trade displacement impacts", and merely replace them with "the implications for trade".

CHAIRMAN: I can see by the general feeling that that is a much better acceptable solution, so we move to the proposal by the UK delegation "the implications for trade", replacing the whole sentence to "particularly on developing countries". It keeps them in. Okay?

Victor E. MMHCNEA (Argentina): Yo no tengo inconveniente, señor Presidente, en la primera corrección, eliminar la palabra "creación" por "desplazamiento". Yo no eliminaría lo del desplazamiento porque la concentración del comercio en la región correspondiente, ya sea en Estados Unidos, Canadá o en la Comunidad Económica Europea, inevitablemente llevará a un desplazamiento de comercio. Yo no estaría de acuerdo en eliminar el desplazamiento del mismo.

CHAIRMAN: I understand the feeling was that "implications" would also involve displacement and other effects on trade.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): Perhaps we could extend what I suggested to "implications for gains and losses in trade, particularly by developing countries".

CHAIRMAN: Do we need that addition? I think "implication" is an ample word which accommodates effects of any kind. Would that be acceptable? Agreed. Paragraphs 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 approved.

Paragraphs 23 to 26, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 23 à 26, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 23 a 26, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 27 approved

Le paragraphe 27 est approuvé

El párrafo 27 es aprobado

PARAGRAPHS 28 TO 40

PARAGRAPHERS 28 A 40

PARRAFOS 28 A 40

François ROUX (Belgique): La délégation belge aimerait introduire dans la dernière phrase du paragraphe 32 le mot "indépendante". Je relis la dernière phrase: "La Conférence a souligné que la FAO est exceptionnemment bien placée pour fournir des avis et une assistance indépendante au GATT dans ces domaines",

CHAIRMAN: Is there any reaction to the Belgian proposal?

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): I think we lost the translation on that. Could I be sure whether "independent" is going between "providing" and "advice" or before "GATT"?

CHAIRMAN: I believe that in the English text it would be much better to have "providing independent advice". I do not know whether it would be acceptable in the French text to have... "fournit des avis et une assistance indépendants".

François ROCK (Belgique): Si je comprends bien, ce serait: "les avis autant que l'assistance qui seraient indépendants"? Ce serait tout à fait acceptable pour la Belgique.

CHAIRMAN: The English text would read "to provide independent advice and assistance", and the French text would read... "fournit des avis et une assistance indépendants".

So we move to paragraph 33.

François ROUX (Belgique): Là aussi dans la dernière phrase la Belgique aimerait introduire un amendement qui rendrait la phrase comme suit: "Elle a noté avec satisfaction les mesures prises par le Directeur général à la suite de la demande d'assistance technique du Directeur général du GATT pour promouvoir de manière indépendante (et ceci est l'amendement que propose la Belgique) l'harmonisation dans le domaine du contrôle phytosanitaire".

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Si me podría explicar la propuesta realizada por el distinguido Delegado de Bélgica, si no me equivoco. Porque no entiendo cuál es el objetivo de incluir aquí "armonización independiente"; porque si parece independiente no parece armonización. Por lo menos en la versión española no me queda claro.

CHAIRMAN: I believe that when we speak of harmonization we do not need any independent way of providing harmonization, so I think the delegate of Argentina has a point.

François ROUX (Belgique): Oui la Belgique est intervenue aussi bien pour le paragraphe 32 que pour le paragraphe 33 parce qu'en ce qui concerne les normes d'une part, au paragraphe 32 et le contrôle phytosanitaire d'autre part, au paragraphe 33, il y a des interprétations qui sont liées et qui sont apparentées dans les négociations du GATT, ce qui les rend si difficiles. Donc on aimerait insister pour que les avis de la FAO soient indépendants dans ce domaine, neutres.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether it would respond to the question raised by the delegate of Belgium if we said (continues in French) "Les mesures prises par le Directeur général d'une manière indépendante et d'une façon indépendante".

José TUBINO (Canada): Perhaps we could help with some wording here. Could we say "to independently address the issue of harmonization within the field of plant quarantine".

CHAIRMAN: Would that be acceptable to Belgium?

François ROUX (Belgique): Dans ce cas, je préfère retirer mon amendement. Je ne veux pas que la manière indépendante se raccroche au Directeur général mais dans la proposition elle-même.

CHAIRMAN: So we adopt paragraph 33 as it has been drafted by the Committee, and go to paragraphs 34, 35, 36, 37, 38.

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Perdón, pero por la velocidad de aprobación yo me quedé con el 38. Yo sugeriría poner aquí en condicional el verbo. Dice: "La Conferencia recalcó la necesidad de suministrar asistencia técnica a los países en desarrollo a fin de que éstos pudieran", en vez de "puedan", "pudieran cumplir los reglamentos....". Porque pareciera como que no se cumplen los reglamentos aquí. Lo que yo intentaría es cambiar "puedan" por "pudieran cumplir los reglamentos y procedimientos de armonización....".

CHAIRMAN: Are there any comments on the proposal by Argentina? - 39, approved, 40 approved.

Paragraphs 28 to 40, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 28 à 40, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 28 a 40, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 1, not concluded

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 1, est en suspens

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, Parte 1, queda pendiente

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2

CHAIRMAN: we move to document C 89/I/REP/2. It is the intention of the chair to proceed with the discussion of our Report until the end of this morning's session, and move to the Resolutions at the beginning of the afternoon session, even if we have not finished the Report

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 20

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 20

PÁRRAFOS 1 A 20

CHAIRMAN: Paragraphs 1 to 9 approved. There is a slight mistake in the printing of paragraph 10.

SECRETARY, Commission I: In the second sentence, in English only - it does not apply to the other languages - the first word should be "It" and not "If".

CHAIRMAN: If there is no objection, paragraph 10 is approved. Paragraphs 10 to 14 approved.

Paragraph 15?

D.A, BUCKLE (United Kingdom): This is not very substantial. Could I just go back to paragraph 14? I think the second to last word should be "of" rather than "or".



CHAIRMAN: So, with the correction, 14 is approved. Paragraphs 14 to 20 approved.

The delegation of the Congo has proposed an amendment. It is the addition of a new paragraph after 20. on tropical forests and agro-forestry. It is a very substantial text of two pages. I propose that we have this text typed and translated before we discuss it, rather than reading it all and finding imperfections. Therefore, we will come back to that later if the Commission so decides.

Paragraphs 1-20 not concluded

Les paragraphes 1-20 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1-20 quedan pendientes

PARAGRAPHS 21 TO 32 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHERS 21 A 32 Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 21 A 32 INCLUIDOS LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia) : Es solamente para aclaración de una sola palabra en la última frase del párrafo 3. Donde dice: "Varios países miembros expresaron su opinión de que la financiación del Fondo continuara basándose en aportaciones voluntarias", mi delegación propone que se añada la palabra "aun" después de "continuara".

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México) : Nosotros queremos hacer referencia a la parte final de la segunda oración. Vemos reflejado un cierto sentido negativo en la expresión que se refiere al uso del Fondo Internacional, cosa que considero no fue lo que se puso en consideración en los debates de la Comisión, de tal suerte que nosotros propondríamos que se pusiese la frase de la siguiente forma: "En ese sentido, se insistió en la necesidad de prestar asistencia técnica a muchos países en desarrollo y se subrayó la función útil que podría desempeñar el Fondo Internacional". Es decir, nos basamos en el hecho de que no hay delegaciones que no consideren que el Fondo no deba cumplir una función útil.

CHAIRMAN: I see that at first view of the proposal by Mexico, that the French text does not contain the word "possible", but both the Spanish and the English texts contain the word "possible". Therefore, I believe it will be possible for us to delete the word "possible". I see no objection to the deletion of "possible".

We have the proposal by the distinguished delegate from Bolivia to add the word "still", hence "should still remain", and the sentence would start with the word "However". "However, several Member Nations expressed the notion that the financing of the Fund should still remain on a voluntary basis".

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): Two points. I think "still remain" is tautologous, really, and is unnecessary. Could I suggest that the word "notion" is a rather curious one, and could we not replace it by "view".

CHAIRMAN: We have the proposal by the United Kingdom to improve the English to substitute "notion" by "view". I think that can be expected. Then we have the proposal by Bolivia to add the word "still". (Continues in Spanish). La delegación de Bolivia cree que sea necesario introducir la palabra "aún" en el texto español.

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): El propósito de incluir la palabra "aún" o "todavía" es el de establecer el hecho de que la financiación del Fondo eventualmente tomará otras formas de financiación. Si es que no se incluye esta pequeña palabra aclaratoria, bien se puede interpretar que varios países mentes habrían expresado su opinión de que la financiación del Fondo continuara indefinidamente en base a aportaciones voluntarias.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : Might the point be met by changing the word "expressed" for "emphasized"?

CHAIRMAN: Not in Spanish. I see the point raised by the distinguished delegate of Bolivia. Perhaps after "remain" we could use "for the time being". Would that be acceptable? It is acceptable to Bolivia - "should remain for the time being on a voluntary basis".

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): No, I do not think we were really looking at it quite in that temporary way. Could we just say, "should continue on a voluntary basis".

EL PRESIDENTE: Solamente para un esclarecimiento a la Delegación de Bolivia: esta frase se refiere a una opinión de minoría, no es la opinión de la mayoría, es la opinión específica de un grupo de países que creen que la financiación debe continuar basándose en aportaciones voluntarias. Por eso se dice "varios países" y no "la Conferencia". Si fuera una opinión total de la Conferencia, ahí tendríamos que cualificarla de una u otra manera; pero como se refiere a una opinión de un grupo de países, me parece justo que este grupo de países quiera expresarlo de la manera que le parece más conveniente. Y este grupo de países cree que no se debe poner la palabra "aún".

Manuel VIVADO (Bolivia): En ese caso, Señor Presidente, mi Delegación desearía proponer que se aumente una línea después de "aportaciones voluntarias", en punto y seguido, que diga: "Otros países consideran necesario planificar la obtención de recursos para el Fondo."

CHAIRMAN: Is that acceptable to all? I see no objections. We move to paragraph 24. Paragraph 24 adopted. Paragraph 25.

Alberto MURILLO (Venezuela) : Nuestra Delegación quisiera agregar una frase al final del párrafo, que sería más o menos así: "En cuanto a la aplicación de las nuevas biotecnologías, se tendrá también que informar oportunamente, a través del sistema global de la FAO de información de alerta rápida de recursos fitogenéticos, cuando el uso de las nuevas biotecnologías pueda suponer un riesgo o afectar negativamente los países miembros."

CHAIRMAN: Any reaction? Dr Bonte-Friedheim.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would just like for the English to have the clarification that the Early Warning System must be the Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources because, otherwise, we have two Early Warning Systems. So this one refers to the Early Warning on Plant Genetic Resources and must be included in the English text.

CHAIRMAN: With this clarification, any reaction?

José TUBINO (Canada): Maybe we can get some clarification from the Venezuelan delegation. The term "biotechnology" is very broad and we do not know how this particular procedure, which is being suggested here, would apply to the particular issues we are discussing here, which is plant genetic resources conservation. Maybe the Venezuelan delegation could explain.

Alberto MURILLO (Venezuela): Precisamente, señor Presidente, por ser tan amplia la materia de la biotecnología, que pudiese cubrir demasiados temas, hay ciertas cosas dentro de ella que pudieran generar ciertos contratiempos a los recursos fitogenéticos, caro por ejemplo pudiera ser la manipulación de los virus. Se pudieran estar desarrollando ciertas investigaciones con virus y que por algún descuido haya un escape. Puede crear realmente desastres dentro de los recursos. Por lo tanto, sería conveniente tener una posibilidad de alerta para evitar cualquier tipo de catástrofe.

José TUBINO (Canada): Perhaps we could qualify the term "negative impact", and just add a few words there - "negative impact on plant genetic resources conservation".

CHAIRMAN: Is the proposal by Canada acceptable to Venezuela?

Alberto MURILLO (Venezuela): Sería un matiz muy tímido, señor Presidente, ya que en realidad la amenaza sería no solamente para los recursos fitogenéticos, sino para la misma humanidad. Cuando en cualquier tipo de virus como es el caso del AIDS, con una manipulación poco controlada se ha generado realmente una tragedia, así también se puede generar con otros tipos de especies de virus. No hay que olvidar que, por ejemplo, en el año 1950 cuando se empieza a intensificar el uso de los fertilizantes no había problemas en el uso de los fertilizantes hasta que posteriormente empezaron a hacerse los análisis y se vio que en realidad estaba cercenando y se estaban creando problemas graves y serios en la biosfera. Por lo tanto, esto también debería adelantarse y no posteriormente, cuando los problemas sean suficientemente graves para no poder solucionarlos.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): I have two points. The first is that the additional contribution comes across as the view of the Conference, and I am not sure that that was so. It may be the view of one or two delegations, but I did not think that the Conference as a whole took this view.

My second point is that I agree with the points made by Canada that risk and negative impacts surely need some kind of qualification as to precisely what it is we are getting at.

EL PRESIDENTE: Se podría transformar en alguna opinión de las delegaciones. (Continúa en inglés.) Is it acceptable that this should read, "Some Member Nations emphasize that ..."? We adopt the text proposed by Argentina.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): En la versión española hay que quitar dos palabras ya que no queda bien. Donde dice: "la Conferencia estimuló a la FAO a iniciar y llevar a cabo las medidas procedentes para asegurar que todos los países". Dice aquí "se aprovecharan plenamente de las diversas actividades". Debe decir aprovecharan plenamente: las diversas; o sea hay que quitar las palabras: se y de. Es solamente un problema de expresión idiomática.

Carlos GARCIA DE AL£A (México): Lamentamos, señor Presidente, tener que intervenir nuevamente, pero se trata de una cuestión de forma.

La última oración del párrafo 26 no queda clara en la redacción actual. Por lo tanto propondríamos a fin de cerrar correctamente el concepto la siguiente redacción:

En cambio, otros estimaron que los mecanismos actuales para recursos fitogenéticos ofrecían un marco adecuado que podrían eventualmente modificarse para incluir los recursos zoogenéticos. Hacemos esta observación simplemente con afán de claridad.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom): I am no expert in this area, but could somebody who is an expert confirm that that statement is factually correct?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General Agriculture Department) : In

answer to the question from the United Kingdom, we are talking about the arrangements, and the arrangements as you have them in the Undertaking could be amended, enlarged or modified, whatever you want, to include animal genetic resources. Yes, it is possible.

CHAIRMAN: It is suggested that we keep the text as it was originally drafted by the Drafting Committee. If that is acceptable to the Commission, we will return to the text adopted by the Drafting Committee. Therefore, the last sentence of paragraph 26 reads, "Others, however, consider that the present arrangements for plant genetic resources provided an adequate framework which could be amended to include animal genetic resources". The text should read, "and should be amended". It is so agreed.

We now move on to paragraphs 27, 28, 29, 30.

J. Dawson AHALT (United States of America) : In the third line from the end we should like to substitute the words "a non-member" with "some non-members".

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the US amendment? I see none.

Paragraphs 21 to 30, as amended, approved  
Les paragraphes 21 à 30, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés  
Los párrafos 21 a 30, así enmendados, son aprobados

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 31 contains the draft resolutions, which we will discuss this afternoon.

Paragraph 31, including Draft Resolutions, not concluded  
Le paragraphe 31, y compris les projets de résolution, est en suspens  
El párrafo 31, incluidos los proyectos de resolución, queda pendiente

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 2, not concluded  
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 2, est en suspens  
Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 2, queda pendiente

**C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Département) :** The statement refers to the draft resolution which will be considered this afternoon with regard to farmers' rights.

I was requested by you, Mr Chairman, to summarize those concerns or amendments which were mentioned during the debate.

These proposals will be included in a report which the Secretariat will prepare for consideration by the Working Group of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources at its next meeting. The report of the Working Group will of course later be considered by the Commission itself.

There were seven specific points raised by distinguished delegates who indicated possible amendments, some of them similar and related to the same paragraphs. I would like to list the following items for full consideration by the Working Group.

1. The term "Farmers' Rights" is to be reviewed, as there are many farmers rights. Alternative proposals which were made include "Recognition of the Contributions of Farmers" and "Farmers's Genetic Rights".
2. In view of the fact that during active plant breeding work there are breeders' lines and germplasm which are not yet covered by breeders' rights, what are the possibilities of finding a way to exclude this material from those genetic resources to be made freely available?
3. In the Farmers' Rights Resolution the section entitled "Considering" might be cleared regarding two notions, i.e. the origin of plant genetic resources and the particular needs of developing countries. As an alternative it was proposed to use wording such as "these resources often come from countries different from those that have used them to develop their agriculture".
4. The resolution on Farmers' Rights also foresees assistance to farmers and farming communities in all regions of the world. These terms seem restrictive to some delegations. They have proposed widening the concept to "assist qualified groups engaged in genetic resources conservation".
5. The wording in the resolution on Farmers' Rights endorses "supporting the continuation of farmers' contributions". It has been pointed out that this might be changed to read "ensuring full benefits to farmers and supporting the continuation of plant genetic resources conservation".

6. The argument has been forwarded that benefits derived from the Undertaking should not be limited to countries adhering to the Undertaking. The working Group will have to look at the wording.

My personal feeling is that one might also add that it should be ensured that -the responsibilities assumed by countries adhering to the Undertaking should not be limited to those alone but assumed by all other countries as well.

7. The final point which might benefit from some further discussions in order to achieve wider acceptance of the International Undertaking centres around a clear definition of the use of the resources in the International Fund. A few countries insisted that contributions to this fund should be on a voluntary basis only.

These are the seven major points which will be submitted to the Working Group for consideration, together with FAO's views for the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Dr Bonte-Friedheim for his statement.

Before we close our morning meeting, I believe the Commission would wish me to express to the Drafting Committee and its Chairman, Dr Hamdi, our most sincere appreciation for the extremely well formulated report which has been presented to us, as evidenced by the fact that we have accepted and adopted it with a very few minor changes. I think the Commission should thank and compliment the Drafting Committee and its Chairman on this remarkable work.

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 89/I/PV/15

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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25º período de sesiones  
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING  
QUINZIEME SEANCE  
15ª SESION

(23 November 1989)

The Fifteenth Meeting opened at 15.00 hours

J.A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième séance est ouverte à 15 heures

sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 15 horas

bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MEJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION ( continuación )
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (to discuss draft resolutions)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (examen des projets de résolutions)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (para examinar proyectos de resolución)

CHAIRMAN: We will start by discussing item 6.1, resolution C/89/LIM/27, then we will go to the same item C 89/LIM/34. Is there any objection to that? I see no objections, so we will discuss that. The document before us is C 89/LIM/27. It is a draft resolution proposed by the delegation of Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries on FAO Activities related to Sustainable Development. I wonder if the delegation of Norway has anything to add to the document before us.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway) : I would like to add a few remarks concerning the document before us. During the discussion on the agenda item 6, Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries, along with many other delegations and the line that FAO in the future must continue to respond to the environmental challenges. Member countries have found it increasingly important to follow up the integration or environmental concerns in all FAO's activities. The Nordic countries therefore introduced draft resolution C 89/LIM/27. The draft resolution can be seen as a guideline for the future work within FAO to strengthen the valuable work already being done by the Organization. During our discussions with other delegations we have been pleased to note the positive response to the draft resolution. Some constructive suggestions regarding the text have also been made, and amendments from the Brazilian and Mexican delegations will be introduced. Following the high priority given to environmental issues by member countries, FAO must integrate such activities in its Regular Programme and Budget. FAO's contribution to an active involvement in preparation for the 1992 UN Conference is an important part of this high priority, and should consequently be financed within the regular budget. In paper C 89/LIM/29-Sup. 1, the cost of a joint meeting of FAO and UNEP which is supported in the resolution is cost-estimated. It is not clear from the estimates given how the cost is arrived at and it seems very high compared to costs, for instance, for expert meetings in other UN agencies. It is now important that FAO takes an initiative and draws on all its valuable expertise to give a substantial contribution to the 1992 Conference. When suggestions for the framework and scope for the FAO/UNEP meeting emerge we will then have a clear picture of whether the costs involved would be seen to exceed reasonable limits for the Organization. At that point, FAO and UNEP might invite member countries to discuss supplementary financial contributions for this special activity. Finally, just to conclude, I hope that this resolution could be adopted by consensus.



C.H. BONIE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) : Let me first read out some of our views and then answer one or two questions raised by the distinguished delegate of Norway. The Commission is considering a resolution, that in effect is a response by FAO to UNEP resolution, although this resolution was not originally available to distinguished delegates for their review. In order that Members can acquaint themselves with the various aspects of this proposal, we have provided the UNEP resolutions in all official languages, and I refer to document C 89/INF/16. Furthermore, we want to provide this Commission with as much information as possible, including some of the problems that the UNEP resolution might cause to FAO. On 25 May 1989 the UNEP Governing Council adopted a decision, 15/24, on sustainable agriculture. During our June Council session, we had just been informed that this specific decision had been taken and Council was informed of our interest on the one hand and our concern on the other. The report of the Ninety-fifth Session of the Council states in paragraph 145, "mention was also made of the decision adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in May 1989 by commending a joint FAO/UNEP meeting on sustainable agriculture". To the best of our knowledge, a UNEP resolution was sponsored by Switzerland, Senegal and Nigeria. We contacted Permanent Representatives to FAO of these three countries to brief them on FAO's past activities in this important field and of FAO's mandate in accordance with its Constitution. Briefing was provided to Switzerland and Senegal. Just a very few brief contents on the UNEP decision which is surprising since it seems to assign responsibility for sustainable agriculture to UNEP, and does not record the mandated responsibilities and the comparative advantage and long experience of FAO in this field. It is furthermore surprising that a decision by a Governing Body of a UN/UNEP programme attempts to impose action with considerable, and I repeat, considerable financial repercussions on a UN specialized agency. The UNEP decision recommended a joint FAO/UNEP meeting be convened. We assume that this is the Secretariat meeting to prepare inputs for the UN Conference in 1992 and not a meeting of member countries since this, in effect, would duplicate part of the UN Conference itself. However, Member Governments will be involved through regional intergovernmental confrontations if we implement this resolution. If the UNEP decision, however, refers to a full intergovernmental conference, then our estimated costs at US\$ 580 000 are totally unrealistic. For these and other reasons, not least the problem of non-availability of resources, the draft resolution before us gives us some concern, and we would have preferred the matter to have been dealt with in the report like many other important issues. Let me illustrate some of the problems raised by the present text of the Nordic resolution which you have in front of you. In paragraph 2, it seems to us impossible to discuss the environmental impact of agriculture policies and priorities without mentioning agricultural practices. In paragraph 6, the content of this paragraph is much too restrictive and refers to sub-sectors. In view of the discussions in the report of the Ninety-fourth Session of the Council in November 1988, and I refer to paragraph 60 of the report, the Secretariat reminds this Commission of FAO's mandate and vast experience which made it the key agency within the UN system to promote environmentally sound and sustainable agricultural development. We are surprised that there is also no reference to FAO's long involvement in this field in actions to promote sustainable production systems and the breadth of its current activities on rational management and conservation of natural resources to increase agricultural production and improve the living conditions of rural people. In paragraph 7, it is surprising that there is no recognition of our work on environmental impact assessment procedures and we are the only agency that has them. On the various steps taken by FAO to introduce environmental impact assessment procedures in the field programme and to strengthen the

integration of environmental concerns into Regular Programme activities, and the proposal of making increased allocations in the Programme of Work and Budget to activities related to sustainable development.

The operative part of the resolution has five paragraphs. We feel that there is some duplication. With regard to paragraph 1, we do not think it correct to assume that environmental considerations should be integrated in all FAO activities since certainly not all activities are of environmental concern. Paragraph 3 requests FAO to strengthen cooperation without indicating that other organizations, UN and others, should do the same. Paragraph 4 has four parts. The first part is, of course, fully acceptable. With regard to the second part, which organization will be responsible? Or is it assumed that there will be joint responsibility by UNEP and FAO? We are also missing in the UNEP resolution a definition of what is meant by a world strategy and action-oriented proposals on sustainable agriculture in view of the wide diversity of conditions in various countries and regions of the world. As the present budget proposal for 1990-91 does not see any specific resources for such additional work, it is imperative that this question be solved before the Secretariat is requested to take any action.

FAO's financial regulation 13.1 reads as follows: "Before taking any decision involving expenditures the Council or any Commission or Committee appointed by the Council or the Conference shall have before it a report from the Director-General on the administrative and financial implications of the proposals."

The delegate of Norway has already mentioned document C 89/LIM/29-Sup.1, which I will refer to in a minute. In that document we have informed the Commission that the UNEP decision would amount to costs of some US\$ 580 000 or even more if the UNEP envisages intergovernmental rather than inter-Secretariat meetings. There is no provision in the Programme of Work and Budget nor any prospects of savings becoming available later for such expenditures. Unless, therefore, additional extra-budgetary funds are made available to FAO for this particular endeavour, which a UN decision in the draft here seeks to impose upon us, it is difficult to see how it could be implemented beyond what is envisaged as part of the PWB, or to-be-approved PWB. I would therefore suggest that the gist of the intention might be included and reflected in the report instead of as a separate resolution.

Whatever decision is taken by Conference, it should be noted that we are in full agreement with UNEP that the joint work on such a wide and so far not really defined topic will take more than twelve months. Therefore, any meaningful report to our governing bodies, should be foreseen for 1991, not 1990.

The delegate of Norway has asked how we reached this US\$ 580 000 figure. A UNEP delegation visited FAO in October and we had lengthy discussions, during which we discussed how to approach this subject. We foresee that there will be some joint programming meetings between FAO and UNEP; that there needs to be a steering committee; that we need to have an extra consultant; that we need to have some technical panels; that we need to have intergovernmental consultations in the regions because the situations and conditions in the regions vary; that we need to publish the results; and that we need to have an FAO/UNEP meeting in Rome, which means, let me repeat, an inter-Secretariat meeting, not an intergovernmental meeting. There was no disagreement between the UNEP Secretariat and our people here that the costs will be between US\$ 500 000 and US\$ 600 000 for FAO.

Those are the points which I thought, on behalf of the Secretariat, I should bring to the attention of this Commission before it makes a decision on which way the Organization should go in the next two years in preparation for the world meeting to be held in Brazil in 1992. Let me repeat; we are talking about a world strategy, This is not a topic for which somebody can prepare in a few months and believe he has a meaningful paper for a world conference. This is a major exercise if we want to have results.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): I have an amendment to propose, but I do not know if it should be done before we hear the Nordic response to the Secretariat. What I have is a specific point. Should I proceed now, or should the Nordic countries respond to the Secretariat?

CHAIRMAN: I called the delegation of Brazil because I saw no signs from the Nordic delegations.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil) : What I have to propose is the addition of a paragraph in the operative part of the resolution with regard to the concept of sustainable development. We had already mentioned during our intervention in the debate on this point that we wished that the definition agreed by consensus by the UNEP Governing Council had also been presented in that document. We believe that the statement of the Governing Council is a most important one and that it accurately reflects the way we view the relationship between the need and importance of international cooperation on the matter of sustainable development and the issue of sovereignty and the analysis of the causes of environmental degradation. In fact, we would have liked to have seen in the draft resolution a number of the points made in the statement of the Governing Council of UNEP. We should like to have seen explicit recognition, for instance, that sustainable development implies the existence of a supportive international economic environment which should result in sustained economic growth and development in all countries, particularly in developing countries. We would also like to see it stressed, as it is in the statement by the UNEP Governing Council, that the concept of sustainable development does not represent a new form of conditionality in aid or development financing.

For the sake of elegance, and in line with the way the resolution has been drafted, we will make our amendment shorter than it was our initial intention to do. We propose that after paragraph 3 the following new paragraph be added to the Nordic resolution: "FAO endorses the statement by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable development, adopted by consensus at its Fifteen Session."

That is the proposal we make, and to which we attach the utmost importance. I stress that the position of the Brazilian Government is that the idea of attaching greater priority and greater importance to activities related to sustainable development, be it in FAO, be it in other international organizations does not in any way represent any kind of conditionality whatsoever with regard to financial flows, aid or development financing.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): The Nordic countries would have no problem in agreeing to such an amendment to our text.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): During its intervention the Indian delegation had also made clear its position that international cooperation in the field of sustainable development should not lead to any new conditionality in the disbursement of international assistance. Therefore, unless the Norwegian delegation, in the light of the observations made on behalf of the Secretariat by Dr Bonte Friedheim, has anything to say, we would support it as amended in the way suggested by the Brazilian delegation.

We also have some difficulty with operative paragraph 2. We would suggest the deletion of the phrase "inter alia, by screening projects and programmes in the light of their compatibility with sustainable and environmentally sound development" and the substitution of the phrase "and strive for projects and programmes which have greater compatibility with sustainable and environmentally sound development".

If the resolution is passed, the Indian delegation would suggest that it should be passed in the light of the amendment suggested by the Brazilian delegation and of the amendment of paragraph 2 which we have suggested.

CHAIRMAN: We are faced with two amendments to the resolution. To make it doubly clear, I should like to have the delegations of Brazil and India read their amendments at dictation speed. I will first ask the delegate of Brazil to read his amendment.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): This new paragraph, which would come after paragraph 3, would read: "FAO endorses the statement by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable development, adopted by consensus at its Fifteenth Session. " It is a statement by the Governing Council, not a resolution.

CHAIRMAN: This amendment is supported by the delegation of Norway, as I understood it.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I

have two questions on the proposed amendment. First, I think that of course the delegate from Brazil means "The Conference " at the beginning, not "FAO". Second, I am not sure what the Conference is endorsing, because I do not have the statement from the UNEP Governing Council on sustainable development in front of me. I think I shall have to look at it before I can answer on that point.

CHAIRMAN: I would ask the delegate of Brazil if he can provide a copy of that statement to the Chair. While we are waiting for that to be delivered, I ask the delegate of India to give us his amendment on the second operative paragraph.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): My amendment relates to operative para 2. I am suggesting replacement of the phrases starting from "inter alia" and ending with "their", on the next line. I am suggesting the replacement of these words with "and strive for projects and programmes which have greater".

This is the substitute clause.

CHAIRMAN: The new paragraph would read, if my understanding is correct, "FAO in the future must give higher priority to the prevention of environmental degradation which affects agriculture, fisheries and forestry, and strive for projects and programmes which have greater compatibility with sustainable and environmentally sound development" • Is there any objection to the amendment?

Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America): I have three points to make. One is I would share with Doctor Bonte Friedheim's suggestion that we give the chance to be acquainted with the text of the decision of the UNEP Council's so that we know what we are indeed endorsing. I think, consensus notwithstanding, I think it is important to know what we are talking about when we approve or move forward on a resolution.

Secondly, in the second preambular paragraph with respect to the second and third sub-items, I have two suggestions to propose. With respect to the sub-paragraph or indentation relating to the "loss of land productivity, soil and water pollution and hazard to human health caused by excessive.. " after the word "excessive" I would suggest that we include "and improper use of agricultural chemicals". So it would be the addition of two words after "excessive" namely "and improper use of agricultural chemicals".

With respect to the third indentation concerning genetic erosion and increased vulnerability of crops to diseases and pests due in part to", I would add at that juncture "over-reliance upon the use of high-yielding varieties". So the addition would be after the word "to" and it would consist of two words, one of which is hyphenated, "over-reliance upon".

The third aspect is that we are certainly supportive of efforts related to sustainable development and indeed closer coordination in the UN system to address this very important issue. With respect to the proposal for this joint meeting, as part of the preparation for the 1992 Conference, if the member countries agree that this session is of sufficient priority, and if they are prepared to support it with their existing resources, we can join in moving forward with the resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Let me first try to read the amendments to see whether I understood them correctly. The first was in the second preambular paragraph in the second indent, to add the words "and improper" after "excessive". The second one would be after "in part to" - this is after genetic erosion and so on - "in part to over-reliance on the use of high-yielding varieties. Is that correct?

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): As I say, we are pleased that our resolution engendered so much interest, and so far there seems to be reasonable requests made by us and we will not make any problems with that.

We would however implore that we should not be going in to too much detail in the drafting of it, even if there are additional things that they would like to see in it. We would as a matter of fact also. When it comes for screening projects or strive for projects or programmes, of course we will put full trust in the FAO to give high priority to this area in this matter as has already been assured us by Mr Bonte-Friedheim himself so we will not have any problems with that.

CHAIRMAN: I see that the proposal made by the US delegation is acceptable to the sponsors of the resolution. There have been questions which are not exactly contents of the statement by the Governing Council on sustainable development. I have here the text of the statement and I think for the sake of all the delegations who do not have it, perhaps it could be read. As it was pointed out by the delegation of Brazil, this was accepted and adopted by consensus by the last session of the Governing Council of the UNEP, and I read from it: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and does not imply in any way encroachment upon national sovereignty. The Governing Council considers that the achievement of sustainable development involves cooperation within and across national boundaries. It implies progress towards national and international equity, including assistance to developing countries in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives. It implies, further, the existence of a supportive international economic environment that would result in sustained economic growth in all countries, particularly in the developing countries, which is of major importance for sound management of the environment. It also implies the maintenance, rational use and enhancement of the natural resource base that underpins ecological resilience and economic growth. Sustainable development further implies incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations in development planning and policies, and does not represent a new form of conditionality in aid on developing financing."

If any delegation would like to have the text, the Chair will be ready to provide them.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA. (México) : Lamentaríamos desde luego que se prolongase el debate sobre esta Resolución, pero desde hace rato estamos tratando de dejarnos ver. Porque como se mencionaba anteriormente México, también, basándose en la declaración que usted hizo ahora mismo y en el mismo Artículo 1 de la Constitución de la FAO, siguiendo el espíritu constructivo que caracteriza a esta Resolución propuesta por Noruega, quisiera introducir, agregar mejor dicho, algunos pequeños párrafos al texto original de la Resolución.

Trataré de hacer lentamente y a ritmo de dictado las sugerencias de mi Gobierno. En la parte de los Considerandos, y hago alusión al texto en inglés, inmediatamente después del párrafo que se inicia diciendo: "Bearing in mind that in Article 1 of FAO's Constitution, ...", después de este párrafo desearíamos introducir otro más que dijese: "Considerando que la FAO ha desarrollado un sistema global como mecanismo para la segura conservación, uso sostenible y de irrestricto acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos". Terminaría así este párrafo.

Después vendría otro que aparece en la versión original, y en seguida agregaríamos tres líneas que dirían lo siguiente: "Reconociendo que el concepto de agricultura sostenible y de desarrollo forestal así como de conservación biológica y genética son plenamente complementarios ... ". Perdón, Sr. Presidente, me disculpo. Aquí estoy haciendo una involuntaria omisión. Después de hacer mención a "la conservación" tendríamos que introducir la palabra "diversidad biológica y genética son plenamente complementarias". Terminaría así este párrafo.

Y después pasaríamos a la parte operativa de la Resolución. Y en el primer párrafo de la parte decisiva de la Resolución, inmediatamente después de la parte del texto inglés que dice: (en la línea cuarta) "associated with sustainable development" agregaríamos: "la conservación y el uso de la diversidad biológica y genética en el marco de programas técnicos y económicos".

En el segundo párrafo de la parte operativa de la Resolución, leo, inmediatamente después del texto inglés que dice: "of biological and genetic diversity with current and potential importance for agriculture, fisheries and forestry, inter alia, by rendering possible the inclusion of sustainable development within the Organization's projects and programmes".

Aquí son pequeñas enmiendas que estamos introduciendo. En el tercer párrafo de la parte operativa, después de "sustainable development" agregaríamos tres líneas que dirían: "conservation and use of biological and genetic diversity, increase its efforts in assisting governments in the formulation of conservation strategies, specifically in developing countries".

Finalmente, Sr. Presidente, y lamentando prolongar nuestros debates, concluiríamos el Proyecto de Resolución con un inciso b) que se desprende del cuarto numeral de la parte operativa de la Resolución.

El mismo diría lo siguiente: "FAO should jointly with other UN organizations contribute to an international legal instrument on biological diversity, taking maximum advantage of existing FAO global systems".

José TUBINO (Canada) : I just wanted to express my confusion in terms of the measures that we are adding to this resolution. I do not know if we should go paragraph by paragraph, but I do not know what is in front of us any more. Could we have some clarification, please?

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): I would not try to usurp the role of the Chair in trying to clarify the debate, but perhaps I can make some comments on the amendments suggested by Mexico, they sounded rather a mouthful and of course it is difficult to keep track of them, but if we take it in an orderly manner I do not think it is so difficult.

His first suggestion from Mexico is an insertion after the preambular paragraph on page 1, after "Bearing in mind" where he was suggesting a formulation "Considering that FAO has already developed a global system as a mechanism for safe conservation, sustainable use and unrestricted availability of plant genetic resources". It develops that aspect of it. I do not think we would have any problem with that, but I would pose a question to the Secretariat. When the Mexican delegate says "unrestricted availability" will that in any way conflict with the resolution on plant genetic resources and the Undertaking that we have been discussing? I do not think we use "unrestricted" there, so it might be possible to delete that word, but perhaps the Secretariat could help us there,

Then we go on in the resolution "Agreeing that in order to promote sustainable development", and then there is the new wording "recognizing the concept of sustainable agriculture and forestry development and the conservation and use of biological and genetic diversity are fully

Complementary". Again, as I see it the idea is to include the biological diversity in the best possible manner, and as it goes along with several formulations in other international fora, I do not think we would have any problems with that either.

Then it goes on unchanged until we come to the operational paragraphs. In operational paragraph ( 1 ) to my mind it seems logical to insert the words "and the conservation and use of biological and genetic diversity under the technical and economic programmes". It is a follow up of the additional preambular paragraph, so there is a certain logic and I think we could accept that too.

In operational paragraph (2) the idea is to insert after "inter alia" an amendment which says "by rendering possible the inclusion of". This says more or less the same as did the proposal of the Indian delegation. I think they are along the same lines and should not be mutually exclusive. I do not really have any preference but as they are now, working through the Mexican proposal, I wonder whether the Indian delegation would find it useful to use the Mexican proposals. They are equally acceptable to us.

When we come to paragraph 3 there is one line again to include the biological diversity by saying after development "conservation and use of biological and genetic diversity and increase its efforts". As I went along with the general drift of the amendments made before, I do not think I would have any problems with that.

The last amendment of the Mexican delegation points to the contribution that FAO could make to the work on an international legal instrument which is being discussed in other UN fora. In the way it is phrased, which leaves open all the work to come in the future, I think we could go along with that too. As far as I see it, it does not really change the drift of the resolution and it will be a comprehensive whole, also with the additions made by the United States delegation.

Sra. Graf ilaria SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad no sabemos si nuestra intervención ayudará a su ya difícil trabajo, señor ¡Presidente, pero, al oír las distintas enmiendas hechas a la interesante Resolución que han presentado los países nórdicos, a la delegación de Cuba le surgen algunas preocupaciones. Nos parece que la delegación de México ha hecho toda una serie de enmiendas que complementan o tal vez mejoran el texto de Resolución que ya estábamos analizando. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, teníamos a nuestra consideración las enmiendas propuestas por las distinguidas delegaciones de Brasil y de la India. A nuestro entender, algunas de las propuestas hechas por la delegación de México se complementan con las hechas por la India y Brasil, pero quisiéramos saber qué estamos analizando realmente en este momento: lo de Brasil, lo de la India, lo de México... En fin, señor Presidente, que usted nos aclarara en qué punto estamos, por favor.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México) : Sin afán, desde luego, de crear confusión, nosotros hicimos una lectura fragmentaria de las propuestas de adición a la Resolución presentada por el Gobierno de Noruega. Si se procede a la lectura del conjunto de la Resolución, debería quedar claro el propósito que nos mueve a haberla formulado. Es decir, partimos del entendimiento de que el



desarrollo sostenible va íntimamente vinculado, debe ser entendido como algo indivisible de la conservación de la diversidad biológica, de la diversidad genética. Creo que esto queda claro en el caso de muchos de nuestros países, que han franqueado un modelo de desarrollo viable a largo plazo, precisamente por la pérdida, por la erosión de su diversidad biológica y genética. Es esto lo que nos mueve a hacer la propuesta.

Reitero que si se parte de una lectura fragmentada resultaría, posiblemente, difícil de entender; pero estamos plenamente dentro del espíritu y el contenido de la propuesta que originalmente planteó la distinguida Delegada de Noruega.

En cuanto a la metodología a seguir, señor Presidente, las propuestas que ha hecho la delegación de México desde luego no se contraponen, sino que se complementan con las hechas por las Delegaciones de Brasil y de la India. Es decir, se puede proceder a discutir la Resolución - me permito sugerirlo - partiendo de las propuestas que han hecho las tres delegaciones.

Sra. Mercedes FHRMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): La delegación de Venezuela va a respaldar completamente las proposiciones hechas por México. Los argumentos que acaba de hacer el delegado de México satisfacen a nuestra posición, porque consideramos que no hay contradicción en las proposiciones hechas por la delegación de México, que nosotros respaldamos, y las que anteriormente había hecho Brasil.

En consecuencia, en beneficio del debate y de poder entenderlo, creo que podríamos pasar sucintamente por las proposiciones, pero rogamos a los proponentes de Brasil considerar las de México, y de esa manera podríamos estar de acuerdo. Así que ratifico nuestra proposición a las modificaciones presentadas por la delegación de México porque consideramos completan perfectamente el texto propuesto por la original declaración de Noruega.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway) : On a point of clarification, and to try to help my distinguished colleague from Cuba, as the first amendment was proposed by Brazil and we found it reasonable, and having had the information and the text in full read out from the Chair, there seems to us to be no apposition to that amendment. As such, it was accepted by Norway and the Nordic countries. Therefore, we are in the situation where we have an amendment by Brazil which is accepted by the sponsors, an amendment from the United States which is accepted by the sponsors, and amendments from Mexico which are also accepted by the sponsors. I take it that India would have no problems with talcing the Mexican text, which substitutes what he said and makes it simple, in a way. We have these amendments all accepted by the sponsors, making a good basis for a decision on the Resolution, which I hope we are about to take.

CHAIRMAN: Delegates, I understand that a few delegations might have sane difficulty in knowing what they are discussing, and I believe the best way of dealing with that is that we start taking the Resolution paragraph by paragraph. Ojien later on we could see if there is acceptance of each paragraph. Then we will come back to the Resolution as a whole.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Marci, Monsieur le Président. Je comprends fort bien le souci de la délégation mexicaine de mettre l'accent dans cette résolution sur le problème des ressources phytogénétiques. Cependant, je crois que nous nous trouvons face à une question de principe car si l'on ajoute à un point donné le problème des ressources phytogénétiques, cela est parfaitement concevable et enrichit le texte, mais si l'on souhaite sur chaque point traité par cette résolution parler aussi des ressources phytogénétiques, j'ai l'impression que nous dénaturons un peu le texte initial parce que nous pourrions aussi parler de toute sorte d'autres questions car le développement durable est une notion très générale, englobante, qui doit guider l'ensemble des activités de notre Organisation.

Je ne vois pas bien pourquoi l'on fait une part spéciale aux ressources phytogénétiques. Il me semble qu'il serait plus raisonnable de se limiter à le mentionner une fois dans les considérants et une fois dans le texte pour bien prendre en compte ce problème, mais ne pas vouloir à tout prix l'inscrire à plusieurs reprises dans cette résolution.

Sra. Graf ila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba acogió con mucho beneplácito -y lo repetimos- la Resolución presentada por los países nórdicos, y apoyamos las propuestas hechas por la delegación de México porque nos parecen muy pertinentes. Nuestra idea en la intervención anterior era, un poco, que dejáramos claro si las propuestas hechas por las delegaciones de la India y de Brasil eran consideradas por estas Delegaciones como incluidas ya en las propuestas de México y, por lo tanto, así quedaríamos con un solo texto por analizar.

Richard SETENAN (United States of America): I have two suggestions and then some comments. It does seem to us that there is a number of different suggestions that are coming at us from the floor. Given the volume of these contents, perhaps it might be worthwhile to us to get a small drafting group together of, say, the Norwegians, Brazilians, Mexicans and anybody else who feels they have an important element to contribute, so that we might have before us quickly a single text that we could then deal with directly. If this is not attractive to you, Mr Chairman, I will then make some additional suggestions.

CHAIRMAN: I think that is very attractive to me. I was really wondering how we should go through this Resolution. Perhaps it could be helpful to us to have a small drafting group of the sponsors of the Resolution and the amendments, and two or three other interested countries such as France and the US who indicated their wish to participate in this draft.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (México) : Señor Presidente, si no hubiese nada en contrario por parte de las distinguidas delegaciones de Noruega, la India, Brasil y los Estados Unidos, que han participado en los debates de esta Resolución, aceptaríamos formar parte de un pequeño grupo de redacción que pudiese sesionar en cuanto lo dispusiese esta Comisión.

CHAIRMAN: If we suspend discussion of this Resolution, a small contact group could meet in the adjoining room, composed of Norway - under the chairmanship of the delegate of Norway, which is the sponsor of the Resolution - Brazil,

Mexico, the United States and France. France will be interested in participating, and also India of course. This group should meet now while we go on to the next item on our agenda. Of course, they would have the help of someone from the Secretariat.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): Mr Chairman, if you think it would be helpful, of course, we would go along with your suggestion. I do not think there would be too much of a problem of substance here. It is just a matter of everyone being clear that everything has been included. I do not think we really have to go through it paragraph by paragraph. I am sure that we will be quick about it and I am sure that we shall cooperate fully.

CHAIRMAN: The idea was to have some kind of collage that we have everything mentioned here and it is accepted by everyone, so that we can have a paper which could be seen by the other delegations and adopted by them in full cognizance of what they are adopting.

According to the revised decision taken this afternoon by Commission I, we now consider under item 6.1 a draft resolution presented by the Arab Member Countries on "Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People". This is contained in document C 89/LIM/34.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): First and foremost, before examining this draft resolution and dealing with assistance to the Palestinian people, allow me to make a few general comments, observations, which could be of assistance to the Commission in making a proper decision. I should like to point out that from the very beginning technical assistance to the Palestinian people is in no way whatsoever a political decision: quite the contrary. The Group of Arab Member Nations feels that technical assistance falls within the context of the Technical Assistance Programme which is part and parcel of FAO's activities. That is also the case for the other international organizations which are part of the UN system, such as UNIDO, Unesco, WHO and many other organizations which have made similar decisions. I think you knew very well, Mr Chairman, that the agricultural sector is very, very important for the Palestinian people. It is considered the axis around which the economy of the Palestinian people rotates.

We feel - and by "we" I mean the Arab Member Nations - that there are reasons which do justify the contribution of this technical assistance to the Palestinian people in the agricultural sector for the following reasons.

The first reason is that the international community has to focus on the occupational policies which hinder and hamper the development of agriculture. Second of all, the expropriation of more than 50 percent of the arable land occupied in the establishment of colonies, settlements and many other practices further hinder and hamper the development of agriculture in the Palestine territory. When you have the expropriation of water ways, rivers, streams, of water resources in the Occupied Arab Territories. The policies pursued by the occupational authorities and the setting of certain rules for agricultural and marketing and trading all go against international norms. The closing or the limitation of the activities on the part of numerous institutions, for example, the problems of activities in credit, research cooperation, all those institutions working in those areas have either been frozen or have been hampered in their activities.

The fact of not pointing an accusing finger against those shameful activities would further encourage the occupational authorities to continue their work and would further hamper agriculture development, hence the group of Arab Member Nations, convinced that the agricultural sector constitutes the very keystone for the economy of the Palestinian people at present, and this with the view to achievement of true agricultural development and hence the achievement of food self-sufficiency and food security. The Group of Arab Member Nations has presented this draft resolution. Now, this draft resolution includes a certain number of essential elements. The first is that the Palestinian people need to be included in the agricultural development of activities of FAO and this through the projects relative to technical assistance in order to help them to resolve the problems encountered by the agricultural sector in the Palestinian territory. The second element contained in this resolution is the need to study, to examine and to evaluate the situation of the agricultural sector in the Occupied Arab Territories and that would call for the sending out of missions of experts in order to undertake an evaluation pursuant to the results of which it would be possible to draw up suitable projects. Thirdly, we have in this draft resolution the need to resolve problems by organizing a seminar which would shed light on the situation. This would entail, quite obviously, or would bring together, to put in that way, the agricultural development experts, and also involve the participation of those who know agricultural problems. Lastly, the Arab Member Nations feel that technical assistance and other assistance should be provided by FAO and also by other organizations as such a need could provide a very strong and resolute and praiseworthy contribution to agricultural development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Then I would just like to point out that the Arab Member Nations, the Group of Arab Member Nations, in submitting for consideration this draft resolution feels, thinks, wishes and harbours the hope that the First Commission would be able to adopt this resolution and accept this draft resolution. We are convinced that this draft resolution will serve the purposes of agricultural land and agricultural development.

Quite obviously, the Group of Arab Member Nations is very, very flexible and is open to any suggestions that would go in the general direction of the meaning of this draft resolution. I trust and hope that all the members of this august assembly could manifest comprehension and understanding with respect to the very substance of this draft resolution, because we are quite obviously very open to any and all dialogue; to any and all examination; to any and all amendments; if it helps to resolve the problems. We are open to any dialogue with other countries concerned by the issue with our friends. Obviously, we are prepared to entertain any amendments which may be raised relative to this draft resolution, and this, as we said, in order to come up with a solution to this problem.

CHAIRMAN: I assume that the statement just made by the distinguished delegate of Libya constitutes the presentation of the draft resolution in the name of the Arab Member Nations. I would ask that other delegations addressing the items would concentrate themselves on discussing the specific points on the draft resolution, and if that is the case, any amendments to it.

Mme Amina BOUDJELTI (Algérie) : Avant toute chose, permettez-nous de vous remercier, Monsieur le Président, d'avoir accédé à notre demande surtout à un niveau aussi avancé de notre ordre du jour.

Je voulais à ce niveau là prendre également la parole uniquement pour soutenir le précédent orateur et axer la question aussi bien sur l'esprit du dialogue qui anime le groupe arabe que sur l'aspect technique de la résolution. En effet, de quoi s'agit-il d'autre si ce n'est de la réalisation d'une étude ou de l'organisation d'un symposium sur la situation agricole dans les territoires palestiniens occupés.

Il nous semble donc qu'à partir du moment où le propos de cette résolution est d'apporter une assistance technique dans le strict respect des attributions de la FAO, ce texte pourrait être parfaitement acceptable. Nous espérons d'ailleurs le soutien de tous dans ce sens.

David MCGAFFEY (United States of America) : I note your request that we go immediately to the details of the resolution, but I beg your indulgence, Sir, because the distinguished representative of Libya asked to make a general statement before we begin covering the resolution, and I feel it is important for the deliberations of this body that I make some comment on that. The first comment is that I agree entirely with the delegate of Libya that the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people is not a political issue and is an appropriate issue for this body and for FAO to consider. Immediately following that point, the delegate of Libya stated that the first purpose of this draft text that we have in front of us is, to use his words, pointing an accusing finger at alleged perpetrators of certain actions, which he states are occurring. I do not know, of my own knowledge, whether those acts are occurring or not. I have certainly seen convincing statements backed by statistics that would show that they are not. I have seen equally strong statements in political fora that they are. I do not believe that this is the body to debate such political issues or even such issues of fact, because we who are concerned with food and agricultural issues are not in fact competent to address matters of law, of politics, and of very severe emotional strains between different groups. What the delegate of Libya states is that the purpose of this resolution is to request FAO to provide specific activities in a specific area. I think that it is entirely appropriate for any group of matters to so request. We have had such requests from the representative of Trinidad and Tobago asking for greater training for professionals and para-professionals. We have had requests asking for greater assistance to fishermen with snail boats, we have had over 50 such requests, by my list, which can and should be reflected in the report of this Conference. I do not think that such a request by a group of countries for a specific activity by FAO is appropriate for a resolution. It is asking FAO to do its normal and ordinary business and stating the preference of a group. I would, and have, therefore, requested that group that they withdraw this as a resolution and instead state their request so it would be printed in the records. Even at this late stage, they have the opportunity to do that. But, if they do not, let us be clear. We are being asked to consider two separate issues: one is a request for technical assistance to the Palestinian people; the second is a request for the politicization of FAO. Now, let me be clear, the US is not opposed to assistance to the Palestinian people. Since 1964 the US has provided over US\$ 125 million in direct assistance to the Palestinian people. We agree that the Arab Group has a full right to request FAO to put that priority on assistance to the Palestinians, and if FAO agrees to this priority, the US is not opposed. However, let me be equally clear. The US is adamantly opposed to any attempt to use FAO to advance a particular political agenda. I am telling you that the attempts to put political language into the resolution will be, and must be, opposed, because they endanger the stability and even the future of FAO. Any attempt to link political resolutions in the

UNGA; any attempt to use it to give political status to the PLO; any attempt to pre-judge the results of the peace process or even the results of the FAO study being proposed, will not only bring forth strong opposition from the US and others, but will endanger the reputation of FAO as an apolitical, technical organization and that threatens not only financial support for the Organization, but even the universality of membership. In the US Administration, there is a relatively small group which is concerned with FAO and with some differences about specific issues that have been expressed here and in another forum, but that group is basically a strong supporter of FAO and of its mission.

If the FAO is politicized, the attention of a much larger group of people within the United States who have little knowledge of and no reason to support FAO will be engaged, and I cannot predict what action they might take. The choice rests with this body. If we wish technical assistance for the Palestinian people, we can ask that this resolution be withdrawn and present another along the lines of a draft that I have seen prepared by one member of the Arab Group which was strictly a request for technical assistance, or we could amend it to reflect that. Depending on the language, the US may well be able to support such a resolution and in any event will not oppose a request for technical assistance to the Palestinian people. If, however, we wish to raise political issues in the FAO forum, we need only continue with the present language. The US will strongly oppose this, as will others, and I believe that the consequences for FAO will be severe. This body must accept the responsibility for the consequences if we continue along this path.

Finally, I understand fully that the US holds political views which are different from those of other nations. We all have the right to express our views, to express differing views, in a political forum. I merely urge that we should not endanger FAO by using this forum to advance our political views.

If we decide to continue with this resolution, the US would appreciate the opportunity to speak on the specifics of the resolution, but I felt that this over-arching issue should be brought to the attention of this body.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): If the long-term goal and objective of our Organization is to create expanded economic growth and safeguard the freedom of humanity from hunger, the proposal submitted by Egypt on behalf of the Arab Group related to the technical assistance to be granted to the Palestinian people is in conformity with the goal and objective of our Organization. I have no doubt of the awareness of the different Member Nations about the deteriorating living conditions in the occupied territories, especially as far as agriculture is concerned. The occupying authority has a number of practices which hinder rural development and the growth of agricultural production. The Palestinian people deserve technical assistance in order to face the repression.

FAO is operating within the framework of the United Nations. Resolution 181/41 dated 8 December 1986 approved assistance to the Palestinian people. In addition, resolution 178/43 dated 20 December 1988 is about the assistance to be extended to the Palestinian people.

In addition to UNEP, ILO, WHO, UNESCO, all the international organizations have followed the same path. They have adopted an objective attitude towards the Palestinian people. I should like to express the opinion of the Arab

OTuntries and support this draft resolution submitted by Egypt. My delegation urges other members of our Commission to support the draft resolution, which is not political, as sane might have the impression.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): The

Arab Group are members of FAO and are at the same time members of the Near East Group. The Arab Group has a clean bill of health as it were. we have a sound history with you. Therefore, we tend to support developing countries. As you know, we have always shown reluctance towards any move to politicize this Organization and are still anxious to preserve our Organization from politicization. The Organization has a longstanding tradition in dealing with agriculture and agricultural development, and therefore we are far from aiming at politicizing it. We know that some other organizations have a more political nature, and therefore we do not deal with political matters in this forum.

When we submitted document C 89/LIM/34, we stated some facts. These are not political in nature. They are real facts and they reflect the living conditions and the reality of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, with regard to what was said by the delegate of the United States that we did not wish to politicize the Organization. We told him that we were flexible enough to change our attitude in order to reach a common agreement. We said that we had submitted the draft resolution and were quite ready to listen to his explanation of what he considered the political nature of this document, what were the political points which disturbed him and vdiat were the references which he believed to be outside the secce of agriculture. But we met with some rejections. The delegation of the United States told us that they do not have the competence to deal with this natter.

Since I am the chairman of the Near East Group, to which all Arab country members of this Organization belong, I met with some fellow members from the Arab countries, especially those who are in support of this draft resolution. We have therefore seen fit to bring forward some amendments which we believe are a reflection of our goodwill. We hope that the different delegations present here, including the delegation of the United States of America, will understand our attitude. I still say that we are flexible and that we do not want confrontation, destructive discussion or anything else which might lead us to confrontation. We are for reason and wisdom in dealing with this matter.

If you will allow me, Mr Chairman, I should like to read out the basic changes which we believe we can adopt concerning this document.

•Hie first paragraph of the draft resolution begins, "Recalling the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181/41... ". We know that this resolution was not accepted by the United States of America, and we have therefore seen fit to delete all reference to it. Instead of this reference, we would insert the following: "Recalling the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1989/96 of 26 July 1989..."

The following paragraph begins: "Recalling also the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 178/43... ". We would delete this and insert the following instead: "Recognizing that the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities impede the basic requirements for the development of the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, including the agricultural sector... "

The third change would be as follows. It starts with: "Affirming importance of supporting... ". This would be left as it was originally, and we then move to the following.

We would say "its" opposition to the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and expropriation of Palestinian water resources. Mr Chairman, I do not know if some of our colleagues from the Near East region or from other member countries, Arab countries present here, I wonder if they wish to propose some amendments or changes to this document. But I would like to confirm in this connection, Mr Chairman that these changes would reflect to you and to the other Member Nations our flexibility, the spirit of flexibility we are shewing.

This is what I have to say, Mr Chairman, concerning this precise item and I do thank you for giving me the floor.

Ms Hoda EL MARASSI (Egypt): Actually, I have some amendments, slight amendments, that I would like to submit concerning the draft resolution under discussion, but I wish first of all and before stating my amendments, I would like to make an appeal to our colleague from the United States of America. I would like to make an appeal and ask them to be patient enough with us because we attach great importance to this matter as an Arab group. We knew that the aim of submitting this draft resolution is not political in its nature. We know that FAO is an organization of a technical nature. This Organization is focusing on extending technical assistance in the field of agriculture, and therefore I would like to request the delegation of the United States of America to understand this attitude, and this is the general attitude of our colleagues from the Arab countries.

New, Mr Chairman, allow me to move to my amendment to the item under discussion. This is related to the term "Palestinian occupied territories", and I would like to say "the Palestinian territory" in the singular and not in the plural. This relates to the third paragraph and the third operative paragraph. I would like to submit this amendment so that it would be in conformity with the terminology used in the UN resolutions and the other agencies, including ECOSOC in its Resolution 89 dated 1988.

Yosef HASSEN (Israel): I would like to state our complete rejection of this draft resolution for which a very strange reason is entitled "Provision of Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People." This resolution replete as it is, with falsifications, is yet another exercise of the political and propaganda campaign waged consistently against Israel by Arab states. It became a ritual custom of the Arab countries to introduce politics into our deliberations, They clearly demonstrate their intention to politicize the FAO as they do in other specialized and technical UN agencies. For the mere purpose of paying lip service to the Palestinian subject, they show no concern or consideration for the valuable time spent due to this uncalled-for political warfare against Israel. We witness here again a high degree of arrogance and lack of sensitivity in demanding special funds and extra budget for conducting unnecessary surveys and seminars to an agricultural Palestinian community which can still serve as an example to many Arab countries. The money defended for the Palestinians is desperately needed for farmers less fortunate in poorer countries.



Vite look at document C 89/LIM/34-Sup.1 and we should ask ourselves where the money will come from. I did not hear pledges of contributions from anyone from the sponsoring countries. In their generosity they expect other Member States to carry the burden.

Mr Chairiran, the damage has been done. Our attention has already been diverted away from the crucial and important issues on our agenda, and reluctantly I am forced to join this futile exercise and deprive the Commission of more important time. The blame is not on me. The explicated political problems of the Middle East, as we are all aware, have no place in this Commission. The political organs of the UN are constantly preoccupied by it in a manner which surpasses other major subjects included in the agenda. It would have been better if this Commission had avoided this highly controversial and tense issue and directed its attention to the real problems facing our Organization. All we can expect at present is another debate and resolution which in the end will remain "lettre morte", without significance or value. It will surely serve the propaganda purposes of the sponsors, but not the interests of the Palestinians themselves. The Palestinians are the people affected first and foremost, not from Israel but from those who for so many years led them to sacrifice their most vital interests in return for politically motivated reports and resolutions.

As for the real economic situation in the territories under Israeli administration, the facts are very different from the situation portrayed in the draft. The records are known to everybody who wishes to know the truth, though I doubt if those who submitted the draft really want to be bothered with facts since their mind is set on other objectives.

Let me then furnish this Commission with some facts and figures. The GNP in the territories under Israeli administration has increased by about 400% since 1967. Private and public construction has risen 900%, and the value of exported goods has increased almost twelve-fold, namely from US\$ 34 million to US\$ 395 million. Furthermore in this period, close to 2 500 industrial plants and workshops were established. The industrial workforce doubled and the unemployment rate dropped from 10% to 3%. To be more specific the per capita GNP of US\$ 1 730 in 1987 places the territories well above Jordan with US\$ 1 560 only, and Syria US\$ 1 640 only, and every other non-oil-exporting Arab country. The per capita GDP growth in 1987 is 0.8% annually. How many developing countries have had such a record during the 1980s?

As for the quality of life, private constructions rose 230%. The percentage of households in the Territories provided with electricity increased from about 20% in 1967 to more than 90% in 1986, and the number of those possessing refrigerators rose from 12% to 75%. Finally the number of families owning private cars has grown five-fold. All this notwithstanding the 45% increase in the population since 1967. But the most significant achievement is registered in the agricultural sector. The area has benefited greatly from the transfer from Israel of new technologies to agrarian evolution, modern farming methods which radically changed agricultural production capacities in the whole region. An objective observer can tell of the very deep-rooted economic cooperation and inter-relationship that exists between Israel and the Territories, although not everyone in this Arab world is willing to admit it. The highlight of the Palestinian producer achievement is the possibility to export to the European market. Israel has agreed to a direct export from the Territories to the European Community. This is yet another proof of the high level and standard of Palestinian agriculture. How many other Arab countries can claim such a success?

During 1988 and despite disturbances, the so-called intifada, exports of vegetables and fruits from the Territories continued uninterrupted. Last year 170 000 tons of produce were exported through the Jordan bridges to various Arab states. Export of vegetables amounted to 1 200 tons, double the amount of 1986. The Palestinian farmers do not need assistance. They are in the position of offering support and assistance to many neighbouring Arab states including Egypt, which already uses Israeli know-how; surely Algeria, definitely Syria, and even Iraq, Yemen and no doubt Saudi Arabia and Sudan and Libya.

It is not our intention to argue that material well-being is an alternative to a political settlement. As always, Israel remains fully committed to the search for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the meantime, it has done its utmost in the prevailing situation to ensure the well-being of the population in the Territories and will continue to do so until such a time as a political settlement is achieved.

If this resolution was honestly concerned only with the well-being of the Palestinians, then Israel would have been one of the sponsors. But this resolution is only an excuse to stage a political attack on Israel. Amendments will not change the nature of this resolution.

In conclusion, I call upon all delegates who wish to promote the real goals of FAO to reject this transparent attempt to distort and politicize the work of the Conference and to reject the draft outright.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Israel. I will call on the member countries to accept the proposal made at the beginning of our discussion that we concentrate our debate on the issue before us, which is the resolution regarding the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. I hope that we will not engage in a long unending political debate on the fate of the Palestinian people in the political situation of the Middle East.

Ms. Souad ABDALLAH (Syria)(original language Arabic): I will respond to your call and limit my intervention to make a brief statement.

I listened with astonishment to the statement by the United States delegation. I would like to thank him because he said that his country was prepared to provide technical assistance to the Palestinian people, but at the same time I am surprised at the threatening language he used regarding the future of this Organization and the provision of technical assistance.

This is the first time that I have attended the work of this Organization and I think I have a lot to learn, but what I have heard from the delegate of Israel is beyond my imagination. It is our duty as delegates to respect other delegations. What Israel is doing for the Palestinian people in the agricultural sector in many fields is well known to the world as a whole, and there are documents to support that in the United Nations. I will not comment on that except to say that the Palestinian farmer needs help but he cannot get this help.

If we seriously look into the statement made by Israel, our friends from the developing countries would be willing to provide their countries for Israel to occupy, if the farmers are going to get assistance. We are not politicizing this Organization. We have respect for its ideals and objectives

and for the efforts it is making to provide help and assistance to human beings in natural catastrophes, and anything that will cause hunger and disease, natural disasters or chemical ones, drought or any other disaster.

If we mention Israel we are not talking about the political aspects; we are talking about reality. The Palestinian farmer cannot cultivate his land. He cannot make use of the water resources. In order to achieve consensus on this draft resolution I should like to join my Arab brothers and support the amendments they have made to this resolution. We support the deletion of the first operative paragraph because Saudi Arabia has presented another paragraph which would cover what is intended here.

Jacques WARIN (France): Je vais tâcher d'être bref, je me conformerai strictement à l'appel que vous avez lancé en me concentrant sur l'aspect technique de notre débat. Je précise que j'ai été mandaté par mes collègues de la Communauté européenne pour parler au nom des 12 pays membres dont non pays assume à l'heure actuelle la présidence.

Dans le principe, nous sommes favorables à la fourniture d'une assistance technique au peuple palestinien par le canal de la FAO, étant entendu qu'il s'agit uniquement d'une assistance dans le domaine agricole et alimentaire puisqu'auSSI bien ce sont là les compétences de notre Organisation.

Nous déplorons en revanche l'introduction de résolutions qui pourraient avoir un caractère politique dans les organes directeurs de cette Organisation, nous déplorons également que le débat puisse prendre immédiatement un tour politique car certaines interventions de précédents orateurs l'ont laissé craindre.

Cerane le délégué des Etats-Unis, nous préférons que ce problème de l'assistance technique au peuple palestinien soit pris en compte dans le rapport à la Conférence. Cela dit, nous sommes prêts dans un esprit de conciliation à étudier tout amendement qui pourrait être proposé par une ou plusieurs délégations arabes au tésète que nous avons sous les yeux. Nous avons entendu déjà le délégué de l'Arabie Saoudite, puis l'Ambassadrice d'Egypte proposer quelques amendements. Nous serions intéressés de les étudier et nous réservons notre attitude sur le texte final qui nous sera proposé.

Jaml AHMAD KHAN (Pakistan) : we do not believe that the debate is necessarily moving in the direction in which we do not wish it to move. We believe that political matters can be avoided by mutual goodwill, and we have already heard several speakers appealing to all concerned here to approach the problem in its essential feature of non-political technical assistance.

Pakistan has always supported the just and well-deserved economic needs and rights of the Palestinian people, and in the same spirit of sympathy and solidarity we see clear merit in the basic needs of the Palestinian people which are proposed to be met by the technical - not political - assistance in the main provisions of the resolution.

It is our sincere view that every possible step that goes towards the alleviation of the hardships of the Palestinian people deserves encouragement and support, including the support of FAO's technical expertise in the field of agriculture.

Accordingly, on both humanitarian and moral grounds the Pakistan delegation strongly supports the resolution, and we join the appeals made here to all those present to work towards the evolution of a resolution which would be apolitical and concentrate only on FAO's technical cooperation being requested through the draft.

David COUPES (Australia) : I also will very much respect the request to speak to the resolution and not make broader remarks of a political nature.

In general terms, Australia would most definitely prefer not to have this resolution on the table, not because we do not support the appropriate consideration for Palestinian farmers but because we do not regard it as appropriate to have a resolution of this nature such as the one that is before us come out of this Conference. We think the matter could have been handled, as other speakers have said, far more sensitively and appropriately by recognition in the text of Commission I's report. However, we do not have the resolution, and in relation to it I should like to say a few things to express our position.

we would not be able to support the resolution as it stands. I have not managed to keep track of the amendments, but I dare say they will be recalled to us at some stage. As it stands, the reason why we would have difficulty in supporting it is not related to the preambular material, because Australia has supported resolution 181/41 which is mentioned at the start, and although we voted against resolution 178/43 mentioned in the second preambular paragraph in the past, I understand that we may be able to support it when it goes back to the General Assembly this year as it has been substantially modified. So I would like to underline that we do not have problems with those general concepts.

However, we do have difficulties with references such as that in paragraph 2 where the words "exercising sovereignty" are mentioned. We would certainly prefer to see that sort of phrase dropped from any resolution.

we also have some difficulty with the wording of paragraph 3 where it says "Takes note with appreciation of the European Community's resolution". Our position is that we accept certificates of origin only if they are issued by competent recognized state authorities. I knew that this is noting the European Community's resolution, but the words "with appreciation" may give us some difficulty.

In relation to paragraphs 4 and 5, we are a little concerned about the resource implications of those paragraphs inasmuch as we are not sure that much of the proposed work would not duplicate other work going on in such bodies as UNCTAD. It would be difficult, therefore, for us to support those sorts of proposals given our commitment to reducing such duplication among international agencies.

In addition, in paragraph 6, where it says "with the present cooperation and coordination between the Palestine Liberation Organization and other UN agencies" we are not particularly comfortable with that sort of wording.

On the whole, we would prefer to see FAO not involved in activities outside government frameworks.

Those are the main points I wished to make to explain why we have some difficulties with this proposal.

Elvind S. HOMME (Norway): In order to be brief, I should just like to express my delegation's support for the remarks made by the representative of France.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): I

should like to thank the delegates of France and Norway, and we hope that they will be more sympathetic with our draft resolution, because we are presenting this as a draft resolution and not to be included in the report of the Commission.

I would also like to say that the principle of sound, fruitful dialogue, which has characterized the attitude of the delegate of Australia who referred to the points he did not like to see in this draft resolution, is what we are calling for from other delegations.

We have a draft resolution before us. We have to study it. We said earlier that we are flexible enough and we are ready to understand the positions of the others, and we call for a fruitful dialogue. In fact, we are pleased to see that the delegation of Australia has said that this is really democratic dialogue which should be taking place regarding this draft resolution. The paragraph he mentioned is an important one. I should like to refer to paragraph 3 of the original draft resolution in LIM/34. We do not object to deleting this paragraph. However it refers to an expression, and it expressed satisfaction to the EEC for the help and assistance it has given to the Palestinian people. However, we do not object to deleting this third paragraph. In the amendments made by other members of the group, we have referred to the phrase that appeared in paragraph 2 of the original text, "exercising sovereignty". We have already dropped this for the second time.

Once again I should like to thank the delegate of France, the delegate of Norway and Mr Coutts from Australia for their remarks.

Tawfik Ahmed Hassan AL MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Like my brother from Saudi Arabia, I should like to thank the delegates from France, Australia and Norway for their positive remarks. It was also said that we believe in a fruitful dialogue, and we have before us a draft resolution, and we hope that the paragraph will be studied. We have an open mind on this, we are very flexible and ready to make any amendments which would serve the interests of the Palestinian people. The delegate of Australia referred to paragraph 4. I should like to make the following amendment to paragraph 4. I wish to delete paragraph 4 from the present text, to be replaced by the following: "requests the Director-General to send a mission to study and evaluate the situation of the agricultural sector in the Occupied Palestinian Territory taking into consideration the conditions of the farmers and the existing occupation policies and practices, and to prepare a report comprising possible technical inputs or interventions to be executed and implemented by FAO."

Mar BEH ROMDHANE (Tunisie): L'intervention de la délégation tunisienne sera très brève.

Nous voudrions donc à notre tour remercier les honorables représentants qui ont fait montre de compréhension à l'égard du peuple palestinien et qui ont appuyé l'effort d'assistance à lui apporter sur le plan alimentaire et agricole, sujet de notre point de l'ordre du jour auquel nous attachons la plus grande importance.

La délégation tunisienne voudrait encore une fois attirer l'attention sur la souplesse qui caractérise la position du groupe arabe quant à la possibilité d'introduire des amendements au texte de ce projet de résolution. Je dirais très brièvement que notre position va dans le sens des amendements mis au point par les délégations qui m'ont précédé et va également dans le sens de la position de Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Arabie Saoudite.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): Before making observations on the amendment, I should like to make a few points. First of all, I should like to say that we go along with the statement made by the American delegation. It is not in the interests of the international community to politicize FAO at all. Nonetheless, we would like to remind people that we live in a climate of democratic practices, and that the politics of 'stick and threat' have evolved quite a bit, especially when it emanates from a major power.

Secondly, I should like to reply to the statements made by my colleague from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He recalled the flexibility which is so characteristic of the position of the Arab Group. The amendments that have been suggested by numerous Arab delegations were not advanced just to please the American delegation. We took into consideration, and have noted, their position; and on the contrary, our amendments were generated out of a spirit of dialogue going along with the position voiced by so many delegations present in this room, especially and particularly the position voiced by the spokesman for the EEC.

Therefore, this dialogue calls for amendments to some paragraphs. We acknowledge that and we very much appreciate the need therefor. We take a note of the various statements made and what has been said by France, Norway and Australia relative to certain paragraphs in this draft Resolution. Quite obviously, we have recognized the fact that perhaps this text did need certain amendments to it. Hence, I would go along with what was said and support my colleague from Saudi Arabia in saying that it was necessary to amend the second paragraph and highlight the importance of providing the Palestinian people with the necessary assistance for their economic development, and that in close collaboration with the PLO.

Those were just a few observations I wanted to voice.

Srta. Marta VASQUEZ SANDOVAL (Nicaragua): Acogiéndonos, señor Presidente, a su llamado de limitar el tiempo al referirnos al Proyecto de Resolución sobre suministro de asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino, nosotros queremos pronunciarnos en favor de la Resolución, ya sea la antes presentada o la que aparece con la modificación; lo importante es que se apruebe la Resolución brindando la asistencia técnica al pueblo palestino.

Ms Fatima H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic) : I would just like to say that it falls to me to table certain amendments which might assist our colleagues in understanding the need to perfect this draft resolution, the

purpose or *raison d'être* of which is to provide assistance to the Palestinian people and not to politicize the Organization. As we have had an opportunity to point out before within the context of this draft resolution, we are asking that the technical assistance be provided to the people by FAO, and provided to our brothers, the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories.

Therefore, in paragraph 7 of the Draft Resolution submitted for our consideration, I should like to read out my suggested amendment: "requests free access of experts and FAO officials to the Occupied Territories of Palestine".

That is the text in paragraph 5. We have tried to delete some of the words in the original draft which might be looked upon as an attempt to politicize the Organization.

Walid Abdel RABOH (Jordan) (original language Arabic): Far be it for me to

prolong the discussion; to the contrary, I shall be brief. In reply to the position voiced by various Arab countries on flexibility, we would suggest an amendment to paragraph 5 in the following way: "Requests the Director-General to organize a symposium on the Palestinian agricultural sector."

CHAIRMAN: From debates that we have had from the speakers so far, we notice that a number of delegations would be expecting to find some flexibility on the part of the sponsors of the resolution, and the sponsors also responded to that and indicated that they are ready to be flexible, and the number of suggestions and amendments proposed during the course of our debate somehow endorsed this statement. I wonder, though, whether it would not be more fruitful for the outcome of our debate, that a small group coordinated by, let's say the distinguished Chairman of the Arab Member Nations, which I understand is our distinguished Ambassador Bukhari from Saudi Arabia, together with those other countries who do not belong to Arab groups but have already indicated they would be willing to have a positive approach to this resolution, could meet and provide a text that would have some kind of, let's say, I would not believe consensus but in a more general acceptance. That would save us time in having a long and protracted debate that will lead us nowhere and perhaps could provide this Commission with a text that could assemble a more ample approval.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): Thank you very much for having tried, or attempted, to deploy efforts in order to ensure progress in the consideration of this matter in order to present in the best possible form. Nonetheless, I think you know even better than I do, we all knew very well, that this Commission is supposed to terminate its proceedings tomorrow, and tomorrow is a very important day for everyone, because in the morning we are going to consider the budget and we are going to be called upon to vote thereupon, and we do not have any idea whatsoever when we will finish our consideration of that matter and when we are going to finish with this draft resolution. We would hope that the amendments which have been presented by our brother member countries from the Arab Group have been taken into due consideration, and that all of the delegations have been able to take note thereof, and in a suitable and appropriate fashion, if this has not been done or has not been able to be done, then I have done it myself. I knew well beforehand, so that I am prepared, fully prepared, either to read out the text as amended right now, immediately, in your presence, at dictation speed, or else that we perhaps postpone things for half an hour or so, so that we could circulate the text as suggested. And in the light of the

initial draft we would be able to distribute that updated document to all delegations present. We obviously hope and trust that our discussions and proceedings will be of a positive nature, and pursue the objectives shared by all. I trust and hope that we will be able to come up with a consensus. If we are not able to achieve that consensus, then we will regret the fact that we would have to proceed to a vote on this text. We feel that you are endowed with quite sufficient wisdom, knowledge, expertise and skill, because you are a colleague of ours on the Finance Committee and we know very, very well who you are; we knew about your extensive experience and wisdom. I am sure that you would agree with me and would very much be in line with the same type of position.

CHAIRMAN: I just wanted to be constructive. If the delegates believe that there is no use in providing any extra negotiation group, I see no reason that we stop our debates here. I have another speaker on my list.

Waliur RAIMAN (Bangladesh) : If my delegation has not taken the floor till now, it does not indicate that we are not preoccupied with this important item under discussion. On the contrary, we have supported the resolutions 181/41 and 178/43 in the General Assembly in 1986 and 1988 respectively. But here in FAO, we are concerned with the humanitarian and technical assistance to be given to the occupied Palestinian territory. My delegation is pleased to note that amendments so far made are constructive and in the light of the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Egypt and Saudi Arabia, it is in the view of my delegation that we are moving in the right direction. Somebody mentioned in the course of the debate that we are trying to achieve a consensus which will be apolitical, and which will be in the interests of all concerned. In view of this, my delegation supports the statement of the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia that the amendments so far made on the floor may be read out for the benefit of all concerned by the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I very much appreciate what you said about the setting up of a snail drafting group to work on the text which would take in due consideration the various amendments tabled. Nonetheless, the various amendments which have been raised by different delegations have been taken into due consideration and those amendments are available in a text which, I think, has been given to you. Considering the time factor, the very limited time at our disposal, it might be possible to come up with suggestions and proposals to see what would be the best way to proceed and see how we could do that.

Jacques WARIN (France) : Je voudrais remercier la plupart des délégués des pays arabes qui ont parlé dans un sens constructif, et plus particulièrement l'Ambassadeur de l'Arabie Saoudite, Monsieur Bukhari, qui a présenté une série d'amendements qui, a priori, me paraissent aller dans le bon sens. Cela dit, il est évident que nous ne pouvons pas nous prononcer sur un texte qui n'est pas clair et il serait souhaitable d'avoir sous les yeux le texte final, car il me semble considérablement transformé par rapport au projet que nous avons dans le document LIM 34. C'est pour cela que de deux choses l'une: ou bien nous acceptons la formule que vous aviez proposée,



c'est-à-dire qu'un petit groupe se réunisse avec l'Ambassadeur Monsieur Bukhari et je suis prêt à y participer au nom de la Communauté, ou bien que nous nous prononcions dans une demi-heure sur la base d'un texte que nous pourrions avoir sous les yeux et qui serait le texte final du projet de résolution. Je suis disposé, dans l'esprit d'une action constructive, à adopter l'une ou l'autre des procédures.

CHAIRMAN: I received from the Arab Member Nations delegations a revised text containing all the amendments presented by the various Arab delegations. This text is being multiplied right now. Unfortunately, we only have the English text. We do not have either the French or the Spanish. I suppose the Arabs have the Arab text. We ask for five to ten minutes for the multiplication of the text.

The meeting was suspended from 17.40 to 18.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 40 à 18 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.40 a las 18 horas

CHAIRMAN: I believe that all delegates have a copy in English of the revised text of the Arab Member Nations' resolution on the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people. For the sake of the French-speaking, Spanish-speaking and Chinese-speaking countries, I will read the text contained in document C 89/LIM/34.

The first preambular paragraph replacing the paragraph in document C 89 LIM/34 reads: "Recalling the Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/96 of 26 July 1989;"

The new second preambular paragraph replacing the old preambular paragraph reads: "Recognizing that the policies and practices of the Israeli occupation authorities impede the basic requirements for the development of the economy of the occupied Palestinian territory, including the agricultural sector;"

The third preambular paragraph has only a slight amendment. The last word of the sentence in the English text which was drafted in the plural is now drafted in the singular, so it reads: "Affirming the importance of supporting the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian territory;"

The fourth preambular paragraph is substituted by one which reads: "Expressing its opposition to the Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and expropriation of Palestinian water resources".

The first operative paragraph in the former text is dropped. The second operative paragraph becomes the first in the new text, with the following revised drafting: "Stresses the need for providing the Palestinian people with the assistance necessary for their economic development in close cooperation with the Palestinian Liberation Organization."

The third operative paragraph in the former text is dropped. I think it will be best for me to read the rest of the text slowly because it is quite different from the former text. There is a new third operative paragraph which reads: "Request the Director-General to organize a symposium on the Palestinian agricultural sector."

The fourth operative paragraph reads: "Requests the Director-General to include the occupied Palestinian territory in future FAO programmes and activities, and in line with the present collaboration and coordination between the Palestine Liberation Organization and other UN agencies."  
"

The fifth operative paragraph reads: "Calls for free access of FAO staff and experts to the occupied Palestinian territory. "

The sixth operative paragraph reads: "Requests the Director-General to report to the FAO Council in its next session and to FAO Conference in its Twenty-sixth Session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution."

While reading this draft resolution I jumped over the second operative paragraph, which should read: "Requests the Director-General to send a mission to study and evaluate the situation of the agricultural sector in the occupied Palestinian territory, taking into consideration the conditions of the farmers under the existing policies and practices, and to prepare a report comprising possible technical interventions to be executed by FAO." This is the revised text proposed by the Arab Member Nations.

David MCGAFFEY (United States of America) : I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the statements made by the many members of the Arab Group to the effect that they wish to have a resolution which will be apolitical and which will have as its sole purpose the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinian people so that there can be consensus in this body. I should, however, like to reply to the statement by the delegate of Libya who spoke of the United States using a big stick. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish, but if two men are standing by the edge of a cliff and one stretches out his hand and says, "I am going to push you over", that is a threat. If he stretches out that hand and takes hold and says, "Be careful, brother, you are in danger of falling", that is a warning, not a threat. To assist the delegates, let me assure you that what I stretched out was not a big stick but a helping hand.

I have carefully examined the new text which has been presented, and I recognize that it is presented in a spirit of trying to accommodate the need to avoid excess politicization, but I am forcefully reminded of a marriage negotiation which I participated in some years ago which was almost concluded when the father of the groom said: "we are agreed on all points, and we will sign the contract if you can assure me that your daughter is a virgin. " The other father replied: "Almost." Needless to say, that contract was not successfully concluded. I say to you that this new text which we have before us is almost a virgin.

Again I appeal to the members of this body: if what they wish is for FAO to send a technical mission to the West Bank and Gaza to discover the facts about the agricultural situation there and to look for a need for technical assistance, let them state that.

This text has many failings and does make the FAO a political body. It is a political statement. It includes, for example, references to another resolution which contains highly politicized statements, and endorses them. It contains references to the Palestine Liberation Organization. There are many States in this body which have recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization with very high status, and there are others which have not. That kind of recognition is a purely political act. To refer to it in this kind of text is again making a political statement.

This text makes pre-judgements about the state of agriculture. As we have heard so clearly from a country member of FAO in good standing, Israel, there is at least dispute about the facts. For us to pre-judge them and then ask that a commission be sent to study than is a political act.

If indeed the sponsors of this resolution wish a resolution to request technical assistance to the Palestinian people, it would be easy for them to draft a resolution which asks for that without adding the political statements. I appeal to them to do so, and I again state that the United States, depending on the language, may be able to support, but certainly would not oppose, a technical resolution.

Tawfik Afmed Hassan MESH-HEDANI (Iraq): Having read the new text of the draft resolution, and having listened to the delegate of the United States of America, for my part, as a representative of Iraq, and on behalf of the Iraqi delegation to this Conference, I cannot submit any amendments to the new drafting. I therefore suggest that we vote on the draft resolution as a whole.

Atif Y. BUKHNRI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of): Firstly, I should like to support the motion for a vote. I think it is the only way to bring this discussion to an end.

Secondly, I should like to stress that, whatever amendments or alterations we introduce to this new drafting, it will not be acceptable to the United States of America. That is the attitude of the United States. This is an attitude which we respect and do not object to because it is a principle and an attitude. Whatever the alterations and amendments to this new drafting, and whatever the insertions might be, this draft resolution will not be acceptable to the United States of America. We tried to formulate this resolution and we met for an hour and a half in an attempt to find an appropriate formula and to delete any points which might not be to the liking of the delegation of the United States of America. Unfortunately, our endeavour was not destined to succeed, and I stress that it will not succeed even with new endeavours. I therefore support the motion for a vote.

David IfcGAFFEY (United States of America): I respect the wishes of Iraq and Saudi Arabia to call for a vote and I will go along with that. Again I remind, since we are not apparently able to separate the issues, I remind all members they are voting on two issues: one is whether to provide technical assistance, and the second which is new intertwined, is whether to make the FAO a politicized organization.

Ilan HARTUV (Israel): I support the observations and suggestions of the distinguished delegate from the United States, Mr Chairman, and it seems to me very very strange for a resolution having in its preamble the completely untrue fact of somebody impeding the basic requirement for the development of the Territories, including the agricultural centre. Nobody has impeded them; there exists a very great development as we have proved and as is well known, and as many FAO staff and other people - some of the delegates here have been to the Territories, I have been and have seen the very great improvement and there are no basic impediments, no impediments at all, especially in the agricultural sector. Now is the proposition about confiscation of Palestinian land and the confiscation of Palestinian water resources not a political one?

There has not been any confiscation of land belonging to Arab citizens, of Arab people of the Territories. They have much more water and irrigation than they had previously, and of course the two mentions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, are they not political? I am very much surprised that there are members - some of our friends - that would support such a political resolution against all the traditions of the FAO, and only two years ago, such a resolution was attempted to be put to the floor and everybody decided, together with the DG, to stop it and not to politicize this Organization.

I do not know what has changed from two years ago, and I do not ask to withdraw this resolution and to vote against it if it comes to a vote.

CHAIRMAN: There is a proposal by the distinguished delegate of Iraq supported by the distinguished delegate of Saudi Arabia that we put the motion to the vote. If there are no other speakers on the list? Do the two delegates want to speak on this motion?

Bashir El Mahrouk SAID (Libya) (Original language Arabic): It is not my

intention to refer to some of the ideas with which I do not concur, but I would like to support an official proposal to vote on this draft resolution.

Ghassem TEHRANI YAVARI NEJAD (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of the Most High, first of all Mr (Chairman, God bless you for your patience in this debate. Secondly, I wanted to raise this question. Those who claim that there are many achievements that have been attained in the occupied territory on agricultural issues should welcome FAO to come there and have a look at such achievements, but why are they anxious of approval of such a resolution which is entirely technical like other technical assistance to other member countries. I think in such circumstances we have to give a new definition of this work or of this concept.

Finally, on behalf of my delegation, I announce full support of the resolution declared on technical assistance to the Palestinian people.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Nosotros quisiéramos, señor Presidente, preguntarle a usted si existe alguna posibilidad de tener decisión sobre esta Resolución en el día de mañana y no en el día de hoy, porque como es bien claro tenemos un nuevo texto delante de nosotros y no hemos podido consultar a nuestras cancillerías de ninguna manera. Por consiguiente, yo le pido que usted considere la posibilidad de permitir que las delegaciones puedan pedir instrucciones a sus gobiernos en base al nuevo texto que nos ha sido presentado.

CHAIRMAN: The sponsors of the text do not consider that as a new text but as an amended text. A number of amendments have been presented by various delegations to the original text, so the new paper actually only reflects the inclusion and the acceptance of those amendments. On the other hand, I have asked before whether it would be possible to postpone, even to get close to some more positive rapprochement, and I was answered by the sponsors that

this seemed not to be possible and that we should proceed to a decision on this issue. So the delegations of Iraq and Saudi Arabia have proposed the closing of the debate.

Mme Catherine KOUASSI (Cote d'Ivoire): Ma délégation appuie la proposition faite par l'honorable délégué de l'Argentine. La Côte d'Ivoire est un pays qui a pour langue de travail le français. Et nous souhaiterions que le texte soit traduit demain en français pour nous permettre d'avoir les éléments, étant donné que ce document est très important pour nous.

Noritake KM (Japon) : Nous appuyons également la position exprimée par les délégations de l'Argentine et de la Côte d'Ivoire car nous pensons que le texte original a subi un très grand changement avec la présentation de ce nouveau texte. Il faut donc pour cela que nous nous référions ce soir à notre gouvernement. Mais c'est aujourd'hui jour férié au Japon et, puisqu'il faudrait beaucoup de temps pour avoir la réponse, je vous propose d'organiser le vote au plus tôt demain dans la matinée.

Bashir El Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic): I agree with you Mr Chairman that the draft resolution was circulated and studied by the Resolutions Committee, and that the amendments introduced by many delegates referred to the original text, and officially, Mr Chairman, I beseech you to respond to the official request by Iraq to vote and the support by Saudi Arabia. Therefore I consider it an official request, and I think it is seditious to bring this discussion to an end because there is an official request by a State endorsed by two others.

Ms Fatima H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic) : My delegation endorses voting on the draft resolution and we want this to be by roll call.

CHAIRMAN: There are proposals by four delegations - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Kuwait - that we close our debate and proceed to a vote. This proposal has the expressed intention that the vote should be taken by roll call. Does any delegation oppose this proposal?

David MoGAFFEY (United States of America) : I feel that I must oppose the proposal for a vote. I am here not speaking of the substance of the resolution but merely the motion to vote. It is true that a draft resolution was approved by the Resolutions Committee on which I sit, and was circulated in advance. It is also true that the document that we have before us bears almost no resemblance to the resolution that was submitted by the Resolutions Committee. It in fact contains by my count seven paragraphs that have never been mentioned from the floor. Saudi Arabia did propose amendments on the preambular paragraphs. Somebody - I believe Iraq - but I am not sure who -proposed an amendment to paragraph 4. A third party gave an amendment to paragraph 3 but we have now been presented with a text with at least one more preambolar statement and four paragraphs that have never been proposed as amendments by any delegation and I believe we must consider this a new text, and therefore we do not have the necessary 24 hours to consider that would be required for consideration and vote.

CHAIRMAN: I regret to disagree with the United States' delegate. What this paper contains, it is just a consolidation of the amendments presented here. We have taken note of the amendments. They correspond to the amendments that have been proposed here, so actually it is not a new text. The consolidation of the amendments presented here by a number of Arab countries on the text that we have was transcribed in document C 89/LIM/4, so the idea of distributing this text was only to facilitate the life of the delegations. It does not constitute an official text and should not be understood as such. The official text is still C 89/LIM/34 with the amendments proposed to it by the various interventions of the Arab Member Nations' delegations, and I evaluated that very carefully together with the Secretariat and the amendments. They are contained in this unofficial paper and they have actually been proposed by the Arab delegations.

There has been a proposal to close the *débate* presented by a number of delegations, including a proposal for the voting. According to our Rules of Procedure, we have two delegates to vote against the closure of the *débate*. Does Venezuela want to speak against the closure of the debate?

Sra. Mercedes FBMEN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Moción de orden, Presidente. Hace mucho rato que este *débate* debió haber sido cerrado. Desde que se pide votación es porque ya no hay oportunidad para que los Miembros de la Asamblea sigan pidiendo la palabra. Por consiguiente, si el *débate* ya está cerrado, no hay oportunidad para hablar más. Que se proceda a la votación y no se hable más. Y es lo que yo estoy haciendo con una Moción de orden.

POINT OF ORDER  
POINT D'ORDRE  
PUNTO DE ORDEN

CHAIRMAN: The delegation is asking for the closure of the *débate* and for voting on the draft resolution before us, with the amendments proposed by a number of delegations in the course of our debate. Does the delegate of Israel want to speak on the closure of the *débate*?

Yosef HASSEN (Israel): Yes, I support the request to postpone the debate. I think it would be only fair to those who wish to consult their capitals to have a clear view on this subject.

CHAIRMAN: We have one delegate speaking against the closure of the debate and for the postponement of the vote. Is there anyone who wishes to speak against the closure of the *débate* and the postponement of the vote?

Calixte ALAPINI (Benin): Je voudrais juste appuyer ce qu'ont dit les représentantes de l'Argentine et de la Côte d'Ivoire. En effet, le texte qui nous est proposé est en anglais. Nous avons réclamé plusieurs fois le texte en français mais nous ne l'avons pas reçu; il est donc très difficile, étant donné que le français est une langue de notre Organisation, de pouvoir nous prononcer si nous mettons cette résolution au vote.

CHAIRMAN: I have two delegations supporting the closure of the debate, the delegation of Israel and the delegation of Cote d'Ivoire. I think I should ask the Commission to decide on that.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : Forgive me for coming back at this point, but I have just had an opportunity to consult the Basic Text because I was somewhat unsure what the Texts provided for.

On Rule XI. 3 there are two sections of the rule - I just want to make this clear - and the first is "Proposals shall not be put to the vote unless copies thereof have been circulated at least twenty-four hours before the vote". I think it has been clearly established that the copies of this proposal have been circulated at least officially even though in a different form. The rule continues "The Chairman of the Conference or of the commission or committee concerned may permit voting on amendments even though these amendments have not been circulated." what I wished to stress is that there is no requirement for voting. It is entirely at your discretion, and therefore you may consider what I believe is the very reasonable request of those who are not conversant with English as their first language. It is in your discretion to decide whether there may be voting or not according to the Basic Texts.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): As

you have said, Mr Chairman, this is not a new text. This is a text which has been amended. Certainly for some of the paragraphs of the operative part of the text it is not a new resolution. We do not have before us a new resolution that we have to study. Some delegations have supported the request to vote; others have opposed the closure of the debate and the voting. Perhaps we should ask our Legal Adviser for advice so that we might have a somewhat clearer picture.

Aboubakar KOLY-KOUROUMA (Guinée): Compte tenu de l'importance de ce problème et étant donné la position guinéenne vis-à-vis de toute assistance du peuple palestinien (c'est-à-dire que la Guinée a toujours été favorable à une assistance du peuple palestinien), mais compte tenu de l'importance de ce problème, nous voudrions avoir toutes les données. C'est-à-dire que le texte qui vient de nous être proposé soit traduit en français car le français est notre langue de travail; en cela, je ne rallie à nos prédécesseurs dont le Bénin, l'Argentine et la Côte d'Ivoire.

LEGALCOUNSEL: It seems that we have two issues at the moment, the first regarding the status of the proposal and the amendments to the proposal, and secondly the question relating to the closure of the debate to be followed by voting.

On the first question it is true, as has been pointed out by the delegate of the United States of America, that the provisions of Rule XI of the Basic Text are relevant. These provisions, and paragraph 2 in particular, indicate that "Proposals and amendments shall be introduced in writing and handed to

the Secretary-General of the Conference, who shall arrange for their circulation as Conference documents". The third paragraph reads "Except as may be decided otherwise by the Conference at a Plenary meeting or by a commission or a committee, proposals shall not be put to the vote unless copies thereof have been circulated at least twenty-four hours before the vote".

It would appear that the proposal was put forward regularly and that amendments have been introduced to this proposal. It is now for the Chairman to decide, because the question of voting has arisen, whether he will permit voting on the amendments even though these amendments have not been circulated, or have been circulated less than twenty-four hours before the vote. That is one question.

The second question relates to the closure of the *débat* before proceeding to a vote. On this we have to follow the procedure as set out in Rule XII.23, which reads "A delegate or representative may at any time move the closure of the *débat* on the item under discussion, whether or not any other delegate or representative has signified his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the closure of the *débat* shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to the vote. If the Conference or Council is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the closure of the debate. The Chairman may limit the time allowed to speakers under this paragraph".

In order to clarify the matter, I would suggest that it may be appropriate, before proceeding, to the issue of the motion on the closure of the debate, to see whether the Chairman would in fact permit voting on the amendments. If that is so, you may then proceed to decide on the motion for closure of the debate. Otherwise there may be no purpose in deciding on the motion for the closure of the debate.

The third step would be that if you decide that the amendments can be voted on, although they have not been circulated twenty-four hours in advance, and if the motion to close the debate is carried, you vote upon the proposal as amended.

Jacques TOKEN (France): J'ai entendu un certain nombre de pays francophones se prononcer sur le fait que le papier qu'ils avaient sous les yeux était en anglais. C'est vrai. J'avais cru, pour ma part, qu'il s'agissait d'un certain nombre d'amendements et que nous pouvions considérer que nous allions voter sur le texte initial amendé, après avoir entendu la traduction par l'interprète. Cela dit, pour éviter toute confusion et dans la mesure où nous avons encore le temps, me semble-t-il, dans la journée de demain, il me paraît préférable, et je vous le demande au nom d'un grand nombre de pays francophones, de suspendre la séance à cette heure tardive et de nous retrouver demain matin, à n'importe quel moment approprié pour que chacun puisse se prononcer en toute connaissance de cause sur un texte traduit à la fois en anglais, en espagnol, en français et en arabe.

CHAIRMAN: I think it has been the normal practice in FAO for the Commission to accept amendments proposed from the floor in accordance with the authority given by the Rules of Procedure to the Chairman. I do not dispute that, and when you accepted debating on this amendment you for sure started accepting the fact that we could vote on this amendment. So far as the authority of the Chair to authorize the voting is concerned, I have no doubt whatsoever.



Nevertheless, I think that a number of countries with the Spanish and the French language have expressed their wish that they should be better acquainted with the proposals made by the Arab countries so that they could express their vote with better knowledge of the issue before us. I would therefore ask the delegates from the sponsors of this resolution whether it would be acceptable to postpone the voting until tomorrow morning.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic) : Mien we presented this resolution it was obvious that what we sought to avoid was any barren, sterile, pointless discussion, and we presented this text with a view to undertaking humanitarian action, because we know that the Palestinian people fully deserve this assistance from the FAO.

It was never our intention to bring up problems or to sow discord or misunderstanding. We always took a conciliatory position. We have all along sought to avoid anything that could lead to confrontation.

I have taken the floor to ask my brothers in the Arab nation delegations to take proper account of the language difficulties that the French-speaking delegations experience. I think it would be helpful to take into account these linguistic difficulties.

If you think, Mr Chairman, that it might be better for us to defer the voting procedure until tomorrow in order to assist our French-speaking and Spanish-speaking colleagues, I would like to assure you that far be it from us to seek to put obstacles in the path of proper understanding. We seek agreement and consensus among us all. That is our main purpose.

I should like to ask that if we defer the vote, at what time do you think that this document will be available in all the conference languages?

I have a second question: when we resume our discussion tomorrow, will it be solely in order to vote or will we return to the debate? I think that when we come back tomorrow we should immediately proceed to vote, and we would be opposed to any further discussion.

CHAIRMAN: The intention was that if the Commission accepted the proposal just made by the distinguished representative of Saudi Arabia that we postpone the vote, we have it first thing tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock when we are going to start. At ten o'clock we have a meeting upstairs. It is the understanding of the Chair that the voting will be on the original draft resolution with the amendment proposed orally by the Arab Member Nations of this Commission. Therefore, it will not constitute a new document; it will not be interpreted as such. According to the faculty given by the Rules of Procedure to the Chairman, the Chairman interprets those amendments as presented orally by the member of the Commission and accepted by him as such. So they will not constitute a new document and will not be subjected to any twenty-four hour rule in that respect.

BashurEl Mabrouk SAID (Libya) (original language Arabic) : I should like to say that my delegation fully supports your summary of the situation. I should also like to say, as my colleague from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has said, that it is in a positive frame of mind that the Arab delegations presented these amendments to the original text. It is in the same constructive spirit that we face the problems raised by certain brothers in the Commission, that

the text does not exist yet in Spanish and French. We sympathize with their point of view and, therefore, agree to put the voting procedure off until tomorrow morning. We would ask the Secretariat to make sure that the amended text be translated into all the working languages of the Conference. We can then vote on it tomorrow.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo solamente voy a expresar el deseo de que esto no sea un subterfugio y que los que están por apoyar al pueblo palestino estén mañana puntualmente aquí, en la reunión.

David MoGAFFEY (United States of America) : I thought we had reached agreement and I was wishing to raise a new point; do you want me to finish?

CHAIRMAN: I think we have reached agreement on this point that we postpone the voting on this issue until tomorrow morning on the understanding that the amendments presented here have been accepted by this Chair in accordance with the development provisions of the Rules of Procedure, do not constitute a new document and are not subject to the twenty-four hour rule. Tomorrow morning the papers will be distributed in the official languages for the help of the delegates so that they can have a proper knowledge of the contents of the amendments, rather than just the oral translation given by the interpreters.

Does the delegate of the United States wish to address the same issue or to go to the next itati?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : A new item.

CHAIRMAN: We conclude the discussion of item 6.1 of our Agenda and we move to item 9. Does the delegate of the United States want the floor?

David McGAFFEY (United States of America) : Mr Chairman, if I could beg your indulgence, I was operating under the mistaken assumption that we were adjourning, since I saw delegates leaving. I just wanted to note that today in the United States is Thanksgiving Day, a holiday on which we are all asked to consider our blessings and to set some time aside to thank God for all the good things that we have. My delegation would like very much to extend to our fellow delegates the best wishes of Thanksgiving.

9. Commiission on Plant Genetic Resources and the International Undertaking; Progress Report (cont'd) (to discuss draft resolutions)
9. Commission des ressources phytoqénétiques et Engagement international: rapport intérimaire (suite) (examen des projets de résolutions)
9. La Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos y el Compromiso Internacional: Informe parcial (continuación) (para examinar provectoros de resolución)

CHAIRMAN: We all thank the delegate of the United States for his good wishes and we move to item 9 of the Agenda, Commission on Plant Genetic Resources and International undertaking. There are two draft resolutions under this item: the first resolution appears in Appendix 2 of document C 89/24.

The second resolution appears in C 89/LIM/29, the First Report of the Resolutions Committee. I think we should deal firstly with the Farmers' Rights resolution contained in C 89/LIM/29. Documents C 89/1/DG 5, Resolution on Farmers' Rights. Do I see any proposal of amendment? Are there any suggestions or shall we take it that this Commission accepts the resolution proposal?

I see no objection, so the resolution contained in document C 89, p. 9, Draft Resolution on Farmers' Rights, is accepted.

The next item on our Agenda is the resolution proposed by Spain on the agreed interpretation of International Undertaking.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Denmark) : I have a few remarks on the preambles on this resolution. It is preambles (c) and (d). It says among other things that the undertaking recognises the legitimate rights of donors of technology (breeders) and donors of germplasm (farmers) to benefit from their contributions; and (d) says, "a satisfactory agreed interpretation of the undertaking can be accomplished through the simultaneous and parallel recognition of Plant Breeders' Rights and Farmers' Rights".

Although we recognize it in a parallel way. Therefore, I would suggest that we cut out a few things in paragraphs (c) and (d), and merge the two paragraphs so that it reads like this: "These reservations and constraints may be overcome through" - and here I jump to paragraph (d) - "a satisfactory agreed interpretation of the undertaking which recognizes plant breeders' rights' and farmers' rights".

I think that will satisfy everybody. It is a clear and clean way in which to say this.

David COUTES (Australia): I do not think I have any problems with that amendment. We would prefer in paragraph (d) that these words still remain: "Plant Breeders' Rights and Farmers' Rights" and to have those capitals removed in those words, that would be consistent with the way it has been handled in the other documents, if you follow. So, "plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights" would have small letters and not be capitalized.

C.H. BONEE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): The proposal by Denmark is that in the second section of the draft resolution as proposed by Spain, it says under "Further recognizing that : "there will only be three paragraphs, and paragraph (c) and (d) will be joined in the following way and this new paragraph (c) would read as follows: "these reservations and constraints may be overcome through an agreed interpretation which recognizes plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights", and in accordance with the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Australia, there will be no capital letters for either plant breeders' rights or farmers' rights.

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : I have no problems with the revised text that Dr Bonte-Friedheim has read out. Could I just raise one other issue? I think at some point we had some discussion as to whether the word "legal" was appropriate in the second line of sub-paragraph (a). I believe we thought about taking it out. Could you just confirm that point?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department): As I had reported before in the meeting of the Resolutions Committee, it was decided and I do not know why it is back here - to take this word "legal" out and to just say "constitute a framework aimed at". If you allow me, Sir, I would like to have the confirmation of Legal Counsel because it is the word "legal" and I would like Legal Counsel to confirm what I am saying.

LEGAL COUNSEL: I think the word "legal" in this context might be misconstrued as in implying legally binding. I think that was not the intention and therefore the word "legal" could be dropped.

CHAIRMAN: Does the Commission accept those interpretations?

Vicente CANELUES (España): Me temo que tengo que explicar brevemente una pequeña anécdota antes de mi intervención. En este momento, los representantes permanentes de España en FAO están celebrando la inauguración de su oficina en Roma. Es por eso por lo que me encuentro yo ocupando esta silla, y lamentablemente tengo poca experiencia sobre los antecedentes de este asunto concreto. Sin embargo, creo que la inclusión de la palabra "legal" en el párrafo a), que se discute, no es gratuita - aunque, insisto, personalmente no sé si es así o no-, sino que se ha hecho ya en otras ocasiones alusión a un "marco legal" -precisamente con esa misma palabra- en documentos oficiales de la FAO y en el mismo contexto. Quizás me atrevería a pedir, a través de usted, señor Presidente, si algunas de las otras delegaciones presentes en la sala podrían ilustrarme o ayudarme en este punto.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM: (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) :

It has been used and it has been objected to and I think that the proposal has been made, instead of using the word "legal", to use the word "formal". So, to say that it constitutes a "formal framework". I think this is generally accepted because there has always been opposition to "legal". It has appeared in other documentation, too, but there has always been opposition•

CHAIRMAN: we have a proposal to substitute the word "legal" by "formal". Would that be acceptable to the delegations? I see no objections. It is accepted. I believe with those amendments we can consider the resolutions on the agreed interpretations on the International Undertaking contained in document C 89/LIM/37 as adopted.

10. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" Clause (cont'd) (to discuss draft resolution)
10. Introduction du "Principe de l'information et du consentement préalables" dans le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (suite) (examen du projet de résolution)
10. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas: Introducción de la cláusula relativa al "Consentimiento previo" (cont.) (para examinar proyectos de resoluciones)

CHAIRMAN: The next item on our agenda is item 10, the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the Prior Informed Consent Clause, document C 89/LIM/38, which contains the sixth report of the Resolutions Committee and contains also draft resolution presented by the Philippines. Are there any observations on this Resolution? I see no objections; no reservations; no amendments. Shall I take it that the Committee accepts the draft resolution contained in C 89/LIM/38, page 2, on the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent, and consider it as adopted? It is adopted.

11. Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into Agricultural and Rural Development (to discuss draft resolution)
11. Plan d'action pour l'intégration des femmes dans le développement agricole et rural (examen du projet de résolution)
11. Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural (para examinar proyectos de resoluciones)

José TUBINO (Canada): Just to request a few minutes. We have to get the people who are involved in Women in Development here in the room. If we could have a few minutes just to change the representation in some of the delegations.

The meeting was suspended from 17.40 to 18.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 40 à 18 heures

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.40 a las 18 horas

CHAIRMAN: We move to item 11 of our agenda, Plan of Action for the Integration of Women in Agricultural and Rural Development. On this item we have a draft resolution presented by Costa Rica contained in document C 89/LIM/37, which is before us.

David DRAKE (Canada) : The Canadian delegation would like to thank the delegation of Costa Rica for taking the initiative to put forward this resolution. We are in agreement to a large extent with the proposed resolution and we certainly support its general thrust. However, we are unable to support this resolution as presently worded. Like the delegations of the Netherlands, Argentina and El Salvador, which spoke on this issue yesterday, we have trouble with the reference in paragraph 3 to "subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds". We also

feel that paragraph 3(c), which presently reads "make all efforts to achieve significant results in the execution of priorities" does not have the desired effect.

Our concern, which I gather from the discussion on this item yesterday is shared by many other delegations, is that the financing of the WID Plan of Action, and the proposed Progress Report for the next two years in particular, does not appear to be fully secured. With the inclusion of the wording in the original text, it seems almost implicit that cuts will follow. This should not be the case. In our view, inclusion of "subject to the availability of Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds" would also constitute an unfortunate precedent, and we would agree with the delegations of the Netherlands that this is superfluous. We believe that the FAO has the institutional commitment fully to implement the Plan of Action and that the Regular Programme resources should be earmarked because this is a mainstream activity of FAO. We welcome the level of funding allocation stated in the Progress Report and would wish to see it maintained. My delegation recognizes that extra-budgetary contributions would help to enlarge the scope, or accelerate the implementation, of certain WID-related activities. We join many other delegations in hoping that such financing will be found, and we are optimistic that this will be the case, given the importance of this issue. This is a case of priorities. WID is a top priority for the FAO and we expect to see that measures are taken along those lines.

The Canadian delegation therefore suggests the following two short amendments to the proposed resolution. In paragraph 3, the phrase "subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds" should be removed. Paragraph 3(c) should be replaced with the phrase "maintain budgetary resources at least at the proposed level in order to achieve significant results in the execution of priorities".

Ms Gunilla KURTEN (Finland): On this occasion I speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We wish to associate ourselves fully with what was said by the delegate of Canada and we support the amendments proposed by him.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEW BERGH (Netherlands): We completely support the suggestion for the text amendments made by the delegate of Canada. I could not have said it in any better way than he did.

Richaixl SEEFMHN (United States of America): In brief, we, too, associate ourselves with the contents made by Canada and fully support the amendments proposed.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): While the Indian delegation would support the amendments suggested to subparagraph (c) of paragraph 3, we would find it difficult to agree to the deletion of the clause "subject to the availability of Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds". Our position would be that, if some new programmes have to be undertaken, funds have to be provided for them. There is no point in making a statement of intention without funding it. That is self-defeating. At the end of the day, when we take stock and say what has been done in this direction, if we find that because there were no funds nothing could be done and we then start apportioning the blame for not doing something, it will not be fair to the Secretariat and the management to make priorities and recommend programmes and not fund them.

Paulo Estivallet DB MESQUITA (Brazil): I associate myself with the comment made by the Indian delegate. I think that the proposed amendments presented by Canada amounts to a change, or at least a potential change, in the budget, and therefore we cannot go along with it. If you freeze the level in one programme in a certain way, you may be affecting other programmes, and therefore it has wider implications than just the question of women in development•

Martin STRUB (Suisse): La Suisse soutient la proposition d'amendement du Canada et estime qu'il s'agit avant tout de mobiliser les mentalités au sein du Secrétariat plutôt que de mobiliser les fonds supplémentaires importants pour des programmes spéciaux.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi delegación también está preocupada por la efectiva aplicación del Plan. Sin embargo, compartimos los puntos de vista expresados por los Delegados de la India y del Brasil. Creo que debemos ser ante todo realistas. Tenemos una asignación presupuestaria dentro del Presupuesto ordinario para llevar adelante este Plan. Si todos los países, repito, todos los países pagamos nuestras cuotas, esta asignación no tendría por qué verse reducida.

Yo creo que deberíamos tratar de buscar otra interpretación u otra manera de plantear este punto 3 de nuestra Resolución.

Y cuando usted me lo permita, señor Presidente, que terminemos de discutir el planteamiento hecho por Canadá, me permitiría hacer una propuesta de modificación a este párrafo, a este encabezamiento del párrafo 3 de la Resolución.

Sra. Olga Clemencia FERNANDEZ (Colombia): Simplemente para apoyar totalmente lo que ha dicho la delegación de El Salvador.

Sra. Graf ila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad, la delegación de Cuba mantiene las mismas preocupaciones que han expresado otras delegaciones. Sin embargo, se han hecho algunas propuestas aquí que mi delegación no estaría dispuesta a aceptar, por razones que ya otros delegados han expresado.

En ese sentido, la delegación de Cuba aprueba la propuesta hecha por la . distinguida Delegación de la India y apoyada por Brasil y El Salvador.

Sra. Mànica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Yo le voy a ser muy franca. Yo tengo alergia a las expresiones que dicen: "con arreglo a la disponibilidad de recursos del Programa Ordinario y extapresupuestarios". Tengo alergia a toda disposición que diga que el Director General tiene que hacer las cosas con la plata con que cuente. El Director General va a hacer las cosas con la plata con que cuente en éste, como en cualquier otro programa. A nosotros nos llama poderosamente la atención que justamente en el tema de la mujer, que ha sido endosado por esta Conferencia ampliamente como uno de los temas prioritarios de la futura programación de actividades de la EAO, se tenga que incluir una frase de este tipo. Ninguna de las otras resoluciones que han sido puestas a consideración de este periodo de sesiones de la Conferencia tiene una frase de este tipo.

Nosotros apoyamos plenamente y compartimos los fundamentos de las enmiendas expresadas por el señor representante de Canadá. Nosotros creemos que incluir en el párrafo 3 una frase que diga: "con arreglo a la disponibilidad de recursos del Programa Ordinario y extrapresupuestarios" significa dos cosas.

Primero, que creemos que no va a haber suficientes recursos, y esto ya es un punto flaco, señor Presidente, puesto que si no lo hay para éste, tampoco lo va a haber para otros programas. Entonces, tendríamos que empezar a poner en cada resolución que aprobemos y en cada cosa que pedimos, que se haga siempre que haya plata. Yo no he visto en la Resolución de Palestina, ni en la Resolución sobre Fitogenéticos, en ninguna de las resoluciones que la Conferencia está considerando esa expresión.

La segunda implicancia de esto es poner en el mismo rango los recursos del Programa Ordinario y los extrapresupuestarios, justamente para este programa que nosotros entendemos que tiene que entrar dentro del flujo normal de las actividades de la FAO, y así lo sostuvimos en el Consejo durante la sesión de noviembre del año pasado.

Nosotros creemos que tiene que haber una financiación básica del programa de la FAO; que la FAO tiene que incorporar la programación de las actividades en favor de la mujer a sus actividades ordinarias. Que si después hay países que tienen interés específico en el programa y van a avanzar fondos extrapresupuestarios para aspectos específicos del Plan, serán bienvenidos.

Pero no sé por qué tenemos que ponerlos en el mismo rango, justamente en esta Resolución que es del interés de todos los Estados Miembros. Yo creo que es un paso atrás con relación a lo que hemos hecho hasta ahora por impulso; por impulso importante de la Resolución 1/94 del Consejo de la FAO, incluir una frase como la que figura en la introducción del párrafo 3.

Con relación a la enmienda del Señor delegado de Canadá respecto del inciso c) del párrafo 3, creemos que es claro; que lo que se pide es que el Director General mantenga los recursos, al menos y de ser posible, en el nivel indicado por este presupuesto. Por consiguiente, pedimos que las delegaciones consideren atentamente y cuidadosamente todas las implicancias de esto, y consideren en última instancia que no nos conviene pasar una Resolución; que no nos conviene pasar una Resolución que nos lleve a un paso atrás con relación a lo que ya teníamos en noviembre del año pasado.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je suis assez d'accord avec la déclaration de la déléguée de l'Argentine. Je crois que ce projet de texte crée un certain amalgame entre les questions financières et les questions d'orientation générale. S'agissant des crédits pour mettre en oeuvre les mesures de cette résolution, je crois qu'il y a un budget et ce budget est voté par la Conférence, alors je ne vois pas pourquoi on ferait référence à ce budget. J'appuie à ce sujet ce que propose le Canada. Effectivement il n'est pas nécessaire, ainsi que l'a dit la déléguée de l'Argentine, d'émettre des réserves sur les fonds ordinaires ou les fonds extra-budgétaires. Ou bien ils sont disponibles ou ils ne le sont pas. Ceci est le problème du budget. Nous sommes donc tout à fait d'accord pour supprimer cette mention. Dans ces conditions, faut-il comme le propose le Canada, appuyé par d'autres pays, demander au Directeur général de maintenir les ressources budgétaires à un certain niveau? En fait les ressources budgétaires résultent du budget tel que nous le votons. Donc je crois que c'est la manière dont nous voterons le



budget qui domerà les orientations nécessaires. Donc sur le c), je préfère que l'on maintienne la rédaction actuelle proposée dans le texte qui nous est soumis. Je résumes je préfère que l'en supprime la mention "sous réserve des fonds ordinaires extra-budgétaires" et que l'on maintienne le texte c) dans l'état actuel.

Mohammed Badr El Din EL MASOUDI (Libya) (original language Arabic) : My

delegation would like to endorse what has been submitted by the delegate of India, and any provision related to the provision of funds irakés this resolution a paralyzed one, and we would like once more to endorse what India said.

Mme Catherine KOUASSI (Côte d'Ivoire): Merci, Monsieur le Président. Ma délégation supporte l'amendement proposé par le Canada et elle appuie les interventions de la déléguée de l'Argentine et de l'honorable délégué de la France ainsi que ceux qui m'ont précédée.

Mme Ivone DIAS DE GRACA (Gabon): Merci, Monsieur le Président. La délégation gabonaise appuie les amendements proposés par le Canada pour les raisons très bien décrites par la déléguée de l'Argentine. Nous pensons que s'il y a des ressources budgétaires prévues pour ce plan d'action, il est inutile de préciser "sous réserve de fonds ordinaires et extra-budgétaires disponibles", cette remarque étant valable pour toute activité de la FAO, ne la mentionner que pour cette question serait un précédent.

David COUTES (Australia): I can support the amendments suggested by Canada. I would particularly support the amendments to the preambular part of paragraph 3 and I think for the same reasons just stated by Gabon, I find this phrase "subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and Extra-Budgetary funds" to be really rather redundant. That qualification applies to everything and I think by putting it there specifically, I think it gives almost a misleading impression of what we are trying to achieve, so I can strongly support the removal of that.

For my part, I am not quite so convinced on the amendment to paragraph C. Australia could certainly accept the Canadian proposal but we could also accept leaving the text the way it is.

G.G. FREELAND (United Kingdom) : My delegation supports the amendment put forward by the delegate from Canada, and we feel that this is a question of prioritization of programmes, and then the appropriate allocation of resources to them, and we consider this a priority programme.

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie): Pour les raisons expliquées par la déléguée de l'Argentine et complétées par les observations de la déléguée du Gabon, la délégation algérienne se joint à elle pour dire que la réserve quant aux fonds disponibles est inutile.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Durante los debates de este tema, nosotros ya nos habíamos pronunciado sobre la preocupación que tenía nuestra Delegación en torno a los asuntos presupuestarios. Ahora bien, también con la

propuesta que hace Canadá realmente tenemos nuestras dudas en cuanto a las modificaciones al párrafo c). Hemos escuchado también que la Delegada de El Salvador hizo señalamientos en torno a hacer eventualmente algunas sugerencias. No sé si a este punto del debate sería conveniente escuchar la sugerencia que tiene la Delegada de El Salvador para eventualmente tomar una decisión de cuál sería el camino a seguir.

Tousef Ali Mahmoud HAMDI (Egypt) (original language Arabic) : I would like to endorse my colleagues who were of the viewpoint that the implementation of this programme is subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and Extra-Budgetary Funds, and say that the implementation of any project necessitates the availability of resources. So why put this proviso here? We are of the view that this condition is necessary.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil) : I think that the delegate from Argentina has a point when she says that in the resolution we mention "subject to the availability of the Regular Programme" and so on. On the other hand also we do not have any other resolution, at least in this Commission, something like maintained budgetary resources at some level or whatever. So it would seem to me that the most reasonable proposition would be the one advanced by the representative of France, which said that we could perhaps delete that clause in Item 3 and leave the text as it is in indent "c". I mean to keep "to make all efforts", and avoid this reference to making changes or keeping budgetary resources, and leave it to the other Commission.

Sra. Concha Maura RAMIREZ DE LOPEZ (Honduras): Seré breve. Solamente para apoyar lo dicho por la Delegación de Panamá en cuanto a la Delegada de El Salvador.

Kiala Kîa MATEVA (Angola): Merci, Monsieur le Président. Je suis un peu surpris de trouver dans ce projet de résolution la mention "sous réserve de fonds ordinaires et extra-budgétaires" parce que cela ne reflète pas les déclarations faites lors de la session qui s'est réalisée le 22/11/89. C'est pourquoi j'appuie les délégués de la Côte d'Ivoire, du Gabon et de l'Argentine. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Crispos R.J. NYAGA (Kenya): I would expect the floor to support those delegations who have suggested the deletion of this provision. Mr Chairman, we are suggesting that the Director-General should look at these activities and I do not see why we should have this proviso in the resolution. So I will not support these views.

CHAIRMAN: I think the Members expressing their views on this issue have clearly indicated that the great majority would be prepared to accept the deletion of the piece of the sentence, the expression "subject to the availability of Regular Programme and Extra-Budgetary Fund" in the beginning of paragraph 3. I did not see much objection to the deletion of this paragraph. I believe the question resides more in paragraph "c", but some delegations want to have it, some delegations want to have it amended, but I have two delegations wishing to make their statement, so I give the floor to Venezuela and then to El Salvador.

Sra. Meroedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente para proponer que se sustituya completamente el número 3 por esta proposición que ine permito hacer: "Pide al Director General que haga esfuerzos por mantener el nivel de recursos asignados para este presupuesto en el subprograma en el Programa Ordinario", sin tener que tocar recursos presupuestarios que no estamos en condiciones de buscar. Creo que con esto interpreto lo que ha dicho Panamá, lo que piensa Colombia, lo que piensa Costa Rica, que han estado de acuerdo con proponer la modificación del número 3 con esta redacción que yo me permito leer.

PRESIDENTE: Agradezco a la distinguida Delegada de Venezuela. ¿Usted podría ser tan gentil de escribir su proposición y hacerla llegar a la Mesa? Tiene la plabra la distinguida representante de El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Cuando intervine la otra vez, planteó mi delegación que también nosotros estábamos preocupados por esta efectiva aplicación del Plan, pero que deberíamos ser realistas. Y, al final de mi intervención, le solicité que cuando usted lo considerara conveniente, quería plantear una reformulación de esta primera parte del párrafo 3.

Mi reformulación va en el mismo sentido que lo planteado por la Delegada de Venezuela. A nosotros nos gustaría que en este párrafo 3 se dijera: "Pide al Director General que, haciendo esfuerzos por mantener el nivel de recursos asignados para este subprograma en el Programa Ordinario" se enumeraran a continuación los apartados a), b), c) y d) que están planteados aquí, en la Resolución.

Con relación a la propuesta del párrafo c), que planteaba el Delegado de Canadá, mi Delegación, como otras, preferiría que quedara como está en la Resolución.

CHAIRMAN: Now we have a proposal made by the delegate of Venezuela that goes very much in the same direction as the proposal made by the delegate of Canada, because what we are actually looking for is the maintenance of the same level of resources for the programme. The proposal of the delegate of Venezuela requests the Director-General to make efforts to maintain the same level of resources. It is not so strict as the Canadian proposal, in that the Canadian proposal established that they should maintain the same level. I believe that in the face of the financial constraints in which we are living the proposal by the delegate of Venezuela is a little more, say, realistic than the other proposal.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): The new formulation of paragraph 3(c) gives us sane difficulty, 3he budgetary levels are maintained by the Conference. The budget is voted by the Conference, so to request the Director-General to maintain the budgetary level may not be quite correct. It is for the Conference to vote particular budgetary levels. I would prefer to go along with the French delegation's view that we leave sub-paragraph (c) as it is and, by the consensus that is emerging, as you anniented, Mr Chairnen, probably we could leave that provision out of the formulation, the first sentence of paragraph 3.

David ERAKE (Canada) : I have no particular desire to prolong this debate interminably. I support much of what has been said, and I welcome what has been put forward by the delegate of Venezuela. We certainly would be prepared to go along with what she suggested with regard to 3(c) as long as the phrase "subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds" is removed.

CHAIRMAN: I understand the proposal by the delegate of Venezuela is to replace the beginning of paragraph 3 with a new sentence that would say - I will read it in Spanish so that it can be better translated. (Continues in Spanish)

"Pide al Director General que haga esfuerzos para mantener el nivel de recursos asignados para este subprograma dentro del Programa Ordinario". (Continúa en inglés).

Sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) would be maintained. That is the proposal by the delegation of Venezuela.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Mi Delegación estaría de acuerdo con la propuesta de Venezuela, que es la misma que yo expresé.

Sra. Mónica DERBSIBÜS (Argentina): Yo creo que tal vez la Delegación de la India no ha comprendido bien el sentido de la enmienda, porque entendió que iban a reemplazar el inciso c). En cambio, esto es, digamos, una exhortación, que entraría dentro de la introducción del párrafo 3.

Creo que el distinguido Delegado de la India ha dicho que es la Conferencia la que debe mantener el nivel de recursos; por lo menos así me llegó en la interpretación. Nosotros creemos que, en realidad, no es ése el significado de la palabra que ha sido propuesta en español. Lo que se quiere decir aquí no es otra cosa más que, en la medida de lo posible, el Director General trate de proteger, de asegurar, de garantizar que el Programa de la Mujer no va a ser afectado eventualmente demasiado por un corte presupuestario. Tampoco es la Conferencia la que decide los cortes presupuestarios; es bueno traerlo a colación. O sea, que la Conferencia ni lo mantiene ni lo recorta; generalmente es el Director General, con acuerdo del Comité de Finanzas, quien ha decidido los cortes en el pasado y han sido refrendados por el Consejo, órganos de los cuales la India creo que es miembro.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): As the proposal has been made, the understanding is that probably the concern is only for reduction, but I understood our concern was to increase gradually over a period of time the allocations to the programme for the integration of women in development. If the concern is only for saving it from cuts, probably that is served by this formulation, but I do not think that was the intention of the Conference. We would want to see the allocations increased and a greater number of programmes undertaken from the resources available to the Organization.

CHAIRMAN: I think in the current financial crisis to save it from cuts is already a great victory.

I wonder if this proposal of the delegation of Venezuela, endorsed by a number of delegations, can be accepted by the delegation of Canada?

Mlle Faouzia BOUMAIZA (Algérie); Je tiens tout d'abord à vous exprimer mes félicitations pour votre élection à la présidence, Ma délégation l'a déjà fait mais je tenais à le faire à titre personnel.

Pour gagner du temps, j'apporte mon appui à la proposition du Venezuela parce que, hélas, il faut bien tenir compte des réalités économiques de l'Organisation.

Le PRESIDENT: Merci également pour votre gentillesse.

David DRAKE (Canada) : I would appreciate a clarification of exactly what has been proposed. I was under the impression that the proposal of the delegate of Venezuela was with regard to 3(c). From your clarification, I gather it replaces "Requests the Director-General, subject to the availability of the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funds". I wonder if this could be clarified.

CHAIRMAN: Your second interpretation is the correct one. The proposal by Venezuela is to replace the beginning of paragraph 3, that is "Requests the Director-General ... etc. " by a new sentence that would read - I will read it in Spanish to have a better English translation.

"Pide al Director General que haga esfuerzos por mantener el nivel de recursos asignados para este subprograma dentro del Programa ordinario". Sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) would have no amendments. This is the proposal by Venezuela which has been supported by some delegations.

David DRAKE (Canada): Thank you for your clarification, Mr Chairman. I think that that would satisfy our concerns. Once again, we are concerned that within the budgetary exercise which is taking place the appropriate priority is placed on women in development as the top priority, and I thank the delegate of Venezuela for making this constructive suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: I think we now have general agreement on that issue.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO(Cuba): Creo señor Presidente que a estas alturas del debate no sería conveniente alargarnos con largas intervenciones.

Nosotros queríamos expresar que la delegación de Cuba apoya totalmente la propuesta de la Delegación de Venezuela.

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): May we have a clarification? would the sentence proposed by the delegate of Venezuela be added to (a), (b), (c) and (d) under the same heading as "Requests the Director-General", followed by the text?

CHAIRMAN: The sentence proposed by Venezuela would replace the sentence that reads "Requests the Director-General, subject to the availability ..." it would replace that sentence. Paragraph 3 would start with the sentence proposed by Venezuela and would go on to (a), (b), (c) and (d) with no alterations whatsoever. Is that understood?

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): I understand, but then it does not read very well. It is as if your primis intention is to keep within the budget, that first of all your budget is the first consideration and then afterwards you have items (a), (b), (c) and (d). This does not seem to follow.

Mme Ivone DÍAS DA GRACA (Gabon): Je voudrais appuyer l'amendement proposé par le Venezuela mais j'aimerais qu'on puisse inclure les mots "au moins", "Maintenir au moins".

Sra. Yolanda GBGO FEREZ (Còsta Rica): Simplemente, señor Presidente para apoyar la propuesta de Venezuela.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I have a small point which I think will be helpful. After the formulation of the Venezuelan delegation, in order to connect (a), (b), (c) and (d) ws should put "and to", That will solve this problem.

CHAIRMAN: I think ws have a basic agreement here on the proposal of the distinguished delegate of Venezuela, that we start paragraph 3 with the sentence proposed by Venezuela with the addition just proposed by India, having "and" at the end of it. Then we go to (a), (b), (c), (d) as in the original draft.

Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America) : I think the proposal of the Indian delegation was correct. I think he was saying that we also needed "and to" in order to introduce the sub-paragraphs.

Rafael MOREJJD (Subdirector General/Representante Regional para América latina y el Caribe) : Señor Presidente, la Secretaría no había querido intervenir para dar alguna breve explicación sobre lo que ha sido la búsqueda de este consenso en este aspecto de la Resolución; pero, creemos, que es necesario al menos dejar clarificado el punto de vista de lo que es el archivo de esta discusión, que esta Resolución, en el fondo, es xana Resolución que al ser aprobada aprueba el Plan de Acción como estaba previsto.

Este es un Plan de Acción que no sólo conlleva responsabilidades para el bienio que se inicia, sino que además es un Plan de Acción que se extiende hasta el año 1995, en el cual las actividades que están señaladas para ser llevadas a cabo en el bienio 1990/91, y que en el texto en español, C 89/14, han sido reseñadas en una tabla detallada en la cual están los recursos del Presupuesto Ordinario, y también los recursos del presupuesto, que serían de Fondos Fiduciarios o Extrapresupuestarios, no ha sido hecho al azar, porque, obviamente, la disponibilidad de los recursos de la Secretaría en las formas teóricamente aprobadas no permitiría, sin el apoyo de una cantidad de recursos presupuestarios, implementar lo que ustedes aquí van a aprobar.

Por lo tanto, en esta búsqueda del consenso la Secretaría quiere dejar claro que puede perfectamente aceptar la formulación que aquí una serie de países están haciendo, en el entendido de que ésta, la plena implementación de esta Resolución, requiere sin duda, el pago de las contribuciones y un mantenimiento del nivel de recursos en los términos en que el presupuesto en el día de mañana será votado; sin ese supuesto, obviamente, ninguna Secretaría, no sólo el Director de la FAO, nadie, ninguna organización, se puede hacer cargo de implementar un programa de siete años con el nivel de recursos que aquí está detallado hasta en su última cifra, y después ser declarado reo de un mandato que no fue capaz de cumplir.

Sólo queríamos, señor Presidente, hacer esta declaración, creemos que la fórmula de la búsqueda del consenso es adecuada; pero la Secretaría se siente en la obligación de de jure: esto establecido para el récord.

Sra. Mónica DEREGIBUS (Argentina): Hay un dicho en mi país, señor Presidente, que reza: "ayúdame que Dios te ayudará". Nosotros le pedimos a la Secretaría de la FAO que empiece a poner en práctica el Plan y que demuestre que puede hacerlo eficientemente, y estamos seguros que los recursos extrapresupuestarios para este temán importante van a llegar.

David DRAKE (Canada) : There is one thing which has been brought up which we have not taken into account and that is the suggestion made by the distinguished delegate of Gabon with regard to the addition of "at least". I knew that these are hard times financially for FAO, but I think that this inclusion would be helpful.

CHAIRMAN: We have agreed on the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of Australia for the beginning of substituting the initial sentence on paragraph 3 with a new one. Then we have the proposal made by the distinguished delegate from Gabon that to this sentence we add "at least". There is also the proposal made by the distinguished delegate of India that we add at the end "and to" •

I believe that the proposal by India is just a formal one. It does not make much difference. It is a question of making the English more elegant and more fluid.

The proposal of the distinguished delegate of Gabon has some specific implications. Of course when we say that we ask the Director-General to make efforts, that means that we expect him to do his utmost, but we also concede that in some cases he will not be able to do everything because of the lack of financial resources.

Having agreed on the Venezuelan proposal, I wonder what is the reaction of the Commission on the Gabonese proposal; is there any support for that proposal?

Mb Gunilla KURTEN (Finland) : The Nordic countries would also like to support this phrase "at least". It was also included in the original amendment proposed by Canada and supported by the Nordic countries.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Yo comprendo las preocupaciones de la Delegada del Gabán, porque también a mi delegación le gustaría que se hiciera eso, pero como he dicho ya en tres ocasiones, creo que debamos ser realistas.

Habíamos logrado un consenso y creo que no sería conveniente iniciar nuevamente el debate sobre esto. Creo que el Director General y el personal de la Organización harán todos los esfuerzos para mantener el nivel de recursos asignados, porque poner el "por lo menos" implicaría también una cuestión futura para los dos próximos bienios.

Tenemos que tener en cuenta, como dije en mi declaración sobre este tema en el día de ayer, que el Plan de Acción para la Integración de la Mujer es para seis años, es para medio plazo. Creo que sería más conveniente, a efectos de no iniciar nuevamente las discusiones, mantener la propuesta que había hecho la Delegada de Venezuela, ya apoyada por otras delegaciones.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): I should like to support what the distinguished delegate from El Salvador has just said. In fact, the distinguished delegate from Finland referred to the fact that the proposal by Gabon was already part of the amendment proposed by Canada, and that is the amendment which raises some difficulties with several members of this Commission. A very useful and constructive suggestion from Venezuela was made to reach a consensus. I also think that we should keep with the Venezuelan amendment without further going back on what was the original proposal on item (c).

CHAIRMAN: I do not want to press in any direction, but I think it would be easier for us to reach a consensus if we kept the proposal by Venezuela in its original form. I wonder if that would be acceptable to other delegations, including the delegation of Gabon who proposed the amendment to the Venezuelan proposal.

Mme Ivone DÍAS DA GRACA (Gabon) : A cette heure tardive, je me rallie au consensus.

MA GENS CO (China) (original language Chinese) : I do not think we should continue the debate. If FAO can provide enough budget and earmark sufficient money for the activities of women, there would be no problem. But everyone knows that FAO is faced with a financial crisis and we do not yet know whether next year everyone will make his contribution in due time. That is why we agree with the proposal made by Venezuela. Of course, we can express the desire that the Director-General will try his best to solicit enough funds for these activities.

CHAIRMAN: I think we can now agree to adopt the Draft Resolution contained in C 89/LIM/37 as amended by Venezuela. Is there agreement on that? I see no objection, so the Resolution as amended, is adopted.

ADOPTED

ADOPTÉ

APROBADO



Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America): I do not mean to prolong the discussion, but just to clarify our understanding so that no one goes home with a misunderstanding - and that is that there is not yet a consensus with regard to this Sustainable Development Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: There is one point missing, I understand.

Richard SEIFMAN (United States of America): It is like a financial crisis -there is one point missing but it sometimes can be an important one.

The meeting rose at 20 30 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.30 horas



**conference**

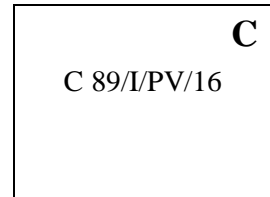
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**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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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SIXTEENTH MEETING  
SEIZIEME SEANCE  
16ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 12.30 hours  
J. A. De Medicis, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 12 h 30  
sous la présidence de J.A. De Medicis, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 16ª sesión a las 12.30 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J.A. De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN IA AGRICULTURA Y IA ALIMENTACION (contiuacion )
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agricola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued) (to discuss draft resolutions) (C 89/INF/16; C 89/LIM/27; C 89/LIM/29; C 89/LIM/29-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/34; C 89/LIM/34-Sup.1)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite) (examen des projets de résolution) (C 89/INF/16; C 89/LIM/27; C 89/LBI/29; C 89/LIM/29-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/34; C 89/LIM/34-Sup.1)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación) (para examinar proyectos de resolución) (C 89/INF/16; C 89/LIM/27; C 89/LIM/29; C 89/LIM/29-Sup.1; C 89/LIM/34; C 89/LIM/34-Sup.1)

CHAIRMAN: The meeting of Commission I is called to order. As we decided yesterday, we will vote on the Arab Member Nations' Draft Resolution on Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People. Yesterday we postponed our voting because of the request of some French and Spanish-speaking countries on the need to have the text of the Resolution, together with the amendments proposed by Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in their national languages.

Therefore, we shall proceed with the vote. Does the united States delegation wish to speak on the voting procedure?

David MoGAFFEY (United States of America): Yesterday my Government was accused of threatening the members of this Organization of using a big stick. I have denied that accusation, but in order to remove any suspicion of coercion, and to allow members to vote strictly on the principles, I would now request that the vote on this Resolution be taken by secret ballot.

CHAIRMAN: I will ask Legal Counsel to give us the procedure.

LEGAL COUNSEL: Should a delegate request a roll call vote, this is something which must then be done. However, if a delegate requests a secret ballot, this is something which the Conference or the Commission must decide upon. Therefore, it is a matter which has to be decided by the Commission.

Tawfik Ahmed Hassan Al MESH-HEDANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic):

Yesterday I proposed that a vote be taken on this draft and that proposal met with your acceptance. We heard the opinion of Legal Council yesterday and, moreover, the delegate frati Kuwait spoke, and it was proposed that we have a

roll call vote. No one spoke about a secret vote. When the representative from the United States proposed a secret vote, he did so this morning. Whereas our proposal was made yesterday.

CHAIRMAN: I would ask delegations that we should not engage in a discussion on procedure. If a proposal is made on this procedure the Chair must accept it and submit it to the vote of the Commission. That is what Legal Counsel has just told us. It would save us time and energy if we submit the United States' proposal to this Commission. I propose that we take a decision.

Those delegations who wish to accept the United States' proposal that we vote on this Resolution by secret ballot, please indicate.

Those delegations opposing the United States, please indicate.

Those delegations abstaining, please indicate.

The United States' proposal is not carried.

we now proceed to the vote. Yesterday there was a request by the Kuwait delegation that we have a roll call. As established under our Rules of Procedure, if any delegation asks for a roll call, the Chair has to take that roll call.

Vote

Vote

Votación



RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

ROLL CALL VOTING  
APPEL NOMINAL  
VOTACION NOMINAL

Vote on  
1st Vote sur  
Vote sur  
Votación para .....  
RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE  
.....

Votes for Voix pour Votos favorables	75
Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9
No reply Aucune réponse Ninguna respuesta	71

Number of votes cast Nombre de suffrages exprimés Número de votos emitidos	77
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Majority required Majorité requise Mayoría requerida	39
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ADOPTED  
ADOPTÉE  
ACEPTADA

Date.....24/11/1989.....Elections Officer..B. J. INLEY.....  
Fecha ..... Fonctionnaire électoral  
El oficial de elecciones

RULE XII - 13(a) GRO

If a vote is equally divided in a matter other than an election, a second vote shall be taken at a subsequent meeting to be held not less than one hour after the conclusion of the meeting at which the equally divided vote occurred. If the second vote is also equally divided the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

In cas de partage égal des voix lors d'un vote ne portant pas sur une élection, on procède à un deuxième vote en cours d'une séance ultérieure, qui ne peut avoir lieu moins d'une heure après la fin de celle à laquelle s'est produit le partage égal des voix. Si les voix restent également partagées lors de ce second vote, la proposition est considérée comme repoussée.

Si hubiera empate en un asunto que no sea una elección, se repetirá la votación en una sesión subsiguiente la cual no deberá celebrarse hasta que haya transcurrido una hora, por lo menos, tras la conclusión de aquella en que se produjo el empate. Si en la segunda votación hubiera también empate se considerará rechazada la propuesta.

25 Session of the Conference  
 Sesión de la Conferencia  
 Período de sesiones de la Conferencia

PLI. OYL. VOIJS AND TALE OF ISLID. HREK NIJID  
 ATEL NOMNL ET DISIBLJCIJ DE ISLJCIJ  
 VOICIJ NOMNL Y DISIBLJCIJ DE ISLJCIJ

1st Vote on RESOLUTION ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE  
 Vote sur.....  
 Votación para.....

COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	NR	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	NR	COUNTRY	YES	NO	ABSEN	NR
Afghanistan				X	Cambodia	X				Oman				X
Albania				X	Cameroon (Rep. of)	X				Pakistan	X			
Algeria	X				Chad	X				Paraguay	X			
Angola	X				Congo	X				Paraguay				X
Antigua and Barbuda				X	Cote d'Ivoire					Peru	X			X
Argentina				X	Cuba					Philippines	X			
Australia			X		Cuba (Rev. of)	X				Poland				X
Austria	X				Guinea	X				Portugal				X
Bahrain				X	Guinea-Bissau	X				Qatar	X			X
Bahrain	X				Haiti					Romania	X			X
Bangladesh	X				Honduras					Rwanda				X
Barbados				X	Hungary					Saudi Arabia	X			X
Belgium	X				Iceland					Senegal	X			
Belize				X	India	X				Sechelles				X
Benin				X	Indonesia	X				Sierra Leone				X
Botswana			X		Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	X				Solomon Islands				X
Brazil	X				Iraq	X				Somalia				X
Bulgaria	X				Ireland	X				Spain	X			
Burkina Faso				X	Israel	X				Sri Lanka				X
Burundi			X		Italy	X				Sudan	X			
Cameroon			X		Jamaica					Suriname	X			
Canada			X		Japan	X				Swaziland				X
Cape Verde	X				Jordan	X				Sweden	X			
Central African Republic			X		Kenya			X		Switzerland	X			
Chad				X	Korea (Rep. of)				X	Taiwan				X
Chile				X	Kuwait	X				Tanzania	X			
China	X				Laos				X	Thailand	X			
Colombia	X				Lebanon	X				Togo				X
Comoros				X	Lesotho	X				Togo				X
Congo	X				Liberia	X				Trinidad and Tobago				X
Cook Islands				X	Libya	X				Tunisia	X			
Costa Rica				X	Luxembourg				X	Turkey	X			
Côte d'Ivoire			X		Norway	X				Uganda	X			
Cuba	X				Malawi				X	United Arab Emirates				X
Cyprus	X				Malaysia	X				United Kingdom	X			
Czechoslovakia				X	Maldives				X	U.S.A.			X	
D.P. Rep. of Korea	X				Mali	X				Uruguay				X
Denmark	X				Malta				X	Vanuatu				X
Djibouti				X	Mauritania	X				Venezuela	X			
Dominica				X	Mauritius	X				Viet Nam				X
Dominican Republic				X	Mexico	X				Yemen Arab Republic	X			
Douglas	X				Mongolia	X				Yemen (P.D. Rep. of)	X			
Egypt	X				Morocco	X				Yugoslavia				X
El Salvador				X	Mozambique				X	Zaire				X
Equatorial Guinea				X	Myanmar				X	Zambia	X			
Ethiopia				X	Namibia				X	Zimbabwe				X
Fiji				X	Nepal	X								
Finland	X				Netherlands	X								
France	X				New Zealand			X						
Gabon	X				Nicaragua	X								
					Niger	X								
					Nigeria				X					
					Norway	X								
	22	0	6	24		32	1	2	18		21	1	1	29

The draft resolution was adopted

Le projet de résolution est approuvé

El proyecto de resolución es aprobado

Jacques WARIN (France): Les Etats Mentores de la Communauté européenne ont voté en faveur de la Résolution qui vient d'être adoptée. Nous étions en effet favorables aux propositions de substance qu'elle contient et qui consistent en une étude de la situation agricole dans les territoires palestiniens occupés et en un rapport aux organes directeurs sur la mise en oeuvre de cette étude. Nous aurions certes préféré que ce genre de décision puisse être prise à la faveur du Rapport de la Conférence, et ne prenne pas la forme plus solennelle d'une Résolution.

Cela dit, notre vote positif a été rendu possible par le soin qu'ont pris les co-auteurs de cette Résolution à en rendre le langage compatible avec celui qui est en usage dans d'autres enceintes du système des Nations Unies où de telles résolutions sont appropriées, et je les remercie à cet égard de l'esprit de coopération qu'ils ont manifesté. Je souhaite enfin préciser que de l'avis de mes partenaires de la Communauté européenne et de ma délégation, l'assistance de la FAO devrait en la circonstance être acheminée par les canaux les plus appropriés en coopération avec les instances compétentes du système des Nations Unies.

Atif Y. BUKHARI (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (original language Arabic): On

behalf of the Arab Group as a whole, Mr Chairman, permit me to express my thanks and highest appreciation to you for the exemplary manner in which you have guided our debate on this matter and our vote on the resolution. On behalf of the Arab group, on behalf of the Near East group, on behalf of the Palestinian people, on behalf of Palestinian farmers, on behalf of the entire Palestinian agricultural sector, permit me to express my thanks to all of the participants in this meeting and to express to them my thanks and recognition for the full and complete support they have put behind this resolution.

we do not feel that this is the victory of one group or party or trend over another group or party or trend. We feel this is the victory of international awareness of right and reason. We feel that it is also a victory for those who are fighting on their own land, farmers who want to assure their own subsistence.

We fully appreciate this admirable attitude of our brothers and sisters who have voted in favour of the resolution, and we would reassure them once again that this resolution was in no way intended to be a political resolution. We would be strongly opposed to that, particularly in this Organization which works to promote food and agriculture in the world, and we strive constantly to ensure that it can continue its pioneer role in the world.

Finally, to you, Sir, as Chairman of this Commission, to the FAO, to the Director-General and to the members of the Commission, I would once again repeat my thanks.

David COUTTS (Australia): I will confine my statement to an explanation of the vote. We feel obliged to give some explanation, for two basic reasons. First, WB have not had the opportunity to receive instructions on the view we should take on the draft we received last night and on which we voted, but



sane of the difficulties which I mentioned in relation to the earlier draft remain. I could not get in touch with the authorities in Canberra to discuss this, and thus Australia felt obliged to abstain, particularly considering the very sensitive nature of the issues involved.

Secondly, our difficulty in taking a firm position is exacerbated by the feeling that it might not be appropriate for this matter - or at least some aspects of it - to be put as a resolution at the Conference. We would have been perfectly happy to have seen all these issues covered in the report of Commission I, as appropriate.

I.C. FERGUSON (Canada): We agree with the general intention of this resolution and we support the provision of technical assistance to the Palestinians. We have regrettably been constrained to abstain because of reservations about some language of a political nature remaining in the text. We acknowledge that the sponsors of the resolution wait a considerable distance to take account of the misgivings expressed about the earlier version. We, do, however, very much regret that this resolution has been introduced at a conference designed to deal with technical questions and in an organization which has been relatively free of political issues in the past. We would have preferred to have seen the matter dealt with in the report of the Conference rather than by resolution.

David McGAFFEY (United States of America): The united States voted "no" to this resolution. Our vote should not and cannot be construed as objecting to technical assistance to the Palestinian people since the US provides significant technical and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. We voted against the extreme political language in the resolution and regret very much that this body has decided to open FAO to political debate. We will attempt to minimize any negative consequences of that action by pointing out that this resolution was approved by less than half of the membership of FAO.

I would make one additional point. We have just approved a budget for 1990-91 which has no provisions for the expenditures proposed in this resolution. My delegation presumes that any costs of this resolution will be met by taking resources from other activities proposed in the Programme of work and Budget.

R.G. PETTITT (United Kingdom): The delegate of France has already spoken for the united Kingdom. I would, however, reinforce his explanation of our vote by adding that the United Kingdom deplors the introduction of political resolutions into governing bodies of this Organization. Our action in not opposing the resolution has only been because of the care which the sponsors have taken to ensure that the language is compatible with that used, often without objection, in other fora where such resolutions are appropriate.

Mohammad ABÜ-KOASH (observer for Palestine) : In the light of What has been said by the delegate of Saudi Arabia, I am left with very little to say except to associate our delegation with expressions of thanks to you and to the members who have supported the draft resolution. At the same time, we hope that those who could not support the draft resolution at this stage will be able to do so at the Plenary.

With regard to what was said by the delegate of the United States, we would like to affirm, that, as all of you know, the delegation of Palestine has been an Observer in the various UN bodies since 1974. The draft resolution just adopted is not something novel or new. The mere fact that the delegation of Palestine, along with the Arab group, has chosen not to introduce draft resolutions in the past does not mean that their right to do so is removed or ignored.

The distinguished delegate of the United States knows very well that similar resolutions have been adopted in the ILO and the UNIDO, UNCTAD, WHO and elsewhere. However, the words of a threat by the delegation of the United States has filled this room. We are a people who believe in democracy and our people are struggling for freedom and democracy, and the United States was one of the countries which put down the rules for the procedure concerning all the UN bodies including the FAO. These rules call for a one-country, one-vote. We respect that democracy and the author of these rules, the United States itself, should respect it and refrain in action and not merely in talk - refrain from threats. We have reason to believe, Mr Chairman, that the pattern of the vote reflects part of the threats which have been sounded by the United States.

To sum up, is it really that the United States is worried about the financial consequences of this draft resolution which costs \$ 100 000. I have reason to believe that the United States would contribute annually more than \$ 4 billion to Israel to occupy our homeland. We have reason to believe, if the United States wants to help us, we do not want this \$ 100 000 Sir. If the United States help us in obtaining our freedom and agreeing to the peace initiatives launched by our people, and in helping us in getting rid of the Israeli occupation which the United States depicted as if occupation brings prosperity, after all, we Palestinians are learning from our predecessors, those who fought against occupation including the United States.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished Observer from Palestine. I think this Commission is aware that we should concentrate our statements on the agenda and not digress on items and issues that are alien to our agenda.

I apologize to the distinguished delegates from two Member Nations as they had expressed the wish to speak before I gave the floor to an Observer, because I did not see their flags before. I now give the floor to the delegate of Norway and then the delegate of Israel.

Eivind S. HOMME (Norway): Norway voted in favour of draft resolution C 89/LIM/44. We would however like to stress that we viewed the raising in this forum of a highly politicized issue as unwarranted and regrettable. The issue pertains to a conflict whose solution can only be found through negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement.

Norway is a considerable contributor of aid to the Palestinian people -US\$ 11.5 million in 1989, which is allocated for humanitarian assistance. This assistance is provided through various channels of our choice including UN, RWA and non-governmental organizations.

RIGHT OF REPLY  
DROIT DE REPOSE  
DERECHO DE REPLICIA

Ilan HARTUV (Israel): I just want to answer as the distinguished delegate of Iran asked yesterday why do we not allow FAO delegations free access to the territories administered by Israel, and hinted that we feel that we have something to hide. Well this is a little bit ridiculous because, first of all, anybody can visit the territories. There is no need for a special permit.

As to specialist delegations, we encourage, as we have said, any delegation that wishes to fund aid projects or administer aid in any way, and right now the distinguished representative of Norway - and before that the distinguished representative of USA have said they channel a lot of aid to those territories. Delegations have cote to do fact-finding before, but as everyone knows, there have been dozens of delegations of the UNDP who do fund many aid projects in the administered territories, and so do the Italians, the Swedes, the Canadians, the EEC and mny other countries and organizations, including many NGO's. We shall continue to welcome anybody coming to help or for fact-finding without any preconceived ideas. We are not sure we will welcome any delegations coming with preconceived ideas Which we feel will only add oil into a troubled area, and hinder the peace process.

RIGHT OF REPLY  
DROIT DE REPOSE  
DERECHO DE REPLICIA

David MoGAFFEY (United States of America) : A previous speaker has been using the name of my country. I would just like to point out to the members of this Organization that the Observer from the Palestine Liberation Organization has just confirmed to the Members of this body that they have just voted for the introduction of political speeches and political divisions into the proceedings of FAO.

I would like to repeat and emphasize that the US has never made any threats against FAO or against the Members of FAO. We are confirmed in our support of FAO and hope, that despite these differences, FAO can continue and thrive.

CHAIRMAN: So we conclude our debate on the draft resolution, "Technical Assistance to the Palestinian People" and we move to the draft resolution proposed by the Nordic Member Nations on "FAO Activities related to Sustainable Development". There is an amendment draft resolution contained in document in C 89/LIM/27-Rev 1, and I will ask the distinguished delegate of Norway to present this revised text.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): The Drafting Group on this resolution net, as we were asked to last night, to work on the possibility on having a consensus text taking into consideration all the amendments proposed under the discussion of this resolution. During our work we reached consensus on most of the matters we were discussing yesterday, so the text before you is a consensus text except for one point, and here I would like to make all the delegations aware of a little technical matter that in para 4(b), that

paragrafai should be in brackets. On this point, the Drafting Committee could not reach agreement so we put it before the Commission for their consideration, with the emphasis on the agreement of all the other amendments proposed yesterday.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate from Norway. We have a document before us that contains a lot of agreement on the text after negotiations between interested parties, and that could accept our endorsement and our consensus approval if only we could accept that the one point of non-agreement could be dropped in the name of compromise and in the name of understanding among ourselves. I understand that this point raised on paragraph 4(b) has already been introduced and there are a number of paragraphs in the revised text, so it would be in the interest of the Commission if the delegation táio is proposing this amendment, and in the interest of compromise, if he could find it possible to waive his interest in the voting of this so that we could accept the resolution as a whole.

Carlos GARCIA DE ALBA (Mexico) : De acuerdo con la exposición que nos acaba de hacer la distinguida delegada del Gobierno de Noruega, queremos dejar constancia de que la delegación de México ha colaborado para encontrar un punto de acuerdo y de consenso que satisfaga los requerimientos de las diferentes delegaciones, sobre lo que se entiende entre el vínculo que existe entre desarrollo sostenible y conservación biológica.

La delegación de México ha mostrado fehacientemente su voluntad de diálogo y en aras de introducir lo que a nuestro juicio es imprescindible, queremos plantear la necesidad de que la propuesta de resolución introduzca un apartado (b) en el punto 4 de la parte operativa.

Consideramos, como delegación representante de un país en desarrollo, que es fundamental tener claro el vínculo que la FAO, como Agencia de desarrollo, debe tener en los debates de cualquier instrumento jurídico que se relacione con las actividades de conservación de la diversidad biológica.

La FAO tiene una larga experiencia que se prolonga por espacio de casi 40 años, en actividades no sólo de desarrollo como lo señala su mandato constitucional, sino también de conservación.

No está pues por demás en que insistamos que es necesario que una Agencia de desarrollo colabore con otras agencias de Naciones Unidas, y específicamente con el PNUMA, en la preparación de un instrumento que tome en cuenta la experiencia acumulada por FAO en materia de conservación de la diversidad biológica y genética.

Es por eso, que consideramos pertinente presentar ante el pleno de esta Comisión, esta propuesta de introducción de un Sub-párrafo (b).

D.A. BUCKLE (United Kingdom) : I should say at the outset that I have no problem with the resolution as originally introduced by the Nordic countries. It is the introduction of the text concerning plant genetic resources that concerns me. There are several reasons for this. First, there are points of principle on the question of introducing specific issues on plant genetic resources or, for that matter, anything else into a general resolution on sustainable development. I presume that to do so is within the resolution rules, and would be glad for confirmation of the matter.

The point is that we could all do this, and presumably we still could. The resolution could be lost due to lack of time. We could formulate amendments on all manner of things: land use, farming systems, population control, women in development, trade, tropical forestry, to mention a few. All can be related to sustainable development. I have deliberately included in my examples subjects which have already been the subject of resolutions. In the case of plant genetic resources we have already had not just one resolution but two.

During our earlier discussions several issues were raised which we agreed to refer to a separate working group. Dr Bonte-Friedheim noted them and specifically read out a list of issues that he would refer to the working group in the very near future. I did not catch everything that he read out as he went at quite a pace, but if this item was not included I really cannot see any reason why that should not be the appropriate forum for discussing this issue.

If I have understood correctly what is now being said, we are now thinking of deleting paragraph 4(b) from the resolution that we have in front of us. If that is so, I think we need to consider references in other parts of the preamble and the text which need to be brought into line with my concept of what this resolution should really state.

Noboru SATTO (Japan): I should like to support the proposal just made by the United Kingdom delegation. As pointed out, there are two other resolutions considering plant genetic resources, and this draft resolution is mainly for the general purpose of sustainable development.

I fully understand the idea of this draft resolution and I have no difficulty in supporting it. Actually, we are trying to support this draft resolution but I think it is a little out of balance to introduce so many things on plant genetic resources. That is one point.

The other point concerns financial difficulty. Yesterday there was an explanation from the Secretariat about extra funds for this draft resolution. From our point of view, of course we must have money in some sense but those kind of costs should be absorbed within the budget just approved or funded by extra-budgetary resources, as far as I understood.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela) : Nosotros vamos a apoyar las modificaciones presentadas por México a este Proyecto de Resolución; y damos los argumentos que caben en relación con la posición que la FAO ha mantenido por su derecho propio, expresado en su Constitución y asignado luego en la Conferencia Mundial del Medio Ambiente en 1972, en cuanto a conservación y desarrollo de los recursos genéticos que son exactamente los de la diversidad biológica.

No podemos nosotros asimilar la importancia de la diversidad biológica y de los recursos genéticos con cualquiera de los programas que han sido mencionados aquí y que podrían tener ingerencia en esta Resolución, porque la diversidad biológica y los recursos fitogenéticos están incidiendo en cualquiera de los proyectos y de los programas que se puedan desarrollar en Naciones Unidas en relación con el medio ambiente, en relación con los recursos naturales. Es lógico que cualquiera resolución que vaya a afectar esta situación de recursos naturales tenga que tener en cuenta, aun cuando no fuera de manera expresa, los criterios y los principios en relación con la diversidad biológica, a los cuales debe atender la FAO.

Y si esta es una Resolución que se va a aceptar en una Conferencia de la FAO, es lógico que no se olvide este principio de la diversidad biológica. Por eso, nosotros vamos a apoyar la modificación que está presentando México, y que se refiere justamente a juntar sus esfuerzos con las otras organizaciones para atender todo lo relativo al eventual instrumento legal que en relación con la conservación de la diversidad biológica del planeta pueda desarrollarse.

Es una previsión de cualquiera de los programas que en el futuro puedan desarrollarse en relación con los recursos en este campo. Nosotros estamos presenciando actualmente, en relación con los recursos genéticos, un similar problema. La FAO había venido prestando atención a los recursos fitogenéticos, y había llegado a crear un programa de acción en relación a los recursos fitogenéticos. Pero ya vimos cómo en una Comisión pasada se presentó la observación de que no habíamos incluido en este Compromiso de los Recursos Fitogenético a los recursos zoogenéticos y a los peces, que forman parte exactamente de la diversidad biológica.

Por esta razón, el Grupo de Trabajo de la Comisión de Recursos Fitogenéticos estuvo estudiando el problema para considerar la posibilidad de incluir en esos recursos los zoogenéticos y los peces. Esto lo presento como un ejemplo de la necesidad de prever hacia el futuro la cobertura de ese problema de la diversidad biológica. Porque precisamente cualquiera de los elementos que caben dentro de ese campo deben ser atendidos por la FAO, que es a quien las Naciones Unidas por su Constitución le asigna la conservación y el desarrollo de estos recursos, y posteriormente también asignados por la Conferencia Mundial del Medio Ambiente desde 1972.

Entonces, si la FAO tiene elementos asignados a ella para su preocupación por estos problemas, es lógico que se junte con cualquiera otra Organización de Naciones Unidas que quiera atender a estos problemas. Por esa razón pues, estamos de acuerdo con la modificación de la parte (b) en la parte resolutoria de lo que estamos estudiando, redactado en la forma en que lo ha presentado México, y que yo me permito leer: "Que una sus esfuerzos a fin de asegurar que los conceptos de conservación y desarrollo sean debidamente tenidos en cuenta en la asociación de un eventual instrumento legal para la conservación de la diversidad biológica del planeta". Es xana previsión hacia el futuro que no impide que la FAO pueda colaborar, cooperar, juntar sus esfuerzos con cualquier otro de los organismos que se van a ocupar del mismo problema.

Por eso, yo presento mi apoyo a la proposición mexicana en este sentido.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je ne reprendrai pas l'intervention que j'avais faite hier en disant qu'il suffisait de lire le titre du projet de résolution qui nous est soumis pour voir que l'on parle du développement durable. Je crois qu'il est important que la FAO ait une résolution sur ce sujet. Je crois aussi qu'il est important que cette résolution soit équilibrée. Or il suffit de constater le texte actuel pour s'apercevoir que si les ressources phytogénétiques sont un sujet important, on pourrait traiter dans cette résolution (qui pourrait avoir une dizaine de pages) tous les autres sujets qui sont visés notamment par le Considérant N° 2. Pourquoi ne pas parler aussi des dégradations du sol, du déboisement, de la désertification, de la pollution du sol et de l'eau? Il n'y a aucune raison pour que l'on fasse une part aussi importante aux ressources phytogénétiques. D'autant plus que ce sujet a déjà fait l'objet de deux résolutions et d'une décision concernant la mise en place d'un groupe de travail. Je conçois fort bien que l'on puisse

ajouter quelques éléments sur les ressources phylogénétiques, mais dans le texte actuel, elles sont citées quatre ou même cinq fois. Donc je crois que c'est trop, et nous allons totalement déséquilibrer le texte si nous conservons notamment le paragraphe b) du N° 4, qui confie à l'Organisation des Nations Unies nouvelles en liaison avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies et qui fait référence également à un système mondial déjà mis en place sur la FAO. A ma connaissance, le système mondial n'a pas lieu d'être cité ici puisqu'il fait l'objet d'autres résolutions. Donc mon souhait est, au moins, que l'on ne parle pas du paragraphe b) du N° 4 et qu'on revoit également certains "considérant" et "reconnaissant" qui figurent en introduction de la résolution.

José TUBINO (Canada) : We share some difficulties already expressed by the delegations of UK, Japan, France and some others. We should like to see a clear-cut resolution on sustainable development. We understand that this is a very important issue. We are very happy that the delegation of Norway brought forward this Resolution. We are willing to support it, but in its current form we find that it is a distorted resolution. We are one of those countries which proposed some amendments to the Plant Genetic Resources Resolutions that were presented to this Commission a few days ago. We accepted that those proposals should follow the path which was proposed by the Secretariat, because we thought it was a logical way in which to go. The Commission agreed with it, and we went along with it. We can see some similarity between our proposed amendments and the amendments that are being proposed now by the delegate of Mexico. For that reason, we do not want to see this meeting being delayed. We knew that we are short of time.

I should like to plea to the Mexican delegation to realize that some of these amendments really belong to Plant Genetic Resources. Perhaps they would be so kind as to include some of those amendments with the list that the Secretariat now has for preparing the Report which will go to the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources, and to deal with these issues in the proper body. However, we do not believe that many of these amendments belong in this resolution.

Muhammad Salean KHAN (Pakistan) : In the spirit in which you opened this discussion, Mr Chairman, I thought what you were basically saying was that we take the Resolution as it has emerged from the mechanism you set up for a consensus basis, and that we concentrate on paragraph 4 b). I note that now we are opening a discussion on this, there are not many countries present here. I even wonder if there is a quorum present. If you intend to open up a discussion I think it would be better to wait until more countries are present and then discuss this issue.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I should like to propose one or two editorial changes which would not alter the substance of the Resolution. I would propose that in the second paragraph in the preamble, starting from "Considering", in the last line after "policies and priorities" we could also add "and practices", because agricultural practices also have a relationship with environmental degradation.

At the top of page 2 in the paragraph "Agreeing that in order to promote sustainable development, ERO must in all its activities", I think this needs more qualification by putting in the word "relevant", because FAO has many activities. Therefore, I propose that we put in the word "relevant activities".

Coming to the two earlier suggestions on paragraph 4 b)<sub>f</sub> we could go along with those suggestions for its total deletion. Barring that, I think my delegation would like to support what Mexico has said.

CHAIRMAN: Before I give the floor to the last two speakers on my list, I have a suggestion. I do not believe we are getting very far with this debate. We are having opinions expressed for some sections of the Resolution, and others for the amendments put forward by Mexico. I really do not believe that we shall reach any conclusion in this forum on the merits or demerits of these amendments.

Therefore I propose that we once again ask the distinguished delegate from Norway to make an extra effort, as she so kindly agreed to do before, and to get together with those delegations which have expressed their views on this Resolution, to see whether it would be possible before, say, four o'clock this afternoon, to have some kind of text which could be agreed.

Otherwise we shall be forced to have a vote on the Resolution, which is something, we would rather avoid. We hope that there is still room for compromise and understanding amongst the delegations.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway) : Of course I will do everything in my power to ease the way towards the consensus that we all want. I might add that we had a thorough discussion yesterday. We also continued during the evening and we had some talks this morning, in a very good spirit of cooperation. However, there are some differences between us, but I am happy to try again and I ask the others to join me in making a last effort.

CHAIRMAN: Having heard from the delegate of Norway, I wonder if it would not be the best solution for us to interrupt our meeting here so that the delegations of Norway, Venezuela, Mexico, the UK, Canada, France and perhaps Brazil, can get together to prepare a text. Would that be acceptable? Do you want to object to that proposal?

Angel BARBERO MARTIN (España): No quiero hacer objeciones, quiero simplemente unirme al grupo de contacto.

CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Chairman of the Group will have any problem in accepting into the Group any members who would like to participate, in order to have a fruitful debate.

Sra. Mercedes FERMÍN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo simplemente quiero expresar que no veo que haya diferencias profundas entre la delegación de Noruega, que es la proponente, y lo que nosotros estamos observando. Ella dice que es excesiva la mención de los recursos fitogenéticos en los párrafos en que se ha incluido, pero eso es una consecuencia derivada del texto de la iniciación del párrafo, y permítame, señor Presidente, que le dé un ejemplo. Dice: "Subrayando que la FAO debería desempeñar una función directiva internacional, como centro por excelencia del sistema de las Naciones Unidas en varios sectores relacionados con el medio ambiente y el desarrollo



sostenible, es decir, la conservación del suelo y la ordenación de las cuencas hidrográficas". Se le agrega esto, que es una consecuencia inmediata: "La conservación de la diversidad biológica y genética, de importancia actual y potencial para el sistema agrícola ganadero forestal".

Es lógico. Si se van a conservar las cuencas hidrográficas, hay el peligro de que en la pretendida conservación de cuencas hidrográficas pueda dañarse toda la diversidad geológica que existe en eso. Y le voy a poner un ejemplo, señor Presidente, y perdóneme, que lo voy a usar de su país, como lo puedo explicar del mío. Cuando se trata de trabajar en la conservación de cuencas de ríos tan grandes como el Amazonas o el Orinoco, hay el peligro de que allí se dañen infinidad de recursos potencialmente extraordinarios, que son los de la diversidad biológica y que están representados en las plantas, en los animales, en los pequeños seres existentes allí.

Si no se hace esta advertencia de que hay que cuidar la diversidad biológica, es muy posible que, tratando de hacer la conservación de una cuenca hidrográfica, sencillamente se dañe el resto de lo que se llamaría la diversidad biológica. Porque cuando los ingenieros tratan de hacer una carretera o una vía de comunicación, ellos no están pensando en la diversidad biológica; ellos están pensando en sus criterios técnicos: cómo pueden hacer una carretera más eficiente o menos eficiente. Es ahí donde sufre la diversidad biológica y donde sufren los recursos fitogenéticos, que, con perdón de la Delegada de Noruega, no son otra cosa. Si la diversidad biológica está implicando los recursos fitogenéticos y zoogenéticos y queremos conservar esto, tenemos que expresarlo en cada una de las actividades en las cuales corre peligro esta diversidad biológica, que hoy la humanidad está interesada en conservar y que se halla en peligro siempre que nosotros nos ponemos a realizar trabajos, por ejemplo, de ingeniería para la construcción de carreteras o de desarrollo, aun del desarrollo sostenible, porque el desarrollo sostenible no es otra cosa que el propio desarrollo de las actividades que el hombre realiza a través de la agricultura y que han sido siempre muy dañinas para la diversidad biológica.

De modo que no es excesivo, si se le agrega lo relativo a la diversidad biológica, para hacer un "remaining" en la conciencia de quienes están en efecto eso. No es agregar una materia nueva, porque este concepto debe estar subyacente en todo lo que significa desarrollo desde el punto de vista físico o desde el punto de vista biológico, sea forestal, sean peces, sean recursos fitogenéticos. De manera que no hay contradicción, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que está claro que si seguimos en el debate, por interesante que sea el tema, no llegaremos a ninguna conclusión sobre la resolución, que es sobre la que tenemos que decidir ahora. Reabrirlos todo el tema y toda la importancia que el tema tiene, pero no llegaremos a lo que nos importa.

The meeting rose at 13.30 h

La séance est levée à 13 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas



**conference**

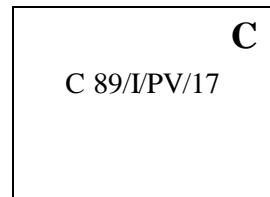
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**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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Twenty-fifth Session  
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session  
COMMISSION II

25° período de sesiones  
COMISION II

SEVENTEENTH MEETING  
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE  
17ª SESION

(24 November 1989)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours  
J.A. De Medicis, Chairmran of Commission I, presiding

La dix-septième séance est ouverte 15 h 15  
sous la présidence de J.A, De Medicis, Président de la Commssion I

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 15.15 horas  
bajo la presidencia de J,A, De Medicis, Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE IA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 20 (continued)

PARAGRAPHES 1 A 20 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 A 20 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The first item on our agenda is a proposed amendment by the Congolese delegation to include a paragraph 20a in the report on item 7.

Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo): La proposition d'amendement de ma délégation porte sur le point 7 (C 89/REP/I). Par rapport au texte, au projet d'amendement qui vous a été distribué, nous avons pour des raisons de formulation simplifié les données. Ainsi la proposition d'amendement peut se lire de la manière suivante: "La Conférence a souligné l'importance que prend le phénomène de déforestation dans les pays tropicaux et ses graves conséquences dues à l'agriculture itinérante du fait des techniques traditionnelles pratiquées par les populations rurales," et tout le reste après. Et "aussi dans le cadre d'une politique d'activités intégrées en matière d'agriculture et de forêt, la FAO doit accorder". Tout le reste reste sans changement. "Devrait" au lieu de "doit". "Aussi dans le cadre d'une politique d'activités intégrées en matière d'agriculture et de forêt, la FAO devrait accorder ..." le reste sans changement.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brésil): Nous venons de recevoir une proposition d'amendement et il nous faudrait plus de temps pour y réfléchir. Cependant, mon premier sentiment est que je comprends ce que le délégué du Congo a voulu dire dans le rapport de cette commission mais je ne suis pas tout à fait d'accord avec la première phrase. En réalité je pense que ce qui nous est proposé concerne particulièrement les pays d'une région, c'est-à-dire la région à laquelle appartient le Congo. Je ne pense pas que cette analyse soit également applicable à d'autres régions et à d'autres pays tropicaux où les problèmes de déforestation ont une autre ampleur et une autre cause. Je pense qu'il serait préférable de substituer dans la première phrase ce mot "La Conférence a souligné" par "Plusieurs pays ont souligné" et toujours dans la même phrase, lorsque l'on parle du problème de déforestation, j'aurais souhaité une autre formule. Mais si l'on change ce mot "La Conférence" cela pourrait recevoir notre acceptation. Ou peut-être, si l'on veut faire une référence, lorsque l'on parle du problème de déforestation, on pourrait nuancer et parler de "quelques régions." Tout le reste de l'analyse du représentant du Congo fait rapport à un type particulier de situation qui se trouve, dans sa grande majorité, en Afrique.

Engelbert MOYO (Tanzania) : Tanzania is one of the members of the African group of countries, but the statement of our colleague from the Congo that shifting cultivation is the sole cause of deforestation does not, I think, give a true picture of the situation in all countries of the African group. We have problems of charcoal making, problems of timber trade, different

problems which cause deforestation, so shifting cultivation should not be seen as the main reason for serious deforestation, particularly in countries like Tanzania.

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I share the concern of the delegate of Tanzania. There are many aspects to deforestation. We should not limit ourselves to subsistence farming alone. Besides, subsistence farming has some positive aspects. If you incorporate subsistence farming with the practice of fallow land, soil is allowed to regenerate so that trees or whatever is cut down is regenerated and the forest grows back. So they are set in positively for a second cultivation.

The other reason is, even if you resort to mechanised staff farming which implies the removal of trees so that the soil is not allowed to regenerate, the situation you arrive at is far more serious than shifting cultivation. So I think Ghana has great difficulty with this amendment and I suggest it is withdrawn for it to be redrafted. To me, honestly, it does not make much sense and I really do not get the meaning. It needs further redrafting to bring out the meaning clearly. We may want to incorporate other causes of deforestation as the Kenyan delegation has mentioned.

CHAIRMAN: Is there any other delegation who wishes to intervene on this point? Does the Congolese delegation wish to reply to the observation made by Brazil, Tanzania and Ghana?

Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo): Nous faisons nôtres les remarques et observations qui ont été formulées et nous voudrions simplement signaler que l'importance du phénomène de déforestation, tel que présenté par ma délégation, tient compte de la dimension du problème au sein d'une sous-région. Nous avons cru nécessaire de pouvoir soulever ce problème. Nous faisons nôtres les remarques formulées par les délégations et nous pensons pouvoir nous remettre à cette proposition d'amendement pour rédiger un projet définitif.

CHAIRMAN: We have two alternatives: one is to suggest that we have the draft indicated there as a number of countries, and then going on to have the full text as proposed by the Congolese delegation and perhaps making some kind of qualification to the deforestation by shifting agriculture. The other idea was not to mention the causes and go straight to the proposals, so rather than discussing whether shifting agriculture is the main cause of that or, as the Tanzanian and the Ghanaian delegations speaking for the African region, spoke of other forms of deforestation like fuelwood and so on, go straight and say (continues in French) ...

"La Conférence a souligné que dans le cadre ..." We have then exactly what the Congolese delegation is looking for, which is that the FAO looks for these activities more deeply, and we do not have to engage here in a long discussion as to which are the causes of these problems. " Would that be acceptable?

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): In that case we would have to look carefully at what the final text would be. If it is just the one sentence that is read by the Congolese delegate that ... I am shifting to French now

... "Dons le cadre d'une politique intégrée en matière d'agriculture, la FAO devrait accorder une priorité dans l'allocation des fonds" ... etc. jusqu'à la fin de cette phrase qui dit "une amélioration des jachères." Oui, je crois qu'on pourrait en finir là, car sinon on entre dans une considération de causes, ou "possibles" ou "probables." On pourrait simplement laisser cette phrase là. Je pense qu'il faudrait considérer cela avec la délégation du Congo et accepter une rédaction alternative et l'on viendrait tout de suite après vous proposer une alternative.

CHAIRMAN: Which are exactly the doubts that the delegation of Brazil has on the text?

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): I have a doubt regarding our proposal as to what would happen to the last sentence of the text that we have before us.

CHAIRMAN: You mean the sentence starting "To ensure the harmonious development of agriculture and...?"

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): Yes, that is one of the doubts that I have. I mean it is a recommendation to tropical countries which I do not know if it should sit here.

CHAIRMAN: What kind of suggestion would you have?

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): Actually my suggestion would be the deletion of the last sentence. Also it would mean the deletion of the first sentence as you have mentioned, and the deletion of the last sentence. So it could perhaps read something like: "The FAO should accord priority in allocating funds to agro-forestry projects, which would be one form of salutary action to prevent deforestation and improve fallow land", something like that, and leave out all things referring to an analysis of possible causes of deforestation. That is what I have in mind.

CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether the delegation of Congo wants to comment on the proposal made by Brazil.

Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo): Monsieur le Président, on pourrait prendre l'idée de la première phrase en tenant compte des remarques formulées que plusieurs pays ont soulignées, l'importance que prend le phénomène de déforestation dans les pays tropicaux et ses graves conséquences. On pourrait s'arrêter là pour la première idée et on continue avec l'idée suivante: "Dans le cadre d'une politique d'activités intégrées en matière d'agriculture et de forêts, la FAO devrait accorder une priorité dans l'allocation des fonds aux projets agroforestiers qui se présentent comme une action salutaire contre la déforestation et l'amélioration des jachères".

Pour ne pas discriminer certaines régions tropicales on pourrait s'arrêter à "jachères", parce que si l'on poursuit il y a certaines régions qui ne seront pas comprises dans la préoccupation.

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Merci Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais appuyer la nouvelle présentation du chapitre telle que présentée par la délégation du Congo, qui à mon avis, tient compte des observations et des préoccupations exprimées par certaines délégations sur ce paragraphe. La première phrase est suffisamment générale pour recueillir l'assentiment de tout le monde et la seconde indique l'action que la FAO devrait mener pour contrecarrer les effets néfastes de la déforestation. Aussi, ma délégation soutient cette proposition que vient de formuler le Congo. Merci.

CHAIRMAN: There has been an observation made to me by Dr Murray, who is an Assistant Director-General for the Forestry Department, that somehow we should link the beginning of the paragraph with the end of the paragraph. So his proposal is that we take, as has been proposed by the delegation of the Congo, saying: "The Conference stressed the importance of deforestation in tropical countries and its serious consequences due, in part, to shifting agriculture". So here we are mentioning only one of the causes or, if you prefer "among other factors, by shifting agricultures". Perhaps "among other factors" is a little more general than "due in part". And then we go and have the sentence that starts in English "within the framework of a policy" and to "fallow land", and we conclude our paragraph there. Would that be acceptable?

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): The problem is, as the distinguished delegate from the Congo stressed himself, he is referring to a specific problem referring to a specific sub-region. If we start the sentence by "The Conference stressed the importance of deforestation in tropical countries", then we lose the nuance which the delegate from Congo himself said was what he had in mind, and especially, if once again we make the reference to itinerant agriculture. I think we could change that again.

CHAIRMAN: I think the way of solving that is to say "Due in some countries to shifting agriculture", and then we go to "Within the framework of a policy".

Engelbert MOYO (Tanzania) s I am sorry but I think we should clarify the point here, whether shifting cultivation or shifting agriculture very typically results in deforestation, because in practical terms with shifting cultivation there is an opportunity to have land in fallow for a period of two or three years whereby it regenerates, and they don't clear the whole forest. Shifting cultivation is not 100 percent degradation of forestry; it is not much deforestation as such; it is small scale for small farmers, including our country, so shifting cultivation should not be a main issue here, you know, as the main source of deforestation. There is the problem of firewood, the problem of charcoal-burning, the problem of timber production. Shifting cultivation should not be the main cause of deforestation in some of our countries.

CHAIRMAN: You have a very valid point there. Shifting agriculture is not at all a cause of deforestation in my own country. That is why we raised this point, and that is why I am trying to limit that to a specific area where the distinguished delegate from Congo comes, so that is why I proposed that we use the expression "due in some countries to shifting agriculture" so that we can avoid having a long discussion on this paragraph.

Mohamed Saeed HARBI (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Thank you very much Mr Chairman, for giving me the floor to give you my opinion on this very important topic. Sudan of course is a tropical country and I believe that deforestation was one of the main reasons for desertification which we have suffered during the '70s and early '80s. One of the others is also the advent of camels which eat the savannah and this area in any case is unsuitable for camel-ripping.

All of us in the tropical countries have to think of those matters. At the same time, I do not believe the recommendation as it is now is suitable because we are talking about agriculture in a general way. I believe that agriculture which is not planned for is one of the main reasons leading to the deterioration of our forests and our cultivable land. So I feel this particular point should be clarified with this recommendation, and I would ask the delegate of the Congo to accept saying that unplanned agriculture is one of the main reasons leading to deforestation and deterioration of land.

CHAIRMAN: If I may try to find a solution, I think the best thing to do here would be to go straight to the proposal. The intention of the Congolese delegation here is that FAO should accord priority in allocating funds to agro-forestry projects. That was what they intended, so I do not believe that we need to start explaining in the report why this emphasis on agro-forestry is needed. I think we should go straight to the point and say "The Conference stressed that within the framework of a policy of integrated agricultural and forestry activities, FAO should accord priority in allocating funds to agro-forestry projects, which would be one form of salutary action to prevent deforestation and improve fallow land". Would that be acceptable to all?

Engelbert MOHO (Tanzania): May I suggest that those words be added straight after the last sentence of paragraph 20 of the document, rather than having another paragraph?

CHAIRMAN: I think it would be better to have a separate paragraph because paragraph 20 mentions a number of activities in FAO which should be given attention, and this paragraph is focusing on agro-forestry. Is the proposal made by the Chair acceptable to the Congo?

Grégoire NKBOUA (Congo): Oui Monsieur le Président, elle est acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: So we will have a paragraph saying "The Conference stressed that", followed by the sentence starting with "Within" and finishing with "fallow land". That will be the whole paragraph.

That concludes the discussion of the amendment proposed by Congo for a new paragraph.

Paragraphs 1 to 20, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 20, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 20, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Pro let de Rapport de la Commission I, Partie 2, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, Parte 2 enmendado, es aprobado



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

CHAIRMAN: Now we move to the next item on our agenda which is the Draft Resolution proposed by Indonesia and the Netherlands on the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, document C 89/LIM/41, which is the Eighth Report of the Resolutions Committee, and C 89/IJM/43, Which is the amended text submitted by the sponsors. Does any delegation wish to take the floor on this issue?

Widayat Edi FRANATO (Indonesia): Before I deliver my introduction on the Draft Resolution please accept my apologies for proposing some amendments to the draft that has been distributed. The revised version of the draft was proposed by the delegations of Indonesia, Netherlands, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom. In addition, we have a few more amendments to be added to C 89/LIM/43.

In order to save time, please allow me to read the last paragraph of page 2, which is written as follows "4. Recommends to governments: (a) to improve the position. .. etc. " The paragraph should read as follows "Recommends to governments, donor countries and international financial organizations: (a) to accord higher priority to budget support for strengthening national institutional capacity especially in the developing countries, to implement forestry programmes as a basis for sustainable development". The rest remains the same.

I should like to draw your attention to the state of forests in the world and their relationship with agriculture. Forests cover more than four thousand million hectares, or one third of the earth's surface. Of the total forest area, about 42 percent is found in the developed countries and 58 percent in the developing countries. Forests and trees are intimately linked to agriculture. They play a vital role in sustaining crop fields by helping to maintain the soil and water base. They ensure environmental stability by mitigating the effect of climatic irregularities, storms and winds.

In conclusion, action is needed now. Hundreds of millions of people in developing countries already face hardship and starvation because of fuel and food shortages. The forest resource of these countries can and must be harnessed to meet their development needs. If properly used and managed, tropical forests constitute a massive potential source of energy, a powerful tool in the fight to end hunger, a strong basis for generating economic wealth and .social development, and a storehouse of genetic resources to meet future needs.

This is the promise and the challenge. The Tropical Forestry Action Plan aims at building a working partnership to face this challenge and realize this promise.

I am hoping that this Resolution can be adopted by consensus.

CHAIRMAN: I realize from reading the revised version of the draft in C 89/LIM/41 that is contained in C 89/LIM/43 that there are a number of brackets in the document. I wonder if the sponsors, as Netherlands is to be the next speaker, could indicate to us which are the brackets that remain and which are those that have been removed. Or do they expect us to remove the brackets?

R.W.Ch. VAN DEN BERGH (Netherlands): To respond to your request, Mr. Chairman, the round brackets are deletions, and we keep the square brackets. There is a new document, C 89/LIM/41 with the text which is now available for us, and it is without brackets. So we do not have the text between round brackets and instead of that we have the text between square brackets. Then there is the small amendment put forward by Indonesia on operative paragraph 4(a) "Recommends to governments, donors and international financial organizations", and in the following sentence under (a), after "capacity" the words "especially in developing countries. Those are the proposed changes in the text.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the Netherlands has the floor if he wants to make any further statement.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I have very little to add to what has been said by my Indonesian colleague. I was there a couple of years ago when the Tropical Forestry Action Plan was launched in Mexico City during the World Forestry Congress. Now in 1989 we have in FAO a coordinated unit for the execution of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan. In September of this year we had a meeting of the Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, and at the end of that meeting we had a group of recommendations. These recommendations are reflected in this Resolution. So, as this has already been debated during the meeting of the Committee of Forest Development in the Tropics, if I may say so this is not a controversial Resolution. It supports the activity already undertaken by FAO.

CHAIRMAN: There are still some doubts on which is the final text because 43 says "Revised Version of draft in C 89/LIM/41, and you said that 41 is the final text.

F.C. PRILEVTTZ (Netherlands): I made a mistake. We have to discuss 43.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it would make it easier for the Commission if we went through this paragraph by paragraph and deleted the brackets where appropriate, so that there is no doubt about the text under discussion.

There are no brackets in the first and second paragraphs. In the third paragraph, we delete "to develop tropical forestry, with a view". We then delete "utilization" and we keep "use". We also keep "management". There are no brackets in the fourth paragraph. In the fifth paragraph we delete "the strengthening of", and we keep "supporting the coordinating role of FAO". We also delete "the TFAP Coordinating Unit".

In the paragraph starting "Recognizing the important contribution" we delete "will", we keep "could", and we delete "in particular with regard to combatting O<sub>2</sub> accumulation in the atmosphere", and we keep "and conservation of biodiversity".

The next paragraph is deleted altogether. There is a new paragraph which replaces it starting "Recognizing the huge world population increase", etc. On page 2, "Aware that", in a) there are no changes. In b) we delete "and selected". In c) there are no changes. In d) we delete "conscious", and then we delete "and that solutions must be genuinely local in order".

"Confirming", we keep "Requests" and "and agencies". We delete "tropical countries with". Then we delete "institutions involved". We keep "capabilities for". We delete "in".

"Invites the Director-General", delete "prenote the establishment of", and we keep "foster". We delete "prepare" and we delete "institutions". We keep "capabilities". We delete "development" and we keep "formulation". We delete "in" and we keep "within".

In the next paragraph, we delete "gap" and we keep "lapse".

In "Recommends", we delete "improve the position of", and we keep "accord higher priority to " the" and "sector". We delete "in particular", and "TFAP in conjunction with". We keep "forestry programmes as a basis for", and we keep "and interested".

In 4.b), we delete "the TFAP" and we keep "forestry". We delete "order to overcome the constraints to TFAP" and we keep "the". We delete "caused by external factors".

c), is a whole new sentence.

5: We delete from "to provide" all the way to "Action Plan", and we include "to continue to accord", etc.

We have a new paragraph 6.

I understand there are some amendments from the Indonesian delegation to paragraph 4.a). Is that correct?

Widayat Edi PRANKED (Indonesia): Once more, I should like to read paragraph 4: "Recommends to governments, donors and international financial organizations: (a) to accord higher priority to the forestry sector by providing stronger budget support for strengthening national institutional capacity especially in the developing countries, to implement a forestry programme as a basis for sustainable development". The rest remains the same.

John Reciñan GOULDSACK (United Kingdom) : I should just like to say that, as one of the co-sponsors of the Resolution , we have no problem with the suggested amendment to paragraph 4 as put by the Indonesian delegate.

Widayat Edi FRANATO (Indonesia): Once again, on paragraph 4, I should like to read once again, "Recommends to governments , donors and international financial organizations: (a) "improve the position of" - which is deleted -and also "international economy" is deleted, that "in particular" is deleted and "'TFAP in conjunction with" is deleted.

CHAIRMAN: I think some of us are still in doubt as to which are the amendments, the additions and deletions in paragraph 4.a) as contained in document C 89/LIM/43.

We now have a text Which has been handed to you. I will ask the secretary to read it as amended.

SECRETARY: This is the full revised text of paragraph 4 as handed to the Secretariat by the distinguished delegate of Indonesia. Paragraph 4 should read as follows: "Recommends to governments, donors and international financial organizations: a) to accord higher priority to the forestry sector". The next phrase is crossed out, "international economy". "... by providing stronger budget support for strengthening national institutional capacity, especially in developing countries, to implement forestry programmes as a basis for sustainable development".

David DRAKE (Canada): Assuming that we are all clear on the changes which have just been clarified, the Canadian delegation supports the Resolution before us and supports the call made by the sponsors for the adoption of this Resolution by consensus.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): At the last meeting on the environment in Latin America the Minister stressed that governments have the sovereign right to decide on the use of their natural resources. On that occasion they also stressed that this principle was not contrary, but in fact underlined the need and the importance for international cooperation. We believe that this Resolution goes in that sense, and therefore we are basically in agreement with it. However I have two minor suggestions which I wish to submit to this Commission. The first one is with regard to the sub-paragraph of the Preamble where it says, "Noting also that the international community has fully accepted the TFAP" and so on, I would not like this to be perceived elsewhere as emphasizing some sort of competition between FAO and other organizations which also deal with matters related to forestry, and tropical forestry in particular.

I would suggest to the substitution of those words "has fully accepted" for "has welcomed the TFAP as the worldwide framework" or "as a worldwide framework". In fact, what I am proposing is the change of the verbs "has fully accepted" for "has welcomed". The other suggestion I have is in the second page, that paragraph which begins with "Aware that" in sub-para (c) it says "external factors, such as the need for alternative uses of land and the sometimes low priority attached to forestry, constitute serious limitations to the successful implementation of TFAP". I would strongly suggest that we

delete that part which says "and the sometimes low priority attached to forestry" because I do not think it really fits here as an external factor, and in fact it is the prerogative of governments to attach what priority, within constraints, they can to forestry. I suggest that we delete that snail part of this subparagraph which says "and the sometimes low priority attached to forestry".

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana) s I do not have the programme with the amended paragraph 4.a). The only revision I want to make is simply that actions so far taken by donor organizations and international financial organizations have come in the form of increased budgetary support to strengthen national institutions to rehabilitate the forestry sector. This has come in the form of supporting the logging farms and sawmillers with no fuss, and the consequence has been further deforestation. You can see this clearly in Ghana where we received support from an international financial organization to rehabilitate the forestry sector, and within a space of three years we have almost depleted half of our forestry resources through logging. That is say I say I support the Resolution as it stands. It does not address the consequences through deforestation as a result of the actions of the international financial institutions.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I want to come back to the comments made by the distinguished delegate of Brazil. I think that for the sponsors, the first proposal in the third paragraph of the preamble, instead of "fully accepted" "welcomed", that is acceptable. But I have doubts about the second amendment on page 2 in point (c) "and the sometimes low priority attached to forestry". Of course his argument was about the competence of the national governments, that is true. But when you have a bird's eye view on the whole world of what is going on in the different countries, you can see that sometimes low priority is attached to the forestry sector. I have my own experience in the Netherlands during a period of four years when I was Director of the National Forestry Service, and there was a too low priority, That is not the reason why I am here. But that is my experience, and I believe that I share that experience with many other foresters in the world. It is true, and if I cannot say the truth here, OK, but my preference is to leave it there. I do understand what my colleague from Ghana has said, but I thought that he did not propose to make an amendment there in the sector, but we have fully understood him.

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil) s I am grateful for the comment made by the extinguished delegate from the Netherlands. As regards the second point, I think it is very common and illustrates my point, ^hen he mentioned a bird's eye view of what are the priorities attached to forestry across the world, and it is exactly this kind of thing which concerns me; that very often judgements are passed on forestry policies after a bird's eye view. This matter of low priority being attached has to be seen within context, and the particular concerns of each country and their priorities, not only in the long-term, but also in the short-term. It is this which I am trying to avoid here. It is just a small point, but it is important. I think we should not make a reference based on what is sometimes a superficial perception of what the situation is in each country.

Noboru SATED (Japan): Concerning the amendments proposed by the delegate of the Brazilian Government, I will support the first amendment, because in my country we have an international organization handling the tropical timber matters.

CHAIRMAN: I see there is some difficulty arriving at a solution on sub-paragraph (c) of the paragraph that starts "Awarethat", I wonder if we need to individually single out those external factors because we have here only two external factors: "the need for alternative uses of land"; and "the sometimes low priority attached to forestry". There are other external factors we could also mention here, and for a number of reasons we did not decide to mention them. Perhaps the best way of solving that would be just to say "External factors for a number of reasons constitute serious limitations" or just put "External factors constitute serious limitations to the successful implementation of TEAP". I wonder if that could be acceptable rather than having a citation of two, and only two external factors, just to mention external factors, as such.

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (Netherlands): I think you made a good proposal. Since the draft resolution is so dear to the sponsors, we can accept your proposal. We delete the words "sometimes low priority attached to forestry". We pick up your proposal or we say "external factors, for example, the need for alternative uses of land" or something like that. That is acceptable.

CHAIRMAN: So you could have "External factors, for example, the need for alternative uses of land, constitute "and then we go on. Is there any other observation on this draft resolution?

Paulo Estivallet DE MESQUITA (Brazil): I may have missed one little point which I also wish to suggest. In fact it is more a change of order than anything else. It is in sub-paragraph (a) at the very beginning of page 2. I would rather not have this sort of comment on the ability of tropical countries to absorb technology, or whatever, for the implementation of forestry and other projects. I wonder if it would be possible to change that and start right away with the importance of human resources development. Something like: "Human Resources. Aware that: (a) human resources development is critically important for project preparation and implementation". Then omit that reference to "institutional situation and absorptive capacity". I am not comfortable with this kind of language in a resolution which we expect to be approved by consensus.

CHAIRMAN: I am always in an uncomfortable position to comment on the proposals made by the delegation of Brazil, as I have some attachment to that country. I believe that the suggestion does not change the actual aim of the sentence which is to increase the attention on the human resources development. The first section of the sentence actually is a reference to the causes of that. I do not know whether it would be acceptable for the sponsors to have this.

Raphaël RABE (Madagascar): Je pense que l'on pourrait tenir compte de l'objection du délégué du Brésil et modifier le paragraphe en disant "Conscients qu'il est essentiel de développer le capital humain dans beaucoup de pays tropicaux".

CHAIRMAN: I have signs from the Brazilian delegation that the sub-amendment submitted by Madagascar is quite acceptable to them. Would that be acceptable to others?

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): C'était pour autre chose que cette dernière proposition. Je prendrai la parole après.

CHAIRMAN: I see some positive signs also.

Ciernas YANGA (Cameroun): Je voudrais faire une observation. Mon pays est l'un des pays qui sont considérés dans le premier paragraphe, à savoir l'un des pays qui a bénéficié d'une revue sectorielle et même qui a tenu sa table ronde. Je crois qu'il y a un facteur qui limite la mise en oeuvre des projets définis dans le cadre du PAFT, c'est la situation économique des pays bénéficiaires. Dans le sous-projet de résolutions, il n'est pas fait spécifiquement état de cette situation économique qui joue un rôle important dans la capacité des pays mêmes à fournir les ressources nécessaires pour la mise en oeuvre des projets et avant même de solliciter l'aide extérieure. Je ne sais pas dans quelle mesure ce point pourrait être pris en considération mais je crois important de signaler notamment la partie de la motion qui dit que "La Conférence est consciente de".

IE PRESIDENT: Je vous demande si vous avez une proposition à faire? Ce serait plus facile si l'on pouvait dicter la proposition et voir si elle reçoit une approbation •

Thomas YANGA (Cameroun): Je crois que dans la partie (c) de la résolution qui dit que "La Conférence est consciente" à propos des facteurs extérieurs, on pourrait ajouter aussi "Les conditions de l'environnement économique et de la situation économique des pays bénéficiaires constituent des obstacles sérieux au succès du PAFT".

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps, with the concurrence of the sponsors, that sub-paragraph could read, "External factors, such as the economic situations of participant countries, constitute serious limitations to the successful implementation of TFAP", and we would delete the example that we had before.

F.C. PRHILLVITZ (Netherlands): I think that is quite acceptable, although the economic environment is something other than what was meant here, the need for alternative uses. If you take the environment of cities, then of course it is or urban land or agricultural land or forestry land, but it does not matter. I think "economic environment" is good enough here.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): De manera muy breve, la delegación de mi país, al intervenir en el Programa de Labores y Presupuesto de nuestra Organización planteó como prioridad fundamental para El Salvador el Programa de Acción Forestal en los Trópicos. Por ello, no deseamos pasar esta oportunidad sin manifestar nuestro total apoyo a este proyecto de Resolución, con las modificaciones que aquí se han hecho.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I have a few minor comments about the next sub-paragraph. If we delete "conscious", then the sub-paragraph starts with "that". The "that" is redundant. Then there is some difficulty about the sentence which follows, "TFAP activities at the country levels are the responsibility of the national authorities ", and with the addition it continues "and for the methods adopted to be truly self-sustainable". I think it should read like that, then it makes sense.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate from India. Of course it has to be that way. When we keep amending, deleting and adding, we sometimes arrive at a text that does not make much sense, grammatically, at least.

I believe we now have general agreement on our text of the Draft Resolution proposed by the Netherlands, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom, as amended by a number of delegations during our debate. We can take it that this resolution is acceptable and adopted by this Commission. The resolution contained in C 89/UM/53, as amended, is adopted.

CHAIRMAN: We now move to the Draft Resolution on FAO Activities Related to Sustainable Development. I ask the representative of Norway to present the report as the Chairman of the Contact Group that revised the document contained in C 89/LIM/27-Rev.1.

Ms Birgit SCHJEKVEN (Norway): When the Drafting Committee met this afternoon, representatives from the delegations of Canada, France, Mexico, Spain, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela who participated in part of the meeting participated in the work.

I am very pleased to inform you that through an extraordinary effort and a desire to reach agreement on the resolution so broadly supported, the Committee is able now to place before you a consensus text.

As there is no time to produce and circulate a new text with the proposed changes, I propose to read them out to you very slowly. They are not very many. There are no changes to preambular paragraph 1. In preambular paragraph 2, in line with suggestions by the delegation of Pakistan, we have added in line 3 after "priorities" the words "and practices", so that it reads "agricultural policies, priorities and practices have been causing ...".

There are no changes in preambular paragraph 3, nor in paragraphs 4 and 5.

In preambular paragraph 6, the new paragraph reads as follows: "Considering that FAO is in the process of including its global system as mechanism for the safe conservation, sustainable use and availability of genetic resources", leaving out "plant".

There is an addition: put a comma after "resources" and the addition reads, "that is fully complementary with sustainable development".

The new paragraph reads as follows: "Considering that FAO is in the process of improving its global system as mechanism for the safe conservation, sustainable use and availability of genetic resources, that is fully complementary with sustainable development".



On page 2, preambular paragraph 7, there is a snail addition suggested by Pakistan: on the second line after "its" you insert "relevant" so it reads: "FAO must in all its relevant activities look to the long term", etc.

Preambular paragraph 8 starting with "Recognizing" is deleted.

Preambular paragraph 9 starting with "Underlining" reads as the original text until the third line where you stop after "development" and delete the rest. The new addition after "development" will read: "and FAO should contribute actively in further international agreements on biological/genetic diversity, tropical forestry, fisheries and environmental matters". I will read the whole of paragraph 9 in full: "Underlining that FAO should play a leading international role as the centre of excellence within the United Nations system in several subsectors related to environment and sustainable development, and FAO should contribute actively in further international agreements on biological/genetic diversity, tropical forestry, fisheries and other environmental matters".

There is no change in the next preambular paragraph, nor in the last preambular paragraph.

In the operational paragraphs there is a snail insertion in the second line -also suggested by Pakistan - before "FAO" you insert "relevant".

So it would read "considerations in all relevant FAO activities". There are no changes in operational paragraph 2. In operational paragraph 3, in the second line, the last word reads "and" is substituted by "including". So the paragraph would read, "FAO should strengthen cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system in pursuing sustainable development including conservation and management of biological/genetic diversity and increase its efforts in assisting governments in the formulation of conservation strategies, particularly in developing countries".

In paragraph 4, you delete "a)", but keep the text, and delete the whole of paragraph b). So paragraph 4 would then read: "FAO should further collaborate fully with the Secretary General of the United Nations in the preparations for the United Nations 1992 Conference on Environment and Development and should respond affirmatively to the UNEP proposal for a joint FAO/UNEP meeting on sustainable agriculture as part of the preparation for this Conference".

Paragraph 5 remains unchanged.

These are the changes that the Drafting Committee proposed to the Committee, and that the Committee has agreed on on consensus. I would hope that the Committee could see fit to adopt the text as it now is before you, with the changes I have read to you, and adopt this text by consensus.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the countries contributing in the Drafting Committee. They did some very valuable and good work there.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Norway for her splendid work in providing us with the revised agreed text and I thank all the members of this Contact Group who made it possible for this revised text to be put before us. I propose that, with no further ado, we adopt by consensus this text, which will be the last point on our agenda.

If there is agreement, the Draft Resolution is adopted.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) :

Since the Commission has adopted the Resolution, I request that in the Report of the Organization after the Resolution, one paragraph be inserted which consists of three sentences. I will read the three sentences: "The Conference was informed that the approved Programme of Work and Budget for 1990-91 does not include financial provision for the new activities resulting from the adopted Resolution on 'FAO's activities related to sustainable development'. The costs for the full implementation of these additional activities to the Organization in the next biennium are estimated at approximately US\$ 580 000 and are unlikely to be absorbed within the approved budget. Therefore FAO requires and will do its best to mobilize extrabudgetary resources of this magnitude".

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): I think you remember, Mr Chairman, that in my introduction to this Resolution, I made some comments upon the cost assessment made by the Resolutions Committee. I underlined at that time that it was not clear from the estimates given how the cost was arrived at, and that it seems very high. The matter was also mentioned today by the distinguished delegate of Japan. Dr Bonte-Friedheim explained to us that FAO and UNEP consider it necessary to be involved in activities related to a meeting such as regional meetings, expert meetings, etc. Of course, in that light, one can see that the costs would escalate. On the other hand, this was not really clear, neither in the UNEP Resolution nor in our Resolution where you talk about a meeting. As I said, it is now important that FAO should take the initiative and draw upon all the valuable work it has already done, and give a substantial contribution to a very high prioritized area.

I would suggest that when the framework and the scope of the FAO-UNEP meeting is emerging, we will then have a clear picture of whether the cost involved would be seen to exceed reasonable limits for the Organization. We could then also discuss whether the scenario presented here now would seem to be a reasonable scenario for this type of meeting.

At that point, FAO and UNEP might invite member countries to discuss supplementary financing for this special activity. In that light, I think that the second line in the text read to us by Dr Bonte-Friedheim is perhaps a little excessive because we do not yet know what the cost will be. We are rightly informed that you assess the cost to the amount mentioned, but I would suggest that you delete the second sentence.

CHAIRMAN: The second sentence reads: "The costs for the full implementation of these additional activities to the Organization in the next biennium are estimated at approximately US\$ 580 000, and are unlikely to be absorbed within the approved budget".

With all due respect to the distinguished delegate from Norway, I believe that the estimation made by the Secretariat does not involve any position of the Conference and of the Committee. It is just information given by the Secretariat. If at the same time the Secretariat finds that it does not correspond to the final estimate, a revision could be made. I think your proposition is complementary to what has been said here by Dr Bonte-Friedheim, that whenever we reach a point where funds are no longer available, at that stage negotiation could start for extrabudgetary funds.

Ms Birgit SCHJERVEN (Norway): I would actually like to go into amendments, but I do not want to do that because it would prolong the discussion. I only want to say that it is a little early. I do not quarrel with the assessment. I am just a little in doubt as to whether this really is the true assessment because we do not know the scope of activities as yet, and that is not clear from that text. We do not know whether it is possible to absorb it. We have passed other resolutions this morning with costs included, where no such addition was made. That is why I proposed it.

CHAIRMAN: Perhaps it would satisfy your request if we added a last sentence saying that some delegations, or one delegation, believe that it is still a little early to make this assessment. Do we say "one" or "sane"? "Sane delegations believe that it is too early to make such an assessment"? Does The Netherlands want the floor?

F.C. PRILLEVITZ (the Netherlands): I would like sane clarification on point 4 of the Resolution where it reads, "FAO should further collaborate fully with the Secretary General of the United Nations in the preparations for the united Nations 1992 Conference". My Minister of Agriculture in the Plenary Meeting of the Conference proposed that we should organize a meeting on agriculture and the environment in the course of 1991 in preparation for the 1992 Environment Conference. My Minister said that he would bear the cost of that. Does it help this activity? Is that the same activity or are we speaking about another activity?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): we

would certainly discuss with The Netherlands how far their offer could be used for financing part of this. First of all, I should like to say that, which I accept that there are doubts about these figures, I should like to add here exactly why we had a meeting with UNEP. If we have a UNEP meeting together and we come up with costs, I do not know on what basis other people say that it is too early. In the UNEP Resolution, it says three things, and I wonder whether people have looked at these. It says, "reviewing the mechanisms for integrated agricultural production and environmental policies worldwide". Secondly, "Elaborating a world strategy" - I repeat "world strategy" - "for sustainable agriculture to guide agricultural policies at national and international levels in order to ensure such policies encourage farmers to adopt practices".

Number 3, formulating recommendations for practical action that might be taken by UNEP, the FAO and other international organizations concerned with the contact of their ongoing activities to promote sustainable agriculture. My own feeling, and I was in that meeting, that half a million dollars or US\$ 600 000, if you want to do a good job, is not sufficient for this one; it will cost much more, because it cannot be done by the Secretariat without involving major regions of the world with their experts. But that is my own feeling, and I just want to say that, for my point, I accept the offer from the Netherlands Government, and we will discuss with them because that is what it says in the last sentence. Therefore, FAO requires, and will do its best, to mobilize extra-budgetary resources of this magnitude. And I think for my side, I hope that we will come to an agreement to maybe shift and do it a little bit wider what the Dutch Prime Minister and the Dutch Government have said in order to see how far it fits.

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

KRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 11 INCLUDINS DRAFT RESOLUTION

PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 11 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

PÁRRAFOS 1 A 11 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: We now came to the next point in our agenda, which is the adoption of our report. We have document C 89/I/REP/3 in front of us. We start with item 10, International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides: Introduction of the "Prior Informed Consent" (PIC) Clause. Paragraph 1, adopted; paragraph 2, adopted; paragraph 3, adopted; paragraph 4, adopted; paragraph 5, adopted; paragraph 6, adopted; paragraph 7, adopted; paragraph 8, adopted; paragraph 9.

SECRETARY, Commission I: A small mistake has crept into the non-English versions of the text in paragraph 9. The English text is correct and this correction applies only to the non-English versions. The mistake is in Article 9.1 under the Code where it says, "should notify FAO as soon as possible but not later than six months after the action of the action it has taken". The three words "of the action" have been left out in the non-English versions.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 9 lists a number of amendments to the Code and to the Guidelines. We will go by amendment so that, if any delegation that has proposed amendment has an observation to make, they can do so. The amendment referring to 9.1: there are no comments. Article 9.2: there are no comments. Article 9.5: there are no comments. Article 9.10.1: there are no comments. The Guidelines, Step 3: there are no comments. Step 4: there are no comments. Step 6.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): Step 6, paragraph 5, the last sentence, "Where such exists": I believe the intention is that it should be "Where such action has been taken" or "Where such action exists". Some such thing needs to be in that sentence.

CHAIRMAN: will the delegate of India please read the sentence as he intends that it should read so that we do not make any mistakes?

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I think the last sentence of Step 6, paragraph 5, should read "Where such action exists". The word "action" is missing.

C.H. BOKEE-FRIEDHEIM(Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) : The original text, which is in document C 89/20 reads, "Where such exists, local production will also be subjected to the control action." The "such" refers to the local production. The proposals which have been made from the floor are to delete the word "local" and to insert "for domestic use", so I think the text as it stands is correct.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): As I said, there is no difficulty in the substance of it but I think the linguistic problem is that "such" cannot stand on its own. It has to be "such .... what?" And it should be "production".

C.H. BOMTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department) : Then you say "production"?

R.C.A. JAIN(India): Yes, "such production", but I do not think that makes sense. "Where such production exists"? "Where such action exists"?

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agricultural Department) : I

think we could change it here although it is in the printed guideline. It should really say "Where it exists, local production ...". That, I hope, will be acceptable to India so that "such" comes out and we will say "it".

CHAIRMAN: Step 8. Dr Bonte-Friedheim wants the floor.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director -General, Agriculture Department) : In the document in front of you of the verbatim draft report from the Drafting Committee there is no mistake. It is in the English text in the fifth line in the underlined part and the sentence starts "measures", and then it goes on "with their (authorities) authority" and it must read "and legislative competence" and not "legislated competence". So the real words must be "legislative competence designed to" and then it goes on.

Paragraphs 1 to 11, including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendé, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, as amended, was adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, Partie 3, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4  
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 4  
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 9 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION  
PARAGRAPHERS 1 A 9 Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION  
PARRAFOS 1 A 9 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 1, no remarks. Paragraph 2. Paragraph 3. Paragraph 4. Paragrafai 5.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): The last line of paragraph 5 refers to marginalization of women by treating them as special cases. Now I think the intention here is probably to say something else. If they are special, they do not get marginalized; they get importance. So I really do not know what is the meaning of the Drafting Committee in describing this word here "marginalization".

B.P. DOTTA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): The intention here is to distinguish the integration of the women into all the mainstream activities and addressing them separately through sane specific projects. If the distinguished delegate of India is not very happy with the word "marginalization ", probably some improvement could be effected there, but the intention is to distinguish between saying integrating the women concerned in the mainstream activities as distinct from preparing, formulating, implementing separate projects for women.

Y.K. ATTA-KDNADU (Ghana): I think the sentence as it is - you could qualify it slightly - should be allowed to remain. The sentence as it is now should be allowed to stay with a slight amendment to read like this: "The Conference noted that lack of special attention to women in the development process could result in their marginalization". This seems to be the intention of the Drafting committee.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I think, if I had the intention right from what Mr Dutia mentioned, then probably this phrasing would serve the purpose. "The Conference noted that the special treatment of women in development concerns could result in their" - and I am changing the words- "in their isolation from mainstream activities, and agreed therefore that women in development concerns should be systematically integrated in the ongoing work of the Organization."

G.G. FREELAND (United Kingdom) : I believe that in fact what is written here is exactly what was expressed by the Conference during its debate, but it is that we are not reading it as it was intended to be read, because I think the point is that if we say specific projects for women, then they become marginalized projects; they are not mainstream projects. We want women in development to be integrated in all aspects of FAO work, and I think that what we are saying is that the Conference noted that the special treatment of

women in development concerns could result in their marginalization, i.e. the marginalization of those concerned. If we, instead of what we have written, just put WID concerns, it might become clearer, but it is the concerns that would become marginalized, not women.

CHAIRMAN: To me at least the explanation just given by the UK delegate fits perfectly. I think after the explanation we could keep the original text as drafted by the Drafting Committee. I wonder if that is acceptable also to the Indian and Ghanaian delegations?

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I thought after the clarification given by Mr Dutia the intention came out clearly that the idea was that the special treatment should not lead to isolation and a kind of redundancy for women under the programme. In view of that, I have suggested, although you did the words, "Isolation from mainstream activities". Perhaps this can raise the meaning much better than "marginalization" because marginalization has other connotations also apart from isolation; an element of redundancy, from an element of reduction in status, which I do not think is really the point from what I made out in the Conference here.

CHAIRMAN: I think what is said here is if we have a specific treatment for women, we kind of prepare specific programmes for women and we do not integrate them into the mainstream and activities, so we marginalize her and that is perfectly clear from what is here, and I think that is the idea of this paragraph. So if we keep this as it is, it reflects exactly what has been said here in this room and what is the intention of the Commission to convey to the governments. Does Ghana want the floor?

Y.K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I think the concern I expressed and the concern India expressed are the same except that different words were used, but after listening to the UK, I am now happy with it.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your understanding. So we accept paragraph 5 as it is, and move to paragraph 6. Paragraph 7?

R.C.A. JAIN (India): In the fifth line from the bottom of paragraph 7 there is mention that the Conference proposes "to encourage the promotion of women within the Organization". This is a matter relating to the personnel policies of FAO, and I think the personnel policies of FAO take into account the need for promotion of men and women within the Organization. Are we trying to suggest here that a special set of promotion rules will be framed for women? Are we trying to create a sub-set of people who will get accelerated fast-rate promotion? If that is not the intention, I think mention of equity should be made. If a man is equally qualified he would also have an equal right to the higher job. Therefore, I would suggest that after "1995" to "Organization" at the end of the line should be deleted.

David ERAKE (Canada): With regard to the comment by the delegate of India I think this is a very valid point which is made here. First of all, we are reflecting what the Conference actually said, that was that it did ask to encourage the promotion of women within the Organization. Secondly, during

the Drafting Committee last night of which I was a part a discussion took place in this regard, and the Secretariat was kind enough to propose a phrasing which tried to meet the concerns of the delegate of India, that is, with the phrase "without affecting the principles of professional quality and equitable geographic distribution". That was meant to satisfy that point, if I recall correctly.

CHAIRMAN: I would agree that with the words "without affecting the principles of professional quality and equitable geographic distribution" the principle of equality that is so dear to the delegate of India is preserved.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): The equity which is mentioned is only with regard to the geographic distribution. If the Commission insists on keeping this phrase, I would suggest the addition of two words "and equity" after "equitable geographic distribution".

CHAIRMAN: Is there any objection to the amendment?

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I do not really understand the second amendment of India. I think the text should stand as it is. We have adopted that text in other reports, and I think it serves the purpose perfectly well.

B.P. DOTTA (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department): If it might be of some help to the Commission to consider this, I might say that this refers to the strategy that has been developed by the Personnel Division of FAO, and in fact it was reported in paragraphs 44 and 45 of C 89/14. This refers both to increasing the access of women to professional posts within FAO and also to encouraging the promotion of women, of course without affecting the principles of professional quality and equitable geographic distribution. So in fact the language that is contained in the report before the Commission exactly reflects the language that was in the original document C 89/14 which, as far as I understand it, received general approval by this Commission.

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I am not trying to oppose what was the consensus or what has been the policy, but I do not accept that what may have been written in an earlier document, just because it has been written earlier, has to be accepted for all time to come. I would suggest that it should be open to improvement. We are all open to improvement. By using the word "equity" what I am trying to emphasize is that if two persons, a man and a woman, are equal in all respects the man should not be discriminated against when considering the promotion. If it is the intention that he should be discriminated against, if that is the consensus of the Commission, I will go with that, but I thought it should be clarified because when you are talking about equitable geographic distribution there is no other thing; you are not talking about equity between two people. I am of the view that the word "equity" which actually means equity between people should be maintained.



CHAIRMAN: I think when we speak of "principles of professional quality" your principle is preserved there, and the professional quality is the same between men and women and the man should not be discriminated against. That is why the principle of professional quality is included here. Your point is preserved by this principle of professional quality.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden) : I support the views of the Chair and what Mr Dutia has just said. This is the personnel policy of the Organization as set out by the Organization and by the Director-General. The point of equality is certainly well embodied in it.

My delegation is essentially happy with the phrasing, and I do not think we need to try to improve it. All the concerns that we would like to preserve are already embodied in this, so I think we could continue to the next paragraph.

CHAIRMAN: Would that be acceptable to India?

R.C.A. JAIN (India): I do not think that I can afford to persist on this point without being branded an MCP, so I will go along with the consensus and let it remain as it is.

CHAIRMAN: So we adopt paragraph 7. Paragraph 8?

Before we move to the next item, in our report a paragraph was missing reflecting the remarks made here yesterday by Dr Moreno. Dr Moreno will read a new paragraph to be included that will reflect his remarks of yesterday.

Rafael MORENO (Subdirector General y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe): La proposición sería, señor Presidente, colocar una pequeña inserción después de la Resolución misma, que quedase como una nota que se leyese de la siguiente manera:

El Representante del Director General estableció que la implementación del Plan de Acción requerirá la disponibilidad de fondos del Programa Regular y Extrapresupuestario. Como ha sido indicado en el Informe de progreso, los requerimientos estipulados por la unidad de coordinación para la implementación del Plan alcanzan a 2,7 millones de dólares del Programa Regular y 780 000 dólares de los Recursos Extrapresupuestarios en el bienio 1990-91. La plena implementación del Plan estaba sujeta a la contingencia de la disponibilidad de estos recursos del Programa Regular y de los Recursos Extrapresupuestarios.

Esto fue, señor Presidente, lo que yo efectivamente declaré al término de la discusión, y es sólo colocar la nota a nombre de la Secretaria, reflejando lo dicho en representación del Director General.

Paragraphs 1 to 9, including draft resolution, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 9, y compris le projet de résolution, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 9, incluido el proyecto de resolución, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 4, as amended, was adopted  
Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, Partie 4, ainsi amandé, est adopté  
El Proyecto de Informe de la Comisión I, Parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

CHAIRMAN: Allow me once again to thank the Drafting Committee for the excellent work they have done, and especially Dr Hamdí for the leadership he has provided to this Committee. The proof of the excellence of their work has been the very limited number of amendments that this Commission has proposed for the Draft Report.

Distinguished delegates, I think we have come to the end of our Session, and I would like to thank all of you for the cooperation to the Chair and hope that we have a very happy and fruitful continuation of our Conference. I would like to thank each and every one of you for this splendid cooperation which made our work quite smooth and easy to conduct.

C.H. BONIE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department) : I

would like to refer to today's order of the day, and I would like to repeat that we have prepared a bibliography on computer output microfiche which contains 2 414 selected FAO documents produced since 1986. This is now available at our David Lubin Memorial Library. Delegates can view these microfiches at the Library Information Desk, but they can also obtain a set, if they so wish, and take it home.

The meeting rose at 17.15 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.15 horas