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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮农组织
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-seventh Session • Trente-septième session • 37.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
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**Roma, 25 de junio - 2 de julio de 2011
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
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11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
(2 July 2011)**

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Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
25 June 2011

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:37 hours
Mr Tefera Derbew,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10:37 horas
bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,
Presidente de la Conferencia

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome you to FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. It is a pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome you all to the Headquarters of our Organization, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

The number one item on the Agenda is the Election of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairpersons. At its Hundred and Fortieth Session in November-December 2010, the Council proposed that His Excellency Tefera Derbew, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia, preside over this session of Conference. May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and can confirm it by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

May I now invite His Excellency Tefera Derbew to come forward and take the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director-General.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Conference this year is important for a number of reasons: the eradication of rinderpest, an animal disease, was declared today; the elections of the new FAO Director-General, the Independent Chairperson of the Council and some of its members are to take place; a decision on the level of the budget for 2012-2013 will be taken; and reports of the CoC-IEE on progress in implementing the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal and the Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of the Governing Bodies, including representation, will be submitted.

The Agenda before us calls for decisions which will have a lasting impact on the future of the Organization. Given that we only have one week to do this, I call on your cooperation and understanding, so that we can make sure that we make the best use of our time to generate wise and forward-looking decisions for the good of the Organization and its mission.

Having said this, I suggest that we return to the first item on the Agenda.

Introduction

Introduction

Introducción

1. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

1. Elección del Presidente y de los Vicepresidentes (C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Item 1, the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons. The election of the Chairperson is already conducted. Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the report of the Council, shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

The proposal made by the Council in April this year indicated that two of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference would come, respectively, from the Latin America and Caribbean region and the Near East region. Since that time, the Chairpersons of the respective Regional Groups have communicated nominations to the Secretariat. Hence, the following three nominees are now presented to the Conference for approval: His Excellency Juan Camilo Restrepo from Colombia; His Excellency Ezz al-Deen al-Dawla from Iraq; and His Excellency Pietro Sebastiani from Italia.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Conference approves these nominations? Thank you, it is so decided. I congratulate the Vice-Chairs and look forward to working closely with them over the following days.

2. Appointment of the General Committee and Credentials Committee

(C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs

(C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

2. Nombramiento de los miembros del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

(C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee as submitted by the Council. They are as follows: Brazil; Canada; Hungary; Iraq; New Zealand; Pakistan; Tunisia.

I should point out that prior to the opening of this session of Conference, the Near East Regional Group communicated that Iraq has been nominated to replace Jordan.

Are there any objections? If there is no objection please, confirm approval by applause. It is so decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee made by the Council: Austria; Bangladesh; Czech Republic; Equatorial Guinea; Nicaragua; Oman; San Marino; Thailand; and the United States of America.

Do you wish to endorse this list? Thank you very much. It is so decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Asi se acuerda

Other Matters
Questions diverses
Otros asuntos

35. Any Other Matters
35. Autres questions
35. Asuntos varios

35.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 2011/INF/9)

35.1 Conférence McDougall (C 2011/INF/9)

35.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (C 2011/INF/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 35, Any Other Matters and under this, Subitem 35.1 under which the Conference will listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization. The lecture is delivered at each ordinary session of the Conference.

The Director-General will now introduce this year's McDougall Lecture. Director-General please.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to introduce Dr Kofi Annan, who has graciously accepted to deliver the 27th McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Dr Annan was the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, serving from 1997 through 2006. Elected in December 1996, he became the first United Nations Secretary-General from sub-Saharan Africa and the first to be elected from the ranks of United Nations Staff. Dr Annan is a UN veteran who began working with the Organization in 1962 at the World Health Organization. He held various senior posts, including Deputy Director to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 1980 to 1996, and Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping from 1995 to 1996.

In 2000, Dr Annan launched the report called, "We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century", in which he detailed a plan for UN Member States to end poverty and inequality, improve education, reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, protect the environment and humanity from violence. The report led to the Millennium Declaration, a plan that has guided the work of the United Nations system into the new millennium.

In 2001, Dr Annan and the United Nations were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work in global peace and cooperation. Dr Annan was elected for a second term, serving until the end of 2006. During his term of office, Secretary-General Annan was given the mandate to reform the United Nations. He pursued an ambitious plan to renew the UN and strengthen its activities for peace and development. Dr Annan also oversaw the adoption of a number of reforms, including many institutional and administrative changes.

Since leaving the United Nations, Dr Annan has continued to press for enhanced policies to meet the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly in Africa, using his experience to mediate and resolve conflict. In 2007, he was named Chairman of the prize committee for the "Mo Ibrahim" Prize for Achievement in African Leadership, and was chosen to lead the new formation of the "Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa". He is a member of the "Global Elders", and was appointed President of the "Global Humanitarian Forum" in Geneva. He was selected also for the "Mac Arthur Foundation" Award for International Justice. In 2008, he led the African Union's Panel of Eminent African Personalities to help find a peaceful resolution to the post-election violence in Kenya. Dr Annan currently leads the Kofi Annan Foundation which aims to promote better global governance and strengthen the capacities of people and countries to achieve a fairer, more secure world. He also serves on the board of directors of the United Nations Foundation, which builds and implements public-private partnerships to address the world's most pressing problems and broadens support for the United Nations, and he is a member of the "Africa Progress Panel" which focuses the attention of

world leaders on delivering on their commitments to the continent. Dr Annan served as Chancellor of the University of Ghana. He is a Global Fellow at Columbia University in the United States, and Li Ka Shing Professor at the Lee Juan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Kofi Annan was born in Ghana. He attended Macalaster College in St. Paul, Minnesota, graduating in Economics in 1961. He was a fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management from 1971 to 1972, receiving a Master of Science degree and undertook graduate work at Geneva's Institute for Advanced International Studies. I believe that Dr Annan is thus an eminently suitable key note speaker to set the tone for this 37th Session of the FAO Conference.

Mr Kofi ANNAN (Chairperson of the Board, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa)

I am honoured to be here and for this opportunity to address the FAO Conference.

You meet at a time of critical importance. The challenges, immediate and long-term, that the FAO faces have never been greater. In many ways, the world has changed enormously since the FAO was set up in 1945. Overall, we enjoy greater prosperity and opportunity, but this progress has not been shared. Hundreds of millions of our fellow citizens continue to live in fear and poverty. And despite the ambitions of those who founded the FAO, food and nutrition insecurity continue to lie at the heart of this injustice.

Delivering the last McDougall lecture, Olivier De Schutter drew attention to the fact that, for the first time in history, the number of hungry in the world had passed one billion.

He spoke in the aftermath of a record surge in food prices and when the global financial crisis was hurting economies and people across the planet. It would be comforting if, two years later, we could say that such a shameful record would never again be reached. But there is a real prospect that we may break the one billion mark once more – and that in the long term this number will continue to rise.

Rising Food Prices

There is no need, for this expert audience, to go into detail about the surge of food prices and its impact on people's well-being. Although higher prices can have positive effects, the extreme volatility we are witnessing today – and the uncertainties it creates - is causing great hardship. And the shockwaves go far beyond individual misery. The inability of families to feed themselves has been a major factor in the political instability seen in some regions of the world. In a world of volatile prices and food shortages, however, it will not just be repressive regimes which will feel the heat of frustration and anger. As Lester Brown wrote recently, food has become the hidden driver of world politics, with the potential to fuel conflict within countries and also between them. What is even more worrying is that while prices may fall from their present record peak, this relief may only be temporary.

Long-term trends

For the price of food is being driven by long-term pressures which will continue to boost demand yet make increasing production to meet it difficult. The global population has just passed seven billion. The latest report from the UN Population Division warns that numbers may not stabilize at nine billion, as it forecast only two years ago, but could reach 10 billion. At the same time, greater prosperity in developing countries will see three billion people moving up the food chain – an expanding middle class with a growing appetite for meat and dairy products. Grain once used to feed people is increasingly being switched to feeding animals. Population growth and increasing prosperity could alone lead to demand for food increasing by 70 percent by 2050. This is one half of a dangerous equation. But there are also new and linked constraints on food production which cover land, energy, water and climate. Rising oil prices, for example, have brought greater competition from heavily subsidised agro or bio-fuels. As oil prices continue to rise, the conversion of grain to fuel becomes even more attractive, no matter our grave doubts about its ethics and sustainability. Water resources are being exploited at an unsustainable pace. Lack of water is behind the two thirds cut in grain production in Saudi Arabia in the last decade. And as the FAO's Director-General has pointed out, we cannot automatically rely on science delivering larger yields as in the past. In developed countries, we have reached a limit on the impact that innovation and technology can have on increasing cereal

harvests. To all these pressures on our food supply, we must add the catastrophic impact of climate change with its effect on temperature, rainfall, productivity of land and the frequency of extreme weather. In Russia last summer, higher temperatures and drought led to a 40% fall in its harvest and a damaging ban on grain exports. Some experts are warning that we may still be badly under-estimating the long-term impact of climate change on yields. What is already certain is that, combined with unsustainable farming practices, climate change is turning vast areas of productive land into dust bowls. Climate change is a terrible legacy for our children and future generations. Yet so far, our generation of leaders has failed to find the vision or courage to tackle it.

Challenges for FAO

So this is the sombre background against which you are meeting over the next few days. There is a real threat that a serious crisis will turn into a permanent disaster, putting in danger the lives of many millions of people. There would be one other important casualty of this failure – the global sense of community which the ambitions of this organisation symbolise. For if countries cannot come together successfully to deliver food security – this most basic of human needs – our hopes for wider international co-operation look doomed. Yet even on food, there has been in recent years an ominous retreat from the idea of a common purpose based on shared values. We have seen a worrying rise in protectionism, unilateral export bans, land grabs and exclusive deals that meet the food needs of the rich but not the poor. That's why I passionately believe that, along with tackling the linked problem of climate change, delivering global food and nutrition security is the challenge of our time. But daunting as the barriers are, they are not insurmountable. We have, after all, doubled food production before, so we must not despair. And higher food prices – ironically – might actually provide the foundation to help us build a better and fairer food future.

Higher prices can boost food production

For as this audience understands, it is not the increase in food prices which is having the most damaging impact, but the extraordinary rate at which they have risen. Indeed, while this may be controversial in some quarters, there is a strong case to be made that food prices had to be rebalanced, provided volatility is tackled and the vulnerable protected. Food prices, aided by increased production, have been falling in real terms for much of the last three decades. While this has been good news for consumers, particularly in the developed world, it has damaged many rural communities and the long-term global supply of food. If prices are artificially low, farmers are denied a fair return as well as the incentive and means. This has been particularly damaging for small-holder farmers, who together with their families, still make up nearly half of the global population. In contrast, more stable higher prices can encourage investment and help communities, but only if farmers share in the benefits. So in the long-run, a fair price now can stimulate production to help meet increased demand and hold down prices in the future. But we must do more to protect the vulnerable from dangerous price volatility.

Additional barriers

While fairer prices can provide the launch pad, there are plenty of other barriers at national and international level which must be overcome to deliver food security. Higher food prices alone won't close the shortfall in agricultural investment in regions where we can make the biggest impact in increasing food production. For overall there has been no shortage of investment in farming and food. It is just that most of this money is spent by wealthier countries protecting their own agricultural sector – often at the expense of farmers in the developing world. The OECD calculated that in 2009 agricultural support from richer countries to their own farmers totalled over \$385 billion dollars. This, according to Oxfam, was nearly 80 times the money spent in development aid to agriculture – a figure which had fallen by over 70%, in real terms, in the previous two decades. It is re-assuring that both national governments and international organisations, thanks in part to the FAO's efforts, understand this trend has to be reversed. We have seen countries and regional groups such as the African Union pledge to increase investment in their own agricultural sector. Richer countries have also promised, not least through the L'Aquila G-8 initiative, to make more resources available to farming in the developing world where the greatest potential to increase food production exists. Ladies and gentlemen, these promises must be kept and must involve additional funds rather than the repackaging of existing commitments. We must also encourage increased investment from the private sector and

open up access to credit for farmers. This is particularly needed for women who make up, in many regions, the majority of farmers and who can find themselves cut off from capital by lack of title rights and prejudice. There must be increased investment as well in research and development – something that is at the heart of this organisation's work. New crops and techniques, particularly in the developing world, are critical to boosting harvests and ensuring land can stay productive despite climate change. Yet despite the efforts of the FAO and partner organisations, nowhere near enough resources are being spent on the agricultural challenges of developing regions. Regrettably the research of major agro-businesses is still concentrated on the needs of large farming enterprises in the developed world. The \$500 million annual budget for CGIAR, which does such important work, continues to be dwarfed by the investment in Research and Development by major producers of seeds and agrochemicals. Additional investment in research must also be matched with a new flexibility in patent rights so the benefits of innovation can be shared more widely. It would be a costly tragedy, too, to ignore the importance of conserving biodiversity given its ability to help us cope with as yet unknown diseases and pests. Investment is also essential to improve infrastructure including irrigation, transport links and storage facilities. When more food is produced, we must get it to where it is needed or wanted. There must be investment in people as well to help them adopt and adapt the new techniques. We need to do more to attract young people – with their energy and openness to new ideas – into farming and to set up agro-related enterprises in rural areas. This would also help us slow the drift to our over-crowded cities. I know this is all high on the agenda of this organisation. You have been crucial in encouraging investment, in supporting R & D and helping ease access to credit. But there is a great deal more to do to meet past and chronic investment shortfalls.

Africa – opportunities and challenges

Ladies and gentlemen, there is nowhere where the legacy of past mistakes has had a more damaging impact nor the opportunities for the future greater than Africa, where my own efforts are focused through AGRA. Farmers across the continent have paid the price of this lack of investment and interest in agriculture over many decades. Cereal yields in Africa are less than a quarter of the global average – and have barely increased in 30 years. This is not because of a lack of effort by Africa's farmers but a lack of knowledge, resources and infrastructure to support their hard work. The result is that Africa is the only continent which fails to produce enough food to feed its own citizens. A worrying situation not just because the continent already contains one third of the world's hungry but also because Africa is where the biggest growth in population will come. But at the same time, Africa is the continent which has perhaps the greatest opportunities to help find solutions to global food insecurity. It is blessed with abundant land, containing some 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land. Even within existing cultivated land, a doubling of cereal yields would turn Africa into a major food surplus region.

Importance of smallholders

So how do we harness this potential in Africa and elsewhere and do so in ways which are sustainable? For in increasing production, we must prevent any repetition of the environmental and social damage attributed to the Asian green revolution. First, smallholder farmers must be at the heart of the uniquely African green revolution we need to develop. Their crucial role in providing food security has, of course, already been recognised by this organisation. This is not a matter of romanticising smallholder farmers. It is recognition both of their numbers and their potential. Even today, after the drift to the cities, four out of five Africans depend on farming and related activities to provide for their families. We can't increase food production at the speed and scale we need without mobilising this army of small-holders. History also shows, as was the case in Asia, that such a green revolution can provide a springboard for wider economic growth. But this will only happen if we put a new emphasis on enabling them to grow food commercially and sustainably. Subsistence-orientated farming is, of course, vital in feeding and employing poor people. We must maintain support for it. But it is by unleashing the pent up entrepreneurial spirit that we will have the biggest impact on food supplies, on jobs and incomes in both the farm and rural non-farm economy.

Role of commercial farms

This focus on small-holder farming does not mean we must turn our back on larger commercial farms. I believe they can play a crucial role, for example, in developing Africa's agricultural potential, particularly in land-abundant countries like Zambia and Angola. But they can't operate in isolation. Nor can we sanction the kind of speculative land grabs which have seen communities evicted in order for food to be grown not for local people but to meet future needs in other countries. It is very disturbing that a recent report found that agricultural land that adds up to the size of France was bought in Africa in 2009 alone by hedge funds and other speculators. It is neither just nor sustainable for farmland to be stolen from communities in this way nor for food to be exported when there is hunger on the doorstep. Local people will not stand for this abuse – and neither should we. If, however, large commercial farms integrate their activities within the community, serving as hubs that link smallholders to value chains, sharing knowledge and best practice, they can play an important and positive role. We must continue to emphasise to agri-businesses the benefits and importance of supporting small farmers.

Research and Development

So this is not about big versus small. It is about inclusion and ensuring all farmers have the chance to grow more food in a sustainable way. Such sustainable intensification requires access to crop varieties that perform well with relatively low levels of external inputs – and the latest techniques of soil and water management. As we have already discussed, this will need more investment in research and more support so farmers can adopt the new technologies. We must also ensure they have efficient markets for their crops – at local, regional and global levels. At the moment these markets are too often distorted or unreliable with farmers finding they are neither certain of a fair price nor profiting when prices do rise.

International action

Here the FAO, its partner UN agencies and international trade bodies must step up efforts to develop a fair and sustainable framework to tackle hunger and deliver food security. We need you to help drive improvements in both global governance and policies including an overhaul of unfair trade rules and restrictions. Continued slides towards the beggar thy neighbour attitude we have seen in recent years will only worsen the crisis and instability. There is a need, too, for structural reforms such as improved social protection schemes against price spikes to protect the poorest. It is clear as well that if global and regional food stocks were both more transparent and maintained at higher levels, price volatility and speculation would be dampened. As a first step to bring about these changes, the FAO can take the lead by compiling more accurate and accessible information on the quantity and quality of these stocks, something which is still missing. You must be at the forefront, too, of developing a deeper understanding of the relationship between international, local and farm-gate prices to ensure both fairness and the right incentives are in place. Along with your continued and crucial support for innovative agricultural research, this is a big agenda. This needs even greater co-operation and collaboration between the FAO and other agencies working in this area. At AGRA, we have benefited from the way the three Rome-based organisations have worked closely together with us on projects including the Emergency Food Production Programme for Zimbabwe. But there is still a real need for bigger and better partnerships, particularly throughout the wider CGIAR system. I hope this will include rigorous research into the benefits and costs of crop-based bio-fuels which includes their impact on food and nutrition security and environmental sustainability. Let me address, too, the Agriculture ministers who are gathered here today. I know your work-loads are already great. But it is you – in your respective countries and Cabinets – who must spearhead the efforts to overcome the challenges which I have outlined. It is you who must win wider Government commitment for the investment and transformation needed for global food security – and foster the international co-operation required to deliver it.

Conclusion

Ladies and gentlemen, I understand that some of my former colleagues were bemused – and a little amused – at my decision on leaving the UN to put agriculture at the top of my agenda. I can see why

the move from Secretary-General to Farmer Kofi was met with smiles. It was perhaps not the most obvious choice for me. But I know this audience, above anyone else, understands both the seriousness of the challenge and the urgency of finding solutions. The survival of one billion people – the weakest and most vulnerable on the planet – depends upon us finding answers now to hunger. The future of nine billion plus people depends on putting in place the right policies and systems to deliver food security within a few decades. So, too, do our hopes for a just and peaceful world in which we work together as peoples and nations to overcome common challenges and achieve shared goals. You are at the forefront of these efforts. If you and your partner agencies fail, we all fail. I wish you courage and vision in the course of your discussions this week.

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank Mr. Kofi Annan for delivering the Twenty-seventh McDougall Lecture. As you know Frank McDougall came from Australia, hence I now call upon the honourable Mike Kelly, parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Australia to take the floor.

Mr Mike KELLY (Australia)

It is a tremendous pleasure to be able to reply to His Excellency's comments. This really is a poignant coincidence when I reflect on his speech today. Frank McDougall himself was a farmer but, as many of you may not be aware, he was a soldier in the First World War on the battlefields of Europe where he served in and witnessed extreme carnage. That experience led him, after the wars, to be a delegate at the League of Nations, but also to use his skills as a farmer to promote solutions to world poverty and hunger, which led him to become one of the founding fathers of FAO after the Second World War. It is interesting that we have here with us today a man that has spent so much of his life in the cause of peace, a man who understands better than all of us the intersection between conflict and food security. In fact, in a previous existence I was a member of the Australian Army and I first met Mr Annan in Somalia in 1993 where we were dealing with one of the most serious situations of that conflation of food security, famine and conflict, and it was a great privilege for me to observe Mr Annan in subsequent years in Oslo, where we were dealing with the Landmines Convention, which brought to the fore the issue, of course, of the denial of arable land through that scourge. Subsequently too, through the challenges of peacekeeping operations, I was privileged to present Mr Annan with a report on the Rule of Law and Good Governance which is so critical to post-conflict situations, but also, as we know, to the encouragement of investment. The sort of investment that we need in agriculture to meet these food security challenges.

So, I, of course now, having left the Army, am also involved in agriculture as farmer Mike with farmer Kofi and so there is quite a symmetry to this event today. But also we meet at a very important moment in time. We are here in the wake of the signing-off on an action plan by the G20 that has prioritized the issue of food security and price volatility. Yesterday, we had the wonderful first meeting of the Ministers of the Global Research Alliance dealing with the issue of climate change in agriculture. No more important issue confronts us, but it also brings together the issue of abatement and productivity and I congratulate New Zealand on that initiative.

Tomorrow we will be in a process of selecting new leadership for this Organization and, as the UN itself, the FAO is greater than the sum of its parts, but the parts are very important too and we must take this opportunity to meet the challenges that confront us with food security to drive the deep reforms of this Organization that are so essential, to take this as a point of departure to address those essential issues. It is also important for us to more closely engage as Members. This Organization has done wonderful things in its building up of databases, its standardization procedures and, as we saw this morning, in eradicating disease. But to face these enormous challenges that Mr Annan has highlighted today. It will require us to face up to this challenge as individual participants and Members for the reform of this Organization to be able to address those challenges.

So today I would just like to finish by asking us all to heed those important and wise words of Mr Annan, particularly his references to trade liberalization. If we are truly serious about dealing with food security, that is really the key challenge that confronts us particularly to promote the ability of the developing world to meet its food challenges. We must take more seriously this effort, and I thank

Mr Annan for being with us today and for graciously sharing his thoughts with us and I congratulate you all on coming together and I look forward to the deliberations in these next few days to set the track forward for us all into the future.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 35.1.

This brings us to end of our work for this morning. Before closing the meeting may I remind the Members of the General Committee including my fellow Vice-Chairpersons to make their way to the Lebanon Room second floor Building D Room number D-209 for the first meeting of the General Committee which we will begin immediately. For the delegates the second meeting of the Conference will reconvene in this Plenary Hall at 14:30 this afternoon.

There is an announcement please.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you. There will be a meeting of the South West Pacific Region at 1 p.m. in the Queen Juliana Room.

The meeting rose at 11:33 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.33 horas

<p>Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011</p>
<p>SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA REUNIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>25 June 2011</p>

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 16:05 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew,

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 16 h 05

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 16:05 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

Introduction (continued)

Introduction (suite)

Introducción (continuación)

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session (C 2011/1; C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/INF/1; C 2011/INF/4; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session (C 2011/1; C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/INF/1; C 2011/INF/4; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

3. Aprobación del programa y de las disposiciones relativas al período de sesiones (C 2011/1; C 2011/12 Rev.1; C 2011/INF/1; C 2011/INF/4; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/6 Rev.1)

4. Admission of Observers (C 2011/13; C 2011/13 Add.1; C 2011/LIM/1)

4. Admission d'observateurs (C 2011/13; C 2011/13 Add.1; C 2011/LIM/1)

4. Admisión de observadores (C 2011/13; C 2011/13 Add.1; C 2011/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Second Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-seventh FAO Conference to order. The delay in starting this meeting is due to the fact that the first meeting of the General Committee meeting took longer than expected. Any inconvenience caused is regretted.

It is quite unusual but there was a sensitive issue that required thorough discussion and the updating of the provisional report, translating into working language and printing took a long time; sorry for the inconvenience. In the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a few minutes to view an audio visual presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Before proceeding further I give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Union.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I draw the attention of the meeting to the declaration made by the European Union and its Member Nations which is contained in document C 2011/INF/4.

Draft Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee (C 2011/LIM/1)

Projet de rapport de la première réunion du Bureau (C 2011/LIM/1)

Proyecto de informe de la primera sesión del Comité General (C 2011/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

Regarding Item 3, “Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session” and Item 4, “Admission of Observers”, the General Committee met earlier and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and allocation of Agenda Items, Admission of Observers, as well as other related arrangements.

The report of the First Meeting of the General Committee is set out in document C 2011/LIM/1.

I will now proceed to read the title of the first section.

Section A: Agenda for the Session

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted, and so we proceed to the following section.

Section B: Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session

Any comments? If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we move on the next section.

Section C: Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the two Commissions.

Any comment? Any comment? If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted and so we move on to the next section.

Section D: Resolutions Committee. Any comments?

Okay, if there are no comments, I declare the section adopted, and so we move on to the next section.

Section E: Credentials Committee

No comments? I declare the section adopted. Then we proceed to the following sections.

Section F: Admission of Observers from Applicants for Associate Membership.

If there are any comments? If there are no comments, I declare this section is adopted.

Section G:

Admission of New Associate Members. There are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section H:

Contributions of New Associate Members.

Any comments? If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section I:

Appointment of the Director-General.

There are no comments, I declare the section adopted, then we will proceed to the next section.

Section J:

Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section K:

Election of Members of the Council.

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Election L:

Right to Vote

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section M:

Right to Reply

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Section N:

Verbatim Records

If there are no comments, I declare the section adopted.

Shall we adopt *en bloc*, so that we can speed up our meeting? So if there are comments on P, Q, R, S, I declare the sections adopted.

If there are no further comments on the Report, I take it that the Conference approves the Report in its entirety.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

First Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2011/LIM/2)

Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2011/LIM/2)

Primer informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2011/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on to the next item of our Agenda, we shall have to adopt the Second Report of the Credentials Committee. I give the floor to Ms Daniela Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The Credentials Committee held meetings on 20, 24 and 25 June to examine the credentials received. The First Report is contained in document C 2011/LIM/2. The report provides information on the rules and practices followed by the Committee and on the fact that, on this matter, the Organization follows the practice of the United Nations with particular reference to the practice of the General Assembly.

List A includes Members whose credentials are in original form and are signed by or on behalf of the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or the Minister of the department concerned. It also includes Members whose Permanent Representatives has submitted a communication in original form, confirming that the delegation was designated upon instructions from the government.

List B includes Members which have submitted credentials or information on the composition of delegations in the form of an 'ordre de mission', a photocopy, an electronic copy or a facsimile of the original credentials.

The lists in the report reflect the situation as of today, 12:00 hrs. The Committee recommended to the Conference that the credentials or information on the composition of delegations on both lists be accepted, and recommended that all delegations be authorized to participate in this session. The Voting Rights are addressed in the report of the General Committee. In accordance with the rules and practices followed by the Committee, the General Committee recommended that the seat of one member should remain empty in line with guidance on the matter from the United Nations, further details are found in the report.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, are there any comments on the report?

Any comments on the report?

Mr Jumanne MAGHEMBE (United Republic of Tanzania)

Can we get details of the countries affected by the decision?

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

The seat of Libya is empty, on the basis of the guidance received by the United Nations. There is no representation, the seat, the nameplate of the country is, as you can see, is in its place, but there is no representation of this country, in accordance with the guidance that we have received and the practice that has been followed in the United Nations and in the various Specialized Agencies.

I take this opportunity, Mr Chairman, also to indicate to the Members that if they have any corrections to the lists which they would wish to make, that the Secretariat will update and adjust the lists in Annexes A and B of the Report. So, subject to this, I ask you to invite the Conference to consider approving the Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Taking into account the explanation given, are there any additional comments? If there are none, I declare the report adopted. My thanks go to the Chairperson and other members of the Credential Committee for the work carried out before and during this session of the Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Appointments and Elections

Nominations et elections

Nombramientos y elecciones

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1)

5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1)

5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference will now examine Item 5 on Applications for Membership in the Organization. One application for Associate Membership in the Organization has been received, namely that of Tokelau. Hence we will hold a secret ballot on this application.

Under Article II of the FAO Constitution, the Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit an Associate Member. The document giving details of this application is C 2011/10.

In accordance with Article II of the FAO Constitution, and the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 96 Member Nations must be represented at this time. The Secretary-General will give us details of the voting procedure and ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Delegates will receive a ballot paper with the name of the applicant and three boxes with the words "in favour", "against" and "abstention". Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire. In accordance with Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

Under the same rule, Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, should any delegate invalidate her or his ballot paper, she or he may request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the Elections Officer.

We will now calculate the number of Member Nations present. I would please invite you to press the green button located at the front of your desk, that is the third button on your right, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present. I repeat, the green button. Please proceed.

The electronic voting system indicates that one hundred and forty-seven (147) Members are present and some Members have pressed other buttons than the green button.

Anyway, the quorum is there so we can proceed, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON

So we may proceed. May I remind you that, in accordance with Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the vote.

Also in accordance with Rule XII, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representatives. May I therefore ask the Delegates of Monaco and Thailand to proceed to the voting area. Delegates of Monaco and Thailand.

The Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ladies and gentlemen voting has now been completed. Would you take your seats so that we can proceed. Now the tellers will leave the room and with that we start with the officers in charge of the election who will count the vote. While the votes are being counted, we continue our work.

6. Appointment of the Director-General (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18)

6. Nomination du Directeur général (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18)

6. Nombramiento del Director General (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18)

6.1 Address by Candidates to the post of Director-General

6.1 Communications des candidats au poste de Directeur general

6.1 Declaraciones de los candidatos al puesto de Director General

We now move on to the next item, which is Item 6, Appointment of the Director-General.

I welcome the six candidates who are all seated in the Plenary Hall. They are in the English alphabetical order of their country; Mr Franz Fischler from Austria, Mr José Graziano da Silva from Brazil, Mr Indroyono Soesilo from Indonesia, Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini from Iran, Mr Abdul Latif Rashid from Iraq and Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé from Spain.

Pursuant to paragraph c) of Rule XXXVII.1 of the General Rules of the Organization and in conformity with the procedure confirmed by the Conference when it adopted the first report of the General Committee this afternoon, each candidate will be given the floor to address the Conference.

The procedure adopted in this respect provides that the order in which the candidates speak will be defined by lots. Each candidate will be given 15 minutes to address the Conference. There shall be no questions and answers, nor debates and the Conference shall not draw any conclusion or recommendation from any of the statements or interventions made. The time allotted to candidates shall be strictly observed, and I will ensure the uniform application of the time allotted to all candidates.

For this purpose we will use a traffic light. After 13 minutes the light will turn orange and will remain orange for one minute. Then it will turn red for a further minute. When the 15 minutes are over, the red light will start to flash, thus indicating the end of the time allotted. If necessary, as soon as the time allotted to a candidate has elapsed I will put an end to his address by cutting off the microphone.

I will now proceed to draw a lot to determine the order of speakers for this item.

The first speaker will be Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé from Spain.

The second speaker will be Mr Abdul Rashid from Iraq.

The third speaker will be Mr Franz Fischler from Austria.

The fourth speaker will be Mr Indroyono Soesilo from Indonesia.

The fifth speaker will be Mr José Graziano da Silva from Brazil.

The sixth speaker will be Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini from Iran.

So from the result of the draw, the first candidate to speak is Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaubé from Spain.

I would like to invite the first candidate, Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos Cuyaubé from Spain to join us in the podium and address the Conference.

You have the floor, Sir.

Sr. Miguel Ángel MORATINOS CUYAUBÉ (Candidato para el puesto de Director General) (España)

Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, Señores y Señoras Ministros y Jefes de Delegación, señores delegados representantes de los Estados Miembros.

No es esta la primera vez que me dirijo a ustedes en este proceso electoral. Hoy, más bien, es la última ocasión de que dispongo para trasladarles mi compromiso, que no es otro que erradicar el hambre en el mundo y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria ahora y para todos. Este objetivo podremos lograrlo entre todos si me otorgan su confianza para dirigir esta institución.

Quiero antes que nada, agradecer a todos los Estados Miembros parte de la FAO, a sus Representantes Permanentes, al Consejo y a su Director-General el haber establecido un procedimiento tan democrático, riguroso y transparente para la elección del futuro Director-General.

Sé que a veces se ha sido crítico con la organización, pero creo no equivocarme al señalar que la FAO es la Organización del Sistema de Naciones Unidas que posee en estos momentos el mejor sistema y el más transparente para elegir a su máximo dirigente.

Ha sido un proceso intenso y exigente. Todos los candidatos hemos tenido la oportunidad de presentar nuestra visión, nuestro programa, nuestras prioridades, nuestras iniciativas y nuestras propuestas concretas.

Por otra parte, los representantes de los Estados Miembros han tenido ocasión de conocer a los candidatos, su valía personal, su capacidad de iniciativa y de interlocución, de mostrar sus cualidades de diálogo y de compromiso.

Hoy nos corresponde hacer el balance final. No se trata de improvisar o de modificar nuestras líneas de acción en el último minuto. Hemos tenido todos el mismo tiempo y las mismas oportunidades para que el conjunto de los aquí representados tengan una percepción muy clara de quién es quién y de qué es lo que cada uno de nosotros puede aportar para la FAO.

Es en este sentido en el que voy a expresarme en esta última ocasión que se nos brinda, un día antes de la elección.

En mi caso, he querido desde el inicio hacer una presentación clara, comprometida, abierta al diálogo y al consenso, pero cerrada y concreta en los compromisos.

Dije, desde mi primera intervención, cuáles era mis grandes ideas fuerza y mis cinco prioridades. Pero a continuación señalé que mi programa estaba abierto a las sugerencias, críticas y proyectos de otros. Así lo hice al incorporar a mi programa la gran mayoría de propuestas y áreas de interés que muchos de ustedes me trasladaron.

Pero sobre todo, mi empeño no ha sido sólo conocer el estado actual de la Organización, el Plan de Reforma, las expectativas de los funcionarios y trabajadores, sino que he querido también conocer de primera mano cómo ha actuado la FAO sobre el terreno.

He visito 90 países, 35 países africanos, he asistido a 12 reuniones regionales y multilaterales y, por lo tanto, creo poder contar hoy con una visión clara de lo que se espera de la FAO, tanto por parte de los Estados Miembros como por parte de la propia Organización.

Es por ello que hoy quiero reiterar de nuevo las que serán mis tres grandes prioridades.

Primero, reforzar aún más el desarrollo de lo que siempre ha constituido una de las actividades esenciales de la FAO: la actividad normativa, ampliando aún más su alcance y adaptándola a los nuevos retos y desafíos de este siglo XXI, en particular el cambio climático y la seguridad alimentaria.

En segundo lugar, acercar aún más la Organización a sus Estados Miembros, teniendo en cuenta las necesidades y prioridades, e intensificar la asistencia y colaboración prestada sobre el terreno para apoyar los programas de desarrollo agrícola y seguridad alimentaria de todos los países.

Y en tercer lugar, acelerar el proceso de Reforma, respetando los objetivos establecidos dentro del Plan Inmediato de Acción, reduciendo al máximo los plazos para llevar a cabo su inmediata ejecución, pero sin precipitaciones, de manera que logremos una reforma rápida y sostenible.

Señor Presidente, Señoras y Señores Ministros y jefes de Delegación, Para poner en práctica estas tres prioridades he propuesto un enfoque, una metodología de trabajo y una movilización de recursos diferentes.

Un enfoque nuevo que permita mantener aquellas iniciativas horizontales dirigidas al conjunto de todos los países, sobre todo en materia normativa o en el establecimiento de un sistema de emergencia y alerta temprana para los países más vulnerables, pero que incluya además programas específicos adaptados a las peculiaridades de cada región y país.

Una metodología diferente que se traducirá en el establecimiento de misiones FAO que permitan evaluar anualmente el estado real del desarrollo agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria en cada región y país, y hacer así el seguimiento necesario de los programas y actividades de la Organización.

Y por último, una movilización de recursos basada sobre cuatro fuentes de financiación:

En primer lugar, me comprometo a mantener un crecimiento cero del presupuesto regular, equilibrando al máximo el porcentaje dedicado a gastos de cooperación y de emergencia frente a los gastos administrativos y salariales, con una asignación más eficiente de los recursos humanos y materiales y una mejor gestión de los mismos.

En segundo lugar, me propongo atraer de nuevo a los principales países donantes para que participen con contribuciones extra-presupuestarias acordes con las necesidades de la organización. Esto será posible reforzando la credibilidad de la Organización y mejorando sus resultados.

En tercer lugar, he anunciado que propondré un nuevo mecanismo de financiación, UNITAID2, para la lucha contra el hambre y en pro de la seguridad alimentaria, que permitirá obtener los recursos financieros suficientes para atender los grandes desafíos de la FAO.

Y por último, estableceré programas de asociación público-privado para promover la implicación activa del sector empresariales en los proyectos y acciones de la Organización.

Estas son mis grandes líneas generales de actuación.

Señoras y Señores, cuando he recorrido las distintas regiones y Países Miembros de esta Organización, he podido constatar y he tomado nota de las expectativas de los distintos grupos regionales, todos ellos deseosos de ver una Organización más cercana a ellos y a sus necesidades.

Les agradezco sus enseñanzas y consejos, que me han enriquecido personal y profesionalmente.

Quiero comenzar dirigiéndome a mis amigos y socios europeos y occidentales, ellos ya conocen de forma más directa mi trayectoria del pasado y mis propuestas específicas. En particular agradezco a todos aquellos que durante la campaña me han hecho entender mejor los grandes retos que tiene esta Organización.

Erradicar el hambre es tarea de todos, pero constituye una urgencia para aquellos que viven el día a día con esa llamada permanente de justicia inmediata. El continente africano, el asiático y algunas áreas latinoamericanas necesitan una Organización renovada, una FAO fuerte y dispuesta a alcanzar ese primer gran Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio.

Continues in English

I had visited and listened to the countries of the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Indian Ocean. I went to Tonga, a long way from here, and I had the sense of singularity and specificity of the Small Island Developing States. I know how they feel - vulnerable under the climate change and natural disaster threats. I think this Organization has the moral and legal support to help them in tackling these.

I had visited and I listened to the countries of Central Asia which are re-establishing their food and agricultural sovereignty after their independence and thus they need a more visible and efficient FAO to accompany their agricultural and development policies.

I have visited and I listened to Asia and the Pacific countries who are big producers but who also have some difficulties, and we have to help them to get national and international access to their products. I think we should help them to have a fair and free trade policy for all their products.

Suite en français

Mes chers amis, j'ai visité trente-cinq pays africains et j'ai entendu la voix de l'Afrique, mais pas une voix plaintive, pas une voix d'aide ou d'exigence, non, une voix de dignité, de coresponsabilité, une voix qui demande le retour à la terre, et à l'agriculture. Et j'ai vu, mes chers amis, les femmes africaines se lever le matin et travailler la terre toute la journée pour défendre la production agricole. Vous savez combien je tiens dans mon programme à la défense de la politique de genre. Je veux que les femmes rurales puissent avoir tout le soutien de l'Organisation: l'équipement, le microcrédit, les capacités pour pouvoir atteindre ce que l'humanité doit donner aux femmes, aux femmes africaines et à toutes les femmes du monde.

J'ai visité, mes chers amis, les pays qui sont confrontés à la sécheresse et à la désertification: les pays du Sahel, les pays d'Afrique centrale et les pays du Moyen Orient. Pour eux, l'eau est une question existentielle et il est fondamental d'établir une gestion de l'eau différente. C'est pour cela que j'introduirai dans la Direction générale de l'Organisation des départements pour une meilleure gestion de l'eau, pas seulement pour ceux qui ont soif mais aussi pour ceux qui ont beaucoup de ressources hydriques et qui ont besoin d'une meilleure gestion.

Continúa en Español

He visitado y he escuchado a los países hermanos de América Central y América Latina, y he tomado buena nota para trabajar con ellos para mejorar su productividad y producciones agrícolas. En este sentido, considero prioritario el esfuerzo de sus capacidades de investigación agrícola y el diseño de programas encaminados a la diversificación.

Finalmente, también he visitado y he escuchado a dos países afectados por circunstancias especiales que requieren el esfuerzo para su reconstrucción y, especialmente, para la recuperación de sus sistemas agrícolas: Haití y Afganistán. Los dos serán prioritarios en mi actuación como Director-General.

Concluyo, Señor Presidente, Estados Miembros, diciendo que les he expuesto de nuevo mi visión, mis tres prioridades y las conclusiones que he extraído de mis contactos con la mayoría de todos los Países Miembros aquí representados. Todos somos conscientes de que se inicia una nueva etapa.

Hoy más que nunca la agricultura y la alimentación forman parte de las cuestiones prioritarias de la agenda internacional. Hoy más que nunca la sociedad internacional desea contar con una Organización dinámica, eficaz, transparente, cercana, solidaria, capaz de alcanzar sus objetivos. Para ello, todos coincidimos en que la elección del nuevo Director-General es esencial para impulsar de nuevo nuestra Organización y dotarla del liderazgo necesario dentro de la nueva arquitectura de gobernanza internacional.

Comenzaba mi intervención expresando que la FAO era pionera y modélica dentro del Sistema de Naciones Unidas a la hora de elegir su Director General. Si eso es posible y es real, por qué no será posible y real que la FAO en este comienzo del Siglo XXI sea también modélica en alcanzar sus principales objetivos: erradicar el hambre y garantizar la seguridad alimentaria ahora y para todos.

Ustedes tienen la decisión para construir la FAO del Siglo XXI que todos deseamos, al elegir al mejor candidato para dirigir nuestra querida Organización.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé. I now invite Mr Abdul Latif Rashid to join us at the podium and to deliver his address.

Mr Abdul Latif RASHID (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and Distinguished delegates.

I am delighted to put forward my candidacy on behalf of the Republic of Iraq for the post of Director-General of FAO at the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. It is a quantum leap in the history of this organization. This very important international organization has proven that FAO is an essential instrument in fighting poverty and hunger. Regrettably the fight against poverty and hunger has not yet been completed and mankind has to continue raging this battle in order to put an end to this dreadful scourge. The FAO will have to continue to discharge its noble mission.

Allow me I will speak in English and I apologise to my Arabic speaking delegations and I will continue my speech in English now.

Continues in English

Mr. Chairman, FAO has great goals. We talk about the Millennium Development Goals: we want food security, a reduction in poverty and an end to hunger. As we approach the deadline of the MDG Goals, the statistics are still showing that an inexcusable number of 17 percent of the world population is hungry. This is not due to lack of agriculture production or finances. It is mainly due to lack of access, poor governance, distribution systems, food price volatility, distorted markets, speculation and many other factors attributed to human actions and occasionally to natural disasters. How can FAO dream of meeting the goal of eradicating hunger in a world in which there is ample food supply? How dare we aspire to reducing poverty? The answer is because we must. We have no choice.

The steady increase in the number of world's population poses a further pressure on the already strained land and water resources, and the need to provide additional food for billions of people is pressing. This is particularly critical in the developing countries where FAO's technical assistance is mostly needed.

The FAO represents collective experiences of all Members Nations in the field of knowledge sharing and exchange of information on poverty alleviation and fighting hunger. It has a remarkable technical and scientific solution to problems in agricultural and food production, as well as in promoting human capacity to combat hunger.

As a member-guided organization and important tool at the disposal of Member Nations, FAO must strive at improving its uniqueness and comparative advantages. In this regard, I consider the Reform process currently underway with the full participation of Members is the right step towards a dynamic and strong organization, particularly in light of recurrent crises and unprecedented disasters due to various forms of droughts, floods or other climate-related changes.

Member Nations appreciate that FAO has neither magical solutions nor the financial resources to eradicate hunger. However, it must be adequately resourced, and well-placed to join forces with all members, individually and collectively, to carry out its noble mission. Therefore, FAO is an additional resource to the national - and regional - driven policies and programmes designed for this purpose.

Ladies and Gentlemen, through my personal experience in working with FAO, as a project manager in many areas, I believe the assistance provided by this Organization to the world is very important, especially for developing countries. FAO is well-placed to play its part through the core activities of

the Organization. I commit myself to increase the role of FAO and supervision and participation by all Member Nations.

The field presence of the Organization, which is designed primarily to ensure ease of access to information and technical services, and the desire of Member Nations for more autonomy and decentralization, is a legitimate demand. I will work to achieve this, to ensure greater flexibility in the implementation of projects with emphasis on ensuring the integrity of FAO's knowledge base which must remain intact and undivided as it is the secret of FAO's survival in addition to its ability to provide services to the Member Nations. So I will work to keep the basic knowledge base of the FAO coherent, integrated and solid.

I also find it necessary to note that the material, cultural and political conditions differ from one country to another and from continent to continent, and therefore no universal recipe is ready and valid of all conditions and areas. As such, the Member Nations are invited to devise policies appropriate to prevailing circumstances. I will make sure that FAO is always there for assistance.

I support fully the Committee on Food Security (CFS) in its quest to implement its program that was approved by Member Nations during the consultation process which led to the reform of the Committees.

The eradication of poverty and hunger remains the main priority of the Member Nations and there should not be any illusion about this. Therefore, I will strive to make FAO a key partner with the Member Nations to contribute in strengthening national capacities and in creating appropriate conditions to the countries in their quest to eradicate poverty and hunger. FAO cannot and will not replace the individual Member Nations in this vital area. However, FAO will remain an active partner in provisions of advice and technical support aimed at increasing agricultural production, improving nutrition and thus achieving food security for the people.

My concept of partnership is also applied to institutions and various international agencies particularly those of sister organizations in Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in addition to donor countries and development funds, international and regional groups, as these partnerships provide additional resources for implementation of additional programmes in addition to synchronization of world efforts in combating poverty and hunger.

Similarly, the world is facing similarly problems that cannot be addressed separately, such as climate change, the instability of food supplies, volatility of prices, and market speculation and many other challenges. These challenges require teamwork coordinated by all Member Nations for food security, peace and development. On my part, I will work and coordinate with relevant organizations pro-actively to place FAO in the forefront of addressing the changes facing humanity.

I pledge before you to work:

To ensure neutrality of FAO and ensure full oversight and participation by all Member Nations,

Strengthening the technical capacity of the organization and ensure the cohesiveness of the knowledge base and experience accumulated over the decades, and make it available to all Member Nations, that is, the FAO knowledge base to be available to every Member Nation.

Enhance the technical program of the Organization, and enhance the field presence through well-implemented decentralization. I think the technical program and the presence in the field is extremely important, especially in the developing countries.

Continue the process of Reform of the Organization, and let me add by saying to consider Reform as an ongoing process and not a temporary phase. It is a continuous process.

I will donate 15 percent of my salary, if elected, to the Technical Cooperation Programme.

I will empower the FAO staff and give them a sense of global mission to make the most of this Specialized Agency, and one of the best UN Agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

My country, Iraq, is a founding member of FAO and it was a founding member of the United Nations. The FAO has played a very important role in the life of modern Iraq, and led the most critical program delivering food to the Iraqi people in what was known as the “Oil-for-Food” Programme. Today, Iraq makes its way surpassing the great difficulties which we had Iraq returns to its natural role in cohesion with other nations to achieve development and peace, and we would like to be an active member of the international community and play a much bigger role in international organizations.

My professional experience and leadership of major institutions allow me to lead the organization to a new horizon by working with all Member Nations, and cooperating with all Member Nations and coordinating with all Member Nations, through the Governing Bodies of the Organization and other multilateral platforms. I also intend to actively interact with all the relevant experts and activists, donors and all interested in the fight against hunger and poverty. Our task is to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Thank you very much.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Franz Fischler to join us at the Podium, and to deliver his address.

Mr Franz FISCHLER (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Austria)

Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Sixty-six years ago, the FAO was formed by the nations of the world to tackle the plague of hunger among the peoples of the world. Twelve years ago, the governments of the world agreed to halve the number of hungry people by 2015. Today 970 million people do not have enough food to eat. So, as we come together this weekend, let us keep at the forefront of our minds the enormous challenge that the FAO faces, and let us consider whether this organization is doing the job that it was set up to do.

To meet the aims of its Founding Fathers, the FAO must have three critical components in place. First, effective leadership at the centre and by its Members. Second, the right policy framework and third, an effective organization in the field. Without these three components, this Organization cannot properly fulfil its duties and when the FAO fails in its duties, 970 million people, who could have been fed, go hungry.

I am standing for election for the position of Director-General because I believe we are failing to do all we can to wage war against hunger and ensure food security.

I believe that within the FAO, at the centre among its Members and in the field, they are dedicated, committed and passionate people, but the Organization is not providing them with effective leadership, nor a proper policy, nor the effective organizational structure to do the job that they yearn to do. If we only continue with business as usual, then we will never achieve Millennium Developmental Goal One, let alone our founding objective.

Excellencies, the hungry people of the world cannot and should not wait any longer for Reform, leadership and efficient organization. They need an FAO that focuses on their needs, they need an FAO that focuses on delivery on the ground, not on grand international conferences and pretence. They need an FAO whose Regional Offices have the freedom to act in the way most appropriate to the local circumstances, not be subject to bureaucratic micro-management from Rome. And they need a Director-General who will engage with the world’s leaders in an unremitting campaign to eradicate hunger. They need a Director-General who will lead Reform of this Organization from the front, not according to some slow timetable but beginning tomorrow. They need a Director-General who can lead and inspire the people in this Organization in their tireless fight against hunger. In short, they

need a Director-General who will ensure that the right people are in the right jobs, in the right places, doing the right things, without fear, favour, patronage or politics.

Excellencies, there are 970 million reasons why this Organization needs new leadership. So please remember that as representatives of the people of the world, you are voting in their interests and on their behalf.

Now, I haven't come here to make trouble. I have come here, and I am standing for election, for one reason only. I want to ensure that the people who are hungry today, do not go hungry tomorrow. I believe that this is not a vain ambition, but a deliberate recall and I am convinced that I personally can make a difference. And, this afternoon, I want to tell you what the difference is, I will strengthen the three critical components of leadership, policy and organization and I will turn the FAO from an Organization with great ambition but weak delivery, to an Organization with great ambition and great delivery.

First on leadership, I will provide strong clear and committed leadership at the centre and ensure that those in positions of authority in the Organization are properly equipped to carry out their responsibilities. I have the experience and the knowledge necessary to lead this Organization, and I have the drive to do it well.

I am committed to transparency, honesty, and integrity. I will eradicate patronage and favouritism so that the policies we pursue and the funds we are entrusted with are focused on feeding the hungry and ensuring food security, not protecting the powers or the lining pockets of vested interests. But let me make one thing clear I do not intend to be a policeman, prosecuting the past, or whatever has gone on before. The hungry will not thank us for any such an indulgence.

The FAO's leadership is not rested only in the Director-General, it comes also from you, the Members, and the relationship between the FAO and its Members is in urgent need of change.

I sense from my discussion during the last weeks and months that you have, at least partially, lost confidence in the FAO. I will rebuild this lost confidence; I will always act as an impartial referee. I will never let my nationality or past obstruct doing the right thing for FAO.

Now, second and briefly, because I spoke about this issue in my previous presentation, Policy. The FAO is ideally placed to perform a coordinating policy role, acting as an honest broker, and a knowledge powerhouse, but we have not made the most of this in the past. Let me give you an example. The current Doha Round was meant to be a Development Agenda. There was a role for FAO in assisting and facilitating the negotiation process, but the FAO could have done much more to stand up in the interest of the hungry. We all know what technical measures and what funds are needed to achieve our goal, about 50 billion USD a year, invested in rural infrastructure, irrigation, natural resource conservation, research and development, seeds, feeds, and fertilizers, as well as food aid to the most in need, would eliminate global hunger.

Third and lastly, I would like to move on to the Organization. The FAO can only deliver in the field if it has an effective organizational structure and administration. I have already spoken of the need to provide better leadership at the centre. Now I want to say a few words about the FAO in the regions. No one knows better what the regions need than the regions themselves. So we need to decentralise and to transfer appropriate and effective decision-making power to the regions. For example, we must convert the Regional Conferences from discussion forums into Governing Bodies; the job of the centre is to ensure that the right people are appointed in the right positions in the regions. Then we should trust them and support them to do their jobs.

Organizational and administrative effectiveness also means making savings and adopting new financing instruments. The FAO has embarked on an ambitious Reform Process that will help it to use resources more efficiently. But we also have to find new ways of fundraising. Let's not pretend because a substantial part of the funds that would be needed for FAO is currently entrusted to other organizations, perhaps another indicator of a lack of confidence in the FAO. I am confident that if the FAO develops a strong Member-led leadership, an effective organization and a clear policy

framework, that the donor community, the IFI's, the private donors, and the national agencies will share more generously with FAO the funds they currently entrust to other organizations.

Excellencies, I have briefly outlined in three areas, leadership, policy, and organization, how I will make the difference. I can lead this organization so that it fulfils the duty it was set up to. My pledge to you is that I will devote all my time, all my energy, to eradicating hunger and to ensuring food security.

If you are looking for a candidate who will promise posts and positions to a country or an individual, I am not that candidate. Do not vote for me. If you are looking for a candidate who will tell you that everything is going well, that the FAO is modern and efficient, and that it's just a matter of time before it delivers on its goals, I am not that candidate. Don't vote for me.

If you are looking for a new leader, who will be honest and committed, open and transparent, and challenging and inspiring, then I am the right candidate. Please vote for me. If you are looking for a new leader who will reform this organization, reconnect it to its Members, working in partnership and co-operation with you, then I am the right candidate. Please vote for me. And if you are looking for a new leader whose sole ambition is to see that the 970 million people who are hungry today, do not go hungry tomorrow, then please vote for me, and please vote for them.

Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Mr Franz Fischler. I now invite Mr Indroyono Soesilo to join us at the podium and to deliver his speech.

Mr Indroyono SOESILO (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to thank the Conference for giving me the opportunity to embark into the new leadership challenges for the coming years.

In the past year, I have had the opportunity to visit your beautiful countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, Latin America and Pacific and Oceania to discuss various issues on global food issues with all of you. Combining my career of thirty years of science, technology and high-ranking government administration, I realize that there are two major challenges that we are going to face together for the years to come.

Challenge number one, is how to reduce the number of people who live in hunger and malnutrition in the world and challenge number two is how we can answer the challenge to reform FAO.

The world still has less than around one billion persons living in hunger and malnutrition. At the same time, our resources of food, energy and waters, or 'FEW', really are getting fewer and more scarce. Combined with the climate change condition, global warming, sea level rise, the climate liability of *El Niño* and *La Niña* hamper the global food production. We have to feed a 6 billion population nowadays, and we will be 9 billion by the year 2050. There is no other way for all of us to have to provide food for all. Food must be available, accessible, affordable and safe to be consumed. I always remember the spirit of Ubuntu, personified by the South African statesman, Nelson Mandela. The spirit of Ubuntu means togetherness, humanity, caring, sharing and helpfulness. Through this spirit of Ubuntu, I believe that we have to find a way, we have to try and we have to work together in order to respond to this big challenge.

To try to provide food for all we have to make food available to all of us. Food availability relates to strengthening global food security, to increasing global food production, which mean providing land, fertilizers, irrigation systems, science and technology, as well as local know-how and local knowledge. Those are the jobs here at FAO. To increase food production, I am looking forward and I will, if I have the trust from you, include fisheries into our global food security issue. In this connection, I

would focus attention on controlling capture fisheries, and developing aquaculture, both marine and freshwater aquaculture. I would also highlight that product processing and fisheries will be addressed under global food security issues.

In the meantime, to increase global food production we have to manage our global forests because our forests will result in better management of our water resources and later on, we will be able to increase our agriculture product harvest and food production. Once food is readily available, it has to be accessible. There is one line I would like to mention to you. Domestic food accessibility means that food must be domestically integrated and globally directed. On domestic food accessibility, we have to strengthen together, within our Member Nations, our buffer stock. We have to strengthen our domestic distribution system.

In the meantime, on global food accessibility we have to strengthen our connectivities. When you talk about connectivities we are talking about international food trade. When we talk about international food trade, we are talking about free, fair and balanced trade policies. I agree with that, but we still have to consider the domestic policies. We still also have to consider the long-term domestic policies in relation to free, fair and balanced trade policies. When we go into long-term free, fair and balanced trade policies we have to have capacity-building, training, technology transfer and human resources development within them. It is unfortunate that investment on agriculture research training education has been declining and declining. It is time for us to reverse these conditions. At the same time, I have to inform you that FAO as an institution should be able also to propose policies to control global food price volatility, because higher food prices impact our poor people. The experience in 2007-2008 global food price increases show that those are related to natural causes, climate change conditions, forest fires, and floods, policies need to be developed for their resolution. Some examples include export pricing policy, the competition for food for humans and food for biofuel and global food price stock relations. It is the job of FAO to propose to share and set policies and I am looking forward to invite our experts here in FAO together with experts from Member Nations of FAO to propose recommendations to be able to have global food prices under control within FAO.

Once the food is ready, available and accessible, it has to be affordable. Food affordability relates to poverty. Less poverty means more food affordability. For that matter, the three cluster, poverty-eradication programme should be implemented and should be promoted. Cluster number one relates to direct assistance: rice for the poor, grains for the poor, half-price services for the poor, scholarships for the poor. As an illustration, we gave them fish so that they can survive. Once they survive, we go into cluster number two, empowerment and development; give them a hook and teach them how to fish. Once they are empowered, we go into cluster number three, providing micro and small credit for micro and small food enterprises. Through this three cluster poverty-eradication programme, we should be able to reduce the number of people living under the poverty line, and less poverty means more food affordability.

We go into issue number four; food to be consumed must be safe. Food safety relates to Codex Alimentarius, food standardization and food codification. I would like to encourage and invite all the Member Nations to propose their food codes and food standards, both developed countries and developing countries, to go into partnerships to set up food codes and food standards which can be adapted, implemented and utilized by all of us, because our common goals are the same – to eradicate the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition in the world.

We should be able to provide food for all through this reformed FAO. The reform policy of FAO should be continued. We are looking forward to have an organization which is an agile, transparent, decentralized, effective and efficient organization. We have to do more with less, and will have to have more value for the money. For that reason, we have to put all the programmes and projects in the field in the Members' countries and in the region. The projects selected must bring big impact to the community. For that matter, our experts here in FAO should bring knowledge into the projects. I am going to invite the knowledge organizations within the Member Nations to join the projects and to assure their sustainability. For those countries with no knowledge organizations, we have to insert a capacity-building component and a technology transfer component into the projects. This will also assure the sustainability of the project. So what are we going to do with this here in Rome? The Rome-

based Headquarters of FAO should continue conducting global policy-setting, should continue conducting knowledge assessment, should continue to do allocation and reallocation of resources including allocation of human resources, should conduct monitoring control and evaluation. The monitoring and control from Headquarters down to the region, down to the countries and down to the field and back must be supported by very strong environmental technology backup. In relation to the human resources development and human resource allocation and reallocation, gender issues of primary concern.

I would like to inform that we have 1,700 experts here at FAO, we have 1,900 super staff here at FAO. We have to optimize utilization of these very big resources. I am looking forward, and I would like to encourage our experts here in FAO, to come up with attractive proposals for our stakeholders in order for us to expand them. We should be able to achieve our common goals, to tackle our challenge, to reduce the number of hungry people in the world in the shortest time possible.

There are three Rome-based organizations which deal with global food security issues, World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Each of these organizations has its own mandate, and they should be working within their mandate. However, we should work together in a coordinated way so that we are able to achieve common objectives. For that reason, the Committee for Food Security (CFS) has been re-defined, and must be strengthened, be expanded and enhanced.

At the beginning of my remarks I mentioned to you the spirit of Ubuntu, about humanity, about helpfulness, about togetherness, sharing, and caring. We have to find a way, we have to try and we have to work together. Work hard, work smart and work professionally. With these issues, with this FAO, we are looking forward to the world being able to reduce the number of people who live in hunger and malnutrition. We should be able to reduce the number of people who live on the poverty line, we should be able to increase global food production, we should be able also to offer bigger incomes to our farmers and fishers. We should also give better access to food for our global communities. With the reformed FAO, an agile organization that is transparent, effective, efficient and decentralized -- an organization of the 21st Century with new and fresh leadership, yes, I believe, that we can make the world free of famine, free of hunger and free of malnutrition.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr José GRAZIANO DA SILVA (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Brazil)

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Heads of State and Government,

Ministers,

Distinguished delegates of Member Nations,

Over the past six months, I have had the honour of talking with many of you. I have also met with scientists, academics, farmers, diplomats, politicians and NGOs around the world.

What has impressed me most in these discussions is the degree of consensus that has emerged. So, today, rather than talking about my vision for FAO, I will try to summarize what I believe is our common vision of our Organization.

The first point on which we agree is that we need a strong and effective FAO – now more than ever. There has been a long period of neglect of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, rural development and food security.

The present global economic and food crises are a wake-up call. They remind us how interconnected we are. They have also shown the limited capacities of global institutions to ensure that the benefits of globalization are fairly shared.

Nowhere is this more evident than in food and agriculture. An individual nation can do much to stimulate its agriculture and to ensure access to food, but some issues have to be addressed on a global scale. These include, among others, food security governance, transboundary diseases, the conservation of ocean fish stock and the impact of climate change. These are issues that FAO must deal with. We all agree that it must have the capacity to address them.

This brings me to a second point of consensus: we agree that there is an imbalance between Members' expectations of what FAO should do, and the powers and resources given to the Organization. The agenda for FAO action is growing faster than its capacity to respond.

Over and over, Member Nations have been calling for more technical cooperation in new areas. I would like to have responded to them with promises that, if elected, I could ensure that all their requests would be met, that I could mobilize more than 20 billion dollars in the coming years. But I am profoundly conscious that this would have been demagogic, especially at a time when many donor nations are facing financial difficulties.

I am determined to fill this gap, bringing on board more middle-income countries, increasing South-South Cooperation activities and expanding triangular arrangements involving donor countries and international foundations. I am confident that, if we formulate good projects, money can be found for them.

We also agree that FAO has to do much to improve its efficiency, rid itself of bureaucracy and enhance its accountability. Member Nations must be assured that they are getting value for money.

The agreed IPA Reform Process may not fulfil all of our individual dreams, but it reflects the consensus achievable over years of discussion with the participation of our Member Nations. I reaffirm my commitment to implement our Reform and bring it to a rapid conclusion. Let me repeat loud and clear my commitment to rapidly implement our agreed Reform.

A third area of agreement is that FAO has to respond better to the priorities of its different Regions. The Organization needs to decentralize but not on a "one size fits all" basis. It must tailor the mix of Professional staff for each region. It must engage in more partnerships with the Regional Economic Commissions as well as other Regional Bodies (like NEPAD, SICA, ASEAN and many others), and it must make much more use of local human resources within the regions, especially regional and national consultants, as well as of locally procured goods.

I am delighted that many governments, particularly in Latin America as in Africa, have told me of their interest in deepening their work with FAO to enhance the status of women.

Let me take this opportunity to confirm that Africa must continue to be given the highest priority by FAO, and that we should base our cooperation on the CAADP/NEPAD comprehensive framework.

I have also learned that FAO needs to respond to the new concept of "blue economy" for the conservation of marine resources. For many Small Island States, in particular the Caribbean and Pacific regions, eradicating hunger is closely linked to the sustainable use of their oceans and their fish stocks.

The countries that face critical shortages of water in Central Asia, Near East and North Africa have told me of the key role they see for FAO in the management of water resources, especially in the case of transboundary rivers and lakes.

Many countries have called for more of their nationals to be employed by FAO, especially small developing nations and Russian-speaking countries that recently joined the Organization. Rather than make vain promises in the hope of your votes, I simply assure that I will respect FAO's standards on geographical representation, while maintaining the highest technical quality of staffing. Special recruitment missions will be sent to minimize the number of under-represented and particularly non-represented countries as soon as possible.

Let me take this opportunity to say that I have not treated the appointment of senior managers as an election issue. I could have promised not only one ADG for Africa, but seven, one for each region. Instead, I will discuss this issue during the coming six months with all regional groups in an open and

transparent manner. My political experience from 25 years working with President Lula tells me that we need to achieve a minimum agreement on this crucial governance and political issue, otherwise it will be impossible to run FAO in a participative way.

The fourth area of consensus relates to the priorities for FAO. I sense substantial agreement around my five pillars proposal to focus on eradicating hunger, promoting a shift to truly sustainable food production, ensuring greater fairness in global food management, quickly implementing the agreed Reform Process and expanding South-South Cooperation.

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

How you vote tomorrow will have a long-term effect on FAO. This election can be the beginning of a transition in the way we run FAO.

It is very important that the next DG should be able to count on the full support of all Member Nations. The new DG needs to achieve a huge majority not only to win the election, but also to run this Organization.

Given the strong support that my candidacy has received from many countries of all regions, I am confident that I can bridge the gulf that has too often weakened FAO's capacity to take decisions. The big challenges that we face today require that we build consensus in order to move forward quickly. If elected, I will work day and night on this.

My track record shows that I can bring to the Organization the leadership that it needs. I have spent my entire working life dealing with issues related to agriculture, food security and sustainable development that are essential to FAO's mandate. Not only have I taught and written about them, but as first Minister of Food Security in Brazil I have led the design and implementation of the Hunger Zero Programme that has enabled millions of people to escape from hunger.

In FAO, as Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, I focused on deepening our engagement with governments and regional organizations, and on building effective partnerships across the UN System and with the private sector and civil society.

I am a candidate who knows FAO from both the outside and the inside, and I believe that I understand its weaknesses and its strengths.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Heads of Delegation,

Let me finish by quoting what John Lennon once said "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality".

Should you choose to elect me tomorrow, the only thing I can truly promise you is that I will do all within my capacity to ensure that our shared dreams for FAO become reality.

Thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank Mr José Graziano da Silva, and I now invite Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeni to deliver his address.

Mr Mohammad Saeid NOORI NAENI (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Participants Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a privilege to present my candidature to you today.

FAO's strength lies in its multilateral and technical character as a united Specialised Agency. They are not the political strengths of the United Nations, the financing strengths of the World Bank, or the

rule-making strengths for global development of the WTO or IMF. FAO is an agency which can progress as it fully rediscovers its global character. All the major problems of our world may not be of our countries' making, but if we do not work together taking a share of the responsibility in their solution, all our peoples will reap the consequences and all our countries have potential to be parts of the solutions. The problems are complex and FAO's strength is, and can be much more, as a facilitator working in fora at all levels to draw together from all sources the information, options and dialogue for Members to address national, regional and globally complex issues.

As spelled out in my platform, I would be a listening and consulting Director-General, realising your priorities, not mine, but also a Director-General who suggests ways forward and where necessary makes difficult decisions. So, let me share with you some of my thinking on immediate priorities, within the agreed overall FAO goal.

FAO can provide a forum and mobilise the technical underpinning and policy options from outside and inside the Organization to develop viable solutions on the practical and effective smoothing of food price volatilities. Fluctuations mask long-term trends and distort the supply response. They make it difficult for farmers and countries to plan, and most importantly people go hungry because of the price hikes and the entire food security will be under serious threat. We need to think innovatively about how to stabilise market prices by working with the markets themselves.

Food is an essential human right, not a matter of charity and benevolence. Especially, we need global safety nets to serve our most food insecure Members. WFP is a part of the solution, but we need to develop a global framework.

The poorest Members of FAO need to strengthen their development capacity. This capacity is in government, in the private sector, especially small-scale agricultural producers and in civil society. FAO can make a direct contribution, especially at the technical, economic and social levels, but more importantly, FAO should also leverage others.

Excellencies, some of the poorest countries have a huge potential to boost production, including for export. The poor who emigrate in search of work in their millions will move to find work and increase production in their own countries, if they get the chance. With their potential for labour-intensive production and processing, rural industries can export. Every country has its geographical areas of greatest potential and by working in these, we also protect the fragile, marginal environment. Policies and the leadership for this must be country-specific and FAO's role must be very carefully targeted, helping to identify those countries which have real potential and motivation, assisting them to clarify the immediate constraints to production takeoff, providing inputs for and fostering national policies and institutional and human capacities, influencing the international research agenda, improving and making data more easily available, constantly keeping both the plight of the developing world's hungry on the international agenda, but also their countries' huge potentials.

Last but not least, FAO must ensure that its essential existing capabilities, which underpin national and global development, are not lost but further enhanced. Those programmes in bio- and food safety, animal health, global statistics, resource assessments and trends serve both the developed and the developing world, as well as the important roles in identification and wide publicity of emerging issues and the capacity, which exists nowhere else in the world, for fisheries and forestry. The challenges we face in food and agriculture are, if anything, greater now than at the initiation of FAO's Reform. But, there are doubts as to how much FAO can do within its existing goals, let alone on some of the totally new initiatives being suggested in overlap with other organizations. The real continuum from the normative, global and regional policy lessons, assessment and protection of our natural resources, including forestry and fisheries, and other planning data, must flow through into operational action at national, regional and global levels. A stronger and genuine Decentralization must mean countries and regions become the first voices in FAO local action and the FAO Country and Regional presence must be fully competent and tailored to local needs. The world must rediscover confidence in FAO.

I believe combating food insecurity and hunger requires knowledge of and love for agriculture, and agricultural producers. I also believe myself to be a qualified candidate for your Director-General at

this point in the development of the world and FAO, delivering and carrying further on your priorities, driving harder and faster on your Reform Process, which I had the privilege to facilitate and lead. Having grown up alongside the poor and hungry, I am committed not just in my head but in my heart to making progress on their plight.

I have worked at the global level on the problems of food security and agriculture for most of the last 20 years of my life. I know your national contexts. I know the challenges faced in policy-setting, infrastructure, irrigation, the importance of rural women and youth, and the diverse eco-systems.

I know FAO and the other relevant international organizations. I have chaired the FAO Council and the WFP Executive Board, served on the Board of IFAD, chaired FAO's work resulting in the agreement on the Right to Food, and served as a fulltime Chair of FAO's Reform Process. I know what the Organization's strengths and weaknesses are, and how to better leverage those strengths and how to make real and rapid progress in overcoming those weaknesses.

I know that there is much more knowledge among FAO Members, among you, and institutions than inside the Organization, and that FAO and its talented staff can better bring that together and work with others for the benefit of all. I know when FAO can take an issue to conclusion, and when it needs to provide the technical dialogue to support the United Nations System, the G20, the World Bank, etc, etc.

Mr. Chairman, many ask where the money is coming from to put more of FAO's effort for the hungry and poor; more at national level; more on technical; more in addressing global issues? I know how we can achieve substantial efficiency gains and maximise on partnerships and Decentralization with consolidation and elimination of continuing overlaps of responsibility. I will delegate, starting by reducing the cost of the Director-General's Office, and will draw on others, mobilizing the internal strengths of the Organization, speeding up decision-making and lowering transaction costs. It is not out of lack of the great respect I hold for you all that I have not been undertaking extensive visits to your capitals or hosting receptions in my drive to become Director-General, but a conscious decision to start as I mean to go on in minimising costs.

Food and agriculture are back on the international agenda, back on national agendas. We have to be realistic. I am certainly not making unfulfillable promises on resources, but more resources can flow. They will, however, only flow if FAO recognises its strength in leveraging national capacities and working with others, rather than trying to launch unilateral "magic bullets".

Excellencies, FAO has initiated probably the most critical, independent and wide-ranging evaluation and Reform Process of any major international organization. I had the privilege to facilitate our work in that as full-time Chair of the Process. It was an unequalled achievement in the United Nations System but, we all know that we need to go much further. FAO must realise the doable but ambitious goals, not letting minor domestic political considerations get in the way, including in the choice of the next Director-General. Regardless of for whom you cast your vote, in line with the stated intention of the Immediate Plan of Action, I very much hope that your one voting consideration will be whom you consider to be the best candidate for the job. I am committed to serve only one term of three and a half years and will thus not be playing politics for re-election. As we embarked on the Reform of FAO, we developed a common dream. If you elect me, I can and I will hit the ground running from the start to work with all of you, in a common endeavour, to make our dream for our world and FAO's contribution to the peoples of the world a reality.

In making this plea to you, I repeat my promise to you all now, which I made and fulfilled when you elected me Independent Chair of the Council. I am an Iranian and a member of G77 but if I am elected the Director-General of FAO, I wholeheartedly and fully commit to being independent of my regional affiliations in the discharge of my duties and responsibilities. I will be the Director-General of all the Members of our Organization, and entirely in the service of each and all.

Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

5. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1) (continued)

5. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1)
(suite)

5. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2011/10; C 2011/LIM/1) (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We are very grateful for your patience. We have a few items that we have to pursue. We now return to Item 5 - Applications for Membership in the Organization. The votes have been counted and the Secretary-General will now read the results.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	ADMISSION TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRE ASSOCIÉ ADMISIÓN DE MIEMBRO ASOCIADO
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	157	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	147
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	148

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrage exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	99
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TOKELAU

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Associate Membership
ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre Associé
habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro Asociado

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Jean-Philippe Bertani (Monaco)

Signature

Firma

Date

Fecha

25/06/2011

Sairak Chailanggar (Thailand)

Signature

Firma

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot.

Ballot papers deposited: 157

Abstentions: 9

Defective Ballots: 0

Votes for: 147

Vote against: 1

Votes cast: 148

Two-thirds majority of the votes cast: 99

Tokelau, having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Associate Membership.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Tokelau now is an Associate Member of FAO and its delegation will take its place among us. May I take this opportunity to add my personal welcome to the new Associate Member.

I now pass the floor to the Deputy Director-General, Operations.

Mr Changchui HE (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

Mr Chairman, allow me to extend on behalf of the Director-General a very warm welcome to Tokelau, the newly -elected Associate Member of FAO.

By becoming an Associate Member, Tokelau has expressed its belief in the universalism of the United Nations System and a clear desire to participate actively in this international forum.

By joining our organization Tokelau has expressed its faith in multilateralism, which more than ever is at the heart of our joint efforts to resolve the many complex issues faced by our global community.

I welcome Tokelau to an organization in which, regardless of the geographical location and size, we all work together to forge a multiple beneficial relationship.

Mr Chairman, allow me to add that when Dr Diouf was first elected Director-General in 1993, the membership of FAO comprised 170 Member Nations and 1 Member Organization.

With the decision of the membership of Tokelau, the membership of FAO now stands at 191 Members, 1 Member Organization and 2 Associate Members.

I believe these figures confirm the truly global nature of this organization, and recognition by the global community of the ambition of FAO.

I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Tokelau, the titular Head of Government, Aliko Faipule Foua Toloa, Aloe Tokelau.

Mr Aliko Faipule Foua TOLOA (Tokelau)

We continue to acknowledge and give thanks to the Almighty for his outstanding protection and guidance so that we could all be present here today.

I would also like to acknowledge those that have made this trip a success for me while here in Rome, especially the Government of New Zealand Excellency Trevor Matheson and his staff. I convey warm greetings on behalf of the Council of Elders and the Government of Tokelau.

For the last few years Tokelau has been working with New Zealand towards acquiring membership in FAO to be at this Conference where the issue of our membership is being determined. It is a very special moment for me as the Ulu-o-Tokelau on behalf of the Government and the people of Tokelau.

I am thankful for the consideration and acceptance of the Conference for Tokelau to be part of the Food and Agriculture Organization family.

Today is a new day for Tokelau. It brings opportunity for my people and we look forward to the future and to the challenges before us. I am positive that today it is the beginning of a sustainable and rewarding relationship between Tokelau and FAO.

Mr Chairman, I want to thank the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the invitation to attend this important meeting on behalf of the Village Councils and Elders and the General Assembly of Tokelau.

I humbly thank you for your approval of our application for Associate Membership in the Organization.

Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mr Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

For New Zealand, it is a great pleasure and honour to speak on this occasion of the admission of Tokelau as an Associate Member of the Food and Agriculture Organization. As Co-chair of the Southwest Pacific Regional Group, New Zealand extends our congratulations to Tokelau for taking this important step.

Tokelau joins the FAO at a critical time and it is pleasing that it will be able to play its part in addressing the major international challenges of food security and climate change. Tokelau is a non self-governing territory of New Zealand for the purposes of the United Nations Charter. Now, while Tokelau is administered by New Zealand, in practice, it is substantially self-governing with strong links to New Zealand.

The statutory powers of the New Zealand-based administrator of Tokelau have been delegated to Tokelauan institutions since 1994.

In closing our welcome to Tokelau, New Zealand looks forward to working constructively with our South Pacific friends in this important international forum, including providing the full support to the New Zealand mission here in Rome to assisting and supporting Tokelau in its membership of FAO.

Sr. Gustavo Oscar INFANTE (Argentina)

La Argentina da la bienvenida a Tokelau como Miembro Asociado de la FAO, una admisión que hemos apoyado convencidos de que va a contribuir fuertemente a cumplir con los objetivos de la Organización.

En relación con esta admisión, la Argentina manifiesta que en modo alguno se pueda generar un antecedente para la posterior incorporación de otros territorios no autónomos, cuyas solicitudes de admisión deberán ser analizadas caso por caso y atendiendo las particularidades de cada uno de esos territorios.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes Item 5 of the Agenda.

A Flag-Raising Ceremony for the new Associate Member will be held at the side of Building A, where the flags of all Member Nations are flown, tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have finished our work for today and will meet again tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. to continue Item 6 with the vote on the Appointment of the Director-General for the period January 1st 2012 to July 2015. Given the importance of the vote, it is essential that we are all here by 10:30 a.m. to ensure that we have a quorum, and so may proceed to vote.

Before closing the meeting, may I remind the members of the General Committee that we reconvene the meeting in the Lebanon Room.

I wish you all a restful night. Good evening.

The meeting rose at 19:01 hours

La séance est levée à h 19h01

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.01 horas

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
26 June 2011

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:47 hours
Mr Tefera Derbew,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 47
sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 10:47 horas
bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,
Presidente de la Conferencia

Report of the Second Meeting of the General Committee (C 2011/LIM/21 Rev.1)
Rapport de la deuxième réunion du Bureau de la Conférence (C 2011/LIM/21 Rev.1)
Informe de la segunda sesión del Comité General (C 2011/LIM/21 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

I now again declare open the third Plenary Meeting of the Conference.

Before starting Item 6 Appointment of the Director-General, I propose that the Conference adopt the Second Report of the General Committee. Please ensure you have document C 2011/LIM/21 before you.

I suggest we adopt the Report paragraph by paragraph.

Before that as regards paragraph 8 which is bracketed, which you can find in your document.

I would like to inform the Conference that the General Committee reconvened earlier this morning and decided the following:

On paragraph 8 – after having received additional information from Representatives of the Dominican Republic and Peru, the Committee recommended the restoration of voting rights for the votes on Item 6, Appointment of the Director-General to both Dominican Republic and Peru on the understanding that a written communication would be submitted to the next meeting of the General Committee on 28 June in the morning.

We can proceed in adopting paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 1 – if you have comments, you are welcome to make them. If there are no comments, then paragraph 1 is adopted.

Paragraph 2 – any comments? Paragraph 2 is adopted.

Paragraph 3 – are there comments? There are no comments, therefore paragraph 3 is adopted.

Paragraph 4 – any comments? If there are no comments, paragraph 4 is adopted.

Paragraph 5 is adopted.

Paragraph 6. I am trying to be more democratic, so you can raise comments. Paragraph 6 is adopted.

Paragraph 7 – if there are no comments, paragraph 7 is adopted.

Paragraph 8 – the amended paragraph. If you have any comments on paragraph 8? No comments so paragraph 8 is adopted.

I take it the whole report is adopted by the Conference.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

6. Appointment of the Director-General (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18) (continued)

6. Nomination du Directeur général (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18) (suite)

6. Nombramiento del Director General (C 2011/14; C 2011/LIM/1; C 2011/LIM/16; C 2011/LIM/18) (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 6. Appointment of the Director-General. We have six candidates for this post, as mentioned in document C 2011/14.

In accordance with Article VII-1 of the Constitution and Rule XXXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Conference appoints the Director-General. In accordance with Rule XII, the appointment of the Director-General is decided by secret ballot.

I give the floor to the Secretary-General to run through the voting process.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Les délégués vont être appelés un par un pour se rendre aux urnes qui sont situées là-bas où ils recevront un bulletin de vote portant les noms des candidats. Les délégués devront exprimer leur vote en marquant d'une croix la case correspondant au candidat choisi. Je me permets de souligner que tout bulletin de vote portant plus de suffrages qu'il n'y a de postes à pourvoir est nul selon l'Article XII, alinéa 4-d du Règlement général de l'Organisation.

Aux termes de l'Article XII, alinéa 4-c-3 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs sont considérés comme exprimant une abstention. Bulletin blanc égale abstention.

Aux termes de l'Article 4-d du même article, c'est-à-dire, l'Article XII du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage sous peine d'invalider le bulletin de vote.

J'ajoute que l'alinéa 10-f de l'Article XII prévoit la possibilité de substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin vierge, l'échange devant être effectué avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne.

Conformément aux Articles XII, paragraphe 3-a et XXXVII-2 du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Directeur général est élu à la majorité des suffrages exprimés.

L'expression «suffrages exprimés» s'entend des votes pour et contre, à l'exclusion des abstentions ou des bulletins nuls. «Suffrages exprimés» signifie les votes pour et contre à l'exclusion des abstentions et des bulletins nuls.

Jusqu'à ce que un candidat obtienne la majorité requise constituée par plus de la majorité requise, constituée par plus de la moitié des suffrages exprimés, le règlement général de l'Organisation dans son Article XXXVII-2 prévoit la réalisation de plusieurs tours de scrutin. Merci Président.

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind delegates that, in accordance with paragraph 15 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a Point of Order in connection with the vote.

In accordance with Rule XII-2-a of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. Thus at least 96 Member Nations must be present at this time. The Secretary-General will now give details regarding the vote and determine whether we have a quorum.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Pour déterminer le quorum qui est de 96 Membres, chaque délégation présente est priée d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur le pupitre devant vous qui est le troisième bouton à droite, pour que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes en ce moment.

Vous êtes priés d'appuyer et nous voyons maintenant le résultat s'afficher. Est-ce que tout le monde a appuyé sur le bouton? Nous avons, comme vous le voyez s'afficher maintenant sur l'écran, 178 délégations présentes.

CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with paragraph 10-c-i Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two Tellers from the Delegates or Representatives.

May I therefore ask the Delegates of Canada and Kenya to proceed to the voting area.

May I remind Delegates to ensure they show their Conference Pass to the Teller when picking up the ballot paper.

The Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Chairman we now call members in alphabetical order of the name of the countries in English. Thank you.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen voting has now been completed. The tellers, in accordance with Rule XII-10-g, the scrutineers appointed by the candidates, will leave the room. The tellers, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will count the votes.

We will now temporarily suspend this meeting while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 11:39 to 12:27 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 39 à 12 h 27

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.39 a las 12.27

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen please return to your seats. We will now continue to pursue Item 6 Appointment of the Director- General, I will now read the results of the first ballot. Report of ballot 1, ballot papers deposited 179, abstentions 0, defective ballots 0, votes cast 179.

Majority is 90, not elected, I now read the results of each candidate: Franz Fischler from Austria - 10, Mr José Graziano da Silva from Brazil - 77, Mr Indroyono Soesilo from Indonesia - 12, Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini from Iran - 2, Mr Abdul Latif Rashid from Iraq - 6, Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé from Spain - 72.

Unless one of the six candidates wish to withdrawal, we will proceed to the second round of balloting. Let us proceed to the second round of voting. Attention please, let us now proceed to the second round of voting.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	1	ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015) ELECTION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015) ELECCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015)
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	179
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	179
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	90
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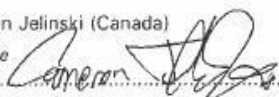
Elected – Élus – Elegidos	Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos	Eliminated – Éliminé – Eliminado
	Franz Fischler (Austria) 10	
	José Graziano da Silva (Brazil) 77	
	Indroyono Soesilo (Indonesia) 12	
	Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini (Iran, Islamic Republic of) 2	
	Abdul Latif Rashid (Iraq) 6	
	Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé (Spain) 72	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Cameron Jelinski (Canada)

Signature

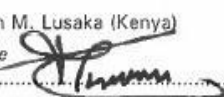
Firma



Kenneth M. Lusaka (Kenya)

Signature

Firma



Date

Fecha

26/06/2011

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones



Mr Mohammad Saeid NOORI NAENI (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We are in the middle of an important election between six capable and competent candidates. We all have had our campaigns and I am pleased to say that our fair, transparent and open, but direct competitions has contributed to a better understanding of the real responsibilities and opportunities of FAO. In my platform I have indicated that I know how to make substantial efficiency gains in this Organization. At this stage of the election, I think I can once again show that I have been, and I am, sincere in my promises. Therefore, believing the remaining candidates are all very competent and qualified for this job, in order to save time and energy and to make a little efficiency gains, I would like to inform the Conference that I am withdrawing from the race.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Thank you dear colleagues and friends. My sincere hope is that the winner never forgets his main responsibility not only to keep the voices of the hungry and the poor on the top of the international agenda but to try to put an end to the shameful level of the hunger and poverty in our planet.

Thank you very much and best wishes to all remaining candidates.

CHAIRPERSON

Since we had one candidate withdraw, we need 15 minutes to prepare.

Mr Agung LAKSONO (Indonesia)

Following the result of the first round of this voting this morning the delegation of the Republic of Indonesia would like to withdraw the candidature of Professor Indroyono Soesilo as the Director-General of the FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Our deep appreciation goes to all the delegations that gave their support to Dr Indroyono.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Indonesia has always been firmly committed to strengthening global efforts to combat poverty and food insecurity with effective and reliable global food governance. We shall continue to cooperate and work hard to enhance the critical role of FAO as a competent authority to aid the global response to the pressing challenges of global security and seeing food available, accessible, affordable and safe for all. I thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Since we have two candidates that have withdrawn from the competition, we need at least 15 minutes to produce the ballot for the rest of the candidates. This Session is briefly suspended for 15 minutes.

The meeting was suspended from 12.35 to 12.50 hours

La séance est suspendue de 12 h 35 à 12 h 50

Se suspende la sesión de las 12.35 a las 12.50

CHAIRPERSON

Please return to your seats. The Iraqi delegate would like to take the floor.

Mr Abdul Latif RASHID (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Iraq)

On behalf of myself and on behalf of the Iraqi Delegation at this Conference, I would like to make a short statement.

I was chosen by the Iraqi Government to be a candidate for the Post of Director-General of FAO because personally and as a country we believe in this Organization. We believe in these organizations which can contribute to removing suffering from mankind, and we want to contribute to the programme and all the projects which eradicate hunger, starvation and poverty.

Iraq is going through a new phase and wants to be an active member of the international community and contribute to it. From those considerations, we submitted our application and our candidacy for the Post of Director-General. During the period of submission and contacts we have thoroughly enjoyed the campaign. I hope we have raised the name of Iraq which wants to become a partner in the international community, and at the same time we have learned from you.

I do congratulate all the candidates who have won and I wish them all the best. I wish this Organization a bright future, more support and more activities in eradicating hunger and poverty, which we all need and which we have to care about.

Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have three candidates, so we have to produce a ballot accordingly until then the meeting will be suspended. Ok. Sorry I want to give the floor to Austria.

Mr Franz FISCHLER (Candidate for the post of Director-General) (Austria)

Thank you Chairman for giving me the floor. I think the race here is clear, so therefore I withdraw my candidature and I wish the two remaining candidates good luck.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sr. Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brasil)

Como el cuadro electoral ha cambiado mucho, yo me pregunto y convoco al mismo tiempo a mi Grupo Regional para que se reúna y me imagino también que todos los Grupos Regionales incluso el Grupo de los 77 se reunirán ahora. Por favor necesito algún tiempo para eso.

CHAIRPERSON

The Brazilian Delegation has asked for a pause, so we are going to give them 30 minutes.

Mr Zoltán KÁLMÁN (Hungary)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and the twenty-seven Member Nations and now I have been approached and convinced that on the basis of the Rules that you announced this morning, it is to be considered not legal to interrupt the vote when the voting process has already been started.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Let's hear from the Legal Counsel. Please your attention. It should be done according to the Rules and Regulations of the Organization, so let's hear from the Legal Counsel, then we will see what will happen.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

Indeed, our Rules foresee that once voting has commenced that voting cannot be interrupted, except to raise a Point of Order in connection with that specific, particular voting. These Rules, in the practice of FAO, have consistently been interpreted as referring to a specific ballot. When a particular ballot has commenced, that ballot cannot be interrupted; not an overall process consisting of several ballots, and we have a well-established practice in the Organization, whereby between ballots there have been interruptions.

The position is extremely clear; this position has been followed for the past sixty years and there can be no doubt as regards the legal position. Once a ballot has commenced, that ballot cannot be interrupted but it is that specific ballot, that specific process that cannot be interrupted and we are having a successive series of ballots. There can be no doubt that this position has been followed for the past sixty years in the Organization and in 1993. The Verbatim Records of the Session in 1993 has been released to all Members. Of course, there can be interruptions, suspensions between ballots.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

So the decision is made according to the Constitution of the Organization. We have to maintain the decision to prevail.

Ms Christina PITTA (Cyprus)

I would like also then to convene the European Regional Group in the German Room right now. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

This one is also permitted. Have you finished Europe? OK, continue please.

Ms Christina PITTA (Cyprus)

I just wanted to clarify are you continuing the voting as before?

CHAIRPERSON

We have two candidates now, so after the consultation we will have time to prepare the ballots and then we will continue after.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Morocco)

I have a question on behalf of the G77. I just want clarification from you, Mr Chairperson. Are we in the process of the suspension? If it is not legal, as the Legal Adviser said, how can we suspend it for another group? I just want to understand. Please, can we have legal advice, it would be very important at this moment. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

I think it is simple, we are suspending the meeting for both groups. There are no double standard. The Legal Counsellor may add to this.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

You are correct. We are suspending the meeting and the groups that wish to meet will meet. We are suspending the session for the two groups to meet. This is fully in line with the procedures of FAO, with the Rules of FAO. This has been done many times in the past. I must say that it comes to me as surprise that there could be an issue about this point.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

I would like to invite the G77, if possible, to meet, if the Chairperson is in agreement, in the Green Room. If we cannot arrange the G77 meeting in the Green Room, the GRULAC will be meeting in the Mexico Room. But I hope the G77 will be meeting in the Green Room.

CHAIRPERSON

The meeting is suspended.

The meeting was suspended from 13.10 to 13.58 hours

La séance est suspendue de 13 h 10 à 13 h 58

Se suspende la sesión de las 13.10 a las 13.58

CHAIRPERSON

Please return to your seat. There are now two candidates and there will be a ballot between these two candidates. Before that, we'll check the quorum. Mr Secretary-General, please.

SÉCRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL

Merci Monsieur le Président. Comme nous l'avons fait tout à l'heure pour nous assurer que nous avons un quorum, chaque délégation présente est priée d'appuyer sur le bouton vert, le troisième bouton à droite sur le pupitre.

CHAIRPERSON

May I ask the Tellers to proceed to the voting area. The Tellers are ready, so I will ask the Secretary General to call the voters to the voting area for the second ballot.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting has now been completed. The Tellers will leave the Hall to count the votes. We will temporarily suspend this meeting while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 14.40 to 15.25 hours

La séance est suspendue de 14 h 40 à 15 h 25

Se suspende la sesión de las 14.40 a las 15.25

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	2	ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015) ELECTION DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015) ELECCIÓN DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL (1.1.2012 - 31.7.2015)
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1. Ballot papers deposited. Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	180
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0

4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	180
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5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	91
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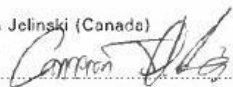
Elected – Élus – Elegidos		Not elected – Pas élus – No elegidos		Eliminated – Éliminé – Eliminado	
José Graziano da Silva (Brazil)	92	Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé (Spain)	88		

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Cameron Jelinski (Canada)

Signature

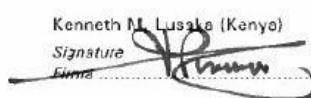
Firma



Kenneth M. Lusaka (Kenya)

Signature

Firma



Date

Fecha

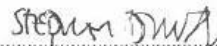
26/06/2011

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones



CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, the result of the second ballot will now be announced. Report of ballot two, ballot papers deposited 180, majority 91.

Votes cast 180.

Elected, Mr José Graziano da Silva, 92.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Not elected, Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, 88.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

May I now invite the Director-General elect to join us on the Podium.

Ladies and Gentlemen, may I be the first to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva on his election to the post of Director-General for the period January 1 2012 to July 31 2015. At this stage, I think I have to ask the newly-elected Director-General to say a few words.

Mr José GRAZIANO DA SILVA (DIRECTOR-GENERAL elect)

Thank you President. Thank you Director-General for this marvellous moment of democracy. As I am under great emotion, I will change to Spanish; that is more appropriate.

Continúa en Español

Voy a ser muy breve con unas notas que acabo de redactar, simplemente para agradecer.

Quiero empezar agradeciendo a mi país en la figura de mi Presidenta Dilma Rousseff, del ex-presidente Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Brasil Antonio de Aguiar Patriota y a toda la delegación brasileña, que como vieron era una verdadera hinchada que nos acompaña.

Quiero decir que a partir de ahora no soy un candidato brasileño sino un Director General electo por todos los países. Quiero agradecer a los cinco candidatos de esta competencia a los cuales ya solicité, individualmente, su colaboración y apoyo para dirigir la FAO.

El sábado cuando llegué a este auditorium asistí a la ceremonia de Erradicación de la Peste Bovina y me pregunté ¿ qué haría para conmemorar si el objetivo propuesto hubiera sido reducir la Peste Bovina a la mitad?

Hebert de Souza “Betinho,” un brasileño que lideró la lucha contra el hambre en Brasil en los años 70 y 80, decía que quien tiene hambre tiene prisa. Por eso durante toda mi campaña insistí en la necesidad de lograr consensos y acuerdos para superar la división interna que tanto ha impedido a esta Organización de caminar más rápido hacia la erradicación del hambre.

Mañana por la tarde pretendo hablar con la prensa, luego de tomarme un poco de tiempo para descansar. Ahora solo quiero agradecer a todos los países que han participado en esta elección, empezando por los países de lengua portuguesa que fueron los primeros en brindar respaldo a nuestra candidatura aún sin saber el nombre del candidato.

Quisiera agradecer también a los países latinoamericanos y caribeños que han dado una sólida demostración de unidad en bloque, respaldando nuestra proposición y quiero agradecer de una manera muy especial y cariñosa a los países africanos que desde temprano han visto en la línea de Cooperación Sur- Sur el camino hacia adelante.

Quiero agradecer a los países del G-77 que se juntaron para respaldarnos en estos momentos finales. Quiero agradecer a los países europeos y a otros países desarrollados, porque ésta no fue una elección del norte contra el sur, sino un ejercicio democrático, legítimo y soberano.

Quiero finalmente agradecer a los que no votaron, en primer lugar a la Sociedad Civil que es tan importante en la lucha contra el hambre y, segundo, a todo el personal de la FAO que ha permitido que este momento tan soñado haya resultado una realidad. Muchas gracias por todo.

CHAIRPERSON

There are delegates who want to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General, so I will give the chance to those delegates.

Dominican Republic, Morocco, Burundi, there are a lot, Tanzania.

Those who I have already given the floor to, you can start, and then we will proceed until they identify the other countries. Dominican Republic, you have the floor.

Sr. Marío ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Señor Presidente, República Dominicana, Vice-Presidente del GRULAC, en nombre del Grupo Regional felicita a los señores Franz Fischler, Indroyono Soesilo, Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeni,

Abdul Latif Rashid y Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé, quienes en estos largos meses de campaña demostraron poseer los conocimientos, la experiencia y la sabiduría para liderar esta Organización.

Señor Presidente y señores delegados: los países de América Latina y el Caribe felicitan al Director General electo, Profesor José Graziano da Silva.

Ahora que el proceso electoral ha concluido, los trabajos de la Trigésimo Séptima Conferencia deberán recomenzar. Nosotros somos el parlamento de la humanidad. Somos una sola familia, no dividida sino unida en Estados soberanos. Somos, como ha indicado el presidente de República Dominicana, Leonel Fernández, el G-192.

El 1 de enero de 2012 iniciará una nueva gestión para dar continuidad a los esfuerzos de la comunidad de las naciones para disminuir progresivamente el hambre y la pobreza, con miras a lograr su erradicación definitiva.

Felicidades Don José, estamos seguros de que usted hará una gestión ejemplar. El trabajo continúa. Queremos que el número de los hambrientos sea cero.

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

Merci Monsieur le Président.

Il est évident que c'est au nom du Groupe des 77 que je prends la parole pour féliciter chaleureusement le Directeur général élu et lui souhaiter un travail fructueux au service de l'Organisation mais surtout au service de ceux qui ont faim dans ce monde.

Notre ami sait que le Groupe des 77 est totalement à sa disposition dans le dialogue permanent qui réunit le Secrétariat et les Membres pour continuer d'avancer les projets de Réforme, de restructuration et d'augmentation de l'efficacité de cette Organisation, chantier qui a été ouvert par le Directeur général sortant, M. Jacques Diouf que je veux aussi saluer au nom du Groupe 77, avec lequel nous avons eu une coopération et un partenariat tout à fait exemplaire. Je voulais solennellement en ce moment important, vous dire combien nous avons apprécié votre action à la tête de cette Organisation.

Je voudrais également dire à tous les autres candidats combien cette Organisation peut s'enorgueillir d'avoir eu des personnes d'un très haut niveau intellectuel et d'une très grande probité morale. Je crois que dans cette élection, somme toute basée sur des principes démocratiques tout à fait évidents, a dominé, je dirais presque, la fraternité sinon l'amitié et je crois que l'on peut s'en féliciter.

Les nombres que nous avons entendu expliquent encore une fois que nous ne sommes pas dans une confrontation Nord-Sud, la FAO ne doit pas être une confrontation Nord-Sud. Nous avons certainement à gérer des priorités qui sont particulières à chaque région et à chaque pays, et à l'intérieur de chaque pays probablement à chacune des régions du pays.

Je crois que, combattre la faim, cela a été dit pendant des années, nous le répétons encore aujourd'hui, est un exercice de solidarité entre ceux qui ont et ceux qui n'ont pas. Je voudrais renouveler ici notre hommage aux candidats qui ont fait ce chemin avec nous, féliciter à nouveau M. le Directeur général élu et renouveler la disponibilité du Groupe des 77 à maintenir cet esprit de coopération et de totale transparence dans l'examen de l'Ordre du jour que nous allons entamer après cet exercice au combien important.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

Mme Odette KAYITESI (Burundi)

Au nom de la République du Burundi, je remercie Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva et son pays, le Brésil, pour avoir gagné les élections d'aujourd'hui ou il est élu Directeur général de la FAO. Je remercie aussi tous les candidats qui ont tout fait pour cette campagne aille en beauté.

Je souhaite une bonne chance à Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva. Je souhaite aussi une bonne chance à tous ceux qui sont ici car ce n'est pas seulement Monsieur José Graziano Da Silva qui a gagné mais c'est toute la famille FAO.

Nous sommes maintenant en phase de confrontation aux questions liées à la malnutrition, à la sécurité alimentaire, mais aussi sans oublier les questions liées aux changements climatiques. Aujourd'hui nous devons déterminer une phase ultime, après l'élection du Directeur général de la FAO, un étape très longue pour sauver l'humanité de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Je souhaite une bonne chance à toute l'équipe de la FAO pour qu'on puisse changer la tendance actuelle de la malnutrition et cela pour parvenir à répondre collectivement à l'Objectif du millénaire pour le développement, d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Mr Jumanne MAGHEMBE (United Republic of Tanzania)

Allow me to recognize and congratulate the six excellent candidates who competed for the position of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

As they introduced themselves yesterday, it was gratifying to listen to their stand on the eradication of hunger and poverty. We are, therefore, pleased to especially congratulate Professor José da Silva Graziano who is eminently qualified to lead the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The United Republic of Tanzania joins all members of the African Union to congratulate him and to wish him good health as he prepares to assume office.

As we congratulate you on this victorious occasion, we assure you of our strong support to the Food and Agriculture Organization and to the determination that FAO will strengthen its regional presence and enhance its regional and country programmes.

Sr. Juan Camilo RESTREPO (Colombia)

En nombre de Colombia y de la Delegación Colombiana acreditada ante esta importante asamblea, queremos felicitar al Profesor José Graziano da Silva, también a todos los candidatos que participaron en esta importante elección felicitación que se extiende a la FAO por el magnífico espectáculo de pluralismo y democracia con que ha podido enmarcarse este proceso, que conduce hoy en la elección del nuevo Director General.

Son muchos los retos hacia adelante, en agricultura, en cambios climáticos, en lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, pero estos retos no serán inferiores al cumplimiento y a los desafíos. La FAO ha quedado en muy buenas manos a partir de hoy.

Ms Christina PITTA (Cyprus)

I'm speaking on behalf of the European Regional Group. We would like to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and wish him a good leadership and success in his work. We ensure you that you can count on our support and advice. Thank you.

Mr Cenio LEWIS (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

On behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines wishes to congratulate the new Director-General, Professor José Graziano da Silva. We know that there are many challenges that the FAO faces, but we believe that where there is a will there is a way. We believe that the new Director-General will show us that way. We wish him well in his office and congratulate him on his appointment.

Thank you very much.

Mr Sándor FAZEKAS (Hungary) (Original language Russian)

Mr Chairperson, I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations. The candidate countries to the EU: Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

We would like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Professor José Graziano da Silva. Today we had the possibility of choosing between six excellent candidates for the position of Director-General of FAO. We thank all the candidates for their hard work in campaigning actively in the last months and sharing their vision with us on the future of FAO. Thus began rich discussions, also among the Member Nations, on the way forward.

We would also like to thank the current Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for the good work he has done for the Organization in the past 18 years. We appreciate his tireless efforts and his strong and confident leadership in the fight against hunger. We acknowledge his important role in introducing the Reform in FAO which has been an outstanding initiative in the UN System. Mr Diouf, we wish you all the best for the future.

We are pleased with the outcome of the election, and we give Mr José Graziano da Silva our warm and sincere congratulations.

We believe that Mr José Graziano da Silva will be the right person to make FAO the leading international organization of global governance on agricultural and food security. We urge the new Director-General to continue and urgently implement the ongoing Reform of FAO. To ensure the success of the Reform, a profound culture change at all levels throughout the Organization is essential. Mr José Graziano da Silva, we know that you are well aware of these expectations and challenges. We assure you that, to fulfil these tasks with success, you may count on the support and advice of the EU and its Member Nations.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Samir AL HABASHNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on behalf of the Jordanian people, on my own behalf, and on the behalf of my Delegation, I would like to extend to Mr José Graziano da Silva our most sincere and warm congratulations for the trust he was able to enjoy in this international organization. This is indeed, an outstanding trust put in him.

Yesterday we were able to get an insight into his views and vision as far as the organization is concerned. Concerning agriculture, food and malnutrition in the world, we believe that his thoughts are creative. Mr da Silva honoured us with his visit to Jordan, and we explained the problems facing our region: desertification, water scarcity and other problems. He displayed a great deal of understanding and he showed his desire to see this region live up to our expectations and achieve our goals. We rely on Mr da Silva and FAO in order to achieve our goals.

May I also seize this opportunity to thank all the candidates, all of them submitted creative and outstanding programs and visions. They all deserve to be congratulated. However, once the elections are over we have to forget about the G77, the African Group, the European Group and other groups. We have to work as one in order to help Mr Graziano da Silva achieve the goals of this Organization.

Mr Shobhana Kumar PATTANAYAK (India)

On behalf of the Indian Delegation at the FAO Conference and as a member of the G77 Group of countries, as a member of the Asian Group and a member of the big group of countries, I take this opportunity to complement and congratulate Professor José Graziano da Silva for winning the election. As India and Brazil share visions, have shared values and have shared aspirations, we feel that Mr Graziano is the answer for the challenges that confront us in these difficult times of food insecurity. I am certain that he will provide the needed leadership, change the Organization and catapult it into a very advanced one which can face these challenges.

On this occasion I also complement Mr Jacques Diouf, the present Director-General for his untiring leadership all these 18 years.

Last but not least, I complement all of the candidates for making democracy triumph not only in individual countries but also in international organizations like FAO.

M. Afonso Pedro CANGA (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Permettez-moi, au nom de la délégation de la République d'Angola, de féliciter Monsieur Graziano da Silva pour son élection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Nous réaffirmons notre détermination de lutter ensemble avec vous contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Je profite aussi pour féliciter Monsieur le Directeur sortant, Docteur Jacques Diouf, pour son travail réalisé avec succès comme Directeur général de la FAO. Je félicite aussi les autres candidats qui ont concouru avec Monsieur Graziano. Merci beaucoup.

Mr Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Professor Graziano da Silva, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran delegation, I am pleased to add my voice to others who congratulated you before me. Professor, you have already successfully started the fight against hunger in your region with the Zero Hunger Programme.

We expect you to continue the fight against hunger in the whole world, and I will wait to congratulate you at the end of your term of office based on your achievement.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Brave Rona NDISALE (Malawi)

Malawi acknowledges the intervention from Tanzania who spoke on behalf of the African Group, so I pass. Thank you.

Sr. Lorenzo BASSO (Argentina)

En nombre de la República Argentina quiero felicitar a mi estimado amigo José Graziano da Silva. Teniendo en cuenta que tendrá dos grandes oportunidades: una debida a que el mundo se encuentra ante una demanda creciente de alimentos y una oferta escasa ya que no alcanza a satisfacerlos, lo cual le presenta un gran desafío por cumplir. Por otra parte, la FAO se encuentra también ante la gran oportunidad de cambiar el rumbo y adaptar mejor algunas pautas ante este desafío creciente de la producción de alimentos.

Creo que José Graziano da Silva va a poder cumplir eficientemente ese desafío.

Mr Romeo MANALO (Philippines)

Thank you Mr Chairman.

On behalf of the Asia Group, we would like to express our warmest congratulations to José Graziano da Silva, the incoming Director-General of this great institution, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Organization today faces the same problem as it had 18 years ago. The only difference is that the problems are bigger, with more than a million people hungry and malnourished. Although more can be produced, the environment is much more complicated, with demands being amplified by bio-fuels. There is increasing pressure for land, fisheries and forestry resources. Climate change is aggravating the problem, making production very unstable and making prices very volatile.

This Organization is mandated to eradicate food insecurity and malnutrition. Food should be available, accessible and affordable for all so that this basic human right can be realized.

It will be a great shame if, at the end of four years, the number of the world's hungry and malnourished has increased.

You, as incoming Director-General, have a great responsibility on your shoulders. The Organization has been reformed. We are already implementing that Reform. We have listened to your campaign platform and we have elected you to this position. You will know that you will need all the support and cooperation you can get.

For this reason, we would like to assure you that the Asia Group will always be behind you. In this regard, we encourage you to start preparing for your administration. We hope that the transition period will be smooth.

Our warmest congratulations once again. Thank you very much.

Mr Hasan KADDOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you Mr Chairman.

I am indeed delighted to add my voice to those previous speakers who have congratulated you. I am speaking, Sir, on behalf of the Near East Group and the delegation of Syria and I am happy to express my heartfelt congratulations to Mr Graziano da Silva for his success in winning the post of Director-General of this Organization. While I congratulate you, Sir, I wish you every success in leading this Organization so that it can help achieve its lofty humanitarian goals, namely combating poverty and hunger at the time when there is an increasing number of challenges facing those who wish to achieve these goals. May I take this opportunity to reiterate my commitment, our commitment, to cooperate with this Organization and with its new Director-General. Thank you, Sir.

Mr Mike KELLY (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, I congratulate José Graziano da Silva on his success in being elected the new Director-General of the FAO. We welcome this historic election as a time of opportunity and change for the FAO.

Australia acknowledges the crucial role of the Director-General as we move forward to progress our shared global agricultural and food security objectives. We look forward to working with Dr Graziano da Silva to strengthen the role of the FAO, to provide leadership and stability to deliver change. We welcome Dr Graziano's commitment to prioritise reform of the FAO and implement greater transparency and accountability. We share Dr Graziano's goal to address global food security and eradicate hunger. We encourage the pursuit of global trade liberalisation, research and development to increase agricultural productivity and resource management and greater global collaboration as part of the effort to achieve these aims.

We thank the outgoing Director-General, Jacques Diouf, for his significant contribution over the last 18 years. We look forward to working with the FAO to ensure it fulfils its mandate in addressing global food security by increasing agricultural, fisheries and forestry productivity and sustainability and supporting agricultural trade, and that it plays a vital role as the central pillar of global architecture and food security efforts.

Mr Antonio de Aguiar PATRIOTA (Brazil)

The Regional Groups have spoken and I suppose I am entitled to make a brief statement on behalf of Brazil. My first words are, of course, congratulations to the new Director-General elect – a man of extraordinary intellectual strength, of moral fortitude, a man of lifelong experience dedicated to combating hunger and poverty and who has not only studied how to do this, but he has put his knowledge into practice with some very impressive results in my own country. So, I am extremely proud and pleased that his experience can now be shared at the service of the United Nations and at the service of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

You can be sure that with Professor Graziano da Silva at the helm of FAO, you will have a man who is, first of all, moved by solidarity and by the desire to promote cooperation through humanism. You will have a man who is committed to administrative efficiency and a man who is capable of extraordinary political leadership.

Second of all, I would like to thank all those who have supported this candidacy and all those who have spoken today, so I am really addressing the entire Membership. Allow me to say, muchas gracias, merci beaucoup, spasiba bolshoya, fěicháng gǎnxiè, shokran, because this is a man who does not know borders in his work and he will be working with every Region, with every Sub-region, with large countries, with Small Island countries, and with countries that have different challenges in the area of food security and agricultural development.

The choice of a Brazilian to head FAO takes place at a moment when Brazil itself contemplates the possibility for the first time of eliminating extreme poverty. This is the commitment, aspiration and goal of the Government of President Dilma Rousseff which I represent here today. We believe that we can reach this goal, and as Professor Graziano da Silva was saying, we cannot proceed by half

measures, we must be ambitious and we know that we can reach these goals because we have reached them in our country. So, as we take up this position, I wish to express to the entire Membership, the desire of Brazil not only to reach out to other Members, especially those in greatest need, to undertake cooperation-cooperation that will benefit from FAO's capacity, from the capacity of other Agencies in the United Nations System because we are very strongly committed to the United Nations system and we believe that multilateralism is not only for the powerful, for the comparatively strong but that it is a System that should bring results to individuals across the world.

So it is in this spirit that we pledge to work very closely with FAO, with Member Nations, and with other UN Agencies, to make the dreams that we dream collectively come true.

M. M.M. CHEHEM (Djibouti)

Je voudrais ajouter ma voix à celles qui se sont exprimées et ont félicité chaleureusement le Directeur général élu de la FAO. Je voudrais aussi remercier le Brésil qui a bien voulu mettre à la disposition de la communauté internationale un éminent professeur universitaire mais aussi un homme qui a fait ses preuves sur le terrain.

Monsieur le Président, ce serait ingrat de ma part de ne pas citer le nom du Directeur général sortant, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour les efforts qu'il a déployé, la conviction dont il a fait preuve et tout ce qu'il a pu réaliser pendant toute la durée de son mandat à la tête de cette noble Organisation. Les Nations-Unies sont constituées par plusieurs organisations; celle qui a pour mandat de faire vivre, boire, manger et protéger l'environnement, c'est la FAO qui, de part son mandat, mérite d'être soutenue par l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Je voudrais conclure mes propos, Monsieur le Président, pour dire au candidat brésilien, qui a eu l'occasion d'exposer sa vision un peu partout, comme par exemple à Bruxelles où nous l'avons rencontré ou ici même, qu'il peut compter sur l'appui de la République de Djibouti dans l'entreprise qui l'attend parce que le défi est immense. Soyez rassuré, nous serons à vos côtés.

Sra. Trinidad JIMÉNEZ (España)

En nombre de Miguel Ángel Moratinos y de toda la delegación española, quisiéramos agradecer de todo corazón a todos aquellos países, 88 países, que nos han apoyado, por su confianza, por su cariño, por el aprecio que han demostrado en primer lugar a España pero sobretudo a Miguel Ángel Moratinos, porque han compartido un compromiso y un programa. De todo corazón a todos muchísimas gracias por su confianza y apoyo.

En segundo lugar quisiera felicitar al nuevo Director General de la FAO, a José Graziano da Silva, por su elección, por su importante elección al frente de esta importantísima organización, al frente de la FAO. Le deseamos mucho éxito en los importantes desafíos y retos que va a tener por delante. Quiero ofrecer el apoyo de España a partir de este momento al nuevo Director General porque confiamos que en estos importantes retos y desafíos podamos entre todos afrontarlos a la mayor celeridad posible.

Y en tercer lugar quisiera decir, en nombre del Gobierno de España, que nuestro compromiso en contra de la lucha para erradicar la pobreza, la lucha para erradicar el hambre, por la seguridad alimentaria, son compromisos muy firmes, son compromisos que venimos sosteniendo desde hace muchos años, son muchos los países con los que venimos trabajando y cooperando y quiero decirles, a todos los integrantes de esta importante organización y a su nuevo Director General, que vamos a estar firmemente comprometidos en los próximos años.

Son importantes objetivos que vamos a tener que cumplir y que en este proceso solamente nos anima una sola ilusión, con gran pasión y con gran anhelo, que es ayudar a todos los países en el mundo a que podamos erradicar el hambre. Eso es nuestro compromiso. Se lo queremos entregar y demostrar al nuevo Director General, y a partir de este momento nos tiene a su entera disposición para seguir trabajando.

Estas son las palabras que Miguel Ángel Moratinos quería también expresar ante toda la Asamblea. Muchísimas gracias a todos.

Mr SUSWONO (Indonesia)

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, let me extend our congratulations to Mr Graziano da Silva, as newly-elected Director-General of FAO. I would like to give the assurance of the Government of Indonesia to continue and enhance our commitment for the improvement of the work of FAO in the future.

Let me also extend our appreciation to Mr Jacques Diouf for his great effort in advancing the work of this Organization to eradicate hunger and poverty during his tenure.

Thank you.

Ms Kathleen MERRIGAN (United States of America)

On behalf of the North America Regional Group, please allow me to congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva on his election to succeed Mr Jacques Diouf to lead the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. We also wish to congratulate the other five candidates in the process, who performed admirably. We would also like to congratulate the Chairperson and the fine FAO staff for leading us through a flawless election. We look forward to working with you, Dr Graziano da Silva, in the coming biennium to ensure the mandate of this Organization is successfully implemented, while ensuring that our investments in Reform are successful.

We pledge to work with you and all our colleagues here today in the FAO to reduce the numbers of hungry and malnourished in the world. As we look forward to you taking office on 1 January 2012, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank Director-General Diouf for his many contributions to this Organization, including initiating the major package of reforms in strengthening FAO's role and in addressing global food security, and as well in focusing on its normative work. Last, we stand ready to work with you, Dr Graziano da Silva, in the coming six months as you prepare to take the reins of FAO.

Congratulations.

Mr Mariano SABINO LOPES (Timor-Leste)

On behalf of the Government of Timor Leste, we congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva. We believe that his leadership will become hope for all poor countries of the world. We would also like to thank Mr Diouf for all his great work.

Thank you.

Mr John MUTORWA (Namibia)

Namibia adds its voice to those who spoke before us, in congratulating Professor Graziano da Silva on his democratic elections to the position of Director-General of the FAO. Professor, be assured of our support and we wish you well.

Equally, we would like to pay gratitude to Dr Diouf for the sterling work and the leadership that you have provided to our Organization for the past 18 years. Dr Diouf, tomorrow, if I have the opportunity, during the general debate I will say more. We would also like to thank the five candidates and the countries that sponsored them to participate in this very important exercise, thereby enhancing and furthering the democratic principles of our Organization, the FAO.

Thank you.

Mr Zulfiqar Haider KHAN (Pakistan)

On behalf of the delegation and Government of Pakistan I would like to thank Dr Graziano on his election to this very important office. FAO, as the leading organization to combat hunger, faces many challenges including the Reform Process. We know that under his able leadership, FAO will grow into a more dynamic and forward-looking organization and wish him all the best and assure him of our full cooperation.

At the end, let me also pay tribute to Mr Jacques Diouf for his distinguished services to this great Organization.

Mr Stephen FLETCHER (Grenada)

On behalf of the Grenada delegation and in Grenada's capacity as Chair of the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), we certainly would like to place on record our congratulations to Dr. Graziano da Silva on being elected as Director-General of this noble Organization.

Grenada and the CARICOM region certainly share the ambitions and the goals of Dr Graziano da Silva and, of course, FAO and hunger, in eradicating poverty. Also we would like to place on record the concern of Small Island Developing States in the areas of food production, nutrition security and climate change.

In congratulating Dr Graziano da Silva on his victory, we want to also take the opportunity to reiterate Grenada's and CARICOM's commitment to this noble Organization in ensuring that goals that have been set are achieved. We also would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the outgoing Director-General for the work that he has done in leading the Organization up to this point. We also would like to take the opportunity to mention the staff of the FAO and to thank them for organizing this Conference and for ensuring that the process ran as smoothly as it did, and we look forward to working with the incoming Director-General and the team of FAO for the greater success of all.

Mr Pietro SEBASTIANI (Italy)

On behalf of the Host Country, we wish the Director-General elect good work. We thank Jacques Diouf and we affirm Italy's long-term commitment to FAO for the fulfillment of its extremely important mandate.

M. Basengezi KATINTIMA (République démocratique du Congo)

Au nom du Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo et de la délégation que je conduis, je remercie Monsieur le Président pour nous avoir accordé la parole. Je dois rappeler qu'à cette trente-septième session il y a trois événements importants: le premier est l'éradication de la peste bovine, le second est l'élection et le troisième ce sont les félicitations adressées au Directeur général sortant et au Directeur général entrant. Quant à l'éradication de la peste bovine, cela s'est passé à la fin du mandat du Directeur général et j'ai vu que tout le monde le félicitait. Je voudrais demander au nom de la République démocratique du Congo, parce que nous avons souffert de cette peste en Afrique, que soit créé un prix dénommé «Jacques Diouf» pour ceux qui pourraient faire quelque chose de beau en agriculture comme l'a fait notre Directeur général, pour que ces félicitations soient gravées dans la mémoire de tous. Félicitations donc, Monsieur le Directeur général sortant et Monsieur le directeur de l'OIE, pour avoir éradiqué cette peste pendant votre mandat. Nous ne vous oublierons pas pour cela.

Le deuxième point est celui des félicitations. C'est Monsieur Jacques Diouf qui nous invite demain à 13:00 heures mais, nous-mêmes, 177 pays qui sommes en train de le féliciter, nous ne l'avons même pas invité. Je voudrais que le Directeur général qui entre accepte notre collaboration parce que le Brésil passant par l'Atlantique est en face de la République démocratique du Congo. Le Brésil a la même forêt que nous, le même soja, le même maïs, le même phosphate et la même potentialité en terme de fleuves. Nos quatre-vingt millions d'hectares vides vous sont disponibles et nous voudrions la continuité comme nous l'avons fait avec l'ancien Directeur général pour arriver à éradiquer la faim comme aujourd'hui nous éradiquons la peste bovine. Nos félicitations donc, Monsieur le nouveau Directeur général, et nous vous remercions.

Mr Antonio Raul LIMBAU (Mozambique)

I wish, on behalf of Mozambique delegation, to congratulate Professor Graziano da Silva for his election to the position of Director General of FAO.

We are confident of your leadership to guide the future of this important Organization.

The main priority is to fight against the hunger and malnutrition that still affect around one billion people in the world particularly in developing countries such as Mozambique.

Rest assured of the support of my country and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique. We also would like to pay tribute to Director-General Diouf for his contribution and strong leadership against hunger and poverty.

Mr Dun NIU (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to congratulate Professor Graziano da Silva on his election as the Director-General of FAO. We would like to wish him good leadership of the FAO and success in solving the problems of hunger as well as food insecurity the world over.

We wish him success in helping Member Nations in the exchange of information and technical assistance, and in particular South-South Cooperation. We wish him success in all the above tasks. The Chinese Government will, as always, support and participate in FAO activities.

Here, on behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to thank Mr Diouf, Director-General, for his important contributions during his tenure, particularly, his efforts in solving food insecurity, in eradicating animal diseases and in the propagation of agricultural techniques, in the training of farmers, as well as his innovations in South-South cooperation and his efforts in reinforcing cooperation among Member Nations, giving importance to Member Nations' opinions as well as increasing performance.

I would like to thank him once again.

Mr Yusuf Moallim AMIN (Somalia)

On behalf of the Somali Government and on behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate the elected DG of FAO, Professor Graziano da Silva. Also, I would like to congratulate the participants who freely participated in this exercise.

Somalia is suffering from a state of civil war right now, and recently droughts have compounded the civil war. Most of the people have been affected by the drought and that civil war.

A lot of people have migrated from Somalia to neighbouring countries seeking food and shelter and a safer place to live.

I believe Somalia's case is different than that of any other Member Nation of FAO, and should be treated and dealt with differently and be given a special consideration.

Mr Kebba Satou TOURAY (Gambia)

Gambia would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the Government of Gambia, to congratulate the Director-General elect Professor Graziano da Silva. We also would like to extend our thanks to the other five candidates for having run a dignified campaign.

On the same note, Gambia would like to put on record its appreciation for the contributions made by the outgoing Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf. Dr Diouf has contributed immensely to the development of FAO to where it has come now, so we hope that the incoming Director-General will continue the good work that Dr Diouf has left. Thank you very much.

M. Khadim GUEYE (Sénégal)

Ma délégation voudrait également joindre sa parole à ses prédécesseurs pour féliciter le nouveau Directeur général M. José Graziano da Silva à qui nous souhaitons tous nos vœux de succès à la tête de la FAO.

Je voudrais aussi rendre un hommage particulier à mon compatriote, le Dr. Jacques Diouf, pour le travail important qu'il a accompli lors de ces trois mandats à la FAO. À cette occasion, le Sénégal remercie tous les membres de la FAO qui lui ont fait confiance à trois reprises.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter tous les candidats qui ont démontré hier leur engagement, conviction et compétence à éradiquer la faim dans le monde.

Je félicite M. Moratinos, un bon candidat également au deuxième tour.

Le Sénégal renouvelle son souhait, fortement exprimé par ses plus hautes autorités, de voir des réformes profondes apportées à la FAO. En particulier et pour nous résumer très rapidement: le Sénégal souhaite des actions énergiques qui doivent être entreprises avec des ressources appropriées pour augmenter fortement les investissements et les climats agricoles des plus exploitants, ceci en vue de réduire fortement les différentiels de productivité qui existent entre les pays sous-développés et les pays développés, d'une part et d'autre part, augmenter la production des pays sous-développés, seul gage, de faire face à la volatilité des prix et la cherté des denrées alimentaires de première nécessité.

Mr Jaesoo KIM (Republic of Korea)

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva on his election and leadership. I wish him success in reforming and further developing the FAO.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

On behalf the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, we warmly congratulate Professor Graziano da Silva on his election as Director-General of FAO. Considering his intellectual capacity and his brilliant record of success against hunger in his own country, he truly deserves to lead this great organization.

My Government will fully work with Professor da Silva and support him. At the same time, we take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his great contribution to FAO and we wish him all the best in the future years.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (Venezuela)

Al igual que los oradores que me han antecedido y muy especialmente tomando las palabras del representante y Vice-Presidente del GRULAC, el Embajador Mario Arvelo de República Dominicana, queremos expresar nuestras felicitaciones al Doctor José Graziano da Silva. En particular, que haga llegar esta felicitación en nombre del pueblo de Venezuela y del Gobierno Venezolano tanto como para el Gobierno de Brasil, para el ex-presidente Luis Inácio Lula da Silva y para el pueblo brasileño.

Este es un reconocimiento que se vió desde el primer momento por nuestro Grupo Regional a uno de los fieles exponentes que tiene ese país en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, que es el objetivo y el mandato de esta institución. Ese hombre de calidad de ese país fue puesto a la orden de esta institución a través de su candidatura.

Me correspondió en dos oportunidades tener contacto con el Doctor José Graziano da Silva durante dos conferencias regionales realizadas en 2008 y en 2010, la última en Panamá, para la cual estaba ejerciendo la presidencia del GRULAC y nos correspondió interactuar y trabajar de manera denodada para que esa Conferencia Regional llegara al éxito, y así pudimos analizar en una semana toda la problemática de la Región y Sub-regiones. Allí presentamos todas las propuestas y que elevamos ante el Consejo y ante esta Conferencia que inicia sus debates regulares a partir de mañana.

Para mí fue una experiencia enriquecedora y así lo expresé al Grupo Regional. Creo que tiene la capacidad, el don de gente, la humildad, la capacidad de escuchar y de asimilar todas las inquietudes de cada uno de los Miembros y del Grupo Regional. Por lo tanto, le deseo el mayor de los éxitos al frente de esta institución.

Igualmente, quiero expresarle un reconocimiento muy especial al Doctor Jacques Diouf. Mi país y mi Gobierno tienen un agradecimiento especial con el por el liderazgo en estos dieciocho años en la dirección de la FAO. Durante su mandato, ocurrió uno de los hechos más importantes que ha tenido el mundo durante la Conferencia de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, que se realizó lugar en 1996 y que dio lugar a los objetivos de esa Conferencia. Venezuela ha cumplido con parte de esos objetivos y, posteriormente con los Objetivos del Milenio, y ha presentado los resultados a todos los Miembros y al Director General. Creemos que usted, Director General, ha hecho un gran esfuerzo para que efectivamente sea escuchada la voz de esta institución y sean atendidas por los Gobiernos las necesidades de cada uno de sus pueblos para poder erradicar el hambre y la pobreza.

Muchas gracias, Señor Jacques Diouf, por su ejercicio en esta institución y por su denodado esfuerzo durante tantos años de su vida. Le deseo el mejor de los éxitos. Al Doctor José Graziano da Silva, esperamos que en estos seis meses interactúe con todos los sectores que lo han apoyado y con los que no lo han apoyado, dentro y fuera de la FAO, para que pueda elaborar un programa de trabajo para contribuir a erradicar el hambre en el mundo.

Muchas gracias a todos los delegados por esta votación.

CHAIRPERSON

May I request delegations to make short statements in the interest of time, please. Yemen.

Mr Khalid Abdulrahman AL AKWA (Yemen) (Original Language Arabic)

In the name of God, merciful and compassionate, on my own behalf and on behalf of my Government, I am happy to thank you Mr Chairman for your sound and able leadership of this General Conference. May I also congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva wholeheartedly for his success in being elected Director-General for this Organization. I should like to reiterate our readiness to cooperate with him and help him in order to live up to our collective expectations, namely to help this Organization meet its goals. May I also take this opportunity to thank Mr Diouf for his valuable leadership. We wish him and wish all the other candidates the best of success.

Mr Jong Nam MUN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

On behalf of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva on your election as Director-General for FAO and wish you great success in your work in the future. On this opportunity I would like to also highly express thanks and appreciation to Dr Jacques Diouf for your excellent work not only for FAO but also for your sincere and thorough support for Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 18 years. I also wish you good success in your work and good health.

Sr. Teodoro NGUEMA OBIANG (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial quiere sumarse a las demás declaraciones y concretamente a la del Presidente del Grupo 77 y del Grupo de África, en felicitar al Dr. José Graziano da Silva por haber sido elegido nuevo Director General de la FAO.

Quisiera igualmente aprovechar esta oportunidad para felicitar a los demás candidatos que durante los últimos meses, han estado cerca de la FAO ofreciendo su visión y su punto de vista encaminados a erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Mi delegación reconoce igualmente el trabajo realizado por el Dr. Jacques Diouf al frente de la FAO durante 18 años.

Distinguido señor José Graziano da Silva, le deseamos éxitos y aciertos en su nueva responsabilidad.

M. Manuel Salvador DOS RAMOS (Sao Tomé-et-Principe)

Monsieur le Président, je vais être très bref. J'aimerais, tout d'abord, profiter de cette occasion pour féliciter Monsieur Graziano da Silva, notre nouveau Directeur général de la FAO et aussi rendre hommage à Monsieur Diouf pour sa contribution à la cause de notre Organisation. Nous voulons vous dire, Monsieur Graziano da Silva, qu'en tant que petit pays insulaire, nous comptons sur votre expérience dans le combat contre la famine un peu partout dans le monde. Merci beaucoup.

M. Mokhtar JALLELI (Tunisie)

Je souhaiterais saisir cette occasion pour féliciter Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, Directeur général élu de la FAO, en mon nom personnel ainsi qu'au nom de la délégation de la Tunisie et, bien entendu, au nom de la République de la Tunisie. Nous attachons en Tunisie une immense importance à nos relations avec la FAO ainsi qu'avec son Directeur général. Nous avons entretenu une excellente coopération avec Monsieur Diouf, et je souhaiterais à cette occasion le remercier infiniment.

Je tiens à dire que nous sommes prêts à coopérer étroitement avec le Directeur général élu, Monsieur Graziano Da Silva qui assumera la direction de l'Organisation. Mon pays souhaite indiquer qu'il est prêt à fournir un appui technique à cette Organisation et en même temps, nous espérons aussi pouvoir bénéficier de l'aide et de l'assistance de l'Organisation afin qu'elle nous aide à surmonter les problèmes que nous éprouvons. Ceci dit, je réitère nos félicitations au Directeur général élu. Je vous remercie.

Mr Hussain Rasheed HASSAN (Maldives)

On behalf of the Government of Maldives, and on my behalf, I would like to congratulate Professor José Graziano da Silva, for being elected as the Director-General of FAO. May I also congratulate the other five candidates for their conduct in this open, transparent and democratic election. The Maldives, as a Small Island State, low-lying, highly vulnerable to climate change, economically-disadvantaged country, would like to remind the new Director-General and the participants of this Conference of the fate of our country and other Small Island Developing States. We, the Small Island Developing States, seek your special attention and generous assistance in dealing with our increasing vulnerabilities in the face of climate change. Small Island Developing States have their own deficiencies and challenges. Agriculture and fisheries almost always on a tiny artisanal scale are a major challenge. We therefore urge the FAO and the Director-General to consider our special circumstances. Once again, we congratulate you and we congratulate the Conference delegates. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

Two Non-Governmental Organizations requested the floor. Exceptionally they can make short statements if the Conference agrees. Do you agree that they make congratulatory speeches?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The first one is ActionAid International.

Ms Ruchi TRIPATHI (ActionAid International)¹

Thank you Mr Chairman for providing space to Civil Society to add our congratulations to those of the Member Nations and Governments before us.

On behalf of ActionAid International, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, Oxfam International, Huairou Commission, Pesticide Action Network Asia and Pacific, la Plateforme Paysanne du Niger and fifty-four other Civil Society Organizations, I would like to place a statement on the vital role of women in agriculture and in rural development that we have released today.

In the midst of this food crisis, characterized by market volatility and an increase of the world's hungry by 44 million since June 2010, women and children living in rural areas are struggling disproportionately despite the huge contribution they make to agriculture. The FAO State of Food and Agriculture Report 2010-2011 writes that investing in women in agriculture could increase yields and decrease global hunger by 12-17 percent, or by between 100 and 150 million people. At the recent IV LDC Conference in Istanbul, UN Women's Executive Director Michelle Bachelet addressed governments, saying that "investments in rural women's access to productive resources and financial services can have critical multiplier effects on rural development." She asked the obvious question: "Why isn't this kind of investment happening?"

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Member Governments and newly appointed Director-General must respond to this question by acting now to provide leadership through a commitment to support women in agriculture and rural development. In particular, we urge the new Director-General and Member Nations to pledge to take these actions:

¹ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.*

Support gender mainstreaming in FAO's Programme of Work, allocating the necessary resources from FAO's Regular Programme budget for this to happen, and also setting clear targets as well as processes to monitor its effectiveness; invest in more research and gender-disaggregated data as the basis for better programmes targeted to rural women in all regions; hire more women experts in all areas of work to create a more gender-equitable institution; require all FAO staff to incorporate a strong women's rights and empowerment perspective to design and implement programmes at the institutional and country level (a 2010 audit of the FAO found that its overall gender ranking is low in terms of staff, resources and capacity. Clearly, the agency and its Member Governments can do better.); regularly engage with women civil society leaders, including organized groups of women producers and market women, to strengthen the direction and implementation of its work as implied in FAO's Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed), Effective Collaboration with Member Nations and Stakeholders (document C 2011/3); ensure that women's leadership and expertise feed into thematic areas of work such as guidelines and initiatives related to land, investment and food security that support stronger CFS; and promote the adoption and implementation, among Member Nations, of policies that protect women's rights to land and other productive resources, access to markets, finance, information and technologies, their capacity to organize themselves and participate in policy process, as well as protect rural women worker's wages and labour conditions.

In addition to procedural and budgetary matters, the new Director-General upon taking office should position the FAO as a leader on rural women, food security and agriculture by prioritizing these concrete actions at all high-level events, including the next UN Commission on the Status of Women that will take place in March 2012 focusing on "The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges."

If we do not invest in rural women's livelihoods, assets and decision making power, the Millennium Development Goals of reduced poverty and food insecurity will not be achieved. On the flip side, if we shift course to and take positive steps in this direction, we will see benefits today and in the future. Let us take urgent action.

Sra. Francisca RODRÍGUEZ (Comité para la Soberanía Alimentaria)

En nombre de la Sociedad Civil Organizada, del Comité Internacional de Seguimiento a la Soberanía Alimentaria y del Comité de América Latina, queremos saludar a los delegados todavía aquí presentes, a los candidatos por su gran trabajo y por la entereza mostrada en esta elección. También queremos saludar al Director saliente, que lo hará dentro de pocos meses, quien abrió las puertas a las organizaciones para que pudiéramos estar presentes en cada uno de los debates. Por último y por supuesto, queremos así mismo saludar a nuestro candidato de América Latina que hoy día asume esta tremenda responsabilidad ante el mundo.

Estamos seguros de que solamente con la voluntad política de los Gobiernos y contando con la participación de la Sociedad Civil Organizada, mediante su gestión que bien conocemos, ese sueño de John Lennon del que usted hablaba ayer será posible. Lo que necesita el mundo para poder superar el gran flagelo que hoy día tiene frente a la pobreza, al hambre y a la necesidad es que la agricultura campesina siga siendo la parte fundamental para alimentar al mundo.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite the Director-General to say a few words.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I would like to express our gratitude to the eminent personalities who put forward their candidature for the post of Director General of FAO. I naturally congratulate José Graziano da Silva for having been elected in the most democratic and transparent vote, as the next head of this Organization.

I have worked with Mr Graziano da Silva in the transition team of President Lula to prepare for the Fome Zero Programme that has been certainly one of the most outstanding successes in the fight against hunger. I worked with him as a Minister for Food Security of Lula's Cabinet and I had the pleasure also of working with him as Assistant Director General of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore, I have no doubt that FAO will be in good hands and that he will be able to lead

the Organization to more actions in the fight against hunger and to make it an even better Organization. So I wish him every success in this endeavor.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this concludes the work of the Conference for today.

I wish to thank the candidates, the tellers, the scrutineers and all those who took part in the ballot for the way the electoral process was run. Naturally, our congratulations and very best wishes go to the Director-General elect.

The fifth plenary meeting will open at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning with the Statement by the Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf. Please ensure you are here in good time.

The meeting rose at 16:56 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 56

Se levanta la sesión a las 16:56 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
27 June 2011

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:55 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 9:55 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

**Director-General's Statement to the Conference
Déclaration du Directeur General a la Conférence
Declaración del Director General a la Conferencia**

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the Fourth Plenary Meeting to order. The first item on our agenda this morning is the Statement by the Director-General. I am particularly honoured to invite Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO, to deliver his statement to this Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference of FAO, an Organization he has led with dedication over the past 18 years.

Mr Diouf you have the floor please.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson of the Conference, Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council, Distinguished Ministers, Honourable Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, let me welcome you all to Rome and especially those who have flown from far away, from different parts of the globe to take part in the work of the 37th Session of the FAO Conference which is of vital importance to the future of our Organization.

During the last few years, FAO has lived through some of the most exciting times. More recently it has had to face several challenges and heightened activity on different fronts, with the dual task of dealing with emergency situations and longer term food security issues while, at the same time, undergoing one of the most profound and comprehensive reforms in the history of the whole United Nations System. But, was the Organization well prepared to deal with all those challenges in an efficient and effective way, especially in a context of global food, financial and economic crises?

That is why I chose to focus my last speech for the FAO Conference today, not on the programmes and activities in the framework of the external environment as I did at earlier meetings, but rather on the reforms and changes that have taken place within the Organization during my tenure as Director-General in our collective efforts to make it more efficient and effective in serving its Members and accomplishing its mandate.

I had the privilege of starting my duty as Director-General of FAO on 1 January 1994. The programme that I proposed and which was approved by the Council in June of the same year became the basis for my actions. Its objective was to transform the Organization not only in response to the changing global context in a post-Cold War era but also to implement changes in the internal working environment with a view to put it in a better position for helping Member Nations and the global community to realize the vital goal of universal food security.

The Organization needed to overcome centralized procedures and modernize management methods. My objective was to align and streamline its structure with its priorities. A large proportion of FAO staff based at Headquarters needed to be closer to field activities. Office and communication technologies and new approaches to managing human resources had to be modernized. Information systems scattered on different platforms and disconnected databases needed to be integrated.

Moreover, the planning process of a two-year budget cycle and four-year Medium-term Plan had to be placed in a long-term Strategic Vision. It was clear to me at that time that FAO also had to face a new environment: political changes, transformation of the international economic system, declining aid flows to agriculture, liberalization of agricultural trade, growing pressure on natural resources, emergence of new actors on the development scene, increasing number of food emergencies and revolutionary information technologies in the field of communication and information.

I engaged right away in a comprehensive and consultative rethinking exercise to review the priorities, assess the structure and evaluate the working practices of the Organization in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate and become an international agricultural centre of excellence that facilitates access to knowledge worldwide.

Following a detailed review by Headquarters and field transition teams, FAO's programmes and actions were refocused on the central theme of food security and preventive action against transboundary pests and diseases of animals and plants. This was coupled with a plan to better corporate governance. Its objective was to decentralize operations, streamline administrative and financial procedures, improve planning and budgeting, modernize information and communication systems, improve budget arrangements while continuously striving for increased savings and efficiency gains through reduced costs of inputs, and process improvements and better cost recovery measures.

These elements constituted the pillars of the needed Reform and were incorporated in the process initiated back in 1994, developed further in 2005 and now embedded in the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, following the Independent External Review of the Organization.

Today we have a different Organization compared to 18 years ago. It is more horizontal, flatter and less hierarchical, with a structure that is results-based and more aligned with the set objectives. Managers, both at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices, work with greater delegation of authority and responsibility and stronger accountability.

The organizational structure at Headquarters has been changed to improve the coherence of FAO departments and enhance multi-disciplinary work in key areas, such as knowledge management and capacity-building, but also to meet the challenges of climate change, bioenergy and nutrition. Scattered units have been regrouped for a more effective clustering of responsibilities. Regular Programme support staff at Headquarters has declined by 54 percent. Director-level staff worldwide has declined from 261 to a mere 118. A new Headquarters structure was also put in place in January 2010, with a view to ensuring manageable spans of control, reducing potential silo effects and introducing flexible and delayed management methods at lower levels.

The first Strategic Framework was approved by the Conference in 1999, establishing a longer term perspective for FAO's work and guiding the Organization mission and vision, as well as its strategic objectives. The Medium-Term Plan defines objectives and outputs to ensure coherence with the two-year timeframe Programme of Work and Budget. With the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), a new results-based framework has been put in place starting in 2010. It allows the design of programmes and the adoption of processes for priority-setting and resource management.

The focus is not only on what FAO does, but also on the impact of its activities. The new Strategic Framework 2010-2019 articulates the Organization's vision and global goals set by its Members. The exercise has led to choices in areas of work to emphasize and de-emphasize during the coming biennium.

Today, the Organization operates with more streamlined administrative and financial processes and better planning, budgeting and accountability methods. The replacement of the old internally-developed financial and human resources systems: FINSYS, PERSYS and PLANSYS, by the Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning software has radically changed the way FAO does business, overcoming the limited and restrictive information system it experienced in the early 1990s.

The first component, covering the financial stream, was implemented in 1999, while the second component, dealing with human resources management and payroll, became operational in 2007. This new integrated system has significantly improved control of transaction flows and, through new management tools, enhanced the Organization's reporting capabilities.

As a result, business processes have benefited in terms of efficiency, timeliness and cost. It has also enabled a more effective management of human resources, aligning it more closely with Organizational goals.

In 2007, the Shared Services Centre, comprising a base in Budapest and two hubs in Bangkok and Santiago, was created as part of the ongoing effort to reduce administrative costs and achieve efficiency gains. This move allowed the Organization to consolidate, streamline and standardize a number of back-office administrative transactions to lower-cost locations, thereby achieving increased

savings. In this context, we consider as essential a further consolidation of the three hubs into one Global Single Centre.

With the implementation in 2010 of the Performance Management System (PEMS), FAO has been able to provide an improved and more comprehensive appraisal of staff performance while enhancing accountability and productivity across the Organization. PEMS also created an accountability link between organizational results and individual staff performance, a significant, tangible benefit impacting across the Organization and supporting it in managing for results.

Today, we have a decentralized Organization, acting more in proximity with the needs of Member Nations and making better use of local capacities. An office to support the Decentralization process and ensure intended results was created in 1994. Initially, five Sub-regional Offices with multi-disciplinary teams were established to serve clusters of countries, resulting in an 81 percent increase in the number of decentralized Posts. Now, FAO has a total of 13 Sub-regional Offices and multi-disciplinary teams endowed with a mix of skills to match the needs of covered countries. This has resulted in a more balanced staff distribution between Headquarters and the Field. Between 1994 and 2011, Regular Budget staff in the Professional category based in H decreased by 26 percent while it increased by 20 percent in Decentralized Offices. As a result, the ratio of Professional staff in the Field to those at Headquarters, excluding National Professional Officers, rose from 21 percent to 34 percent during the same period.

Moreover, the role of Country Offices has evolved from predominantly liaison functions to planning and carrying out the activities of the Organization at the country level. Duties for field project operations have been gradually transferred to Decentralized Offices and local links have been reinforced with the recruitment of high-quality national staff at much lower cost compared to the same level international staff.

The overall Decentralization effort accelerated significantly thanks to the additional resources made available by Member Nations. Key actions already completed include the involvement of Regional Offices in decision-making on policy and programme matters, the transfer to Regional Offices of the supervision of country-based technical officers and FAO Representatives, the management of non-emergency TCP resources in the Region and the increased delegation of authority in the areas of procurement and human resources.

Other ongoing actions include full integration of decentralized staff in the results-based management system. A review of skills mix in Regional and Sub-regional Offices increased staff training to better respond to new functions and evolving needs of Member Nations and increased use of modern information technology systems. The cumulative impact of all these actions is contributing in a major way to FAO "Functioning as One" with a more cohesive and integrated corporate workforce.

A clear demonstration of the growth in the decentralized network is evidenced by the fact that these offices now disburse USD 600 million annually, which is a 190 percent increase from 2004. As these Offices need the necessary tools and access to corporate systems to deliver effectively, FAO, along with the rest of the UN System, has a major project to implement International Public Sector Accounting Standards, called IPSAS, to ensure compliance with recognized and independent financial reporting standards and best practices required by Members and donors.

We are using the IPSAS project to introduce new operational and financial processes across the whole Organization. The Organization is now well-equipped with modern office and information technologies throughout the house, allowing staff to work more efficiently and effectively. Already by 1999, email services were extended to all Regional, Sub-regional, Liaison and Country Offices. Today all Offices have full Internet access and video-conferencing facilities have been installed in over 50 countries. This has greatly facilitated the exchange of information throughout the Organization and resulted in major improvements in the volume and quality of inter-office communication, as well as reduction in the time needed to address critical issues. It has also led to a more mobile workforce, facilitating FAO's response to emergencies and enabling rapid mobilization of staff at peak demand periods.

Today we also have an Organization with good corporate governance and more independent internal control processes. To better reflect the new vision for the internal oversight function and strengthen it, the Internal Audit Office became in 1997 the Office of the Inspector General and its mandate was strengthened. In 2000, a Charter for the office was developed, consolidating the various elements and Statement of the Internal Audit Regime to serve as a tool that is relevant, up-to-date and independent in the Organization.

In 2003, an Audit Committee, composed of five internal and two external members, was created to serve as an advisory panel to both the Director-General and Office of the Inspector General. A decision was subsequently taken to have only external members in the Committee as of 2008. FAO has therefore also achieved a better command over the implementation of audit recommendations. The Office of the Director-General has set the example with the introduction of a double signature by the Administrative and Finance Officer and by the Assistant Director-General for Administration and Finance for all payments made by the Office of the Director-General. Its operations have been audited by the Office of the Inspector General 180 times since 1994, and the reports reviewed during 70 meetings of the ODG Financial Position Committee.

FAO has also successfully performed its fiduciary responsibility in the management of more than USD 1 billion of investment holdings, both the short-term funds entrusted to FAO by donors to be spent on projects and the long-term funds set aside over many years to help fund the staff-related After Service liabilities. The strategic asset allocation of the investment portfolios were reorganized in 2004 by asset type and currency composition and new benchmarks were introduced to better reflect a prudential risk profile. These actions helped the Organization come through the global financial crisis of 2008-09 in a better shape than many of our peer organizations. With guidance from the External Advisory Committee on Investment involving experts from world-renowned institutions, FAO continues to adjust its investment mandates to keep pace with the higher inflow of Voluntary Contributions. It continues to see positive performance on the holdings and remains focused on ensuring the safety of these assets.

Today, we have an Organization with a strong financial position. Through the 1990s and up to 2007, FAO has suffered cash shortages due to unpaid contributions of Members to the Regular Programme and it was obliged to borrow up to USD 104 million from banks to pay for its operations expenses. Today, I am happy to report that FAO enjoys a Regular Programme cash position of more than USD 180 million. Our extra-budgetary resources from donors held in account for spending on projects have reached USD 900 million.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of its vision as a global technical organization, FAO was fully aware of the critical need to have a workforce reflecting both geographic and gender diversity. Thus, measures have been taken to increase the number of staff members from non- and under-represented countries, as well as the proportion of women in Professional and higher-level positions.

Today, while the number of Member Nations has increased from 169 in 1994 to 191, there are 41 non represented countries compared to 53 in 1994. Inversely, the number of over-represented countries declined from 64 to only 8. As a result, the percentage of nationals from over-represented countries on Professional posts included in the PWB has decreased from 51 percent in January 1994 to 18 percent in May 2011.

During the same period, the proportion of women in Professional, Director and Senior Management positions has risen from 16 percent to 34 percent.

In addition, significant progress has been made in finalizing the draft of the Human Resources Strategic Action Plan on gender balance. It has been revised to the newly-approved UN target of 50 percent in late 2010. Also, department and office geographic and gender targets for 2011 have been set in a corporate effort to meet the overall Medium-Term Plan targets.

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Independent Chairperson of the Council, Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me now give you some figures to better illustrate the tangible efficiency gains and the magnitude of benefits that have resulted from the reforms.

Our mutual efforts, Management and Member Nations, was recognized by the IEE noting, and I quote “the Organization and its Members can be credited with recognizing the importance of attaining efficiency savings in FAO administration and technical programmes in order to maximize scarce budgetary resources for technical work”.

The successive rounds of reform have yielded total savings in the amount of USD 111.9 million since 1994, broken down in the following categories: achieving lower costs of inputs for a total of USD 29.7 million per annum; streamlining of administrative and operational support processes totalling USD 34.2 million per annum; delayering of posts amounting to some USD 20.2 million; progressively aligning the human resources input mix totalling USD 13.2 per annum and increasing the funding base of the programme of work through improved cost recovery and extra-budgetary services yielding USD 14.6 per annum. All these figures have been confirmed by the Finance Committee.

These savings and efficiency gains were achieved despite the difficult financial environment faced by the Organization. From 1994 to 2010, FAO Regular Programme resources declined by 21 percent with total resources, including Voluntary Contributions but not those related to emergency assistance, dropped by a whole 26 percent. These have significantly impacted on the Organization’s capacity to finance needed changes and its workforce. The total number of staff employed by FAO declined from 5 560 in 1994 to 3 750 employees under all sources of funds as at May 2011. That is a 33 percent decrease. Yes, it was not easy but we did it with a reduction of 53 percent in the number of director-level positions in the Organization. But we had a consultative and transparent process involving all staff associations in the exercise. In the three or four major reductions in the number of posts, socially-sound solutions were always found in consultation with the Staff Representative Bodies to achieve all the necessary streamlining without a single staff member ever being forced to leave the Organization against his or her will.

In addition, the Organization is responsible for security of staff members at Headquarters and personnel in more than 110 countries. It also received thousands of visitors every year. Moreover, in 2005 FAO accepted the responsibility of Designated Officer for Italy of the United Nations. As a result, it is required to protect 6 400 UN staff members, their families and consultants/subscribers in Italy as well as the assets and premises of the 27 agencies for whom they work. In line with increased security concerns, the Regular Programme budget allocated to security has increased to meet these needs.

Mr Chairperson of the Conference, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let us now talk about the budget. We are now at a crossroads on the path of a more effective and efficient Organization that delivers results for Members. This Conference will not only provide guidance on the way forward on implementing FAO renewal, but it has also the responsibility of deciding the level of resources for the next biennium in the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013.

Just 18 months ago the Conference approved the new result-oriented ten-year Strategic Framework and four-year Medium-Term Plan to guide the work of the Organization. The Conference in 2009 also provided a vote of confidence in the direction FAO is taking by approving a budget level for 2010-2011 that has allowed us to fully implement the Programme of Work, including the package of reforms under the IPA. Our partners have echoed this confidence by providing 25 percent more in voluntary contributions than we had estimated for this biennium, enhancing therefore the impact of our work particularly in helping countries deal rapidly with the effects of food price volatility.

My proposal for the next biennium is evolutionary not revolutionary. It adheres faithfully to the results framework in the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013, yet it seeks to make improvements. For example, we have listened carefully to the views of the Regional Conferences and the Technical Committees on priorities of the work of the Organization. In doing so, we have identified areas of emphasis and de-emphasis within the Medium-Term Plan to better focus the work of the Organization. Members and the Secretariat recognize that there is room for improvement in setting priorities as we learn from

experience. Above all, we aim to deliver measurable results on the ground, bringing to bear FAO's global mandate at country level especially through high-quality policy advice, information capacity development and technical services.

I have always been conscious of the need for fiscal discipline in public expenditure. Our record in finding nearly USD 224 million per biennium in sustainable efficiency gains over the past 18 years speaks for itself. Some of these gains have been ploughed back into the technical work of the Organization while others have been used to offset the effects of budget reductions over several biennia. In preparing proposals for the next biennium, I have personally insisted that further efficiency gains be found in our administrative expenditures, heeding the call by the UN Secretary-General to do more with less.

Therefore, in the proposed PWB issued three months ago I have identified USD 26.5 million in new efficiency gains for 2012-2013 under the regular budget. These efficiency gains, together with the reinstated USD 10.4 million in one-time fortuitous savings have been reprogrammed in three ways. First, USD 10.6 million in savings, arising from IPA actions have been reallocated to fund the recurrent costs of ongoing IPA projects. Second, USD 10.4 million have been reallocated to strengthen FAO work in key mechanisms such as the renewed CFS Committee on Food Security and the IPPC, the International Plant Protection Convention, multi-disciplinary approaches to address issues of water, nutrition and food insecurity, increase in the capacity of our information and communication technology connectivity with Decentralized Offices. Finally, USD 15.9 million have been retained for technical and operation units to strengthen the implementation of their programmes.

I would be remiss if I did not highlight that a portion of these efficiency gains could be in jeopardy. The proposal to consolidate back-office transaction processing at the Global Shared Services Centre in Budapest will generate nearly USD 2 million in recurring efficiency savings. This is a well-considered proposition, and I must say that I am sincerely concerned about the difficulty to reach a consensus on these proposals. If this reform is not decided, USD 2 million in additional resources would have to be added to the contribution of Member Nations for 2012-2013.

I also note that the Conference will consider the recommendation of the Council to increase the budget of the Office of Evaluation by USD 1 million. If this proposal is confirmed, the source of funding will need to be identified.

In proposing the budget level to achieve the Programme of Work, I am clearly aware of the need to minimize the impact on Members' assessments in this period of difficult economic and financial conditions. Thus, the proposed net budgetary appropriation of USD 1.0469 billion reflects the guidance of the Technical Committees and the Governing Bodies with a 4.6 percent increase arising from two fiscal matters.

First, I have restored the USD 10.4 million of resources which were removed from the budget 2010-2011 by the Conference in 2009 as a one-time fortuitous saving. It was the decision of the Conference. The resulting increase has been slightly offset by USD 1.8 million decrease in the cost of the IPA, which is fully-funded from the net appropriation.

Second, the estimated cost increases to maintain purchasing power are now estimated at USD 37.8 million. This is a decrease of USD 10.2 million from the amount estimated in February and published in the Programme of Work and Budget in March. The update of the estimate is based on new information that became available at the end of April, primarily arising from the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission that are expected to have a downward impact on the future cost of personnel services. Additional information has been provided to the Conference on this matter.

Your Excellencies, I appreciate the commitment of Members to protect our programmes and I acknowledge the need for flexibility to deliver programmes while continuing to exercise fiscal discipline. I am committed to finding further savings to offset the impact of cost increases on the budget level for the 2012-2013 biennium, while protecting substantive programmes.

I have identified five areas where we will pursue further efficiency savings, by: reviewing and reducing the proposed post establishment; reducing the volume of duty travel; rationalizing the

preparation of information products; improving the recovery of costs associated with extra-budgetary activities; and seeking opportunities for covering some of our budgeted activities covered by core Voluntary Contributions under the integrated budget.

It is encouraging that Members have held constructive discussions in this regard, facilitated by the good offices of the Independent Chair of the Council with the support of the Secretariat, and I look forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

For the first time we will have an opportunity to adjust the Programme of Work and Budget proposals after the Conference to accommodate your decisions and guidance. I look forward to working with you in the coming days to agree on a budget level that would allow to fully implement the proposed Programme of Work, making every effort to do so in the most efficient and effective manner.

Your Excellencies, I have concentrated today on the reforms introduced since 1994. But reform is a continuous process through which FAO adapts to changing external environment in which it operates. Reforms can only be successful with the full and active support of staff, and I have been very fortunate in having the full and undivided support of staff throughout the Reform Process.

I took an opportunity earlier this year to gauge the understanding of, and the support for, Reform from our staff worldwide when I launched an Employee Survey. This has given us very valuable feedback from staff who indicated that more than 50 percent are deriving benefit from the major actions undertaken under the IPA Reform, and this is very encouraging. Employees also gave us feedback in the areas where we need to improve, and Management will be working with staff to develop actions to address those concerns.

I must express appreciation and admiration for the deep commitment and consistent support of staff members to a renewed and modern organization. The action of their sacrifice and giving, as well as those of their families, has not been quantified and may never be known. Most staff have been impacted by the Reform and despite the uncertainty and stress associated with profound changes, they have remained enthusiastic.

At the end of my term in December 2011 the Organization, I think, has a solid foundation from which the challenges faced by the new Millennium can be addressed in a more efficient and more effective way. The reforms carried out since 1994 have produced definite priorities, a more flexible structure, decentralized operations, modernized management and streamlined procedures, while fostering bonds among Member Nations, staff and partners.

I have myself seen the benefits of renewal. I have noted streamlined decision-making through delegations of authority. In my recent travels, I have witnessed firsthand more effective Country Offices, better trained and connected technologically, and more able to establish strategic engagement with government institutions and development partners through improved knowledge-sharing across FAO.

It is true that I will leave the Organization in which I spent a significant part of my life with, at times, some frustrations. But also with a lot of satisfaction I must say.

The vision I had 18 years ago is close to reality. I can see it, I can already feel it in many countries, in particular in Africa, now achieving food security. Today we have a transformed and renewed FAO that is leaner, more focused and fitter for the 21st Century. An FAO in which Members, Management and staff all work closely together as one team for the single goal of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty from the world.

Actions over the next 18 months will cut the Reform Process and I hope, in fact I'm sure, that my successor, José Graziano da Silva, who you elected yesterday, will build from the hard work we have tirelessly carried over those long years in our strife to make the hopes of the Founding Fathers of FAO come true. I trust that we will continue with the Reform, bringing the implementation of IPA to a successful conclusion.

Lastly, I want to say that the FAO we have today is the product of our joint concerted efforts and would like to thank all Member Nations for their confidence and their continued support all these

years, without which we would not have been able to be where we are today. And naturally, I should express my sincere gratitude to the Host Country, Italy, for its great support.

But I should like also to thank my wife and my family for their patience, despite my long hours of service at FAO and my many travels to Member Nations away from home. I am grateful for their great support during the different terms of my office.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you every success in covering the rich agenda that is before you this week.

Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Mr Diouf for providing such a detailed report focusing on the reform process to the Conference.

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council to the Conference **Déclaration du Président indépendant du Conseil à la Conférence** **Declaración del Presidente Independiente del Consejo a la Conferencia**

I now call on Mr Luc Guyau, Independent Chairperson of the Council, to deliver his statement. Mr Guyau is also Chairperson of two important fora, the Conference Committee on Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, and the Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to increase the efficiency of Governing Bodies, including representation. Mr Guyau you have the floor

M. Luc GUYAU (Président Indépendant du Conseil)

Ma première pensée va au milliard d'êtres humains qui souffrent de la faim et de la pauvreté. Ils sont notre seule et unique préoccupation. La faim et la malnutrition sont au cœur de la crise que traverse notre planète aujourd'hui. Oui, aujourd'hui et pas en 2050.

La crise est actuelle et les solutions à mettre en œuvre sont immédiates.

La FAO, conformément au mandat qu'elle a reçu lors de sa création le 16 octobre 1945, se trouve plus que jamais au cœur du combat contre la faim, que nous devons absolument intensifier dans toutes ses composantes, si nous voulons espérer le remporter. Il nous faut mobiliser toutes les énergies et engager le combat total pour vaincre ce fléau du XXI^{ème} siècle.

La Trente-septième session de la Conférence, qui nous réunit aujourd'hui, a sa part dans cette mobilisation. Son Ordre du jour est très dense, le thème principal du débat général: «Le rôle essentiel des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural». Ce thème est particulièrement pertinent. Les interventions des délégations devraient enrichir considérablement la réflexion politique et fournir des éléments tangibles pour une nouvelle approche de ce sujet.

Mais au-delà de ce débat, de ces échanges, l'enjeu de cette session est bien de prendre des décisions opérationnelles pour mieux adapter la FAO au combat contre la faim. Relever un tel défi passe par un niveau de consensus le plus élevé possible, et pour y parvenir j'en appelle à la solidarité entre les peuples et les nations à vaincre les égoïsmes nationaux et à tout faire pour que ce qui vous réunit l'emporte réellement sur les divergences, en réalité mineures, au regard de l'enjeu.

La FAO se doit d'être en ordre de bataille. Elle doit être la plus performante et la plus unie possible pour remplir la mission que la communauté internationale lui a confiée.

Depuis la dernière session du Conseil en avril, j'ai consulté plus d'une soixantaine de délégations. Le bilan provisoire du biennium en cours 2010-2011, les résultats attendus de cette session de la Conférence et les perspectives 2012-2013 indiquent que l'Organisation est sur la bonne voie, mais que tous les efforts doivent être maintenus et renforcés pour maintenir le cap.

Le bilan provisoire du biennium 2010-2011 indique que le processus de Réforme adopté lors de la Conférence spéciale en novembre 2008 se déroule comme prévu et porte ses fruits.

Les travaux du Comité de la Conférence dont vous m'avez confié la présidence ont permis de suivre l'état d'avancement et les effets de chacune des mesures du Plan d'action immédiate (PAI). Ce rapport sera présenté toute à l'heure devant la Commission II et chacun pourra vérifier dans le détail que la Réforme est une réalité.

La FAO se modernise vraiment et devient chaque jour plus forte pour affronter les défis qui surgissent sans cesse. Cette évolution favorable concerne d'abord le Conseil, dont les méthodes et le programme de travail, les performances et les modalités de rapport ont évolué vers plus d'efficacité. Comme prévu par le plan de réforme, le Conseil assure mieux son rôle exécutif, en particulier sur les questions de programme et de budget.

S'agissant du Groupe de travail ouvert sur l'efficacité des Organes directeurs, il n'existe pas d'accord sur l'évolution de la composition du Conseil. La Conférence devra statuer cette semaine, le cas échéant par un vote formel. Cependant, la plupart des Pays membres souhaitent arriver à une position commune. Je considère encore aujourd'hui que la proposition que j'ai formulée à cinquante six (56) sièges demeure un bon compromis entre les positions exprimées initialement. J'espère que les pays qui n'y sont pas favorables pourront rejoindre le consensus qui se dessine sur ce dossier sensible, qui mobilise les débats depuis plusieurs années. Toutefois, nous avons pu avancer sur d'autres sujets comme le suivi inter-sessionnel des travaux du Conseil qui sera effectué avec l'appui des Présidents de groupes régionaux, réunis en Groupe informel.

Le biennium 2010-2011 aura également été celui de l'évolution des Conférences régionales en véritables Organes de gouvernance. Dans la semaine, dès aujourd'hui d'ailleurs, les présidents de ces cinq (5) Conférences viendront vous présenter leur rapport en se concentrant sur les éléments politiques, après être intervenus devant le Conseil sur les aspects de Programme et de budget.

Il s'agit d'une évolution déterminante de la gouvernance de l'Organisation qui permet une meilleure prise en compte des priorités régionales, tout en consolidant l'unité et la cohérence d'action.

Avec la Réforme du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), adoptée en 2009, c'est une pièce supplémentaire de la construction d'une nouvelle gouvernance mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dont nous savons qu'elle est un élément indispensable à la lutte contre la faim. A cet égard, le pôle romain des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture confirme une fois de plus sa place prépondérante.

Le biennium en cours aura également été celui de l'intégration du budget régulier et des contributions extra-budgétaires. Le projet de programme de travail et du budget (PTB), qui vous est proposé par le Directeur général et qu'il a commenté, met en application cette disposition majeure du plan de Réforme. Elle permet d'avoir une approche exhaustive de l'ensemble des financements dont dispose la FAO pour l'exécution de son programme.

Je n'ai cité que quelques avancées, les principales, et vous pouvez constater que ce bilan est déjà conséquent. Nous sommes dans un biennium de transition car nous passons d'un schéma de gouvernance à un autre. Dix neuf (19) mois seulement auront séparé les deux Conférences au lieu de vingt quatre (24). Il reste un semestre avant d'entrer dans le biennium suivant, 2012-2013. Lors de cette dernière étape, je rappelle que le Conseil de novembre aura la possibilité de procéder à des aménagements à l'intérieur du PTB, si nécessaire, sans modifier bien sûr le niveau de budget décidé par la Conférence vendredi.

Pour conclure sur ce point, nous pouvons faire le constat que la FAO a changé fondamentalement, que ce changement décidé par les Pays membres va dans la bonne direction, mais qu'il doit être poursuivi et surtout renforcé.

Il convient ici de saluer le Secrétariat et le Directeur général pour leur action de chaque instant en faveur du Processus de réforme.

Passons maintenant à cette session de la Conférence et à ses principaux enjeux. Vous avez désigné hier le nouveau Directeur général, M. Graziano da Silva. Permettez-moi de lui adresser à nouveau toutes mes félicitations pour ce succès et pour la confiance que les pays ont placée en lui. La tâche qui l'attend est considérable, et je ne doute pas qu'il saura l'accomplir avec l'aide de tous. Pour ma part, je lui marque solennellement devant vous mon soutien permanent et total, dans l'intérêt supérieur de l'Organisation et bien sûr dans le respect des fonctions de chacun.

Je saisis cette occasion pour féliciter également Jacques Diouf, qui a tant apporté durant ces longues années à l'Organisation, et je vous propose d'ailleurs de les applaudir chaleureusement dans l'unité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Merci. La Conférence débute à peine et, outre ce qui concerne les Conférences régionales dont j'ai déjà parlé, deux sujets méritent une attention particulière:

d'une part, le projet de programme de travail et de budget: à l'issue du Conseil d'avril, un groupe d'amis du Président a été mis en place pour proposer un niveau de budget de manière consensuelle. Nous progressons sur ce sujet. Je conserve bon espoir que nous parvenions bientôt à un accord, le vote étant prévu, comme je le disais, vendredi. Cet accord devra concilier la préservation des programmes et la recherche permanente de nouveaux gains d'efficacité, une exigence à laquelle aucune structure d'ailleurs ne peut désormais échapper. Les récentes propositions du Secrétariat, que le Directeur général vient de commenter, concernent cinq (5) axes supplémentaires d'économies. Cela va dans la bonne direction et témoigne du dialogue constructif établi entre les différentes parties prenantes;

Et puis d'autre part, le projet de révision de l'Acte constitutif concernant le format de la composition du Conseil: tout a été dit, tout a été discuté sur ce sujet, depuis plusieurs années. J'ai moi-même, comme je disais, présenté une option de compromis. Ce pourrait être un point d'équilibre, acceptable par la plupart d'entre nous, mais maintenant la décision elle vous appartient. Là, comme ailleurs, le temps est à l'action.

Vous savez que ce biennium ne sera pas terminé à l'issue de cette session. Plusieurs échéances de premier plan nous attendent au second semestre 2011. Outre la session du Conseil de novembre, que j'ai déjà évoquée, permettez-moi d'en souligner trois:

Premièrement, la 37^{ème} session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) qui examinera, notamment, le projet de «Directives volontaires sur les gouvernances responsables des régimes fonciers des terres, pêches et forêts» ainsi que les dossiers de la volatilité des prix et aussi de «Genre, sécurité alimentaire et nutrition». Deux ans après l'approbation de la réforme du CSA par la Conférence de la FAO, le travail accompli est impressionnant et permettez-moi d'en féliciter le Président du CSA et tout son bureau;

Deuxième temps fort, le Sommet du G20 de Cannes: la semaine dernière, j'ai assisté aux travaux de la première réunion des ministres de l'agriculture du G20 à Paris. Le plan d'action sur la volatilité des prix alimentaires et sur l'agriculture y a été adopté et devrait être repris par les chefs d'État et de gouvernement à Cannes. Ce projet est destiné à être partagé par tous. C'est une étape essentielle de la lutte contre la faim et, je dois le dire ici, la FAO voit son rôle reconnu, renforcé et particulier dans le traitement de l'information, l'alerte précoce et la coordination politique internationale, et du travail en perspective;

Enfin, ce second semestre sera l'occasion de préparer le cycle des cinq Conférences régionales qui se dérouleront début 2012. Il s'agit d'une phase essentielle d'harmonisation des travaux et des résultats de ces instances en vue d'une meilleure intégration dans la gouvernance globale de l'Organisation.

Concernant le biennium 2012-2013, outre la poursuite de la Réforme, un processus permanent, évolutif et désormais pleinement intégré dans le fonctionnement quotidien de l'Organisation, c'est une évidence que de dire que votre prise de fonction M. Graziano da Silva sera pour la FAO un moment fort de son histoire. La mission qui vous est confiée, qui nous est confiée, par

la communauté internationale est immense. Vous pourrez compter sur l'appui de nous tous ici présents pour l'accomplir.

Notre objectif est clair: une FAO réformée et forte pour mieux lutter contre la faim.

A l'agenda trois thèmes apparaissent comme essentiels:

La décentralisation et son articulation avec le rôle des Conférences régionales en respectant l'impérieuse nécessité de conserver à la FAO son unité et être plus proche du terrain tout en maintenant la cohérence d'ensemble. Voilà un défi majeur à relever.

Autre point : la fixation des priorités. Il sera nécessaire de mieux focaliser l'action de la FAO dans les domaines où elle a un avantage comparatif. C'est un travail permanent qui doit être poursuivi et affiné en lien bien sûr avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies à Rome comme dans les autres secteurs multilatéraux.

Troisième point, et le Directeur général y a fait allusion: la mobilisation de financements extra-budgétaires, ce qui passe notamment par une amélioration de la fonction de plaidoyer et de communication externe, ainsi que par l'émergence de financements innovants pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Comme Jacques Diouf nous répète inlassablement, le secteur agricole a besoin d'investissements massifs et tout de suite. Les finances publiques souffrent dans tous les pays, ce qui nous impose de trouver des fonds ailleurs, dans le partenariat avec le secteur privé certainement, mais aussi en imaginant des sources nouvelles, des mécanismes innovants. C'est à cette fin d'ailleurs que la FAO a intégré le groupe pilote en 2010, lequel s'est réuni en fin de semaine dernière à Bamako.

Pour ces deux ans, je tiens à vous dire solennellement que si vous le souhaitez je suis prêt à poursuivre la mission que vous m'avez confiée en 2009 avec le Conseil que vous aurez désigné vendredi. Je me tiens à votre entière disposition pour joindre mon expérience et mes efforts aux vôtres, pour rendre l'Organisation toujours plus performante.

En conclusion, je voudrais simplement vous dire que la solidarité entre les pays, la cohésion et le consensus ça marche. Le multilatéral agricole ça marche. C'est comme cela que la communauté internationale a réussi à éradiquer la peste bovine de la planète, permettant du même coup de sauver des millions d'éleveurs et de garantir un meilleur approvisionnement de la planète en protéines animales.

Nous devons rester soudés et mobilisés.

Mais la solidarité ne concerne pas que les gouvernements. C'est l'affaire de tous et d'abord de tous les agriculteurs, de tous les éleveurs, de tous les producteurs, et de la société civile dans son ensemble.

Il n'y a pas de modèle agricole unique. Pour nourrir la planète aujourd'hui comme demain, nous avons besoin de toutes les agricultures, de la pêche et de la forêt. Alimentation, nutrition et agriculture sont définitivement indissociables et doivent intégrer les contraintes de disponibilité en eau, d'utilisation des sols ainsi que celles du changement climatique et de la protection de l'environnement.

Ce sont les paysans du monde qui sont en première ligne, quelque soit leur pays, ou leur système de production. Pour qu'ils continuent de nous nourrir, il faut leur redonner la fierté et l'espoir, c'est à dire reconnaître que leur rôle est capital tout en rémunérant au juste prix les aliments qu'ils produisent. Sans eux, rien ne peut se faire.

Depuis bien longtemps et dans toutes les civilisations, nous savons que la faim est mauvaise conseillère au sens que celui qui souffre perd sa capacité de jugement, n'est plus maître de soi. La somme des comportements irrationnels pouvant finalement menacer tout un groupe ou un pays. Cet adage vieux comme le monde est aujourd'hui encore d'une brûlante actualité. Malgré nos immenses progrès technologiques, la lutte contre la faim ce n'est pas seulement de la compassion. L'agriculture ce n'est pas seulement une activité à impacte économique, social ou culturel; c'est une activité stratégique pour un pays et pour une région. C'est pour cela que le rôle de la FAO est vital en diffusant le savoir, en aidant à la conception des politiques, en produisant des normes et des lignes directrices sur la base du dialogue multilatéral. La FAO guide ses Membres dans la bonne direction, celle d'une humanité libérée de la faim et de la pauvreté, en équilibre avec le monde qui l'entoure.

Mesdames et messieurs, lutter contre la faim ce n'est pas une priorité, c'est la priorité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

35. Any Other Matters

35. Autres questions

35. Asuntos varios

35.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 2011/INF/6)

35.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen (C 2011/INF/6)

35.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen (C 2011/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Sub-item 35.2 on the Agenda, the presentation of the B.R. Sen Award for 2010. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a prize of USD 5 000 and a roundtrip for the winner and spouse to attend the Conference Session in Rome.

I should like to ask the Director-General to introduce the two winners who have been selected and to present the Sen Award for 2010.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Sen Award is presented in honour of the former Director-General, Mr B.R. Sen, to the FAO Field Officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security in the country or countries to which he or she has been assigned.

I shall be presenting the Award for the year 2010 to two very deserving winners:

Mr Jean François Gascon and Mr Adrianus Spijkers.

Mr Gascon, a national of France, will receive the Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution while serving as Emergency Coordinator in Rwanda where the agricultural emergency and rehabilitation programme he developed together with the Government constitutes the basis for long-term agricultural programming in Rwanda.

Mr Spijkers, a national of the Netherlands, is receiving the Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution in assisting the rural poor of Bangladesh to recover from natural disasters and progress towards sustainable food security, while serving as FAO Representative there.

The two Sen Award winners are now enjoying a well-deserved retirement. I know what it is to prepare to go to retirement, and I wish to congratulate them and to express the Organization's appreciation and gratitude for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the advancement of sustainable agriculture and rural development in their assigned countries.

CHAIRPERSON

I invite Mr Jean-François Gascon to come to the podium to receive his award and address the Conference.

M. Jean-François GASCON (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

Je reçois aujourd'hui avec gratitude, fierté et humilité ce Prix B.R. Sen 2010. Cette nomination, endossée par le Gouvernement du Rwanda, représente pour moi la plus grande récompense professionnelle de ma carrière. À ce prix qui m'est solennellement attribué je voudrais associer tous ceux qui, à partir du siège de la FAO et au Rwanda, ont contribué, d'une manière exemplaire, à la réussite du programme agricole d'urgence.

Permettez-moi de souligner deux points qui me semblent d'importance. Le premier est qu'en 1994, face à la guerre et au génocide que le Rwanda venait de connaître, la FAO représentait alors, pour le Gouvernement de ce pays et pour les différents intervenants, le cadre le plus approprié pour

coordonner le soutien matériel et technique aux millions d'agriculteurs en détresse. L'Organisation, jusqu'alors essentiellement dévolue à des actions de développement, a eu, à ce moment-là, la remarquable capacité d'élargir son domaine d'intervention aux opérations agricoles d'urgence, donnant ainsi le coup d'envoi à d'importants programmes de secours à travers le monde.

Le deuxième point est que la réussite du programme d'urgence au Rwanda est principalement due au fait que les capacités techniques, matérielles et financières de la FAO ont pu s'intégrer d'une manière cohérente à une politique agricole nationale appropriée, solide et dynamique. C'est cette combinaison qui a permis d'apporter, dans une situation de crise, un soutien déterminant aux agriculteurs et éleveurs rwandais.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Gascon and congratulations. I now invite Mr Spijkers to the podium to receive his award and address the Conference.

Mr Adrianus SPIJKERS (B.R. Sen Award Recipient)

It is a great honour for me to stand here today to receive the B.R. Sen Award. I am sincerely grateful to all those who worked with me to make this happen: both to the FAO team in Dhaka, and to those in the Government of Bangladesh with whom we worked.

I remember the challenges both FAO and I faced in the 25 years I served in Viet Nam, China, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Bangladesh. The role of FAO has grown during that time, from one of providing technical support to governments to one of working together with governments as partners in development. The time I spent in Bangladesh in developing this partnership was particularly challenging. Mr Chairman, FAO and the Government of Bangladesh worked together through the global food price crisis and recurrent flood and cyclone disasters; then in drafting an ambitious Country Investment Plan and in preparing a comprehensive development plan for the southern part of the delta.

While Bangladesh's achievements in agricultural development were recognized through the Ceres Medal awarded in 1999 to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and the A.H. Boerma Award to Mr Shykh Seraj in 2008, it is now an honour for me to receive the B. R. Sen Award for my work in this great nation. I wish to use the award money to benefit a small village in southern Bangladesh and am grateful to the Bangladesh Agriculture Minister, Madam Matia Chowdhury, for her encouragement. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my wife and to my family who supported me in all my undertakings. I thank you very much!

35.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 2011/INF/7)

35.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma (C 2011/INF/7)

35.3 Entrega del Premio A. H. Boerma (C 2011/INF/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Sub-item 35.3, the Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, a biennial prize given to a writer or journalist whose writing or work on radio or television has increased international awareness of world food problems and measures to resolve them.

The award consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize for a total of USD 10 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winner and to present the Boerma Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It gives me pleasure to present the Boerma Award 2010-2011 to one of the world's leading journalists on global agricultural commodity markets and trade, who has helped to focus public attention on important aspects of the world food problem, Mr Javier Blas of The Financial Times.

It gives me pleasure, not only because of Javier Blas' pre-eminent role in commodity reporting, but also because I remember Javier in the front rows of FAO press conferences dealing with a broad

variety of global food and agricultural issues. His questions are always incisive, provoking, critical and invariably followed by an objective well-argued article.

In bestowing this award, I recognize the important role played by Javier Blas and The Financial Times in focusing international attention on FAO's work.

From the outset, his coverage has highlighted the strong link between food price volatility and food security. As a result, his writing not only focuses on market analysis that is important to investors, but also on the political and social implications of price movements and market developments for the poor and disadvantaged.

Javier Blas' reporting has been vital for raising the international profile of food security and farm production issues among market observers, economists, policy-makers and the general audience. His factual and independent writing has been instrumental in alerting the international community to the risks associated with high food prices and the urgent need to address the root causes of excessive price volatility.

He was among the first who acknowledged FAO's work on food commodities, market analysis and global information and early warning.

At the same time, Blas' coverage has also been innovative by following a multi-media approach including video clips, blogs and other social media tools.

He was instrumental in establishing The Financial Times online Food Crisis Portal, and regularly features FAO information and interviews in his reporting. His work has given the issues of hunger and poverty in the Third World and the situation regarding farmers in developing countries a high profile on the pages of the one of the world's most influential financial dailies.

I wish to recall that this Award was established by the FAO Conference in 1975 as a tribute to the leadership of Dr Addeke Boerma, FAO Director-General from 1968 to 1975.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Director-General. I invite Mr Blas to come to the podium to accept his award and address the Conference.

Mr Javier BLAS (A.H. Boerma Award Recipient)

I am deeply honoured that the FAO is recognising my reporting at The Financial Times over the last few years with the Boerma Prize.

Agriculture and chronic hunger are usually not seen as a topic of interest for business newspapers, which often are more interested on the latest merger of a company or the latest movement on Wall Street. However, at The Financial Times we have reported intensively on this issue of global food security over the last few years.

Nothing would have been possible without the strong support of my editors and colleagues. The FT backed me in multiple reporting trips, from a visit to Minneapolis in the US Midwest to see and talk to the world's largest traders of agricultural commodities, to a trip to Ethiopia to personally witness the daily tragedy of chronic hunger.

Lionel Barber, the FT's editor, always encouraged me to focus on the area, so did many others in the newsroom in London. I would not name all, but let me thank a few. In particular, Jane Crust, until recently my day-to-day News Editor, was passionate about agricultural commodities and the issue of food security. She was always supportive and edited brilliantly my, often, confusing copy. My colleagues Jack Farchy in London and Gregory Meyer in New York helped on many stories and covered my absences when I was travelling. I'm very grateful to both of them. Both should be here today sharing this prize.

How all has started, well let me continue please in Spanish, my mother tongue and one of the official languages of the FAO.

Continúa en Español

Uno de mis primeros recuerdos, quizás de cuando tenía cuatro o cinco años, es la cosecha de trigo en la pequeña granja de mi abuelo materno en el norte de España. Mi recuerdo es de una cosechadora roja, con cabina abierta, cosechando trigo. Quizá fue la fascinación por la cosecha, quizá fue el tiempo que pasé en la granja familiar, quizá fue algo totalmente diferente. Pero lo cierto es que siempre me atrajo la agricultura y el papel que las materias primas agrícolas, tienen en la economía mundial. Y esa atracción encontró un hueco de expresión cuando me incorporé a la plantilla del Financial Times en el año 2007 como el reportero de materias primas. A mi familia pues debo este premio: a mis padres y a mi hermana.

Continues in English

The Boerma Award is the most prestigious in the field of agriculture and food security. I am, therefore, honoured to receive it from the FAO. I follow a long list of reporters and journalists who have excelled in the field: names, in particular, such as Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman of the Wall Street Journal and authors of the fantastic book 'Enough' about global hunger.

Following in their footsteps is an honour for me.

However, it would be inappropriate to me to accept the money of the award.

First, it would send the wrong message about my independence as a journalist. Second, I honestly do believe there are better uses for the money than just having it myself. For that reason, I have decided to donate the USD 10 000 of the prize to a non-governmental organization working in the field of food security. I am pleased to report to the Conference that I will donate the money to Action Against Hunger, the international NGO that is running life-saving programmes in more than 40 countries and benefiting 5 million hungry people worldwide.

I know that just USD 10 000 would not do much to resolve global hunger. There are many, many challenges. But I do hope that it will help.

In the meantime, I can promise to you, the Conference of FAO, that I will continue writing about agriculture and food security, as I did over the last years, in the hope that I may bring global attention to this critical issue.

35.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 2011/INF/8)

35.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma (C 2011/INF/8)

35.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma (C 2011/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed to Sub-item 35.4, the presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award for 2010 to 2011. The Saouma Award, which was established in honour of FAO's Director-General from 1976 to 1993, is awarded every biennium to an institution which has successfully implemented a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll and a cash prize for a total of USD 25 000. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winners, and to present the Saouma Award for 2010-2011.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I am pleased to announce that the Edouard Saouma Award 2010-2011 has been granted jointly to the State Veterinary Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Forest Management Bureau of the Philippines for their outstanding contribution to the implementation of two TCP projects: a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina to support sustainable and healthy aquaculture production, and a project in the Philippines to promote assisted natural regeneration application for forest restoration. Mr Sanin Tankovic, Secretary General of the State Veterinary Office, and Ms Neria Andin, Assistant Director and Officer-in-Charge as Director of the Forest Management Bureau, will receive the Award on behalf of their teams.

The Award is in recognition of the dedication and professionalism of the staff of these two institutions and their exceptional capacity to mobilize support from key partners, and to build consensus around

the innovative approaches promoted by the projects. Thanks to the sustained commitment of these institutions, projects have triggered significant catalytic effects. In particular, the hard work of the State Veterinary Office has enabled Bosnia and Herzegovina to acquire a licence to export fish and fish products to the EU market, whereas in the Philippines, the Forest Management Bureau was instrumental in securing significant additional funding to maintain and expand the project achievements.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Sanin Tankovic to the podium to receive the Award and address the Conference.

Mr Sanin TANKOVIC (Edouard Saouma Award Recipient)

I am very pleased and honoured to be able today to share with you my happiness of my country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and my own at receiving the prestigious Edouard Saouma Award for the implementation of a TCP project aimed at strengthening aquaculture health management in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This award proves that with professionalism and assistance from institutions like FAO, small countries like Bosnia and Herzegovina can make significant progress in the field of development. Today, I am very proud to say that through this project Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant improvements in aquaculture, especially in terms of educating various groups of stakeholders, especially fish producers and veterinary inspectors and also the veterinary sector at both the regional and central levels. This project has resulted in the number of very important strategic documents in aquaculture, and has helped to increase export of fish and fishery products to the European market. Besides improving questions of hygiene surrounding fishery products and aquatic animal health control by strengthening of laboratory capacities, the greatest contribution that this project has made is helping citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina connect with each other and with experts across the region. The project has also established useful contacts for worldwide experts in aquaculture.

Once again, I would like to thank FAO and its experts. I must mention Dr Melba Reantaso and Dr Rohana Subasinghe. I don't want to minimize the role of the other FAO experts and the staff but they are mostly people who I was contacting during that project and for their generous assistance in strengthening the development of aquaculture in Bosnia and Herzegovina. And finally I would like to thank the persons who helped me and supported me all the time for this great event for my country and myself today.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Tankovic and congratulations.

I now invite Ms Neria Andin, to come to the podium to receive the Award and address the Conference.

Ms Neria ANDIN (Edouard Saouma Award Recipient)

Receiving this very prestigious Edouard Saouma Award 2010-2011 is certainly a great honour. Thank you so much for recognizing the contribution of the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of the Philippines. The hard work, dedication and strong commitment of the men and women and partner institutions behind the Assisted Natural Regeneration project, especially the members of the Steering Committee, the National Coordinating Office and our field operations counterparts in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources headed by Secretary Ramon Paje; the technical guidance of Mr Patrick Durst of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; and the full support of the FAO Representation Office in the Philippines led by Mr Kazuyuki Tsurumi, paved the way for the successful implementation of the project. The mainstreaming and upscaling of Assisted Natural Regeneration as a low-cost alternative restoration strategy in partnership with Non-Government Organizations such as the Bagong Pag-asa Foundation, or This New Hope in English, Local Government Units, Peoples' Organizations, communities, private sector entities and various government agencies in the Philippines shall be replicated in other areas under the Philippines' National Greening Program and other Environment and Natural Resources initiatives of the country. The National Greening Program is a national convergence initiative of the Philippine Government or ENR, National agencies like the Department of

Environment National Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Agrarian reform will be playing major roles. The assisted natural regeneration is a forest restoration strategy under this national greening program from 2011 to 2016. The cash award that we have received today shall be ploughed back to our ENR partner communities to expand the application of the assisted natural regeneration home enterprise development for women in their respective project sites in the community-based forest management project.

This award deepens our commitment to restore forest cover, conserve biodiversity and enhance the full range of environmental, social and economic functions of the forest. It is an opportunity and a challenge that we gladly accept. We hope that our experience will motivate more partners, not only at the national level, but also at the regional and global levels.

On behalf of the Philippine delegation, we have with us headed by Undersecretary Serrano of the Department of the Agriculture, our Ambassador Romeo Manalo of the Philippine Embassy to Italy and Ambassador Tuazon of the Philippine Embassy to the Holy See.

Maraming salamat po, Mabuhay, long live!

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ms Andin and congratulations. Now we will have a two minute video show about the project.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

35.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 2011/LIM/11)

35.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (C 2011/LIM/11)

35.5 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (C 2011/LIM/11)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed with Item 35.5, the Margarita Lizarraga Medal. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winner for 2010-2011.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

In November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga Medal to be awarded every two years to a person or an organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The Medal pays tribute to Dr Margarita Lizárraga, Senior Fisheries Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost 40 years, especially in developing countries.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), has been selected as the recipient of the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for the biennium 2010-2011. NACA has contributed significantly to the development and promotion of sustainable aquaculture in the Asia and Pacific Region, and continues to serve as a cohesive intergovernmental forum for the formulation of regional policies, as well as cooperation and coordination in aquaculture research, development and training. In particular, NACA has made remarkable achievements in the areas of environment and aquatic animal health, support to small-scale fish farming, promotion of better management practices and aquaculture certification, thereby demonstrating an outstanding application of the Code.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call on Professor Sena De Silva to come to the podium to receive the award and address the Conference.

Mr Sena DE SILVA (Margarita Lizárraga Medal Recipient)

I am deeply honoured and privileged to accept the Margarita Lizárraga Medal on behalf of the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific, its 18 Member Governments, its Governing Council, past and present staff, and many friends of the organization in recognition of NACA's persistent and concerted efforts and endeavours over the last 22 years towards sustainable development of aquaculture within the broad framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

We at NACA which we are popularly known as, are humbled by the recognition bestowed on us by this Award.

To our understanding this is the first time ever that this Award has been made in recognition of endeavours in the aquaculture sector which, in turn, is also a recognition of the sector's gaining importance as being a significant contributor to the global food basket, provider of critically-important livelihoods, in particular to the rural poor, and an ever-increasing contributor to food security and poverty alleviation on this planet.

This award gives us strength and encouragement to continue to pursue our endeavours with increased vigour and determination.

It is also important to recognize the important role that FAO has played in the birth and then the subsequent nurturing and development of NACA. NACA sees itself almost as a prodigy of FAO, and hopes that this strong relationship will continue and grow. We note, for instance, the first ever Aquaculture Ministerial Conference to be held jointly with FAO and the Government of Sri Lanka in July 2011. This will be the first time ever that such a high-level policy dialogue is held and this is a good example of the type of collaboration that NACA and FAO have developed over the years.

NACA will continue to work to contribute to the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in its endeavours, particularly to safeguard and improve the well-being of small farming communities, and to play a catalytic role to assist other regions in the sustainable growth of aquaculture development.

NACA wishes to dedicate this award to the millions of small-scale farmers, their resilience, adaptability, determination and endurance all of which have enabled them to keep pace with the aspirations of a globalized community.

Substantive and Policy Matters

Questions de fond et de politique générale

Cuestiones de fondo y de política

10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1)

10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1)

10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now continue with Item 10, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. There are two background documents for this item, C 2011/2 and C 2011/2-Add.1.

I give the floor to Mr Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Department who will introduce this item.

Mr Ghanem, you have the floor.

Mr Hafez GHANEM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

The theme of this year's Conference is Gender in Agriculture and that has also been the theme of this year's State of Food and Agriculture document that is available to all of you.

As we all know, the agriculture sector has been underperforming in many developing countries and one of the main reasons why it has been underperforming is that women, who make a significant

contribution to the rural economy in all developing countries, frequently lack access to the resources and opportunities to make the most productive use of their time.

The message from the Presentation that I want to make to you today is that gender inequality imposes real costs on the agriculture sector. Imposes real costs on food security. It imposes real costs on economic growth and broader social welfare.

Closing the gender gap in agriculture is not just the right thing to do, it is not just a human rights issue, but it also makes good economic sense.

Presentation

Présentation

Presentación

CHAIRPERSON

As you will recall, the Conference has been invited by the Council to focus the general debate on the State of Food and Agriculture at this session on the theme of “The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development”.

Statements by Heads of Delegation

Déclarations des chefs de délégation

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación

South Africa, China, Kuwait, Italy, New Zealand, European Union.

I shall now give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who requested speaking time in advance.

In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to respect the five-minute limit. Please remember that if you run out of time, the full version of your speech can be submitted to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Verbatim Records of this Session.

I shall now call upon the first speaker, South Africa, Her Excellency, Tina Joemat-Petterson, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Republic of South Africa, to take the floor.

Ms Tina JOEMAT-PETTERSSON (South Africa)

Only unity and collective efforts of all FAO Member Nations will bring about change. The millions of hungry and starving individuals have their hopes vested in us. Despite our serious global challenges, we still have hope. Dr Graziano da Silva, the Director-General elect of FAO is the symbol of that hope.

We thank Dr Diouf on behalf of all South Africans for his relentless efforts in fighting food insecurity. Dr Diouf, your impressive and detailed report to Plenary this morning displays your incisive leadership of this Organization despite all the challenges you face, including budgetary constraints. As you hand over the baton to Dr Graziano da Silva, we are extremely hopeful that we will not betray the expectations of the hungry, malnourished and the poor.

Please allow me to thank and congratulate the FAO on the hosting of this most successful and historic Conference. On 26 June 1955, a group of ordinary South Africans congregated in Kliptown, Soweto under the banner of the Congress of the People and the forebearers of our democracy President Mandela, Sisulu and Oliver Tambo to adopt the Freedom Charter. One of the founding principles of the Freedom Charter was, and I quote: “The land shall be shared amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger,” unquote. If South Africa could bring about a peaceful end to apartheid oppression, then it is within our ability to strengthen global food security.

We can improve the quality and diversity of agricultural production. We need to develop nutrition-sensitive agricultural policies in all parts of the world. Together, we can eradicate hunger and malnutrition!

South Africa is very optimistic that through support for partnerships such as the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), FAO could make the strong contribution to agricultural development.

We need to encourage development and implementation of further programmes in agriculture and rural development that promote sustainable production. Better market information, access to markets, increased investment in research and technology development, and infrastructure remain our priorities. Small-holder farmers must be placed at the centre of rural economies, since they represent the majority of the food insecure in developing countries. Increasing their production and access to markets will improve access and affordability of food amongst the most vulnerable.

South Africa will host the Seventeenth Conference of Parties in Durban during December 2011. It is vital to include agriculture, food security and land in the climate change negotiations. The FAO, African Union, World Bank and the Government of South Africa will host a High-level event to launch an Early-Action Programme on Climate Smart Agriculture. We call on this FAO Conference to support the elevation of agriculture to achieve global climate change goals and the “triple win” of enhanced agricultural productivity and incomes, climate resilience and carbon sequestration.

The theme of this year’s Conference boldly endorses The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. South Africa remains committed to eliminating hunger, fighting the scourge of HIV and AIDS and empowering women.

To this end, we have already started the search for a woman to be the successor of Dr Graziano da Silva. We have very good candidates for the position of Director-General. This Conference should be the last Conference in which all the candidates for the position of FAO Director-General are all men.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon Hang Changfu, Minister for Agriculture of the Peoples’ Republic of China to take the floor.

Mr Changfu HAN (China) (Original language Chinese)

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to review with you the State of Food and Agriculture in the world, to share experiences in combating food crises and hunger, explore the valuable role of women in agriculture and rural development and jointly promote and ensure global food security.

The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to national food security and placing agricultural growth, rural development and farmer’s welfare as its top priorities. From 1949 when the People’s Republic of China was founded to 2010, China’s grain output increased from over 100 million tonnes to 546 million tonnes. The *per capita* grain availability jumped from 200 kilogrammes to 400 kilogrammes. China has managed to address the issue of food security for a population of over 1 billion. This year has witnessed great bumper harvests of summer grains, and now there are abundant grain reserves, sufficient supplies and overall stable prices in China. Farmers’ income has increased year after year. The number of rural populations has shrunk by a big margin. Social programmes in rural areas have speeded up this development. Farmers’ production and living conditions have been continuously improving.

In the meantime, China has been actively engaged in international agriculture cooperation. China has provided assistance to the best of its ability to some developing countries under the framework of South-South Cooperation. China has played an active role in grain productivity and agricultural production in developing countries.

Chairman Mao, the founder of the People’s Republic of China, once said that women can hold half of the sky. As industrialization and organization speeded up in the new era, a large number of rural males went to cities for job opportunities leaving rural women the arduous family duties of looking after children and parents. They are also the major force in agricultural production and rural development. Nowadays, women account for a majority of the labour force in cropping, forestry and animal farming. Women have played an indispensable role in the achievements of China’s rural and agricultural development.

Before the founding of PRC, patriarchy dominated Chinese society for thousands of years, and women were only subordinates of men. Since 1949, the Chinese Government has adopted legislative, administrative and economic measures to empower women and safeguard their equal rights and

opportunities which has enabled women to play their irreplaceable role in the economic and social development of China.

First, relevant laws on women's rights and interests were improved, making gender equality a basic national policy. The Constitution of PRC stipulates that women share equal rights with men in all aspects. The rule on the protection of rights and interest of women especially formulated for this topic has detailed provisions for all rights and interests that women should have. In addition, the law on land contracting in rural areas provides that women shall enjoy equal rights with men.

Second, organizations were established to safeguard women's right and interests. The China Women's Federation, a mass organization, was founded with the mission of representing women and safeguarding their rights and interests. The Chinese Government earnestly promotes and encourages rural women to engage in activities of villagers' self rule. It is stipulated by law that there shall be women members in the village committee to represent villagers' self rule. Basic education was promoted to build women's capacity in rural areas. Since the Chinese Government enforced the nine-year compulsory education in 1986, illiteracy of women has dropped by a big margin. China has launched a programme to bring girls who have dropped out of school back to the classrooms in poverty-stricken areas, and started the Caring for Girls programme to protect the rights and interests of women and children. Technical training and development programmes were launched to improve the market competitiveness of rural female labourers. Many initiatives were launched, including the campaign of learning culture and technology competing with each other for achievements and contributions for rural women. The programme of education and training for millions of new generations of female farmers has provided training to hundreds of millions of women. The action plan of Water Cellars for Mothers calls for donations for cellar building for farmers, especially women, living in severe water shortage areas of South-western China. The financing of discount measures for guaranteed micro loans is expanded to rural women to encourage business start-ups and employment.

Of course, improvements need to be made in the protection of women's rights and interests, in particular in rural areas in this large developing country. Their status in society is yet to be improved as economic and social development moves onto a faster track. The Chinese Government is actively exploring measures to cope with China's reality.

Global women's rights and interests are encroached, to various degrees, by cultural traditions, local ethics customs and even laws in developed and developing countries alike. All have historical or traditional reasons. China is ready to join hands with countries in the world to work for the rights and interest of rural women, their wellbeing and agricultural development. Therefore, China proposes that:

First, principles of gender equality shall be adhered to and efforts shall be made to advocate respect for women and to eliminate all laws and regulations that infringe upon women's rights and interests or shackle their development. It is necessary to eliminate gender discrimination in particular in employment, and provide women with equal and fair treatment.

Second, technical training and financial support policies shall be developed to make more finance information and technical training available to rural women, and therefore enhance their engagement in community management.

Third, basic education shall be vigorously promoted to raise the school enrolment of rural girls.

Fourth, historical and cultural traditions and religious beliefs of all countries shall be respected. Efforts should be made to explore ways to safeguard women's rights and interests that fit the reality of the country.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite His Excellency, Jasem Mohammad Habib AL BADR, Chairman and Director-General of Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries of the State of Kuwait, to take the floor.

Mr Jasem Mohammad Habib AL BADR (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

It is an honour to begin by conveying to you our greetings on behalf of the Crown Prince of Kuwait. I would like to take the opportunity to wish this Conference full success and I hope that its achievements will be commensurate with the expectations of the nations of the world.

It is my pleasure to thank Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director General of FAO for having invited us to participate in this Conference. It is an honour to have the opportunity to address you on the efforts which we have been putting in place to contribute to building food security and promoting agricultural development around the world. We have managed to achieve quite a bit as indeed has Director-General Diouf in strengthening this organization and in improving its efficiency since the beginning of his term in office. We would like to wish him health and success in the years to come both personally and professionally. I would also like to congratulate the Director-General elect, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and wish him full success as he takes over as Director General of this Organization and takes it forward towards achieving its noble goals of offering a better standard of living, stability, social peace and food security to the world's nations. I would also like offer my congratulations to the Conference Chairman and his Vice Chairmen. We are convinced that your ability, your skill and your knowledge will be able to bring the Member Nations of this of Organization together so that we can work shoulder to shoulder to pursue our goals and adopt the appropriate recommendations and discussions which will allow us to do that.

In looking at the world today, it is difficult not to feel the burden of the tragedy of developing countries who continue to fight the problems of poverty and of hunger. The work of this Conference will no doubt shed further light on the very difficult and serious situations they face *inter alia* as result of a lack of food supplies and as a consequence of the drought which has struck many countries over recent years. This also puts an increasing burden of responsibility on our Organization. Despite the fact that figures indicate its budget is going to continue to shrink, the situation it is trying to deal with means that it must be given the resources it needs and it must also make better use of the resources available. We know that it is very likely that the prices of foodstuffs will continue to increase over the next few years. That will exacerbate the already difficult situation in the poorest countries. We are talking about rapidly reaching a total world population of nine billion people, and we are going to need a food production boom if we are going to be able to cope with that. We are talking as we know about doubling world food production in the next 50 years or so. On this point, I would like to link what progress we can make in our plans of action and the money we allocate from our national budgets to agriculture on to how we deal with this problem. We need to increase the resources we spend on agriculture, but we can only do that if we have a financial system that enables us to do so. Only then will we be able to boost food production.

The state of Kuwait would like to use this opportunity to appeal to all the worlds' wealthy nations to respect their commitments when it comes to providing technical and financial assistance to developing countries. It is essential that we also exchange information and experience, because that will help those countries to strengthen their institutions and that will enable them to tackle their problems with the latest and most modern technological tools available to them. We are an active member of the World Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, and we shall continue to be. In conclusion, I would like to wish this Conference full success and I hope that its decisions will enable us to tackle the world's problems efficiently.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon His Excellency Francesco Saverio Romano, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policy of the Republic of Italy, to take the floor.

Mr Francesco Saverio ROMANO (Italy) (Original language Italian)

It is a great honour for me to be here today, and to address an audience where almost all the countries of the world are represented.

May I first of all express my personal satisfaction because today we begin to see the outcome of the work done in L'Aquila on the occasion of the G8 Summit which in 2009 led to what is now a different political agenda because today food security is at the head of the multilateral food agenda.

We are living at a time of increasing concern due to certain political and economic processes. For some time now, little is being produced and what is being produced is badly produced. Consumption is bad and there is a great deal of waste. Indeed, there is a huge imbalance between supply and demand due to many and varied factors that underlie them, namely the way in which we are treating our planet. If we use our resources poorly – and I am not just thinking of our agriculture and food resources but also water resources, environmental resources – we will cause a growing and greater imbalance between our various populations. There are some who waste so much, and there are others who have so little that they die. To this question of ours, we have to immediately provide an answer.

There is a greater demand for food worldwide, but there is no corresponding increase in supply. Indeed, agricultural production is increasing, but not in a way that corresponds to demand. That is why the main commodities: wheat, maize, soya, rice, etc show a drop in production. In fact, they are at their lowest level for many decades.

My country, working in synergy with other partners, not just European ones, working hand in hand with international organizations, is committed to finding concrete and sustainable solutions to what appear to be one of the most serious problems facing the planet in the future, that is, finding the balance between food supply and demand.

Last week, at the Paris G20 Summit, we already tried to provide some answers to these problems. It was a success solely because it was the very first time we had a G20 meeting dealing exclusively with food security. This is the start of a new path which will strategically involve this institution, too.

The action plan that we have drawn up at the G20 constitutes an historical result which is designed to guarantee the food security of the whole planet. Transparent production and consumption data is of vital importance and can contribute to market stability and to providing greater guarantees to producers by limiting tensions and speculation that could have even more dire consequences. Without transparency, speculation will continue. We need this transparency and speculation, we all know, is one of the main causes for this lack of balance.

In this context, I would like to welcome the implementation of the IPSAS System at FAO which is a good choice and the right answer. For this system to work, it is indeed necessary for the private sector to be involved, too. Even through different kinds of cooperation with the public sector, the new system should make the most of already existing resources.

In this context, the Committee on Food Security must continue to play its leading role in harmony and together with a rapid response forum, a body which will be created in order to ensure coordination among national authorities.

I think that the path chosen at the international level outlines for FAO an increasingly significant and central role, especially in our search to find efficient solutions for food security in governmental and international policies.

FAO can and must play an increasingly important role in showing the way and leading targeted actions to tackle this dramatic problem, and to reduce its effects on people.

May I take this opportunity, therefore, to convey my most sincere congratulations to the new Director-General elect, a man of great experience and knowledge who, I am sure, will bring added prestige and efficiency to this Organization.

An analysis of the general context makes me believe that today's subject is most definitely topical and of primary importance, only if we are able to look ahead in agriculture. Women as entrepreneurs are a fundamental element, not merely because of their traditional activities but in particular because of their proven ability to develop the multi-functional aspect of agriculture, paying particular attention to safeguarding the environment and promoting innovation. Granting equal opportunities to the men and women who live and work across Europe is one of the priorities of our actions at the national and

European levels. This principle is one of the guidelines of the policies for support to rural areas, where it is vital to involve women in the process of building social capital, economic livelihoods and improving the quality of life to make these parts of the world more attractive.

The new European strategy with the European Commission 2020 document clearly states this as a priority, and strengthens the right and need for the equal participation of women in social and economic development in rural areas as well. We want intelligent, inclusive and sustainable growth. This is a prospect which will be useful for stimulating strategies for qualifying human resources in rural areas, involving behaviour based on the long and medium term and sharing of work between men and women within the family and the labour market in such a way as to allow women to improve their competencies and skills throughout their existence and thus combine their family and social lives with the demands of the labour market.

In this sense, I am therefore proud to say that Italy began focusing on the role of women a long time ago. Since 1997 we have been working on setting up a national observatory for entrepreneurship of women in agriculture. This is a body made up of representatives from ministries, professional organizations, local agencies and research institutes. To facilitate a system-wide approach and foster and promote women as entrepreneurs in our National Strategic Plan for Rural Development, we have envisaged a package that we call Women's Package, and this offers women entrepreneurs in agriculture the possibility of intervening in different enterprise areas from production to processing. To prove our future commitment, may I highlight that my Ministry has committed to guaranteeing equal opportunities and this is one of the main criteria for rural development planning after 2013.

I would like to conclude by repeating a concept I firmly believe in and which I hope will become increasingly more valued and stronger. Women in agriculture have always represented a fundamental resource, and even more so today in a world that needs greater inclusiveness and solidarity.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite His Excellency, David Carter, Minister for Agriculture of New Zealand, to take the floor.

Mr David CARTER (New Zealand)

I would like to convey New Zealand's warmest congratulations to Senhor Graziano da Silva for his successful election to Director-General yesterday. New Zealand looks forward to working closely and constructively with him.

The election of a new Director-General could not have come at a more important time for FAO. Sixty-six years ago, this organization was formed to tackle hunger amongst the world's people. To date, it has failed in this task. Rather than reducing, the number of hungry and malnourished has increased, to around one billion people. Therefore, FAO needs to be fundamentally reformed to address the enormous challenges that it faces.

The new Director-General has a unique opportunity to reinvigorate FAO, by modernising it, reconnecting it with its Members, completing the implementation of the Reform package and slashing unnecessary bureaucracy.

It is critical that FAO performs to its full potential, and this means we all must acknowledge the past failures of this Organization.

I would now like to turn to the matter of climate change, as you cannot address food security without addressing the consequences of climate change. When I addressed the World Summit on Food Security in 2009, I laid out New Zealand's ambitions for the Global Research Alliance.

Today the New Zealand-led Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases has brought together 36 countries with a mutual interest in researching ways to produce more food while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We believe that the Alliance has a vital role to play in ensuring food security by accelerating international research efforts in this area, and that it will deliver valuable solutions for food producers.

With a focus on scientists and not politicians, and with a comprehensive level of international buy-in, I am confident that the Alliance will deliver real results to meet the twin challenges of food security and climate change.

From New Zealand's perspective, we have demonstrated our commitment to the work of the Alliance through the provision of around USD 40 million in funding. This contribution has been more than matched by many other countries.

The Global Research Alliance is a shining example of practical, focused and realistic action needed if we are to meet our food security goals.

I would now like to make some comments on the role that trade can play in reducing poverty and alleviating hunger.

There is absolutely no doubt that if we are to achieve food security, we must achieve a free and open international trade system that allows food to be produced in the most efficient locations.

It is only common sense that food should be produced in the areas of the world that are best suited to doing so, by those who are more efficient at doing so.

It is deeply regrettable that collectively we have not been able to address the distortions that penalise efficient producers, and impair the opportunities for farmers in developing countries to lift themselves out of poverty and to make their contribution to the alleviation of hunger. It is incumbent on all nations to pursue policies that actively remove these distortions.

While it was pleasing to see the recent meeting of the G20 Agriculture Ministers recognise the need to break down trade barriers to ensure food security, words in themselves are not enough. We need to see stronger endorsement of free trade from FAO and the G20. We need to see real action to end trade protectionism.

FAO is at its turning point. Its challenges and its mandate are immense. It has made mistakes in the past, and been anything but effective in meeting its founding goals.

However, with fresh leadership, a clear focus and productive policies New Zealand remains optimistic that an effective international response to food security can be delivered. For the sake of almost one billion people across the world who are hungry today, let's hope our optimism is not misplaced.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now call upon the last speaker, His Excellency, Andris Pierbalgs, Commissioner for Development of the European Union.

Mr Andris PIERBALGS (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the documents provided which give us important information on price developments on international and domestic markets, as well as important evidence of The Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.

The EU appreciates the FAO Global Food Price Index and the Global Food Price Monitor (GIEWS) as valuable sources of information. The EU agrees that it is necessary to develop policy responses in order to mitigate and manage the risks associated with sharp food price volatility and is engaged in international fora, like the G20. In this respect, the EU has been supportive of improving the collection, analysis and dissemination of food security information and will continue to support the work of organizations like FAO, especially the set-up of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

The EU also agrees with the analysis that enhanced investment in agriculture is key to boosting its contribution to growth, especially in developing countries. Agriculture and food security have been identified as major areas of intervention for the future EU development policy.

For this to be successful, it requires partner developing countries to identify agriculture as a priority sector in their national economic strategies. We, therefore, call on national governments to develop multi-sectoral food security strategies identifying objectives, benchmarks and timeframes and defining responsibilities among actors. The EU is prepared to share its experience in this area, especially on agricultural policy formulation.

Furthermore, the EU reiterates its strong commitment to gender equality as a human right, a question of social justice and a core value of the EU development policy. The EU considers *The Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development* as crucial and is committed to gender mainstreaming in order to ensure that existing gender inequalities are highlighted and can be addressed.

The compilation of gender-disaggregated statistics on land ownership and access to productive resources is an essential prerequisite to gender mainstreaming. In 2007, 30% of farm holders in the EU were female. For the Member States which were in the EU in 1990, the share of female farm holders has increased from 19% to 27% of total farm holders between 1990 and 2007. In 2007, 43% of the agricultural work force were women.

The EU therefore welcomes that FAO in its 'Review of the State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011' is focusing on this important horizontal issue for development. The EU agrees with the conclusion of the report that gender inequality negatively influences productivity in the agricultural sector, and is thereby affecting food security and nutrition. Women with the same access to and control over productive resources as men could reduce the number of hungry people by 12-17%.

In its policy framework to assist developing countries in addressing food security and nutrition, the EU emphasizes the need to focus on sustainable agricultural intensification for smallholder farmers, and in particular women. This can be done by mainstreaming gender in providing support for effective and sustainable national policies, strategies and legal frameworks, and for equitable and sustainable access to and control over resources, including land, water, finance including micro-credit, insurances and other financial services, knowledge and other agricultural inputs. When women have more influence over economic decisions and greater bargaining power, it results in improving child nutritional status, which influences health, education and overall productivity.

The EU also agrees with the conclusion of the report that agricultural gender issues are location-specific and are best addressed through tailored programmes. The EU's rural development programmes provide for specific support to rural women through tailor-made aid schemes to promote female entrepreneurship in rural areas. In addition, the LEADER+ programme provides considerable scope for projects directed at women, such as business start-up initiatives and advisory services.

The MDG on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MDG 3) is still lagging behind. This shows that action today has not been sufficient, and that we need to step up issues considerably. In June last year, the EU adopted a Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development (2010-2015), including several initiatives to support women in agriculture.

The EU emphasizes the importance of specific investment for women in rural areas, both due to the investment's high yield potential and the human rights aspects. Furthermore, it urges FAO Members to integrate gender equality in agriculture and rural development in Poverty Reduction Strategies and Food Security Strategies, as well as in the budget cycle in conformity with the Aid Effectiveness Agenda.

The EU expects FAO and other UN Agencies to work together in achieving gender equality in agriculture, and welcomes joint initiatives such as the FAO – IFAD – ILO paper on "Gender Dimensions of Rural and Agricultural Employment: Differentiated Pathways Out of Poverty". Furthermore, we welcome that the newly-established UN Women will work closely with FAO, UNDP, ILO and IFIs to develop a transformative UN strategy to advance women's economic empowerment, with a special focus on rural women.

We expect the new Director-General of FAO, as he commences his work, to put full emphasis on integrating and mainstreaming gender into the work of the Organization. For these efforts to produce

maximum results, and for FAO to be able to realize its full potential overall, he will need to make sure that the reform efforts needed, and taking place in the Organization are decisively taken forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you your Excellency. Now we have an announcement. Let's hear from the Secretary General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Chairman, as indicated in today's Conference Journal a Side Event is starting now on "A Dialogue on Women in Agriculture: Where to after SOFA?" co-hosted by the United States of America and Kenya. This is taking place in the Austria Room, C237, and Heads of Delegations are kindly invited to attend.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of the morning Session, so we will reconvene at 14:30 hours in the afternoon.

The meeting rose at 13:05 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.05

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
27 June 2011

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:50 hours

Mr Pietro Sebastiani,

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 50

sous la présidence de M. Pietro Sebastiani,

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 14:50 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Pietro Sebastiani,

Vice-presidente de la Conferencia

- 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture** (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continued)
10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (suite)
10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continuación)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Indonesia, Cameroon, Lebanon, United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Colombia, Malaysia, Mali, Myanmar, Slovakia, Thailand, Algeria, Mexico, Guinea, Lithuania, Lesotho, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Islamic Republic of Iran, France, Ghana, Azerbaijan, Angola, Uruguay, Japan.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call the 5th Plenary meeting to order please. We will now continue with Item 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

Mr SUSWONO (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to congratulate the newly-elected FAO Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva from Brazil. We do hope that with the new Director-General in place, the FAO current reform process will continue and that the Organization will transform itself into an agile, transparent, less bureaucratic, decentralized, effective and efficient organization, in order to achieve global food security, sustainable agriculture and poverty eradication. Indonesia will always be part of FAO in the effort to implement these goals.

I also would like to give high appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his long service and achievements.

I come before you today with appreciation for what FAO has taken on in facing the challenge of rising global food prices. The rising food prices have caused hundreds of millions of people, who were already living in grave situations, to lose their main staples of life.

Governments in many parts of the world have been working hard to find solutions and to develop mechanisms to overcome this phenomenon, to protect people and communities, and to reduce the number of poor and undernourished.

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia has anticipated this global challenge by introducing comprehensive policies which are aimed to achieve sustainable food self-sufficiency, to promote food diversification, as well as to increase farmers' welfare. This year, as a response to FAO warning of possible global food insecurity, Indonesia is to double its efforts to increase staple food production in order to have significant surplus of staple food as national reserves.

The role of women takes a prominent position in the development of agriculture and rural economy in Indonesia. More than 50 percent of the total female labour force in Indonesia works in the agriculture sector. Beside their customary role in agriculture, women have also a crucial role in the determination of food security at the household level.

My Government has adhered to the principle of substantive and non-discriminative equality, as well as the principle of gender equity and equality stated in the Women's Convention. In doing so, we have applied gender mainstreaming in our National Development Policy which stipulates gender as an integral dimension of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and development activities.

Our policies in agriculture, fishery and forestry promote gender mainstreaming through rural participatory community empowerment, such as the Village Agri-business Development Programme and Food Self-Reliance Village Programme. These activities not only have benefited women, but they have also increased income in poor communities, including those located at the coastal and near-forest areas. These programmes improve participation of women and, at the same time, lessen gender gaps in various fields.

The main challenge that we face today is the fact that gender is bound to social and cultural norms that limit women only to contribute in household economics, and to assist men in their agricultural activities. Certainly, this problem has to be resolved through a process of cultural change, among others, through the change of mindset of the society in terms of women's role and women's empowerment in order to increase their capacity to enter labour markets.

Having said that, my Government stands ready and keen to engage in further cooperation with Member Nations and all organizations in capacitating women's role in agriculture and rural development. We must work together and continue our effort to lift the role of women through international cooperation and making use of all international organizations.

In conclusion, food security at the household level is a building block of the national and global food security. For that reason, the role of women in the household food security becomes very essential. In this context, the development of food security which is closely tied to the empowerment of women is indispensable.

M. Jean NKUETE (Cameroun)

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Distingués invités, Mesdames et Messieurs. C'est avec un réel plaisir et un agréable devoir que je prends la parole pour m'adresser à cette trente-septième session de la Conférence de notre Organisation.

Permettez-moi, en cette importante et mémorable circonstance, de saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour remercier chaleureusement le Gouvernement italien pour son hospitalité manifestée à l'endroit de notre délégation depuis notre arrivée à Rome, la cité éternelle, et en profiter pour renouveler à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, l'engagement du Cameroun, dans la défense des idéaux nobles de la FAO pour la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la pauvreté dans le monde. L'élection du Directeur général à laquelle nous avons consacré les deux premiers jours de la Conférence, au-delà du fait qu'elle nous a donné un nouveau Chef de l'exécutif, a constitué un moment fort d'expression démocratique au sein de l'Organisation.

C'est le moment pour moi de féliciter chaleureusement Monsieur Graziano da Silva pour sa brillante élection à la tête de cette importante Organisation et lui assurer le soutien continu du Cameroun dans l'exercice de ses fonctions qui porteront toujours, j'en suis persuadé, les questions de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la nutrition au devant de la scène internationale. Permettez-moi de rendre un hommage mérité à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO pour son engagement à l'échelle mondiale pendant trois mandats consécutifs, en faveur des questions d'alimentation et de sécurité alimentaire.

Les Sommets et Conférences de haut niveau ou extraordinaires qu'il a initiés pour ce faire, en sont des preuves tangibles. Je salue aussi tout le soutien qu'il a apporté aux réformes difficiles mais opportunes dans lesquelles la FAO est embarquée. En dix-huit ans de travail acharné, d'abnégation, de volontarisme et de détermination, Monsieur Diouf a su redonner à la FAO sa dimension multilatérale et universelle. Cela ne serait donc que justice, si un prix lui était dédié en reconnaissance de l'ensemble de son œuvre. Qu'il me soit permis enfin de dire un mot sur la Cérémonie du 25 Juin 2011 en rapport à la Déclaration de l'éradication mondiale de la peste bovine. Ceci est un résultat extraordinaire, car c'est la première fois qu'une maladie d'origine animale ayant des conséquences sur la sécurité alimentaire est déclarée éradiquée à l'échelle mondiale.

Monsieur le Président, en choisissant comme thème central de la Conférence le rôle essentiel des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural, les États membres ont certainement considéré que les inégalités qui existent aujourd'hui entre les hommes et les femmes ont conduit à l'accès de la population aux facteurs de production tels que la terre, le capital ou les autres ressources méritent qu'on en débâte pour une prise de conscience globale en vue d'orienter les politiques nationales dans la prise en considération des actions liées au genre.

Pour ce qui concerne notre pays, nous pouvons affirmer que dans la perspective de la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire, pour le développement en relation avec le genre, nos efforts appuyés à une

amélioration substantielle de la situation de la femme dans tous les secteurs de la vie publique et privée, faisant d'elle une actrice plus qu'incontournable pour le développement agricole et donc pour le développement global. En marge des actions spécifiques développées, en direction des femmes et des jeunes, cette partie de la population vulnérable est systématiquement intégrée dans notre combat pour la sécurité alimentaire au Cameroun, lequel s'est traduit dans la stratégie de développement du secteur rural, elle-même étant une déclinaison sectorielle de la stratégie nationale pour la croissance et l'emploi. C'est le lieu, une fois de plus pour remercier le Chef de l'État, son Excellence Paul Bia, qui a remis l'agriculture au centre des préoccupations et des priorités de la nation.

Cette stratégie sectorielle s'appuie sur la modernisation de la petite agriculture et la promotion des moyennes et grandes unités de production ou agriculture de seconde génération et s'est fixée pour objectif d'augmenter les productions agricoles et alimentaires afin de couvrir les besoins domestiques tant en ce qui concerne l'alimentation humaine que l'alimentation animale et les agro-industries, approvisionner substantiellement les pays voisins et accélérer les exportations pour le marché international, réduire le chômage des jeunes et assurer la paix, la sécurité et la stabilité sociale. L'opérationnalisation de ce qui précède est réalisée à travers des programmes et projets qui tendent à faciliter l'accès au facteur de production et autres intrants agricoles tout en renforçant la restructuration du monde rural. Ces actions sont renforcées par la mise en place de la Banque agricole, d'une usine de production des engrais et des unités de production de machines agricoles, la réforme foncière en cours, l'appui à l'installation des jeunes, la réforme de la Chambre d'agriculture et la reprise du comice agro-pastoral national et agricole régional.

C'est le lieu pour exprimer toute la gratitude et la reconnaissance du Gouvernement camerounais aux partenaires techniques et financiers bilatéraux et multilatéraux qui nous accompagnent tous les jours dans cette croisade acharnée contre la faim et l'insécurité alimentaire. Pour terminer, Excellence, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais redire notre conviction selon laquelle, les échanges engagés au cours des assises, comme celles-ci apportent inéluctablement leur concours précieux à l'élaboration ou aux ajustements politiques nationales de développement agricole. Aussi, j'ose croire et j'en suis d'ailleurs convaincu, que les travaux des Commissions I et II ne délogeront pas à cette règle. Je vous remercie de votre bienveillante attention.

Mr Hussein HAJJ-HASSAN (Liban)

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un plaisir pour moi que de participer à cette Conférence générale au nom du Liban. Je voudrais féliciter le Directeur général élu, Monsieur Graziano da Silva. Je lui souhaite un grand succès pendant son mandat. Je voudrais remercier Monsieur Jacques Diouf des efforts qu'il a déployé pour réaliser les objectifs de la FAO. Je voudrais aussi féliciter le Ministre de l'agriculture de l'Éthiopie qui a été élu à la présidence de cette Session de la Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, nous discutons des questions très importantes et nous avons de grandes responsabilités qui pèsent sur nos têtes. Nous devons adopter des recommandations qui seront nos réponses aux problèmes d'insécurité alimentaire et du changement climatique. Il faut réduire le nombre des personnes souffrant de la faim en le réduisant de moitié. Cet objectif est loin d'être atteint, au contraire le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim a augmenté dans le monde donc notre responsabilité s'en trouve accrue. Nous devons agir, prendre en considération les réformes à la FAO car elles seront très importantes pour le travail futur de la FAO. Je souhaite dire que ces réformes devraient marquer un nouveau début pour la FAO et déboucher sur une FAO beaucoup plus efficace. Nous devons nous assurer, ce faisant, des ressources financières adéquates, nous devons répondre à ce que les pays nous demandent en matière de réformes. Nous avons tracé nos priorités dans le Proche-Orient, nous avons commencé à œuvrer dans chaque pays, nous devons faire face aux besoins de ces pays, compte-tenu de leurs priorités. C'est tout à fait en conformité avec les stratégies tracées par la FAO. Nous travaillons également au plan régional pour coordonner nos efforts et nous essayons de fournir une formation aux ressources humaines, nous accroissons, nous renforçons le nombre des personnes formées selon les ressources nécessaires pour ce faire, conformément à la Conférence de

Khartoum. Nous saluons le Bureau régional de la FAO au Liban et nous ferons tout ce que nous pourrions pour faciliter le travail de ce Bureau régional.

Nous voudrions aussi évoquer le fait que les prix, en fluctuation constante, des denrées alimentaires exercent un impact très lourd aux pays sur le plan régional. Le Liban est un importateur de denrées alimentaires et à cause de la crise alimentaire de 2008, l'accroissement des prix pendant la deuxième partie de l'année 2010 a pesé sur nous. Notre facture de denrées alimentaires a augmenté de 70 pour cent comparé à la facture de 2005. Notre consommation s'est également accrue de 16 pour cent en 2010 et tout cela nous a forcé à améliorer nos politiques, à nous concentrer sur l'accroissement de la productivité et les investissements. À la fin de 2009, nous avons lancé une stratégie pour le secteur agricole pour 2010-14 et nos priorités ont été tracées, dans le cadre de ce plan nous voulons améliorer le secteur de l'agriculture. Nous devons trouver les ressources financières nécessaires pour ce faire. Nous accroissons aussi la qualité de nos produits. Nous avons établi un système de crédit pour les agriculteurs et nous avons lancé un programme nous permettant d'améliorer les infrastructures. Cela pour améliorer l'efficacité du secteur agricole. Nous commençons à planter pour le nouveau programme avec l'aide de la FAO.

J'en reviens maintenant au rôle vital des femmes dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement agricole. Nous avons un grand nombre de femmes qui travaillent dans les zones rurales mais ce travail n'est pas reconnu, hors il devrait l'être. Le travail entrepris par les femmes est très important pour leurs familles et ce travail aide aussi à trouver de nouvelles possibilités d'emplois pour les femmes à la campagne. Nous devons prendre en considération le besoin des femmes, nous devons accroître leur formation, nous devons leur fournir un crédit, nous devons leur fournir tout ce qui leur permettra d'améliorer leur travail et leur participation. Nous avons aussi établi une banque de développement rural et nous fournissons des services dans le domaine de la gestion, de l'administration pour aider les femmes dans les zones rurales du Liban.

Mesdames et Messieurs, en conclusion, je dirais que nous devons relever ce défi permanent qui se présente pour les agriculteurs, notamment pour les plus pauvres. Il y a la confiscation des terres dans la Palestine occupée, les forêts sont brûlées et tout cela a un impact négatif sur le développement du Liban, pousse des dizaines de milliers de personnes à émigrer. Cela cause des dommages au secteur agricole. En juillet 2006 des millions de dollars ont été perdus.

Mr Jumanne MAGHEMBE (United Republic of Tanzania)

My delegation is pleased to be part of this historic Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference and we convey to you all the best wishes from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. This is historic Conference witnessing major events which include the election of the new Director-General, the election of the Independent Chairperson and also important on the agenda is the consideration and approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013 under the new result-based management approach.

At the onset, I wish to congratulate Dr José Graziano da Silva who we elected yesterday to be the new FAO Director-General as of 1 January 2012. My country extends to him our full support and we also wish to express our appreciation to all the candidates who vied for the post in the desire to bring to FAO their enormous expertise and to contribute towards world food security. On the other hand, we do not have deserving expressions to accord to the incumbent Director General, Dr Jacque Diouf, whose mandate will terminate in December, 2011. What we can say is that he has diligently devoted all his efforts to the work of FAO, and he has achieved a lot in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

We note the current situation of food security and nutrition is not satisfactory globally and in particular in developing countries. In my country, Tanzania, food prices are currently about 30 percent higher than they were in a similar period last year. High food prices have been occasioned by low productivity, drought, high fuel and fertilizer prices. In Tanzania, we are implementing both short and long-term sustainable food production programmes to deal with the frequent occurrences of food shortages due largely to unpredictable rainfall and other weather conditions. These actions are in the context of our Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP).

This new agricultural programme places special attention on increasing our land irrigation, increasing the production and availability of improved seed, promoting horticulture and the export of food and processed commodities. It is envisaged that the implementation of these efforts under the ASDP will heighten the involvement of women in commercial agriculture and rural development, which is the theme of this Session of the Conference.

We accept and recognize the important role played by women in tropical agriculture and rural development. Gender equality is reflected in our constitution and gender specific policies such as our Women in Development Policy of 1992, Gender and Development Policy of 2000 and Gender and Development Strategy of 2005. Today our women representation in the Tanzanian Parliament has reached 36 percent, well on course to our 50 percent target.

We also note that gender is given attention as one of the Strategic Objectives contained in the FAO Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2012-2013. As such, we expect FAO to play a very important role in this area, and therefore necessary resources should be placed to undertake this programme.

We further welcome the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013 as proposed by the Director-General. The Programme of Work and Budget encompasses and addresses various issues of food security challenges. We endorse a Real Growth budget even at the nominal level, but this should take into consideration unavoidable incremental costs. We are also satisfied with the way the IPA is being implemented and we urge the momentum to be sustained in order to get the desired results of the FAO Reform as early as possible.

We reiterate that for the FAO to make a significant impact at regional and in particular at country level, the Decentralization process needs to be accelerated and accomplished as soon as possible.

Overall we complement the Conference Committee on the Follow-up to the Independent External Evaluation of FAO (CoC-IEE) which started its work in 2007 and has now satisfactorily concluded its mandate. We appreciate the dedication of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairs, the Member Nations and Management for the good work done. The efforts and resources invested in this work have been enormous. Therefore, it's our duty as Member Nations to continue to support Management for sustainable implementation of all the Reform actions for a renewed FAO.

Mr John MUTORWA (Namibia)

Allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating the incoming Director General, Professor Graziano da Silva for his election and appointment to this very important position. Namibia looks forward to working with you, and to support you in your endeavors to take the FAO Programmes forward. This Session is indeed special because it accorded us the opportunity to exercise our democratic right, as a Member Nation, to elect the new leader for our Organization. Namibia feels honored to have been able to participate in this democratic election process.

Namibia would also like to use this opportunity to deeply thank and commend the outgoing Director-General, Dr Diouf, for his exemplary and visionary leadership during his tenure of office. I feel obliged to acknowledge here that, during his term in office, Namibia indeed enjoyed a sound and strong relationship with FAO which resulted in the successful implementation of agricultural and forestry projects in our country. In this regard, FAO under the leadership of Dr Diouf provided, among others: technical assistance to review the outdated Veterinary Legislation, which resulted in the Animal Health Bill becoming an Act of Parliament; technical assistance for the development of a marketing and collection system for small-scale dairy farmers; technical assistance for the development of a National Programme for Food security during the period 2006-2007; and veterinary medicine, and animal vaccines for communities that are affected by flood in Namibia.

Namibia considers the successful implementation of the projects that I enumerated earlier, and the ones that are not included in the list, to be a considerable and commendable achievement. We would like to believe that many other Member Nations of FAO have also experienced similar achievements. You will therefore agree with me that FAO under Dr Diouf contributed significantly to the development of agriculture in the world. For this reason, Namibia would like to express a heartfelt and

profound gratitude to Dr Diouf for his achievement and contribution while serving as Director-General.

The agriculture sector in the world, particularly that of the developing countries continues to encounter challenges in areas of food production and agro-industry development. For this reason, Namibia strongly recommends that the technical assistance that is provided by FAO to developing countries, particularly African countries should now focus on increasing food production, employment creation and poverty reduction through agro-industry development. In addition, the same technical assistance must also support strategies that are geared towards the promotion of agricultural mechanization and irrigation programmes in order to increase food production and improve food availability at national and household levels. Programmes aimed at increasing food production can only be successful if they are accompanied by complementary agri-services and infrastructure development. In this regard, it is imperative that FAO technical assistance should support the establishment and development of logistical, marketing and transportation systems, as well as the processing of agricultural produce in order to ensure linkages across the value chain. Support to these activities have the potential to create sustainable job opportunities in developing countries. It is for this reason that the Government of Namibia is currently hard at work to implement programmes and strategies aimed at increasing agricultural production and promoting value addition through agro-industry and agri-business development.

A substantial number of Namibia's population is rural-based and depend largely on agriculture for the daily living. In this regard, Namibia associated itself fully with the theme of the General Debate, namely The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, and the sentiment expressed by the Minister of South Africa in terms of gender balance in the Organization is fully supported in this regard.

Namibia would like to specifically request the incoming Director-General and his team, to purposefully direct and focus the FAO support towards the strategies and programmes that I referred to earlier. Finally, allow me once more to thank the FAO for organizing and hosting this Conference, and congratulate the incoming Director-General for his appointment and we wish him well.

Sr. Juan Camilo RESTREPO (Colombia)

Primero que todo, quiero agradecer en nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo de Colombia la oportuna participación de la FAO en los programas conjuntos con la ONU durante la reciente emergencia invernal de la cual nos estamos recuperando en Colombia. De igual manera, quiero agradecer el acompañamiento técnico que hace una semana pactamos con la FAO en importantes acciones para el sector agropecuario y el desarrollo rural que hoy se constituye en uno de los ejes programáticos o "locomotoras del crecimiento" como las llama nuestro Presidente Juan Manuel Santos, para buscar el crecimiento sostenible de la economía colombiana y enfrentar decididamente la pobreza y el desempleo.

En este sentido, una de las principales metas en nuestro sector agropecuario y rural es estimular la producción para el mercado interno, que además de mejorar la provisión de materias primas a la industria, permita alcanzar la nutrición completa de todos los niños menores de 5 años y la consolidación de la seguridad alimentaria para el resto de la población colombiana.

El Gobierno de Colombia está convencido de que esta locomotora también debe promover y potenciar el rol de la mujer rural como gestora del desarrollo local, líder de procesos empresariales, protagonista clave de la modernización del campo y el mejoramiento de la productividad y en especial, como garante del proceso de devolución de tierras, el retorno al campo y el fortalecimiento de la identidad cultural campesina, muy enraizada en nuestro sector rural colombiano. Por eso celebramos que la FAO dedique esta Conferencia a reconocer "La Función Vital de la Mujer en la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural".

Según datos del Departamento Nacional de Estadística de Colombia, las mujeres constituyen el 52 por ciento de la población colombiana; el 54 por ciento de ellas se ubican en zonas urbanas y el 46 por ciento en zonas rurales, y de éstas últimas, cerca de 20 por ciento son jefes de hogar.

Las actividades económicas de la mujer colombiana se han diversificado en los últimos años, dedicándose principalmente a labores domésticas, agropecuarias y comerciales. Ellas se encargan de buena parte de la producción de alimentos, la cría del ganado y el cuidado de las especies menores, entre otras labores. Además, juegan un rol cada vez mayor en la agroindustria, en las artesanías, en la floricultura, y es indudable su contribución en asuntos comunitarios. Sin embargo, en Colombia, como en muchos otros países, este aporte de la mujer rural a la agricultura y a la economía en general, no se encuentra evidenciado en la información estadística tradicional.

Las actividades de la mujer que obtienen bajos ingresos, pagos en especie, e incluso ninguna remuneración, no se encuentran contabilizadas apropiadamente dentro de las cuentas nacionales y de las otras estadísticas relevantes. Si bien en Colombia la mujer rural ha logrado ganar espacio de participación política, aún falta recorrer un camino largo que permita garantizar su presencia activa en los espacios de toma de decisiones y de organización comunitaria.

Colombia cuenta desde 2002 con la Ley 731, que dicta normas para favorecer a las mujeres rurales, con la intención de acelerar el proceso para alcanzar la equidad de género. Sin embargo, esta norma ha tenido dificultades en su implementación y aún no ha logrado reducir la brecha entre hombres y mujeres. Esta ley no fue producto de una iniciativa gubernamental o parlamentaria, sino el resultado de una larga lucha de las organizaciones de mujeres rurales que desde principios del Siglo XX han procurado defender sus derechos. Por esta razón, creemos que es un deber del Estado propender por el desarrollo pleno y la puesta en práctica de dicha normatividad.

En este sentido, el Gobierno Colombiano está asumiendo el importante compromiso de reglamentar y desarrollar la instrumentación de esta ley y ha decidido comenzar por el fortalecimiento inmediato de recursos y acciones dentro del Programa de Mujer Rural, que opera desde el Ministerio de Agricultura.

Pretendemos mejorar las condiciones de vida de las mujeres del campo, quienes en el Siglo XXI, además de desempeñar actividades agropecuarias, han demostrado su capacidad en distintos campos productivos y empresariales que promueven igualmente el desarrollo desde lo rural. El Programa del Gobierno busca entonces la equidad de género, una equidad que pase del discurso a la práctica para al menos cuatro mil mujeres en los próximos cuatro años, facilitándosele el acceso a recursos financieros, a asistencia técnica, activos como la vivienda, la propiedad y los bienes públicos, a tecnologías de la información y a todo un programa de empresarización y apoyo de la asociatividad.

Esta política de iniciativa gubernamental que empieza a concretarse, me refiero ahora a la ley de Víctimas y de Restitución de Tierras que fue promulgada mediante la Ley 1448 del 2011, sancionada por nuestro Presidente con la presencia del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas recientemente, señor Ban Ki Moon, busca dar cumplimiento a una deuda histórica inmensa que nuestra sociedad tenía para con las víctimas del conflicto interno, a quienes se les restablecerán los derechos vulnerados por los grupos ilegales de nuestro país durante las últimas décadas.

Un capítulo especial de esta ley contempla los mecanismos jurídicos para restituir la posesión y los títulos plenos de propiedad a cerca de 400 mil familias que fueron despojadas injustamente de sus tierras, pero indica una restitución privilegiada y preferente a las muchas mujeres que fueron despojadas directamente o que hoy son cabeza de hogar por haber perdido a sus compañeros a causa del conflicto y que encuentran grandes dificultades para reclamar sus títulos.

La nueva ley tiene además un marco normativo de justicia transicional, la creación de una unidad de gestión de la restitución de tierras para documentar, tramitar y resolver en forma ágil las reclamaciones de las víctimas, la capacitación de jueces para aplicar este nuevo procedimiento, el desarrollo de un registro georeferenciado de predios despojados, y un conjunto de instrumentos mediante los cuales se pueda compensar y reparar a las diferentes víctimas del despojo y del abandono forzado, especialmente a las mujeres.

La mujer rural será entonces beneficiaria directa de este Programa, mejorando su acceso a un bien fundamental para la producción de alimentos, la generación de ingresos y el aumento de la seguridad familiar, un bien que al mismo tiempo le permitirá fortalecer su identidad cultural y favorecer el relevo generacional y su permanencia en las regiones.

Con todas estas políticas el Gobierno de Colombia está comprometido en el fortalecimiento de las instituciones y con la seguridad alimentaria para todos, consciente de que la mujer rural es protagonista de primer orden en el manejo de la locomotora del agro y del desarrollo rural sostenible.

Mr Datuk Seri NOH OMAR (Malaysia)

It is indeed a great privilege for me to speak on behalf of Malaysian Government in this Thirty-seventh Session of FAO Conference.

Allow me to congratulate His Excellency José Graziano da Silva for successfully being elected as the new Director-General of FAO. I extend my best wishes and pledge Malaysia's support to His Excellency Graziano da Silva and to the whole Organization. We believe that under your leadership, FAO will continue to strive in championing the issues of global agriculture and food security.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude to His Excellency Dr. Jacques Diouf, for his excellent leadership in steering this Organization to what it is today.

During the Thirty-sixth Session of FAO Conference in November 2009, our concerns and fear towards the negative impact of food insecurity had been raised. The estimated figure of food insecurity and hungry people has reached 1 billion.

Despite all our efforts, this number is still growing and we are getting farther away from reaching the Millennium Development Goal. It is our collective responsibility, globally, regionally and nationally, to reverse the negative impact of world food insecurity.

Globally, we must continue to improve global governance in food security to facilitate the views and coordination of actions to meet emerging and new challenges in food security. Regionally, Malaysia is continuously committed in addressing the above challenges particularly in ASEAN+3, APEC, OIC and D8, working together in fostering a deeper and more sustained regional collaboration in the area of food security. For Malaysia, the issue of agriculture and food security is always on the top of our national agenda.

Malaysia supports the report in the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), and we believe FAO is right in stressing The Important Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, and why we need to close the gender gap.

In 1989, Malaysia adopted National Policy on Women with the objective to ensure equitable sharing of resources and development opportunities between men and women. Today, Malaysia is proud to note achievements made by many Malaysian women at the national and international level.

For the past five decades, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro Based-Industry and Ministry of Rural Development Malaysia have been actively involved in providing non-formal education and training for women. The outcome has been very encouraging. These women not only have access to land and to work on their farm but they are either owners or have control over their agriculture and food-based businesses. Their involvement in micro-enterprises account for about 30 percent of their total family income. In this regard, the Malaysian Government will continue to provide greater access of information, financial and technical resources to the women in agriculture and rural areas.

During the food crisis in 2008, Malaysia had formulated the National Food Security Policy, aimed at overcoming the crisis. Malaysia also took a bold step to embark on the Economic Transformation Program (ETP) which is more focused, responsive and driven by results.

In transforming the economy, agriculture has been chosen as one of the New Key Economic Areas (NKEA) that focus on selected sub-sectors with high-growth potential and consistent with the country's objective in ensuring food security.

Malaysia believes that to resolve part of the food security problem is by producing enough food supply and ensuring its equitable distribution. Therefore, we should remain committed in advancing the agriculture sector to increase food production and to generate income for farmers. There is an urgent

need to increase investments in rural infrastructure and transferring new technology to farmers, which contribute greatly to cost reductions, productivity improvements and increment of yield.

At the national and international level, Malaysia has been very committed in Research and Development activities, in developing critical technologies on agricultural sectors and promotes it through various means of technology transfer.

Before I conclude, I would like to urge all Member Nations to respond quickly and effectively to all the threats: food insecurity, price volatility, climate change, and extreme natural disasters. We must continue to enhance our investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, and at the same time protect our natural resources.

Malaysia believes FAO will play its role as an effective and efficient UN body to lead us in combating the threats that we are facing today. With the FAO Reform process and the new leadership, we believe FAO will succeed in providing a world without hunger for our future generation. Malaysia will continue to support and work together with FAO and its Member Nations to achieve our common goal to reduce hunger in this world.

M. Agatham AG ALHASSANE (Mali)

Je voudrais au nom de la Délégation du Mali adresser mes salutations les plus cordiales à l'ensemble des participants à cette XXVIIème Session de la Conférence de la FAO. J'adresse également mes félicitations aux éminentes personnalités qui ont été investies de la confiance de la Conférence pour présider nos travaux. Je suis convaincu qu'elles mettront leur expérience au service de notre session afin qu'elle atteigne les objectifs fixés et parvienne à des décisions et recommandations consensuelles, pertinentes et efficaces pour le futur de l'Organisation. Je tiens également à féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO et l'ensemble des Membres, plus particulièrement les Présidents et les Vice-Présidents et membres du Comité de la Conférence ici à Rome pour le travail colossal abattu pour la bonne tenue de cette XXVIIème Conférence.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais saisir l'occasion pour réitérer toute la compassion et renouveler la solidarité du peuple malien envers tous les pays qui, au cours de ces dernières années, ont été frappés par les pires catastrophes imposées par la nature et qui ont anéanti quantité de biens et endeuillé de nombreuses familles. Mes pensées les plus profondes vont spécifiquement au Royaume du Japon qui est en train de se remettre d'un Tsunami dont les effets ont été des plus dévastateurs pour son peuple.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je suis par ailleurs honoré de pouvoir profiter de cette tribune pour m'associer à tous ceux qui sont intervenus avant moi pour adresser le vibrant hommage du Mali au Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf en fin de mandat pour ses actions et initiatives courageuses à la tête de l'Organisation. En témoignent les profondes réformes pour faire de la FAO une Organisation véritablement performante et crédible. L'organisation de nombreux Sommets qui ont été tant d'occasions pour la communauté internationale de réfléchir sur les résolutions des questions aussi cruciales pour l'humanité que la sécurité alimentaire, les changements climatiques et la sauvegarde de l'environnement et de la biodiversité.

Monsieur le Président, chers participants, j'ai le plaisir de féliciter le Professeur Graziano da Silva et lui souhaiter la bienvenue et une bonne continuité avec tout le succès attendu dans cet engagement résolument entrepris pour notre Organisation commune pour un monde débarrassé de la malnutrition et de la précarité.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, ma Délégation souscrit pleinement aux choix des thèmes du débat général de la présente session: le rôle primordial de la femme dans l'agriculture et le développement rural. Notre appréciation du thème est d'autant forte que déjà en novembre 2009, lors de la deuxième rencontre des Premières dames du Mouvement des non-alignés (MNA), la Première dame du Mali, traduisant la vision de son pays, indiquait que, je cite: «il importe alors de souligner que, face à la récurrence des difficultés alimentaires et l'irrévocabilité des changements climatiques, situations aux conséquences particulièrement sévères pour les pays, notamment ceux en développement, l'élan nécessaire de mobilisation de la communauté internationale, en appui aux

efforts internes de ces pays et la lutte globale engagée aujourd'hui pour la réduction de la malnutrition et de la pauvreté resteront longuement stériles et durablement sans issue tant qu'ils n'auront pas mis en marche les femmes dans leur processus».

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, au regard de la pertinence du thème, il est fondamental que notre session parvienne à converger, et conforter la femme rurale au cœur du développement et de la soustraire de l'extrême fragilité que lui impose son manque d'emprise sur l'environnement de son activité économique en termes d'accès aux ressources, au savoir-faire et à l'exercice libre de la responsabilité. Le pari à gagner dans ce contexte est de lever le paradoxe qui fait qu'au même moment où les femmes sont réputées responsables de la production agricole mondiale à hauteur de 50 pour cent, elles sont les plus exposées à la précarité et sont les premières victimes des crises alimentaires.

Concernant le Mali, le Président de la République du Mali fait de l'insertion des femmes et des jeunes, dans les circuits productifs, un axe prioritaire de la politique nationale de développement. La force de cet engagement a valu la création d'un Ministère dédié à la promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et de la famille. Actuellement, le Mali a adhéré aux différentes conventions internationales pertinentes favorisant l'émancipation de la femme. Aussi, dans le cadre de sa politique en faveur des droits humains, à partir d'aujourd'hui, une place prioritaire au combat contre toute forme de dépendance personnelle, excessive dans les relations de travail, qu'elle résulte d'une pratique traditionnelle ou bien de l'emploi d'enfants ou de femmes vivant dans l'extrême précarité. Le Mali s'est par ailleurs engagé dans l'élaboration d'une stratégie nationale du genre ainsi que dans la formulation d'une stratégie en faveur du renforcement de l'équité genre et de l'amélioration du statut de la femme.

En ce qui concerne le secteur agricole, les actions prioritaires entreprises en faveur de l'insertion des femmes sont nombreuses. Elles vont de l'exploitation des opportunités existantes en matière de micro-crédits et de la facilitation de l'accès des femmes aux structures de micro-crédit à l'accès à la terre. Concernant ce point spécifique, je voudrais qu'il me soit permis d'indiquer que depuis 2006, le Mali s'est doté d'une loi d'orientation agricole pour servir de cadre réglementaire à l'exercice de la profession agricole. Cette loi garantit aux différentes catégories d'exploitants agricoles un accès équitable aux ressources foncières agricoles, toutefois elle accepte une discrimination positive en faveur des femmes, des jeunes et des groupes vulnérables dans l'attribution des parcelles au niveau des zones aménagées sur des fonds publics. Ainsi, un quota d'au moins 20 pour cent des terres est accordé à cette catégorie tacite aménagée.

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais terminer mon propos en soulignant que, face au défi de la sécurité alimentaire, du changement climatique et de la préservation de l'environnement, il est de la plus haute importance que la communauté internationale puisse se résoudre à créer, avec la diligence requise, un espace de solidarité internationale pour la mobilisation des ressources conséquentes permettant de renforcer les capacités des organisations comme la FAO, le FIDA et le PAM, et de soutenir ainsi le développement des programmes agricoles porteurs.

Il me plait de m'associer à mes prédécesseurs pour souhaiter un plein succès à nos travaux.

Mr Myint HLAING (Myanmar)

On behalf of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am delighted to have an opportunity to speak at this Thirty-seventh Session of FAO Conference. Myanmar is located in Southeast Asia, with a total land area of 676 thousand square kilometres, and a favourable climate for diverse crop cultivation. The current population of Myanmar is nearly 60 million, and over 70 percent live in rural areas, with their livelihood depending mainly on agriculture.

Myanmar women play a vital role in agriculture and rural development. Day in and day out, they are busy on the farm, from seeding to harvest. They are industrious and skilful and, they usually play a supervisory role in household management in each and every family. Many of them possess a decision-making role in their society.

Rice is our main food. As a major crop, summer and monsoon paddy cover 8.3 million hectares and are self sufficient.

To contribute to regional food security and to increase national income, we are striving to increase rice production.

In order to support emergency needs, Myanmar has committed of 14 thousand metric tonnes of rice to the ASEAN +3 Emergency Rice Reserve Programme.

Myanmar produces 5.3 million tonnes of pulses and beans and exported, over 1 million tonnes to neighbouring countries.

As you well know, global climate change had drastic effects on the agriculture sector, threatening food security. Unusual and untimely rain and drought hamper agriculture production. In Myanmar, natural disasters like cyclone Nargis in 2008 and Cyclone Giri in 2010 devastated farmland, caused loss of lives, crops and property, and destroyed livelihoods. It was a great challenge and hardship to recover the livelihoods.

Agricultural development is a precondition and guarantee for national security and social stability. Agriculture, as a foundation of national economy, should not be shaken. Through agricultural development, we will attain rural development.

However, we must make an effort. It is still difficult for the rural poor to escape the vicious cycle of poverty. Such lagging development is partly due to the direct and indirect impact of sanctions and the embargo that is being unfairly imposed upon our country.

Myanmar has held a nationwide multi-party democratic election on 7 November 2010, and formed new elected government on 30 March 2011. The newly-elected government is trying its best to further enhance the economic growth of the country and improve the living standards of the people. The Government is committed to agricultural development of rural area and poverty reduction at a national scale.

We believe it is time to consider lifting the unjust economic sanctions, in accordance with humanitarian principles and practices, and with United Nations Charter which denotes equality among sovereign states in the world.

With an earnest request to FAO and Members to further enhance cooperation and collaboration in our noble endeavours, I conclude my speech. May I wish food security, unity, peace and stability to be upon the world in which we all live.

Mr Zsolt SIMON (Slovakia) (Original language Slovak)

First, let me thank the FAO for their professional preparation and organization of this Thirty-Seventh Session of the Conference. It is a great honour to speak at this international forum on behalf of my country.

In recent years, the agricultural sector finds itself in a difficult period, characterized by such things and globalization, consequences of the latest economic and financial crises, agricultural policy reform, trade liberalization, technological advances and climate change.

Global food security is critical. More than a billion people worldwide are malnourished. Most of them live in rural areas and their main source of livelihood is agriculture. It is necessary to take into account the warning that the world food demand is about to more than double by 2015 and the global production will have to be increased consequently. In this situation, the importance of sustainable agriculture is growing. Farmers are expected to maintain the country and contribute to rural development, encourage stabilization and creation of jobs and they are supposed to move towards energy self-sufficiency of rural areas, and the living of rural people in a more quality and healthy environment.

At the time of worsening global food security, the Slovak Republic perceives the significance of the continuation of FAO's activities in support of its Member Nations to constantly seek the most efficient ways and possibilities to eliminate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world. We deem it important to jointly address their responsibility for the world food security subsequent to expressions of political resolve, commitment to cooperation between all actors at different levels and developing

synthetic analyses. In this regard, we are well aware of the significance of issues discussed at this year's General Conference under the topic "The Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development" and we welcome the fact that the recent review "The State of Food and Agriculture" for the years 2010-2011 is focused on this very important issue.

It is evident that gender inequality has a negative effect on productivity of the agricultural sector and thereby on enhancing food security and hunger in the world. In order to help develop countries we should support small farmers, not underestimate the role of women through effective national strategies and ensure them sustainable access to natural and financial resources.

Women take on multiple functions and this diversity of responsibilities is a major challenge because in this way they greatly contribute to progress at all levels of society and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

The Slovak Republic appreciates the work done previously in relevant areas, and we express our continuing interest to engage Slovak experts in technical and development programmes, and capacity-building projects in developing countries, and to expand the knowledge base through the FAO Programme.

We urge FAO, as a lead organization in the UN System for agriculture and rural development, with a clear comparative advantage in addressing gender equality as a human right to continue in its analysis of disparities in women's access to resources and to assist governments in integrating this issue into development policies and programmes in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, priorities should be aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and providing them access to agricultural resources, education, financial services, and investments in new technologies and infrastructure, thereby saving on labour productivity and not least to ensure equitable access of women into the labour market.

I hope that this Conference and its focus on gender equality will contribute to our common objective of providing enough food for a growing population and reducing the number of hungry and malnourished people in the world. I believe that the approval and implementation of the Programme of Work for the years 2012-2013 will provide evidence and confirmation of our joint commitment to help in alleviating the daily suffering of millions of people starving from lack of food.

Let me again express the support of the Slovak Republic and the continuing interest in the activities of FAO.

Mr Theera WONGSAMUT (Thailand)

Allow me to start by congratulating Dr Graziano, the newly-elected Director-General of FAO. On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, we wish him every success in this task.

Regarding the vital role of women in agriculture, we are aware that women in many parts of the world still have less access to production inputs, financial resources, education and opportunity than men.

In Thailand, it is fortunate for Thai women that gender is prominently featured in the Thai Constitution. The Thai Government is doing its best and transferred the constitutional provisions into practice to promote gender equality. Thai women's role in agriculture is outstanding in management of agriculture business, agricultural cooperative and in fisheries. Women's groups are part of agricultural extension activities throughout the country, promoting gender equity and empowering women in agriculture cannot be achieved alone as a single party. Every development stakeholder should be involved, and most importantly governments need to play an active role. According to our experience, government policy to promote farmers' gender equality should occur.

Improvements in family farming are being achieved the smallest unit of small food production where women are usually the key players to ensure food security of their family members.

In this regard, we welcome the proposed International Year of Family Farming hoping that it will raise awareness of various concerned parties to intensify its assistance to enhance self-sufficiency and food security of the more needy people.

I would like to trust the new direction that FAO is taking as a result of the Reform. We welcome the Decentralisation, with more dedication of authority to Regional Offices. We attach importance to the Regional Conferences in their new roles as Governing Bodies with its needs and priorities for FAO's future Programme of Work and Budget of Work. It was the first time in FAO's history that opinions expressed in Regional Conferences by Ministers were heard and have been taken into consideration in preparation of a PWB.

In this regard, my delegation wishes to reaffirm the position of the Thirtieth Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, on our preference for the two service hubs in Bangkok and Santiago. This position was echoed by the G77 Group during the last Council. Therefore, it calls on Management to remember that the position was also regarded as a priority, and was not mapped out in the preparation of the PWB 2012-2013.

M. Rachid BENAÏSSA (Algérie)

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est pour moi un honneur d'avoir participé à cette trente-septième session de la Conférence de la FAO riche en événements. En premier lieu, je félicite au nom de l'Algérie Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, pour son élection méritée au poste de Directeur général de la FAO.

En cette heureuse occasion, nous l'assurons de notre total soutien pour ses futures actions au service de la lutte contre la faim et la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. La FAO, grâce à l'immense travail réalisé par Monsieur Jacques Diouf, est aujourd'hui une Organisation dont la voix porte et qui fait de la lutte contre la faim dans le monde sa priorité. C'est elle aussi qui alerte inlassablement sur la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire et sur la nécessité de développer des systèmes de régulation des prix des principaux produits alimentaires de base. Il n'y a pas si longtemps dans beaucoup de pays, on s'interrogeait sur la place et le devenir des agricultures.

Aujourd'hui grâce au travail mené au niveau des pays, mais aussi au sein de la FAO et d'autres organisations au niveau mondial, l'agriculture, son développement durable, les industries agro-alimentaires et la protection sanitaires des consommateurs, sont devenus un enjeu central et sont présents dans tous les agendas politiques et économiques de la planète. Que Jacques Diouf trouve à travers ces quelques mots toute notre reconnaissance et ces mêmes mots montrent toute l'ampleur des défis ouverts qui restent à relever par notre Organisation sous la direction de Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, le nouveau Directeur général, en cette période cruciale où les défis immédiats et à plus long terme auxquels la FAO est confronté n'a jamais été aussi important.

Le grand défi des temps moderne consiste à garantir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans le monde. Monsieur le Président, mon pays, l'Algérie, est conscient des enjeux et des énormes efforts que chacun doit accomplir. Des menaces sérieuses de crises alimentaires persistent encore et suscitent des inquiétudes légitimes amplifiées par des conditions climatiques de plus en plus difficiles, une crise économique et financière qui perdure et une volatilité des prix des produits de base. L'Afrique est la première région du monde à en pâtir en dépit de l'existence de potentialités agricoles prometteuses. Ce continent reste en effet celui qui est le plus affecté par le phénomène de la faim et de la malnutrition et il nécessite l'attention de tous. De nombreuses initiatives globales ont été prises ces dernières années pour lutter contre la pauvreté et renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, y compris par les pays développés, démontrant l'existence d'une prise de conscience planétaire de plus en plus franche tant de la part des gouvernants que de la société civile.

Au-delà des réponses d'urgence, pour traiter les crises conjoncturelles, l'Afrique a besoin aujourd'hui plus qu'avant d'une stratégie qui privilégie entre autre l'accroissement des superficies cultivées de manière durable, la sécurisation des approvisionnements alimentaires, l'amélioration des infrastructures rurales ainsi que la promotion de la recherche agricole et l'adoption et la diffusion des technologies modernes. L'Afrique consciente de ces enjeux, a lancé elle-même, le concept de nouveaux partenariats pour son développement, le NEPAD. A cette occasion du renouvellement de la direction de la FAO, il n'est pas inutile de nous remémorer l'appel du continent africain à la Communauté internationale et à ses partenaires pour l'accompagner à réaliser son objectif et à participer à la réduction de la faim dans le monde.

Cet appel, est plein d'espoir parce qu'un autre évènement majeur a marqué cette session et a prouvé que la Coopération internationale peut atteindre des résultats concrets au bénéfice de l'économie de plusieurs centaines de milliers de familles rurales.

Je veux parler de la Déclaration de l'éradication mondiale de la peste bovine, pathologie millénaire. À cette occasion, il faut rendre un hommage appuyé à la FAO, l'ONU et l'ensemble des organisations internationales ainsi que les bailleurs de fonds pour tout ce qu'ils ont consenti durant toutes ces années et dont les efforts n'ont pas été vains. Je ne doute pas que l'expérience acquise dans ce processus couronné de succès servira pour de nouveaux défis qui nous attendent. Monsieur le Président, l'Algérie, mon pays s'est inscrit dans cette trajectoire qui ambitionne de relever ces défis identifiés dans ce début du XXIème siècle. La politique de développement menée, intitulée d'ailleurs «politique de renouveau agricole et rural» se veut une politique pragmatique, tenant compte des expériences menées au niveau national et international, inscrivons le renouveau et l'accompagnement des acteurs créateurs de richesse aussi petits, soient-ils dans des conditions leur permettant non seulement de survivre et de se développer mais aussi de pouvoir intégrer les acquis de la science et les nouvelles technologies pour un développement durable.

Cette politique qui s'adresse à tous les acteurs est construite autour de trois piliers, le renouveau agricole, le renouveau rural et le renforcement des capacités humaines et techniques. Elle a pour objectif l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et le développement équilibré et harmonieux des territoires ruraux. Une place particulière y est réservée aux jeunes et aux femmes. Des décisions importantes ont été prises comme la facilitation de l'accès aux terres et au foncier agricole avec des crédits bancaires avantageux. D'autres mesures ont également été prises pour favoriser l'intégration agro-industrielle et la mobilisation de la société civile, l'encouragement de l'entraide et de la mutualisation des efforts ainsi que la construction de projets de développement intégré de bas en haut soutenu par la politique de décentralisation que mène mon pays, et l'appel fait aux hommes et aux femmes de savoir et aux hommes et aux femmes de métier afin de faire converger connaissances académiques, connaissances professionnelles et savoir-faire traditionnel.

C'est là autant d'éléments qui ont introduit le renouveau dans les méthodes, les approches et les objectifs en amont dans la gouvernance. Il convient de souligner, à cette occasion, que mon pays dans la législation garantit l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, et punit toute discrimination, accorde la plus grande importance à la contribution des femmes au développement économique et social du pays et, plus particulièrement, à leur implication massive dans le développement rural et la lutte contre la pauvreté. Organisés dans un réseau dense d'association, les femmes rurales contribuent ainsi à une intégration plus poussée du monde rural et à l'économie nationale.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais à cette occasion aussi indiquer, que mon pays accorde une très grande importance à la protection des ressources naturelles, et qu'à travers la politique de renouveau rural, il engage près d'un milliard de dollars par an pour la lutte contre la désertification, la protection des patrimoines forestiers ainsi que celles des éco-systèmes. Pour nous, le développement ne sera durable que s'il touche toutes les zones sans exclusion et sans marginalisation aucune parce que notre principe c'est qu'il n'y a pas de territoire sans avenir mais uniquement des territoires sans projet et que notre slogan est que le rural est synonyme d'avenir et de potentialité à découvrir et à valoriser. Nous sommes conscients que ces ambitions ne sont pas uniquement algériennes et qu'elles sont également au cœur des fondements de notre Organisation, par ailleurs conscients aussi de l'impact des changements climatiques sur l'agriculture, l'élevage et le développement durable. L'Algérie qui préside le Groupe africain chargé de la lutte contre la désertification, organisera une Conférence de Ministres africains en mars le 8 et 9 septembre 2011 à Alger.

En conclusion, c'est donc avec plein d'ambition et d'espoir que je renouvelle mes félicitations à Monsieur Da Silva pour son élection et je suis sûr que Monsieur Jacques Diouf dans les mois et années à venir n'hésitera à aucun moment à mettre sa longue expérience et son talent au service de la sécurité alimentaire et mondiale et particulièrement en Afrique. Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention. Merci.

Sr. Francisco Javier MAYORGA CASTAÑEDA (México)

El Gobierno de México agradece a la FAO la elaboración del documento que analiza la función vital de la mujer en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural. Este trabajo contiene recomendaciones importantes para promover la equidad de género a favor de las mujeres que se desempeñan en la agricultura y señala los claros beneficios que esto conllevaría para aumentar la producción y reducir el hambre.

En México viven 112 millones de personas, de las cuales 51% son mujeres. En el medio rural habitan 13.1 millones de personas, de las que 5.7 millones se dedican a las actividades productivas en el sector rural, del cual el 27 % son mujeres.

Dos fenómenos han repercutido en el papel de las mujeres rurales en México. Primero, el incremento de los niveles de marginación que afecta con más intensidad a las mujeres indígenas. Segundo, la migración de la población masculina que ha derivado en la feminización del campo de tal forma que en el 68% de los hogares rurales mexicanos la responsabilidad familiar está a cargo de una mujer.

A través del Programa Especial Concurrente, se establecen las prioridades para el desarrollo rural de país con acciones en las que coinciden diez secretarías de estado coordinadas por la Secretaría de Agricultura. Bajo este marco se instrumentan programas en apoyo a las mujeres, de tal forma que más del 50% de las mujeres rurales perciben ingresos por concepto de apoyo gubernamental.

Adicionalmente, el Gobierno mexicano fortalece la política de igualdad al incluir indicadores por sexo, grupos de edad, municipio, región y entidad federativa en las reglas de operación de los programas dirigidos al campo. Crea además espacios de comunicación e intercambio de experiencias con las mujeres y con sus organizaciones y amplía las oportunidades de su participación en la toma de decisiones a través de los Consejos Municipales de Desarrollo Rural Sustentable y los Consejos de Planeación para el Desarrollo Rural.

La Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación destina actualmente recursos en apoyo a las mujeres rurales para el desarrollo de sus capacidades en los aspectos productivos, humanos y sociales. Así mismo, apoya la capitalización de las unidades de producción mediante recursos subsidiarios para la inversión en activos productivos y en nuevas tecnologías, financiamiento y desarrollo organizativo.

En los últimos años, más del 30% de las solicitudes recibidas para participar en los programas de la Secretaría de Agricultura fueron para beneficio directo de las mujeres. En 2010, la participación femenina creció poco más del 50%.

Las mujeres han sido la puerta de entrada de programas y proyectos gubernamentales de gran impacto como es el caso del Proyecto Estratégico para la Seguridad Alimentaria PESA, que es una de las iniciativas más importantes del estado Mexicano en zonas de alta marginación cuyo objetivo es mejorar las condiciones de alimentación y vida de los hogares, y se opera con la metodología de la FAO.

Uno de los objetivos del PESA es la equidad y la inclusión, pues promueve la igualdad y oportunidades y la participación de todos los integrantes de la comunidad.

En las aéreas rurales recoger agua y leña son las actividades que más tiempo consumen de las mujeres y les impiden integrarse a labores productivas y generadoras de ingreso.

A través del PESA, hasta 2010 se habían instalado más de 95 mil estufas que preservaron 476 mil metros cúbicos de madera y más de 80 mil sistemas que aumentaron la disponibilidad de agua para usos domésticos. Entre 2007 y 2010 se instrumentaron 275 mil proyectos de los cuales el 55% fueron para producción de alimentos y el 11% para la generación de ingresos.

Con estas estrategias el Gobierno de México incentiva la participación creciente y equitativa de las mujeres abriendo oportunidades para su desarrollo.

M. Jean Marc TELLIANO (Guinée)

C'est avec un réel plaisir pour moi au nom du Gouvernement de Guinée, que j'ai l'honneur de représenter ici, de m'adresser à la présente session qui marque un tournant décisif dans la Réforme institutionnelle de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais, tout d'abord féliciter le Président de la Conférence élu pour diriger les travaux de notre Assemblée. J'exprime en son endroit la pleine collaboration de ma délégation. La Trente-septième Session de la Conférence de la FAO est aussi une tribune idéale pour féliciter et remercier le Directeur général sortant, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, et lui rendre un vibrant hommage pour son dévouement constant en faveur d'une croissance agricole durable en vue d'éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté en Afrique et dans le monde. C'est en ce sens que le Gouvernement de la République de Guinée soutient activement la résolution du Sommet de l'Union africaine de Malabo relative à l'attribution du prix «Jacques Diouf» pour la sécurité alimentaire.

Dans la même logique, il invite les États Membres de notre Organisation à pérenniser ce prix au niveau de la FAO et à apporter leur contribution à son financement. C'est aussi le lieu de féliciter le Professeur José Graziano da Silva, le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO. Le Gouvernement de Guinée lui exprime son soutien dans la poursuite et la conduite des grandes réformes engagées par son prédécesseur pour la réalisation à terme de nouvelles performances organisationnelles et opérationnelles par notre Institution.

La présente session dont le thème central est «le rôle vital des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural» se tient dans un contexte où les effets de la série de crises des dernières années ont aggravé la précarité de la plupart des populations rurales. La couche vulnérable surtout les femmes à charge de l'essentiel des activités agricoles, sont particulièrement touchées. C'est pourquoi cette session doit interpeller des États Membres de notre Organisation sur la nécessité de se pencher davantage sur les aspects de réhabilitation économique des femmes pour leur permettre de jouer pleinement leur rôle. L'importance du rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture appelle à une prise en compte, particulièrement de leur participation dans les différents segments de l'économie rurale. Les femmes constituent le principal noyau de l'agriculture familiale qui est d'ailleurs prédominante dans la plupart des pays en développement, elles sont au cœur de la sécurité alimentaire. En Guinée, plus de 75 pour cent des femmes vivent en zone rurale et assurent environ 70 pour cent de la production vivrière de substances. Elles consacrent environ 80 pour cent de leur temps de travail à des tâches agricoles, telles que la culture de céréales et de tubercules, le maraîchage, la cueillette et la transformation des noix et graines. Les femmes jouent aussi un rôle important dans l'élevage traditionnel.

Dans ce secteur, la contribution des femmes, est essentielle dans l'alimentation de la famille, notamment à travers la production de lait et de la volaille. Dans le domaine de la foresterie, ce sont les femmes qui ont généralement la charge de l'approvisionnement en bois de chauffe. Ceci entraîne la nécessité de rendre visible le rôle de la femme dans la préservation des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement. Les femmes interviennent également dans la pêche artisanale, et dans la conservation et la commercialisation des produits halieutiques. La politique nationale de développement agricole de la Guinée est en train de s'opérationnaliser avec l'appui de la FAO à travers le Programme national d'investissement agricole et de sécurité alimentaire 2011-2015.

Dans ce cadre, le Gouvernement a lancé un programme d'accompagnement des producteurs sur la période 2011-2012 avec un budget sur fonds propres de l'ordre de 25 pour cent du Programme d'urgence. Les orientations stratégiques qui en découlent privilégient une assertion efficace des femmes prenant en compte leurs préoccupations au niveau des activités de production pour améliorer leur conditions de vie. A cet effet, elles doivent participer à l'élaboration des politiques et des stratégies agricoles, aussi bien au niveau de la planification qu'au niveau des instances de décision. Il est évident que pour mener efficacement les activités, il est nécessaire de renforcer les capacités d'animation, d'organisation, de gestion des leaders des organisations et de femmes à travers la formation. Il faudrait également encourager leur implication dans la mise en œuvre des projets et programmes de développement en favorisant leur action aux ressources productives tels que crédits, technologie, améliorations des intrants et équipements agricoles. Dans le contexte du plateforme multi-

fonctionnelle, il est aussi nécessaire d'appuyer les femmes dans leur activité de commercialisation, de transformation artisanale des produits agricoles et d'intégrer dans le projet un volet nutritionnel en faveur des femmes et des enfants en situation de malnutrition chronique.

Il y a lieu également d'instaurer un cadre de concertation entre les organisations féminines rurales des services publics et les bailleurs de fonds et d'organiser des voyages d'études et d'échanges d'expérience entre groupements de femmes au niveau national, régional et international.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je ne pourrais terminer mon intervention sans remercier au nom du Gouvernement guinéen, la FAO pour son appui constant dans l'élaboration de nos politiques et stratégies de développement agricole et pour accompagnement significatif de nos efforts de réalisation de programmes de sécurité alimentaire. La Guinée souhaite voir se renforcer la coopération avec la FAO dans une synergie de partenariat mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire en vue d'asseoir durablement les bases d'un développement socio-économique où les couches vulnérables, notamment les jeunes et les femmes, trouveront leur plein épanouissement.

Mr Kazys STARKEVICIUS (Lithuania)

First of all, allow me to congratulate the newly elected Director-General, Dr Graziano da Silva, with his new and very important position in FAO.

We believe that FAO is the main and the most important platform for making decisions on food security, agriculture, husbandry, forestry, fisheries as well as other important sectors. Nevertheless it had lost its effectiveness during the past and I think ongoing reform of the organization is the most important task for the newly-elected leadership and for all Members of FAO.

Lithuania will hold the Presidency of the Council of Europe at the second half of the year 2013 and during this period Lithuania is ready to cooperate closely with FAO over the strengthening of its role as a leading player in the field of agriculture and food issues. Moreover, we believe that dealing with such global issues as food security, FAO will cooperate closely with other Rome-based organizations like IFAD, International Fund for Agricultural Development and WFP, World Food Programme.

The topic of the Conference over the women's role in agriculture and rural development is timely and important. We have good examples in Lithuania that are related to this topic and we would like to share them with you today.

Women's role in society is and always was very important, because a woman is a soul of a family, the one who nurtures values and traditions. Even during very difficult times in the Lithuanian history, when our country experienced emigration, exile, occupations, forced collectivization, our nation survived and preserved our national identity firstly thanks to women – mothers, wives, sisters, daughters – who have worked very hard in Lithuanian villages and granges. A woman who had worked in a family farm was not only a breadwinner but also responsible for the preservation of our language, culture and national heritage. When we talk about the current situation, it is very important to understand the crucial role of women in order to maintain the vitality of rural areas and sustainable rural development.

Women make up more than 50 percent of the rural residents in Lithuania. In recent years, women became more active participants of rural markets and social life. More and more women living in rural areas are interested in carrier possibilities, willing to uphold an alternative business to agriculture. This year, we have noticed a trend that women are more actively applying for support for the development of particular businesses in rural areas. The EU and national support measures, that are intended to the promote enterprise in rural areas have special selection criteria for businesswomen in rural areas.

Evidently women are more active than men comparably in participating in the activities of local action groups, a way of cherishing national traditions and of promoting the implementation of social non-profit initiatives. One of the most active non-governmental organizations of women farmers – Lithuanian Association of Women Farmers – is operating since 1939, despite the fact that its activities were temporarily stopped due to the painful events in the history of Lithuania. Its activities were resumed in 1992, and currently this non-governmental organization unites nearly 3 000 active

members and has 180 units across Lithuania. This organization actively cooperates with other women's organizations from other countries.

Lithuania really appreciates the work of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture and actively participates in its activities. We are a member in the group's Governing Council. The work of this working party helps Lithuania to put its impact in cooperating between various regional institutions, creating a net of non-governmental actors and exchanging the good practice.

To sum up, I would like to emphasize that the elimination of the gap between women and men in the field of agriculture and rural development is an essential challenge in forming and implementing each country's national agricultural policy and creating the initiatives and projects of international cooperation. Also, I sincerely believe that this Conference will provide us with new ideas and initiatives for further steps.

Mr Ralechate Lincoln MOKOSE (Lesotho)

On behalf of my delegation and the Government of Lesotho, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General elect, Prof José Graziano da Silva. We wish you well in your job and reassure you of Lesotho's unquestionable support.

Let me again thank Dr Jacques Diouf for the tremendous contributions he has made as FAO Director-General in the dual fight against hunger and nutrition during his term of office.

Lesotho would like to reiterate the concerns raised by FAO Secretariat in the State of Food and Agriculture Report of 2010-2011 about increases in global undernourishment. The situation is worse in developing countries like Lesotho, despite the fact that long term trends of food availability are positive at a global level. The urgency in addressing this challenge cannot be overemphasized. Lesotho, as one of the food-deficit countries, is struggling to fight hunger and malnutrition.

Recent surveys on nutrition showed that there is still a lot of work to be done towards improving the situation. Despite better than average crop harvest this past agricultural year, nutrition does not appear to have improved much. The statistics continue to show worrisome characteristics and trends. The first half of 2011 was characterised by heavy rainfall, consequently the harvest is forecast to be very poor and lower than that of 2010. The bad situation is exacerbated by increasing levels of poverty. For the 2010-2011 agricultural year, the crop forecast shows a general decline in production for the three major grains: maize production has declined by 59.8 percent, sorghum by 79.7 percent, and wheat by 19 percent.

In view of the above-mentioned problems, the country's efforts are now focused on empowering the small holder farmers, the majority of whom are women. The Lesotho women have always been in charge of farming. Since the colonial days when their men were forced to work in the South African mines due to the introduction of the poor tax. For a long time, they were unable to make timely decisions regarding planting of suitable crops for the season. This problem was rooted in a serious gender gap faced by women, particularly in accessing productive resources such as land and animals.

However, the enabling environment for improving the status of women is now in place. In this respect, the enactment of responsible legislations such as the land act, equal opportunities act, child protection act and the ratification of UN convention on the elimination on all forms of discrimination against women have since corrected the imbalance.

In order to ensure ownership of this policy shift, sensitization campaigns for women to exploit the new opportunities for improving their livelihoods and participating fully in developmental activities are being pursued.

It is important to mention that Lesotho is no exception to variations and impact of climate change. We are facing serious challenges from climate change. The heavy rains and high temperatures have a direct impact on food security and natural resources management.

The country's poor and fragile soils are being increasingly depleted while crops and livestock are damaged. Measures put in place to address land degradation and erosion are hampered by climate change.

It is for this reason that I would like to join others who called for FAO assistance in national capacity-building programmes which take into consideration indigenous knowledge towards understanding and coping with climate change.

Let me close by acknowledging the assistance that FAO has afforded my country and reiterating that additional technical assistance and investment funds to developing countries, especially sub-Saharan Africa, will go a long way in reversing the situation of hunger and malnutrition.

Mr Torogul Niyazovich BEKOV (Kyrgyzstan) (Original language Russian)

On my behalf of my country I would like to warmly greet all of the participants in this Session. I wish everyone very fruitful work and may I express my deep gratitude to the Management of FAO for the fine organization of this Conference.

Bearing in mind the recent election of the new Director-General, I would like to start by thanking Dr Diouf for the contribution he made in bolstering the efforts of the international community aimed at avoiding food crises, eradicating hunger, fighting the outbreak of diseases, and confronting agriculture. I also thank him for all the efforts he has made in the Reform of FAO, thanks to which the Organization has become far more visible and prominent in the Central Asian region. I would also like to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva for his election to the post of Director-General. May I express the hope that there will be truthful cooperation with Kyrgyzstan and with the Central Asian Region in general.

The whole issue of guaranteeing food security is essential in the life of any country and, at the same time, it of course has a number of facets-economic, natural and social. Thanks to the efforts of the FAO in Kyrgyzstan, we are part of the Regional Office in Ankara. The opening of a dual accreditation office of FAO has shown how relevant and appropriate this decision is, and we very much feel the presence of FAO. In our Region, we have for the first time the Representation of FAO, but we hope that it will be bolstered to a full-fledged office. It is essential to enhance the status of FAO on par with the other UN Organizations represented in my country, and this is why my government would request that the office in Bishkek be bolstered and that it become a genuine total Country office of FAO.

In my country, the percentage of women working in agriculture amounts to 47 percent. Many women are engaged in agriculture, they sell their products either to wholesalers or to local markets. Despite the fact that their contribution is enormous, there are far fewer women in higher positions than men, and the number of women who are holders of their land only amount to 15 percent and they earn 78 percent of the income of men. We are trying to correct this entire situation, and we are trying to create equal opportunities for women. In Kyrgyzstan we have seen something which is a rule that is consistently being confirmed - the more developed a region is economically, the greater the involvement of women and conversely it would seem that the involvement of women in employment is a sort of economic milestone which identifies and determines the prosperity of an area.

Employment of women is essential for the well-being of and the development of our economy and this is why we have to have a long-term perspective in terms of employment of women. On 28 September of this year, with the active cooperation and support of FAO, we will have a Kyrgyz Rural Investment Forum and in the course of this forum we will have Plenary meetings, we will have specialized meetings, roundtables, etc. of government and private groups and international organizations dealing with topics such as the involvement of women in agriculture, improvement of the investment climate of agriculture in Kyrgyzstan, promotion of investments in the rural sector and the role of international organizations in boosting investments in agriculture in Kyrgyzstan. I am convinced that this Forum will go a long way towards ensuring greater food security in my country. May I avail myself of this opportunity to invite you all to take part in this Forum. To conclude, I will like to say that food security in each and every country, and in the world, in general can be guaranteed with our joint efforts. May I call on one and all to see to it that there be food security not only domestically but internationally. When we achieve this aim, we will have achieved a great result indeed.

M. Mokhtar JALLELI (Tunisie)

M. Le Président de la Conférence, M. Le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs, Excellences.

Le Gouvernement de la République tunisienne a voulu m'envoyer en tant que représentant de la Tunisie pour cette Conférence générale et ceci cinq mois seulement après la révolution du 14 janvier 2011. Ceci constitue et prouve l'importance accordée par le Gouvernement tunisien à cette Organisation, ses principes, sur lesquels elle a été bâtie, ses objectifs et le rôle vital qu'elle joue pour l'intérêt de toute l'humanité qui est toujours menacée par les problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Je ne voudrais pas répéter ce que mes prédécesseurs ont dit, et pour cette raison, je vais me limiter à certains messages.

Je voudrais vous faire part de la fierté de mon pays. Nous sommes fiers de l'assistance qui nous a été fournie par la communauté internationale, les peuples et les différents Gouvernements qui ont été solidaires avec le peuple tunisien qui aspire à la liberté, à la dignité depuis le 14 janvier 2011 qui est la date de la révolution pacifique qui a abouti à la chute de la dictature et qui a rendu à notre peuple sa souveraineté.

Nous avons donc pu voir un grand nombre de pays amis et frères et aussi des institutions financières internationales et régionales qui ont fourni l'assistance nécessaire à la Tunisie et bien sûr, les Agences des Nations Unies sont en tête de ces parties. Le Gouvernement transitoire auquel j'appartiens en Tunisie veut rompre avec le passé, avec les abus, l'humiliation et la corruption. Aujourd'hui, nous regardons vers l'avenir et nous voulons passer à un système démocratique où le citoyen aura son mot à dire à travers les institutions élues lors des élections libres, intègres et transparentes et à travers aussi les institutions constitutionnelles. Personne ne pourra abuser du pouvoir.

Je passe à mon deuxième message: la Tunisie d'aujourd'hui n'est pas la Tunisie d'hier. En effet, aujourd'hui la Tunisie est libre grâce à ses jeunes qui aspirent au meilleur, ils aspirent à la justice et à l'égalité et pour cette raison notre priorité ce sont les jeunes chômeurs et nous voulons leur fournir des opportunités de travail pour que les diplômés des universités qui sont environ 150 000. Le Gouvernement tunisien a voulu également prendre en considération les parties qui ont été marginalisées et privées pendant longtemps, pendant plusieurs décennies à cause du passé, de la pauvreté, de la privatisation, du chômage répandus dans le pays. Les ressources nationales n'ont pas été équitablement réparti entre toutes les catégories. Nous savons que certaines catégories intérieures pauvres en Tunisie sont en majorité des catégories rurales et agricoles. Dans le domaine de l'agriculture, 18 pour cent des tunisiens trouvent un travail au niveau national donc nous allons encore déployer plus d'efforts dans le domaine agricole qui constitue un domaine stratégique pour les personnes concernées et également pour la République de Tunisie.

Nous savons que l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, avec ses capacités et son expérience dans le domaine du développement, est capable de fournir les solutions aux problèmes qui semblent impossibles au premier abord et de trouver de nouveaux modèles pour aider les plus faibles à faire face à la pauvreté, à la faim et à l'amélioration de leurs conditions de vie et leur fournir les moyens d'être autosuffisants et de jouir de la sécurité alimentaire.

M. Le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs, la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde nécessite également de fournir une aide aux pays en développement dont la Tunisie pour que ces pays soient capables d'augmenter leur production et leur productivité et pour subvenir aux besoins de leurs citoyens et pour qu'elle soit également capable d'exporter leur production. De même cela nécessite l'étude des problèmes chroniques dont souffre un grand nombre de ces pays dans le domaine agricole ou les domaines connexes. Il faut revoir la manière d'utiliser et d'économiser les ressources hydrauliques, revoir les systèmes de crédit aux paysans pour les rendre plus accessibles. Il faut également encourager les recherches scientifiques agricoles pour prendre en considération les intérêts des agriculteurs et améliorer leur production. Il faut revoir le rôle joué par les organisations et les catégories professionnelles qui sont très importantes dans le domaine de l'agriculture et qui protègent et défendent les intérêts des agriculteurs. Elles jouent également un rôle important dans la sensibilisation et l'assistance. Il faut également adopter de nouvelles approches pour régler les problèmes que nous n'avons pas réussi à régler dans le passé et ils sont très nombreux.

En résumé, je voudrais vous dire que la production agricole doit s'améliorer. C'est ce que nous voyons dans les statistiques démographiques suite à l'augmentation des prix des denrées alimentaires dans le monde. Il faut donc aider ceux qui sont incapables de produire ce dont ils ont besoin, il faut les aider à se protéger. Il faut également aider ceux qui sont autosuffisants pour que les prix de la production baissent en général et pour qu'ils puissent aider et fournir une aide alimentaire à d'autres à des prix raisonnables.

Dans ce domaine, la Tunisie a une expérience qui peut être utile à d'autres Pays Membres de la FAO mais la Tunisie connaît également des problèmes et donc elle a besoin d'aide et je sais que la FAO et ses Membres sont très généreux dans ce domaine. Tout ceci demande également des investissements et les pays concernés sont incapables de faire ces investissements. Nous avons ici besoin également du rôle de la FAO et de ces partenaires, et citer le rôle important joué par le secteur privé dans l'investissement agricole ainsi que l'importance du partenariat entre le secteur privé et le secteur public.

Concernant le rôle de la femme dans le domaine agricole et dans le développement rural, c'est le titre de notre réunion, le Gouvernement tunisien dans ce domaine a été pionnier dans un certain nombre de domaines, notamment celui agricole car la femme en Tunisie est propriétaire par exemple d'usines alimentaires et elle est responsable d'élevage et participe aux pêches. Malgré cela, un grand nombre d'obstacles entravent l'autonomisation de la femme dans les milieux ruraux.

La Tunisie déploiera tous ses efforts pour renforcer les programmes consacrés aux femmes dans les régions rurales pour améliorer leurs capacités et leurs compétences techniques.

Je voudrais encore une fois, remercier le Directeur général actuel de l'Organisation, M. Jacques Diouf, pour son travail à la tête de la FAO. Je voudrais également féliciter le nouveau Directeur général élu, M. Graziano da Silva et nous lui souhaitons beaucoup de succès dans ses travaux.

En conclusion, M. Le Président, je voudrais inviter tous les participants de cette réunion à participer à l'évènement qui sera organisé par la Tunisie dans la salle de l'Ethiopie entre 12h30 et 13h30 concernant les défis et les priorités du secteur agricole en Tunisie depuis la révolution du 14 janvier 2011.

Mr Sadegh KHALILIAN (Iran, Islamic Republic of) (Original language Farsi)

We are attending this Thirty-seventh FAO Conference in a situation where the world is once again witnessing the surge of food prices after the experience of the food crises of 2007-2008. Surveys carried out by FAO indicate that food price indexes are once again reaching their highest levels. Comparison between prices of June 2008 and the second half of 2010 is an indication of the situation. Continuation of such a trend is a clear warning against the increasing threat of food security as regards 925 million people who have already been suffering from malnutrition. The situation also challenges the objectives of the Third Millennium. This trend indicates that necessary measures have not been carried out in preventing the real emergence of such a crisis in the world, and also demonstrates that no main reforms have been made in global policies in this regard.

It is noteworthy that FAO has introduced guidelines to Member Nations to reduce their vulnerability against price increases and the global food crisis. This manual concentrates on the three criteria of macro-economics; trade, and protection of the rights of producers and consumers. Along these lines, the Islamic Republic of Iran has formulated and implemented constructive macro-economic plans and initiatives in various sectors of its economy, especially in the agricultural sector within its Fifth Five-year Development Plan 2011-2015.

Decision-makers in the Islamic Republic of Iran have concentrated on regulating the subsidy scheme in the country as a vitally-important instrument in this regard. The Iranian Parliament has also approved the subsidy regulation law in so as to reduce the consumption of energy in various economic sectors. The agriculture sector is one of the sectors which has been greatly affected by this law. Therefore we have managed our programmes to increase the productivity of our agricultural sector and at the same time to prepare for future investments in various fields, such as R&D, infrastructure development, consumption of energy, reform and irrigation technologies and rural development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers coordinated agriculture and industrial development as one of the main components of economic development, food security, social equality and poverty mitigation. We have exerted considerable efforts in attaining relative self-sufficiency in agriculture, specifically as it regards its structural reform.

We have therefore achieved promising accomplishments in rural development and a sustainable production of foodstuffs. As a result of the new policies, in spite of the prevalent climatic situation, rural development has been moving forward at a relatively favourable pace in the past 30 years. During that period, Iranian agricultural production increased from 25 million to 107 million tonnes. Presently, we are producing more than 92 percent of our food requirements in our country. Rural women form a large portion of the labour force throughout the world. The share of rural women in agricultural activities in the Third World strongly outnumbers that of women in other countries. Rural women constitute nearly one-third of the active labour force in the agriculture sectors of those states. In some regions of the world, such as Africa, this figure can represent up to 90 percent.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the livelihoods of some 23 million people, or 30 percent of the population depend on agriculture, and the share of the agricultural sector in total employment in my country is about 20 percent.

In the meantime, rural women account for some 40 percent of the labour force in agriculture. Those figures do not include the number of women who are engaged in household agricultural activities such as market gardening and horticulture production at home which already added to the volume of production and to the income of rural families.

The uncontrolled and increasing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as plant and livestock diseases have had harmful consequences on the health of people and it is necessary for FAO to take immediate action in this respect. To overcome the ongoing changes, the Islamic Republic of Iran has anticipated initiatives and policies in its Fifth Five-year Development Plan 2011-2015 such as an integrated fight against plant diseases, optimal use of chemical fertilizers, biological material and animal medicines. A 35 percent reduction in the consumption of chemical fertilizers has been planned, as well as their replacement by biological fertilizers by the end of the Fifth Five-year Development Plan.

To enhance the role of women in agriculture and rural development the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture adopted important initiatives in respect of its programme of work. For instance, a plan was introduced in 1999 by the Office of Women Affairs of the Ministry to empower women in the agriculture sector. This has provided further opportunities for the participation of rural women in various fields of agriculture.

Since 1999, infrastructure plans were introduced in order to increase the productivity and efficiency of the women's labour force in rural areas. That was in addition to the Plan of Agricultural Extension and Education that was provided for them. Meanwhile, there are projects such as dispatching facilitators, the establishment of micro-credit funds, establishment of rural women cooperatives, employment-generating, nomination of elected rural women, scientific symposiums, cultural festivals, etc that were introduced to enhance the technical capabilities of rural women in the production and management areas of the agricultural sector.

Those efforts have led to significant results. In addition to the above mentioned measures women in the Islamic Republic of Iran, are playing a greater role in producing healthy agricultural products, in ensuring the protection of the environment, as well as in raising awareness and capability with climate change issues. Unfortunately, due to time limits it is impossible to list all these initiatives in this speech in this august assembly. Nevertheless, I would like to refer to an example of the participation of the Iranian rural women in the protection of the environment and a growing awareness as regards climate change. The Iranian rural women are participating in the carbon sequestration project, a joint project by the Government of Iran and the UNDP. This project is carried out in the rangeland of the Hossein Abad region which is usually referred to as one of the deprived and poor areas in the East of the country. In this project women work along with men in reviving the destroyed rangeland and in increasing the plant coverage of the region through the prevention of the emission of greenhouse gases

and carbon sequestration. This project has contributed to the development of a gender participatory culture, and has increased the revenue of the rural people in this region. This project has been evaluated as one of the UNDP successful projects. Now that Dr Diouf, the distinguished Director-General of FAO is about to leave this organization after 18 years of continuous, sincere service one should recognise the achievements during those 18 years. Therefore, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the Director-General for his invaluable services, and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

I also wish to express my congratulations to his Excellency Mr José Graziano da Silva on his election as the new FAO Director-General. I believe that this is a great responsibility that has been entrusted to him by the FAO Member Nations. We are convinced that his knowledge, skills and experience, shall lead the Organization towards achieving even greater objectives.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to reaffirm its commitment to continuing its cooperation with FAO for the realization of our common sublime goals.

M. Bruno LE MAIRE (France)

Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, cher Luc Guyau, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, je suis très heureux de vous retrouver ici presque un an après ma première intervention sur la question de la faim dans le monde et quelques jours seulement après l'adoption par le G20 du Plan d'action contre la Volatilité des Prix agricoles pour l'agriculture mondiale.

Je voudrais commencer mon intervention en félicitant le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva qui a été élu hier à la tête de la FAO. Je voudrais également remercier Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour la qualité du travail qu'il a accompli pendant 17 ans au service de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et de la gouvernance agricole de la planète.

Je vous le disais tout à l'heure, le G20 vient d'adopter un Plan d'action ambitieux et concret pour l'agriculture mondiale. Ce plan ce sont pour l'instant des mots. Il vous appartient à vous, Membres de la FAO, de transformer les mots en actes. Il vous appartient à vous de prendre les décisions concrètes qui nous permettront d'éviter que le XXIème siècle ne soit le siècle de la faim. À l'initiative du Président de la République française, c'est la première fois que les Membres du G20 traitent de la question agricole. Au sommet de l'agenda international, il y a eu pendant des années la question du pétrole, la question des armes et la question des monnaies. Pour la première fois au sommet de l'agenda international, il y a la question de Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, et cette question doit rester en tête des préoccupations de la communauté internationale. Rien n'est plus scandaleux que l'augmentation de la faim dans le monde. Rien n'est plus scandaleux que la spéculation sur les prix agricoles mondiaux. Rien n'est plus scandaleux que de voir des millions de personnes continuer à souffrir de la faim alors même que l'agriculture mondiale se développe. Votre responsabilité à vous tous ici, notre responsabilité collective c'est de parvenir à éviter que le XXIème, je vous le disais, ne soit le siècle de la faim, et c'est de prendre les décisions nécessaires sur un certain nombre de volets.

Le premier objectif c'est le réinvestissement dans l'agriculture mondiale. Il ne s'agit pas d'adopter ce qui avait été choisi pendant des années, le nord qui nourrit le sud ou les pays riches qui nourrissent les pays pauvres. Il s'agit de garantir à chacun sur la planète sa sécurité et son autonomie alimentaire et pour cela, dans les pays africains, dans les pays de l'Asie du sud, il faut donner les moyens à tous les États de réinvestir dans l'agriculture. Il faut donner les moyens à tous les petits paysans de vivre correctement du prix de leur travail. Il faut donner les moyens aux femmes qui s'occupent des exploitations. Je sais que c'est un sujet sur lequel vous débattiez depuis maintenant plusieurs jours, leur donner les moyens de vivre décemment du prix de leur travail agricole. Il faut réinvestir dans l'agriculture mondiale en faisant en sorte que chaque État, chaque exploitation, chaque ferme, chaque paysan ait les moyens de vivre de son revenu et de son activité. Il faut penser différemment sur la question agricole. Regardez la question des semences, la question de l'accès à la trésorerie, la question de l'assurance, la question de la préservation des terres agricoles dans les pays en développement et la question de la commercialisation. Tout doit être fait à une échelle plus petite pour permettre à chaque

exploitation agricole d'être rentable et durable sur la planète. C'est le premier objectif que nous avons fixé dans le cadre du Plan d'action du G20.

Le deuxième objectif c'est la transparence du marché. Assez de l'opacité sur les marchés, assez de ce manque d'information sur les marchés agricoles, assez de cette absence de règles dont le marché agricole est la seule victime. Il faut de la transparence, de l'information, des statistiques précises et fiables sur l'état des stocks, de la production agricole et de la consommation agricole mondiale. C'est ce que nous avons proposé dans le cadre de ce Plan d'action avec un système d'information sur les marchés agricoles dont le Secrétariat sera hébergé ici à Rome, à la FAO. Je souhaite que cette décision puisse entrer en vigueur le plus rapidement possible et que la FAO, qui est désormais au cœur de la question de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, dispose des outils nécessaires pour faire cette transparence.

Le troisième outil concret que nous avons défini dans le cadre de ce Plan d'action, c'est la coordination internationale. Nous devons mettre en place des mécanismes de coopération en cas de crise agricole. Personne ne comprendrait que si, dans les mois à venir, une nouvelle crise agricole apparaissait sur un point de la planète que la FAO ne soit pas en mesure d'y réagir de manière concrète et efficace. Nous avons proposé un système de réaction rapide, et je souhaite que ce système, qui sera hébergé à la FAO, puisse lui aussi être mis en place très rapidement.

Vous le voyez, les défis sont immenses mais pour la première fois nous avons devant nous des propositions concrètes pour y faire face. Nous avons les moyens de lutter avec plus d'efficacité contre la faim dans le monde. Nous avons les moyens pour limiter la volatilité excessive des prix agricoles qui est un problème pour les paysans, pour les consommateurs et pour les pays les plus fragiles de la planète.

Tout est désormais sur la table, tout est à portée de main, je compte sur vous, sur votre engagement pour nous permettre de lutter avec plus d'efficacité contre la faim dans le monde et pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Mr Kwesi AHWOI (Ghana)

It is indeed an honour and a pleasure for me to participate in the 37th Session of the FAO Conference. This year's Conference has so far been exciting and historic, as a new Director-General for FAO has been elected to continue with the implementation of the ongoing reforms that seek to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of Organization and enable it to better support its Members in the fight against hunger, undernutrition and poverty.

I must say I do not envy your position at all. Not under the pressure that I saw you go through yesterday but I wish to, on that very point, commend you and congratulate you and your able lieutenants for steadfastly steering the stormy ship of yesterday's election of a new Director-General to safe anchor ashore. I also want to commend you for the able manner in which you are steering the Thirty-seventh Session so far.

Ghana also wants to join the earlier speakers to congratulate Dr Graziano da Silva and his five competitors for their belief in the FAO and its future. The close results of the last two candidates attest to this.

We have no doubt whatsoever that the competitive spirit displayed at this election augurs very well for the goodwill and dynamic management needed by the Organization as it enters into the next level of its existence.

Ghana, a beneficiary of FAO reform outcomes, commits itself to support the reform agenda articulated by Professor Graziano da Silva on his campaign platform, as this house would redefine for implementation.

Ghana wishes to place on record the able leadership of Dr Jacques Diouf, the outgoing Director-General of FAO, and commend him for significantly championing the fight against hunger, poverty and undernutrition. We recognize his passion for the attainment of food security and, in particular, among rural populations. Dr Diouf, wherever you may be at this moment, we wish you well on your

retirement which begins early next year. We in Ghana do not believe that you are tired and will therefore be falling on your accumulated wealth of experience to help accelerate our agricultural development agenda.

My delegation welcomes the report on the State of Food and Agriculture which does not only give a vivid account of the current food situation but also highlights the potentially immense contribution that women could make to increase food production. The report indicates that women could make a dramatic contribution to economic development when they are empowered through relevant education, exposed to the right policies and provided with the appropriate support to enhance their access to productive resources and services.

As much as we appreciate the progress made in reducing the number of people suffering from hunger from over 1 billion in 2009 to about 925 million in 2010, it is a matter of great regret that in spite of the progress made at the global level in addressing the issue of food security and poverty reduction, Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) remains the only region of the world where *per capita* food production has not increased significantly for the past decades, and poverty remains very high. A lot more needs to be done to accelerate the pace of agricultural growth and development in Africa because growth in the agricultural sector on the continent is twice as effective as growth in other sectors since the sector employs nearly two-thirds of the labour force and accounts for an average of one-third of GDP.

There is no doubt at all that African leaders and policy makers have long recognized the potential of agriculture to stimulate economic growth, reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition through its contribution of increasing household incomes and foreign exchange earnings. The sad truth however, is that the fight against poverty and hunger is becoming more challenging in Africa, in view of the projections that her population will be about 1.8 billion by the year 2050. The call, then, is for African leaders to continue to give priority to agriculture in their development agenda and intensify investment in the sector.

Ghana's achievements in its food and agricultural development attest to the need for sustained prioritization and increased investment. The progress made by Ghana from 1985 to date has been endorsed by the international community through a number of awards, key among which are i) The Hunger Project's "1993 Africa Prize for Leadership for the Sustainable End of Hunger"; ii) "FAO's Agricola Medal 2000"; and iii) "2011 World Food Prize" awarded jointly to Ghana and Brazil for food security and poverty reduction.

Underpinning these international recognitions is the acknowledged role of women in food production, processing and family nutrition.

Women's contribution to the socio-economic and political development of Ghana is worth mentioning. Ghana as of now has women in positions of Chief Justice, Speaker of Parliament, Government Statistician and about 25 percent of our Cabinet positions. But it is in the field of agriculture, especially in food production, processing and family nutrition, that Ghanaian women have distinguished themselves most.

Even though there are about equal number of men and women in agriculture in Ghana, available statistics indicate that about 80 percent of the total food output is produced by women. On nutrition, Ghanaian women are solely responsible for their families' daily nutrition. In Ghana, the Directorate of Women in Agriculture and Development of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture is collaborating with the Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Health to improve nutrition knowledge of rural women.

Ghana has achieved the MDG1. Despite that, we are working very hard to position ourselves as the "Bread Basket" of West Africa through our accelerated modernization and commercialization of Africa, with women empowerment and re-orientation from subsistence production to market-oriented production.

Dr. Kwegyir Aggrey, a renowned Ghanaian educator is reputed to have said that "if you educate a man, you educate an individual but if you educate a woman you educate a whole nation". It's our view, therefore, that more relevant education for the girl-child should be of the utmost priority. The girl-child should be encouraged to go to school and stay till completion of at least the secondary

school education, through Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE), enhanced universal school feeding programmes, free uniforms and textbooks among others.

Finally, let me say that the fleeting numbers of the poor and undernourished in the world today as projected into the future cannot be accepted. The cause and solution lie in women's empowerment and rural development.

Our development agenda must urgently and critically address the twin problems of limited access to productive resources and services if we genuinely and seriously want to enhance the quality of life of women, especially women in our rural communities.

Mr Ismat Dursun ABASOV (Azerbaijan) (Original language Russian)

First allow me to express my gratitude for having invited the delegation of Azerbaijan to take part in this Thirty-seventh Conference of the FAO. May I wish all colleagues fruitful work and every success in their endeavours.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to also congratulate Mr da Silva on his recent election to this lofty position of Director-General of FAO. May I wish him successful work in the future. I am convinced that under his aegis, the Organization will reach a new level in its development. FAO, the leading global organization as regards agricultural policy, food security policy, and saving mankind from poverty and hunger is the organization closest to the heart of agrarian and agricultural Azerbaijan, and especially all of the transition countries. In all of the years that we have been members of FAO, with the technical and financial assistance of this organization, we have implemented a number of projects to turn a global expertise to advantage, introduce market-based structures and establish an agricultural information and monitoring system.

Irrespective of the positive steps forward, we still have a lot to do in using our potential. We have to go on pushing for reform so as to enhance the effectiveness of our agricultural system. FAO projects should be more focussed on the beneficiaries, especially at the level of planning and implementing these projects. Azerbaijan, as a Member Nation of FAO, is quite prepared to discharge all of its statutory obligations and is not in arrears in the payment of its contributions. Furthermore, we are considering the joint-financing of FAO projects in a number of foreign countries. One of the main factors of our successful implementation of the agrarian reform and the fact that we have managed to solve a number of problems in terms of food security is the support that has been given to us by a number of international financial institutions and scientific research centres, including FAO.

At present, one of the main priorities in Azerbaijan is support of agricultural production and enhancing the reliability and security of food reserves through the creation of new employment opportunities in rural areas, thereby boosting the income of rural families. With government's efforts and with the support of international donors and FAO, we have managed to bring our poverty level down to 9.5 percent, whereas many years before it was 46.7 percent.

In order to guarantee foodstuffs to our population the President of the Republic adopted, a number of years back, a government programme so as to guarantee food security for the period 2008-2015. This food security project includes a number of measures to boost food security, promote a long-term strategy in this area and ensure the resolution of a number of priority issues. All of these measures and other steps have made it possible to materialize a programme of food security of agrarian reform in my country.

That being said, we would like to note that global warming and climate change have become very serious and urgent problems which the countries of the region have to solve together with the support of competent international organizations and of FAO. Constant attention is, therefore, paid to the fertility of arable land, to the problem of increasing salinity, and to swampland development so that to ensure the proper irrigation of our agricultural lands.

We also plan to establish an FAO centre for training our population, and this is in the context of our national agricultural faculty.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to inform this Conference that the Thirty-seventh Session of the European Commission on Agriculture and the Twenty-eighth Regional FAO Conference for Europe, and also the meeting of NGOs and the Civil Society Organization for Europe will be held in April 2012 in the city of Baku. We hope that with the support of the FAO and the active participation of the Government of Azerbaijan, we will be in a position to carry out all of our duties efficiently. I would like to invite all of my colleagues, Ministers of Agriculture, of Europe and Central Asian Region to take part in the Thirty-seventh Session of the Regional Conference, which will be held in the city of Baku.

Mr Alfonso Pedro CANGA (Angola) (Original language Portuguese)

First of all I would like to offer my congratulations to the Chairman on his leadership of this very important meeting which is taking place in particularly difficult international circumstances. We have an enormous number of people still facing the scourge of hunger despite the fact that there has been a slight reduction of the problem in some regions of the world. I would at the same time like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Food and Agriculture Organization for the work they are doing in trying to eradicate hunger worldwide. One of the basic Millennium Development Goals is to reduce by half the number of people suffering from hunger. This is a goal that is a long way from being achieved. Worldwide prices of foodstuffs have worsened the situation by increasing considerably the cost of wheat, sorghum, corn and rice. As a result we have seen significant increases in food insecurity worldwide, particularly among the poorest people in the poorest countries. All this means that we have no choice but to think in very great depth about how effective our strategic policies are adopted to bring an end to this scourge and this affront to the human conscience. We of course recognize the progress which some countries, developing countries included, are making in the fight against hunger, poverty and food insecurity. We are encouraged by the commitment of the world's leaders in mobilizing resources to help developing countries join together in order to overcome hunger.

In Africa for example, a good many efforts are in the process of being made by our government in order to bring down considerably the number of hungry people there. There is a fairly-wide consensus that African agriculture has enormous potential for growth because of Africa's abundance of natural resources like water and arable land. It is our region that actually holds the biggest reserves in terms of arable land and unused water resources. However, the problem of climate change, conflict and the economic and financial crisis has worsened our situation. Despite the efforts we have been making, most of us with small-scale agriculture do not have a way of protecting ourselves or our farmers against these factors and against competition on agricultural markets. Therefore, our office needs to be backed up by specific steps taken by wealthy countries and international organizations as a part of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. We know that we will be unable to fight hunger worldwide with aid-based policies because they do not actually solve the problem they just add one on top of the one to the ones we already have. Hunger can be effectively fought with better and more investment, with more open and fair markets, with access to knowledge and with the specific focus measures and responses which we need in the world at the moment. Obviously, as long as a child goes to sleep hungry our consciences cannot be clear and mankind needs to be ashamed at the fact that children are still going to sleep on an empty stomach. In my country, the Government of Angola and particularly the President are strongly committed to bringing an end to hunger and the disgrace of food insecurity as soon as possible. Productive investment and specific measures to support rural farmers and to promote commercially-viable agriculture, confirm this intention. Investments must be directed towards family farming with favorable credits offered to those engaged in it.

I would like to welcome the commitment to FAO and other organizations to support us. We will support them in all our efforts to build food security and eradicate hunger. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our outgoing Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf, for the intelligent way in which he has led FAO and for the efforts that he and this Organization have made to free the world from hunger.

We had the honour of sharing his commitment to implement development projects in the agricultural, fisheries, livestock and forest sectors.

Thank you Director-General Diouf.

I also take this opportunity to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General and I wish him good success in what will be a very difficult task and can ensure him that we will stand alongside him in ensuring him that his term is a successful one and that the work of this organization will be successful too.

Sr. Tabaré AGUERRE (Uruguay)

Expresamos nuestras felicitaciones al Señor Director General electo, José Antonio Graziano da Silva, formulando votos para una excelente gestión al frente de la Organización, ejecutando las reformas necesarias para un mejor funcionamiento y adaptándola a las prioridades futuras de la FAO. Al mismo tiempo agradecemos los esfuerzos empleados por parte del Director General Jacques Diouf a lo largo de su mandato, fundamentalmente su papel instrumental en el inicio del proceso de reformas.

A continuación referiremos brevemente a la importancia del sector agropecuario para nuestro país, el Uruguay, y la contribución de la FAO a su desarrollo.

El Uruguay ha emprendido una estrategia de desarrollo del sector agropecuario basada en la competitividad con integración social y sustentabilidad ambiental. Nuestro país tiene referidas ventajas a la buena dotación de sus recursos naturales. No obstante dichos factores naturales, el gobierno nacional prioriza la construcción de capacidades básicas para la competitividad estructural y sistémica a nivel de los recursos humanos, del desarrollo de infraestructura, inversión en ciencia y en tecnología e innovaciones que permitan diferenciar productos y procesos, en un marco de estabilidad de las reglas de juego y con actualización de los marcos regulatorios.

Para ello se están implementando políticas activas cuyo lineamientos fundamentales están orientados a promover la inserción internacional, la preservación de los recursos naturales, la mitigación y fundamentalmente la adaptación al cambio climático, la creación de un sistema nacional de información agrícola que permita disponer en tiempo real de información relevante para los sectores públicos y privado. Se prioriza además el desarrollo rural donde el foco estratégico se refiere al diseño de políticas locales que permitan construir nuevas capacidades por parte de los distintos sectores de la agricultura familiar, de forma de lograr una integración social económica a los dinámicos procesos que se están desarrollando en el medio rural del Uruguay.

La construcción de estas nuevas capacidades se encara con el propósito de construir bienes públicos disminuyendo las asimetrías de la tecnología, el conocimiento y los mercados que históricamente han excluido a los más débiles de las oportunidades del desarrollo.

El 70% de nuestros agricultores son agricultores familiares. Una agricultura familiar que enfrenta hoy el desafío de permanecer en una época donde la demanda mundial provoca un aumento de la inversión en tierras y en tecnificación de los procesos agrícolas, amenazando de esta forma a muchos pequeños agricultores. Nuestro desafío es transformar esta amenaza en oportunidad, construyendo las capacidades que brinden la oportunidad de construir el desarrollo al mismo tiempo que construyen seguridad alimentaria.

Existe un nuevo espacio de oportunidad para una economía basada en el trabajo familiar, donde la mujer rural constituye un pilar fundamental en la construcción de la familia, del trabajo y de la integración a la comunidad.

¿Cómo lograr desarrollo con inclusión social en un país agro-exportador? La oportunidad está en el posibilitarle inclusión social y económica de la agricultura familiar a las cadenas de valor agro-exportadoras, construyendo bienes públicos en materia de innovación, infraestructura y educación que posibiliten el acceso a los procesos tecnológicos y comerciales, innovadores de todos los agricultores.

Para el Uruguay, la agricultura es la actividad económica más importante. La agricultura competitiva y ambientalmente responsable constituye la clave de nuestra seguridad alimentaria y contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria global. Seguridad alimentaria y comercio justo son dos caras de una misma moneda. Sustentabilidad ambiental y seguridad alimentaria son sinónimos si analizamos a los conceptos en términos de civilización y no en términos de la presente generación. Cambio climático y seguridad alimentaria son dos conceptos fuertemente comprometidos. El futuro nos demanda

imaginación y trabajo en la búsqueda de sistemas productivos menos vulnerables y con mayor resiliencia.

La FAO ha estado presente en nuestro país brindando cooperación técnica desde el año 1950, ha otorgado asesoramiento y apoyo a las políticas establecidas por el Gobierno en materia de desarrollo agrario. Precisamente en el Año Internacional de los Bosques, destacamos la cooperación brindada para la implementación del Plan de Desarrollo Forestal, que es un instrumento fundamental para la planificación estratégica y el ordenamiento territorial de un sector que ha permitido al país tener un pujante desarrollo captando inversiones. Al mismo tiempo, Uruguay alcanzó el 5% de la totalidad de su territorio cubierto con bosques implantados y al mismo tiempo hemos logrado aumentar la superficie de nuestro bosque nativo, constituyéndonos en unos de los pocos países del mundo con un balance de emisiones de anhídrido carbónico negativo.

Valoramos el apoyo en el sector pesquero, valoramos el apoyo de esta institución en los recursos cielo y agua, en síntesis el aporte y la cooperación de la Organización al desarrollo agropecuario nacional ha sido relevante y continuo.

Nuestro país privilegia el papel desempeñado por las Conferencias Regionales. Las Oficinas Regionales presentan ventajas desde el punto de vista de la eficiencia de los procedimientos del trabajo y de las coordinaciones inherentes a la provisión de la cooperación internacional. Uruguay considera que no existe suficiente información que permita una evaluación profunda y completa del Centro de Servicios Compartidos, por lo cual entendemos que no están dadas las condiciones para la supresión o cierre de las Oficinas Regionales.

Finalmente, el mundo de la agricultura y la alimentación requerirán de los mayores esfuerzos de esta Organización y de los Países Miembros para responder a las demandas de incremento de la producción agrícola. Durante los últimos cincuenta años, los mismos años de existencia de la FAO, muchos países han alcanzado su seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo de sus agricultores con apoyos y subsidios a procesos productivos de balances ambientales y energéticos de dudosa sustentabilidad. Al mismo tiempo, han contribuido a impedir el desarrollo de agriculturas más competitivas e indirectamente han enlentecido el proceso de construcción de la seguridad alimentaria global y de la oportunidad de millones de personas y de millones de agricultores en el mundo.

El mundo no tendrá, señores, seguridad alimentaria con agricultores empobrecidos. La agricultura sigue siendo en el mundo la actividad que ocupa a más familias y a las más pobres. Es, al mismo tiempo, la gran oportunidad para construir desarrollo. Por este motivo debemos dignificarla y dejar de ver la agricultura una actividad de segunda categoría. Debe ser el instrumento para el logro de la promoción social de muchos millones de personas que a la vez contribuyen a la construcción de la seguridad alimentaria global.

Esto no es solo investigación o solo transferencia, innovación, educación o financiamiento, es mucho más, y por ello la FAO no puede abordar esta temática en aislamiento de la comunidad internacional ni de otros foros vinculados a las más trascendentes decisiones a nivel global.

En la búsqueda de ese nuevo equilibrio, tengan ustedes la seguridad de todo nuestro apoyo, reiteramos nuestra disposición a contribuir y a potenciar el desarrollo de los cometidos de la FAO desde esta perspectiva.

Mr Takashi SHINOHARA (Japan)

Thanks to the Director-General, Dr Diouf, and all staff of FAO for the preparation and operation of this session.

I also congratulate, Dr. José Graziano da Silva, who was elected as the incoming Director General yesterday.

As you know, Japan was hit by an unprecedented earthquake and Tsunami on 11 March. This natural disaster caused a great loss of life, with more than 20 000 dead and lost. Production and social infrastructure were swept away by a ten-meter Tsunami.

Since then, we have received warm support and cooperation from a number of countries, regions and international organizations. On behalf of the people of Japan, I would like to express my deepest gratitude.

We had about 500 000 evacuees right after the disaster. So, we had to provide 1.5 million meals per day in this devastating situation under the gas shortage caused by the damage of refineries. However, in terms of food, we were able to provide most of the meals from nearby warehouses and bakeries, to the evacuees. We realized the importance of food security not only at the national level but also at the regional and international level in emergency cases like this.

At the same time, we are taking all possible measures to avoid distribution of unsafe food, including food intended for export, by testing levels of radioactive contaminants and suspending shipments in response to the nuclear power plant accident. I would like to ask you to take important measures on the basis of scientific evidence.

Food production needs to be increased by 1.7 times by 2050, as much as the current level.

It is necessary to improve the agricultural techniques of female farmers who account for more than 40 percent of the agricultural labour force. To address this Japan, as the second-largest ODA donor in the field of agriculture, has actively provided support for the “Coalition for African Rice Development,” which is designed to double the production of rice in Africa, taking into consideration the participation of female workers.

It is necessary to improve domestic food production for both developing countries and developed countries to ensure global food security for the future. The food self-sufficiency rate of Japan is the lowest among developed countries, and there are a number of serious issues in agriculture.

We have introduced the direct income support system since the change of government by the Democratic Party of Japan in September 2009. Through this, we are striving to raise the food self-sufficiency rate.

In this context, female farmers have played a vital role not only in agricultural production but also in food processing and sales through farmers’ markets.

I believe that it is ideal to consume agricultural products in the place where they are produced and at the time of harvest in order to realize the rich dietary life. We advocate this as “produce locally, consume locally” and “produce seasonally, consume seasonally”. This idea has a lot of similarities with that of “slow food” started from a small town in Italy.

I referred to this idea for the first time at the meeting of Sustainable Agriculture co-hosted by OECD and the Dutch Government in Maastricht in 2000.

This idea contributes to improving food self-sufficiency and to solving environmental issues by mitigating the global emission of greenhouse gases by shortening the distance between farmers and the table and by saving energy. In other words, we need to reduce any problems of transportation. I have also been advocating this activity, called “Shortening the Food Mileage”, just like “Wood Mileage for Timber” or “Good Mileage for Trade”.

Sufficient food production and smooth distribution are important matters to ensure global food security. These two points were confirmed at the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security held in Japan in October 2010, and were reaffirmed at the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting last week in Paris.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to FAO and other related organizations for certifying the Noto region and the Sado region of Japan as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System, GIAHS.

I am glad that our traditional agriculture fostered by the people in those regions was highly appreciated.

FAO has to take a comparative advantage in the fields such as international standards and various statistics, which should be further strengthened by FAO Reform. These fields are expected to contribute to the Action Plan agreed at the G20 Agriculture Ministerial Meeting.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my respect for the Director-General, Dr Diouf, who has been working for 18 years in the fight against hunger and poverty in the world as the head of FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you sir and please be assured of the entire membership's support and sympathy to Japan and to its people.

This brings us to the end of our meeting today. We will continue interventions on Item 10 at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. May I wish you a very pleasant warm evening in this beautiful city.

The meeting rose at 17:56 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 56

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:56 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
28 June 2011

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:45 hours

Mr Juan Camilo Restrepo,

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Juan Camilo Restrepo,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 09:45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Juan Camilo Restrepo,
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

- 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture** (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continued)
10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (suite)
10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continuación)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Cape Verde, Norway, Sudan, Luxembourg, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Zambia, Iceland, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Madagascar, Zimbabwe, India, Côte d'Ivoire, Holy See, Swaziland, Botswana.

EL PRESIDENTE

Esta mañana, considerando el Tema 10 de nuestro programa de trabajo: El Examen del Estado y de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación. En vista de que el número de oradores y el límite de tiempo de que disponemos, es amplio el primero y restringido el segundo, ruego a los señores delegados a que limiten sus intervenciones a los cinco minutos que están dispuestos.

Tiene entonces la palabra a continuación el Señor Delegado de Cabo Verde, la Excelentísima Señora Eva Verona Teixeira Ortet, Ministra de Desarrollo Rural de la República de Cabo Verde.

Mme Eva Verona TEIXEIRA ORTET (Cap-Vert) (Langue originale Portugaise)

Monsieur le Président,

Excellences,

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Tout d'abord, permettez-moi de féliciter le Président ainsi que les membres du Bureau et les autres organes de la Conférence pour leurs élections.

Nous saluons chaleureusement Monsieur José Graziano da Silva pour son élection a la tête de l'Organisation. En tant que membre du Gouvernement d'un pays ayant des rapports privilégiés avec le Brésil basés sur des liens inébranlables de sang, histoire et culture nous ne pourrions qu'expérimenter une grande émotion et joie en ce moment très heureux. Nous sommes pleinement convaincus qu'à la personne du Directeur Général élu sont réunies toutes les qualités et capacités nécessaires pour mener a bien au plus vite possible la Réforme de l'organisation ainsi que pour la réalisation de ses nobles objectifs. Nous tenons a lui réitérer la modeste coopération du Cap-Vert dans l'accomplissement de son mandat.

A l'actuel Directeur Général, notre frère et amis Dr. Jacques Diouf, je tiens a réitérer la grande appréciation et reconnaissance de mon pays pour les extraordinaires accomplissements de la FAO au long de ses trois mandats, spécialement dans le cadre de la lutte contre la faim et la nutrition et pour le développement de l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Nous ne pouvons que nous réjouir de la déclaration solennelle du Dr. Jacques Diouf sur l'éradication complète de la peste bovine. Ce fait représente un jalon inéluctable dans le parcours de la FAO et de la communauté internationale, qui montre une fois de plus que là où il existe la détermination et volonté politique communes nous serons capables de surmonter les défis les plus complexes et difficiles qui peuvent exister.

Monsieur le Président, c'est avec un grand plaisir et honneur que j'ai le privilège de me pencher sur un thème que m'est particulièrement cher, « **le rôle essentiel des femmes dans l'Agriculture et le Développement Rural** ». Permettez-moi de saisir cette opportunité pour féliciter et remercier l'Organisation des Nations Unis pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture pour cette mémorable initiative et l'excellent rapport produit sur un sujet si important, et d'adresser à toutes les femmes rurales du monde mes plus vives salutations.

Les expériences du passé nous ont enseigné que les sociétés qui ont réussi à opérer de profondes transformations dans des conditions de vie de leur population sont effectivement celles qui ont su intégrer, de façon équilibrée, les potentialités des hommes et des femmes dans leur processus de développement socio - économique. Tenant compte de ce constat et de la reconnaissance du rôle crucial des femmes dans le processus de développement aux échelons régional et national, le Gouvernement du Cap Vert, issue des dernières élections a consacré, à l'égard des gouvernements précédents, comme principe orientateur de son action l'intégration systématique du concept genre dans tous les programmes et projets de développement, particulièrement ceux orientés vers le milieu rural.

Bien que d'une façon générale la législation Capverdienne se régit par le principe de l'égalité entre hommes et femmes, au niveau du cadre législatif national certaines questions fondamentales restent omises comme l'accès à la terre, la gestion de l'eau, les services financiers, l'emploi en milieu rural, la technologie agricole et les services publics. Selon les statistiques officielles, parmi les 44.506 exploitations agricoles existantes, 99,87% sont des exploitations familiales, d'où 50,5% sont gérées par des femmes. Cependant, il faut souligner qu'en générale les femmes n'ont qu'un contrôle précaire de la terre et qu'elles ne sont pratiquement présentes que dans les exploitations pluviales, dont les rendements sont très faibles et la production aléatoire.

Quoique les femmes aient une bonne représentation au sein des associations communautaires, elles sont minoritaires au niveau des instances de décision et de planification. Par ailleurs, elles ne participent pas activement à la qualité des décisions prises à l'égard des programmes et projets affectant leurs communautés. Dans la plupart des zones rurales, la possibilité de trouver un emploi est rare et peu fréquente. Ainsi, si le taux de chômage au niveau national reste élevé, de l'ordre de 10,7%, au niveau des femmes ce taux s'élève à 12,1%. Dans les travaux publics les femmes sont employées à des postes moins rémunérées et considérés moins importants et qui ne requièrent pas beaucoup de formation. Malgré les progrès enregistrés au niveau des statistiques agricoles, la systématisation de l'approche genre n'y constitue pas une réalité, et dans la plupart des données la contribution des femmes au développement rural reste méconnue.

Mesdames et Messieurs, l'archipel du Cap Vert, est un pays confronté à un climat aride conjugué à des faibles disponibilités en terres agricoles et en eau. En effet, ces conditions adverses, de pénurie de ressources naturelles, notamment d'eau et sol, le secteur agricole présente une grande vulnérabilité et une faible productivité, comme l'atteste la contribution du secteur dans la formation du PIB, 8 à 10%, avec un taux de croissance annuelle de 2,6%. Néanmoins, le secteur agricole joue un rôle pluri-dimensionnel important et constitue le secteur clé pour des interventions orientées vers la réduction de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire.

De ce fait, le gouvernement du Cap Vert a pris l'engagement politique ferme de continuer à réaliser d'importants investissements dans le secteur de l'agriculture et allouer au moins 10% des dépenses publiques à ce secteur et de promouvoir une croissance annuelle du PIB agricole de l'ordre de 6,9 %, en vue d'une croissance soutenue qui contribuera à une réduction significative du taux de pauvreté.

La stratégie de développement agricole du Cap Vert a pris comme référence les politiques, les initiatives et les dynamiques en cours aux niveaux national, régional et continental, pour définir le Programme National d'Investissement agricoles (PNIA), lequel a une portée globale et orienté vers le développement intégré des productions végétales, animales et halieutiques. Le PNIA met l'accent spécialement sur les innovations technologiques, la recherche et la vulgarisation agricole. Le Programme intègre les dimensions genre, environnemental et social pour assurer la durabilité et pérennité des interventions.

Mesdames et Messieurs, assurer l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes requiert un effort et une détermination soutenus et extraordinaires de tous les acteurs clés. C'est pourtant un exercice qui ne peut pas être étalé, car de la prise en compte de la contribution des femmes au développement rural et pour la sécurité alimentaire, en assurant que toutes les interventions contribuent de manière positive à renforcer l'égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, dépend la concrétisation de notre vision d'une planète avec moins de pauvres et de malnutris.

Je suis convaincue que cet événement sera utile pour la promotion des femmes rurales du monde entier et contribuera, certainement, à un monde plus juste et égalitaire.

Je ne peux pas terminer mon allocution sans souhaiter plein succès à cette Conférence, et, encore une fois de plus, rendre hommage aux courageuses femmes rurales du Cap Vert, de l'Afrique et du monde entier.

Merci de votre aimable attention.

Mr Lars Peder BREKK (Norway)

Chairperson and colleagues let me first congratulate the newly-elected Director-General, José Graziano da Silva. We wish you a successful term of office, and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation. Norway also wishes to underline our commitment to work for food security and the strengthening of FAO.

FAO must play a central role in the international architecture on food security. We have high expectations, both of the new Director-General and of the Organization.

The number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition is unacceptable. High and volatile prices are likely to prevail. We must plan today for future food production, under more extreme climatic conditions. For this all countries must contribute to a sustainable use of natural resources. Gender inequality is holding back progress in agriculture and food security. We therefore commend FAO for addressing the Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development at this year's Conference.

Women provide most of the food for consumption in many countries, and are most often responsible for food-processing and preparation of food. In addition, we know that household food security and nutrition is closely linked to women's access to income and their role in decisions on household expenditure.

Despite their role as the backbone of food security, women's access to critical resources such as land, water, technology, training and extension facilities, marketing services and credit is limited. A rights-based approach is vital to address this gender gap. In particular, we would like to highlight the role of security of tenure for women.

Security of tenure is often the key to having control over major decisions, such as what crop to grow and what techniques to use, as well as what to consume and what to sell. Secure tenure for women is also the key in accessing credit and membership in agricultural associations.

As a donor country, Norway is strongly committed to mainstreaming gender issues in agricultural programmes. We will increase support to female farmers, and in particular access to knowledge and training on various farming techniques like conservation agriculture, as well as other services that can lead to improved productivity and income.

The introduction of conservation farming techniques in Zambia and other countries has given women farmers access to training and extension services, along with their spouses. We know that women are very often real "change agents" in agriculture.

The SOFA Report "*Women in Agriculture. Closing the Gender Gap*" is a prime example of the important normative role of FAO. We would like to encourage further mainstreaming of gender issues in all of FAO's work. However, we are disappointed that FAO's Strategic Objective K: Gender is not sufficiently prioritized in the Programme of Work and Budget. More resources should be reallocated to Strategic Objective K without impacting the overall budget.

Implementing gender sensitive politics in the agricultural sector is a national responsibility. In Norway, our strategy for strengthening female influence and power in our own agricultural sector has been developed. The strategy aims at increasing the number of female land owners and increasing the number of female participants in agriculture and in related businesses.

Creating new job opportunities is also important. Rural areas must be an interesting place for women. Measures must be targeted, especially at young female farmers who are often the key entrepreneurs for

rural development. Gender-related research and the strengthening of human participation in farm cooperatives is also part of the strategy.

To conclude, Mr Chair, Norway wishes to reiterate our commitment to the Reform process in FAO. We appreciate the progress made in the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action. However, some of the most complicated parts of the reform still remain, like improving FAO's Decentralized Structure and making FAO "function as one". There is still a need to improve priority-setting and strengthen FAO's delivery in areas where the Organization has a comparative advantage.

We all expect the results of this process to make FAO a more relevant, effective and efficient agent for food security and agricultural development. This must be the top priority of our newly-elected Director-General.

Mr Mohammed Ali ELHAG M. ALI ALLOBA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

It is my pleasure and honour to address your august assembly on the occasion of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. We salute you in the name of Sudan, both its Government and people. Let me also extend my congratulations to you for your election to preside over the proceedings of this Conference, where we wish you a great success.

The structural reforms in FAO responded to the challenges in terms of food, agriculture and rural development. In order to reach a better world where all people enjoy enough food and nutrition, the recommendations of the Conference, the Summit on Food Security and the IPA, all contribute towards these goals. We also confirm the importance of strengthening the networks in order to respond to the regional needs in Africa, and to ensure enough resources and to delegate authority to the Regional Offices to be able to undertake this Reform.

Sudan also supports the special recommendation to create shared services centre and we hope that the Finance Committee and the Council will approve it. The support given by FAO to the African Union and to the economic communities will enable these bodies to undertake their responsibilities. We also wish to highlight the importance of cooperating with all water initiatives in Africa because of the many challenges facing the African countries.

We appreciate the increasing role of FAO and its ongoing efforts to improve the rural sector in Sudan and we hope to see more collaboration in order to ensure rural development and food security.

Sudan welcomes the ongoing reform of the CFS, and calls for the undertaking of regional and local activities by the Committee as well. The Committee is very important and should also enjoy a good system of information-sharing.

As regards the MDG's in Sudan, namely also that of improving food security, we have created a technical secretariat for food security whose responsibilities are to oversee the projects that lead to self-sufficiency. We have also adopted rules and regulations to implement these plans in order to reach and achieve food security at the overall country level.

We have also accorded priority to resource allocations that favour the rural poor. Over 70 percent of the population in Sudan relies completely on agriculture for their livelihoods. In 2008, we launched the programme 2008-2011 for the rural development, to provide support to the producers, improve the agricultural systems, upgrade infrastructures, and optimize the use of resources for both current and future generations.

In order to free the economic sector from the constraints, the country has built partnerships with the private sector, such as the Brazilian-Sudanese partnership. In terms of food production and in terms of policies, a number of laws were approved providing support to this sector as well. We also aim at improving the environment for investment in Sudan. The country also joined efforts to become integrated in the global international trade community by joining the WTO. We hope we shall acquire more friends within the international organizations and at the regional and local levels.

We also express our congratulations to Mr Graziano da Silva for being elected the Director-General of FAO and we wish him great success. We also express our deep thanks and appreciation to Dr Diouf for his enormous efforts and for all his accomplishments throughout his mandata at FAO. We wish, as

already noted, great success to the newly-elected Director-General, as well as great success to FAO in improving food security and rural development.

Mme Marie-Josée JACOBS (Luxembourg)

Les questions du genre, l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes me tiennent tout particulièrement à cœur. Elles sont ancrées comme stratégies transversales dans la politique de la Coopération luxembourgeoise.

Je me félicite que les avancées dans ces domaines sont bien réelles et cela dans tous les secteurs, que ce soit dans l'éducation, l'emploi ou la politique, mais il faut rester vigilant pour s'assurer que ces progrès soient durables et mieux répartis.

Je salue et félicite la FAO d'avoir consacré son rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture 2010-2011 au rôle des femmes dans l'agriculture ainsi qu'aux mesures à prendre pour combler le fossé entre les hommes et les femmes en vue de soutenir le développement durable et équitable.

Il est important d'encourager l'égalité homme-femme et de donner aux femmes les moyens pour lutter de façon efficace et durable contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté extrême. L'accès des femmes aux services financiers est un facteur clef du succès des stratégies du développement rural car, malgré leur contribution importante au secteur agricole, quarante-trois pour cent de la main d'œuvre y est féminine, le manque d'accès aux services financiers demeure un sérieux obstacle pour l'autonomisation des femmes. Aux niveaux local et rural, la solidarité est souvent encore plus présente que dans les grandes agglomérations, ce qui devrait en principe favoriser la pratique de la micro-finance. La pratique nous a souvent démontré que les femmes sont les clients les plus fiables des institutions de micro-finance. La Coopération luxembourgeoise s'efforce de promouvoir des solutions financières innovantes, durables, reproductibles et adaptables à une plus grande échelle en mettant l'accent sur les besoins particuliers et les points forts des femmes et des filles. Pour les hommes comme pour les femmes, il est important d'acquérir des capacités de gestion financière minimales et d'avoir accès à des services financiers adaptés à leurs besoins. Cela me semble d'autant plus vrai dans le secteur rural où des services de banques traditionnels ne sont souvent tout simplement pas offerts. Tout le monde n'est pas micro-entrepreneur, par contre tout le monde a des besoins pour des services financiers adaptés et, de ce fait, il faut encourager, entre autres, les efforts en matière de micro-épargne et de micro-assurance.

L'accès des femmes rurales aux services financiers est un facteur clef du succès des stratégies de développement rural et en vue de favoriser leur autonomisation. En œuvrant ensemble à tous les niveaux (pouvoirs publics, sociétés civiles, secteur privé et particuliers), nous pouvons contribuer à la parité entre hommes et femmes dans le secteur agricole et dans les zones rurales et également atteindre les objectifs mis en avant dans la Convention des Nations Unies sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discriminations à l'égard des femmes de 1979.

Je souhaiterais évoquer ici l'objectif fondamental de notre Organisation: l'éradication de la faim dans le monde. Malgré le fait que 18 pour cent de la population des pays en développement sont sous-alimentés, et de l'impact de ce phénomène sur le développement, la sécurité alimentaire ne figure pas au premier plan des préoccupations. Les efforts visant à garantir la sécurité alimentaire manquent de coordination et les ressources affectées à l'agriculture, première source de revenu pour les populations, sont en baisse.

Il faut investir de manière concrète, multi-fonctionnelle et durable dans l'agriculture des pays en développement en accordant la priorité à la sécurité et à la souveraineté alimentaires en mettant l'accent sur le développement des capacités de production dans les pays en développement.

L'Asie de l'Est a notamment su tirer profit des politiques macro-économiques cohérentes pour passer d'une économie basée sur l'agriculture à une économie plus diversifiée et avancée sans pour autant abandonner son secteur agricole.

Le Luxembourg soutient l'Alliance pour une révolution verte en Afrique (AGRA), et son Président Kofi Annan visant à organiser son financement durable de l'agriculture sur le continent africain en

ayant recours à un mécanisme mixte impliquant bailleurs de fonds et investisseurs institutionnels. Sans avoir la prétention de brosser un tableau complet de la réponse à long terme, je voudrais relever ici, dans ce contexte, cinq points.

Premièrement, il faut avant tout investir concrètement dans l'agriculture des pays en développement et ce, de manière multi-fonctionnelle et durable, en accordant une priorité à la sécurité alimentaire et un rôle clef à la biodiversité.

Deuxièmement, je suis convaincue que chaque continent, chaque région du monde doit avoir le droit d'organiser son agriculture comme il ou elle l'entend dans le respect des droits de sa population. C'est une question de sécurité alimentaire mais c'est aussi une question de souveraineté alimentaire. Cela appelle donc le maintien ou la mise en place d'un certain nombre de mécanismes de régulations. Mais, si l'on reconnaît à chaque région du monde le droit d'organiser son agriculture selon ses propres règles, ses droits, il est nécessaire et obligatoire que cette même région ait l'obligation de ne pas désorganiser l'agriculture d'une autre région ou d'un autre continent.

Troisièmement, il nous faut aussi fermement dénoncer la spéculation boursière sur les produits agricoles de base. Spéculer sur des produits lorsqu'en même temps des milliers de personnes meurent de faim est clairement inacceptable. En même temps, il faut aller au-delà de la production de matières premières et viser la réalisation des plus-values et de leur traitement. Trop souvent, cette plus-value est réalisée en dehors des pays de production alors qu'on sait que sa valeur dépasse souvent de beaucoup le prix des matières premières.

Nous devons aussi nous assurer que la politique en matière de bio-carburant n'ait pas de conséquences néfastes sur la production agricole. La Commission européenne examine actuellement l'impact de la législation européenne en la matière et les résultats de cet examen seront publics, et il faudra en tirer toutes les conséquences.

Et finalement, il faut rapprocher les enjeux du changement climatique et de ceux du développement.

Afin de réaliser ce renouveau, la FAO doit compter sur un leadership fort qui mènera l'Organisation à être plus efficace dans ses actions et fera d'elle un partenaire recherché.

Je voudrais féliciter de tout cœur notre nouveau Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva, pour son élection, et je suis convaincue qu'il saura relever cet énorme défi et garder ses équipes motivées afin de mener à bien la mission difficile qui lui a été confiée de poursuivre l'œuvre de notre Organisation en faveur de l'éradication de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Sra. Gloria ABRAHAM PERALTA (Costa Rica)

Estamos convocados en este 37.º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia con un tema importante de fondo como es el tema de la participación y la disminución de las brechas en el tema de género en el mundo rural.

El día de ayer estuvimos en la reunión del Movimiento de Mujeres de Roma e hicimos la presentación de nuestro informe de gestión. Quisiera reiterar ante este Plenario las acciones que nuestro país ha venido efectuando en materia de la definición de la política pública y con un eje de carácter transversal que incorpora la participación de las mujeres en todo el quehacer de la agricultura.

Quiero llamar la atención de este Plenario sobre otro tema que se nos mezcla de manera importante con los desafíos del Siglo XXI. Estamos aquí debatiendo el presente y el futuro de la agricultura y del medio rural analizando los aspectos modulares que nos pueden ayudar a enfrentar los grandes desafíos que sufre la humanidad. Una población creciente que alcanzará los nueve mil millones de personas en 2050 que comparte un mismo planeta donde el desarrollo urbano e industrial compiten con la tierra disponible para la agricultura. La búsqueda de fuentes de energía diferentes del petróleo y el reto de cuidar nuestros recursos y la biodiversidad se enfrentan a las demandas para producir más y mejores alimentos y a la forma en cómo enfrentaremos realidades como el cambio climático, el cual trae consigo un nuevo ordenamiento de los cultivos y las crianzas así como también plagas, enfermedades, sequías y demás eventos extremos.

En los últimos años la comunidad internacional ha recibido alertas importantes, primero en el año 2008 y más recientemente a partir de finales de 2010, sobre la volatilidad de los precios internacionales de los cereales y las oleaginosas y su impacto en los países importadores netos de alimentos. Al origen de este fenómeno, una de las causas identificadas es el impacto del cambio climático sobre la temperatura, las precipitaciones, la productividad de la tierra y la frecuencia cada vez mayor de eventos meteorológicos extremos.

Costa Rica se encuentra ubicada en una zona especialmente vulnerable a los embates del cambio climático y sus efectos ya se empezaron a sentir mediante la incidencia de diversos eventos extremos tales como los acontecidos en el último año provocados por la tormenta Thomas.

Como país ubicado en el trópico, tiene la particularidad de que la mayoría de los cultivos alimenticios se encuentran en el límite superior de la temperatura óptima de producción, lo cual quiere decir que pequeños incrementos en la temperatura promedio se manifestarán en disminuciones marcadas en los rendimientos de los cultivos. Ello tendrá serias repercusiones para el sector agro-alimentario y para la población en general.

Nuestro país cuenta con un diagnóstico para el sector agrícola y sus emisiones, lo que ha permitido identificar que el 37 por ciento de las emisiones generales se originan con el proceso productivo de los alimentos agrícolas y pecuarios, con lo cual se coloca como segundo emisor de gases de efecto invernadero siendo solamente superado por el sector energía y transportes. Sin embargo, hay que considerar que este sector es clave no solo para producir alimentos sino también para mitigar la emisión de gases de efecto invernadero y capturar carbono de la atmósfera.

Costa Rica se ha comprometido con una economía verde, menos dependiente del carbono y tendiente no sólo a reducir significativamente sus emisiones de gases con efecto invernadero sino que también se ha comprometido a hacer carbono neutral para el 2021. Posiblemente para muchos una osadía de un pequeño país pero, tal vez, fundamentada en antecedentes como lo fue la reversión del proceso de deforestación, la decisión de proteger el 25 por ciento del territorio desde finales de los años 70 y de considerar la biodiversidad de un bien público universal.

Como primer paso en esa dirección, el poder ejecutivo ha desarrollado una estrategia nacional de cambio climático que está en fase de implementación. A nivel sectorial, desde el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería nos dimos a la tarea de incorporar, dentro de la política de estado para el sector agro-alimentario y de desarrollo rural, un Plan de Acción para el Cambio Climático y la Gestión Agro-ambiental. Dentro de este plan y, específicamente en materia de cambio climático, la agenda comprende gestión de riesgos ante desastres, adaptación al cambio climático, mitigación de emisiones de gases invernadero y aplicación de métrica, gestión del conocimiento y construcción de capacidades en cambio climático, compensación a la producción sostenible como estrategia de mitigación y adaptación. Este plan tiene carácter transversal lo que implica que todas las instituciones del sector agropecuario tienen el compromiso de tener al menos una actividad dentro de esta agenda de trabajo. Se ha construido una red intersectorial y alianzas de trabajo con el sector privado y la cooperación internacional.

A muchos de los organismos de la cooperación aquí presentes en día de hoy, le damos nuestro agradecimiento por este acompañamiento.

Según la Agencia Internacional de Energía, el mundo se encuentra muy cercano del nivel de emisiones al que no se debe llegar hasta el 2020 y ya las emisiones con efecto de gas invernadero en 2010 fueron las mayores de la historia, lo que reduce las esperanzas de controlar el calentamiento global.

Necesitamos generar información mediante un proceso de investigación para determinar qué prácticas usualmente utilizadas en el proceso productivo de las actividades agrícolas estimulan la emisión de efecto de gas invernadero o incrementan la captura de carbono atmosférico. Estos resultados de investigación se deben difundir mediante capacitación de técnicos y productores para que se reduzcan y eliminen las prácticas que no benefician el ambiente y se estimulen aquéllas que contribuyan a la solución de esta problemática global de incremento atmosférico.

Quisiera que estas reflexiones sobre un evento que nos afecta a todos nos permita, como miembros de la comunidad internacional responsable, adoptar las decisiones y las medidas políticas necesarias para

revertir los escenarios previsibles y no dar en herencia a nuestros hijos y nietos una tierra inhóspita e improductiva. Es impostergable asumir una agenda de trabajo en el marco de la FAO que contenga la visión y las acciones necesarias para enfrentar este grave problema. Tenemos en nuestras manos la respuesta del reto más importante del Siglo XXI.

Muchas gracias al Sr. Jacques Diouf, y mis mejores deseos de éxito al Sr. José Antonio Graziano da Silva en el reto que lo espera.

Mr Tefera DERBEW (Ethiopia)

It is a great pleasure and honour to be here with you today to make this presentation on The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.

As you all know, agriculture is the leading sector of Ethiopia's economy, as the overall economic growth of the country largely depends on the agricultural sector. The sector provides employment to 83 percent of the population, contributes 43 percent to the country's GDP and 85 percent to its export earnings.

Ethiopian women constitute half of the population, as well as proportionally a large percentage of the labour force. They are actively involved in all aspects of their society's life. Ethiopian rural women have made significant contributions to agricultural development and are the mainstay of farm labour.

Women farmers provide more than 54 to 77 percent of the total labour and time required for crop and livestock sectors, respectively.

Women shoulder a greater burden of rural poverty because of their vulnerable socio-economic position and their engagement with the triple responsibilities of gender that is productive, reproductive and community management roles. They perform virtually all the tasks required for household food security and for ensuring good nutrition and healthy lives.

Ethiopian women contribute over 65 percent of their time to agricultural production, storage and processing, but simultaneously, they suffer from the "invisibility" of their roles.

There is also a considerable gender gap in decision-making authority at national and local levels, including decisions on the use and management of common property resources.

As a result of the Constitution and other proclamations issued to redistribute land, women in the country have now received plots of land for their farming activities that are equal to those of their male counterparts. As a result, significant changes are being seen in their livelihood.

With due attention to the challenges, the Government of Ethiopia plays a great role in alleviating their constraints by mainstreaming gender equality in development programs, projects and activities. It has shown its commitment to ensure women's equality as a whole, and women are now actively participating in and benefitting from the socio-economic and political aspects of the country. In line with this, the Government has formulated and issued the following important legal tenets:

- * The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia recognizes women's rights. The Constitution states that women have equal rights with men, especially rural women who have equal rights to men regarding the use, transfer, administration and control of land;
- * The National Women Policy of Ethiopia aims at facilitating conducive conditions to accelerate equality between women and men with a view of raising their status. The policy gives special emphasis to rural women by facilitating the necessary conditions whereby they can have access to basic services and ways and means of lightening their workloads;
- * To implement the National Women's Policy, the Government of Ethiopia has put in place government structures from the federal to the grass roots levels;
- * More recently, encouraging progress has been made in revising discriminatory laws and policies in favour of women, as well as in introducing new legal provisions that promote women's concern;
- * Accomplishments in Ethiopia include: the revision of the family law, the penal code, and application of affirmative action in employment, promotion, scholarships and training;

* Through the Ethiopian Women Development and Change Package, measures under the National Action Plan for Gender Equality (NAP-GE) are supported and implemented from the federal to district levels. It has five areas of intervention, namely: ensuring women's access to productive assets and facilitating their labour market participation; fostering change in attitudes towards women with respect to traditional and customary practices; improving women's effective access to health and education; promoting women's participation in social, public and political spheres; and strengthening the legal protection of women.

The agriculture sector policy and strategy has given emphasis to the participation and benefit of rural women in terms of equal access to education and information technology, reduction in their workloads, protection from harmful traditional practices, and provision of technical training based on their interests and livelihoods.

The Growth and Transformation Plan which is the ongoing five-year plan of Ethiopia, has seven strategic pillars; one of which is to promote gender and youth empowerment and equity. As stated in the document, the GTP can only be achieved when the multi-dimensional problems faced by women and youth are addressed.

In conclusion, I would like to say the following: the capacity of rural women should be built in order to make them active participants in the agricultural sector, starting from the planning up to evaluation stage so as to relieve them from the vicious circle of poverty; incorporating gender-focused courses in all agricultural training and education in order to produce gender responsive professionals is important; educating women and increasing their productivity in order to ensure their independence from their counterparts is imperative; appropriate technologies must be provided in order to foster their agricultural productivity; accountability strategies should be established on gender mainstreaming issues among actors at all levels; and increasing number of female extension workers should be promoted an important factor in filling the actual gap in society.

Mr Mohammad Asif RAHIMI (Afghanistan)

Thank you for inviting me to this gathering, which is so important for the future of FAO and to its hundreds of millions of beneficiaries around the world. Before starting my speech, please allow me to congratulate Professor José Graziano da Silva for his successful appointment as the new Director-General of this important international organization. I assure him of Afghanistan's full support and wish him all the best in his new role. Also, let me take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf. During his term, FAO conquered new heights in combating hunger around the globe. People around the world, especially in the developing countries, will remember him for his dedication and achievement.

Improving the role of women in Afghanistan is important for reasons of morality and justice, but it is also crucial to development. No country can escape poverty while ignoring half of its human brain and energy. So it is important that Afghan women are fully empowered to help themselves, help their families and help our country grow. From school attendance to literacy, to increased participation and politics, Afghan women are moving ahead. Attitudes are changing and the Afghan Government is committed to help.

Agriculture is Afghanistan's economic backbone, so agriculture can benefit dramatically from empowering women, while women benefit through agriculture. Agriculture employs 80 percent of all Afghans, and women comprise more than half of the agricultural workforce. However, women only earn one-third as much as men, chiefly because women do much of the unsalaried work on our small, self-sufficient family farms. The way to bring respect and empowerment to Afghan women is to increase their economic contribution to their families. We believe that the sooner that women begin to lift their families out of poverty, the faster their social power will increase.

Our overall strategy for developing the agriculture and livestock sector is building self-contained, community-based value chains that bring a product all the way to the market. They start with the Government building a demonstration model that local investors can expand upon, once they watch it succeed. These are designed by agricultural experts, from my Ministry, from FAO and our donors,

with heavy participation from local development councils, farmer cooperatives, irrigation user associations and our newly-created community forest management organizations.

Each local partner has a financial incentive to achieve success and keep it sustainable. Typically, a value chain may involve labour-intensive deforestation to save water and improve irrigation, promote horticulture with new orchards, cold storages and a grading and packaging facility. We build female participation into these community partner groups. Women are assisted in planting and managing their own orchards and livestock. Women are trained in raising poultry and livestock, thereby increasing their own family's food security while generating income. Women are encouraged to participate in cooperatives and associations. A profitable dairy cooperative in Kabul, for example, has attracted hundreds of female members, selling milk from their urban and pre-urban cattle. Wherever possible, we view full families as a single unit because there, men and women make important decisions together. This means that women are integrated into our agricultural value chains along with their families.

Improving the conditions of Afghan women will take time, of course, across many sectors, but the role of agriculture is central to most Afghan families. So agriculture give us the best and fastest means of empowering Afghan women.

Mr Eustarckio KAZONGA (Zambia)

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our gratitude for having been accorded this opportunity to make a statement at this important Conference. From the onset, allow me to express our deep appreciation to the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, and his entire staff in FAO for the wonderful work that they have continued to undertake in the fight against hunger. As this is the last Conference under Mr Diouf's able leadership, we would like to take this opportunity to wish him well and good health in his future endeavours.

Let me also congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for his election as the incoming Director-General of FAO. My delegation wishes him success, and we will accord him our full support during his tenure of office.

We are all aware that despite a number of meetings held at various fora to discuss the important role of women played in agriculture and rural development, women still face the challenges of low access to productive assets such as land, finance and advisory services, among others. As Members of this important Organization, we need to start taking the lead of putting into action what we talk about. Zambia fully recognizes the challenges of food insecurity. In order to address the hunger problem, Zambia is implementing a number of programmes that are directed towards agriculture and rural development.

In this regard, we are striving to ensure that in all our development initiatives and plans, including the current Sixth National Development Plan, we take cognizance of the needs of women in agriculture development. Some of the initiatives my country has taken include a gender policy and a Cabinet Minister responsible for gender issues, who is a woman. The Gender Minister is implementing deliberate programmes to empower women, which include easy access to agricultural inputs. This is in addition to other empowerment programmes under different initiatives.

The second one is deliberate policies to increase land ownership by women for agriculture and other uses. Organizing women in cooperatives, associations and clubs through which they have easy access to finance, market and extension services and the agricultural inputs is important.

I would like to agree with the former United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, in his lecture to this gathering, that with the right strategies, technologies and other support services we can increase agricultural yields. I would like also to confirm to this gathering that Zambia still has abandoned arable and grazing land which is available for investment. The Zambian Government is further working with traditional leaders to identify and demarcate land for commercial agriculture.

The recognition of the important role of women in agriculture, adequate rainfall, availability of land, as well as other support services, have contributed to my country achieving two successive record excesses in production of our staple food, maize. Zambia is also self-sufficient in other agricultural

commodities, such as poultry, milk, cassava and wheat. As a country, we allow export of food crops and other agricultural commodities, thereby contributing to overall regional food security.

The Government is also promoting agricultural diversification to enhance food and nutritional security, as well as to mitigate against effects of climate change. As a mitigation measure against food price volatility, the Government is implementing safety-net programmes such as vulnerable community food security packs and home-grown school feeding programmes.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO for helping us with the farming programmes, especially the conservation farming.

Mr Jón BJARNASON (Iceland)

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to begin, on behalf of the Government of Iceland, by congratulating Mr José Graziano da Silva upon his election as the incoming Director-General of the FAO. I wish him all the best in his new and challenging occupation. I would also like to take this opportunity to convey to Dr Jacques Diouf my Government's sincere thanks and appreciation.

Iceland welcomes this year's State of Food and Agriculture report and its theme Women in Agriculture, Closing the Gender Gap for Development. The document shows that enhanced equality between men and women could reduce the number of undernourished people in the world by 12 to 17 percent or by 100 to 150 million people. We commend the FAO Gender Equity and Rural Employment Division and were honoured, when in May of this year, Iceland was chosen as one of the countries to present the findings of the SOFA Report. We should remember that our first agricultural societies were matriarchal, based on the need for security in feeding the family.

The Government of Iceland has put development cooperation and gender equality at the heart of its foreign policy. Iceland's new Strategic Plan for Development Cooperation 2011-2014, has as one of its pillars the sustainable harvest of natural resources, such as fisheries. This the FAO, and its Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, is a key partner for us.

There is no simple solution to the many-faceted problem of feeding the hungry, and in that respect each country has to examine its own capabilities.

My country is a food-producing country. We have a grass-based agriculture, but by far our most important food-producing sector is harvesting our plentiful marine resources. It has taken decades for the international community to develop the necessary framework for regulating the use of marine resources as marine life does not respect national borders. Iceland has proudly participated fully in this work over the decades.

As you will know, in recent years, various special interest groups have managed to interrupt the political processes and agreements we have made, agreements that are firmly based on the principles of sustainable development and are underpinned by sound science.

For example, there is a lack of recognition of the natural sustainable harvest of marine mammals in the North Atlantic by some countries. Products from this area, Iceland included, suffer trade measures by various countries. These trade measures raise serious concerns for the future of international cooperation on responsible management and understanding of sustainable harvesting of renewable natural resources.

Iceland wants FAO and other UN Agencies to secure rule-based approaches to the sustainable use of marine resources that are agreed upon in a civilized manner, so as to avoid confusion and to avoid derailing the agreements we already have made.

Let us remember that all food production needs to be ecologically, economically and socially sustainable if it is to benefit our aim of gender equality, the interests of the local society as well as of the global population. It is our duty to commit for all of us to commit ourselves to this goal.

M. Barros Bacar BANDJAI (Guinea Bissau)

Nous voici réunis aujourd'hui à Rome à l'occasion de la Trente-septième Session de la Conférence de la FAO pour l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Je me réjouis au

nom du Gouvernement de la Guinée Bissau et en mon nom personnel de participer à cet important évènement planétaire.

Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'une Conférence qui évalue certes, les problèmes de notre agriculture et d'autres secteurs liés à l'alimentation, à la bonne gouvernance agricole, mais surtout aussi la place de la femme dans l'agriculture et le développement rural en réfléchissant sur les voies et moyens pour un développement durable et équitable à l'échelle mondiale et trouver une solution pérenne au fléau de la faim dans le monde. Ce qui cadrerait avec les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement à l'horizon 2015.

Je tiens, tout d'abord, à remercier le Directeur général de la FAO, Jacques Diouf, et son personnel pour l'invitation et l'accueil chaleureux et je exprimer mes vœux pour la réussite des travaux de notre Conférence. Je voudrais également saisir cette occasion pour exprimer mes profonds respects aux éminents délégués de plus de 178 pays réunis ici par un élan de solidarité et de coopération qui, à mon avis, partagent le même destin.

Cette Conférence se tient à un moment décisif suite à la crise alimentaire mondiale de 2008-2009 qui continue à frapper les populations africaines et sahéliennes en particulier, appelées à produire suffisamment pour se nourrir et faire face à l'accroissement de la pauvreté. Par conséquent, la situation alimentaire reste préoccupante et continuera à se détériorer si des mesures énergiques et volontaristes ne sont pas réellement engagées. De nombreux experts dans le monde sont d'avis que l'Afrique est particulièrement vulnérable, comme en témoigne l'impact de la variabilité climatique actuelle et les conditions météorologiques extrêmes telles que des inondations, des sécheresses marquées et des tempêtes qui ont de graves répercussions sur les performances économiques, les moyens d'existence y compris les ressources naturelles.

Les bouleversements dus au changement climatique, selon les experts de la Banque africaine de développement, pourraient entraîner des pertes économiques d'environ 5 à 20 pour cent du produit intérieur brut mondial. On estime qu'au cours des prochaines décennies, le Continent africain pourrait perdre entre un à deux pour cent de son PIB avec certains secteurs qui risquent d'y être confrontés à un plus grand défi. Et même certains pays africains seront confrontés à des réductions de rendement de l'agriculture pluviale dans un maximum de 50 pour cent d'ici 2020. Les grandes orientations politiques retenues pour réaliser les objectifs fixés par le Gouvernement de mon pays visent à donner au secteur agricole la priorité afin de lui permettre de jouer pleinement le rôle qui lui est dévolu et améliorer l'environnement général de la production nationale.

D'autres principes de base s'imposent également et engagent la responsabilité des agriculteurs paysans afin de mieux organiser leurs relations avec le pouvoir public, de façon à garantir la pérennité des ressources naturelles, la réduction des risques techniques et écologiques.

Monsieur le Président, en Guinée Bissau, les femmes jouent un rôle central dans l'agriculture, bien qu'elles ne représentent que 49 pour cent de la population active du milieu rural, il est estimé qu'elles fournissent plus de 55 pour cent de travail agricole. Leur participation concerne plus particulièrement l'agriculture, la culture de riz de bas-fonds, la récolte de noix de cajou, le petit élevage et la production de lait. Elles s'occupent également de l'essentiel de la transformation en particulier du décorticage des noix, la production du vin et du jus de cajou, le battage du riz, la préparation du poisson, etc. Par exemple, il a été estimé qu'une femme en Guinée Bissau passe en moyenne, l'équivalent de 70 à 90 jours de travail par an à décortiquer le riz. Enfin, les femmes s'occupent de la pêche de subsistance, le ramassage des mollusques et la pêche des petits poissons pour la consommation familiale. Il faut noter que les associations des femmes sont également d'une importance primordiale, particulièrement en matière de crédits et démarchages.

Nous sommes convaincus que les objectifs préconisés pour améliorer la production vivrière dans notre pays ne serait pas atteint sans la participation active des femmes dans l'organisation et le développement des secteurs productifs en leur assurant la formation, l'accès au crédit et aux nouvelles technologies. Ceci s'explique par le fait que les femmes représentent plus de la majorité de notre population et constituent un facteur décisif dans la production, la transformation et la commercialisation des aliments. Donc, notre stratégie alimentaire nationale, tourne autour des

programmes et des actions spécifiques dans le sous secteur des céréales, de la production animale, des fruits, des légumes, des racines, des tubercules, des ressources halieutiques et forestières. Cette approche systématique intégrée vise également à maîtriser l'agriculture itinérante par une intensification de culture dans l'organisation d'un système agro-alimentaire solide et performant.

Il est donc important de souligner ici que l'agriculture familiale constitue l'un des maillons du secteur agricole les plus importants de l'activité de production agro-alimentaire en Guinée Bissau.

Pour permettre les réformes dans des conditions optimales, le secteur bénéficie actuellement d'une volonté politique ferme et réelle des autorités gouvernementales avec le dessein d'un plan d'investissements agricoles qui permettra de canaliser dorénavant tous les investissements du secteur vers les créneaux porteurs pour lui donner ainsi les meilleures probabilités de garantie et de succès.

Qu'il me soit permis de rendre un hommage distingué à Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO pour l'ampleur et la qualité du rôle qu'il a joué dans notre Organisation et son engagement personnel pendant les dix-huit ans dans les rouages du combat contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté dans le monde. Pour mon pays, je suis convaincu que le monde se souviendra de vous pour toujours. C'est pourquoi, nous aimerons profiter de cette occasion solennelle pour réitérer notre ferme engagement à ce que ce soit institué le prix «Jacques Diouf» pour la sécurité alimentaire. Il s'agit d'un juste label attaché au nom de quelqu'un qui a vraiment mis à la disposition toute son énergie et intelligence au service des plus dépourvus au niveau planétaire.

Pour terminer, je voudrais de même saisir cette opportunité pour présenter toutes nos félicitations et nos encouragements au Directeur général qui vient d'être élu, M. Graziano da Silva, en lui assurant notre soutien constant dans l'exercice des ses fonctions très exaltantes au service du développement agricole mondiale. Nous espérons célébrer avec lui la fin du fléau qui au plus frappe la dignité humaine, la famine. Sur ce je déclare au nom du Gouvernement de la Guinée Bissau notre totale et indéfectible appui à l'adoption de la déclaration de la présente Conférence.

Mr Azz Eldin AL DAWLA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

It is an honour for the head of the Iraqi Delegation to participate in the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference, and we convey to you the greetings of the Government and the people of Iraq, wishing every success to this important Conference.

I should like to convey to the outgoing Director-General of the FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, our appreciation for all the efforts that he has made during his three mandates, and we wish the newly-elected Director-General every success in his mandate.

Our relationship with the FAO was always a relationship of cooperation and coordination, with a view to implementing development projects in Iraq through common goals at the end of the 1970s and beginning of the 1980s. This cooperation has developed, even though Iraq has witnessed a number of crises and wars.

The Organization energized its programme in Iraq during the first part of the boycott imposed on Iraq. However, following the 2002-2003 War, Iraq witnessed a very difficult period where agricultural production stopped completely, the infrastructure was completely destroyed and there was a scarcity of water resources, which led the country to import more than 70 percent of its commodity requirements.

Iraq has recovered, and despite the difficulties it is facing, it is making tangible progress in re-activating the production cycle. Our Ministry is providing all the means required for agricultural production, which makes up about 30 percent of the manpower in Iraq. The agricultural sector in Iraq is facing great challenges in adjusting to the scarcity of water resources, as well as in adapting to climate change and the decrease in agricultural labour. It is also facing a challenge in passing laws and legislation that provide incentives for this sector to enter into partnerships with the private sector. This transformation has already proven effective, and we hope it will result in the achievement of self-sufficiency in food in a very short period.

As to the production of poultry, meat and dairy products, local production covers about 30 percent of local needs, and there are indications that local consumption will increase with subsidies from the government.

The agriculture initiative which supported the lending fund by the government to small farmers in the agriculture sector has provided loans during the last two years amounting to USD 620 million for the development of animal production, mechanization, and irrigation systems, as well as for investment projects and micro-credit for farmers, which allows them to progress in their activities by buying equipment, receiving improved seeds, installing irrigation systems and spraying equipment, and creating poultry farms. These loans were given without conditions attached.

We have also made efforts to control desertification and underground wells, to fix plant coverage, and green coverage, as well as to prevent shifting sands. We saved the wild seeds and we tried to sow them before the rainy seasons.

The Ministry is implementing one of its most important projects that covers more than 750 thousand hectares using modern irrigation systems with a view to reducing water use in irrigation, reducing costs and increasing yields. Depending on the governorates, all of Iraq has been covered by satellite mapping, and the Ministry is providing all kinds of assistance to investors and to small farmers to increase their production.

As to fisheries, our Ministry has introduced cage fishing and aquaculture, as well as the use of closed aquaculture, because it has high yields and it reduces the quantity of water used. It has also provided micro-credits for small boats to all fishermen.

As for developing genetic resources, our Ministry is working hard to set up a gene bank based one of the most advanced and modern techniques agreed worldwide. We have also established training courses for the staff in cooperation with international centres. We have developed new strategic crop seeds. An institute for the integrated management of all kinds of agricultural products has been established to limit the use of chemical fertilizers. Progress has been made in organic agriculture by the Ministry, though the use of seeds and products friendly to the environment. The General Authority For Palm Trees has established projects to develop the cultivation of palms and to export its products. We buy dates at very high prices, and we provide the improved shrubs and micro-credits without interest to transformational industries for the processing of dates.

Recently, within its extension programmes, the Ministry has taken many steps to empower rural women and to improve the artisanal industries, in cooperation with FAO, and they have been implemented in many of the Iraqi governorates.

We are expecting to host the Thirty-first Regional Near East Conference in Baghdad from 26 February to 1 March 2012. We are fully confident that this forthcoming Regional Conference in Baghdad will be a great opportunity for further cooperation between FAO and Iraq.

Ms Orit NOKED (Israel)

I would like to thank the outgoing Director-General of the Organization, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his longstanding contribution to the promotion of agriculture in the world, and to the realization of the right to food for every human being.

I would like to congratulate his successor, Mr José Graziano da Silva, on his election. I wish him success in the performance of his duties. His success is the success of the world as a whole.

On the basis of United Nations data, more people than ever before are well-fed and enjoy a meal that they need. This is, indeed, a great achievement for mankind, for the agricultural experts, for the agro-technology industries, and for the farmers themselves.

Yet at present, more people than ever before suffer from various levels of malnutrition and even famine. This is a difficult fact which we cannot accept. We must do all in our power to overcome this shortage as rapidly as possible.

During the second half of the Twentieth Century until today, the international community and many countries have succeeded in improving the quality of agricultural production. They have also increased the quantity produced, by mobilizing much capital, professional know-how, technologies, and research efforts.

The State of Israel, through its international development agency Mashav, and its branches, participates in this overall effort. It has acted for more than five decades in this joint effort by the transfer of know-how and technologies to many countries all over the world.

In recent years, new and overwhelming obstacles have been placed before us in our efforts to achieve food security for every man, woman, and child.

Financial crises in the developed countries, and increasing demand for basic commodities, stemming from the rapid growth of large economies, created an unstable situation in the international food commodities markets leading to food price volatility. Moreover, a chain of exceptional natural disasters and speculations in food stocks added much to staple food price volatility.

This resulted in a merciless cut in the portion of food for a large part of the population in poor countries, bringing even hunger and a worsening of their social and political crises.

The important goal which the United Nations and the Member Nations of the FAO took upon themselves, of reducing the number of hungry people in the world from 800 million to 400 million by the year 2015, is unfulfilled. According to UN statistics, about 1 billion human beings today suffer from malnutrition.

The explanations for the price volatility and the failure to supply sufficient food are varied and complex. The same holds true for the forecasts and ways to solve the world food crisis.

We believe that these aims will be achieved by a worldwide "package deal" in which developing and developed, exporting and importing countries, should be partners in order to stabilize and restrain food prices.

During last few days, the Israeli public has witnessed widespread consumer protests in the wake of a sharp rise of food prices in our domestic market. I strongly believe that the debate relating to food price volatility and the quest for their stabilization should be extended to all relevant stakeholders, including consumer organizations.

Our state, as well as the entire family of nations, has to take part in it and take action for more transparency in food price determination processes in the course of stabilizations of these international systems. A realization of these goals requires *inter alia*, that both the developing countries and the assisting nations will increase that part of their gross national product intended for agricultural production and the dissemination of existing know-how.

This will be done while emphasizing a wider involvement of the private sector in initiatives of the public sector. For this purpose, it is important to install tools of "good governance" in each country, including the establishment of an efficient system of risk management with an overall insurance system against damage from natural disasters with government support for example.

In addition to the difficulties I have mentioned, we should add the phenomena of climate change, the rapid growth of the world's populations and the need to feed everyone. Moreover, mankind has to take into account that in the future a larger part of food production will have to be attained in warmer regions and in conditions of increasing stress.

The State of Israel is an interesting and relevant centre of agricultural know-how. It can assist many countries due to the fact that it has faced, for more than half a century, conditions of aridity and stress, and has created practical and efficient solutions, such as: efficient systems for the irrigation of food crops; systems for cooling buildings for farm animals; development of high-yield varieties resistant to conditions of stress; systems for temperature and humidity control; prevention of plant pests to production systems, and so on.

All of these have been developed in Israeli agriculture, as a response to both the harsh conditions of production and to provide sustainable solutions for efficient and quality production. In this context, Israel is also looking forward to the Rio+20 Summit next year. The main topic of discussion will be green economy and green growth, an issue that is central to the work of the FAO.

Israel is preparing an international workshop to contribute to the preparation process discussing the issue "Green Agriculture".

We extend our hand to all the Member Nations of the FAO with the aim of joining forces in the great and ongoing effort to increase "food security" in our world. We expect the FAO, which is undergoing a period of reform and changes, to take the initiative and lead this trend which we strongly support.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again wish great success to the new Director-General of the Organization. The challenges you face are enormous. You can derive much encouragement from the words of everyone who is here.

This, indeed, seems to be a moment of true goodwill on the part of everyone for assisting in the courageous confrontation of these challenges.

Mr Samir AL HABASHNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, allow me to extend my thanks to Mr Jacques Diouf for the remarkable efforts he has made during his leadership of this important international Organization, wishing once more to Mr Graziano da Silva every success in his mission. We pledge our support and assistance in the implementation of his programme to fight poverty and hunger, hoping that we would arrive at a world free from hunger and poverty as we did a few days ago to celebrate a world free of Rinderpest.

It is a privilege and an honour for us to meet with the leaders of agricultural policy-makers in the world. It is an opportunity to deliberate on how to meet the mission of FAO, since it has a noble humanitarian mission to reach a better world, free from poverty and hunger. We are living an exceptional era, which in my opinion and that of my Government, requires exceptional efforts to fight poverty and hunger.

I was here in 1997. I attended the World Summit organized to discuss the issues of poverty and hunger. I was the Secretary-General of the African and Arab countries Inter-Parliamentarian Forum. That World Summit, attended by many leaders of the world, adopted an ambitious declaration in order to limit poverty and eradicate hunger. Unfortunately, more than a decade later, we see that hunger and poverty have been exacerbated. Thus, we need to reconsider FAO programmes. We need to effectively and generally energize our efforts to make a quantum leap in progress to establish efficient and effective programmes in implementing such humanitarian projects with a higher sense of duty and responsibility.

There are a number of points I would like to submit to you for debate. We have talked at length about the encroachment of deserts and the scarcity of water resources. Deserts are still encroaching upon arable land, and water resources for agriculture are diminishing. I launch an appeal to FAO and to the Member Nations: how do we set up a just and fair criteria to distribute water among those countries which depend on one source of water resources? It is a legal matter. However, there is scientific and technical work to better manage water resources that would take into account the dimension, the population, the environment, and the nature of the soil. If we seek fairness and justice without resorting to power and leverage among countries, then we would reach equations that would be agreeable to all and that would be a first step for renaissance.

I call upon FAO, and I call upon Mr Graziano da Silva and all FAO workers to examine together how to cooperate with farmers' cooperatives and farmers' infrastructure, to consider and examine success stories and how to promote them and disseminate them because small farm cooperatives, can indeed, improve yields and production through the use of technical and scientific tools. We could then assist them in marketing their products. The experience of farm cooperatives must be based on the prevalent economic and social conditions and appeal to the developed countries. They should demonstrate their moral and humanitarian responsibilities towards developing countries. This would be an authentic and genuine assumption of responsibility to support food prices, to transfer needed technologies to those

countries, and to facilitate the access by developing countries to the markets of the developing countries.

In my country, we suffer a great deal from the difficulties that our products face in accessing the European and other developed countries' markets, although our products are of high quality.

I call upon FAO to support regional projects in arid and semi-arid areas to produce food and fodder. I will give you an example: the desert area – it is not really a purely desert area – along the borders of Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, called Badia is a semi-arid area. If water and superficial water harvest is provided to that area, it would be great terrain for the production of fodder and food, and it would provide and supply food to those adjacent countries. I call upon the international community, through FAO and through the Heads of Delegation, to provide support to our countries, to all desert areas, with a view to creating green belts that would be a barrier to the encroachment of deserts which destroy all other arable spots in our countries.

I thank you for your attention with the greetings of my country, His Majesty, and the Government of Jordan to all of you.

Mme Yvette SYLLA (Madagascar)

J'ai aujourd'hui l'honneur de parler au nom de la République de Madagascar. Nous adressons nos vives et chaleureuses félicitations à M. le Président de la FAO, à l'occasion de son élection à cette Trente-septième session de la Conférence.

Nos remerciements vont également aux Vice-Présidents qui apporteront leur précieux concours pour le succès de nos travaux.

L'élection du nouveau Directeur général de la FAO constitue l'un des événements marquants de cette Conférence.

Nous adressons nos chaleureuses félicitations à M. José Graziano da Silva pour sa brillante élection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Ma délégation lui souhaite plein succès dans l'accomplissement des défis qui l'attendent tout au long de son mandat et l'assure de notre appui pour mener à bien les missions qui lui seront confiées.

Un nouveau Directeur général arrive, cela signifie aussi le départ du prédécesseur. Nous tous adressons à M. Jacques Diouf qui, après trois mandats consécutifs, a réalisé d'importantes transformations et, notamment, la Réforme de la FAO. De nombreux projets ont été réalisés et notamment à Madagascar. Le Gouvernement et le peuple malgaches rendent ici un vibrant hommage à cet illustre dirigeant qui a porté haut le flambeau du multiréalisme en général, et de l'Afrique en particulier.

Madagascar est un pays essentiellement rural et dispose encore d'énormes potentialités en terme de terres cultivables et de ressources naturelles. Ainsi, son développement passe impérativement par le secteur agricole, mais cela nécessite des mesures innovatrices, qui utiliseront nos ressources humaines en leur donnant des opportunités et un environnement favorable.

Les femmes rurales à Madagascar représentent 53 pour cent de la population agricole. Elles sont responsables de 80 pour cent des cultures vivrières et près de 90 pour cent des activités de transformation des produits agricoles passe pas les femmes. La sécurité alimentaire et l'augmentation des revenus ruraux reposent donc sur les femmes mais, malheureusement, elles ont très peu accès à la décision dans les instances politiques, administratives, économiques et corporatistes. L'enjeu est important dans la mesure où 90 pour cent de la population active qui travaille dans le secteur agricole vit en dessous du seuil de pauvreté.

Nous avons un programme «pilote des femmes rurales leader». Aussi, Madagascar se propose de fournir à cette catégorie de population les moyens et méthodes pour que les femmes rurales adhèrent aux organisations des producteurs à tous les niveaux et puissent accéder à des postes de responsabilité.

Cinq éléments principaux sont pris en compte. D'abord, la formation des formateurs et formatrices; la *formation test* pour les femmes leader rurales; la conception d'outils pédagogiques appropriés; un programme d'information et de sensibilisation; et enfin le renforcement institutionnel.

Le programme repose sur l'intégration des femmes dans le développement rural et l'approche équité entre genres. Entre autres, nous procéderons à la réforme de l'administration publique avec la reconsidération de l'aspect genre. Ensuite, l'intégration de l'aspect genre dans les projets et programmes du Ministère de l'Agriculture et des autres ministères (en transversal) en particulier, dans les projets financés par le FIDA.

Nous procéderons au renforcement des services de proximité et d'appui aux producteurs agricoles par l'instauration d'un partenariat homme-femme pour une meilleure efficacité de l'approche. En effet, Madagascar met en pratique la promotion de l'égalité de genre, mais entend la renforcer davantage. De même, nous devons procéder à l'autonomisation des femmes qui constitue un défi majeur pour l'amélioration de la parité homme-femme à tous les niveaux de prise de décision.

Notre politique vise aussi à renforcer la contribution de la femme dans le développement agricole et rural tout en mettant en évidence le développement de la capacité des femmes en matière d'agro-business.

Enfin, l'accent sera mis aussi sur l'entrepreneuriat agricole et la promotion des emplois. La mise en place de données sur les compétences des femmes dans le secteur agricole va être un objectif majeur.

Depuis notre indépendance en 1960, notre pays est engagé dans un cycle de crise infernale qui trouve ses origines immédiates certes, dans la politique, mais surtout dans les problèmes sociaux et alimentaires. Il faudrait, dans notre pays, une plus grande justice sociale qui passe nécessairement par une meilleure redistribution des richesses. Le développement de l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire constituent pour nous un enjeu majeur pour instaurer la paix sociale. Le peuple malgache a besoin de l'encouragement et du soutien de nos peuples frères d'Afrique, de la Communauté internationale et, en particulier, des bailleurs de fonds en matière de coopération agricole.

Mr Joseph Mtakwese MADE (Zimbabwe)

First and foremost I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, upon your election to chair this historic meeting and to commend you on the leadership you have shown us. I also wish to congratulate the Director-General elect, Professor José Graziano da Silva of Brazil on being elected to assume the office of Director-General from 1 January 2012. My delegation is confident that under his able leadership, the FAO Reform will continue to ensure that FAO is more responsible, better able to meet the changing needs of its Member Nations and live up to the challenges of climate change and food price volatility.

May I also take this opportunity to commend Mr Diouf for his stewardship of this Organization through very difficult times. His readiness and vision to embark on one of the most comprehensive reforms in the UN System in order to ensure that FAO continues to be responsive to its Member Nations is to be applauded. He has run a good race and can with pride pass the baton on to the new Director-General. This Conference is taking place at a time when food price volatility, natural disasters and the effects of climate change are threatening to erase gains the Member Nations have made towards food security and eliminating the scourge of hunger.

The Organization, in partnership with Member Nations, the UN System and new partners, must continue its search for lasting solutions to ensure elimination of poverty and hunger in the world. In this regard, we urge FAO to continue working closely with the other Rome-based UN Agencies as this yields greater efficiency, effectiveness and coherence of programmes at the country level. We also call on the Member Nations to give FAO the necessary resources with which to perform the herculean tasks that we are expected to perform. The fact that close to one billion people are food-insecure and that the threats of food security are growing must prepare us to maintain the current programme level as the costs of inaction are all too plain to see, given the recent events in North Africa and elsewhere. The challenges that lie ahead require FAO Decentralized Offices that are well-structured, resourced

both financially and from the human resource point of view with the right mix of technical staff able to execute decisions on the basis of an intimate knowledge of the situation on the ground.

The theme of our Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference, The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, a theme chosen and recommended by the Africa Region, is most appropriate because Zimbabwe believes that focused attention on providing support to women farmers will yield significant results in reducing hunger as women predominate in the small-holder farming sector in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In my own country, Zimbabwe, about 80 percent of women live in rural areas and depend on land, constitute approximately 87 percent of the farmers and provide 70 percent of agriculture labour. Women in Zimbabwe play a vital role in the agriculture sector at all the stages of the value chain from production of various crops, herding livestock, storage, preservation and processing and marketing distribution. Since independence, the Government of Zimbabwe has recognized the role of women in both households and in national food security efforts. Efforts have been made to advance the rights of women by increasing their access to a variety of resources, including land, by providing title of land or user rights.

Our agriculture sector has not been spared from the ravages of the HIV and AIDS epidemic which has reduced labour and overall farm productivity, displaced the capital base of affected households and eroded their livelihoods. The small-holder sector agriculture, with the focus on women and youth, remains a priority sector for my Government. It remains the single most important and effective framework to reduce poverty, create wealth and feed families. The dependence also on natural rainfall for agricultural production has become more unsustainable, especially for the small-holder farmer. My Government is working in developing infrastructure that is related to small-holder irrigation to strengthen food security. To further enhance food security in the country, and meet the challenges of climate change, the Government, with the support of FAO and donors, has also embarked on conservation farming.

The Government of Zimbabwe is moving ahead with the implementation of the commitments made within the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Zimbabwe is in the process of also developing the national gender-sensitive sector policies in support of implementation of CAADP, and we hope that FAO and other partners will support us in this regard.

Finally, my Government remains committed to ensuring that there is increased investment in the agriculture sector. We believe that Zimbabwe has surpassed the Maputo Declaration benchmark of 10 percent set by the African Heads of State, and hope that through more refined budget analysis tools we can better monitor what is being invested by governments in the agriculture sector and, more importantly, how many women have access to these funds.

I am most grateful and thank you.

Mr Harish RAWAT (India)

Mr Chairperson and distinguished delegates, it is a proud occasion for me to address this august gathering. I am sure that our discussions will be fruitful for the countries and farming communities, which face the challenges of food insecurity, economic recession, price rises and climate change.

Today there are tremendous challenges for agriculture in our country. The most critical of these challenges is our population and its continued growth. We are now 1.21 billion and 17 percent of the world's population. Rising incomes and changing eating habits will significantly alter what India consumes today. Beyond rice, wheat and coarse cereals, India will require more protein, more edible oil, more sugar, pulses, meat, dairy products, vegetables and fruits to meet the calorific needs of its people.

With the global population expected to reach more than 9 billion by 2050, agricultural production will need to grow by 70 percent. We are required to think of new approaches and new innovations based on our past experiences.

Although India has made major strides in agriculture, the ratio of agricultural land to agricultural population has shrunk to 0.3 hectares *per capita*. Due to demographic reasons and competing demands by other sectors of the economy, *per capita* availability of land, water and other natural resources will

continue to decline and will make the economic viability of farming more complex. We are evolving strategies for making small-holdings more productive and efficient. Farmers require better quality seeds, fertilizer and other inputs and new techniques of farming. We consider each farmer a stakeholder, in every aspect, whether he/she deals with cultivation-related activities, research and development, innovative methodologies, or marketing. It is necessary to safeguard their rights to their land and its produce by providing them assured and remunerative markets. Post-harvest management and agro-processing should be given a major thrust.

Limited availability of land and water for agriculture is further compounded due to the impacts of climate change. Our approach needs to be redefined in the context of this changing scenario. Our focus is now on rainfed areas, which constitute about 60 percent of cultivated areas, contribute 40 percent of total food production and support more than 40 percent of our population.

I assure you that dryland farming will be the cradle for a second Green Revolution in India. We need to look at new scientific breakthroughs, especially in the use of bio-technology for evolving plant varieties resistant to pest and diseases and tolerant to adverse weather conditions.

In agriculture, we need innovations more than ever before. The observance of this decade in India as the 'Decade of Innovation', is a recognition of this reality. Farm innovations should be cost-effective, location-specific and affordable.

Farmers' access to new innovations is an integral aspect of success. There is an urgent need to bring about a radical change in the extension machinery which should aim at integration of research, extension and farmers-market linkages. A new concept of Public, Private, People-Participation in Extension needs to be evolved to attract investments from the private sector for sustainable agricultural development.

In India, rising food prices are affecting our efforts in the field of poverty eradication, economic growth and increasing employment. I am afraid to say that the trend of rising prices appears to be a long-term and worldwide phenomenon. We need to look closely at disaggregated statistics on the contribution of different factors to food price volatility in order to understand and respond through appropriate policy reforms.

We know the yields of major crops are rising more slowly than the global population. Agricultural research is one of the important global public goods today to answer this gigantic problem. We must scale up research funding for private and public institutions. Institutions like the CGIAR should play an important role in knowledge-sharing, partnership-building and scaling up agricultural research in both developing and developed countries.

Our farming sector has grown at 6.6 percent during the current fiscal year. We have also witnessed record production of 236 million tonnes of food grains this year, with production of wheat at 85 million tonnes and pulses at 17.3 million tonnes. We are determined to improve further.

India produced 74 million tonnes of fruits, which represents 11 percent of the world's production. Likewise, vegetable production was 135 million tonnes which is 14 percent of the world's production. As regards to milk, India is the largest producer, while in egg and fish production, it is third in the world. We have been pursuing accelerated development of our agriculture and allied sectors with increased public investment fully supported by a series of policy measures.

After stabilizing availability of food grains, we are now focusing on the goal of elimination of hunger and malnutrition. The Government of India has embarked upon an ambitious programme of "The Right to Food" for its people, and the legislation is at an advanced stage. We are determined to ensure access to food to all poor and vulnerable peoples at all times. We need the support of FAO in our endeavour.

Following the theme of the FAO Conference "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development", we have launched a dedicated programme under the National Rural Livelihood Mission of 1 billion rupees, equivalent to 25 million US Dollars, earmarked to meet the specific needs of women farmers. Under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a flagship scheme of the Government, more than 50 percent of the persons provided with work are women.

We are always willing to share our success stories with other developing countries. We guarantee our support to the FAO, in all its efforts in promoting South-South Cooperation in this regard.

My fellow delegation members and I are confident that our deliberations will generate new ideas to enhance food security based on farmers' welfare.

On behalf of my country, I would like to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva of Brazil for being elected as the new Director-General of FAO. I would also like to thank the present Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his contributions to FAO over the last 18 years.

M. Kobena Kouassi ADJOUANI (Côte d'Ivoire)

Monsieur le Président de la trente-septième session de la Conférence générale de la FAO, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Honorables délégués des États membres de la FAO, Mesdames, Messieurs. L'honneur m'échoit de prendre la parole devant cette auguste assemblée lors de la Trente-septième Session de la Conférence de la FAO pour exprimer les réflexions qu'inspirent à mon pays les travaux de cette importante rencontre.

Avant tout propos, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection en qualité de Président des travaux de cette Conférence. Je voudrais également adresser toutes mes félicitations au Docteur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général sortant pour le travail incommensurable accompli à la tête de l'Organisation. Soyez assuré, Monsieur le Directeur général que l'Afrique toute entière et plus spécifiquement, l'Afrique de l'Ouest s'honore de votre rôle à la tête de cette illustre Organisation.

Quant au nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, nous voudrions lui adresser toutes nos félicitations pour sa brillante élection à la tête de notre Organisation commune. Il peut d'ores et déjà compter sur le soutien de la Côte d'Ivoire pour mener à bien cette nouvelle mission.

La Côte d'Ivoire sort d'une grave crise, qui a mis à mal plusieurs secteurs d'activité, notamment, les fondements de la sécurité alimentaire au moment où mon pays amorce doucement mais sûrement son redressement. Je voudrais présenter toute la gratitude du Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, son Excellence Monsieur Alassane Ouattara et du peuple ivoirien à tous les États pour leur soutien à notre pays lors de la crise qu'a connue la Côte d'Ivoire ainsi qu'à la FAO pour ces efforts soutenus. Je ne doute pas un seul instant que ces efforts seront beaucoup plus accrus pour que notre pays, la Côte d'Ivoire, retrouve durablement une situation alimentaire meilleure.

La Conférence s'est réunie cette année, sur le thème «Le Rôle Vital de la Femme dans l'Agriculture et le Développement Rural». Il s'agit de mon point de vue d'un thème important, car il est lié à la durabilité de la sécurité alimentaire.

Permettez-moi, d'insister sur la contribution des femmes à l'agriculture et au développement rural. Au niveau rural, même si la gestion communautaire incombe à l'homme, l'analyse du genre et de l'équité fait apparaître le rôle primordial que joue les femmes. Elles sont au centre de toutes les activités rurales, productrices des denrées alimentaires, transports de bois de chauffe et d'eau, préparation des aliments, soins aux membres de la famille, éducation des enfants, etc. Les femmes produisent près de 80 pour cent des vivriers, assurent la quasi-totalité de la commercialisation et prennent une part très active dans la transformation artisanale. Si aujourd'hui nos marchés sont régulièrement approvisionnés, c'est grâce au travail patient et courageux de ces braves masses laborieuses qui même au plus fort de la crise que nous avons connue, n'ont ménagé aucun effort pour approvisionner les différents marchés.

La Côte d'Ivoire, notre pays, fait de la promotion des femmes, un axe majeur de sa politique. En effet, elle a ratifié le 18 décembre 1995 la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes adoptée le 18 décembre 1979 par l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Certes, des efforts appréciables sont faits, mais nous pensons que nous pouvons aller au-delà. Nous visons d'ailleurs à fournir beaucoup plus d'efforts pour éliminer toute forme de discrimination à l'encontre des femmes car les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes dans l'agriculture constitue un problème non seulement pour les femmes mais aussi pour le secteur agricole: la sécurité alimentaire. C'est pourquoi, il nous plaît de faire les recommandations suivantes: la Conférence devrait encourager les Pays Membres de la FAO, les donateurs et la société civile à garantir que tous

les programmes et projets agricoles prennent en compte les différents rôles et responsabilités des hommes et des femmes ainsi que les difficultés auxquelles ces dernières doivent faire face dans les domaines de l'agriculture et de l'emploi en milieu rural. Chaque pays devra mettre en place un système de crédit qui permet d'augmenter le volume d'achat et d'améliorer les outils de travail des femmes. L'encadrement de travail des femmes devrait constituer une priorité d'où la nécessité de créer des associations ou des coopératives ainsi que des organisations nationales non-gouvernementales qui faciliteraient ces regroupements.

M. Luigi TRAVAGLINO (Le Saint-Siège)

Monsieur le Président, je désire avant tout vous féliciter de vous voir élu pour diriger les travaux de cette session de la Conférence appelé à évaluer les résultats de la gestion de la FAO et formuler des propositions pour ses activités futures, afin de rendre l'Organisation toujours plus capable d'affronter les défis lancés sur les sujets de sa compétence dans le contexte mondial actuel. Pour respecter le temps qui m'est imparti, je me bornerai à ne présenter qu'une partie de mon intervention et je vous demande, Monsieur le Président, de bien vouloir publier l'ensemble du texte dans les procès-verbaux.

En cette circonstance, il m'est agréable d'adresser, en mon nom personnel et au nom de la Délégation du Saint-Siège, de vifs remerciements à Monsieur Jacques Diouf qui a longtemps et activement guidé cette Organisation, en cherchant à répondre aux exigences toujours croissantes du développement agricole et alimentaire. J'ai également le plaisir d'adresser à Monsieur José Graziano da Silva un souhait de bienvenue, déférent et chaleureux en l'assurant de mes vœux et de mes prières pour que sa nomination en tant que Directeur général donne à la FAO un nouveau dynamisme et une continuité d'actions selon les attentes des États Membres.

Le processus de Réforme déjà en marche montre une perception exacte de la fonction de la FAO mais il ne faut pas oublier que la recherche de méthodes aptes à rendre efficaces les actions de l'Organisation n'est pas jamais une tâche terminée. Plus ce travail se fait avec un esprit de service et de solidarité, dans un climat de collaboration sincère et, dans notre cas en gardant toujours présent à l'esprit le souci d'aider ceux qui souffrent de la faim et la volonté de la vaincre et plus abondant seront ses fruits.

La FAO doit être une Organisation de personnes au service d'autres personnes et de leurs droits fondamentaux. C'est en cela que se concrétise toute possibilité de réformes qui ne s'en tiennent pas à des aspects de forme ou de réorganisation bureaucratique. Comme l'indique le Pape Benoît XVI, les bonnes structures aident mais ça ne suffisent pas sans une assistance juste.

L'attention des États Membres, comme celle de la société civile dans ses précieuses formes d'organisation, doit porter sur les engagements que la FAO est appelée à mettre en œuvre aujourd'hui et demain à l'égard des différentes régions du monde. Ces engagements réclament un effort supplémentaire pour permettre de procéder avec l'attention requise à faire face aux problèmes et aux exigences des plus faibles. Dans notre cas de tous ceux qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition et, plus généralement, de tous on parle de ceux qui trouvent dans le travail agricole le moyen de se nourrir, d'avoir un emploi et de percevoir un revenu.

Notre pensée va vers le rôle central de la femme en milieu rural, appelée toujours à faire des choix de responsabilité et d'agir pour le développement intégral de communautés entières et pour soutenir la famille rurale dans sa réalité naturelle qui en fait, manifeste une participation directe aux processus de décision et aux choix de production.

Le Saint-Siège, pour sa part, veut redire ici qu'il est prêt à contribuer à cet effort pour que chaque personne puisse disposer de ce pain quotidien, qui fait partie intégrante du droit fondamental à la vie.

Qu'il me soit permis, enfin, de transmettre aux représentants et aux observateurs présents à cette Vingt-septième Session de la Conférence l'invitation à l'audience que Sa Sainteté le Pape Benoît XVI leur accordera le 1er juillet, en s'inscrivant dans une longue tradition qui a commencé voici 60 ans avec l'installation de la FAO dans la Ville éternelle.

Mr Clement M. DLAMINI (Swaziland)

Chairperson, Director-General, colleagues, Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegation, invited guests, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to represent His Majesty's government at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I bring with me greetings from their Majesties and the whole Swazi nation. Before I go any further, may I congratulate the Director-General-elect, Dr Graziano da Silva, for his appointment and further thank all the candidates who presented their candidatures. My country will give him all the support during his term of office.

By the same token, I also congratulate the outgoing Director-General, Dr Diouf, for the role he has played in the Organization.

The Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference is very important to His Majesty's Government because we are saying goodbye to the son of Africa, who has been at the helm of this important organization. During his term of office, we have seen some significant improvements in the Organization, though they were not without challenges. It is very important that we wish him a good life after the end of his term of office at the end of 2011.

He may not have pleased every Member Nation, but we from the developing world, including my country, are pleased to note with appreciation his contribution in improving the lives of our people by ensuring that they attain a food-secure status. This task has not been completed, and it is in this vein that we will encourage the Director-General-elect, Dr Graziano da Silva, to pursue it to its finality. We shall not have everlasting peace if poverty and food insecurity remain a persistent challenge.

We realize that the challenges of food insecurity and poverty alleviation are being affected by a number of global issues such as climate change, rising fuel costs and the economic meltdown, to mention but a few. Some nations, like Swaziland, have not yet recovered from the soaring commodity prices of 2008. We note that there has been a slight decrease, but we realize that prices are still way above the level they were prior to the crisis. Swaziland applauds the initiatives taken by the Director-General's office to arrest this crisis.

I call upon all Member Nations to rally behind the FAO in ensuring that all people in the world have a reasonable life to live. I am convinced that Members of this Organization are capable of doing that. I will recommend that they honour their commitment to the Organization because it is essential that they do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we do appreciate the Decentralization of the FAO Offices into the various regions of the world. Without the necessary resources, they will not deliver. They need financial support. There are other issues of interest that have been prioritized in the Immediate Plan of Action on which action should be taken without further delay.

As part of the World Summit on Food Security in November 2009, we observed the renewal of the Committee on Food Security. We are waiting for the full implementation of the tasks agreed at that time. We believe that the developing world should be more visible. Food security is the cornerstone of our lives. We cannot expect any meaningful economic improvements if food insecurity remains unaddressed. This scourge is linked directly to poverty. Poverty and food insecurity are the major causes of rural and urban migration.

His Majesty's Government is pursuing a programme of water harnessing to increase irrigable land for small scale-farmers to address food insecurity and poverty. The programme of agricultural diversification and commercialization being pursued in my country also complements our irrigation development initiatives. We have observed the importance of partnerships in our endeavour to improve agricultural productivity. We believe this will improve coherence in our programme implementation.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Kingdom of Swaziland would like to ensure that our extension and research services are demand-driven. This will be achieved if our capacity in these two areas is improved. I would like to thank the European Union and the FAO for their assistance in the

implementation of the Swaziland Agricultural Development Programme (SADP). We believe that there should be a strong linkage between service delivery, agricultural productivity and market access. This initiative will not succeed without the full empowerment of farmers and their organizations. I am happy to announce that following the National Agricultural Summit of 2007 in Swaziland, the country has engaged in farmer development. This is being augmented through the implementation of the said, SADP project. In addition to partnership enhancement, gender mainstreaming is high on our agenda.

With these remarks, may I thank all Members of the Organization present here today. I once again thank the outgoing Director-General, Dr Diouf, for his earnest guidance to His Majesty's Government during his term of office. May God bless him in his future plans and in life.

Mr Christiaan DE GRAAFF (Botswana)

Let me start by joining others in congratulating you for your election to chair this very important Conference, and commending you for the excellent manner in which you are directing our deliberations. May I also take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Host Country, the Government and the people of Italy for the warm welcome and the generous hospitality that has been extended to us since our arrival in this beautiful city of Rome. Furthermore, congratulations from me and the Government of Botswana go to the Director-General elect, Professor José Graziano da Silva. We also wish to sincerely thank the outgoing Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for the good job he performed during his tenure.

The theme of this Conference, “The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development”, could not have been more appropriate. This is more so because this Conference comes at a time when global food insecurity has worsened and continues to represent a serious threat to humanity. The number of people suffering from hunger has been growing in the recent years, aggravated by the deepening poverty.

As we may be aware, the one-billion mark of the number of hungry people in the world cited by the FAO publication in 2009 is said to be affecting one-sixth of all humanity, 75 percent of whom live in rural areas. These are mostly women and children.

In Botswana, recent studies indicate that women dominate the arable sector which account for 3 percent of the composition of the agricultural value-added. Their participation has increased in the modern agricultural sector, especially the poultry, piggery, horticulture and bee-keeping sub-sectors. Therefore, the need for us to convene a conference under such a theme, in order to find solutions through our national policies and programmes targeted towards improving food security, has long been overdue.

The Government of Botswana recognizes the contribution of women in the socio-economic, political and cultural development of the country. It also acknowledges that women constitute the majority of the rural population and are its backbone through their significant role in agricultural production, at the household and national food security levels.

My Government has therefore provided an enabling environment by directing assistance to women, particularly by facilitating easy access to resources in enhancing their participation in all sectors, including agriculture.

Through our National Vision 2016, the National Development Plan, Revised National Policy for Rural Development and the Women in Development Policy, the Government has promoted a conducive environment for gender mainstreaming in the social, economic and political development process. An implementation plan through the Agricultural Gender Policy Framework has been developed to facilitate the policy decisions in a systematic way. The process is envisaged to increase agricultural productivity, so as to increase food security at household and national levels, as well as to create employment, increase farmers' income, reduce poverty and attain human rights for both female and male farmers.

The agricultural activities in Botswana are, therefore, well-aligned with the Millennium Development Goals, with a view to, among others, eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, combat HIV/AIDS and malaria, and ensure environmental sustainability.

It is important to note that the policies and programmes recognize that female-headed households, and women in general, suffer particular disadvantages that limit their income and economic opportunities. This is more pronounced as a result of their inability to access productive resources and employment opportunities, particularly those residing in the rural areas.

Finally, Botswana, like most developing countries, embraces the collective global action and financial assistance geared towards developing countries for economic growth and development. It is in this respect that I wish to confirm our commitment towards cooperation with other development partners by aligning our policies with a number of international approaches and strategies in order to deal with global challenges. This support is crucial, for without it, not much can be achieved by many developing countries.

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL

Le Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'environnement de la République de Tunisie, son Excellence Monsieur Mokhtar Jalleli, présentera les défis et les priorités du secteur agricole en Tunisie pour une transition démocratique dans la salle de l'Éthiopie, C-285 à 12h30 aujourd'hui.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias Sr. Secretario. Con esto damos por terminada la reunión de la mañana, agradeciéndole a todas las delegaciones que han participado y queda convocada esta Plenaria para las 14.30 horas de la tarde.

The meeting rose at 12:15 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:15 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
28 June 2011

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 14:45 hours

Mr Juan Camilo Restrepo,

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 45

sous la présidence de M. Juan Camilo Restrepo,

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 14:45 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Juan Camilo Restrepo,

Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

- 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture** (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continued)
10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (suite)
10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continuación)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)
Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)
Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Bahamas, Seychelles, Nepal, Chad, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Sri Lanka, Mozambique, Viet Nam, United States of America, Philippines, Spain, Kenya, Cuba, Ireland, Uganda, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Switzerland, Turkey, Russian Federation, Malawi, Canada, Yemen, Germany, Brazil, Nigeria.

EL PRESIDENTE

Vamos a retomar en la sesión de la tarde, el Tema 10 de nuestro programa de trabajo: El Examen del Estado de la Agricultura y la Alimentación y de la mujer rural.

Como tuvimos ocasión de señalarlo esta mañana, rogamos a todas las delegaciones que intervienen esta tarde, para que procuren ajustarse en sus intervenciones a los cinco minutos que han sido asignados a cada una de ellas.

Tiene a continuación la palabra, el Excelentísimo Señor Lawrence Cartwright, Ministro de Agricultura y Recursos Marinos del Commonwealth de las Bahamas.

Mr Lawrence CARTWRIGHT (Bahamas)

Mr Jacques Diouf, Director-General-elect, Professor José Graziano da Silva, fellow delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. I bring greetings to this Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, from the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. It is with pleasure that I express my country's gratitude to Dr Jacques Diouf, outgoing Director-General, for the sterling services which he rendered during his successful tenure at this Organization. In particular, I would like to thank him for the commitment to the Caribbean Region.

I also wish to extend congratulations to the incoming Director-General-elect, and say that The Bahamas looks forward to joining him in the months and years ahead in furthering the work and contribution of the FAO in improving global food security and eradicating global hunger.

In keeping with the theme, "The State of Food and Agriculture: the Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development", I wish to point out that in The Bahamas, rural women have always played a pivotal role in food production, in processing and in marketing. Data from the last agricultural census, conducted in the country, indicate that 30 percent of farms are owned by women and, in addition, statistics indicate that percent of the workforce in agriculture comprise women.

Bahamian women are especially prominent in the Backyard Gardening programme initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture several years ago for urban populations. They are also the major participants in, and beneficiaries of, the weekly Farmers' Markets.

At the administrative levels of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, women have held some of the top positions such as Minister, Permanent Secretary and Director of Agriculture.

We have been very successful over the years in working with women involved in the handicraft industry, using local species of hardwood trees, palms, and seashells, to produce high-quality craft and jewellery items for the tourist market.

The FAO can assist developing countries to encourage and support young women to become innovators in the agricultural field. There are many success stories of women who have raised their children using agriculture as a career.

Mr Chairman, in the face of the sharp rise in food prices in 2007 and 2008, and the continuing volatility, The Bahamas intensified its efforts in food crop production, with particular emphasis on several new varieties of sweet potato tested for Bahamian conditions.

These efforts were augmented by significant financial and technical assistance provided by the FAO under the Initiative for Soaring Food Prices. Consequently, there was a significant increase in the production of sweet potatoes in 2010 and 2011 as a result of the distribution of clean planting material to farmers throughout the islands.

The Government of The Bahamas is presently in the middle of an intense exercise of updating all legislation related to agricultural health and food safety, so as to safeguard the well-being of its resident and tourist populations and to comply with prevailing international trade protocols.

The level and quality of technical assistance provided by the FAO has been critical in the forward movement of this initiative.

Similarly, and of equal importance, is the technical assistance provided by the FAO that has resulted in the recent passage in Parliament of comprehensive legislation to ensure the sustainable management of forests in The Bahamas.

The minimization and mitigation of risk in the context of climate change is a global reality. The Bahamas expends continuous effort to improve the nation's preparedness and effective responses to hurricanes, the greatest natural threat to the agriculture sector. In this regard, we are presently examining options for providing insurance for the sector; and throughout this process, the FAO has provided strong technical support.

As capture fisheries generate considerable employment and foreign exchange earnings for the Bahamas, and as the potential for aquaculture is high, it is imperative that we manage the marine resources effectively so as to ensure their sustainability. It is in this context, therefore, that we applaud the efforts of the Organization to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

By far, the greatest collaborative work between The Bahamas and the FAO, since I assumed office in 2007, has been the Rapid Assessment exercise conducted in the agriculture sector in 2009 and 2010, with a full complement of technical assistance from FAO. From this assessment, we have developed a five-year national plan that is more than timely, given the sudden and ominous challenge of rising food prices.

At present, we are engaged in developing a Country Programme Framework which would enhance the interaction between The Bahamas and FAO by indicating the areas for which the FAO could provide technical assistance.

There is much, much more that I could say at this point, but suffice it to say that The Bahamas supports the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Mr Peter SINON (Seychelles)

The Republic of Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands and islets, giving a total land mass of around 453 square kilometres. Those islands are strewn, however over a vast Exclusive Economic Zone, over around 1.3 million square kilometres of ocean in the Southwest Indian Ocean. The Seychelles are thus custodians to more sea than land, remote and isolated from Australian partners and markets. Cultivable, flat land is a very scarce commodity, farmed predominantly around a narrow coastal plain. The effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, salinity intrusion, and erosion all coalesce to undermine the efforts for us to increase our land-based agriculture production. As I speak, we have been suffering for the past six months from the worst drought that we can remember.

Given the afore-mentioned context, it is evident that food and nutrition security for Seychelles rests not only based on its capability to increase land-based agricultural production, but on its ability to increase its maritime and aquatic potential, as well as trade effectively for import and export of its food and other complementary consumables with the outside world. Environmental mitigation and adaptation, trade and judicious management of our narrow resource base, as well as overcoming

existing and emerging risks, have become quintessential factors in the formula for food and nutrition security for our archipelago and people.

If land-based agriculture represents only two percent of our GDP, fisheries is second only to the first pillar of the Seychelles economy, which is tourism. *Per capita*, the Seychelles is one of the largest consumers of fish. The last time I checked, she stood at the fourth place in the world, behind Iceland, Japan and the Maldives. The industrial fishing port of Victory, the deepest and safest port in the Indian Ocean, operates throughout the year since it is outside the cyclone belts, and is presently the largest transshipment port for tuna in the region. Tuna and other fishing exports are the country's largest export earners, contributing towards the Seychelles GDP. This is made possible through the availability and management of the stock of tuna, as one of the largest tuning canning factory is predominantly operated by women.

For two years now, to mark the International Day of Women on 8 March, the Seychelles has made it a point to fly its regular flight to Europe and back, staffed entirely by Seychelles female staff, from the captain's seat all the way to the galley. This symbolic annual event brings pride to the whole nation, attesting to the extent of women's emancipation for a country that only inaugurated its international airport in the early 1970's and gained its independence on the 29 June 1976. So tomorrow we celebrate 35 years of independence. In contrast, however, it is with much humility that I share with you that to this day the Republic of Seychelles still depends entirely on foreign-owned and operated purse seines to fish the bulk of its tuna. Those licensed fleets are the critical suppliers of the tuna factory I just mentioned, as well as responsible for the transshipment of the surpluses that contribute to the world's food nutrition and world food security.

Other factors that have contributed to hinder the progress for the Seychelles to partake more actively in the large-scale industrial tuna fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is the high initial capital investment necessary to own and operate purse seines. We have become resigned to this reality, especially after a bold attempt to venture into industrial tuna fishing, with what we considered was a cheaper and more affordable alternative, but it failed. Content with the scissor-school, we recently woke up to a very worrying reality. We learned and realized that there is an effective and ongoing campaign by NGOs such as Greenpeace and others to close markets that source tuna caught by purse seines because of their side-effects on other species. Their arguments do hold water because issues related to bycatches that are sometimes discarded, species such as birds, sharks, and turtles that are unintentionally caught cause serious worries, and they also cause serious worries to us. Seychelles is the first to be concerned. However, I must state that the flagging of those concerns coupled with to the campaign for markets to close versus instead of rectifying the situation, highlights a lack of more effective communication which is a product of ineffective partnership. I personally believe that with effective participation by Seychelles in the industrial tuna fishing, the sense of ownership would inject more sustainability. While global supermarkets are beginning to close their doors, we are in dire need for solutions. When markets close, the factory closes and the consequences could be dire especially for our women employees of the factory. We request time, time to realize the comprehensive transformation that needs to be undertaken. We request expert assistance for a more sustainable fishing practices, and in my view FAO is, and should be, proactive in this engagement.

The Seychelles has been accurately labelled as a matriarchal society and I know that for a fact. It is the women who take the brunt of the stress for feeding and managing the households. Women hold key positions in society, and some own some of the most profitable businesses. Last month there were a series of graduations, for the two schools, the Seychelles Maritime School and the Seychelles Agricultural and Horticultural Training Centre. This year, the President Cup for the best students in both institutions went to female graduates. I have heightened hopes now that the Seychelles men and women will not only conquer the skies, but gear up to partake effectively in sustainable exploitation of our blue economy.

Let me inform you that the preparations for the first Africa-focused fisheries and aquaculture conference to be held in Seychelles in November this year is progressing well, and we are eager to welcome all stakeholders in this sector.

At this juncture, allow me to congratulate the newly-elected candidate for the post of FAO Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva. He spoke about paying more attention to fisheries, taking into account the specific plight of Small Island Developing States. We look forward to working with him, and continually with the staff of FAO.

I would like also to express gratitude and God speed to Mr Diouf and his able staff for the cooperation we have had over the years.

Allow me to request that FAO remains relevant to all its Members, big and small, and that it be successful in delivering on the most critical of its mission, to eliminate hunger.

Mr Hari Narayan YADAV (Nepal)

I indeed am very honoured and proud to be here in Rome, having this historic opportunity to address this August gathering of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. Allow me at the outset to congratulate the Director-General of FAO for his excellent preparation. While heading this Organization during such a crucial time in UN history when the number of people suffering from hunger has exceeded one billion, and the majority of them are women and rural agricultural men They need our overall assistance for the development, elevation, economic growth and environmental sustainability of developing countries. But, the current challenges and trends from climate change, natural disasters and alarming diseases affecting plants and animals have been recurring more frequently and on larger scales. These events render all societies vulnerable to food insecurity in the immediate, short, medium and long-term. In this context I would like to recall the commitments made during the Conference on Agriculture Food Security and Climate Change 2010 and the World Food Summit on Food Security in 2009.

Women are the significant contributors to the rural economy in developing countries, and we have to acknowledge their roles in agriculture and the need to empower them by increasing accesses to land extension services, technology, dissemination, rural employment and financial resources. These are required to boost agricultural productivity and ensure food security. Closing the gender gap in agricultural input alone could lift one hundred, two hundred and fifty million people out of hunger. Achieving gender equality and empowering women in agriculture is not only the right thing to do, but it is also crucial for agricultural development and food security.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all donors, development partners and international communities for their assistance in improving food security in Nepal. The Government of Nepal has initiated the process of formulating a long-term plan for agriculture to address the current situation of food insecurity in the country in hopes that this will help in protecting the poor, malnourished and food-insecure people who are most vulnerable. The present situation of food insecurity and low productivity in the agricultural sector is the consequence of low investment, and the world has neglected agriculture in development policies. Therefore, I would like to request all donors, international communities and agricultural trade institutions and associations, as well as our development partners, to formulate and consult to develop projects with medium and long-term approaches that would increase investment in agriculture to overcome these challenges.

Finally, I extend best wishes for the successful conclusion of this Conference.

Mme Mariam ATAHIR (Tchad)

Avant tout propos, je voudrais, au nom de mon Gouvernement, du peuple tchadien et de la délégation qui m'accompagne, adresser tous mes remerciements à M. Jacques Diouf qui a su conduire avec beaucoup de doigté et d'efficacité notre Organisation, la FAO. Qu'il trouve ici l'expression de notre profonde gratitude.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter le Professeur José Graziano da Silva pour sa brillante élection à la tête de la Direction générale de notre Organisation, et l'assurer de notre entière collaboration.

L'agriculture est l'un des grands enjeux du XXIème Siècle. Bien qu'elle soit au cœur de l'agenda de développement des pays africains ces dernières années, la crise alimentaire mondiale de 2008 vient de nous rappeler que l'Afrique doit se doter des politiques agricoles ambitieuses autour desquelles

doivent s'accorder les décideurs publics et privés, les partenaires au développement et les organisations des producteurs agricoles.

Ils doivent s'accorder sur les orientations, les moyens et les mesures spécifiques à mettre en œuvre pour la promotion d'une agriculture moderne, diversifiée, productive et durable, une agriculture affranchie des aléas climatiques de toute sorte, une agriculture où le financement des investissements productifs est garanti, une agriculture qui chercherait à valoriser davantage le travail des femmes et alléger leur souffrance, et une agriculture mettant définitivement à l'abri nos populations des crises alimentaires récurrentes.

Pour le Tchad, mon pays, le défi du moment consiste donc à promouvoir des politiques et des programmes de développement agricole durable pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire à travers la mise en place d'un système de financement agricole non discriminatoire, devant permettre aux agriculteurs et aux agricultrices de disposer des services financiers nécessaires pour accroître leur productivité. Les leçons passées enseignent que les interventions fragmentaires ne réussissent pas. Le rôle politique est probablement celui de créer un environnement favorable pour rendre l'activité agricole plus rentable d'une part, et faciliter l'accès et une prestation durable des services financiers au secteur agricole d'autre part.

Des efforts importants pour le développement de notre agriculture ont été consentis avec l'appui des partenaires, efforts que le Gouvernement tchadien entend poursuivre pour accroître la production agricole malgré les aléas climatiques.

D'ailleurs, c'est pour mettre un terme à cette situation que le Gouvernement du Tchad a élaboré en 2005, avec l'appui de ses partenaires au développement, le Programme national de sécurité alimentaire (PNSA) qui avait pour objectif principal de réduire et d'éradiquer la famine et l'insécurité alimentaire.

Le PNSA constitue à présent notre cadre de référence portant sur les objectifs globaux de notre Stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté et orienté spécifiquement vers la perspective d'atteindre la sécurité alimentaire au Tchad à l'horizon 2015.

Il me plait de rappeler ici que le PNSA a été élaboré avec l'assistance non négligeable de la FAO, avec la participation active des partenaires au développement présents au Tchad ainsi que des acteurs publics et privés nationaux. En mai 2005, lors de la première Conférence avec ses partenaires, au cours de laquelle le document du PNSA a été présenté et validé, le Gouvernement du Tchad s'est engagé à financer le budget global à hauteur de 50 pour cent.

Par contre, les contributions attendues des partenaires du Tchad ne sont pas encore mobilisées. Compte-tenu du caractère hautement prioritaire de la sécurité alimentaire dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour le bien-être de nos populations, le Gouvernement du Tchad entend organiser dans les prochains mois une table ronde des bailleurs sur le PNSA. L'occasion est toute indiquée pour solliciter, une fois de plus, le concours de tous, compte-tenu de l'importance et de la priorité que mon pays accorde au PNSA.

Je ne saurais terminer mes propos sans remercier toute l'équipe de la FAO aussi bien au Siège qu'à la Représentation au Tchad pour leur disponibilité constante.

Sra. Nemesia ACHACOLLO TOLA (Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Por intermedio de su Presidencia deseo hacer llegar un saludo cordial a nuestras hermanas Ministras de Estado, Embajadoras y Embajadores y también un cordial saludo de parte del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia.

Hablar de la función vital de la mujer en la agricultura, podría significar solamente hablar de las aspiraciones y sueños de las mujeres o de lo mal que se encuentran o de todo lo que pueden hacer por ellas.

Sin embargo hablaré a nombre de mis compañeras bolivianas, valerosas mujeres quienes no se esperaron que los cambios lleguen sino que lucharon y ofrendaron la vida. Gracias a ellas y sus luchas por las reivindicaciones del pueblo boliviano, que nuestro Gobierno reconoce la equidad de género y el desarrollo de políticas según la nueva constitución política del Estado Boliviano.

La distribución de los Cargos de Estado, la participación equitativa de las mujeres en este mandato constitucional, contribuyó a una rápida construcción de una nueva realidad para las mujeres en beneficio de toda la sociedad.

A partir de 2006 con la asunción de mando del hermano Presidente Evo Morales Zaima, se han iniciado transformaciones profundas en las estructuras de Estado que le ha devuelto a la mujer, la dignidad y el verdadero rol que merece en la sociedad.

Ahora hablando de las políticas del Gobierno para consolidar la función vital de la mujer en el área de la agricultura, en especial para aquellas mujeres sin recursos, podríamos indicar las siguientes: acceso a la tenencia y titulación de las propiedades agrícolas a las mujeres; crédito para las mujeres con 0 por ciento de interés; programa de asistencia técnica para las mujeres; programa de transferencias directas de montos de dinero; transferencia y entrega de fondos perdidos hacia las mujeres; compra de las producciones agrícolas con 10 por ciento más del precio del mercado actual.

De esta forma la mujer es propietaria de la tierra, tiene acceso al crédito con 0 por ciento de interés, recibe la asistencia técnica que le enseña como producir mejor y finalmente el Estado compra su producción con un sobre precio del 10 por ciento más del mercado.

Devolver a la mujer su dignidad y su rol de protagonista en la agricultura significa reducir el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, significa construir una sociedad en armonía y en complementación.

Queremos ser eficientes al principio, creemos que la FAO, el FIDA y el PMA y otros organismos internacionales, deben trabajar y brindar apoyo a la cooperación para profundizar estos cambios estructurales que se vienen realizando en Bolivia y en otros países del mundo.

Restaurar el equilibrio, la participación verdadera de la mujer, el rol de la mujer, significa erradicar el hambre y la desnutrición del planeta.

Pido a todos los presentes que se acuerden que también tenemos demasiadas hermanas y hermanos que padecen hambre y desnutrición. Para ellos y para nosotros que estamos aquí, es que el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia con el apoyo del GRULAC y del G-77, estamos presentando para que en el año 2013 se realice el Año Internacional de la Quínoa, alimento altamente nutritivo calificado como el grano de oro y del futuro.

Como mujer, como madre, ser consecuente con las problemáticas de la alimentación en esta Conferencia con la aprobación del Año Internacional, significa una opción viable para erradicar la pobreza y el hambre y la desnutrición de nuestro planeta.

Será un honor recibir la degustación de la Quínoa esta noche a las 19.30. Nuestra Delegación Boliviana, quisiera por intermedio de Usted, aprovechar estos minutos para invitarles porque creemos que con vuestro apoyo, esta producción que tenemos en las zonas andinas de la parte altiplánica, nos va llevar a la realización del Año Internacional de la Quínoa.

Agradezco a todos de antemano, al actual Director General y también al nuevo entrante, porque tenemos mucha confianza que vamos avanzar y trabajar en plena cooperación.

Mr Mahinda Yapa ABEYWARDENA (Sri Lanka)

In the first instance, Mr. Chairperson, let me congratulate you for being elected as the Chairperson of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure that under your able guidance the deliberations of this Conference will be most fruitful.

I take this opportunity to express to the Director General of FAO, the sincere gratitude and best wishes of His Excellency Mahinda Rajapakse, the President and the people of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka for your service particularly rendered to Sri Lanka and the FAO Member Nations during your tenure at the helm of FAO.

Sri Lanka being the current chair, I have the honour to first deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Fifteen (G-15), a Summit Level Group of Developing Countries for South-South and North-South consultation and cooperation, comprising 17 Member Nations.

At their last Summit held in May 2010 in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Heads of State and Government of the Group of Fifteen undertook a critical appraisal of the adverse effects on agriculture and food security in developing countries caused by the recent financial and economic crisis, which has slowed down the progress in achievements made reporting the reduction of poverty and hunger. In this regard, we called for the introduction of additional resources to foster rural development and capacity-building.

The G-15 reiterates its commitment to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and to combining our resources to achieve the goal of halving the number of the hungry in the world by 2015, as well as promoting the access to food and sustainable food security policies.

In acknowledgement of the vital importance of food and agriculture to the sustainable development of our Member Nations, the G-15 Working Group on Water Resources Management will be convened on 19-21 July 2011 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. We welcome FAO's partnership with the G-15 in this and future activities of the Group.

The Sri Lanka economy is inherently agrarian and out of its population of 20.6 million, more than 70 percent of the rural livelihood is directly dependent on agriculture. The agriculture sector remains the largest income generator in the rural community contributing to poverty reduction. Although the relative share of total agricultural production was 11.9 percent of GDP in 2010, the agriculture sector provides 33 percent of employment for the total labour force, as 41.5 percent of employed women and 35.4 percent of employed men are engaged in agriculture and analogous sectors.

In Sri Lanka, women have extensive workloads with dual responsibility for farm production and management of home economics. Their responsibilities for home maintenance and household crop production increased due to the men's heightened involvement in cash crop production.

Nearly 68 percent of the women in agriculture work in plantations, and more than 70 percent of rural women are involved in subsistence production. They, therefore, play an active role and are heavily involved in livestock production, forest resource use and fishery processings and contribute considerably to household income through farm and non-farm activities, as well as by taking employment overseas. Nevertheless, women's work as family labour is underestimated.

After recognizing these important aspects, the policy document of the present government, - "The Vision for New Sri Lanka, the Mahinda Chintana", foresees an agriculture sector contributing to regionally-equitable economic growth, rural livelihood improvement and food security through efficient production of commodities for consumption through agro-based industries and through competitive exportation to the world markets.

As you observe, the agricultural sector of Sri Lanka continues to play an important role in implementing strategies targeted towards a planned socio-economic development of the country. Rapid growth of the agriculture sector, particularly in domestic food production, floriculture and export crop sector are essential to achieve self reliance at national level, and ensure food security to bring about equity in the distribution of income and wealth so necessary to alleviate poverty.

The objectives stipulated in the national agricultural policy of Sri Lanka therein have been designed to meet the basic needs of the farming community in terms of food and nutrition security, enhanced employment opportunities and income through the adoption of technically-feasible, socially-acceptable, economically-viable and environmentally-friendly agricultural production technologies, marketing and related strategies.

The Government's stand in agriculture is to be competitive in production while increasing productivity, reducing production costs of agricultural produce resulting increased net farm income. The Government is committed to conserve the environment, promote sustainable utilization of natural resources and enhance input utilization efficiency. Paddy production has reached above self-sufficient levels, and attempts are being made to locally produce food commodities that are currently imported.

The Government invests on a priority basis in research and development for the generation of appropriate technologies for rural farmers, maintenance of irrigation facilities, technology transfer and promotion of quality seeds and planting materials. Specifically, the government provides very

attractive fertilizer incentives to farmers in paddy cultivation and other crop production. Provisions of agricultural insurance and guaranteed price for paddy are other assistance provided to the rural sector.

The Government of Sri Lanka identifies gender issues as an important consideration in post-conflict assistance. The National Framework for Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation formulates policies and strategies through a consultative process to assist conflict-affected communities with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders.

After three decades of internal strife with conflict in the North and East, Sri Lanka is now emerging into a peaceful era. The agricultural development programmes are now being implemented in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka as well. Presently 17 projects are being implemented with the assistance of FAO in Sri Lanka, the majority of which are in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country.

I express my sincere gratitude to FAO for its much-needed timely interventions in the agriculture sector in Sri Lanka that have helped Sri Lanka's economy immensely by making it self-sufficient in rice, the basic food of Sri Lanka despite the fact that the country had faced the worst and ugliest terrorist activities in the world.

Finally on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I extend best wishes to Mr Jacques Diouf, the outgoing Director-General of FAO for his future life and also our well wishes go to the newly-appointed Director-General of FAO for his upcoming activities to serve FAO and its Member Nations.

Mr Antonio Raúl LIMBAU (Mozambique) (Original language Portuguese)

It is with great honour that I address to you a word of friendship and solidarity and on behalf of the delegation of Mozambique and my personal behalf. Special greetings are addressed to Dr José Graziano da Silva on his election to the post of Director-General of FAO. We firmly believe that he will continue with the agenda of combating poverty, hunger and food insecurity, creating whenever possible, synergies needed to meet the goal of feeding one billion people worldwide.

Our recognition is also addressed to the outgoing Director-General for his strong leadership and great dedication in guiding FAO's work. Due to his vision and mission, agriculture appears today on the international agenda and is one of the main concerns of humankind. We wish you and your distinguished family the best, and much hope for the future.

This Conference in praising The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development and unequivocally expresses the recognition of women's contribution in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, thus ensuring the health and education of children all over the world. We thus concur with the conclusions of the 2010 SOFA, which confirm the valuable contribution of women in the sector of agriculture. In most developing countries, women are the main labour force in agriculture. They tirelessly seek family income through their work in activities that have an impact on social and rural communities. This is why the Government of Mozambique is committed to women and girls' education and training in agricultural production techniques and in order to improve their living conditions.

Now although the results of this fight against hunger are still not encouraging, we do welcome the initiatives that culminated in the realization of the so called High-Level Conference on Food Security. We really do believe that the transfer of technologies and the know-how in the framework of South-south Cooperation on the basis of the priorities of the various programmes will be able to accelerate results in the fight against hunger and undernourishment in countries like Mozambique.

The Government of Mozambique takes the issue of domestic and global food security as one of its main priorities in order to ensure healthy life. In order to achieve this objective, the Government aims are to ensure greater production and food security in the country, to increase the productivity of farming and its value chain, to promote the increase of agricultural production for market purposes and to promote sustainable use of land, forests and wildlife. In undertaking this, the Government continues to ensure good performance of the national economy with growth rates above seven percent in just the past year, and it has passed legislation to reduce hunger, poverty and food insecurity and to promote

development and respect for human rights. Despite the progress registered in Mozambique in recent years however, it is still worrying to see that the level of poverty in the country is at 55 percent and that approximately 55 percent of our population still suffers from chronic food insecurity. In order to rise to the challenge, our Government adopted the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development trying to enhance the mutual complementarity and alignment with the pillars of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme. For the next few years, we have decided to promote a value chain approach, highlighting the issue of competitiveness of crops in order to increase production and productivity.

Our agenda seeks to preserve the multi-functional and inter-disciplinary dimension of agriculture so as to contribute to the fight against poverty, allowing greater access to adequate food for the population.

We feel that it is relevant for us to consider the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13 because we believe that in the current international financial situation we can benefit from the cooperation and involvement of all. Similarly, we believe that reversing the current trend in world food security will necessarily increase the overall level of investment in agricultural and other activities, which will, in turn contribute to improving access to food as well as the establishment of equitable international trade legislation. This is why we encourage the Secretariat of FAO to continue with a process of Decentralization of human and financial resources, as well as functional skills, so that we can obtain more tangible results through the reforms we are implementing. In this respect, we wish great success to the new Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva, who will find in the Government of Mozambique a permanent friend.

Ms Thu NGUYEN THI XUAN (Viet Nam)

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to congratulate Professor Dr José Graziano da Silva, on being elected as the next Director-General of FAO. I strongly believe that Dr Graziano da Silva will continue the work of Dr Jacques Diouf, and lead the FAO to many more successes in the coming years.

I would like to express our commitment of strong support to Dr Graziano da Silva during his term in the office. I would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr Jacques Diouf for his devotion and contribution to the development of agriculture in general and to agriculture and rural development in Viet Nam, in particular. During Dr Jacques Diouf's 18 years in office, Viet Nam has received financial and technical assistance from the FAO which has contributed greatly to the achievements in agriculture and rural development that we have made.

Viet Nam is always strongly committed in trying to help the United Nations, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and individuals in the cause of poverty, to reducing poverty and in food security worldwide. Viet Nam also strongly supports the FAO Reform in improving the effectiveness and efficiencies of the Organization, and its programme and projects.

At present, Viet Nam is one of the pilot countries of that has made initial promising inroads. Viet Nam has also participated actively in the FAO programme and projects, such as the South-South Cooperation, programme for food security, food substance programme, rural water and sanitation programme. We hope that the FAO will further continue to promote the implementation of the Programme, especially the South-South Cooperation. Through this Programme, Viet Nam has sent many experts to some African nations like Angola, Namibia and Mozambique to help them develop their agriculture, and the cooperation has been very effective.

The theme of our general debate is The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, and I am delighted to see the vast presence of the women in agriculture work well.

In Viet Nam, women play a front, key run in the area of agriculture and rural development. Women do not only make up an important labour force in agriculture projects and activities, but also play a vital role in policy-making and direction setting for agriculture and rural development.

In Viet Nam, our programmes and projects on agriculture and rural development give high priority to improve gender issues and woman's participation. In Viet Nam, women are still suffering from inequality compared to men in labour, social benefits, respect of the family and society. We know that

this inequality against women also exists in other countries, in Africa and Asia in particular. Therefore, I strongly urge FAO and our members to pay more attention to women and gender equality, and turn our attention into practical action to how women live, so we stand and benefit from the agriculture and rural development. On this occasion, on behalf of the Government and the people of Viet Nam, I would like to express our most sincere thanks to the international and regional organizations, Governments and people of other countries, non-governmental organizations and civil society who have been and will be providing valuable assistance to Viet Nam in our cause of poverty reduction, food security and economic development.

With our effort and the assistance and support from FAO and other partners, Viet Nam has set the task of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent, reducing poverty by 20 percent, and increasing income by 20 percent for every 10 years. By achieving this, Viet Nam hopes to make a good contribution to the FAO's green agriculture and food security programmes for adaptation and mitigation to climate changes.

I wish our Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference a great success.

Ms Kathleen MERRIGAN (United States of America)

It is an honour and a pleasure to join my colleagues from all over the world at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I am pleased to join the others in welcoming the Director-General-Elect, José Graziano da Silva. The United States looks forward to working with the Director-General-Elect in continuing to ensure that FAO remains an important partner in combating world hunger. We are confident that Dr. Graziano da Silva will complete the ongoing Reform Process and will continue to focus on the important normative work of FAO to ensure that it is a strong vibrant organization.

I would also like to say a few words about the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, who helped usher in a process of Renewal and Reform that is transforming the UN's largest Specialized Agency into a more dynamic, responsive and accountable organization. The United States thanks Dr Diouf for his hard work and dedication during his 18 years as Director-General. The reforms he helped begin are now more important than ever, now that global food prices continue to rise and the FAO itself is forced into a leaner budget environment. Finally, I want to thank departing Deputy Director General He for his dedicated service to FAO, and wish him the best in the future. Many years ago, Mr He guided me during an expert consultancy here at FAO, and I shall never forget his kindness and wisdom.

The 2010-2011 State of Food and Agriculture Report entitled "Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development" touches on issues of great importance for the United States. It may interest you to know that young women represent one of the fastest growing demographics in US agriculture. Women play a critical role throughout the food chain, from farming to marketing to planning nutritious meals for their families. Across the globe, closing the gender gap in agriculture would greatly benefit not only the agriculture sector, but society as a whole. If women had the same access to knowledge and resources as men, they could increase yields on their farms by as much as 30 percent. Production gains of this magnitude could reduce hunger for as many as 150 million people and lower malnourishment by up to 17 percent. Women play a key role in reducing hunger and poverty, and we applaud the global community's efforts to close the gender gap in agriculture.

As the State of Food and Agriculture report points out, if we are to succeed in empowering women in agriculture we must deepen our understanding about the impact of gender, particularly through data collection and analysis. As part of the US Government's "Feed the Future" initiative, we are measuring the impact our programmes have in correcting gender inequalities. We are investing in statistical institutions and partner nations to build local capacity and data and research, and facilitate the collection of sex-disaggregated data to increase our understanding of gender disparities and to measure our progress. We are also working to develop the women's empowerment in agriculture index, which will measure how successful we are in improving women's access to credit, land and their access to leadership roles. This index is one critical piece that helps us develop a robust learning agenda, share knowledge, and use a new tool to create a transformational change.

Yesterday we joined with Ministers Agnus Calgula, Gloria Peralta, Deputy Director Tutwiler and others at a Side Event to highlight such programmes and their impacts. The United States looks forward to working with countries and other partners to ensure that gender-sensitive indicators are the norm rather than the exception. Several days ago at the G20 Summit of Agricultural Ministers, Secretary Vilsack discussed the importance of continued innovation from our scientist and farmers to confront the combined challenges of feeding a growing global population, mitigating the effects of climate change and meeting increasing energy demands. Secretary Vilsack also addressed the importance of maintaining open, transparent markets for trading food and agricultural goods. A stable, predictable, distortion-free and transparent system for trade allows the unrestricted flow of food and agricultural commodities. Access to correct and transparent market and pricing information reduces volatility and price fights and improves food security.

As the foremost technical Organization in agriculture, FAO is a critical partner in this effort. The United States recognizes the critical role of international organizations in the global effort to address food security. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the FAO, we continue to make additional sustainable Voluntary Contributions for various projects, in addition to our Assessed Contributions. However, like many other nations, we are facing serious budget pressures at home and will be making difficult choices in the coming months. That is why the United States of America continues to urge maximum discipline and transparency in United Nations programmes and budgets. As a Member Nations it is our responsibility to ensure that FAO funds are spent in a manner that produces the greatest level of global food security. We the Members in the Secretariat must renew our commitment to work cooperatively under the new results-based operating paradigm to achieve our collective vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition. These difficult economic times do not make reaching this goal any easier for us, but reminding ourselves that we are all in need of the same goal should allow us to address the programme and budget issues to find the most successful way forward.

We urge FAO, the Director-General-Elect, and the talented staff at FAO to conclude the IPA implementation within the next two years, as agreed by this membership. We hope that the dynamic spirit of renewal will remain a permanent fixture here at FAO.

Just as the United States remains committed to the Reform Process, we also remain committed to cooperating with FAO at the technical level. It is important that FAO leverage its resources in order to maximize the impact of its activities. Setting priorities is essential, and we encourage Management and Members to focus on areas where FAO's competitive advantages are greatest. FAO must refocus on its core mission, seeking to produce demonstrable results, such as the eradication of rinderpest. This is a pivotal time in FAO's history, one that presents FAO stakeholders with a unique opportunity to truly make a difference. We the United States delegation urge you to join with us in recommitting ourselves to the important work done by FAO and to our efforts to ensure that FAO performs in a manner that earns global respect and, most importantly, achieves our goal of reducing hunger and fostering sustainable food security for people the world over.

Mr Segrfredo R. SERRANO (Philippines)

In this Conference, FAO is witnessing an important transition as this will be the last Conference for our long-serving and distinguished Director-General, Dr Diouf, and we have a newly-elected one, Mr Graziano da Silva. Let me, therefore, take this opportunity to recall the outstanding contributions of Mr Diouf to FAO. Under his leadership FAO Reform has undertaken many painful but forward-looking changes to revitalise the Organization. Sometimes there are frank discussions and divergent views on FAO Reform issues, but Dr Diouf has always faithfully implemented the decisions of the Governing Bodies.

The Director-General has been instrumental in putting food security on the global agenda and has been prescient in anticipating the food price hike in 2008. Pro-active action by FAO during this crisis has certainly mitigated the ill-effects on many developing countries. It is also under his stewardship that one of the major challenges in livestock diseases, rinderpest, has finally been eradicated. On behalf of my Government, we thank Dr Diouf for the services he has rendered to my country through FAO. My country supports the establishment of the 'Jacques Diouf Food Security Award'. We wish you well in your next endeavours.

We also welcome the newly-elected Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva. This is a good and a wise choice. We join other countries in profusely congratulating you on your election as the new Director-General of FAO, and please be assured that you can count on our cooperation and support in implementing the vision and programmes that you have so eloquently outlined during the electoral campaign. We are hopeful that under your leadership, you will pursue and implement the remaining agenda of FAO Reform with as much vigour as when we started the process.

We meet at a moment of great challenges and opportunities for FAO. The challenges of food price volatility and insecurity remain intractable and call for creative solutions to address this issue. A repeat of the 2008 food price hike continues to ominously loom on the horizon. The assurances that the fundamentals are better now than in 2008, and that the international system is more resilient to respond to food price volatility remain to be tested against reality. Amidst a number of high-profile Summits on food security in the wake of the 2008 price hike, the percentage of ODA for investments in agriculture has not significantly increased to fill the urgent needs and still remains in single digits compared to its peak of 17 percent in the 1980s. Worse, some have been re-labelled as climate change funds. We are going from the historical responsibility for climate change that demands reparations to unilateral aid and charity. This is most deplorable and unacceptable.

The increase in the price of commodities we believe is not bad per se for smallholder farming. After all, low global prices for food products have been the bane for agriculture in developing countries for decades. We know that price increases help incentivize small farmers to plant crops that would earn them better income. Unfortunately, FAO studies show that small farmers from developing countries have been left behind in taking advantage of these opportunities.

While ensuring appropriate social protection to the most vulnerable of the population, the challenge for FAO and national governments is how to give the smaller farmers the opportunity to benefit from increasing food prices through increased productivity, enhanced connectivity to markets and enhanced technology.

Among the most vulnerable of the population is the women's sector, especially in agriculture. My delegation is pleased to note that in this Conference we are looking into the issue of women's vital roles in agriculture. This universal recognition of the issue of women's role in agriculture, food security and in society, is long overdue. The Philippines, which has two women elected as Presidents, has long recognized the vital role of women in agriculture and as active stakeholders in economic development. It continuously supports and ensures gender mainstreaming in its programmes, projects and activities.

FAO recently embarked on the most comprehensive Reform of the Organization since its founding more than 60 years ago. This Reform Process is ongoing, and firmly in place but it requires our continuing support in terms of vigilant and wise governance.

My delegation underscores the importance of the Regional Conferences as part of the FAO Governing Bodies, but is concerned about the lack of clarity on how the Regional Conference decisions feed into the programme and budget processes. We therefore, emphatically exhort for the elaboration of these processes to effectively address the disjoints and appropriately empower the regions. We also welcome the Decentralization of FAO to bring decision-making closer to its clients, the farmers. We support the policy of full recovery for TCP for high-income countries.

We encourage FAO's role as a knowledge centre that will be crucial in putting agriculture in the climate change agenda, while noting FAO is not a negotiating venue for climate change issues. We need to ensure that agriculture and food systems are resilient to climate change impacts, and that no unnecessary and distortive trade barriers are put in place in the name of climate change mitigation. Helping countries, particularly their agriculture and food production systems, cope and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change must remain a top priority.

We welcome the CFS initiative on drafting the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Agriculture Investments and Land Tenure Rights. We believe these proposed instruments are instrumental and crucial in enhancing productivity, while avoiding unnecessary controversies in agricultural

investments. However, we believe the timeline thus put forward is too short for inclusive consultations to take place in capitals and various key stakeholders.

Finally, we support the declaration of 2014 as the 'International Year for Family Farming'. This will underscore the importance of family farming as key in developing country food security and rural development. We support the promotion of family farming, beyond jobs and productivity, as a sustainable and rewarding vocation and way of life.

We look forward to a most productive Conference.

Sra. Alicia CAMACHO (España)

Gracias, Señor Presidente, Señores Ministros, y Jefes de Delegación, Autoridades, Señoras y Señores. Permítanme de comenzar reiterando nuestro agradecimiento sincero por los apoyos recibidos por el candidato español y nuestra calurosa felicitación al Profesor José Graziano da Silva por su nombramiento como nuevo Director General, deseándole muchos éxitos en su tarea de dirigir esta Organización. En esta tarea contará con el apoyo leal del Gobierno de España, que viene mostrando con hechos la importancia que concede a la FAO como organización clave en la gobernanza internacional.

Centrándome ya en la cuestión que ocupa esta conferencia, resulta innegable el papel vital que desempeña la mujer en el mundo rural, especialmente en los países en vía de desarrollo, así como su importancia crítica en la tarea de hacer frente a uno de los principales retos a los que se enfrentan la humanidad en el Siglo XXI, el de la seguridad alimentaria. Las mujeres no sólo participan en el trabajos si no que comparten responsabilidades y riesgos económicos en las labores agrarias y sin embargo no suelen aparecer como titulares de la propiedad. En los países en vía de desarrollo no llega al 2 por ciento la superficie que consta que está en sus manos. Lo que provoca una asimetría en el régimen de derechos y deberes de las mujeres.

Pero no es un fenómeno exclusivo de estos países. En España, el compromiso del Gobierno para alcanzar una igualdad plena se extiende a las casi cinco millones que viven y trabajan en el medio rural. Para dar un vuelco definitivo a su situación, rompiendo las inercias discriminatorias que obstaculizan el acceso a la igualdad efectiva, el Gobierno de España ha adoptado recientemente un proyecto de ley que regula de forma completa la titularidad compartida de las exportaciones agrarias, iniciativa que ha sido recibida muy positivamente por las organizaciones representativas y que esperamos sea aprobada por el Parlamento durante esta legislatura.

Estamos pues ante una situación de discriminación extendida a muchos países y que es preciso abordar con decisión y en que la FAO juega un papel particularmente relevante, que debemos no sólo reconocer y aplaudir precisamente hoy en este foro, sino también apoyar de forma efectiva ahora y en el futuro. Son en efecto muy destacables los resultados positivos de los programas específicos de la FAO dedicados a promover la igualdad de género, y más importante aún es su promoción como elemento transversal y vertebrador de todas las políticas y programas de la FAO, de la misma manera que se extiende a otros ámbitos como los Objetivos del Milenio o los programas desarrollados por el PNUD y ONU-MUJERES, que destacan en su afán de asegurar el derecho de las mujeres a la propiedad de la tierra.

A nuestro juicio, la consideración de la igualdad de género en los programas de la FAO debe tener como objetivo asegurar el principio de igualdad sea realmente efectivo, traspasando las declaraciones programáticas para dejar su impronta en todos los ámbitos del quehacer diario de esta Organización. Entendemos necesario que este objetivo tenga un reflejo adecuado en la programación presupuestaria de la FAO, reflejo que en términos porcentuales se nos antoja actualmente escaso.

Con visión estratégica, creemos que la potencialidad de la mujer como agente vertebrador del medio rural es inmensa y compartimos aquí el certero diagnóstico de Michelle Bachelet: "la fortaleza de las mujeres, la tenacidad de las mujeres y la sabiduría de las mujeres son el elemento más desaprovechado de la humanidad". Sin olvidar consideraciones de otro orden, porque la permanencia de las mujeres constituye la mejor garantía para el mantenimiento de la actividad económica y social en el medio rural y para hacer frente al reto de la seguridad alimentaria. En definitiva, se trata de aunar

consideraciones de justicia e inteligencia para alcanzar un objetivo, que sin retórica alguna, está al alcance de nuestra mano y de nuestra voluntad.

Sin solución de continuidad, conviene subrayar que el papel de la mujer en el mundo rural en amplias zonas del planeta está íntimamente ligado a la función que juega la agricultura de tipo familiar, que por sus características diferenciadoras, desempeña una función clave en el mantenimiento de la actividad agraria, la ocupación del territorio, la cohesión social y, lo que es más importante, en la consecución del objetivo de la seguridad alimentaria en su doble acepción de alimentos suficientes y seguros. En este sentido, al igual que ha hecho hace un momento la delegación filipina, consideramos sumamente interesante la propuesta del Foro Rural Mundial de instaurar en Naciones Unidas un Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

Señor Presidente, para finalizar, un mensaje claro, que nace de una convicción profunda: solo se podrá ganar el futuro si se hace con la participación activa y en pie de igualdad de las mujeres a través de un desarrollo del medio rural que genere las mismas oportunidades a todas las personas. La consecución de ese objetivo, plenamente factible, la FAO y su Director General contará con el decidido apoyo del Gobierno de España.

Mr Romano KIOME (Kenya)

On behalf of the Kenyan delegation, I wish to congratulate the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf and the organizers of this Conference for the excellent arrangements.

Kenya is truly proud of the way Dr. Diouf has steered FAO for the last 18 years in which it has grown from strength to strength, used the opportunities of the end of Cold War and global economic growth of the 1990s, to focus resources for food security during that time, and weathered the recent global economic and financial crises.

We are proud to be associated with FAO that has moved food and agriculture from global neglect in the 1990s to currently on top of the global agenda. Mr Diouf, while this is your last Conference, the Kenyan delegation knows that this is the beginning of your even greater role in global discourse on food and agriculture, and this time we hope more for Africa. After 18 years in FAO, we know that we have truly an African global wise man for food and agriculture and we hope, and intend, to make the best use of him and his wisdom.

For the organizers, you have selected a very appropriate theme of this Conference, especially for developing countries where agriculture is small-scale and most producers are women. I will come back to this later.

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to take this early opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for being elected to be the next Director-General of this esteemed Organization. The election of Mr Graziano is a clear indication that the Members have decided to position FAO for a true transformation to deliver the world population from the fangs of hunger.

Mr Graziano da Silva, the Kenyan delegation see your election as the Director-General of this esteemed Organization as a serious message that members are sending to the world that food and agriculture, in particular food security, is no longer a social issue, but more of a global human right and a global security issue. We are, therefore, placing the best person we could find in our fraternity to deliver and implement this message. My delegation has the confidence and hope you will deliver and implement this message.

Coming back to the theme of this Conference, my delegation and I believe that there is growing recognition, both internationally and nationally, of the fact that gender equality is important, not only in global economic and social development, but more so in agricultural development. In Kenya's new Constitution, there is no one gender that is allowed to be more than two thirds in any organ including, the Executive, the Judiciary, and the Legislative arm of Government, and public or private institutions, or fora, including the NGOs and the civil society.

In the agricultural sector, the role of women and youth is even more critical in our circumstances because of their traditional role and sheer numbers in smallholder farming. With more than 65 percent

of smallholder farming and the same percentage of the rural population being women and youth under age 35, we have no choice but to place agriculture under this segment of our society. Our rallying strategy to harness this segment of the population is the transformation of our agricultural enterprises to farming as agri-business, which in Kiswahili is “Kilimo biashara”. This fundamental setting is Kenya’s vision 2030, and the Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS), which we launched last year. In this vision, women will be empowered to undertake and be part and parcel of economic development. The youth will engage more in agriculture because it is not only a commercial business, but also a gainful employment.

With respect to food security, it is imperative for me to point out that while we, as a country, are signatory to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, in our new Constitution Kenya has raised the bar by including food security as a basic human right.

You can therefore imagine the kind of pressure that my Government is being put under to deliver this constitutional right. It is for this reason that the Government in this financial year has increased its budgetary allocation to agriculture from 4.6 percent to 11.2 percent of its budget to oblige the declaration that the African Union made in 2003. This is because we are convinced that for our economies to grow fast enough to get our people out of poverty and food insecurity, we must invest more in agriculture. We need not only live up to our Maputo Declaration of allocating 10 percent of our annual national budget to agriculture, but to increase it, probably to 13 percent.

For us to eradicate poverty and food insecurity from our people, we have to transform our agriculture and move from subsistence to commercial farming, where farmers undertake agriculture as business that earns them enough income to prosper. For this transformation to take place, Mr Chairman, we suggest that we focus on five main areas.

First, we must ensure that all agricultural inputs, that is, fertilizer, seeds, feed, and agro-chemicals are available and affordable to farmers, even if it means some level of subsidy by our Governments.

Second, we must ensure that all farmers can access affordable credit even if it means changing our credit laws in favour of farming enterprises.

Third, we must ensure that farmers have good access to markets for their produce, even if it means instituting Guaranteed Minimum Returns or farm insurance schemes.

Fourth, we must invest in irrigated agriculture, to reduce our reliance on rains and mitigate the vagaries of weather. In Kenya we have set a target of increasing our irrigated land from the current 150 000 hectares to at least 1 million hectares by 2020.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we have to strengthen and maintain our agricultural institutions for extension, research and innovations, credit, agro-processing, and marketing so that we can exploit the economies of scale for efficiency and effectiveness of farming enterprises. In doing so, we should move our farming enterprises from producers of primary raw material to producers of value-added products ready for consumption.

We believe, Mr Chairman, that food security is not complicated but requires concerted global commitment and focus. We hope the Reform being implemented in FAO and the commitments of the membership of this esteemed Organization will lead us in that direction.

Sra. Moraima CESPEDES MORALES (Cuba)

A nombre de mi Gobierno quiero expresar la gratitud al Director General que concluye su mandato, Sr. Jacques Diouf, por la dedicación y buen trabajo realizado durante estos años. De la misma forma, desearle éxitos al Profesor José Graziano da Silva en los importantes retos y el trabajo que deberá desarrollar al frente de la Organización, para lo cual podrá contar con nuestro pleno apoyo.

La humanidad está presenciando una crisis alimentaria en un mundo donde prevalece la abundancia. Análisis de la FAO indican que, para el mundo en su conjunto, hay suficiente potencial productivo sin utilizar, para satisfacer el crecimiento previsto de la demanda de alimentos.

No es la escasez de alimentos la causa de la crisis alimentaria, sino las condiciones del régimen agrícola y alimentario mundial, establecido para el lucro de empresas transnacionales, que perpetúa la desigualdad imperante.

A pesar de los esfuerzos realizados hasta el presente por numerosas organizaciones internacionales, el número de pobres y desnutridos en el mundo sigue siendo inaceptablemente elevado, personas que, en su mayoría, viven en los países subdesarrollados.

Pero el hambre no es sólo una preocupación humanitaria, también debilita el potencial de desarrollo de los países. Frente a la inseguridad alimentaria, las familias pobres, para hacer frente a la crisis toman medidas inevitables, como consumir alimentos menos nutritivos, lo que reduce la salud, afecta la productividad laboral y destruye el capital humano a largo plazo, siendo la principal causa de mortalidad infantil y de los sectores más vulnerables; también se venden bienes familiares y se reducen las existencias de recursos físicos o financieros que provocan, migraciones, cerrando así una espiral que solo puede reproducir la miseria.

Por otra parte, los negativos efectos del cambio climático, incluidos los desastres provocados en la agricultura por eventos climáticos extremos, la sequía y el deterioro de los suelos, así como el creciente uso de cereales para producir energía, se suman a los problemas que debe enfrentar la humanidad para producir los alimentos que necesita.

En Cuba, no se presenta la pobreza extrema caracterizada por privaciones que afectan el desarrollo de las capacidades y el bienestar básico de las personas. Esta realidad se ha alcanzado a partir de aplicar el concepto de desarrollo que integra y vincula el crecimiento económico, el mejoramiento de las condiciones de vida, la elevación de la equidad y la paulatina transformación de los valores sociales. La educación, la salud, la alimentación básica y el empleo, así como la seguridad y la asistencia social, son derechos ciudadanos que se cumplen con efectividad.

Señor Presidente, actualmente la sociedad cubana está inmersa en la implementación de transformaciones estructurales y organizativas de importancia para actualizar su modelo económico. Uno de los pilares considerados es el rediseño del modelo de gestión agrícola para dinamizar la producción agropecuaria, en especial su potencialidad para la sustitución de importaciones.

Aspectos fundamentales en estas transformaciones agrícolas son: La descentralización de la producción, delegando una mayor participación en la gestión a los gobiernos locales; sustentar la producción en pequeños colectivos laborales, unidades productoras y fincas agropecuarias y forestales; impulso al desarrollo del movimiento cooperativo del país, trabajando en su perfeccionamiento; modelo de gestión de agricultura urbana y suburbana con énfasis en métodos de agricultura de conservación, y por el autoabastecimiento municipal; la entrega de tierras ociosas en usufructo que ya alcanza cerca de un millón de hectáreas a 146 mil nuevos productores. Se destaca la incorporación de 10.622 mujeres beneficiadas como usufructuarias, que representan el 8.05 por ciento del total de la población a la que se le otorgó la tierra.

Un destacado papel tiene la mujer cubana en el desarrollo de la producción agropecuaria, ya que del total de personas dedicadas a esta labor (968 mil 541), el 18,6 por ciento son mujeres; de ellas, ocupan cargos directivos 9 mil 283, que van desde Vice-Ministra, Directoras de Empresas Productivas e Institutos de Investigación, hasta Presidentas de Cooperativas y Jefas de Fincas.

A pesar de estos logros, Cuba continúa la lucha por incrementar la presencia de la mujer en las diferentes labores productivas y en cargos de dirección, a pesar del recrudecimiento del bloqueo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por el Gobierno de Estados Unidos de América contra Cuba.

Señor Presidente, Cuba ofrece la mayor la importancia a las actividades que desarrolla la Organización y considera que la FAO debe continuar fortaleciéndose como una institución enfocada prioritariamente a actividades de desarrollo, sin dejar de atender aquellas actividades de emergencias que sea necesario apoyar, en medio de los retos que le impone la situación mundial actual.

Nuestra delegación está consciente de la importancia de la labor que pueden desarrollar los Estados Miembros en el seno de la Organización en atención a los problemas que debemos resolver para

erradicar el hambre, así como continuar promoviendo la participación de la mujer campesina, fundamentalmente de las mujeres jóvenes, valorando, en las zonas rurales, el potencial que pudieran ser incorporadas a labores vinculadas a la seguridad alimentaria.

En relación con el actual proceso de Reformas de la FAO, Cuba reafirma que es imprescindible que los resultados de las medidas establecidas y las que acordemos de inmediato aplicar, nos permitan sostener una Organización eficiente y que responda a las necesidades de todos sus Estados Miembros. Cuba trabajará, en unión del resto de los países, para que la eliminación de la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición sean una realidad.

Mr Shane McENTEE (Ireland)

I am delighted to be here today, to represent Ireland on the occasion of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference.

Today the world gathers in Rome to once again bring all our attention to the scourge of global hunger. Nine-hundred and twenty-five million voices call out to us to demand action. It is good to see that since we last met we have begun to make progress in developing the necessary political will and commitment. The global community has come together in various initiatives to focus on combating hunger, achieving food security and striving to seek solutions. But the challenges are enormous and evolving. Winning this battle will require sustained commitment and continuous efforts. The current difficulties with increased global food prices remind us that this is battle that must be fought every day.

The recent FAO–OECD Outlook highlights the difficulties caused by rising and volatile food prices. While high prices have potential to stimulate greater investment in agriculture they also increase the risk of malnutrition for poor consumers. In the longer term there will be greater pressure on resources and production costs are rising. We need to focus our efforts on mitigating the effects of volatility on poor consumers. We know that several organizations are currently considering this issue, and we look forward to seeing the final report of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Price Volatility.

However, we need to recognise that there is a fundamental structural issue here. Global agricultural production is expected to rise at a much slower rate than in the previous decade. Global population is rising. We look to organizations like FAO to be at the centre of these fundamental debates and to be ready with solutions. It is, therefore, more important than ever that FAO moves swiftly to implement reforms. All governments, including my own, are struggling with reduced resources and financial challenges. But reform and change is possible, no matter what the financial circumstances. Indeed tough times demand swifter change.

Ireland is proud to be playing its part in fighting global hunger. Our Hunger Task Force Report in 2008 committed us to providing global leadership and resources to combat hunger. Within our own aid programme, we are seeking to prioritise action against hunger in partnership with the developing countries that we work with.

I want to speak today about undernutrition. It is one of the most serious but least addressed aspects of food insecurity. Last October, Ireland together with the US, came to the FAO Committee on Food Security to tell FAO Members about the recent launch in September 2010 of the 1000 Days Partnership in support of the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is an exciting opportunity for countries to take the lead in designing and implementing strategies to reduce undernutrition. This 1000 Days Partnership brings together Ireland and the United States of America, along with the UN, civil society organizations and the private sector, to work in partnership to support countries' own efforts to combat undernutrition. Ireland has supported the fortification of sugar in Malawi, the fortification of sweet potatoes in Ethiopia and Malawi in conjunction with the International Centre for Potato Research, and supports therapeutic feeding programmes for acutely malnourished children in a community setting. But real implementation is all about national ownership and the role and responsibilities of national governments. The main drivers and investors in the SUN movement are countries themselves under the leadership of their national governments, who have committed themselves to the SUN initiative as 'early riser' countries. Ireland calls on countries to commit themselves to this important initiative.

Let us turn to the subject matter of this Conference – the role of women in agriculture. It is fair to say that the vital role played by women in this important sector never gets the full recognition it deserves in any society. Virtually every report, including those in Ireland, highlights the fact that women's work is just not represented in the statistics. In the State of Food and Agriculture report, it is clear that this absence of statistical data is a first stumbling block to recognising women's contribution. Bearing in mind the old saying "that which gets measured, gets done", we need to build better, more gender-sensitive statistical systems.

Ireland considers that supporting smallholder farmers is one of the most effective ways of achieving food security at the household level. Smallholder farmers are overwhelmingly women. If we fail to address the obstacles faced by women farmers, then we are failing to deliver food security – it is as simple as that. So if we want to develop agriculture and provide enough food to meet the estimated 9 billion population in 2050, then we need to realise that gender equality is actually a key part of this.

The State of Food and Agriculture report shows clearly that closing the gender gap for women farmers has enormous potential to reduce world hunger. Governments need to grasp this opportunity now.

Finally I wish to congratulate Mr Graziano da Silva on his election as Director-General-Elect. Now is the time for this Organization and its Members to press on, with greater speed and determination, to further implement the reform of FAO. Ireland supports you in the challenges ahead, as further reforms are implemented and this Organization moves strongly forward to play its part in the ongoing fight against hunger.

Mr Rwamirama Kanyantole BRIGHT (Uganda)

I take this opportunity to congratulate our Representative, the FAO Secretariat and all those that have worked so hard in the FAO Reform to steer the several renewal processes which have resulted in two positive changes. I also express my sincere appreciation for the warm reception and hospitality, accorded to me and my delegation.

Mr Chairman, two days ago we elected a new Director-General to steer FAO. We congratulate Professor José Graziano da Silva upon his being singled out by the world community for this enormous task. We pledge Uganda's continued support for the FAO and his leadership. I also congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his excellent contribution for his work, and especially for bringing agriculture back to the forefront of the global communities agenda, with gender concerns as a priority.

Mr Chairman, agriculture is the most important sector of the Uganda economy, employing about 75 percent of the population. The GDP estimates put the sector contribution at approximately 26 percent GDP, with 48 percent of exports accounted for by agriculture products. Agriculture provides the right portion of the raw materials required for food processing, accounting for 40 percent of total manufacturing subsector. The contribution of women in our agriculture effort is recognized and appreciated.

Uganda mothers and sisters carry 80 percent of the land for agriculture production and household food security. The majority of our women are rural and generally face diverse challenges compared to men. These challenges result in too limited access to resources, especially credit, inputs such as seed fertilizers, machinery, improved technology services in terms of research and extension and markets.

The fact that only 20 percent of women in Uganda own land, implying that nearly 80 percent of them access land through their husbands and sons who are recognized heirs of communal land resources, customary and traditional values and rules in some of our communities limit women's opportunity to participate in local decision-making processes. Some estimates indicate that 30 percent of women have limited access and control over farm proceeds and marketing.

Uganda's response is to increase investments in agriculture, as a means to overcome farmers' challenges, especially increased food productivity and production, value addition and marketing. Special interventions targeting women groups and gender integration are the core of all agricultural investments. The intervention in support of women at all levels by the Uganda Government has been officially embraced. In Uganda, therefore, to address the gender-oriented challenges, Mr Chairman, we have included gender concerns in the national Constitution and elected rules such as local

government acts and progressively implemented a number of gender-focused and gender-oriented policies, which include National Gender Policy 2007, aimed at ensuring that the gender concerns are routinely and adequately addressed in the planning, implementation and evaluation of all government intervention. In five years, the national development plan to guide the sector of development strategy is attuned to the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to reduce malnutrition, hunger and poverty by 50 percent by the year 2015.

Uganda is well on its way to achieving this target by 2014. The National Development Plan is premised on the notion that addressing the biennium constraints will accelerate social economic development and provide a reduction through enhancing production and productivity, market access and value addition, improving the environment and the institutional strengthening in this sector.

Uganda's National Development Plan is translated into an agriculture development strategy and investment plan for the agriculture sector. With women pressed at the centre, we strongly believe that all farmers should be empowered to produce enough to feed themselves and have a surplus to improve household assets and quality of life.

Accordingly, leaders are required to take the necessary actions and mobilize resources for more ten-year investments that efficiently reach out to more women farmers in the agriculture sector. We emphasize affirmative action to support women farmers, spur commercial agriculture and value chain that would stimulate rapid economic social transformation of our country.

About a decade ago, Uganda participated as one of the pilot countries in an FAO-funded technical comparison programme on gender-disaggregated data. Equipped with this acquired knowledge, we are able to develop gender indicators to assist performance and impact on a policy plan, programme or budget, with women's impact compared to that of men. We thank FAO for that initiative and encourage the Gender Division to follow up the programme sustainably.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, we call for the for intensified advocacy, for increasing investment in the agriculture sector to minimum 10 percent of the budget in alignment with 2003 Maputo Declaration by African leaders in assuming representation as full partners in the development process, identification and promotion of best practices and policies, support to women and agriculture, increased use of gender-disaggregated data to highlight the gaps that need to be addressed, and an increased support of an African lead plan by donors and development partners.

We aim to achieve comprehensive profitability and increase environmental sustainability for the agriculture sector.

Sr. Yvan GIL (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

En nombre del Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela y del Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento al Dr. Jacques Diouf por sus años de servicio frente a la FAO. Igualmente expresamos nuestra más sincera felicitación al Dr. José Graziano da Silva, Director General-Electo.

En nombre de los pobres del mundo, aspiramos a que la experiencia en materia de soberanía alimentaria del Gobierno de Brasil sirva para alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio liderado por un gran movimiento de campesinas y campesinos, quienes proponemos un modelo alternativo a la explotación, el mercantilismo y la guerra como mecanismos de dominación.

Señor Presidente: preocupa que estemos tan lejos de alcanzar la meta del milenio de erradicar el hambre en el mundo. Preocupa que aún estemos inmersos en una crisis alimentaria. Sin embargo, es evidente que ésta es una crisis de acceso y no de producción. Es la crisis del modelo económico capitalista.

A pesar de que la producción global de alimentos ha superado regularmente el crecimiento de la población según los datos de la propia FAO, existen cerca de mil millones de personas hambrientas o desnutridas en el mundo.

El carácter estructural de la crisis se debe, fundamentalmente, a patrones de producción, distribución y consumo insostenibles, a la concentración de capital en pocas manos, al saqueo permanente e

indiscriminado de recursos naturales, a la mercantilización de la vida y a la especulación en beneficio de pocos. En el capitalismo hay un sistema irracional e inhumano que no habla de agricultura para la vida sino para los agro-negocios. Un sistema cuyos niveles de producción no se realizan atendiendo a las necesidades humanas de la población sino a las necesidades del mercado y de la ganancia.

Por el contrario, estamos convencidos que los alimentos son indispensables para la vida humana y no una mercancía tal como lo establece la lógica capitalista.

Ante este panorama, la Revolución Bolivariana se ha comprometido con el cambio del modelo capitalista y con la construcción de socialismo en Venezuela. Para ello, el Gobierno del Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez ha implementado una política integral de producción y acceso de la población a los alimentos. Con esta política se han regularizado más de 6 millones de hectáreas a través de instrumentos agrarios que otorgan la propiedad a miles de campesinos y campesinas, antes explotados y desplazados por los latifundistas, y se ha realizado una inversión del Estado que alcanza a 30 mil millones de dólares en los últimos 12 años. Esta política de desarrollo agrícola integral estructurada ha permitido incrementar la producción agrícola en 24 por ciento, con incrementos en la última década del 94 por ciento en la producción de arroz, 205 por ciento en la producción de maíz, 50 por ciento en leche, 48 por ciento en carne bovina y 100 por ciento en carne porcina.

Estimados delegados y delegadas: todo este esfuerzo realizado por el Gobierno Bolivariano de Venezuela se evidencia en el cercano cumplimiento de la Meta del Milenio de erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre antes de 2015. Al momento, se ha logrado reducir el porcentaje de personas provenientes de hogares en situación de pobreza extrema a un 7,2 por ciento, un aumento de la disponibilidad energética en la dieta de los venezolanos entre los años 1998 y 2011 de más del 30 por ciento, alcanzando en la actualidad 2790kcal/día, la disminución del índice de prevalencia de la desnutrición a 6 por ciento, y la disminución del déficit nutricional en niños y niñas menores de 5 años a 3,27 ciento, logrando alcanzar la meta antes del tiempo estipulado.

Venezuela ha conformado la mayor red de almacenamiento y distribución y consumo de alimentos en América Latina mediante la Misión Alimentación que cuenta con más de 19 mil establecimientos a nivel nacional desde donde se han distribuido alrededor de 11 millones de toneladas de alimentos a bajo costo y de alta calidad, beneficiando a más de 11 millones de personas. Igualmente, se han consolidado redes sociales para atender a la población más vulnerable mediante 6 mil casas de alimentación y 143 cocinas comunitarias que atienden a más de 930 mil personas en las cuales, hasta la fecha, se ha distribuido en forma gratuita más de 3.300 millones de platos de comida.

Aunados a estos avances, nuestra revolución, luego de 12 años de arduo trabajo, con el Comandante Hugo Chávez al frente, ha lanzado en el 2011 la gran Misión Agro-Venezuela, una convocatoria a la movilización de campesinas y campesinos para el incremento acelerado de la producción de alimentos. Alrededor de 600 mil productores acudieron a este llamado organizados en más de mil Asambleas Agrarias a nivel de Parroquias cuyos voceros son electos por votación popular por las campesinas y campesinos, se constituyen así la base social para la gestión de la inversión pública. El Estado venezolano destinará este año 4.700 millones de dólares al financiamiento de pequeños agricultores.

Estimados delegados y delgadas: no podemos dejar de mencionar el rol de la mujer en nuestra sociedad, es un derecho conquistado y asegurado por la Constitución de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. De igual manera, nuestro Gobierno ha dirigido sus esfuerzos a la creación de políticas que permiten trascender el rol de la mujer como beneficiaria y fuerza de trabajo a sujeto de derecho. En ese sentido, se ha creado el Ministerio para la mujer y la Igualdad del Género, el Instituto Nacional de la Mujer, el Banco de Desarrollo de la Mujer y la Defensoría Nacional de los Derechos de la Mujer, además se ha aprobado la ley de apoyo y protección a la lactancia materna, que consagra el derecho de niños y niñas a ser alimentados al pecho y el derecho de la mujer a amamantar libremente como primer acto de soberanía agro-alimentaria. De igual manera, las mujeres ocupan los más altos cargos de dirección en los poderes públicos.

Otro aspecto importante para el Gobierno Bolivariano es la cooperación internacional. En este marco, se le ha dado importancia al ALBA-TCP, o Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de nuestra América y la Cooperación Sur-Sur, además de acuerdos bilaterales como forma de romper con la lógica de la

competencia y la instauración de la solidaridad y la complementariedad como principios para la cooperación.

Uno de nuestros mayores esfuerzos ha sido trabajar en el avance de las empresas grannacionales, entre ellas la dedicada a la producción y distribución de rubros alimenticios denominada ALBA Alimentos.

Señor Presidente: la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en diversos foros mundiales ha insistido con propuestas concretas, tales como.

- destinar recursos de nuestros países para la producción de semillas y otros insumos a través de empresas estatales mixtas y grannacionales,
- crear de institutos de investigación e innovación científico-tecnológica a nivel regional para aprovechar las fortalezas existentes en nuestros países.
- crear de un Fondo Especial Agrícola, a partir de un impuesto especial sobre el consumo suntuario y transacciones financieras por parte de los países ricos.

Para concluir, en el Gobierno Revolucionario de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela liderado por el Comandante Presidente Hugo Chávez estamos convencidos que los Países Miembros deben garantizar el derecho a la alimentación de sus pueblos y si para ello deben intervenir en la producción, la transformación y la distribución de alimentos, entonces deben hacerlo.

Erradicar el hambre solo es posible con la participación de campesinas, campesinos, pescadoras y pescadores, en la formulación y ejecución de las políticas públicas, en contra de la dictadura de las grandes transnacionales de la agricultura y la alimentación. Esto solo es posible en el socialismo, donde la propiedad social de los factores y medios de producción y distribución de alimentos es la solución estructural al problema del hambre en el mundo.

M. Jacques CHAVAZ (Suisse)

Deux chiffres situent bien le contexte de notre débat sur le rôle vital des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural.

925 millions de personnes souffrent de malnutrition dans le monde, et jusqu'à 150 millions de personnes pourraient être sauvées de ce fléau si les femmes avaient le même accès que les hommes aux ressources productives.

Près d'un habitant sur six de notre planète continue d'être victime de la faim. Ceci est inacceptable et témoigne de l'insuffisance des progrès réalisés pour atteindre l'Objectif numéro un du Millénaire pour le Développement. La communauté internationale doit donc renouveler son approche et redoubler ses efforts. Soyez sûrs que la Suisse continuera, comme elle l'a fait jusqu'ici, à apporter sa contribution.

Les événements récents ont mis en évidence la vulnérabilité accrue de la population mondiale face au grand choc qui affecte l'économie et les marchés des produits agricoles. La flambée des prix et des aliments et les crises économiques et financières ont réduit le pouvoir d'achat de larges couches de la population de nombreux pays en développement, restreignant leur accès à la nourriture et à leur sécurité alimentaire. Face à cette évolution, des initiatives louables ont été lancées aux niveaux national, régional et mondial conformément aux cinq principes de Rome adoptés ici même en 2009.

Dans ce domaine, un renforcement de la cohérence de l'action à l'échelon international s'impose. Mon pays se félicite tout particulièrement à cet égard de la réforme du Comité de la Sécurité alimentaire mondiale, de plus, une FAO réformée œuvrant de manière efficace et en partenariat avec les autres acteurs de la sécurité alimentaire peut apporter une contribution substantielle aux efforts entrepris.

Ceci dit, et c'est l'objet de notre débat, une attention toute particulière doit être apportée au rôle de la femme. On sait, et la FAO le montre dans son Rapport sur la situation mondiale d'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 2010, que les femmes participent de manière très pondérante à l'économie rurale partout dans le monde, elles jouent un rôle non seulement en matière d'agriculture mais aussi dans les domaines clés de la santé, de l'alimentation et de l'éducation. Si les fonctions qu'elles assument sont différentes selon les régions, elles ont toutefois partout un accès plus restreint que les hommes aux ressources et aux débouchés qui leur permettraient d'avoir un impact plus fort sur leur production.

Cette inégalité entre homme et femme, qui existe aussi dans les pays industrialisés, est un défi majeur à surmonter. Force est aussi de constater que les évolutions récentes telles que les effets du changement climatique ou la volatilité des prix sont susceptibles de creuser encore davantage les inégalités entre les hommes et les femmes.

Il y a donc urgence à agir: que doit-on faire? La FAO indique des voies à suivre dans son Rapport et la Suisse appuie dans une large mesure les recommandations qui y sont faites, tout en gardant à l'esprit que le principe d'égalité implique le droit à la différence. Nous pensons qu'il convient particulièrement de mettre l'accent sur les aspects suivants.

Premièrement: la concrétisation de la volonté politique d'éliminer la discrimination par le biais de l'adoption et de la mise en œuvre de lois appropriées au niveau des pays. Il s'agit en autres de réaliser un plan national, constitué de droits, de normes et de conventions approuvés à l'échelon international.

Deuxièmement: l'octroi aux femmes d'un accès plus équitable aux ressources. A cet égard, des directives volontaires sur la gouvernance responsable de la tenure des terres et des autres ressources naturelles, dont le projet va prochainement faire l'objet de négociations, peuvent être un instrument utile. Il nous apparaît en effet important de faciliter l'accès des femmes à la terre. Ces dernières doivent également pouvoir accéder de manière plus aisée aux services financiers. Il convient aussi de développer les possibilités d'éducation et de formation à leur intention. Les femmes agricultrices représentent un quart de la population mondiale et elles sont bien souvent des chefs de famille. L'importance du rôle des femmes au sein de la famille est donc primordiale. À cet égard, j'aimerais souligner que mon pays se félicite et apporte son soutien à l'initiative du Forum rural mondial visant à la mise sur pied par les Nations Unies d'une année internationale de l'agriculture familiale.

Troisièmement: la voix des femmes doit être aussi mieux entendue dans la prise de décision. Il s'agit aussi de leur permettre d'exercer les fonctions impliquant de plus grandes responsabilités comme par exemple les tâches de conseillères en matière agricole. Il conviendrait également de leur fournir la possibilité de transmettre leur savoir économique, financier et technique à d'autres femmes.

Quatrièmement: nous considérons enfin également de première importance la nécessité de renforcer les capacités des organisations de femmes ainsi que des organisations locales de producteurs ou de consommateurs poursuivant l'objectif de promotion d'égalité des sexes.

M. Le Président, combler le fossé existant entre homme et femme est un objectif difficile et de longue haleine car il implique de surmonter de nombreux préjugés culturels et politiques. Ces préjugés sont des obstacles de taille car ils risquent d'empêcher les décideurs d'apprécier, de comprendre et de mettre en œuvre les changements sociaux et économiques nécessaires. Nous en sommes conscients. Il faut toutefois s'atteler à cet objectif si l'on veut remporter de manière durable la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. À ce propos, la Suisse se réjouit du fait que la FAO a défini l'équité homme-femme pour l'accès aux ressources, aux biens, aux services et à la prise de décision dans les zones rurales comme un des onze objectifs importants de son cadre stratégique.

J'aimerais pour terminer, adresser au nom du Gouvernement Suisse, mes sincères félicitations à M. Graziano da Silva pour sa nomination comme Directeur général de la FAO. Il doit compter sur l'appui de tous pour relever les défis qu'il a accepté d'affronter. Je tiens à l'assurer que d'ores et déjà que la Suisse continuera à soutenir une FAO renouvelée dans son action en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'agriculture durable.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Mr Mustafa IMIR (Turkey)

I am very pleased to be here to address you on the occasion of Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference during the time of change in the Management.

At the very outset, please allow me to express our appreciation for the excellent services that His Excellency Jacques Diouf has provided to the Organization and for his contribution towards global agricultural development and food security. We would also like to welcome and congratulate the new

Director-General, Mr Graziano da Silva, for his election to the post, and wish him success in his mission.

The international community has rediscovered the indispensable role of agriculture and overarching importance of food security within an ever-changing world. The role of FAO is crucial to facilitate development and implementation of national and global strategies to achieve agricultural development and food security.

Rural women are the key, and the golden asset we have for feeding the world's population. We all have to devote sufficient efforts and resources to support their engagement in this challenging task now and in the future. In rural areas, agriculture is based on family farming, and women have a vital role in agricultural and rural development in developing countries. Thus, to promote agriculture we need to create an appropriate policy environment to strengthen the status of women by providing them with necessary resources, tools and services to enable them to play their crucial role effectively.

In Turkey, women also play an important role in our agricultural production which provides a wide range of employment opportunities. In general, 46 percent of the women employees work in agriculture and 80 percent of women in rural areas work in the field of agriculture. Therefore, noting the important role of women in agriculture, Turkey has been implementing various measures to strengthen the role of women farmers.

We have a special programme for strengthening the involvement of women in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products, as well as farmers' organizations.

Women farmers have been benefiting largely from our general support programmes in areas such as agricultural insurance, certified seeds, extension and consultancy services, organic agriculture, good agricultural practices, soil analysis, fertilizer use, environment friendly farming and alternative crops. In general terms, a national programme has also been implemented to promote the establishment of small- and medium-sized enterprises within the context of the rural development strategy. Within this programme, we particularly give priority to women farmers to benefit from these facilities and services, not only for them to serve as a source of labour but also for them to become entrepreneurs.

Along with training and extension operations for raising awareness and improving the role of women in agriculture, we established an agriculture television channel where most of the programmes are devoted to women.

There are 18 agricultural development cooperatives consisting of only women farmers. Credit with low interest rates has been provided to those cooperatives as positive discrimination. Meanwhile, in the light of their needs, many educational activities have been carried out.

The role of women in agriculture is also given priority under the FAO-Turkey Partnership Programme (FTPP). Under this programme, we have launched a project entitled "Support to Socio-Economic Training of Rural Women in Order to Sustain Rural Development" through the FAO Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, based in Ankara, to improve the economic situation, entrepreneurship and increase the educational and cultural level of rural women in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

We believe that support to rural women is very crucial to develop our agricultural productivity and capacity and, in order to improve food security and living standards of our rural populations. Thus, we are planning to further intensify our efforts to strengthen the position of women farmers in agricultural production.

We are ready to cooperate and collaborate with the international community through FAO to share our experiences.

During this Conference, we have observed that progress for women farmers is not adequate but promising. We believe that only through extension of successful examples to national scale programmes can we improve rural livelihoods and promote food security goals.

On this occasion, I would like to reiterate our readiness to work with and through the FAO to contribute to the challenges ahead of us. We believe that this would continue in the coming biennium under the new Director-General, Mr. Graziano da Silva.

Mr Gennady M. GATILOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In recent years the significant efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations, including FAO, have been geared to promoting sustainable development and eradicating poverty, epidemics, hunger and illiteracy. The Russian Federation is committed to the goals set down by the international community for strengthening food security and agricultural development. We consider that food issues should remain among the priorities on the international agenda. A particular role in this context belongs to the Rome-based United Nations Agencies and the UN System as whole. We welcome this connection, as well as the managers geared to strengthening coordination between international organizations and with civil society and business in the fight against hunger.

We consider that that the recently-created new United Nations Humanitarian Cluster on Food Security has been a useful step in this direction. It is the view of the Russian Federation that among the international organizations in the UN System, FAO is the main one for implementing the decisions adopted by the international community in the field of food and agriculture, as well as other sectors of the agro-industrial complex. In this regard, we think the selection of the theme of this Conference is very felicitous for the role of women in agriculture. The modern-day policy of the agricultural sector in Russia, in which 20 million women work, is being established with full account of the gender factor and the decisions in this context adopted by the United Nations. Here, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to convey to the delegates a greeting and the wishes for successful work from the Minister of Agriculture of Russia, Ms Yelena Skrynnik. We are keen to see the development and further strengthening of cooperation with the FAO.

The Russian Federation expresses appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of the FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf, for his many years of efforts to enhance the efficiency of work of the Organization and his personal dedication to the fight against hunger on the planet. We can assure his successor to this office, Dr José Graziano da Silva, that he may enjoy the wholehearted support of Russia in implementing his programme.

A priority for our work in the FAO is participation in the development of conventions and agricultural standards, as well as the safety and quality of food products. We note with satisfaction the expansion of the use of the Russian language as one of the official and working languages of FAO. This is consistent with common language practice in the UN, and it creates additional grounds for active involvement in the work of the Organization with a whole host of countries who use Russian. It allows them to gain access to the scientific and other achievements of our country in such fields as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and water resource management.

We hope to successfully develop cooperation between Russia and FAO in areas such as the safety and quality of food products, the use of biotechnologies for foodstuff production, the fight against epidemics in domestic cattle and agricultural pests, the conservation of plant and animal genetic resources, responsible fisheries and so on. We support the Reform Process in FAO intended to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization, and its focus on end results. We trust that the newly-elected Director-General of the Organization will continue to move in this direction.

We support FAO's initiative on legal regulation of the agrarian, forestry and fishery sectors, in particular on responsible land use, the fight against poaching and illicit fisheries and the development of the so-called Water Platform. We highly commend the efforts to strengthen the Committee on World Food Security in which Russia took the most active part. We would like to inform you of a decision adopted by the Russian Federation's Government to make a donor contribution to the tune of USD 100 000 into the budget of the High-Level Panel of Experts the Committee on World Food Security.

This Session of the FAO Conference is taking place against the backdrop of the very worrying trend of growth in world food prices, in addition to other negative factors such as the planet's population growth, the exacerbation of the problem of energy and resource efficiency, infectious diseases and epidemics, climate change, an increase in the number of technologically-induced and natural disasters, as well as social instability in a number of needy countries. The increasing cost of food substantially complicates the implementation of the tasks laid down by the World Food Summit, and the goals laid

down in the Millennium Development Goals for overcoming hunger and resolving the problem of food security. In these difficult conditions, there is a need to consolidate all countries' efforts in order to minimize the consequences of these negative phenomena and resolve the problems of hunger and malnutrition. No mean role is played in this field by national measures to regulate the domestic food market. In this connection, I would like to point out that the Government of Russia has adopted an important decision to lift, as of 1 July this year, all restrictions on grain exports.

The new challenges of a modern day era in the form of the growing scale of natural disasters and other disasters of a natural and technological nature also dictate the need to accelerate FAO's work in marshalling its significant potential in this area. We are talking first and foremost about special programmes for assistance to Member Nations in the event of an emergency food situations occurring. There is an increasing role for FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, providing for collection of information on the food situation in any given country threatened by the shortage of food and to be used as a yardstick for potential donors. The system of promoting food security should be geared to extending assistance to Member Nations, but first and foremost to developing countries, in creating national food reserves.

The role of FAO is developing further as well in dealing with large-scale epidemics affecting agriculture. We are convinced that dangerous infectious diseases pose a serious threat to sustainable development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the key coordinating partners: FAO, the World Health Organization, the World Animal Health Organization and the World Bank in developing effective multinational measures in this field. One of the emerging issues in FAO's work, which is of key significance for us, concerns the safety of food products, feed and food additives developed through biotechnologies, without which it is impossible to resolve the problem of ensuring that a country has sufficient domestically-produced food and at the same time increases its exports.

The Russian Federation are undertaking active monitoring of contamination of domestic and imported raw food materials and foodstuffs by both natural and man-made contaminants. Similar systems exist in the countries of the European Union, the USA and other countries. At the same time, this enormous wealth of data is only used at the national level.

One of the important areas of our participation in FAO's work lies in achieving interaction among all countries which have relevant scientific and technological potential, with a view to ensuring the safety of the food which is produced and consumed globally by humanity.

Mr Jeffrey H. LUHANGA (Malawi)

Firstly, on behalf of the Government of Malawi and on my own behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. José Graziano da Silva, for being elected FAO Director-General. I wish to assure you, Sir, of our Government's support as we continue implementing the noble task of eradicating hunger in the world.

In Malawi, agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and accounts for over 36 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 90 percent of export earnings. The agricultural sector is divided into two main subsectors of smallholder farmers and estates. About 75 percent of total agricultural output is generated by smallholder farmers. These farmers, who mostly live in rural areas, comprise women, the elderly and the youth. Thus the role of women in promoting agriculture in Malawi, and indeed Sub-Saharan Africa, is enormous. Malawi would like to join other countries in acknowledging the important role of women in agriculture and rural development.

It is only through mass participation in economic activities like agriculture that would bring about meaningful growth in our economies would result. In this regard, Malawi, under the leadership of the State President, His Excellency Ngwazi Professor Bingu wa Mutharika has and is putting in place a number of initiatives in order to generate growth from agriculture that would ensure that lives of people, especially in the rural areas, including women, are uplifted.

The Government of Malawi continues to implement policies and measures that increase efficiency in the agriculture sector. Since 2005, the Government of Malawi has been implementing the Farm Input

Subsidy Programme (FISP) with the aim of increasing agricultural productivity and of improving food security at both the household and national levels. The Programme provides improved seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the resource-poor farmers at a subsidized price with increased agricultural extension advisory services. The 2010-2011 agricultural year marked the sixth year of implementation of the Programme. I wish to inform the meeting that in the Programme, women beneficiaries are given a priority in the provision of subsidized seeds and fertilizers. This is done in recognition of the fact that women farmers are the predominant group in the agriculture sector. Since the inception of the Farm Input Subsidy Programme, Malawi has been registering food surpluses both at household and national levels. The estimated surplus for the 2010-2011 growing season is 1.2 million metric tonnes. To sustain this, Malawi is implementing a number of initiatives as follow:

The Government of Malawi is implementing the Green Belt Initiative to increase agricultural production and productivity through the development of small-scale and large-scale irrigation schemes, and maximization of rainfed agriculture practices. This Initiative will ensure that we get good crop harvest under irrigation and the possibility of getting two or three harvests in a year. It will also increase value chain linkages, private sector participation, diversification, creation of rural growth centres, value addition and exports. This is also aimed at increasing our food surplus. For the rapid implementation of this programme, Malawi needs cooperating partners such as FAO and others.

Malawi is also implementing a country-owned Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp) Programme, in compliance with the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). The Agriculture Sector Wide Approach is a prioritised investment framework in terms of providing a focused and coordinated response to the food crisis. The Programme is organized under three focus areas: food security, risk management, agri-business, market development and sustainable land and water management. In addition to these focus areas, the ASWAp is also implementing cross-cutting issues of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and gender.

Under the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, Malawi is conducting gender mainstreaming programmes to make sure that policy makers are realigning gender issues in their policies. Currently, Malawi is targeting 50:50 participation under the knowledge transfer programmes within the ASWAp framework, as agreed upon by the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) Member Nations. The Programme is also targeting 50:50 in providing formal scholarships.

Now that the country has achieved food security, the Government of Malawi is implementing several initiatives that are aimed at turning agriculture for a majority of farmers into a business. In order to prepare our smallholder farmers in profitable selection of enterprises, producing quality products, value addition, and striking marketing and trade deals, the Government of Malawi with assistance from FAO successfully piloted eight farmer business schools in the country. These provide a platform for business giants to interact with these smallholder farmer groups regarding contractual arrangements. This concept is about to roll out throughout Malawi. You may wish to know that most of the farmers patronizing these schools are women.

In addition, Malawi is implementing several initiatives aimed at empowering women farmers financially. There are a number of projects in Malawi that are linking farmers to micro-finance institutions. After getting the initial credit, most of these farmers are able to start agricultural businesses and stand on their own. The African Women Empowerment Programme (AWEP), with support from the United States Government, is also helping women's groups in Malawi to enable them export to the United States under the AGOA initiative.

The definition of food security should not stop at increased production only, but also at food accessibility. I am pleased to announce to the meeting that we have strategies aimed at reducing post-harvest losses due to the effect of larger grain borers and other storage pests. With Funding from FAO, the Government has introduced the use of small metallic silos, and plans are underway to test and use portable hermetically-sealed plastic bags. The Government has also expanded its strategic grain reserves by 50 percent, to 240.000 metric tonnes, during the last three years.

FAO in Malawi is also implementing Phase 2 of the project on "Improving Food Security and Nutrition Policies and Programmes Outreach". The aim of this project is to ensure food and nutrition

security through diversified agricultural production, including irrigation development. This project has come under the realization that food production does not translate to nutrition security. This project, which is a model to be up-scaled to other districts in Malawi, is basically building a strong linkage between production and utilization of food.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for the good work he has done for the world, and specifically for Africa, in ensuring global food security during his tenure of office. Let me also convey my appreciation to FAO for the important work which the organisation is doing in Malawi.

Mr James Arthur FOX (Canada)

I am very pleased to be here and to bring you greetings on behalf of Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agrifood, the Honourable Gerry Ritz.

Around the world, agriculture and food security are facing serious challenges. There are approximately one billion hungry people in the world and another one billion who are chronically-undernourished, the majority of whom are women, children and smallholder farmers. As has been widely reported, FAO has observed that global agriculture production must increase by 70 percent by 2050 just to meet the expected demand. Climate change, the growing scarcity of fresh water and significant limits on the amount of new arable land will make reaching this goal very difficult. To fight rural hunger and poverty we must put women, children and farmers first. We must increase agricultural productivity, increase people's access to food and increase farmers' opportunities to earn good incomes. To achieve this, we need better support for innovation and decreased obstacles to trade.

Innovation is vital to meeting the rising demand for food. The world needs better seeds to increase production, reduce the requirement for chemical inputs, improve nutrition, adapt to climate change and reduce agriculture's environmental impacts. Agricultural research must reflect and meet the needs of resource-poor smallholders, especially women, in order to address future challenges. Research must focus on the role of women farmers and leverage smallholder knowledge on farming methods, coping mechanisms and crops. Policy responses are needed to ensure that farmers, including smallholder and female farmers, who are traditionally overlooked in agriculture extension programmes, have access to these improved products, information and services. We need more innovation in our systems, too. Smarter regulations that support farmers, better transportation and storage systems, banking and risk management policies that can bring financing to farmers and better communications networks are also important.

Without more innovation, the world will simply not be able to grow enough food to meet increased needs. Trade is vital to achieving global food security. Very few countries have the capacity to grow the variety, quality and quantity of food that their citizens need and want. Trade – local, regional and international – can secure access to food for vulnerable populations and provide economic opportunities to all farmers. Most of the world's poor are rural, smallholder farmers, namely women. Helping them bring their goods to market and supporting access to global agricultural food supply chains can reduce poverty. Trade also helps to reduce the volatility of local food prices by increasing people's access to food in the event of a disaster or other crisis. Governments can do more to enable international trade by harmonizing regulatory approaches that emphasize science-based rules, and by establishing measures consistent with international standard-setting bodies such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Plant Protection Convention. Ensuring that all farmers, especially women farmers, have information and support to meet sanitary and phytosanitary standards will win them opportunities through trade. It is essential that countries refrain from adopting trade-restrictive measures that will only exacerbate food insecurity. Removing trade barriers, halting export restrictions and other trade-distorting policies using sound science to regulate food safety, improving border procedures and distribution systems and improving compliance with food safety standards will improve global food security.

The theme for this Conference and the latest State of Food and Agriculture Report is that women make an essential contribution to agriculture and rural enterprises in developing countries. This theme is in

line with the efforts of the Government of Canada to mainstream gender equality within its aid for trade and development assistance programming. This includes the support provided to agricultural supply chains and entrepreneurial development of cooperatives, mainstreaming efforts aimed to increase the access of women to resources, improve their competitiveness and strengthen their position and status in decision-making. Governments and institutions like FAO should take immediate steps to demonstrate how their programmes promote gender equality and ensure that women in developing countries are treated equally in all respects, that is all services, regulations and laws.

A reformed FAO will be able to do more to advance this broad agenda, especially by integrating gender considerations into all FAO programmes. The implementation phase of Reform is most critical. While Canada is pleased with the initial phase of the FAO results-based approach, Management and Member Nations must now follow through by reallocating resources from low to high priorities.

Within the global economic environment, we must expect financial restraint. Credibility is lost by stating that all activities are deemed priorities. FAO has a crucial role to play in fostering food and nutritional security for all. Canada congratulates and very much looks forward to working with the new Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, toward their common goal.

Canada has made significant investments to support food security, sustainable agricultural development and smallholder farmers. At the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, Prime Minister Harper announced a USD 1.2 billion commitment over three years for sustainable agricultural development and Canada was the first G8 country to meet its total L'Aquila commitment. At least USD 50 million of this funding is being implemented in partnership with FAO.

In conclusion, the world faces many difficult challenges to meet our food security needs. Our hope is that by putting farmers first – women and men – and through innovation and open and predictable trade, the world can foster food security for all.

Mr Khalid Abdulrahman AL KAWA (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

We have a sense of the difficulties faced by most people of the world, particularly in developing countries which are represented in the form of increasing prices of food staples and a reduction of agricultural production as a result of the scarcity of water and diminishing agricultural land, as a result of the changing climate in various countries and other factors. This, together with other factors, makes it difficult for us to realize the ambitions which we had promised ourselves as Members of FAO within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals of achieving food security and diminishing hunger and poverty.

On this basis, I should like to mention that the Yemeni Government considers the agricultural sector to be of primary attention and importance, and provides it with sufficient funds to develop agriculture by reclaiming agricultural land, erecting dams and digging wells, as well as providing modern agricultural equipment and machinery, and subsidizing the needs of small farmers by extending loans free of interest, and providing them with seeds, fertilizers and extension services. Here we should like to say that we fully understand that the task of developing agricultural production, fisheries and animal welfare is a difficult one, which requires further efforts, further resources and further legislation. It also requires special programmes in order to enable women farmers on an equal footing with man.

In this respect, we have to mention that our ambitions have not been realized as much as we would have hoped because we are facing very difficult and hard challenges in terms of climate change and material resources, in addition to the continued planting of certain crops which are not very beneficial and which use up huge quantities of already limited water, without yielding sufficient benefits.

The document submitted before this Conference constitutes an accurate analysis of the role of women in agriculture and rural development, and we have to examine and discuss it at length and enrich it with further observations and proposals, in order for our governments and NGOs to be able to benefit particularly feminist organizations in contributing to agricultural development. Basing ourselves on the Yemeni women's active contribution in agricultural activities in rural areas, our Government seeks to encourage women to further participate, side by side, with men, by developing women's and girl's

education and by facilitating their land tenure and their opportunities to secure returns from such activities.

This Conference, in the eyes of our country, attributes special importance to the role of women, as they a vital contribution to agriculture.

Finally, in my own name and on behalf of the Yemeni Government, it is my pleasure to extend sincerest congratulations to Mr Graziano da Silva on his accession to the post of Director-General of FAO. At the same time, we would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr Jacques Diouf for all the efforts he has exerted during his tenure.

We wish this Conference every success, and we hope that it would arrive at adopting the sufficient and conclusive resolutions that would be in keeping with the aspirations of our country.

Mr Hans-Heinrich WREDE (Germany)

On behalf of Germany, I take pleasure in congratulating Professor Graziano da Silva on his election as Director-General. We pledge to him our full support. At the same time, we express our gratitude to Director-General Mr Jacques Diouf for his distinguished service to this Organization. I am certain Mr Diouf will help his successor in every way possible to prepare him for his office.

FAO Management, as well as the Member Nations, are together called upon to join forces in fighting hunger and malnutrition worldwide. This must, more than ever, be at the very top of the international agenda. If, and only if, FAO completes the ongoing Reform Process, if it undergoes the vital culture change, and if it cooperates fully with all stakeholders involved, this challenge can be met. Dear friends, it must be met.

Distinguished colleges, this year's review of the State of Food and Agriculture addresses the central role of women in agriculture. Indeed gender equality is an issue not just for women, but for the agriculture sector, food security and society as a whole. It is a sensitive task to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, in particular with respect to access to land, financial resources, employment, technology and public services. FAO has designated gender as a strategic objective, and a mainstreaming issue. It should, of course, be consequently incorporated in all FAO work. Of utmost importance is to address women, especially in the role of smallholder farmers and target group in all fields of agriculture.

The three Rome-based Agencies cooperate closely on this and other issues, as highlighted in their joint report on gender dimensions of every culture. Gender will also be addressed by the CFS in October. Moreover, gender is crucial in securing tenure of and access to land and other natural resources. To achieve the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry, the next CFS session is expected to make significant progress. Let us all actively participate in this ambitious, but absolutely indispensable, endeavour.

Allow me to announce the next German Government Conference for Policies Against Hunger. It will take place November-December 2012 in Berlin. This Conference will mainly deal with food security and access to natural resources, with special attention to gender and land tenure. The Summit of the Ministers of Agriculture, for which my Minister Aigner has been here for three days, is to underline the importance and engagement that Germany attaches to the subject. This Summit will take place in January 2012 in Berlin, and will take into consideration the results of the Conference for Policies Against Hunger.

This week, I conclude my diplomatic career. Allow me a personal note. I started this career in Ethiopia, 32 years ago. Today I feel extremely privileged to make my last statement on behalf of my country at FAO, under the distinguished chairmanship of Ethiopia, not at this meeting but the overall Conference, of course. To all of you, I extend my best wishes for your future endeavours. Wherever each of us might go from here, I am sure we shall continue our joint commitment to fighting poverty and hunger. My friends, this is a cause nobler than its defenders. We need, therefore, the support of every Government, of every international body, of every individual able to make a contribution, however modest.

Mr Graziano da Silva quoted John Lennon last week in this Hall, and I repeat it, “a dream you dream together is reality”. Let me myself quote Mick Jagger, another special kind of realist, and he did sing “you can’t always get what you want, but if you try sometime, you find you get what you need.”

Dear Colleagues, thank you all for your friendship, good luck and goodbye.

EL PRESIDENTE

Por último en la lista de oradores de esta tarde está el Excelentísimo Señor Don Antonio Marques Porto, Embajador y Representante Permanente de la República Federativa del Brasil ante la FAO, quien por razones de facilidades de movilidad se dirigirá a la Conferencia no desde de la tribuna sino desde el puesto asignado al Brasil.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO E SANTOS (Brazil)

Today, at just four years from the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the proportion of world population suffering from hunger is still over 60 percent. At the same time population growth, climate change and the strain put on natural resources, such as land and water, increase the difficulty of fulfilling humanity’s most basic task, providing for itself. Whether we meet our target or not, it will not be enough because by reducing hunger by half is one half too little. In 2003, the Brazilian Government under the leadership of President Lula, launched the Zero Hunger strategy masterminded by Professor Graziano da Silva and driven by the vision that every human being is entitled to at least three meals a day. Over eight years, this strategy has helped to draw 29 million people out of poverty, and has dramatically reduced malnutrition in our country. Thanks to that, Brazil achieved the first Millennium Development Goal in 2009. This is far from enough. This year, Brazil, under the leadership of President Dilma Rousseff is launching the programme ‘Brasil sem miseria’, ‘Brazil free from extreme poverty’, relying on the experience gained so far to achieve the complete eradication of extreme poverty, and with that, the scourge of hunger and malnutrition.

An essential part of both Zero Hunger and the “Brasil sem miseria” strategies is the women. Women play a key role as a social and family mainstay and, as such, are the preferential target of our social policies and safety nets. FAO and all our countries must commit to eliminating legal restrictions imposed on women’s access to education and to their means of production. Beyond that, we must commit to implementing policies for food security and agriculture that address the specific needs and social culture situation of women in each country.

Another pressing issue that has got the world’s attention is the high food prices. If we react to them with misguided policies or with an action it could constitute a serious problem with dire consequences for food security, especially in poor countries that are net importers of food. The food price rises are exacerbated by increased volatility, which prevents the predictability needed for investment. Let us, however, be optimistic and create the proper answer to the high food prices and correct long-standing mistakes. For many decades, agriculture has suffered from neglect and lack of investment, as well as from market-distorting agricultural policies in rich countries. Today, we have an opportunity to forge a global new deal for agriculture and food security. It is a good time to boost agriculture in developing countries, especially in Africa, which has a huge untapped potential. It is a good time to build policies and infrastructure to link farmers to markets, generating a wave of production, income and rural development. It is a good time to invest in sustainable farming techniques that make much better use of natural resources. It is time to take advantage of the higher food prices to eliminate old-fashioned subsidies and protectionist policies in developed countries that no longer need them, and create a transparent, dynamic and fair international food market with opportunities for farmers all around the world.

For these tasks, we will need the efforts of all: governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. We count upon the articulation of all these actors in the reformed Committee on World Food Security, a work that already starts to bear fruit. In this collective effort, FAO will always have a central and invaluable role. We are thankful for the contribution made by Dr Jacques Diouf who, over the three successive terms, tirelessly managed to draw the world’s attention to the scourge of hunger and lack of investment in agriculture. To the next Director-General of FAO, Professor Graziano da Silva, we wish the best of luck. He will have much to do. His qualities and credentials are

well-known and were just acknowledged by the Conference Member Nations so there is no need for me to repeat them. The challenges ahead of him are many, and the time is very short, so preparations should start now. I must say that I do not envy him but he knows that Brazil and FAO share one main goal-eradicating hunger. This is why our country decided to present his candidacy and this is why Brazil has always supported FAO in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, Señor Embajador. Damos así por terminado el primer punto de la Sesión de esta tarde, de la Plenaria que eran las intervenciones de todos los delegados que se inscribieron, más el discurso de Nigeria. Agradeciéndoles a todos ellos, la disciplina, el orden y el ajuste al tiempo asignado con que han participado.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Nigeria) ²

Before I present my brief statement, permit me, to first extend the felicitations of the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, and that of the good people of Nigeria. Allow me to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General, Prof José Graziano da Silva and also congratulate the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, who has been infatigable, committed and passionate about the well-being of the poor and hungry. I will like to commend the efforts of Secretariat for this meeting, especially for the high quality of documents produced for our deliberations.

Mr. Chairperson, the 37th Session of the Conference has several unique features, including firstly, we are at the brink of sweeping transformation of FAO. Secondly, we have just appointed our new Director-General; thirdly, the food price volatility of 2007-2008 and 2010, fuel and financial crises that shook the world have highlighted the unacceptable level of poverty, hunger and fear around the world. This Conference will certainly afford the membership a rare opportunity to dialogue incisively on these issues.

Despite rapid urbanization in all regions, more than two thirds of the world's poor and hungry people still live in rural areas. While rural livelihoods are increasingly diverse, agriculture remains the largest source of employment and means of livelihood for poor rural households. Smallholder farms provide some 80 per cent of the developing world's food, and much of it is produced by women farmers.

Over the centuries, smallholders have learned to adjust to environmental change and climate variability, but the current speed and intensity of climate change are outpacing their capacity to adapt. Crop failures and livestock deaths are causing economic losses, raising food prices and undermining food security with ever-greater frequency, especially in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. This scenario, coupled with increasing demand for food, bio-fuel and change in dietary habits especially in emerging economies, have made smallholders weaker and more vulnerable.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have seen the number of hungry people grow to close to a billion. The efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are seriously threatened and development gains over the last decade even reversing. The key to achieving the MDG 1 include aggressive and focused investment in agriculture and rural development as a consequence increased agricultural productivity, value-chain implementation and fair marketing mechanisms and earning a decent living in rural areas. Otherwise achieving the MDGs will continue to be off-track.

The Federal Government of Nigeria is implementing the Strategic Commodity Development Partnership (SCDP) Programme aimed at increasing agricultural productivity by establishing Agro-Industrial Centres (AIC); creating a new generation of young graduate farmers through the promotion of agriculture as an entrepreneurial activity; raising rural income through direct employment; and improving rural economic empowerment through the development of out-grower schemes by the smallholder farmers.

² Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

The Government is providing the necessary infrastructure and platforms for investment, and has already commissioned the following projects to increase the accessibility of these sites to ensure that both inputs and products are efficiently transported to and from the estates: (i) rehabilitation of the railway network is on-going – The railway network connects the farmlands of the country seaports for export purposes. (ii) dredging of the Inland water ways make it easy for farmers to transport their commodities to the markets. (iii) Rehabilitation of rural road and construction projects through the implementation of World Bank-assisted Rural Access Mobility Programme (RAMP) and National Fadama III Programme (NFDP III).(iv) Implementation of nationwide projects to improve the power supply situation.

Once again, my delegation wishes to commend the Director General and the staff of FAO for organizing this Conference.

Thank you for your attention, and God bless you.

EL PRESIDENTE

Le pregunto a la Secretaría General cuáles son los puntos adicionales que tiene esta Plenaria para evacuar, por favor.

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2011/LIM/23)

Troisième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence (C 2011/LIM/23)

Tercer informe del Comité General (C 2011/LIM/23)

Bien, me informa la Secretaría que los delegados han recibido todos ustedes el Informe de la Tercera Reunión del Comité General. El Informe se encuentra contenido en el documento C 2011/LIM/23.

Básicamente son dos puntos: Elección de Miembros del Consejo y Derecho de Voto. Voy a leer entonces, para someter a consideración de ustedes, el primero de ellos: Elección de Miembros del Consejo.

El Comité señala a la atención de la Conferencia los siguientes párrafos del Artículo 22. No es necesario leerlo, todos lo tienen a la mano. ¿Pregunto si hay algún comentario o alguna observación al respecto?

Bien, no veo ninguna observación, ninguna solicitud del uso de la palabra, entonces no siendo el caso, se da por aprobado.

El segundo tema del Informe del Comité General es el Derecho de Voto, que está contenido en el número dos. ¿Pregunto igualmente si hay alguna observación, comentario del Plenario al respecto? Si no lo hay, entonces igualmente se da por aprobado.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Hemos llegado así, Señoras y Señores, al final de las tareas previstas para esta Séptima Reunión Plenaria, agradecemos a todos ustedes la participación y retornaremos mañana a retomar el trabajo a partir de las nueve y media de la mañana. La primera intervención seguirá el orden establecido en las inscripciones.

The meeting rose at 17:43hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 43

Se levanta la sesión a las 17:43 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
29 June 2011

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:42 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew,

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 42

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 9:42 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

- 10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture** (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continued)
10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (suite)
10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continuación)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)

Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (suite)

Comoros, Sweden, Gambia, Trinidad and Tobago.

CHAIRPERSON

I call the eighth Plenary Meeting to order. We will now continue with Item 10, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I now call upon His Excellency Fouad Mohadji, Vice President of the Union of the Comoros.

M. Fouad MOHADJI (Comores)

Nous voici réunis à Rome aujourd'hui à l'occasion de la trente-septième session de la FAO pour l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture autour du thème: «Le rôle vital des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural». Je me réjouis au nom de son excellence, le Président de l'Union des Comores, le Docteur Ikililou Dhoinine et en mon nom propre de participer à cet important événement planétaire. Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'une Conférence qui évalue, certes, les problèmes de notre agriculture et d'autres secteurs liés à l'alimentation, à la bonne gouvernance agricole, mais surtout la place des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural, en réfléchissant sur les voies et moyens pour un développement durable et équitable, à l'échelle mondiale, et trouver une solution pérenne au fléau de la faim dans le monde, ce qui cadre avec les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement à l'horizon 2015.

Je tiens tout d'abord à rendre un hommage distingué à Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour l'ampleur et la qualité du rôle qu'il a joué dans l'Organisation et sur l'engagement personnel pour la tenue de cette Conférence mondiale. Je voudrais également profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer mes respects aux éminents délégués, de plus de 180 pays réunis ici pour un élan de solidarité et de coopération et partager le même destin. Face à cet état de fait, notre gouvernement a décidé de poursuivre l'application des réformes orientées vers le sous-secteur agricole couvrant le maraîcher, le vivrier et l'élevage agricole.

L'objectif principal étant d'assurer une sécurité alimentaire qualitative et quantitative conformément aux orientations du document de la politique agricole et du document de croissance et de réduction de la pauvreté pour la période 2011-2012. Les grandes orientations politiques retenues pour réaliser ces objectifs visent à donner au secteur agricole la priorité, enfin de lui permettre de jouer pleinement le rôle qui lui est dévolu et améliorer l'environnement de la production nationale.

D'autres principes de base s'imposent également et engagent la responsabilité des agriculteurs paysans afin de mieux organiser leurs relations avec les pouvoirs publics de façon à garantir la pérennité des ressources naturelles, la minimalisation des risques techniques et écologiques. Aux Comores, les femmes jouent un rôle central dans l'agriculture. Bien que représentant plus de 60 pour cent de la population active en milieu rural, il est estimé qu'elles fournissent plus de 80 pour cent du travail agricole. Leur participation concerne particulièrement le maraîchage, la culture du riz pluvial, la récolte des cultures des rentes, ylang-ylang, girofle et vanille mais aussi l'élevage des ruminants et la production laitière, l'aviculture et la commercialisation du poisson. Elles s'occupent également de la transformation, en particulier, le décorticage du riz, la transformation des épices.

Il faut noter que les associations des femmes sont également d'une importance primordiale, particulièrement en matière de production maraîchère, avicole dans les techniques innovantes des fertilisations naturelles. Nous sommes convaincus que les objectifs préconisés pour améliorer la production d'aliments dans notre pays ne seront pas atteints sans la participation active des femmes dans l'organisation et le développement des secteurs productifs en leur assurant la formation, l'accès au crédit et aux nouvelles technologies. Notre stratégie alimentaire nationale couvre autant de

programmes d'actions spécifiques dans le sous-secteur de durée, la production animale, de fruits et légumes.

Cette stratégie globale vise également à maîtriser l'agriculture itinérante pour une intensification des cultures, la réforme foncière adoptée, l'organisation d'un système agro-alimentaire solide et performant et le désenclavement. Outre ces dangers économiques, écologiques et politiques, l'agriculture familiale constitue l'un des importants maillons du secteur agricole, le plus important de l'activité de production agro-alimentaire aux Comores. Pour permettre des réformes dans les conditions optimales, le secteur bénéficie d'une volonté ferme et réelle des autorités gouvernementales avec l'accord du lancement du Programme développement rural (PDR) en janvier 2011 et de l'adoption du document révisé du Document de stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté (D.S.R.P) en avril 2011 qui permettra de canaliser les investissements du secteur. Dans cette perspective, le plan national agricole est une convergence avec les autres quatre stratégies pour atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

Pour terminer, qu'il me soit permis de remercier tout d'abord le pays hôte abritant le siège de notre Organisation commune, la FAO, le Directeur Général Jacques Diouf et son personnel pour l'accueil chaleureux.

Je voudrais également exprimer mes vœux pour la réussite des travaux de notre Conférence, qui sans doute contribuera à une meilleure sécurité alimentaire planétaire au sens propre du terme.

Mes remerciements et félicitations s'adressent également au Professeur José Graziano da Silva, nouvellement élu à la tête de notre Organisation et lui souhaite bonne chance dans la réalisation de sa lourde tâche: la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté. Sur ce, je déclare au nom du Gouvernement comorien, notre total et indéfectible appui à l'adoption de la Déclaration de la Conférence en vue d'éliminer complètement la faim de la planète et sauver ainsi les disponibilités alimentaires suffisantes, sûres et nutritives à une population mondiale en croissance. Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

Mr Eskil ERLANDSSON (Sweden)

Excellencies, Chairperson of the Conference, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a pleasure for me to attend this Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. We gather here on an important occasion for the FAO. The Organization is in the midst of a comprehensive and vital Reform Process while we, the Membership, have just elected a new Director-General.

I want to congratulate the Director-General-Elect, Mr José Graziano da Silva, and assure him that the Government of Sweden will do all it can to support him in his new task as Director-General of this important institution.

I would also like to express the Swedish Government's gratitude to Director-General Jacques Diouf for his tireless efforts aimed at the rising global awareness about world hunger and agriculture during his time in office.

The challenges facing the international community today are many and diverse. However, the biggest challenges of our time remain those of global poverty and hunger. The fact that close to one out of every six human beings does not have enough food to eat on a daily basis is clear testimony to the fact that we, developing and developed countries alike, have not done enough.

The gender dimension of agriculture is key to a sustainable solution and I am grateful to FAO for having dedicated the State of Food and Agriculture report to this topic. By focusing more on the gender aspects of agriculture, we could substantially reduce the number of hungry people in the world.

The facts as presented in the SOFA report are clear:

Women make up a substantial part of the agricultural workforce in many countries.

Women are just as efficient as men in terms of agricultural production provided that they have access to the same level of inputs as men.

Inputs are not only seeds, tools and fertilizers, but, more importantly, access to land and credit.

Swedish development cooperation is today performed within a framework of three overarching priorities. One of them is gender equality and the role of women in development.

In our ongoing development cooperation programme, we have seen some clear positive results as a consequence of gender-targeted agricultural programmes. This was achieved by adopting affirmative action on selected training and promoting gender equality in resource allocation. The success that Sweden has had in this regard is not unique, but it proves that with the appropriately designed measures, sustainable results that benefit women as well as men can be achieved.

Mr. Chairperson, this Conference takes place at a time when agricultural and food security remain high on the global political agenda. This, to me, constitutes a huge opportunity that we cannot afford to let slip away. I therefore propose that we all, when the Conference is over, return to our individual posts and renew our efforts with the aim of better serving the global community by reducing global hunger and poverty and thereby achieving the Millennium Development Goal 1.

Thank you for your attention.

Mr Jato SILLAH (Gambia)

Please allow me before I proceed to join the previous speakers to express congratulations to the newly-elected Director-General José Graziano Da Silva on his resounding election to the coveted position of FAO Director-General. I do so on behalf of his Excellency the President of the Republic of the Gambia, who is also the Minister of Agriculture, and the Gambian Government delegation. Professor Graziano can be assured of the Gambian Government's full support and cooperation to ensure that he has a smooth and successful tenure of office. In the same vein, I also want to congratulate all the contestants in the elections for their performance and their interest in the service of the FAO.

I would not be doing justice to myself and to the entire Government if I failed to recognize the important role played by the outgoing Director-General, Jacques Diouf. Mr Diouf has been a friend of the world, particularly the poor and the hungry in our societies over the years. Yes, there have been problems of acute food shortages in some pockets and the uncertainty of getting daily meals in other areas, but the spirit and dedication of Mr Diouf, coupled with his unrelenting Reform programme within the FAO over the years has immensely helped to thwart what would have been a very catastrophic scenario.

The ongoing Technical Cooperation Programme as well as the many consultants and experts we gain from the FAO helped us reach tangible policy decisions, and hence we achieved a positive impact on productivity during the 2008 food crisis. All of this, we attribute to Mr Diouf's personal leadership, as far as our development partners concerned. Mr Diouf, we wish you well in your retirement. In this regard, I wish to express Gambia's full support to the proposal to create a Jacques Diouf Award for food security.

The theme of this year's Conference could not have come at a better time. In the Gambian context, agriculture employs about 70 percent of the labour force and contributes 30 percent to our GDP. Out of this, employment studies indicate that about 90 percent are women, therefore the average Gambian farmer happens to be a woman living in a rural area.

I am very happy to report to this august meeting that there is a new phase of agriculture in The Gambia. Under the distinguished leadership of the President who is, as I said earlier, the Minister of Agriculture and a practicing farmer himself, The Gambia has witnessed resounding changes and developments in terms of agriculture policies that are gender-sensitive. Through these directives, we have been mainstreaming gender considerations in policy and programme developments, as well as delivery and monitoring in the agriculture and natural resource sector. Moreover, some of our policy decisions revolving around gender empowerment include, among others: advocacy and collaboration with the relevant institutions for the enactment and enforcement of an appropriate legal system to enhance full access, security and ownership of land by women, particularly land for agricultural purposes; auxiliary rights to said processes including access to credit resources, increased advocacy

for resource mobilization, financing of existing rural banking facilities and establishing orders directly from women operators in the sector, especially crop, livestock and fisheries marketing and processing; formulation and implementation of programmes directed at appropriate changes in the attitudes of female farmers for their full involvement in a commercialised and modern sector aiming at increased investment productivity, competitiveness and optimum results; targeting in selected resource situations and technologies for women; access of women's groups to organization and skill-building in areas of information and uprise development; negotiations marketing; access to resources, and coordination of active participation and leadership in farmer-based organizations and apex produce organizations.

We are duly counting on the continued cooperation and support of the FAO in our quest to successfully implement these policy decisions, as well as urge all Member Nations to engage in decisions that promote gender consultations in all policy initiatives.

Mr Vasant BHARATH (Trinidad and Tobago)

Permit me, first of all Mr President, to congratulate you on your election to chair this most important session of Conference, which comes at a time of change and opportunity for FAO. The Director-General reminded us yesterday that change is a process, and chronicled in his usual, elegant, if graphic style, the extent to which FAO has been adapted to meet the challenges that confronted it over the last 18 years. Trinidad and Tobago congratulates Mr Diouf for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the goals of FAO and wishes him, every success in his future endeavours. At the same time, we welcome, with enthusiasm, Mr Graziano da Silva as Director-General and wish him every success as he shoulders the responsibility of completing the Organization's transformation, which has been the main object of focus in recent years.

I commend the Council for proposing the theme for our general debate, namely The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, which describes a reality in much of the developing world and accordingly is deserving of attention at this Conference. The Secretariat's paper clearly identifies what needs to be done to increase the agricultural productivity of women, namely to unblock their access to resources. It is a call to action in the fight against food insecurity that plagues more than a billion people on this planet, and Trinidad and Tobago stands in solidarity with those Members where women constitute a major proportion of the agricultural workforce.

Whereas the paper obviously describes the typical reality, it is not the only reality, as the situation of Trinidad and Tobago and the other Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean will show. For one thing, Caribbean agriculture is atypical given the relatively low percentages of women involved in primary agriculture. Moreover, industrial farming is not part of the Caribbean reality. On the contrary, production takes place on very small plots of land. For example, in Trinidad and Tobago only 14.7 percent of agriculturalists are female, and 87 percent of agricultural holdings are less than 5 hectares with 22 percent being less than 0.5 hectares. Within the context of the relatively gender-neutral legal and operational systems that characterise Caribbean agriculture, which faces a general shortage of labour, Caribbean women farmers must confront the physically-demanding challenge of farm work and the resulting impact on their productivity. Thus, the incorporation of gender-sensitive labour-saving technologies in the production systems of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States would have considerable impact on results.

The last agricultural census in Trinidad and Tobago revealed that there are other issues affecting women in agriculture. In comparison to their male counterparts, women in agriculture are older, more likely to be living alone, generally lack formal education, are more likely to rely on farming as their only occupation and therefore depend on farming for more than 50 percent of their income. They are also more likely to work less hours than their male counterparts and to be employed only on an occasional basis. These data point to the need to address issues related to the empowerment of women through mainstreaming gender in policy and programme development in the agricultural sector. Certainly an important part of this effort must focus on education and training, and efforts to reduce the many and varied demands that compete for the time of rural women.

Upon taking office one year ago, our Honourable Prime Minister, Kamla Persad-Bissessar, announced that the conditions confronting all women and girls particularly in rural settings will be a priority for

her government and a personal priority for the Prime Minister who, of course, herself is a woman. We are therefore committed to making meaningful progress on these issues on their own, but also insofar as they affect our agriculture and food policy, on which point I would like to mention that a decade ago agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago contributed approximately 10 percent to our gross national domestic product (GNP), whereas today it accounts for less than half of 1 percent, while our food import bill continues to escalate on a yearly basis. In fact, last year our import bill in Trinidad and Tobago was the equivalent of 4 billion TT dollars and in the Caribbean Region, in general, about 4 billion US dollars of imported food. This, of course, is simply not sustainable, and we are looking to strengthen our cooperation with the FAO in a targeted way to address this situation.

Traditionally, the level of contribution of women in agriculture has been under-reported in the official statistics of Trinidad and Tobago. This has been in part due to output from backyard gardening not always being included in the national income. However, with the launch of the Ministry's new Home Gardening Programme during the course of this month, it is anticipated that there will be an increased recognition and accounting of the role of women in agricultural development. The targeted group will include vulnerable groups, including youth and women. It is noteworthy that a Home Gardening Programme will contribute to enhancing food security at the household level.

While the percentage of women in farming is low, the reality in Trinidad and Tobago is that there are much higher numbers and percentages of women in agricultural marketing processing and trading. Indeed, women may well dominate these areas of the agriculture value chain. For these women, what is required are changes to and compliance with labour laws and the adoption of female-sensitive benefits and obligations in employment which are important. Fortunately, the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago, which is an umbrella organization comprised of producers in a variety of areas, including agriculture agro-processing, fills a void through a rich advocacy of the interests and needs of rural women as economic agents and producers.

Trinidad and Tobago endorses the findings of the document regarding the important link between women and food security, the benefits to income productivity, welfare and food security of eliminating discrimination against women and the compelling and pressing need for corrective programmes and projects. For us in the Caribbean, the major lines of actions and recommendations to address the gender disparity in agriculture must involve closing the gap in rural labour markets through investments in small farm labour technology, a focus on gender-sensitive technologies, improving access to educational training and re-training, and providing gender-sensitive working conditions that accommodate the needs of women.

Finally, the contribution of the FAO in providing assistance in transforming the agricultural sector through the introduction of technology and innovation is recognised and appreciated. Through strengthening its partnership with us in targeted programme development and a delivery of FAOs work, we will continue to contribute to the diversification of the economies of the Caribbean, enhance rural development, alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life of the vulnerable in our societies, especially of our youth and our women.

I thank you, Mr President.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank his Excellency Vincent Bharath. I now invite Ambassador Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, to present her report.

Third Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2011/LIM/26 Rev.1)

Troisième rapport de la commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2011/LIM/26 Rev.1)

Tercer informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2011/LIM/26 Rev.1)

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held three meetings on 20, 24 and 25 June to examine the credentials received for the Session of the Conference.

The final report indicates that 129 Members are listed in List A, and 55 Members are listed in List B. One Member informed the Director-General of its intention not to attend the Conference. The list reflects the situation as of today, 29 June, and the report will be distributed.

10. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continued)

10. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (suite)

10. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2011/2; C 2011/2-Add.1) (continuación)

Statements by Heads of Delegation (continued)

Déclarations des chefs de délégation (suite)

Declaraciones de los jefes de delegación (continuación)

Sierra Leone, Benin, Cyprus, Niger, Finland, Republic of Korea, Egypt, Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, Ecuador, Australia, Peru, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Denmark, Mongolia, Argentina, Greece, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Estonia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Austria, El Salvador, International Alliance of Women.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Sierra Leone)

It is indeed an honour and pleasure to attend this very important meeting during which a new Director-General of FAO has been elected and a Medium Term Plan as well as a Programme of Work and Budget for FAO for the period 2012-2013 has been approved. The Conference also witnessed a full account of the progress and challenges facing FAO during the tenure of the outgoing Director-General, especially in terms of reforms and capacity-building of decentralized FAO structures.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva of Brazil for being elected the new Director-General of FAO. He is coming in at a time when the population suffering from hunger has significantly increased in spite of efforts to reduce the scourge under MDG 1, which started some years ago. Indeed, the issue of food security is now the first global concern. I wish, in this vein, to congratulate the outgoing Director-General for laying a foundation for his successor to build upon.

In line with the Maputo Declaration of 2003, Sierra Leone in October 2008, started the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) process. CAADP is a framework agreed by all Heads of State and Governments of Africa in Maputo, Mozambique in 2003 as a tool to help African countries to develop a long-term Agricultural Sector Investment Programme (ASIP). This decision was reached as a recognition of the lead role of agriculture in the macro-economies of Africa. In the Maputo Declaration, it was agreed that annual agricultural growth rate should be 6 percent in order to enable Africa countries to halve poverty and food insecurity by 2015. Also allocation of national budgets to agriculture should be a minimum of 10 percent.

The CAADP process in Sierra Leone led to the development of the National Sustainable Agricultural Development Programme (NSADP), which is a long-term programme for the agriculture sector for the period 2010-2030 (20 years). This was concluded with the signing of the CAADP Compact on 18 September 2009 in Freetown, under the auspices of our President, Dr Ernest Bai Koroma and his Vice President Honourable Alhaji Sam-Sumana, who ensured that the relevant Cabinet Ministers (Finance, Foreign Affairs, Trade, Works, Lands, Justice, Fisheries, Energy); Local Government, the Parliament, the Private Sector, civil society, the farmers and our donor partners signed up to the Compact.

Like all long-term programmes, the NSADP is implemented in phases; the first phase being 2010 - 2014 targeting the smallholder farmers, based on the fact that 77 percent of the people of Sierra Leone are poor and about 66 percent of the population are farmers, the bulk of which are smallholders. It is logical, therefore, that the majority of the poor people of Sierra Leone are smallholder farmers. Thus, in order to reduce poverty and food insecurity in Sierra Leone, the best target should be the smallholder farmers.

The Smallholder Commercialization Programme (SCP) was formulated in order to transform the farmers from subsistence to commercial farming or agri-business. To be able to do that, an integrated or agricultural value chain strategy has been used. Concretely, the Smallholder Commercialization Programme has been designed to assist farmers to commercialize along the agriculture value chain. It

means that production-only support to farmers is grossly insufficient to extricate them from subsistence farming, since access to improved inputs such as high-yielding varieties of planting materials, agro-chemicals, machinery, equipment and agricultural infrastructure is virtually impossible without subsidy for these smallholder farmers who constitute the majority of the poor in Sierra Leone. Also, farmers suffer a post-harvest loss of between 40-60 percent which, if saved through post-harvest facilities for processing, storage and marketing, will not only boost the domestic supply of food and export commodities, but will also seriously increase farmer incomes, thereby enhancing poverty reduction and food security in the country. The programme also includes support for small-scale irrigation at farmer level. In addition, social protection and safety nets have been included as a strategy to use humanitarian assistance through WFP to support agricultural development through food and cash for work, as well as and training in infrastructure works such as irrigation development, agricultural business centre construction, feeder road rehabilitation export or tree crop rehabilitation. Thus, Sierra Leone would probably be one of the first countries in which Government has included Social Protection to support agricultural development. The total cost of the Smallholder Commercialization Programme is about USD 403 million.

In addition, the Government has adopted “An Incentive Package for Private Sector Investment in the Agricultural Sector of Sierra Leone” that gives opportunities for import duty waivers for a period of three to five years depending on the scope and type of investment, tax holidays for a period of three to five years depending on the scope and type of investment, and for Government to serve as a middleman in land acquisition. These incentives have attracted large-scale foreign direct investments in the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone. The country has huge potential for foreign direct investment. The weather is very favorable: over six months of rainfall of about 4 000 mm a year, five never dry rivers country-wide and good period of much sunshine. Unfortunately, in spite of the irrigation potential in the country, Sierra Leone has virtually zero level of irrigation. Also, only less than 12 percent of the 5.4 million hectares of arable land is cultivated every year. This means that there is a lot of arable land available in the country.

Let me, at this juncture, say that the Government has done all it could to adhere to the Maputo Declaration. For example, there has been a significant increase in voluntary allocation from 1.6 percent to 7.7 percent in 2009, and now we are 10 percent plus, this starting last year.

In all our endeavors in the agriculture sector under the current Government, the FAO stood by us strongly. Let me thank the Organization, on behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, for their remarkable contribution to the current turnaround in the agricultural sector of our country. We look forward to higher heights in our collaboration in this sector under the incoming Director-General of FAO.

CHAIRPERSON

Speakers, you are kindly requested to moderate, the speed of your speech, so that the interpreters can smoothly interpret. This will help to convey your message. I am informed that when some of us, deliver our speeches, the interpreters are not in a position to catch up with our speed.

I now call upon his Excellency Mr Sabai Kate, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Republic of Benin.

Mr Sabai KATE (Bénin)

Je voudrais avant tout propos rendre un hommage mérité au Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, dont l’Afrique devra être fière de son passage et de son action à la tête de cette illustre institution des Nations Unies. C’est aussi le moment de féliciter, au nom du Gouvernement du Bénin, le nouveau Directeur général élu, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva. Je n’ai aucun doute qu’il fera autant sinon mieux que son prédécesseur pour l’élimination de la faim dans le monde. Je voudrais dire aux autres candidats qu’ils n’ont pas démerité, et j’espère qu’ils n’hésiteront pas à mettre leur savoir-faire et leur expertise au service de la FAO afin d’arriver à la mise en œuvre de la Réforme entamée.

Mesdames et Messieurs, honorables invités, le thème qui nous réunit au cours de cette session, je cite: «Le rôle vital des femmes dans l’agriculture et le développement rural» est d’une grande pertinence.

En effet, dans nos pays en général, les femmes constituent le pilier fondamental du processus du développement. Je voudrais donc saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte du haut de cette tribune pour leur rendre un hommage mérité.

Au Bénin, les femmes représentent environ 52 pour cent de la population dont près de 70 pour cent vivent en milieu rural. Elles interviennent aussi bien au niveau des activités productives que de celles socio-communautaires. Au niveau des activités productives, les femmes effectuent 60 à 80 pour cent des travaux agricoles et fournissent jusqu'à 44 pour cent des prestations nécessaires pour nourrir leur famille. Dans la production végétale, les femmes exécutent la grande partie des activités de semis, de sarclage, d'épandage d'engrais, de récoltes et de transport des produits.

Dans le sous-secteur élevage, elles sont en majorité impliquées dans l'élevage des espèces à cycle court, telle que la volaille, les petits ruminants et le développement des espèces non conventionnelles tel que l'aulacode et le lapin. Dans le sous-secteur de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, les activités féminines sont celles qui donnent de la valeur ajoutée au produit après capture. Les activités de post-récolte, telle que la conservation, la transformation et la commercialisation des produits agricoles sont des domaines d'activités qui sont presque entièrement aux mains des femmes.

Face à cet engagement des femmes béninoises, le Gouvernement du Docteur Boni Yayi a pris une série de mesures visant la prise en compte de l'aspect genre dans toutes les actions de développement. Ainsi, plusieurs projets et programmes financés par le Bénin avec la contribution des partenaires techniques et financiers appuient les acteurs des filières agricoles avec une attention particulière aux femmes afin d'améliorer leur accès aux crédits, aux intrants et aux équipements.

Par exemple, les projets de micro-crédit en faveur des femmes se sont particulièrement développés à partir de 2007. Plus de 20 milliards de francs CFA ont été mis à la disposition des institutions de micro-finance par l'État béninois au profit des femmes. Des équipements de transformation d'élevage, de pêche et d'aquaculture sont offerts aux femmes pour les accompagner dans la promotion des activités génératrices de revenus.

Ces mesures ont été renforcées par certaines dispositions législatives visant à faciliter l'accès des femmes à la terre à travers la mise en œuvre de la loi sur le foncier rural et la réalisation des plans fonciers ruraux. En matière de mécanisation des travaux agricoles, le Gouvernement de mon pays a tout récemment octroyé plus d'une centaine de tracteurs aux groupements féminins.

Monsieur le Président, honorables invités, malgré cette volonté politique, les femmes rurales restent encore confrontées à des difficultés dues à des pesanteurs sociologiques qui compromettent l'atteinte des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. Le Bénin s'est résolument attelé à résoudre ses difficultés et s'y attache avec l'appui soutenu de ses partenaires techniques et financiers, dont la FAO.

Mesdames, Messieurs, honorables invités, je voudrais, pour terminer, porter une fois encore notre attention sur la nécessité de mettre en place des initiatives spécifiques en vue de lever les obstacles qui s'opposent à une pleine intégration des femmes au développement. Dans cette perspective, le Président de la République du Bénin vient de porter la proportion des femmes ministres de 13 à 30 pour cent et a nommé une femme Ambassadeur à Rome, Représentante permanente du Bénin auprès de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM. Vive l'intégration des femmes au développement, et vive la coopération internationale.

Mr Demetris ELIADES (Cyprus)

It gives me great pleasure to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, and I take the opportunity to reiterate the firm support of Cyprus to the noble objectives of FAO.

It is well known that even today more than 920 million human beings cannot secure the basic foods they need to have a productive life. No one can claim to feel comfortable and live in peace when such a number of people do not have enough food on a daily basis. The fight against hunger remains one of the greatest challenges, and requires a stronger response from the international community.

Since the theme of this year's Conference is referring to the Role of Women in Agriculture in Rural Development, I wish to thank very much the FAO Secretariat for preparing the document which

provides important evidence of the role of women in the effort to conquer hunger in our globalized world.

Women make significant contributions to the rural economy in all developing regions. Women comprise, on average, 43 percent of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and their roles vary considerably among and within regions. Yet one finding is that in all regions, agriculture is under-performing and one of the key reasons is that women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive. Increasing women's access to land, livestock, education, financial services, technology and rural employment would boost their productivity and generate gains in terms of agriculture production, food security, economic growth, and social welfare.

As it is stated in the report, closing the gender gap in agriculture inputs alone could lift 100 to 150 million people out of hunger. Gender equity must be seen not as a threat, but as an opportunity. So far, rural societies are heavily influenced by traditional norms that predetermine women's lives as mothers and caretakers, prevent them from pursuing professional careers, and limit their access to important productive assets.

Cyprus is a state party to core human rights instruments covering the principle of gender equality. Within the framework of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, women can use all of these opportunities on equal terms with men. There are measures of the programme aiming at upgrading of the position and the role of the female rural population.

In conclusion, I wish to express the agreement of Cyprus with the findings of the report that gender inequality negatively influences productivity in the agricultural sector, and is thereby affecting food security. About three-quarters of the world's poor live in rural areas. Among those, women constitute a particularly vulnerable yet crucially important group for social and economic development. Investing in rural women is last not only a moral imperative, it can also be a promising and optimistic strategy to effectively fight poverty and hunger for a better world for all of us.

Finally, allow me to congratulate the newly-elected Director-General and wish him every success for the benefit of our Organization.

M. Saidou OUA (Niger)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédés pour vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour votre élection à la Présidence de cette session de la Conférence. Ces félicitations s'adressent également aux autres Membres du Bureau qui ont la responsabilité de vous assister tout au long de nos travaux. Permettez-moi de profiter de cette occasion pour présenter au nouveau Directeur général, M. José Graziano da Silva, toutes nos chaleureuses félicitations pour son élection à la tête de notre Organisation.

Mon pays, le Niger, revient de loin avec toutes les péripéties qu'il a connu ces dernières années tant sur le plan politique que sur celui de la sécurité alimentaire avec des crises majeures au cours de la dernière décennie, situation que vous avez sans doute suivie. Sur le plan politique, le Niger a renoué avec l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale et cela depuis la brillante élection de son Excellence M. Issoufou Mahamadou à la tête de notre pays à l'issue d'élections libres et transparentes reconnues comme telles par toute la communauté nationale et internationale.

Mes propos vont porter aujourd'hui sur le volet «développement rural et sécurité alimentaire» du Programme de son Excellence M. Issoufou Mahamadou, Président de la République du Niger, Programme sur la base duquel le peuple nigérien lui a accordé sa confiance. Il s'agit de l'initiative «3N» autrement dit «Les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens». Il s'agit en réalité d'une sorte de Révolution verte à la nigérienne qui va permettre au Niger de sortir définitivement des conséquences désastreuses des aléas climatiques et du cycle infernal des famines en s'attaquant vigoureusement aux problèmes auxquels le secteur agricole est confronté. En effet, l'agriculture nigérienne, mises à part les cultures de rente, est une agriculture vivrière de subsistance essentiellement céréalière occupant 85 pour cent de la population. Les aléas climatiques et les chocs récurrents tels que la sécheresse et les inondations, l'invasion des ennemis des cultures qui affectent le secteur agricole, accroissent la vulnérabilité des populations aux crises alimentaires conjoncturelles assez fréquentes. Au regard des

contre performances actuelles du secteur agricole et de la détérioration du système d'encadrement rapproché, l'agriculture a cessé de constituer une priorité depuis 1984. Du reste, la contribution du budget de l'État au secteur reste faible, les méthodes culturales demeurent archaïques, les espaces aménagés sont mal exploités et mal gérés, le monde rural se paupérise davantage surtout avec les mesures draconiennes et la guerre imposée par les différents programmes d'ajustement structurel. C'est donc fort de ces constats et de bien d'autres que le Président de la République a décidé de s'attaquer vigoureusement à ce problème en proposant l'initiative «3N» en vue de lui apporter une solution définitive de nature à mettre les populations nigériennes à l'abri des affres de la famine et leur garantir les conditions d'une pleine participation à la production nationale et à la répartition des revenus.

Animé par la ferme volonté de voir chaque nigérien manger chaque jour à sa faim et vaquer aux activités de production, l'initiative va engager des réformes substantielles en vue d'inverser la tendance en mobilisant l'ensemble des forces vives de la nation et toutes les bonnes volontés. L'initiative «3N» sera mise en œuvre selon le principe suivant: l'intervention de l'État pour créer les conditions favorables au développement rural, une approche participative et le développement de partenariats, la promotion du genre et de l'initiative privée, l'inscription des actions au processus de décentralisation et la prise en compte de l'intégration régionale.

Concrètement, l'initiative «3N» vise à transformer radicalement les systèmes de production. Pour ce faire et durant les cinq prochaines années, les départements en charge du secteur rural s'attelleront à mettre en œuvre autour des axes prioritaires suivants: l'amélioration des niveaux actuels du rendement des cultures pluviales avec comme objectif la résorption du déficit céréalier national, ce qui fait qu'une amélioration de 30 pour cent des niveaux actuels de rendement des cultures pluviales est attendue; le Programme encouragera la création de pôles de production spécifiques et adaptés aux potentialités agro-écologiques et économiques des systèmes de production; le développement de l'irrigation: le Niger dispose d'un potentiel de 270 mille hectares irrigables dont moins de 5000 hectares sont actuellement exploités, l'objectif est d'exploiter au mieux cet énorme potentiel national en terres irrigables après la construction du barrage de Kandadji pour amoindrir les délais nécessaires à l'atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire. La promotion et production alimentaire de substitution à haute valeur nutritive par le développement de l'arboriculture fruitière, l'amélioration des cultures de bonne saison, de décrue ou irriguées à travers la réalisation de petits barrages, l'aménagement des mares, la réalisation des petits périmètres promoteurs notamment à l'attention des femmes et la facilitation de leur accès aux intrants agricoles.

La promotion des filières agricoles à haute valeur marchande pour lequel le Niger a un avantage comparatif principalement l'oignon, le poivron, le sésame, le niébé, la canne à sucre et la gomme arabique. La promotion des filières animales, l'objectif visé est l'augmentation des disponibilités en produits d'origine animale comme le lait, la viande et les oeufs ainsi que les produits d'exportation. La gestion durable de ressources naturelles à travers une approche globale intégrée et participative ainsi que l'aménagement des eco-systèmes et la gestion des terroirs pour assurer la durabilité de la base productive de l'agriculture, l'amélioration des systèmes de transformation et conservation des produits agricoles par la capitalisation et la vulgarisation des techniques éprouvées, l'organisation des acteurs des filières et leur accès aux services financiers ruraux de proximité, la redynamisation de notre système de recherche agricole pour valoriser les résultats actuellement disponibles sur la formation et l'encadrement de proximité des producteurs ruraux, faire la mise en place d'une stratégie adaptée de privation et de gestion de crise alimentaire, nutritionnelle et de catastrophes. Toutes ces stratégies réservent une place de choix aux femmes.

L'initiative «3N» mettra tout en oeuvre pour accroître la capacité d'anticipation des crises et assurer une gestion efficiente lorsqu'elles surviennent. Concernant la lutte contre la malnutrition, l'initiative se fixe comme objectif à terme de réduire le taux de sous-nutrition aigüe de 15 à moins de 10 pour cent pour les enfants de moins de cinq ans. À cet effet, les actions suivantes seront développées: la promotion des aliments riches en micronutriment, le renforcement des capacités nationales pour la prise en charge et la prévention de la malnutrition, le renforcement de la surveillance nutritionnelle, l'amélioration de l'accès à la prise en charge diététique et médicale. Pour soutenir toutes ces actions, la Banque agricole du Niger sera renforcée afin de garantir le financement de la production et de la

commercialisation des produits agro-sylvo-pastoraux. Nous fondons de réels espoirs pour l'accompagnement de notre pays par les partenaires techniques et financiers dans cette heureuse initiative.

Je voudrais exprimer au nom de mon gouvernement toute notre gratitude aux partenaires extérieurs pour leur assistance combien précieuse dans la recherche de la sécurité alimentaire à laquelle aspirent nos laborieuses populations.

Je ne terminerai pas mon discours sans adresser mes vifs remerciements aux autorités italiennes et au Directeur général de la FAO, Docteur Jacques Diouf pour la qualité de l'accueil et de l'organisation de cette Conférence. Que M. Diouf trouve ici l'expression de notre gratitude pour tout ce que la FAO a fait au profit des populations vulnérables, pour les pays en développement en général et du Niger en particulier.

Mr Veli-Pekka TALVELA (Finland)

It is a great honour for me to be here to speak on behalf of Finland and our new Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. Finland also fully agrees with the statement delivered earlier by the European Commission.

First of all, I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva for being elected on Sunday as the Director General of FAO, and wish him the best success in his future work. I trust that under his leadership the ongoing Reform of the Organization will be successfully completed. An overarching priority for the next two-and-a-half years is to make FAO a more effective, efficient and transparent organization, able to use its full potential in addressing the global challenges we are all facing. Despite the good progress made in the Reform, we still have some important issues that are unresolved, such as the Decentralisation of FAO, including a functional office network and a well-designed rotation policy of the personnel.

The successful completion of the Reform will also enhance the confidence of the international community in the Organization and attract additional funding in the future. For this purpose, it is imperative that all Voluntary Contributions to the Organization be made fully open and transparent. An indication of our trust in the reformed FAO and Finland's high expectations, my country has considerably increased its Voluntary Contributions to the Organisation in recent years.

I also would like to congratulate FAO and its membership for choosing "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development" as the theme for our main discussions in this Conference. In light of Finland's own experience, we see gender equality as critical for development and in fighting poverty. Finland believes that development can be achieved only if both women and men have equal opportunities to participate and contribute towards the common goals. Finland was the first country in the world to extend universal suffrage and the right to stand for elections to all women and men - it did so already in the year 1906.

A major share of small-scale farmers in the developing countries are women. These women are in a key position in terms of global food security. All too often, however, their social and economic influence is limited. In many countries women have no rights to the lands they cultivate and it is much more difficult for them than for men to obtain investment funding. Obviously, it is quite impossible to eradicate hunger from the world without significant progress in gender equality. This is also expressed very clearly in The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-11 Report.

Finland places a great deal of emphasis on sustainable forest management and recognises the complementarities of agriculture and forestry in many countries and regions. Forests play a vital role in providing income, maintaining biodiversity and contributing to the fight against climate change, land degradation and desertification. They also have a significant role in the bio-based green economy and activity related to forests is likely to also impact on women and the lives of their families.

Finland was quite worried to see that in the FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for the years 2012-13, the funds to the forestry sector have declined from the previous period, and we urge FAO to reverse this trend.

We underline the importance of the rights of women to own land and to participate in all decision-making regarding forests, and financially support FAO activities to this effect. In our bilateral forest programmes which Finland has recently initiated jointly with the Governments of Kenya and Nepal, the aim is also to integrate gender equality aspects widely into forest management, and facilitate that the voice of women is being heard in those processes.

Climate change is making it more difficult to attain food security. Shortage of water for farming is forecast to get even worse. Women are powerful agents of change in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Women's voice is important in climate related decision-making, particularly at the local level but at the international level as well.

Finland has introduced the issue of gender and climate change as one of the priorities of climate policy. The work takes place through the international climate negotiations process (including UNFCCC) as well as in bilateral cooperation between Finland and partner countries. Finland also finances FAO's work on this.

The Millennium Development Goal on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, MDG 3, is directly related to the achievement of the MDG 1, reducing extreme poverty and hunger. We urge FAO to further intensify its cooperation in gender issues with WFP, IFAD and other UN Agencies, especially with the newly-established UN Women.

Mr Jongjin KIM (Republic of Korea)

It is great honour for me to make a speech on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to FAO Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and those who organized the Conference. Please allow me to use this occasion to offer my congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva for being elected as the next Director-General of FAO.

The international community has striven to make our world free of hunger with FAO on the forefront of such endeavor. Despite these efforts, however, the number of malnourished people has increased significantly.

The recent financial crisis, the subsequent food price increase, and the decreased food output brought on by extreme weather events all contributed to increasing the number of malnourished. The current level of the malnourished, which is 16 percent of the population in developing countries, is much higher than that set under the UN MDG 1. Therefore, it is imperative for the international community, as well as each country around the world, to place more emphasis on and more investment in agriculture.

Along with these efforts, we need to foster a more capable agricultural workforce, particularly expanding institutional and financial support for women. As more women join in farming, women's contribution to agricultural productivity and farm household income is increasing. Therefore, women now play a critical role in developing regional as well as national economies.

The role of Korean women in agriculture has become more important in recent years. The share of women labour in agriculture has almost doubled since 1970 from 28 percent to 53 percent in 2009. However, generally women farmers earn less than men for the same amount of work, which means women's contribution to agricultural labour is not being fully recognized.

This is why in 2001 the Korean Government enacted the 'Women Farmers Promotion Act' to protect the rights and interests of women farmers, enhance their status, and raise their living standards. Many positive developments in fostering women farmers have been made through the implementation of this Act. For example, the share of women workers who joined agricultural cooperatives increased from 19 percent in 2001 to 29 percent in 2009.

In the coming years, more training, education, and support to set-up businesses will be provided to women farmers to help them become professional farmers and regional leaders. More support will be extended with child-rearing so they can devote more time to farming. And women-friendly farm equipment and machines will be developed and distributed to boost productivity, and alleviate the labour burden of women.

The Republic of Korea is among the countries which turned successfully from an aid recipient to a donor within very a short period.

The Republic of Korea overcame hunger and poverty-based on government-led initiatives, which were implemented through close collaboration between the Government and its people. Also support from the international community played a critical role in our success. Now the Republic of Korea will actively join the efforts of the international community to address hunger, by building upon our past experiences of tackling food security.

I would like to reiterate again that we can only resolve global hunger through increased interests and more investment in agriculture by the international community and each country.

Capacity-building is vital for agricultural human resources, in particular women. We need to help them to become a driving force in agricultural and rural development. We must recognize women farmers as an integral human resource to tackle the challenges facing us, in particular, food security and climate change.

The Republic of Korea will join forces with the international community in addressing global hunger and achieving agricultural development.

Mr Saad NASSAR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Please allow me first of all to express my congratulations and how delighted I am to see you chairing the Conference. I would also like to express my congratulations and those of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and the Ministry of Agriculture to Mr José Graziano da Silva, the new Director-General, who has been elected for 2012 to 2015. We would reaffirm that the Government of Egypt looks forward to great participation and cooperation with the FAO and intensification of cooperation through Mr Graziano da Silva's guidance in the interests of the people of Egypt and the people of the region.

Egypt has witnessed a historical revelation which has put us on the path to the creation of a democratic state on the basis of human rights. We are currently establishing the necessary procedure in particular for new legislative elections followed by presidential elections, which meet the hopes and needs of the people. Furthermore, our Government looks forward to continuing economic health.

As we have seen over the last few years in order to overcome the economic difficulties we are facing, we want to enhance tourism and also we have had to cope with the regional fallout resulting from the return of 400 000 citizens of Egypt from Libya. So we are facing many problems, but the Government is determined to reinforce economic and social prosperity and to fight against poverty and unemployment. This is something that is reflected in the 2011-2012 biennium budget and programme. We would like to thank the international community for its support, particularly through the United Nations, to help us in this period of transformation.

We enjoy the support of FAO and the other Rome-based Agencies, and look forward to continuing this support so that Egypt can pass through this critical time in its democratic process smoothly. Egypt is one of the oldest civilizations in the world, perhaps the oldest. We are proud of that, and proud to tell you that Egypt was one of the first states to develop agriculture and agricultural tools. We developed irrigation systems and national systems for irrigation which were the first in the Middle East and Africa, and there is no doubt that the revolution in Egypt has really placed emphasis on the development of rural agriculture.

Our Government has allocated budgetary resources and other resources in order to make agriculture a priority. To ensure that Egypt is no longer dependent upon imports, is no longer vulnerable to fluctuations in national commodity prices and can enjoy stable food security. We have established a sustainable agricultural development programme to 2030 with a number of different policies, namely the development of irrigation, the support of smallholders and support for marketing of their produce.

We welcome the efforts that have been made by the Rome-based Agencies, in particular FAO, to fight the fluctuations of commodities the world market. The SOFA Report really emphasises that. And the WFP index has shown an increase recently which is a cause for concern, particularly for developing

countries that import commodities. This means an increase of expenditure on imports, and a negative effect on food security.

The international organizations are affected by the implementation of programmes and projects and it is within their remit to establish politics which limit the fluctuations of commodity prices and also support food security in these countries. I think we also need to review the international trade system so that importing countries can be better served and perhaps be released from export restrictions. I think that the Egyptian initiative established within the framework of the WTO to organize a regional meeting on food security to prepare the ground for the next meeting of the Committee on Food Security is an important one.

Egypt is aware of the importance of the role of women in society, who in Egypt benefit from rights and bear obligations which put them on an equal footing with men. Discrimination against women is prohibited by law, and we are also signatories to the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Egypt supports the paper that has been put before this Conference. We recognize that the important challenges being faced by women, particularly in the area of agriculture and sustainable development, are many and women are often deprived of access of credit in the area of agriculture. It is therefore necessary to overhaul the legal system to strengthen it in favour of women, and to establish policies to enable women to participate in the process of agricultural development. This would benefit from the support of the international organizations in this area.

In this Conference we will be looking at the Programme and Budget for the next biennium. We believe that the level of the budget for the priority programmes is different from that of the previous biennium, and we would particularly like to emphasize that this level should not have a bearing on the overall volume of the programmes and projects.

We recognize that we are seeing a new era here at FAO, with the results of the Reform which will be endorsed. We recognize that this will help the Organization to meet the priorities and needs of its Members. We look forward in the future to the Organization strengthening its operational activities and increasing its presence in the field. We would reiterate that Egypt supports the Organization on the basis of its firmly-held belief in the importance of efforts to sustainable development for rural society and agriculture.

We would like to put Egypt's capacity at the disposal of the Organization within the framework of the organizational cooperation and in South-South Cooperation. We also welcome the Arab and Pan-African development initiative particularly for the Nile countries.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Jacques Diouf for the efforts which he has been making since his first term of office to fight food insecurity, poverty and famine. He has also enjoined countries to join him in this combat, and has supported the world in its efforts for development.

We wish him all the best for the future.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

Nos complace reportar que desde la 36.º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia y a pesar de los trastornos generados por la crisis financiera global, la producción agro-alimentaria en República Dominicana continúa en expansión y se ha consolidado como columna fundamental del crecimiento económico nacional.

En este período, el Presidente Leonel Fernández ha instruido al Ministro de Agricultura proseguir y ampliar políticas agro-pecuarias que, según ha valorado esta Organización, son efectivas y acertadas.

Mi país ha alcanzado la auto-suficiencia arrocera. Estamos registrando progresos sustanciales en cultivos bajo ambiente controlado, en productos orgánicos y en acuicultura. Continuamos creando empleo rural, protegiendo la biodiversidad, reforestando las cuencas hídricas y avanzando hacia la consecución del primero de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio.

La FAO apoya este recorrido hacia la seguridad alimentaria con proyectos de cooperación, envío de tecnología, fortalecimiento institucional, incremento de la productividad, inocuidad y prevención de plagas. La mujer campesina juega un papel primordial en todos los componentes y recibe apoyo transversal en coordinación con el despacho de la Primera Dama Margarita Cedeño de Fernández, quien es Embajadora Extraordinaria de esta Organización.

Mi delegación considera que la ocasión es apropiada para recordar que este año el precio de los alimentos ha alcanzado el nivel más alto de la historia. Esto perjudica de modo particular a los habitantes de los países en desarrollo.

Es un nuevo y terrible reto para los mil millones de personas que cada noche se preguntan qué comerán al día siguiente. Es una alarma que resuena en esta casa, donde debatimos y trazamos las políticas globales para combatir el hambre y la malnutrición. Es un desafío para la humanidad.

En este sentido República Dominicana piensa que el acuerdo del G-20 alcanzado la semana pasada en París, es insuficiente en cuanto concierne a la amenaza que la especulación plantea a la seguridad alimentaria.

En este tema el G-20 no representa de modo adecuado los intereses de la comunidad de las naciones. El verdadero parlamento de la humanidad es éste, donde todos los Países Miembros nos congregamos en la igualdad y en la unidad, donde ninguno es más igual que otros. El grupo más representativo, el que goza de más legitimidad y, por tanto, de más autoridad, es el G-192.

No existe justificación moral, ética, política, social o económica para que el hambre sea manipulada para realizar apuestas en los mercados financieros.

Las culturas de todos los pueblos, a lo largo de los tiempos, consagran al alimento como un bien sagrado. La alimentación es un derecho humano fundamental y por ello mi país lo acredita en su Constitución.

Debido a estas razones, República Dominicana, por iniciativa del Presidente Fernández, someterá a la Sexagésima-sexta Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, en septiembre, un Proyecto de Resolución con miras a crear un Pacto Global contra la Especulación Financiera de Productos Básicos.

República Dominicana, como miembro activo de la Iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre 2025, ha puesto fecha a la consecución de la plena seguridad alimentaria. Estamos trabajando para alcanzar esta meta, que aspiramos sea también lograda por nuestra hermana República de Haití y por todos los pueblos del continente y del mundo.

Queremos, necesitamos y exigimos que el número de hambrientos, en este globo hermoso y frágil que compartimos, sea cero.

Mr James Alexander HARVEY (United Kingdom)

On Monday morning we heard Dr Jacques Diouf say that the major Reform of the Organization which he has implemented during his tenure since 1994 has made it “leaner, more focused and fitter for the 21st Century”. We acknowledge his efforts and would like to thank Dr Diouf for his personal commitment to the cause of defeating global hunger.

However, while FAO has been reforming and adapting, the challenges we face have been changing and growing even faster. We have gone from a period of food surpluses to one of potential food shortages in less than a decade without adequately adjusting our institutions or approaches. As a result, the number of hungry and malnourished people is increasing, we have heard it in so many presentations, between one and two billion people cannot afford sufficient quantity or quality of food. Production is at an all-time high, but is only just keeping pace with demand. Global stocks are low, driving increased food price volatility, the impact of which is most severe on poor people who spend a high proportion of their income on food. We have largely used up the capital from what we call the First Green Revolution, while at the same time we are facing absolute resource limitations now of usable land, water and other natural resources, amplified by the effects of climate change. Lastly, increasing numbers of people are at risk of acute food and nutrition insecurity owing to short-term shocks and protracted crises.

Against that, it has been absolutely heartening to hear the plans of so many countries over the days and this morning as well, to address access, production and utilization aspects of food and nutrition security in countries in Africa, for example, who are attaining, aiming to meet, meeting or even exceeding the call of the Maputo Declaration and countries that are focusing on the specific needs of women, girls and young children. We have heard so many examples this week of the efforts that countries are making.

FAO has a vital role to play in the fight against hunger and poverty. As a result of reforms implemented so far, FAO is providing in some areas and some countries an excellent service, for example, timely, top-grade information and policy advice to Governments. But in the UK's view, based on our recent Multilateral Aid Review of 43 multilateral organizations, FAO's performance needs to improve further, particularly in its delivery at country level. Management, strategic planning and prioritization need to be strengthened to effectively and efficiently deliver maximum results.

We need to see in every country the levels of performance that we see in the best countries, and that means having the best people in place supported by effective and efficient systems working towards clear goals and priorities.

FAO is implementing, as the Director-General said on Monday, "one of the most profound and comprehensive Reforms in the history of the whole United Nations system". We are proud to have been a strong supporter of Reform from the beginning, and we will continue to be.

These Reforms are now at a critical stage. We, therefore, welcome Professor Graziano da Silva into his new role, and we look forward to working closely with him to revitalize the Organization.

Strong leadership is now required to drive through the ambitious and comprehensive changes needed. We will work with Professor Graziano da Silva, with Management and with all Member Nations to re-energize and accelerate implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action Reform that we have all committed to. A results-based approach is helping to improve FAO's impact. Management and administrative reform should increase FAO's efficiency. Work on prioritization is enhancing focus. But the ongoing Reform also requires Culture Change with effective Management that delegates and empowers staff to deliver results, and be held accountable for them.

We have a huge opportunity and also a tremendous responsibility. This includes the Member Nations. We, the membership, must continue to change, too. We have worked closely together with Management on Reform, and renewed the way that the membership works in FAO. It is more constructive, based on greater understanding than in the past perhaps, and has built trust as we have worked together. But we need to build upon this further, providing effective, joint oversight of FAO's results.

We look to FAO's leadership and management. The platform exists. Commitment and expectations are high. We will monitor progress. We will revisit our Multilateral Aid Review findings in 2013. We will back results.

Let us all work together to ensure that FAO becomes the high-performing Organization the world needs now.

Sr. Carlos VALLEJO LÓPEZ (Ecuador)

Hemos elegido un nuevo Director General: Graziano da Silva. Y creo que acertamos porque la pobreza él conoció, no en datos estadísticos y en fotografías, sino que la vivió de frente. La tuvo allí en su país. Y buscó desesperadamente soluciones a esa pobreza para reducir el hambre e implantó un Programa de Hambre Cero en el Brasil, y lo logró. ¡Qué Dios le acompañe a Graziano da Silva!

El problema del hambre no encontrará solución si no se resuelve el problema de la pobreza. El hambre es consecuencia de la pobreza. Y la pobreza, consecuencia de la injusticia, de la explotación, de la dominación y de la dependencia. Los pobres del sector rural, por siglos, han sido dependientes y explotados. Kofi Annan en su mensaje magistral envió algunos mensajes que deben ser tomados en cuenta para convertirlos en política de estado por parte de esta FAO que como dijo el Representante de

la República Dominicana son 192 países que en igualdad de condiciones debemos discutir nuestros problemas.

No se puede vivir de recetas dictadas desde fuera. Las recetas han fracasado. En los 65 años de lucha contra la pobreza, no ha fracasado la FAO. El mundo ha fracasado porque las recetas han sido inconvenientes. La Revolución Verde, la letrinización, la fertilización y hoy, la lucha contra el hambre a través de la seguridad alimentaria. Cuidado que fragmentemos y parceledemos el problema del sector rural y de los pobres del sector rural. Es un problema integral. Por eso, no voy a hablar de lo que hace mi país por la mujer o por la juventud. Mientras enfrentemos el problema fraccionándolo, no resolveremos el problema.

No es un problema de género. Es un problema de trato al productor pequeño en el sector rural: sea hombre o mujer. No es un problema de género. Seguirán saliendo los jóvenes y seguirán saliendo los hombres y quedará en manos de la mujer la producción agraria mientras la ciudad atraiga y el campo expulse.

Mientras se educa en una escuela con un profesor los seis grados, en la ciudad se tiene tres y cuatro profesores por grado. Van en vehículo, mientras en el campo van en burro a las escuelas los niños y los jóvenes. La posta sanitaria más cercana queda a 400 kilómetros o a 200 kilómetros. Llega muerto el campesino enfermo. Mientras en la ciudad, hay competencia por atender la salud de todo el ser humano.

No parceledemos entonces el problema integral. Es de vías de comunicación, es de salud, es de educación, es de abastecimiento de tecnologías y de insumos. Es de dar igualdad de condiciones al campo para que atraiga el campo, y no expulse.

Hay un tema que se ha tratado aquí, que es el de la volatilidad de los precios. Cuidado. Está preocupado el G-20 por la volatilidad de los precios y la especulación de los granos básicos. Pero no se preocupan por la especulación, y sobre todo, por los precios bajos que se paga a las materias primas y a los perecibles que exportan los países del Sur para el desarrollo de los países del Norte. ¿No es eso también que deben tomar en cuenta cuando analizan la problemática para dictar recetas? Cuidado entonces con la volatilidad de los precios. No permitamos que los sectores rurales sigan subsidiando a las clases medias de las ciudades. Los pobres del campo seguirán subsidiando a las clases medias.

Aquí un representante de un país del Norte planteó el hecho que se estudie el hecho de que el Norte ya debe seguir produciendo para alimentar al Sur. Puede ser un desafío en igualdad de condiciones. Darnos igualdad de condiciones, y a lo mejor los pobres alimentamos al Sur y al Norte y hay dos factores básicos: precios de los bienes de capital y de los insumos de producción que están en manos de los del Norte. Los países pobres pagamos tres y cuatro veces más por los bienes de capital y por los insumos de producción.

Y por otro lado, hay un tema que habrá que tratarlo con franqueza y con respeto: el de los subsidios a los productos agro-pecuarios en el Norte. Mientras sigan subsidiando, no habrá competencia de los países pobres y estaremos siempre en condiciones de no producir para alimentar a nuestras poblaciones.

Si los ricos tienen alma, los pobres van a entrar al cielo, porque tendrán renta para pagar su estadía.

Mr David James RITCHIE (Australia)

Food security is a crucial challenge facing every part of the world. For the second time in only four years we are seeing significant spikes in food prices, particularly in important staple grain crops that underpin food security around the world. This volatility is having a very real and very significant effect not only on poor consumers, but on whole nations and regions.

Food security is truly the challenge of our time and Australia is committed to act. In Australia, we are addressing this issue through a range of government commitments such as the development of a national food plan.

In developing a national food plan, the Government aims to better integrate food policy by looking at the whole food supply chain, protect Australia's food security, support population health outcomes and develop a strategy to maximize food production opportunities.

In addition to build a productivity and sustainability of Australian farmers, we provide more than 200 million Australian dollars each year in matched payments to rural research and development corporations in Australia and AUD 130 million for Australia's Farming Future Programme to assist primary producers adapt and respond to the impact of climate change and maintain their productivity. We are acting globally, too. The Australian Aid programme will invest around 1.8 billion AUD to improve global food security between 2009 and 2015.

In 2010-11, approximately 7 percent of Overseas Development Assistance will be spent on food security. We are providing more than AUD 460 million to address long term food security in Asia, the Pacific and Africa by improving availability of, and access to, food.

Australia has also met its commitment to provide AUD 50 million to the World Bank's Global Agricultural and Food Security Programme and doubled their contribution to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Network. We are also providing AUD 80 million over four years to the World Food Programme to provide funding certainty to them in better planning future food security initiatives. We recognise the barriers for women in developing countries to fully participate when they have less access than men to the resources and opportunities they need in order to be more productive. Gender equality is central to economic and human development. Removing inner qualities gives societies a better chance to develop. Through our aid programme, Australia aims to empower women in particular countries across the Pacific and Asia to gain better access for them regarding to health care and vitamin supplements, to assist women living with HIV/AIDS and to improve access to clean water.

But national action needs to be complimented by strong international governance. Last week G20 Agriculture Ministers met and agreed on a range of initiatives to improve agricultural market information and transparency, as well as agricultural productivity.

Ministers achieved high-level political commitment on several strategic agricultural policy goals, including the ongoing Reform of FAO and of global agricultural trading system more generally. Australia's commitment to free and open trade is well know. We strongly believe that trade is an essential component of addressing long-term food security, as that trade liberalisation will help to curb excessive agricultural market volatility. We should not shy away from Reform in this area, a point made by Kofi Annan earlier this week.

We recognise the difficulties confronting the Doha Development Round, but remain strongly committed to a successful comprehensive, and balanced conclusion, consistent with its mandate and built upon the progress already achieved.

But trade is not our only area of interest. We reiterate the important role of FAO, and strongly support the ongoing Reform Process. FAO is the major technical agricultural organisation within the global governance architecture on food security. It is undergoing significant Reform and it must continue to fully implement this Reform in order to realise its crucial role to support global food security and agriculture issues.

As Member Nations, we must also play our part and support FAO to make the difficult decisions needed to ensure it is focused and operates efficiently and effectively.

For Australia, action is worth more than words. In addition to our Member contributions, today Australia can announce more than 2 million AUD in extra-budgetary funding to the FAO. This includes:

AUD 250,000 to the Committee on World Food Security, towards analytical capability to support the High-Level Panel of Experts;

AUD 500,000 towards the International Plant Protection Commission;

AUD 150,000 to assess the benefits of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources;

AUD 150,000 for work on agricultural trade policy; and

AUD 1.25 million for a range of activities addressing animal health, improving data and information, supporting disease outbreak responses and controlling transboundary animal diseases.

Australia remains committed to its engagement with FAO, and looks forward to working with our new Director-General, Dr José Graziano da Silva, in the years ahead to position FAO as the world's leading agency on agriculture at the forefront of the food security challenge.

We thank the outgoing Director-General for his contribution to the Organization over the past 18 years. We look forward to building on the work already done, and working to achieve the Reform that will drive the FAO agenda into the future.

Sr. Cesar Rolando CASTILLO RAMÍREZ (Perú)

Al igual que en diversas partes del mundo, en las zonas rurales de Perú la mujer contribuye con la unidad productiva familiar desplegando una labor fundamental en la producción de alimentos, con la siembra de vegetales en la huerta, mediante el cuidado de animales y a través del comercio a pequeña escala de los productos que genera.

En el caso peruano, una vez recogida la cosecha, la mujer se encarga del almacenamiento, reserva, preservación, administración y distribución de los alimentos. Su labor es, de esta forma, estratégica en el quehacer de la pequeña agricultura familiar, garantizando para su familia la soberanía alimentaria y permitiendo la obtención de ingresos adicionales a través de la venta o intercambio de productos cultivados en sus propios terrenos.

La presencia y participación de la mujer en la agricultura rural peruana aporta, por un lado, fuerza de trabajo en la producción, transformación y comercialización de la producción agrícola. Por otro, desde una perspectiva de seguridad alimentaria, la mujer cumple un papel de vigilancia activa e integral en la disponibilidad y accesibilidad de los alimentos. Su labor permite a las comunidades preservar la diversidad del germoplasma agrícola de productos de la zona y del cuidado de la diversidad genética de las especies nativas, como los camélidos, cuyes, ovinos, vacunos, porcinos, caprinos y aves de corral.

La mujer peruana cumple con una función que consideramos vital. Sin embargo, aún no ha adquirido la capacidad decisoria sobre la gestión de predio agrícola, así como el destino de los ingresos generados, lo que reduce su productividad y contribución a la producción agrícola.

El crecimiento económico y bienestar de las familias rurales se ve mermado por este menor acceso de la mujer a los servicios de extensión y su difícil acceso a ciertos recursos fundamentales para la actividad agrícola, como la tierra, los fertilizantes y el crédito, así como por una falta de acceso a nuevas tecnologías. Todo esto evidencia una desigualdad de oportunidades que ha generado que el Estado peruano tome medidas para enfrentar esta problemática.

Esta situación de desigualdad que se manifiesta además por diferencias en la educación y formación, y que se ve además vulnerada por la fuerte migración de los varones a las ciudades en busca de trabajo remunerado, lo que disminuye la participación de los hombres en la agricultura, ha obligado a las mujeres a hacer ajustes en los sistemas de cultivo teniendo como consecuencia la reducción de la producción y la adopción de cultivos de menor valor nutricional en perjuicio de una adecuada nutrición.

Por ello es necesario promover la igualdad entre hombres y mujeres en el acceso a los recursos y oportunidades en la cadena de producción agrícola, a fin de permitir que la labor de la mujer se adapte a las actuales demandas del mercado, cerrando, de esta forma, las brechas de género en aras del desarrollo, promoviendo políticas públicas donde las estructuras político-económicas incluyan las actividades de la mujer rural en la actividad productiva y donde las instituciones generen políticas para la superación de las desigualdades de oportunidades en la actividad productiva, acceso a recursos y al mercado.

El Estado peruano, a través del programa social "Agrorural", viene implementando una serie de políticas orientadas al desarrollo rural donde la equidad e igualdad de oportunidades se convierte en

elemento fundamental, con el objetivo de facilitar el acceso y el control de los recursos, tanto a varones, como a mujeres, de forma igualitaria.

Estas políticas se sustentan en los siguientes lineamientos:

La adopción del enfoque de género en todos los proyectos y los programas de inversión pública propiciando estrategias diferenciadas con discriminación positiva de género, para favorecer el reconocimiento de los derechos civiles, las capacidades de autogestión, el acceso y la participación equitativos de las mujeres en los beneficios que se generen;

El fortalecimiento y desarrollo de capacidades de las familias rurales en zonas con menor grado de desarrollo facilitando el acceso a servicios de asistencia técnica, asesoramiento y apoyo empresarial, información, capacitación y ejecución de investigaciones e inventarios agrícolas;

El diseño y ejecución de proyectos de inversión pública que incorporen de manera explícita la equidad de género como condición necesaria para mejorar las condiciones económicas, sociales, políticas y culturales de la sociedad en su conjunto;

El diseño e implementación de programas de desarrollo de capacidades que tengan en cuenta horarios que permitan la asistencia de mujeres y jóvenes y contenidos que faciliten el acceso de esto a mayores cuotas de representatividad en espacios públicos y toma de decisiones;

La promoción de la inversión pública en el sector agricultura, con énfasis en la participación de la mujer, a fin de garantizar recursos adecuados para la gestión de recursos naturales, el incremento de la producción y la productividad, y el fortalecimiento de determinadas cadenas productivas de manera que se garantice una provisión suficiente y oportuna de alimentos sanos, nutritivos y asequibles para la población local;

El fomento de la diversificación de las fuentes de ingreso y la generación de empleo a través del desarrollo y la gestión de iniciativas rurales con participación de la mujer;

La promoción de la seguridad alimentaria basada en cultivos y crianzas de animales que permitan incrementar el potencial nutricional de los alimentos producidos, en estrecha coordinación con el sector salud y entidades privadas a fin de fortalecer los hábitos en la preparación adecuada de alimentos, la ingesta nutricional apropiada y la revalorización de los patrones de consumo local, acciones en las que la mujer juega un papel fundamental como base del núcleo familiar.

El programa social “Agrorural” coordina hoy en día proyectos nacionales que benefician a cientos de miles de mujeres y familias campesinas, comunidades y asociaciones de campesinos y productores. Esta institución ha contribuido notablemente en la reducción de la pobreza extrema en el Perú, que ha disminuido, en cinco años, del 54% al casi 30%, lo que significa más de 3.5 millones de peruanos que hoy en día no se encuentran más en situación de pobreza.

Del mismo modo, el Estado peruano ha reducido en el último quinquenio la desnutrición crónica infantil del 28.5% al 17.9 %, éxito en el que la presencia de la mujer ha sido fundamental, sobre todo en zonas rurales donde mi país continuará luchando por erradicar definitivamente la desnutrición.

Les deseo a todos éxitos en el examen y evaluación de los temas que tendremos que atender en esta 37ª Períodos de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Permítanme, en nombre de mi Gobierno, felicitar al Profesor José Graziano da Silva con motivo de su elección a la Dirección General de la FAO.

Estamos convencidos que su fortaleza moral, su larga experiencia y sus calidades humanas, guiarán nuestra lucha común hacia el camino de la solidaridad, cooperación y complementariedad.

Depositamos en sus manos nuestra plena confianza.

Es encomiable la atención prestada en el actual Período de Sesiones al tema de las mujeres, el cual hoy nos reúne para una reflexión obligada sobre el ya conocido fenómeno de la “feminización de la pobreza”, entronizada y agudizada en las zonas rurales.

Las mujeres son sin duda actores claves en el desarrollo sostenible y en la defensa de la soberanía alimentaria de nuestras regiones. La misma Declaración del Milenio, reconoce que la igualdad de género no es solo un objetivo por derecho propio, sino que juega un papel fundamental para alcanzar todos los demás objetivos.

Sin embargo, hay que reconocer que las mujeres siguen siendo las más perjudicadas, principalmente debido a las restricciones que padecen en el acceso y control sobre los recursos productivos y económicos como la tierra, el crédito, la tecnología, la información, la capacitación, la asistencia técnica, sin perjuicio del acceso a la salud y a la participación en la educación, motores fundamentales para alcanzar el crecimiento económico y el cambio social.

Hoy día ante los múltiples desequilibrios que se están produciendo y ante la extrema vulnerabilidad de la seguridad alimentaria de la que tanto la FAO como el Banco Mundial nos están alertando, se recuerda que lograr la igualdad de género en el campo no solo se vuelve en un imperativo moral sino también en una necesidad económica para nuestros países.

Por ello, es necesario que se avance hacia una democracia cultural y que las políticas públicas recuperen su papel redistribuidor de recursos sociales, institucionalizando las prácticas de género en su accionar positivo.

En Nicaragua el compromiso con la igualdad de género es parte integral de la identidad de nuestra política, la cual se ha venido forjando gracias a la primera etapa de la Revolución Sandinista que logró integrar a las mujeres en todos los sectores económicos y productivos del país.

En este contexto y continuando con las transformaciones históricas emprendidas por la Revolución Sandinista, el Gobierno de Unidad y Reconciliación Nacional está apostando para que la mujer sea protagonista del camino que hemos emprendido hacia la erradicación de la pobreza y la búsqueda del desarrollo basado en la justicia social.

Este desafío del GRUN se ha concretizado a través de la implementación de programas socioeconómicos innovadores que han permitido a la mujer nicaragüense apropiarse de recursos productivos, créditos, capacitación, asistencia técnica, tecnológica, y convertirse de esta forma en agentes de desarrollo.

Son las mujeres las principales beneficiarias del programa Hambre Cero, programa enmarcado en una política de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria, que ha permitido alcanzar a más de 84.000 mujeres del programa Usura Cero, generador de un verdadero empleo productivo, beneficiando a las mujeres que no pueden acceder al crédito en el sistema financiero privado, otorgándole créditos a tasas de interés justas y solidarias, del bono de Adaptación al Cambio Climático.

Estos y otros programas que son parte de la lucha por la dignificación y emancipación de los sectores históricamente más explotados y discriminados, asumieron el reto y la responsabilidad de fomentar y apoyar la concientización, la organización y movilización de las familias campesinas en general, y de las mujeres en particular.

El resultado más esperanzador de estos esfuerzos lo vemos reflejado en las caras de las mujeres. Ningún número ni estadísticas, pueden expresar lo que se detecta cuando vamos a su terreno.

Las mujeres nicaragüenses están comprometidas y están desarrollando sus capacidades para generar cambios en su realidad concreta y en la de sus comunidades-cambios. Cambios que nos animan y obligan a impulsar, conocer e implementar nuevas estrategias desde y a través de la solidaridad internacional.

El acceso de la mujer rural a la tenencia de la tierra es un factor clave de estímulo de su capacidad productiva. Sin embargo sigue siendo el ámbito donde se registran mayores asimetrías entre hombres y mujeres rurales. No podemos hablar de empoderamiento y emancipación de la mujer rural sin articular estrategias y políticas comprometidas en alcanzar una tenencia segura y un acceso igualitario a la tierra.

Actualmente se calcula que existen 1.6 billones de mujeres campesinas pero sólo el 2 por ciento de la tierra es propiedad de ellas y reciben únicamente el 1 por ciento de todo el crédito para agricultura.

Los países de América Latina y el Caribe han experimentado en las últimas décadas, cambios en sus marcos constitucionales y legislativos para la garantizar este derecho humano.

En mi país, entre 2007 y 2009 se han entregado más de 50.000 títulos de propiedad. Entre los principales beneficiarios están las mujeres campesinas, que tradicionalmente habían sido excluidas del derecho a la tenencia de la tierra. Para ser consiguientes, hemos elaborado la primera Política de Género de Gobierno y contamos por primera vez con una “Ley de Igualdad de Derechos y Oportunidades”.

Finalmente, deseamos enfatizar que desde la celebración de la IV Conferencia Mundial sobre la Mujer en 1995 y las subsiguientes cumbres, los avances en términos de igualdad entre los géneros y el empoderamiento de la mujer han sido tenues, a pesar de que en las condiciones del mundo actual se ha vuelto imprescindible avanzar rápidamente sobre el tema del acceso y participación de la mujer y la niña a la educación, capacitación, ciencia y tecnología.

Para esto se requiere de un fuerte compromiso y voluntad política de todos los países del sistema de Naciones Unidas en su conjunto, para que el concepto teológico de nuestra sociedad sea la mujer y el hombre y no la producción de utilidades en sí, para que los retos que hemos asumido puedan convertir la retórica en acciones concretas.

Ms Tasnim ASLAM (Pakistan)

It gives me great pleasure to represent Pakistan at the 37th Session of the FAO Conference in Rome.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva on his election as the next Director-General of FAO. We are confident that his vast experience and diplomatic skills will guide FAO towards success in dealing with its important agenda. I assure him of Pakistan's full support in making FAO more effective in responding to the challenges of food security.

We are also grateful to all the candidates who participated in the elections and shared their vision with us. We are confident that the debate would be a beacon of light in our future endeavours.

I wish to express our high appreciation for the significant achievements of Mr Jacques Diouf during his tenure as Director-General and we wish him success in his future endeavours.

Agriculture sector plays a very important role in Pakistan's economy. It contributes over 21 percent to GDP, employs 45 percent of country's labour force and serves as a major source of livelihood to 62 percent of the country's rural population. It has a vital role in ensuring food security, generating economic growth and reducing poverty. The Government's agricultural policy is aimed at enhancing farm profitability and competitiveness through realizing the existing productivity potential of various crops and creating an enabling environment for more investment along the value chain of various agricultural products. This has enabled the country to attain record production of major foodcrops like wheat and rice.

However, Mr. Chairperson, as you are aware, the unprecedented floods of 2010 caused colossal loss to the agriculture sector. The floods damaged standing crops of rice, cotton, sugarcane, fruits and vegetables. The floods also inflicted a severe blow to agriculture infrastructure. The irrigation system, water courses and field demarcations were completely wiped out in a large area of the country. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture swiftly established a flood assistance cell to provide coordination in assessing flood damage to the crop sector and in facilitating implementation of mitigation strategies. For support of flood-affected farmers, the Government extended a “Rapid Assistance Programme” under which farmers were provided with financial assistance of up to Rupees 2 400 per acre for purchase of wheat seed and fertilizers. Currently, the Government is proactively engaged to support affected farmers under the Early Recovery Initiative for Agriculture and Food Security. In order to ensure food security and to improve food productivity of small farms, the Government is implementing a phased ‘Special Programme for Food Security and Productivity Enhancement of Small Farmers’ covering 13 000 villages by the year 2015. This programme started with 1 012 villages in all the provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Federally-Administered Tribal Areas and Federally-Administered Northern Areas in a first phase at a cost of 8 013 billion rupees. This programme would enhance crop productivity of small farmers at the village level, and support them to

start income generation activities in the areas of livestock, fisheries and high value crops on a sustainable basis.

I take this opportunity to thank once again the international community for support through FAO to the early relief and recovery efforts in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan. We hope that this support will be sustained in the long term rehabilitation of the agriculture sector in Pakistan in a systematic and efficient manner to maximize results.

We look forward to constructive deliberations on these matters during this Conference and beyond.

Mr Soren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Denmark is strongly committed to gender equality as a human right a question of social justice and a core value of Danish policies. We very much appreciate the important evidence of the vital role of women in agriculture and rural development provided by the FAO Secretariat for this Conference.

While the potential of agriculture as a primary engine of rural growth and poverty reduction is recognized, the reality is that agriculture is underperforming in many countries. One of the key reasons is that women do not have equal access to the resources they need.

FAO has presented an extensive body of evidence on The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, the specific constraints they face in assessing the resources and opportunities, the potential benefits for the certain societies that could be achieved by reducing these constraints and lessons learned from policies, programmes and interventions aimed at closing the gender gap in agriculture.

The SOFA Report also confirms that the Millennium Development Goals on Gender Equality (MDG 3) on Poverty and Food Security (MDG 1) are mutually-reinforcing. The MDG on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is still lagging behind. This shows that action has not been sufficient, and that we need to step up issues considerably. By reducing the gap between male and female farms in excess to productive resources, assesses and inputs, we could increase the number of farms operated by women by 20 or maybe 30 percent. This would generate significant gains in agricultural production at national levels and could reduce a number of undernourished people in the world by 12 to 17 percent according to the Report. And that would mean that 100 to 150 million people globally could be free from hunger.

For countries where hunger is more common and women play a major role in the agriculture sector, the proportional gains could be even greater. The conclusions are clear. Gender equality is good for agriculture, food security and society, and policies can make a difference. Governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals, working together can promote gender equality and agriculture in rural areas.

FAO assistance to Member Nations must focus on sustainable and commercially-viable agriculture intensification for small-holder farmers and in particular women. This can be done by targeting specific investment for women in rural areas, by mainstreaming gender in national policies, strategies and legal frameworks, and by providing women equitable and sustainable access to, and control over resources including land, water and finance including micro-finance, micro-credit, insurance and other financial services and agricultural inputs.

Smallholder farmers should also have access to knowledge, including knowledge on how to comply with market demands and standards. When women have more influence or economic decisions and greater bargaining power, it results in improved child nutritional status which influences health, education and overall productivity.

We would like to see FAO in its own conduct setting the good example and we expect the new Director-General of FAO as he commences his work to put full emphasis on integrating and mainstreaming gender into the work of the Organization. For these efforts to produce maximum results and for FAO to be able to realize its full potential, he will need to make sure that the Reform efforts are decisively taken forward.

This is essential for FAO to be able to deliver for the women as well as the men in the world. At the same time, we should not forget that a strong institution is not made by a few. A strong institution is made by its Management, its staff and its Members, and with full involvement of all stakeholders.

The Director-General can count on the continued strong commitment and support of Denmark to FAO. Let me take this opportunity on behalf of Denmark to congratulate José Graziano da Silva on his election as the Director-General for FAO. Let me also take the opportunity to thank Jacques Diouf for his tireless efforts in promoting this Organization, as well as agriculture and food security. Let me add, on a more personal basis, that I have appreciated the always frank and open dialogue from which we have benefited tremendously.

Mr Chairman, let me finish my intervention by mentioning that my country contributes with 0.9 percent of its Gross National Product to development assistance and we will, of course, continue to honour all our commitments. We strongly urge all the developed countries do the same.

Mr Jargalsaikhan ENKHTSAIKHAN (Mongolia)

Allow me to extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva of Brazil on his election as the next Director-General of this Organization, an important Specialized Agency of the United Nations.

FAO is an essential organization if the international community is to meet the first and the most important MDG 1, eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. This goal has been reiterated at the Global Food Summit and can be achieved only through close adherence to the five principles of the Rome Summit and the guidelines of the Committee on World Food Security. Much needs to be done if the number of 925 million people, which is 13.5 percent of the world population suffering from hunger and malnutrition is to be reduced to 8 percent by 2015. Much has been done in the past 65 years by the international community to increase and improve food production. Average *per capita* food production has increased by 40 percent. Much has been done by FAO under the current leadership of Director-General Jacques Diouf to address the challenges of food security, increase the productivity in the agriculture production and achieve better access to food.

Though yesterday, the FAO and OIE officially declared the world free of rinderpest, the world's first number one cattle plague, still much needs to be done to eradicate FMD, PPR and other transboundary animal diseases that affect agriculture production and hamper attaining the MDGs. With respect to FMD, IAEA /FAO joint activities to introduce nuclear techniques in animal nutrition and disease prevention need to be improved. My country is working with that Division to address some of its FMD challenges. It is also working to become free of CBBP.

The other challenges include consumption of food, energy, water and other natural resources at an unsustainable rate that could lead to their depletion. Climate change is also affecting global food production, while the world population is expected to reach seven billion very soon and nine billion by 2050. Against this background, the goals of making food available, accessible and affordable to all and ensuring food security are challenges indeed.

In Mongolia, like in many other developing countries, the backbone of the economy is still animal husbandry. It is working hard to increase livestock production, not only by maintaining its quantity but also by improving its quality through vaccination and introducing other progressive technology. The demand in animal husbandry production is expected to increase not only with the mechanical route of the rural population of the world, but also with the increase in income and living standards of peoples as well as with the expected rise in the demand for animal protein.

My country has been and shall be working with FAO and interested Member Nation in increasing its animal husbandry production, and thus contributing to the common goal of greater and safer food production. In this spirit, it is looking forward to working with the newly-elected Director-General from January 2012 when he assumes office.

My delegation fully supports the main focus of this year's SOFA report: "Women in Agriculture – Closing the Gender Gap for Development". This issue is very close to Mongolia, where the role of women has traditionally been very important. It is for this reason, for almost three decades, Mongolia

has been the lead country at the United Nations to raise awareness of the importance of the role of rural women in development, including in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty.

The key concept is the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women, as well as participation in the development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of rural micro-economic policies. Together with some other like-minded countries, Mongolia is working at the United Nations to promote the economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, to provide wider micro-credit and other financial or business services in ensuring that they are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property. In order to put this issue firmly on the political and economic agenda in the national committee, 15 October of each year has been declared, and is observed, as International Day of Rural Women. This political and socio-economic support of rural women can be practically realized by FAO and its Members if they have to make their contribution. Empowering rural women is not only an issue of human rights but as seen from this report, it is also critical for agriculture development and food security.

My delegation is prepared to continue to work with others in this regard.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

La presente Conferencia de la FAO tiene características particulares. Su desarrollo está marcado por las expectativas y por las urgencias.

Las expectativas han sido abiertas por la elección de un nuevo Director General de la Organización. Al respecto, el Gobierno Argentino reitera su felicitación al Director General-Electo, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, a quien deseamos una gestión fructífera y exitosa.

Ofrecemos nuestro firme apoyo para todas las iniciativas que contribuyan a lograr los objetivos de esta Organización. Al mismo tiempo, agradecemos al Dr Jacques Diouf el trabajo, el compromiso y el esfuerzo con que condujo la FAO como Director General.

Las urgencias que mencionamos continúan siendo impuestas por nuestra lucha común contra el hambre en el mundo. En ese sentido, agradecemos a la FAO la publicación del “Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación”, documento que actualiza el análisis de la situación y de las posibilidades de intervención real para avanzar en la erradicación del hambre. Completan esta descripción los documentos adicionales presentados a la Conferencia sobre la volatilidad de los precios y el rol vital de las mujeres en la agricultura.

Preocupa a la Argentina la excesiva volatilidad en los precios de las materias primas y sus consecuencias sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Efectivamente, la excesiva volatilidad de precios desalienta la inversión en la agricultura y, por ende, en la producción agrícola mundial, alejándonos del objetivo de reducir el hambre y la desnutrición. Creemos entonces que debe realizarse un esfuerzo concertado para determinar sus causas profundas, y para mitigar al mismo tiempo sus negativos efectos sobre las poblaciones y países más vulnerables.

Pero debemos tener presente también que el hambre en el mundo no es causada por la volatilidad de los precios internacionales, sino por la pobreza y por la desigualdad en el ingreso. No creemos entonces que la solución pase por controlar los precios de los alimentos y de las materias primas para mantenerlos artificialmente bajos. Por el contrario, consideramos que el aumento sostenido y estable de estos precios responde a una clara tendencia de mercado, específicamente ante una creciente demanda internacional. Esta tendencia provee el incentivo para realizar nuevas inversiones en la agricultura, necesarias para aumentar tanto la producción como el ingreso de los agricultores, en particular en los países más vulnerables.

En ese sentido, podemos apoyar las tres recomendaciones contenidas en el documento C 2011/2. No obstante ello, consideramos que las “guías para las Políticas y Acciones Programáticas a Nivel de País” publicadas por la FAO en enero de este año, no presentan un análisis objetivo de los impuestos a la exportación.

La posición de Argentina es que dichos impuestos son un instrumento central del desarrollo, de las políticas fiscales y de la seguridad alimentaria, especialmente para agregar valor a las exportaciones y superar la situación de los países en desarrollo como simples abastecedores de materias primas básicas.

Creemos que desde la FAO debemos contribuir a prevenir y revertir la profundización de estos serios desequilibrios a fin de alcanzar el objetivo central de la Organización, es decir, erradicar el hambre en el mundo.

La Argentina es un país de cuarenta millones de habitantes que produce alimentos para alrededor de cuatrocientos millones de personas. La oferta exportable de granos de Argentina aumentó un 40 por ciento entre 2002 y 2010, y se encuentra hoy en 70 millones de toneladas. Consideramos que tanto el volumen de producción como de exportación son formas significativas de contribuir a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

En ese sentido, reiteramos la importancia que el comercio internacional tiene sobre la producción y el consumo de alimentos. Si bien las cuestiones comerciales tienen su propio ámbito de negociación en la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), la Argentina desea recordar que el Mandato de la Ronda de Doha continúa vigente.

Al respecto, entendemos que la eliminación de toda forma de subvención a la exportación, la reducción sustancial de las ayudas internas y la mejora sustancial del acceso a los mercados, todo ello con el debido trato especial y diferenciado para los países en desarrollo, son objetivos que nadie puede cuestionar. No obstante, tras diez años de negociaciones, estos objetivos siguen sin implementarse.

Mientras el proceso de reforma de las políticas agrícolas siga detenido, el sistema multilateral de comercio seguirá estando desequilibrado, perjudicando seriamente el potencial productivo de los países en desarrollo. Estamos convencidos de que un comercio internacional justo y equilibrado, mejorará las condiciones para incrementar las inversiones en la agricultura y contribuir a fortalecer la seguridad alimentaria.

Asimismo, alertamos nuevamente que las regulaciones no arancelarias, incluidas las normas técnicas y las medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias, pueden constituirse en barreras perjudiciales para las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo.

En tal sentido, deseamos llamar la atención respecto a situaciones que nos preocupan, como la creciente relevancia de aspectos comerciales en la agenda de las organizaciones internacionales de referencia, menoscabando su rigor científico y técnico; el uso de las normas internacionales de referencia con propósitos que se apartan de los específicos de cada organización, en muchos casos sin la debida justificación y, finalmente, el impacto cada vez mayor de las normas y regulaciones privadas, las cuales se han erigido como verdaderos condicionamientos de acceso a los mercados.

En ese sentido, continuaremos trabajando en los ámbitos de negociación correspondientes a fin de asegurar el debido cumplimiento de los acuerdos internacionales y prevenir distorsiones que obstaculicen el comercio internacional.

Finalmente, un mejor acceso a mayores mercados representa una necesidad clave para los productores rurales de los países en desarrollo pero es sólo una de las condiciones que ayudará a su progreso. El lema de la Conferencia nos destaca acertadamente la función vital de las mujeres en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural.

En ese sentido, la Secretaría de Agricultura Familiar y Desarrollo Rural de la Argentina asume una atención integral de la mujer rural, impulsando y promoviendo el reconocimiento efectivo de sus derechos. Por lo tanto, apoyamos y compartimos las tres recomendaciones enunciadas en el documento C 2011/2-Add. 1.

Hablamos al comienzo de expectativas y de urgencias y estamos seguros que el trabajo de todos los Miembros de la FAO logrará que las expectativas se conviertan en realidades y nos ayuden a combatir las urgencias.

Ms Nike KOUTRAKOU (Greece)

I would like first of all to convey the greetings and best wishes of the Greek Minister of Rural Development and Food, Mr Constantine Skandalidis who regrets being unable to participate personally due to circumstances in Greece.

It is also my pleasure to convey the congratulations of my country to the newly-elected Director-General of FAO, and to wish him good health and success in this demanding task of combating poverty and hunger in the world. The election of Mr José Graziano da Silva is the recognition of his outstanding personality and his achievements in advancing political stability and social cohesion, in his country as well as globally, diffusing social tension that has been aggravated by widespread poverty and hunger as a result of world imbalances in economic development.

The international community is facing several major global challenges: economic recession, climate change and food insecurity. International prices of major food commodities have reached, once again in the first four months of the current year, their highest level since 2008. A trend is emerging, indicating excessive price volatility of food products which, in our view, can destabilize agricultural economies and can have severe consequences on food security by discouraging investment in agriculture with consequent decline of production. Excessive price volatility undoubtedly impacts on poverty, in particular rural poverty, thereby exacerbating malnutrition and hunger, the elevation of which is among our primary tasks.

Particular attention needs to be paid to vulnerable population groups such as women, rural youth and landless farmers. There is no doubt that particular factors play a crucial role in the development of price volatility and, therefore, policy measures are urgently needed on a global level. To speculate on people's access to food is not only unethical but it may also prove economically-catastrophic and requires concrete counteraction.

In this context, Greece considers it of vital importance that FAO is the major Organization of the United Nations for agricultural development and food security should lead a global initiative to encourage the undertaking of a series of measures to help stop undermining agricultural production by regulating the agricultural market of derivatives.

According to recent studies, market transparency and information, especially on production and stocks, are crucial. If we fail to address this problem radically right now, we may experience an increased wave of rural exodus and land abandonment with detrimental effects on food security.

Mr. Chairman, as mentioned above, rural women are among the most affected by the such threats. They are also part of the solution to the problem. This strongly emphasizes the importance of women in rural areas as a driving force in the development of sustainable agriculture.

Efforts in reducing malnutrition and hunger should take into account women's contribution in generating growth, both in the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. While respecting environment and natural resources, women are, as we say in Greece, the warrantors of the next generations.

Therefore, national governments should design policies assuring that gender mainstreaming plays a vital role in all agricultural activities and initiatives related to land cultivation, investment and food security. The assistance of this Organization in designing and implementing such policies in cooperation with Member Nations is of far more importance, and we look forward to it. Greece trusts that a reformed FAO with a newly-elected leadership will continue and carry out its important mandate in an efficient and effective manner, and wishes every success in this work.

M. Jean-Baptiste KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso)

Avant tout chose, permettez-moi de présenter les félicitations de la Délégation du Burkina Faso au Président de la présente Conférence, son Excellence Tefera Derbew. Nous présentons également nos félicitations au Directeur général élu, M. José Graziano da Silva et nos félicitations vont également aux Membres du Bureau. M. le Président, ma Délégation est convaincue que, sous votre direction et connaissant votre sagesse, vous conduirez avec succès les travaux de notre Conférence.

Je m'apprêtais à parler en dernière position mais vous remercie de me donner la parole maintenant. Pour le Burkina Faso, le fait d'avoir retenu le thème de cette Conférence: «Le rôle essentiel des femmes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural» témoigne d'une prise de conscience qu'une méprise, voire qu'une injustice, a eu cours ou cours encore en ce qui concerne la contribution de la femme dans l'agriculture et le développement rural dans nombreux de pays.

Le rôle de la femme dans n'importe quel secteur de la vie dépend d'une volonté politique, dépend également d'une vision politique mais à côté, sachez qu'il y a des résistances culturelles ou autres. C'est pourquoi ma Délégation espère et souhaite qu'au sortir de cette Conférence, notre prise de conscience aura grandi davantage et que de fortes et audacieuses résolutions seront prises pour reconnaître et renforcer le rôle des femmes dans la sécurisation alimentaire à travers leurs contributions multiples et multiformes dans l'agriculture et le développement rural. Pour le Burkina Faso, vous l'aurez constaté, il vaut mieux parler d'un rôle essentiel des femmes. Mais permettez-moi ici de retracer quelques actions entreprises au Burkina Faso au profit des femmes avant de vous donner quelques lignes directrices. Le Gouvernement du Burkina Faso a fait l'état des lieux et a demandé à certaines associations féminines et institutions de renom de lui faire des suggestions pour corriger, voire améliorer les contributions dans l'agriculture et dans le milieu rural, surtout pour favoriser l'épanouissement de la femme et de la famille en milieu rural. De cet état des lieux, nous avons fait des constats et je vais vous donner quelques indications.

Nous avons abouti à retracer la politique de sécurisation foncière, à des initiatives visant à réduire les inégalités touchant les femmes et les hommes. Nous avons également tracé des projets et programmes de renforcement des capacités des femmes rurales. En ce qui concerne la politique de la sécurisation foncière en milieu rural, des lois ont été prises et des corrections ont été apportées à un document qui existait au Burkina Faso et qu'on appelait «Le régime agraire et foncier». Dans cette constatation, nous avons vu que 90 pour cent des terres cultivées étaient détenues par les hommes, il fallait corriger cela et le Burkina Faso l'a fait.

Des efforts sont également faits pour l'implantation des jeunes, parmi lesquels il y a des jeunes filles, dans une vallée qu'on appelle Le Sourou, et cette vallée draine un fleuve qui va jusqu'au Ghana, La Volta.

En ce qui concerne les initiatives visant à réduire les inégalités touchant les femmes, nous avons élaboré un document appelé: «Stratégie de croissance accélérée et de développement durable». Dans ce document, nous visons l'équilibre entre les sexes, l'amélioration du statut de la femme et l'intégration du genre dans tous les secteurs de développement. Le Ministère de la promotion de la femme qui veille à la mise de tous les programmes et de tous les projets concernant la femme, comme par exemple le Programme d'investissement du secteur de l'agriculture et de l'hydraulique (PISAH) ou encore le Projet de production du niébé où chaque femme est autorisée à avoir 0.5 ha. Nous avons un projet de mécanisation agricole qui s'étend sur cinq ans et qui a pour ambition de fournir annuellement 100 000 matériels de traction animale aux femmes exploitantes agricoles.

En conclusion, la Délégation du Burkina Faso pense qu'il faut aider les femmes à se former sur plusieurs plans allant de l'agriculture mécanisée à la transformation, à l'enrichissement et à la conservation des produits alimentaires en passant par l'accès au crédit, l'accès aux marchés, la possibilité d'épargner leurs gains et de les avoir chaque fois que cela est possible. Nous nous n'oublions pas l'alphabétisation, les soins de santé et la gestion des micro-projets.

C'est pourquoi nous demandons que les textes d'orientation prononcés par M. Kofi Annan, M. Luc Guyau et M. Hafez Ghanem soient exploités à bon escient et que nous puissions, dans quelques temps, nous retrouver pour d'autres combats à mener.

Sr. Crisantos OBAMA ONDO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Me cabe el alto honor de intervenir ante este 37.º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO en representación del Ministro de Agricultura y Bosques, Jefe de la Delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial, requerido urgentemente en la capital por otras cuestiones oficiales, relativas a la celebración de la Cumbre de la Unión Africana en Malabo en estas mismas fechas.

Por lo tanto, en su nombre y el del Gobierno, quiero en primer lugar expresar mis cálidas y sinceras felicitaciones al Director General-Electo de la FAO, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, por la confianza merecida de los Estados Miembros para dirigir en los próximos años a esta Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y Alimentación (FAO). Le deseamos aciertos y éxitos.

Paralelamente, queremos extender en nombre del Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial el reconocimiento a Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General saliente, por los éxitos que han coronado su gestión al frente de la FAO durante su mandato, a pesar de las innumerables dificultades, y por haber reforzado la cooperación entre la FAO y Guinea Ecuatorial, y desde aquí le decimos muchas gracias.

Coincidimos con muchas otras delegaciones en reconocer que este 37.º Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia se celebra en un momento en el que la situación del hambre y la malnutrición es alarmante y conoce realidades críticas, con el alza de precios de los principales alimentos y la volatilidad de los mercados agrícolas, y a lo que se suma la crisis económica generalizada, que afecta tanto a los países más avanzados, los emergentes así como a los países en vía de desarrollo, incidiendo negativamente en la producción y comercialización de los alimentos.

El Gobierno de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial valora en alto el marco de trabajo establecido en la FAO y su constante búsqueda de estrategias que promuevan el desarrollo de la agricultura en el mundo. Es en este sentido, mi Gobierno expresa su firme voluntad de mantener y reforzar la cooperación que desde hace varios años viene manteniendo con la FAO, trabajando incesantemente por erradicar el hambre, la miseria y la malnutrición en el mundo.

En Guinea Ecuatorial, la actividad agrícola sigue siendo básicamente tradicional y de subsistencia, con la utilización de herramientas rudimentarias, y por donde se destaca una alta participación de la mujer, desde la producción, preparación hasta la comercialización. Pero con el aumento de la población, la capacidad productiva a través de estos sistemas ya es incapaz de atender a la creciente demanda de la población y el país se convierte en un importador neto de productos alimenticios.

Para ello, mi Gobierno, aprovechando los beneficios provenientes del petróleo y de las oportunidades que nos brinda la propia naturaleza (me refiero a la fertilidad del suelo, el clima favorable y el régimen pluvial regular), está adoptando políticas pragmáticas en el área rural, orientadas a reforzar la capacitación productiva y de gestión de la mujer en el marco de una política global de igualdad social promovido por el Ministerio de Promoción de la Mujer y Asuntos Sociales y el Ministerio de Agricultura y Bosques, ofreciendo asistencia técnica precisa qual que dotación de dinero en efectivo, material y equipos agrícolas en forma de micro-créditos.

Y reconociendo las oportunidades que presenta el Programa Detallado de la Agricultura Africana (CAADP), aunque con un ligero retraso, el Gobierno ha iniciado un proceso de negociación con todas las partes implicadas en el desarrollo agrícola para definir un compromiso común de desarrollo agrícola nacional.

Por ello albergamos esperanzas de que con esa nueva dinámica de Reforma de la FAO y la elección del nuevo Director General con amplia experiencia en el dominio del hambre, el futuro sea más claro y próspero. Tenemos fe en que la cooperación Sur-Sur recobre un nuevo dinamismo en este proceso para responder a las necesidades técnicas y financieras que aquejan varias sociedades en desarrollo.

No obstante, el camino es largo y las dificultades y obstáculos son numerosos, para lo cual se necesita el esfuerzo de todos para afrontar este gran reto de erradicar completamente el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Mme Geri Guerda BENOIT (Haïti)

La Délégation haïtienne est très honorée de participer à la trente-septième Conférence de la FAO. Pour faire état, non seulement de la situation de l'alimentation et l'agriculture en Haïti mais surtout le rôle essentiel des femmes haïtiennes dans l'agriculture. Nous voulons cependant reconnaître et saluer pour commencer l'immense travail que M. Diouf a accompli sans relâche durant ces dernières 18 années et d'avoir pu et d'avoir su trouver les bonnes méthodes et les bonnes formules pour venir en aide à Haïti. Le peuple haïtien lui en est train reconnaissant.

Au candidat espagnol, M. Moratinos, la Délégation haïtienne souhaite le meilleur et le remercie de nous avoir engagé pendant toute sa campagne dans cet exercice démocratique. Nous adressons nos sincères félicitations à M. Graziano da Silva, notre nouveau Directeur général élu. Nous voulons, par la même occasion, l'assurer de notre soutien et de notre entière collaboration afin de continuer les réformes nécessaires pour qu'ensemble nous travaillions à réduire et même à avoir l'espoir d'éradiquer la faim dans le monde. Bonne chance, M. Graziano da Silva.

Après tout, l'éradication de la faim, qui est le premier des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, devra être encore pendant quatre ans, jusqu'en 2015, ce que nous avons tous en commun et ce qui nous lie à la FAO. La FAO, tout comme Haïti, devra mobiliser tous ses Membres: tous ses amis autour d'un projet commun car les défis à relever pendant ces prochaines années sont immenses et les ressources financières de plus en plus rares.

Notre pays, Haïti, est dirigé depuis le 14 mai par le Président M. Michel Martelly. Outre son Cabinet particulier, le Président Martelly n'a pas encore en place le Gouvernement institutionnel, et donc légal, sur lequel il peut compter. Cependant, l'État haïtien continue d'avancer et la sécurité alimentaire est prioritaire. Cela se voyait déjà pendant la campagne du Président pour avoir choisi le parti politique «Réponse paysan». Ce message était donc très clair pour nous tous mais il continue de s'affirmer parce que le secteur agricole et le domaine agro-alimentaire sont les premiers où l'État haïtien et le groupe en place commencent à intervenir.

Pour relever ce défi, nous savons tous qu'il faut compter sur les femmes haïtiennes. La nouvelle équipe devra donc compter sur une population jeune, de 10 millions d'habitants, presque tous très jeunes et dont 50 pour cent ont moins de 35 ans et 52 pour cent sont des femmes, nous parlons donc d'à peu près 5,5 millions de personnes. Soixante pour cent de ces femmes vivent en milieu rural et sont les chefs de famille, pour la plupart chefs de famille mono-parentale. Elles ont donc la responsabilité d'éduquer la nouvelle génération qui devra prendre la relève, la responsabilité de nous nourrir tous en plantant, irriguant, vendant des produits agricoles sans avoir reçu une formation adéquate, sans avoir accès au crédit et aux agences financières, sans comprendre les règles des marchés internationaux et seraient incapables de définir le terme «développement durable».

Ce sont ces femmes haïtiennes en milieu rural qui représentent donc l'autre moitié du développement en Haïti qui sont les «potomitants» donc les piliers de cette société et leur rôle primordial dans l'économie du pays est estimé à 70 pour cent et il est difficile de continuer de calculer leur apport qui n'est reflété dans aucun des rapports que nous avons jusqu'à présent.

En 2007, le Ministère de l'agriculture, des ressources naturelles et du développement rural a signé un partenariat avec le Ministère des droits de la femme pour que ces femmes soient incluses dans les programmes agricoles et que leur travail soit reflété dans les programmes mis en place par le Gouvernement haïtien. Ceci a commencé à porter ses fruits en 2007 où nous avons constaté une augmentation de 25 pour cent de la production agricole qui malheureusement n'a pas pu continuer de s'accroître à cause de la crise alimentaire mondiale en 2008, les quatre ouragans qui ont dévasté nos productions à la fin de septembre et en octobre et le tremblement de terre de 2010 est venu consacrer la perte de ces acquis.

L'impact du séisme sur l'agriculture n'a pas été direct, puisqu'il n'a pas endommagé les récoltes, par contre l'exode de 600 000 personnes de la capitale vers les milieux ruraux ont fait peser, traverser et augmenter les familles de 4/5 personnes à 8/10 personnes et a provoqué une carence de nourriture pour ces nouvelles familles agrandies.

L'une des premières mesures prise récemment est la structuration du secteur agricole. Haïti, comme vous le savez est dans le couloir des ouragans et donc susceptible, comme chaque année, à des changements climatiques de toute sorte, à des interventions et cette année la météo annonce une saison particulièrement active. Cette structuration devra donc tenir compte de l'agriculture, de la situation géographique d'Haïti et rendre l'agriculture plus rentable en créant des activités génératrices de revenus, tout en tenant compte de la décentralisation et donc le renforcement des capacités locales.

Tout ceci pour arriver à une véritable autonomie de tous les secteurs et de tous les acteurs du secteur agricole. Pour ce faire, il faudra donc continuer les tables rondes régionales et locales, créer des

espaces où les voix des agricultrices et des fermières doivent se faire entendre. La modernisation du secteur agricole en Haïti nécessite de nouveaux mécanismes pour avoir une discipline beaucoup plus rigoureuse, une meilleure coordination et une cohérence dans la réalisation des projets. Une nouvelle plateforme sera mise en place, pour mieux accueillir l'aide externe, qui sera gérée à partir des plans proposés par le Gouvernement de concert avec les institutions internationales, les organisations non-gouvernementales et les investisseurs haïtiens de la diaspora.

Ce processus devra donc être plus transparent et nous permettra d'éviter le saupoudrage, le gaspillage et la mauvaise gestion des fonds. Une nouvelle campagne pour attirer les investisseurs est en cours de réalisation par le centre de facilitation des investissements et le secteur agricole est le premier visé. Nous continuons donc notre prise de conscience de mobilisation pour la restructuration et la reconstruction d'Haïti: attirer de nouveaux investisseurs dont les premiers seraient les 4 000 millions d'habitants haïtiens qui vivent en diaspora pour qu'à travers les fonds qu'ils envoient en Haïti maintenant viennent renforcer le budget national qui sera de moins en moins pour la consommation et de plus en plus pour les investissements et pour appuyer la restructuration et la décentralisation.

Cette campagne promet et propose l'allégement des codes des investissements et des mesures législatives comme l'exonération fiscale et la franchise douanière.

La Délégation d'Haïti souhaiterait donc voir refléter dans la Réforme de la FAO les mesures nécessaires pour protéger les femmes gestionnaires de petites exploitations agricoles et souhaiterait aussi que le Groupe de travail, créé par les trois agences onusiennes ici à Rome, continue d'accompagner l'État haïtien pour garder une certaine continuité et une cohésion des actions entreprises en Haïti.

Cette discipline rigoureuse de travailler ensemble aura pour mérite d'utiliser les leçons apprises par la situation douloureuse qu'a connu Haïti jusqu'à présent et la transformer en une opportunité pour nous tous ici dans la grande famille de la FAO, d'apprendre à réaliser de façon solidaire des programmes holistiques et durables qui nous mèneront à voir et à traverser le Rio + 20 l'année prochaine, l'ONU en 2015, 2025 et 2050 et ainsi respecter le calendrier international de façon cohérente.

Le peuple haïtien et les femmes agricultrices en milieu rural deviendront donc du même coup de plus en plus autonomes et des citoyennes à part entière. Merci et bonne chance à nous tous.

CHAIRPERSON

There are requests from Estonia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Austria and El Salvador for their statements to be included in the Verbatim Record of this session. Their statements will be included in the Verbatim Records of this session.

Mr Helir-Valdor SEEDER (Estonia)³

Honorable delegates,

As FAO is facing one of the biggest challenges of the past decades - the reform of its structures and prioritizing new goals for the organization – it is more important than ever before to mutually agree upon the values and principles when rebuilding a more coherent institution. There are of course many aspects that are essential for the success of FAO, but most crucial are the following five.

Firstly, the encouraging developments in close cooperation with other international organizations such as the OECD have already resulted in mutually beneficial analyses such as the joint food price development projection and joint work on bio-energy. Recently, FAO launched a useful and well-targeted instrument helping to understand and cope with price volatility, food waste or bio-energy production support policies. We believe that these synergies between organizations will benefit their administrations, but more importantly the expertise created will also have more channels to reach the final beneficiaries.

³ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request

Secondly, FAO's role as forum should not be underestimated. FAO could play a much stronger role in providing the forum for exchange of information and communication. On regional, inter-regional and global level there could be many more meetings on emerging issues such as the bio-energy production developments, share distribution in food chains, media role in food perception, combatting wasting food, etc. We welcome the CCP initiative to gather representatives of countries with different trade policies and import-export status to discuss issues together with qualified experts from FAO. It is therefore necessary to underline that FAO should retain its status as an open forum, and further develop the concept in order to find a balance between responding to the Members' needs and efficiently using the resources available.

Thirdly, one of the most burning issues of how to feed the planet is definitely a very complex one with no single instrument to solve the problem. It has to be seen within the background of demographic developments, access to education, gender equity, and economic development. As the main problem is not availability of food but access to food, we therefore welcome the initiatives of WFP regarding school feeding programmes as well as IFAD's work on rural entrepreneurial development. Another crucial issue is related to scarce natural resources. We do have regular reviews on malnutrition, we follow closely the food price development, and we have regular forestry and fisheries reports. But we also need to have regular water or agricultural land reports that would be useful in making us aware of the seriousness of the situation concerning the most important assets for food production.

Fourthly, it is necessary to point out the importance of transparency and communication in achieving the goals stated. Transparency for us means access and, if needed, guidance regarding the information. Of course, the information sessions and Permanent Representatives' Website besides subject specific sites are very useful. But two key issues remain: finding the right information and finding sensitive information necessary for Member Nations.

Fifthly, and in order to conclude, we are glad to announce of the humble Estonian contribution to FAO. An Estonian Communication Centre at the entrance to the Iran Room has been opened during the Conference, equipped with two Skype videophones providing video contact around the globe for free. We stress: for free. This enables all the representatives' equal possibilities to contact their home ministries, NGO's or families. The only condition – the contact partner should also have access to Skype.

Let us take this opportunity to wish the newly-elected DG success in bringing FAO to the center of developments around food and renewable natural resources. We, the Member Nations, should also take the responsibility for success of the reforms based on improved communication between Members and Regions.

Mr HAN Tae Song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)⁴

Allow me to extend congratulations on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to you Mr Tefera Derbew upon your election as the President of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference. I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Secretariat of FAO and the Italian Government for the sincere efforts to ensure the success of this session.

At the same time, I extend my congratulations to Mr José Graziano da Silva upon his election as the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I hereby express my conviction that FAO will gain more innovative successes under his experienced leadership.

To ensure global food security is one of the priority issues in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Over the past two years, the FAO endeavoured to ensure global food security and to diversify agriculture, in the course of which it achieved successes.

In particular, FAO strengthened the Committee on World Food Security as an integrated coordinating agency for food security in conformity with the declaration adopted in the World Food Summit on

⁴ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request

Food Security in November, 2009. It allocated more resources to agricultural technical assistance and cooperated with other international organizations to respond to the rise in food prices.

All these are the indications that FAO is playing a leading role in the efforts to cope with the challenges that threaten the existence of mankind.

We recognize that the Programme of Work and budget for 2012-2013 pursuant to the Medium-Term Plan 2010-2013 are well-drafted to ensure global food security and to support the agricultural development of Member Nations.

We consider that FAO took practical steps by concentrating its resources on the efforts to address key issues such as the prevention of damages by climate change and natural disasters and allocating savings from the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget to the high-priority areas including the Committee on World Food Security, FAO Water Platform, International Plant Protection Convention and nutrition.

Ten years ago, mankind greeted the new Century with great hope and ambition. However, the desire of mankind to enjoy peaceful and equal life remains unfulfilled due to the serious challenges. The global food crisis that stem from continued natural disasters, sky-rocketing food and fuel prices, and expansion of bio-fuel production calls on FAO to take active measures in the efforts to ensure global food security.

It is the belief of our delegation that the following issues deserve attention as regards the ‘ Review of the State of Food and Agriculture ’, which is the key agenda of this session.

First, we need to create socio-economic conditions and an international environment favourable to the increase of agricultural productivity of the developing countries.

FAO should create the environment that will enable agricultural products from the developing countries to be sold in international market without restrictions. At the same time, the developed countries should step up their efforts to fulfil their international assistance commitments without fail.

What matters here is to increase the share of ODA devoted to agriculture to a level of 17 percent in the 1980s, while exempting the developing countries from foreign debts as far as possible.

At the same time, the parties concerned should fulfil their commitment to agricultural cooperation to the developing countries, as affirmed in the High-Level Conference on World Food Security held in Rome in 2008, and in other international meetings. The production of bio-fuel should be dealt with in the light of ensuring global food security.

Second, FAO should encourage its Member Nations to formulate agricultural policies and strategies on the basis of their specific conditions to increase agricultural output.

FAO should also encourage the increase of government resources for the development of agriculture and rural areas, while giving greater impetus to international cooperation aimed at resolving scientific and technological issues arising in the course of effective use of water resources, the use of animal and plant genetic resources, prevention of pests, and prevention and treatment of transboundary animal diseases.

Third, the Programme of Work and Budget to be approved in this session should not affect the Technical Cooperation Programme and Special Programme for Food Security. Greater efforts should be made to implement these two programmes. The Technical Cooperation Programme and Special Programme for Food Security implemented by FAO in developing countries made immense contributions to the sustainable development of agriculture and the efforts to ensure food security. In short, the validity of these two programmes has been fully demonstrated.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea entered a new phase of building a powerful and prosperous country under the leadership of the great leader General Kim Jong IL. By a powerful and prosperous country, we mean a country with great national resources where everything prospers and people lead a happy life. It is in full conformity with the Millennium Development Goals.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has identified the agricultural sector as the lifeline of the efforts to improve the living conditions of people, and has concentrated all its resources on the development of agriculture.

In order to ensure food security, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea currently focuses on seed revolution, double-cropping, potato farming and soybean farming, the benefits of which had already been demonstrated. At the same time, it is strengthening the material and technical assistance to the rural area.

Our efforts to build a strong economy will certainly contribute to the development of the global economy and food security, as well as the efforts of the international community aimed at implementing the Millennium Development Goals and the Action Plan of the World Food Summit.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Korea will continue to strengthen cooperation with FAO and its Member Nations on the basis of principles underlying its foreign policy – the principles of independence, peace, and friendship – and make positive contributions toward international efforts in achieving global food security.

Mr Nikolaus BERLAKOVICH (Austria)⁵

First of all, I would like to convey the sincere wishes of Minister Berlakovich for the success of the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference which is of great importance to the future of FAO. Due to unforeseen reasons, Mr Berlakovich is unfortunately not able to attend today.

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva to his election to become the next Director-General of FAO. Although Austria's candidate, Mr Franz Fischer, was not able to succeed in the elections, please rest assured that we are fully committed in supporting the newly-elected Director-General and his team in the realization of their visions.

Please let me also show my deepest respect for all other candidates who led a strong campaign and have proven themselves to be equal opponents. Now that the elections have been held we need to re-focus our mindsets again on some of the most pressing issues these days. One of them is reflected in today's theme, "The Vital Role of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development."

The recently-published Report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011, *Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development*, is a striking reminder of the immanent importance of women in agriculture in every part of the world.

The report revealed that if women in rural areas of the planet had the same access to the land, technology, financial services, markets and education as men do, the number of hungry people would significantly be reduced. But unfortunately they do not. Alarming, this unfairness can be observed in every region of the planet, and is repeated under different national, cultural, political, and religious conditions.

We need to realize that women are the backbone of the agricultural sector and rural development and they are key to addressing the food security goals that are central to our commitments to cut hunger in half by 2015.

In addition, armed conflict, urbanization and, of course, the HIV/AIDS epidemic are major factors that have all contributed to a rapid decline in the male population in many rural areas. There, we are able to witness a rising trend of rural women becoming increasingly more responsible for household food production.

According to the Report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 the share of the economically-active female population engaged in or seeking work in agriculture, hunting, fishing or forestry in Eastern Africa is already as close as 80 percent in 2010.

Still, compared to male farmers, women farmers have unequal access to and use of a wide range of agricultural resources, including land, livestock, and mechanical tools, inputs such as fertilizers,

⁵ Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request

pesticides, and improved seeds and financial and extension services such as agricultural credits and technical know-how and training.

It is our duty to ensure that the concerns and needs of rural women are systematically brought into every stage of agricultural development programmes. Those programmes must adapt to this changing demographic situation so that women can have equal access to education and acquire the necessary training in new productivity-enhancing techniques and technologies. Unsurprisingly, even basic education for women has shown significant impacts on agricultural production.

Agriculture is underperforming in many developing countries, and one of the key reasons is that women do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive. Yet, we are facing increasingly complex and global challenges in food production. In this regard, it will be more necessary than ever to take account of the needs of women in rural areas and to utilize their potential.

Therefore, we need to focus on the recognition and empowerment of women as farmers, workers, professionals and household managers, and continue to diminish gender stereotypes. We are obliged to identify and remove all barriers in order to let women fully participate in the work and rewards of agriculture and rural development. Forms of training and counselling provisions for women with a specific rural focus have proved their worth in many areas, and should continue to be supported.

We must accelerate steps to empower women in agriculture and erode all forms of discriminatory practices against women. Women farmers must have a share in rights and duties that is commensurate with their responsibility for the farm business, including access to land and education, but also by obtaining a real share of the farm income.

Europe and the Common Agricultural Policy can and will be a part of the solution. The future design of the CAP will strategically aim at promoting global food security, supporting farming communities, and maintaining viable rural communities in continuously improving the status of women in the world.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMÉNEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)⁶

La Delegación de El Salvador desea hacer llegar al nuevo Director General de la FAO, Profesor José Graziano da Silva, sus más sinceras felicitaciones por su acertada elección. Estamos convencidos que bajo su dirección, esta Organización se fortalecerá aún más para el bien de las poblaciones más necesitadas del planeta.

Deseamos asimismo expresar nuestro profundo agradecimiento al Doctor Jacques Diouf por sus intensos años al frente de la FAO, durante los cuales puso a su servicio sus grandes cualidades y capacidades, dedicándole todos sus esfuerzos por hacer nuestra FAO fuerte, eficiente y orientada a lograr el bienestar de las poblaciones rurales en todo el mundo.

El sector agropecuario en El Salvador tiene una estructura productiva predominantemente familiar, así lo demuestra en IV Censo Agropecuario del 2008, el donde se ha logrado establecer que existen 390,475 unidades productivas en el país, de las cuales más del 80% de estas explotaciones son menores de 3 hectáreas, lo cual pone en evidencia la automatización de las explotaciones, y la marcada naturaleza familiar de las mismas.

Este grupo de familias rurales contribuye con más del 70% en la producción nacional de granos básicos y otros rubros, y esto se encuentra ligado fuertemente a la seguridad alimentaria del país, paradójicamente una buena parte de estas familias rurales viven en condiciones de pobreza, que se evidencia en los altos niveles de desnutrición. Del universo total de las unidades productivas registradas en el censo del 2008 se identifican dos grandes grupos:

La Agricultura Familiar de Subsistencia (AFS) representa el 83% del total de productores y productoras del país; de este porcentaje el 14% son administradas por jefes de hogar del sexo femenino. Sin embargo, existen fuertes evidencias empíricas que este dato es un sub-registro,

⁶ Texto incluido en el informe a petición expresa

provocado por la cultura de sumisión o invisibilización del verdadero rol de la mujer en las actividades agrícolas.

En estas micro-unidades agrícolas, generalmente son de pequeños productores y productoras que generalmente viven en la parcela, utilizan mano de obra familiar como única fuerza de trabajo, la extensión de su parcela no excede las 3 hectáreas y no le permite devengar un ingreso mínimo para las necesidades básicas del hogar y el destino principal de la producción es el auto-consumo.

En este contexto, la situación de las mujeres ha sido y sigue siendo especialmente difícil (violencia, pobreza, discriminación laboral, sin asistencia técnica/capacitación, invisibilización de su aporte económico a través del trabajo doméstico hogareño, alta de organización para la producción comercialización y generación de ingresos y de su decisiva participación comunitaria, emigración masculina y sin incidencia en los hogares, entre otros elementos. Uno de los problemas más apremiantes está relacionado con los espacios y las posibilidades reales de organizarse y, por tanto, de fortalecer su protagonismo. Frente a ello, se erigen de inmediato fuertes barreras, comenzando en las reacciones machistas de familiares y terminando en las formas tradicionales y patriarcales de ejercer el poder en las organizaciones sociales, económicas y políticas.

Los espacios para la participación organizada de las mujeres rurales como tales, en la formulación y desarrollo de las políticas públicas, son muy limitados, aunque en programas y proyectos se han ampliado las posibilidades de inserción. Pero el protagonismo se ha mantenido en un nivel bajo.

En esta línea, la Presidencia de la República con el liderazgo del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería está impulsando el Plan de Agricultura Familiar y Emprendedurismo Rural para la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional (PAF) como una agenda nacional para la concreción de las apuestas del Plan Quinquenal en materia de desarrollo económico productivo y aseguramiento de la seguridad alimentaria en los territorios rurales y pobres del país.

Con esta agenda estratégica como punto de referencia y el acompañamiento integral de socios clave como la FAO, FIA, PMA y el IICA, el PAF ha establecido líneas de trabajo y apoyo para dignificar al rol de la mujer en la agricultura, principalmente en aquellas unidades agrícolas de subsistencia, incorporando activamente a los foros consultivos del PAF a las mujeres, a través de un trabajo continuo con la Mesa Nacional de Mujeres Rurales.

Este conglomerado de asociaciones y líderes agrícolas se constituyó en septiembre de 2009 para promover el desarrollo de la mujer en el ámbito rural y lograr su inserción en los planes, programas y políticas que llevan a cabo el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, ha abierto un importante experiencia como mecanismo a través del cual las mujeres puedan expresar sus problemas, generar propuestas para enfrentarlos y, al mismo tiempo, ejercer ciudadanía activa, promoviendo espacios de incidencia y contraloría social.

La Mesa Nacional de Mujeres Rurales contó para su conformación con el acompañamiento del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería y de otras entidades gubernamentales y no gubernamentales. Actualmente está conformada por alrededor de (40) organizaciones: asociaciones de productores, asociaciones comunitarias de mujeres y cooperativas. De igual forma participan productoras y pescadoras que han sido atendidas por las diferentes direcciones, programas y proyectos del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería de El Salvador.

La Mesa es una organización joven que necesita fortalecer su capacidad de organización, liderazgo, concertación, incidencia y contraloría social, que le permita cumplir con su visión “ser el referente para la toma de decisiones en niveles de conducción, y ejerciendo contraloría e incidiendo para la implementación políticas públicas con enfoque de derechos y análisis de género que favorezcan a las mujeres rurales con acceso y control de los recursos económicos, sociales, culturales, políticos y naturales, para mejorar las condiciones y calidad de vida de las mujeres rurales”.

No obstante el nivel de desarrollo alcanzado por la MNMR, ante los desafíos de un entorno rural y agropecuario crítico y completo, que cada vez demanda capacidad de respuesta y propuesta efectiva de los sujetos claves, es necesario y urgente el fortalecimiento integral de ese espacio, a fin de alcanzar una participación protagónica de las mujeres en los procesos relacionados con el desarrollo rural y

agropecuario, tanto a nivel nacional como local. Específicamente se necesita ampliar la organización, lograr mayor nivel de unidad, fortalecer el liderazgo colectivo, fortalecer la capacidad de la dirección de la MNMR y de sus asociadas contar con agendas consensuadas y con plataformas de intereses claros que propicien el desarrollo económico y social de las mujeres.

Es importante señalar que para alcanzar mejores niveles en su organización y desarrollo para su inserción en el sector agropecuario, la Mesa Nacional de Mujeres y el Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería ven especialmente en la FAO un aliado clave, reconociendo su experiencia en el tema y el desarrollo de proyectos similares.

Sobre la base de este principio, se ha diseñado un Programa de Apoyo Técnico conjunto MAG – FAO con el propósito de fortalecer el liderazgo y desarrollo organizativo de la Mesa Nacional de Mujeres Rurales, relacionada con el sector agropecuario, mediante su consolidación y desarrollo como referente e instancia para la interlocución ante el MAG y otras entidades gubernamentales.

El Gobierno considera que el logro de los objetivos y las metas del plan quinquenal depende en buena medida de potenciar el rol de la mujer dentro de la reactivación y modernización del sector agropecuario. Por lo tanto, uno de los principios de la política pública para este sector es la promoción de la competitividad, la productividad, la innovación, las actividades de alto valor agregado y el desarrollo de encadenamientos estratégicos que aumenten el valor a los productores agropecuarios y diversifiquen las fuentes de ingreso de las familias rurales.

CHAIRPERSON

If the Conference agrees there is a request from International Alliance of Women to deliver a speech.

Do you agree on their request? I have to ask your confirmation. Do you agree? Ok.

The answer is 'yes', so I invite Ms Bettina Corke, Permanent Representative for the International Alliance of Women to FAO to take the floor.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance of Women)

We would like to thank the organizers of this Conference for this kind invitation to address this distinguished audience. We do so with humility but also with a sense of confidence and responsibility of the great role that organizations such as ours have played and will continue to play in this great struggle to alleviate hunger and poverty. The membership of International Alliance of Women is vast and varied. We are an international women's non-governmental organization, and we have observer status throughout the entire UN System.

The International Alliance of Women welcomes FAO's excellent comprehensive 2010-2011, The State of Food and Agriculture report prepared for this Conference, with its special emphasis on women and agriculture closing the gender gap. FAO in its commitment towards the implementation of its own programme and the MDGs, in particular MDG 3, recognizes the importance of promoting the full and equal participation of rural women and men in all its efforts to improve food security and to ensure a reduction of poverty.

Furthermore, the Organization states that it champions the elimination of all obstacles that prevent the equal participation of rural women in decision-making processes and the obtaining decent employment opportunities, access to and control of resources such as land, water, training, credit and technology. The key effect is to be noted of the worth and value of women's activities in agriculture and rural development are provided in FAO's fact sheet on its commitment to the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 3. There is no need to repeat this, but what does need to be stated is that this theoretical acceptance of the worth and value of women in agriculture and rural development receives very little practical programme support by FAO. Whenever help and assistance is offered to this poor women's farming and rural development sector, it often takes the form of short-lived experimental or pilot projects. These limited-in-scope-kind of projects do not have the capability of moving into medium-term and long-term planning national schemes to alleviate hunger and poverty. We note that any help given to this up to now poorly-served agricultural sector of the society will improve the gross domestic economic growth figures in most societies.

In fact, what women do not see happening in any substantive manner are the ways and means to implement that commitment in any of the proposed FAO action plans for food security, although this firm and stated commitment by FAO to implement MDG 3 is in the line with the Convention to End all forms Discrimination Against Women, (CEDAW) and its Article 14 on Rural Women. On the basis of the above and in the light of FAOs commitment to women's full participation in agriculture and rural sustainable development, IAW would like to propose the following:

That relevant FAO committees set up a special working group to design a priority programme on the basis and experience of the Brazilian Zero Hunger Programme to ensure the best involvement and use of women's farming and rural development activities in its food security programme.

That the Division for Gender Equality be included in this process.

Why are we making this suggestion to the Conference? The need for decisive progress on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, as addressed in Goal 1 of the MDGs, is critical for the achievement of progress in other MDGs as well.

We must all face the stark reality that very little progress to alleviate hunger and poverty has been achieved since the World Food Summit, and the fact that since the World Food Summit the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty has increased worldwide. Future strategies must incorporate alternative development thinking and a type of agriculture which would encourage small-farmers, women and men, and farming communities to become independent and self-reliant in the production of staple foods for themselves and for their local and regional markets.

In any strategies produced by FAO there has to be recognition of the fact that the majority of people living in extreme poverty in the rural areas are women and their families. As stated in UNIDO's publication, Agro-Business for Africa's Prosperity and here I quote " a key first step in exploiting and recognizing smallholder farms as agro-businesses, regardless of their size and scale, so that they may no longer remain trapped in a cycle of subsistence".

Therefore, any attempt by FAO to alleviate poverty and hunger must address gender discrimination and violence against women. This attempt must be geared towards poor women living in the rural areas to have full participation and sustainable rural development in the exercise of their human rights.

In conclusion, the rising cost of food will inevitably increase the number of hungry people and people living in extreme poverty. IAW would like to see FAO approaching this problem of hunger and poverty and rising food prices with a sense of urgency and responsibility.

Thank you again for your kind invitation to speak to you today. In doing so, you are not only honouring the work and activities of our Alliance with many others but you are paying homage to the millions of women who everyday feed their families from their labour and work in the rural areas of the world.

CHAIRPERSON

There is an announcement.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In a few minutes, from one 13:00 to 14:30 there will be a side event on Innovative Financing for Development. Delegates are kindly invited to attend that event which will take place in the Red Room, in this same building, First Floor, and not in the King Faisal as announced in today's Journal.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the conclusion of Item 10, that is Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. Plenary will not reconvene this afternoon as we have already completed the List of Speakers. The Conference will reconvene tomorrow morning at 9:30 with Item 30, Audited Accounts 2008-2009, and the Draft Resolution.

The meeting rose at 12:36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12:36 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE NOVENA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
30 June 2011

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:43 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew,

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 43

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 9:43 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

Governance, Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters

Questions relatives à la gouvernance et questions juridiques, administratives et financiers
Cuestiones de gobernanza y de índole jurídica, administrativa y financiera

Administrative and Financial Matters

Questions administratives et financiers

Cuestiones administrativas y financieras

30. Audited Accounts 2008-2009 (Draft Resolution) (C 2011/5 A; C 2011/5 B; C 2011/LIM/5)

30. Comptes vérifiés pour 2008-2009 (Projet de résolution) (C 2011/5 A; C 2011/5 B;
C 2011/LIM/5)

30. Cuentas comprobadas de 2008-09 (proyecto de resolución) (C 2011/5 A; C 2011/5 B;
C 2011/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Ninth Plenary meeting to order.

The first item in our agenda is this morning is Item 30, Audited Accounts. The relevant documents are C 2011/5 A, C 2011/5 B and C 2011/LIM/5.

I invite Mr Juneja, Assistant Director General of Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department, to introduce the item.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

Document C 2011/5 Part A contains the official financial statements of the Organization for the 2008-2009 biennium, with the opinion of the External Auditor on the financial statements. The document C 2011/5 Part B is the Report of the External Auditor, typically referred to as the long form report.

I am pleased to inform the Conference that, as in previous biennia, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2008-2009 financial statements of the Organization. The results and official accounts of the 2008-2009 biennium were examined by the Finance Committee at its Hundred and Thirty-eighth Session in March 2011 and by the Council at its Hundred and Forty-first Session in April 2011. The Audited Accounts of the previous biennium are now before you for adoption by approval of the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council in documents C 2011/LIM5.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any delegation wish to take the floor on this item?

Can I take it that Conference wishes to approve the Audited Accounts for 2008-2009?

It is so decided. This concludes Item 30.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

31. Scale of Contributions 2012-2013 (Draft Resolution) (C 2011/INF/13 Rev.1; C 2011/LIM/7)

31. Barème des contributions pour 2012-2013 (Projet de résolution) (C 2011/INF/13 Rev.1;
C 2011/LIM/7)

31. Escala de cuotas para 2012-13 (proyecto de resolución) (C 2011/INF/13 Rev.1;
C 2011/LIM/7)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 31: Scale of Contributions 2012-2013 .

The relevant documents are C 2011/INF/13 Rev.1 and C 2011/LIM/7.

I call upon Mr Juneja to introduce this item.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO Scale of Contributions for the years 2012-2013. This has been derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments adopted for the years 2010 through 2012, as established by the General Assembly Resolution 64/248, a resolution which was adopted on 24 December 2009. The previous 2010-2011 Scale is also set out for comparison purposes. Assessments rates of some Member Nations in the UN Scale are slightly lower than those in the FAO Scale since there is a difference in membership which requires a *pro rata* increase in UN assessments rates to arrive at an FAO Scale.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed 2012-2013 Scale of Contributions for FAO at its 138th Session in March 2011, and submitted it to the 141st Council in April this year for endorsement.

The Committee is invited to approve the Draft Resolution as submitted by the Council for the Scale of Contributions for 2012-2013 biennium.

CHAIRPERSON

Would any delegates like to speak on this item? Burkina Faso.

M. Jean-Baptiste KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso)

Monsieur le Président pour l'examen de ce dossier, de ce point, la délégation du Burkina Faso souhaite poser une question. Est-ce que l'examen du barème de contributions n'est pas lié à l'adoption du budget qui s'est fait dans une autre commission?

CHAIRPERSON

Any other questions from delegates? I would like to ask Mr. Juneja to respond to these issues.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

Thank you, Sir. There is a link, in the sense that the amount of payment that would be due from Member Nations is dependent upon the agreed overall level of the budget, as well as the Scale of Contributions that would be payable by each Member Nation for 2012-13. That is a clear arithmetic link. However, the two decisions - the level of the budget on the one hand and the Scale of Contributions on the other hand - are two separate decisions. The decision before you with regard to the Scale of Contributions is very strictly linked to a long standing methodology of FAO which, in turn follows the UN scale of assessments. The level of the budget, on the other hand, is negotiated in compliance with the programmatic proposals that the Director-General has made for the next biennium. That discussion is currently taking place in Commission II and that discussion is inextricably linked to the proposed programmes for 2012-13. The two factors together, the level of the budget, and the Scale of Contributions, will determine the amount of payment to be paid by each Member State.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other questions from delegates? Burkina Faso.

M. Jean-Baptiste KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso)

Ma Délégation voudrait juste s'assurer que nous n'allons pas faire un travail qui sera repris par la suite, voilà pourquoi nous avons souhaité savoir s'il y a un lien actuellement. Ne serait-il pas souhaitable d'attendre que la Commission II vienne exprimer les résultats de son travail pour que la Plénière puisse l'apprécier, et M. le Président, si vous trouvez que, malgré le lien entre le travail qui se fait pour le budget et l'examen de ce Projet de résolution, rien ne peut nous mettre en désaccord, alors nous pouvons adopter ce Projet de résolution.

CHAIRPERSON

As far as decisions are concerned, there are two separate decisions, but we cannot conclude that there is not any link between the two at the end of the day. The contribution will definitely have an impact on the level of budget because the budget is from these contributions, but as far as the decisions are concerned, these are separate issues, so we can address separately the two issues.

Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the Resolution concerning the Scale of Contributions for 2012-2013, is set out in document C 2011/LIM/7?

I would like to give the floor to the Secretary-General who will give a brief report on the recommendations for this Session.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Earlier this week, the Conference endorsed in Commission II the report of the Open-ended Working Group on measures designed to improve the efficiency of governing bodies.

One of the recommendations made by the Open-ended Working Group is for the Secretariat to report on delivery of documents to governing bodies including the Conference.

In this regard, I am pleased to report that out of the 42 main documents prepared for this Conference, 38 documents were online by 28 May, which is the deadline for publication of such documents, and the remaining four documents were published two weeks before the Conference opened.

This is, therefore, in line with the guidance provided by the Open-ended Working Group that the baseline for web-posting of documents should be between two to four weeks ahead of meetings.

On the other hand, delegates will have noticed that Conference documents are shorter compared to previous sessions and now they include boxes on the cover page containing an executive summary and suggesting action by the Conference.

This is also in keeping with the guidance from the Open-ended Working Group and following well-received recent innovations introduced in Council documents as well as other governing bodies such as the Committee on World Food Security.

The Council also recently decided to make the list of participants available as a web annex to the final report of each Session, rather than including it in the printed report, thereby saving paper, space and time. We suggest that, henceforth, the Conference adopt the same approach for its final reports.

Finally, those who have visited the Conference web-page will have noticed a stream of Twitter messages. This is the first time that Conference has used a social medium to communicate its activities and delegates are invited to explore and give feedback on this experiment.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we will proceed to Item 33: Other Administrative and Financial Matters

33. Other Administrative and Financial Matters**33. Autres questions administratives et financières****33. Otras cuestiones administrativas y financieras****CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Mr Mekouar. Does any delegate wish to comment on the information provided by the Secretary-General?

Can I take it that the proposal to make the list of participants available only as a web annex to the final report of the Conference is acceptable? It is so decided.

It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda

Appointments and Elections (continued)
Nominations et elections (suite)
Nombramientos y elecciones (continuación)

9. Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
(C 2011/6)

9. Nomination de représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (C 2011/6)

9. Nombramiento de los representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 2011/6)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations Organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committee's in each of the member Organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose Members and Alternate Members are chosen by the Governing Bodies, the Executive Heads of the Organizations and the participating staff of each Organization. In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine Members and three of the nine Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee. Only the Conference has the authority to appoint Members and Alternate Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Mr Chairperson, the Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the Staff Pension Committee;

Mr. Carlos Bentancour, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to FAO, to serve as member for 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

Mr Marc Mankoussou, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo to FAO to serve as alternate member from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2014.

His Excellency Zohrab Malek, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to FAO to serve as member from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini Koutrakou, Alternate Permanent Representative of Greece to FAO to serve as alternate member from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2015.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference is requested to consider these candidatures and if it finds them acceptable to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become members and alternate members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Burkina Faso.

M. Jean-Baptiste KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso)

Je remercie le Secrétaire général pour sa communication. Monsieur le Président, je crois avoir entendu que la Conférence nomme trois Membres et trois Suppléants. Á la lecture des noms des candidats proposés, si j'ai bien entendu, je pense que nous avons deux candidats qui se sont proposés pour être Membres et deux candidats pour être Suppléants. La liste est-elle complète ou faut-il réviser ce qui a été annoncé?

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask Mr Alonzi to respond on this point.

Mr Tony ALONZI (Director, Human Resources Management Division)

The reason there are only two Members and two Alternates being appointed at this particular time is because it is a kind of rolling appointment between one Conference and another. So every time we have a Conference we look ahead and we see which terms expire before the next Conference in two years' time. That is why every time we roll ahead we have already other members appointed which cover periods up to December 2013, so clearly there we would, at the 2013 Conference in July, be looking at expiring appointments thereon.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comments? Can I take it that the Conference has no objection to the list of candidates that has just been read out?

It is so decided. This completes Item 9.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

35. Any Other Matters (continued)

35. Autres questions (suite)

35. Asuntos varios (continuación)

35.6 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

35.6 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

35.6 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Sorry for the inconvenience. We are going fast, so those who are expected to be on the podium, we are not able to catch up to the speed that we have.

We now continue with Item 35. Any Other Matters. There are two Sub-Items, the first one is Sub-Item 35.6, Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies.

I now give the floor to Margaret Eldon, General-Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff (UGSS).

Ms Margaret ELDON (General Secretary of the Union of General Service Staff)

It is an honour and a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the FAO staff worldwide, including staff at Headquarters and those in FAO's Regional, Country and Liaison Offices.

We would like begin by paying tribute to Mr Diouf for his 18 years of tireless service aimed at "...ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger". Many have already mentioned that following Mr Diouf's advocacy, agriculture is now high on the agenda of many governments. Throughout the years of downsizing, reorganization and decentralization, Mr Diouf took care that changes were introduced in ways that were least detrimental to staff, and we thank him for that sensitivity.

We also congratulate our new Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, who will apply his expertise in the struggle against food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at the global level. Mr Graziano da Silva, we pledge our commitment and support as you lead the Organization and collaborate with FAO Members in addressing these challenges. Mr Graziano da Silva has spoken clearly about the need for transparency, cooperation and collaboration and we, the staff, look forward to working with him in this manner.

Since the process of Reform began, the consultative process has expanded. Under the umbrella of the Joint Advisory Committee on FAO Reform, the staff representatives have had the opportunity to

participate in informal discussions with the Director-General and with representatives of Member Nations. Direct contacts and frank exchanges of views have significantly increased staff representative understanding of the concerns facing Member Nations and Senior Management. Given the increased understanding that a broader consultative process engenders, we believe that the trend in this area should not only continue but increase. Greater communication and dialogue among all levels of the Organization on a greater number of priority issues will undoubtedly strengthen the feeling of working as one united organization.

With regard to human resource management policies and procedures, we note that participation by the Staff Representative Bodies has contributed to success in the initial roll-out of the performance management system. We continue to contribute to its refinement, including promoting further work on staff competencies and ensuring that managers as well as staff, are evaluated. We also continue to contribute to the development of a Mobility Policy that considers the needs of the Organization and the staff member, that allows the Organization to put the right skills in the right place, and we are committed to seeing it implemented from 2012. In terms of career development, however, progress has been slow. Staff still await the creation of a well-articulated Career Development Strategy that recognizes merit and promotes excellence. Well-managed human resource policies and procedures that provide incentives for all staff and transparent processes they can believe in are, we argue, also in the best interests of the Organization. Indeed, we wonder whether it is the lack of well-articulated human resource policies that lies behind the dissatisfaction, identified in the global staff survey, of the Junior Professional staff.

A lot of time and money has been spent on Culture Change and although some change is taking place, the full effects of these efforts still have to be felt across the Organization. We applaud the internal Vision Statement as it serves as a guide as we move forward. We also believe that mainstreaming Culture Change so that it truly permeates the whole Organization has to be done in partnership with the Staff Representative Bodies. We all have a significant contribution to make.

We are very aware that around the world, including in national civil services, there is the drive to do more with less due to financial constraints. We do not believe that we live in a comfortable UN bubble separated from the realities of the world. Indeed, the salaries of the Professional and General Service staff have been frozen. However, we are concerned that a lack of understanding of the role of General Service staff today and how their conditions of employment are set exists, and that this is influencing a drive to reduce their conditions of employment. We seek a dialogue on this point.

Responding to the challenge of doing more with less, staff are contributing their ideas and creative solutions in discussions with Management on appropriate efficiency savings. We would like to see efficiency gains measured also in terms of effectiveness and in terms of streamlined procedures that save time and facilitate action, and not only in terms of cost reductions.

Finally, we express our gratitude for the positive comments we have heard from Member Nations and the Director-General at this Conference about the quality of FAO's technical work and the contribution of its staff. Such statements are very welcome after a period of harsh criticism of FAO. There is still room for improvement, and we can embark on further progress with renewed motivation.

In closing, we recall the words of Mr Noori Naeini spoken here a few days ago, when he pointed to the responsibility to "not only ... keep the voices of the hungry and the poor on the top of the international agenda but to try to put an end to the shameful level of the hunger and poverty in our planet." We are all here for that purpose. And since this seems to be a rock-star-quoting Conference - we have had quotes from John Lennon and Mick Jagger - we would add the following from Bono of U2: "Idealism detached from action is just a dream. But idealism allied with pragmatism, with rolling up your sleeves and making the world bend a bit, is very exciting. It's very real. It's very strong." Pragmatism requires engagement and resources. The recently-conducted staff survey showed that FAO staff match or even outscore other international organizations in terms of employee engagement. We shall continue to play our part.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is now open to any Members of the Conference who wish to take the floor.

M. Jean-Baptiste KAMBIRE (Burkina Faso)

Monsieur le Président, la Délégation du Burkina Faso tient à remercier le personnel de la FAO qui vient de marquer un point en disant son intention de travailler de façon franche et de collaborer avec le Directeur général élu pour la bonne marche de l'institution dès que le nouveau Directeur général prendra effectivement son service. Le Burkina Faso se réjouit de cette déclaration et pense que quand le Directeur général prendra son service, rencontrera le personnel et nous, en tant que Conférence aujourd'hui, nous prenons acte de cette déclaration.

Nous souhaitons, toutefois, que cette collaboration soit vraiment franche et fructueuse pour que nous ayons une FAO plus forte, dynamisée et effectivement au service de la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire, parce que nous sommes là pour aider également le staff de la FAO que nous remercions pour la qualité du travail. Depuis que la Délégation du Burkina Faso est là, l'information circule bien. Nous avons des documents bien préparés, la salle aussi est bien tenue.

Maintenant, il appartiendra au Directeur général quand il prendra ses fonctions, de voir avec le staff, comment travailler la main dans la main. Nous l'avons dit dans notre message, il y a deux jours, nous souhaitons une FAO plus forte et plus dynamique.

Sr. Santiago MENÉNDEZ DE LUARCA (España)

Gracias a la representante del personal de la FAO. Creo que nos ha dado una visión adecuada de cuál es la situación del personal. Por cierto, agradecemos la actuación del personal, no nos cabe ninguna duda, la profesionalidad del mismo.

Sin embargo, no ha tocado un punto que no le corresponde a la representante, le corresponde más bien a la Administración, que, si bien es cierto que los avances que se han producido en el PIA, en el Programa Inmediato de Acción, son importantes, especialmente en lo que conlleva a la transparencia que es una de las recomendaciones de todos los informes y del PIA y felicito a la organización por los avances en transparencia. Desde nuestro punto de vista, no nos parece que se haya avanzado suficiente en la transparencia de la selección de personal en lo que respecta a países sobrer-representados, poco representados o equitadamente representados.

Es más, en algunos casos parece ser que existen como unas dobles listas, una es la oficial y otra es la que se dice que son proyecciones de lo que puede ocurrir en el futuro. Y estas listas a los Países Miembros no nos llegan, no conocemos, conocemos sólo las oficiales.

Yo solicito, y me permito sugerir, en las cuestiones de personal que se adapten más en esta línea de transparencia y podamos estar todos en un conocimiento exacto de las situaciones.

Mr Manoj JUNEJA (Assistant Director-General Corporate Services Human Resources and Finance Department)

I would like to reaffirm our commitment to following the Constitution and the Rules of the Organization, in ensuring excellence in the recruitment of staff to the Organization and in compliance also with the guidance that has been given by the Conference, on both the geographic representation, to have a global workforce, as well as gender representation.

We take note of the comment made by the Representative of Spain regarding the information that we provide to Members. I should like to confirm that we are in the process of modifying the information that we provide to Members, so that there is indeed, only one list, that is used both for internal processes as well as external purposes. That will be distributed to Members shortly and will then continue to be so distributed on a regular basis.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, this concludes Sub-item 35.6.

Other Matters (continued)
Questions diverses (suite)
Otros asuntos (continuación)

35. Any Other Matters (continued)
35. Autres questions (suite)
35. Asuntos varios (continuación)

35.7 In Memoriam
35.7 In Memoriam
35.7 In memoriam

CHAIRPERSON

We move on to sub-item 35.7. The Conference has traditionally paid tribute to those staff members who died while in service since the preceding session. May I ask the Secretary-General to read the names of the staff members who we shall be honouring with a minute of silence today.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Since the last Session of Conference, the following staff members died while in service:

Mr Bisessar Chakalall
 Mr Roberto Mercado Samanez
 Ms Fatimata Kone
 Ms Kathryn Davies-Di Biagio
 Mr Raja Muhammad Ishaq
 Mr L.S. Phiri
 Mr Benni H. Sormin
 Mr Ake Sten Olofsson
 Mr David Nzonzi Yamba

Minute of silence
Minute de silence
Minuto de silencio

CHAIRPERSON

As we are still under Item 35, Any Other Matters, I would like to ask this Plenary meeting if any other delegates wish to address the issue of the Draft Resolution contained in the first report of the Resolutions Committee, document C 2011/LIM/20, proposing that 2014 be declared the International Year of Family Farming.

The proposal was submitted by the Philippines. Do any delegates wish to take the floor on this matter? Philippines.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this proposed resolution for the International Year for Family Farming under Any Other Matters. On behalf of the Asia Group, we would like to propose a resolution requesting the United Nations, through the Director-General, to have the year 2014 declared as the International Year for Family Farming. The request to have an International Year for Family Farming originated from an international NGO, The World Rural Forum. This is composed of around 327 farmer and rural organizations from 60 countries that support the International Year for Family Farming campaign.

The main objective is to fight against hunger and poverty, to seek food security and to achieve a human rural development based on respect for the environment and biodiversity. They have been

advocating this for the past three years and some governments have actually issued their support for it. Many Heads of Delegation and Ministers have alluded to this in their Country Statements during the past days. We believe that an International Year for Family Farming would be the beginning of a process in which, through a succession of events, family farming and its mainly professional associations will be recognized as the leading force of their own rural development in fair cooperation with their national governments. These Governments who have responded to the request include the Philippines and Pakistan for Asia, Spain and Switzerland for Europe, Uganda from Africa, Peru and El Salvador from Latin America and the Caribbean.

We believe that this is the best example of recognizing the contribution, past and present, of family farmers. Moreover, we also believe that this is a concrete example that can be achieved in a private-public partnership, since we also believe that family farmers are also part of the private sector that we are trying to engage in. This is also an excellent example of NGO-CSO collaboration with governments. Tomorrow, we will have a Side Event on International Year of Family Farming. As I have said earlier, they have struggled for this for the past three years. We simply want to give them the recognition that they deserve. Funding for this celebration will come from extra-budgetary resources. It will not impact on the Organization's regular Programme of Work and Budget, since we believe that this will be a partnership between NGOs, CSOs and various governments. We hope that all of us can support this Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

At this point I think we should briefly suspend the meeting so that we can proceed with the Ceremony of Oath.

The meeting was suspended from 10.30 to 10.38 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 30 à 10 h 38

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.30 a las 10.38

Oath Taking Ceremony by the Director-General Elect

Prestation de serment du Directeur général nouvellement élu

Ceremonia de toma de juramento del Director General electo

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, our agenda for today includes the Ceremony of the Oath of Office of the Director-General elect. I should like to welcome Director-General Jacques Diouf and Mr José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General Elect, and request the permission of the Conference to hold the ceremony at this time.

As there is no objection, I would like to give the floor to Mr Graziano da Silva

Mr José Graziano DA SILVA (Director-General Elect)

I, José Graziano da Silva, solemnly swear to exercise in all loyalty, discretion and conscience the functions entrusted to me as an international civil servant of the Food and Agriculture Organization; to discharge these functions and regulate my conduct with the interests of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations only in view, and not to seek or accept instructions in regard to the performance of my duties from any government or other authority external to the Organization.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes the brief ceremony of the Oath of Office. On behalf of the Conference, I would like to wish every success to Mr Graziano da Silva, who will undertake his demanding task as Director-General of this unique organization of the United Nations System on 1 January 2012.

Sr. Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brasil)

Sobre el punto en discusión de la propuesta de tener el 2014 como Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, yo quería solamente mencionar que Brasil por toda la experiencia que pudo acumular en esta cuestión y sobre todo con el manejo de las políticas públicas de la agricultura familiar al punto que esta es una parte realmente importante del Brasil agrícola y del programa de inclusión social en mi

país. Por esto Brasil apoya así como lo ha hecho en Naciones Unidas en Nueva York y estamos haciendo aquí en la FAO la propuesta de que la agricultura familiar sea la base, sea la inspiración, se transforme y que el año de 2014 sea el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

In fact, I will be very brief. I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. We welcome and we support the Draft Resolution presented by the Asia Group regarding family farming and, as a member of the Resolutions Committee, I would like to say that we have studied this Draft Resolution and it is very good and very pertinent to all the regions of the world. So we strongly support this Draft Resolution and hope that the Conference will adopt it.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)

Seremos muy breves. Como ya señaló el distinguido delegado de Filipinas, El Salvador está respaldando plenamente la Declaración del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar para el 2014. Hace un momento, también, los distinguidos delegados de Brasil y Siria reiteraron los elementos importantes que nos llevan a apoyar esta solicitud a las Naciones Unidas para esta declaración, por lo cual queremos reiterar plenamente nuestro respaldo a este Proyecto de Resolución.

Sr. Alfonso PINO MAESO (España)

Yo también quiero ser muy breve y solamente señalar que respaldamos plenamente la iniciativa de la Delegación de Filipinas para entrar en el año 2014 como Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar. Nada más.

Mr Mohammed LAKHAL (Morocco) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to express our appreciation to the Philippines for this initiative of making 2014 the International Year for Family Farming.

Without delving into details on the importance of this matter, that it will definitely contribute to food security, I would like to say that this proposal had been discussed within the G-77 meeting plus China, and the Group said that it would strongly support this proposal because it contributes to reaching the objectives of combating poverty. The Kingdom of Morocco, as supported by the G-77, would therefore like to express our strong support for this initiative.

Mr Anthony BROWN (Cook Islands)

The Cook Islands wishes to endorse and support the proposal from the Philippines. We take recognition as well of the new rural Brazil initiative that I have found here within the Plenary and to learn how Brazil also has this kind of initiative in their country, but to see this as a declaration for the year 2014, we, in the Cook Islands uphold and support this recommendation.

Mr Rwamirama Kanyantole BRIGHT (Uganda)

Thank you Mr Chairman. Uganda supports endorses the proposal by the Philippines to declare 2014 the International Year of Family Farming for the reasons given by the proposal.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA DURÁN (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Venezuela igualmente apoya la propuesta hecha por Filipinas y mostrada en la declaración que presenta el primer informe del Comité de Resoluciones.

Creemos que el 2014 nos podría permitir seguir avanzando en las formulaciones de los planes concretos en especial a nivel rural para soportar a los pobres del campo. Creo que allí haríamos un excelente trabajo también a nivel del soporte que se podría dar a la mujer, cabeza de familia entre esos pobres rurales, que el mundo es una cifra que alcanza alrededor del 60-70 por ciento.

Venezuela cuenta con un plan de agricultura familiar y por lo tanto viene desarrollando esta idea hace algún tiempo, y nos parece excelente que se presente esta resolución presentada por Filipinas al seno de esta Conferencia, la de tener el 2014 como el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

Mr Saad Zaki NASSAR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We do support the initiatives taken by the Philippines in 2014 the for International Year of Family Farming, the initiative to have farms of two or three acres is extremely important for family farming. I would like to say that family farming does not mean that it is subsistence agriculture but it means that agriculture is closely linked to the markets which will lead to an increase in the income and the living standards of the people.

M. Dielobaka NDOMBELE (Angola)

L'Angola appuie aussi l'initiative proposée par les Philippines pour que l'année 74 puisse être déclarée l'Année de l'agriculture familiale.

CHAIRPERSON

I think since there is wide support, may I take it that the Conference endorses the proposal?

Mme Eva Verona TEIXERA ORTET (Cap-Vert)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Le Cap-Vert dont l'agriculture est presque cent pour cent familial tient aussi à supporter cette résolution proposée par les Philippines. Je vous remercie.

Mr Baboucarr NJIE (Gambia)

The Gambia will support this initiative in declaring 2014 the Year of Family Farming. Farming is our way of life in the Gambia. This is because more than 70 percent of our population is engaged in farming initiatives. Family ties are one of our core values and in our quest to further cement those ties, family farming would be a great catalyst.

M. Medi MOUNGUI (Cameroon)

We too want to associate ourselves with all those who spoke before us, to appreciate the initiative from the Philippines and the Asia Group in general, to declare 2014 the International Year of Family Farming. It is highly appreciated by the delegation of Cameroon.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take that the Conference endorses the proposal.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the last Item on our Agenda. We have one agenda that we are going to postpone for tomorrow, because we are waiting for the European Union on whether they are able to manage it this morning. So far we don't have that information. I would suggest that the item be postponed for tomorrow morning.

Other Matters (continued)

Questions diverses (suite)

Otros asuntos (continuación)

34. Date and Place of the 38th Conference Session

34. Date et lieu de la trente-huitième session de la Conférence

34. Fecha y lugar del 38.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

So we now proceed to Item 34 , that is taking, date and place of the Thirty-eighth Conference Session which requires the Conference to state dates for its next Session.

May I ask the Secretary-General to let us have a proposal.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The dates proposed for the next session of Conference are from Saturday 15 to Saturday 22 June 2013.

CHAIRPERSON

Does the Conference agree to this proposal? Brazil.

Mr Antonino MARQUES PORTO (Brazil)

Just a comment. Saturday 15 - Saturday 22 makes an 8 day week. There must be something wrong.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments on the date? May I ask the Secretary-General to respond on the issue, please.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is the standard pattern of Conference for the past ten or twelve years. This very Conference has started on Saturday and is scheduled to complete on Saturday, the only difference this time around is that we worked also on Sunday because we had the elections. Normally we would not work on Sunday. We start on Saturday with the opening, the McDougall Lecture, the meeting of the Joint Committee, the Adoption of the Agenda of the Conference and the other procedural items, and on Monday morning we would start the substantive items on the Agenda of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Any other comments from Members of the Conference? May I take it that the date is endorsed by the Conference?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We have come to the end of our work for this morning. There will be no Plenary Meeting this afternoon or tomorrow morning. We will reconvene tomorrow at 14:30 hours for the Adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 23, the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13.

Delegates are reminded of the need to ensure attendance levels during the Tenth plenary meeting of the Conference, which opens at 14.30 hours on Friday 1 July, as a series of votes requiring a quorum are scheduled throughout the afternoon.

For those who have requested to attend the Papal Audience tomorrow morning please remember that the bus will be departing for the Vatican from the area in front of Building A at 09.30 hours.

With this we have come to the end of our work in Plenary for today. I wish you all a good afternoon and look forward to seeing you here at 14.30 tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 11:05 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 11:05 horas

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA REUNIÓN PLENARIA
1 July 2011

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:39 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew,

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 39

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 15:39 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

Adoption of the Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 2011/LIM/24)

Adoption du quatrième rapport du Bureau de la Conférence (C 2011/LIM/24)

Aprobación del Cuarto Informe del Comité General (C 2011/LIM/24)

CHAIRPERSON

I declare open the Tenth Plenary Meeting. I suggest we begin our work this afternoon by adopting the Fourth Report of the General Committee, set out in document C 2011/LIM/24. We are going to do it section by section.

Section I is on Appointment of the Director-General. Are there any remarks on Section I? If there are any remarks on Section I, you are welcome. If there are no comments, this section is adopted.

Section II is Voting Rights. Any remarks on Section II? The section is adopted.

Section III is on Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. If there are comments on this section? You are welcome to take the floor. So, the section is adopted.

Section IV is on the Jacques Diouf Award. Are there any comments on this section? The section is adopted. Thank you.

With this the Conference has adopted the Fourth Report of the General Committee and we can move on to the Adoption of Commission II Report on Item 23 – the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-2013.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Programme and Budgetary Matters

Questions relatives au Programme et au budget

Cuestiones programáticas y presupuestarias

23. Medium Term Plan 2010-13 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13 (Draft Resolution on budget level) (C 2011/3)

23. Plan à moyen terme 2010-2013 (révisé) et Programme de travail et budget 2012-13 (Projet de résolution relative au montant du budget) (C 2011/3)

23. Plan a plazo medio para 2010-13 (revisado) y Programa de trabajo y presupuesto para 2012-13 (proyecto de resolución sobre la cuantía del presupuesto) (C 2011/3)

CHAIRPERSON

As you know, Commission II completed its work earlier today and we will shortly proceed to a roll call vote on the proposed level for the budget for the 2012-2013 biennium as set out in document C 2011/REP/23, which has been distributed to all delegates.

I should like to invite the Chairperson of Commission II, Mr Yaya Olaniran, to make a few explanatory remarks on the way consensus on the proposed budget level was achieved.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Commission II)

Commission II started its work in the Plenary, and after all the discussions and issues raised, we discovered that it was necessary to go into the Friends of the Chair, and that is what we did. We worked in such a way that, at the end of each day, at about 6:00 p.m., we arrived at some conclusions. Initially, it was pretty tough to get all of us together, because there was opposition. Management was quite helpful to us on many occasions, in giving us clarifications on questions that were asked. Eventually, we looked at the different groups and the different positions and the heads of the major groups had to meet and negotiate. This was done with understanding that we would allow flexibility, that we would not allow micro-management and that we wanted a consensus budget.

The figure we came to, after all consultations, was USD 1.015 billion, and because of the agreement of flexibility, we asked Management to work out the details which were listed in the Resolution.

The important factor here is that there will be five/six months of possibility for Management to work together with the Programme Committee, and the Finance Committee to ultimately submit the details to Council in November. At that level, whatever adjustments they have made, the Council will have to approve. At the end of this morning, when we had looked at every aspect of it, section by section, the report was adopted by Commission II.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no requests from delegates to speak on this resolution, I would like to invite the Secretary-General to explain how we can proceed with the voting on the Resolution. Japan, I give you the floor.

Mr Kazumasa SHIOYA (Japan)

At the previous Conference held two years ago Japan had to oppose the PWB 2010-2011, announcing that it was no longer a Friend of the Chair. But today, I am very glad to announce that I can continue to be a Friend of the Chair. Japan can join a consensus.

The financial situation of the Japanese Government may be the worst in recent history, but Japan appreciates the Reform FAO has implemented up to now and it expects FAO to continue to implement the Reform under the new Director-General and to play a more vital role in the international community, fully utilizing FAO's comparative advantage. That is the reason why Japan can support the budget agreed among the Commission II members.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sra. Emma RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

A diferencia de 2009, en que México no pudo sumarse a la aprobación del presupuesto debido a que favorecemos el Crecimiento Nominal Cero, esta tarde votaremos a favor del presupuesto 2012-2013 de esta Organización.

En el contexto de la situación económica mundial y de las restricciones financieras que aún enfrentamos un número importante de países, el uso eficiente de los recursos deberá ser una premisa fundamental al igual que la transparencia en su uso.

La aceptación del presupuesto por parte de México, como décimo contribuyente al Presupuesto Ordinario de la Organización y el primero de América Latina y el Caribe, es una muestra de la exposición y compromiso por continuar colaborando estrechamente con la FAO y con el próximo Director General y en beneficio de la comunidad internacional y, en particular, hacia la erradicación del hambre en el mundo y la lucha contra la pobreza, con miras a lograr la seguridad alimentaria para las generaciones presentes y futuras de la humanidad.

Ms Ertharin COUSIN (United States of America)

I also want to thank and congratulate the Chair of Commission II for his hard work in bringing the Members together over the last several days.

After a very fractious DG election on Sunday, the Members in this room, whom I proudly call my colleagues, worked together to create the budget that you now have in front of you, a budget that you have just heard from my colleagues from Japan and Mexico who in the last two biennium have voted "no" against consensus on a budget. However, they both acknowledged that they will vote favourably.

We have an opportunity for the first time, as we vote on this budget to have, not just a consensus, but a unanimous budget for FAO.

This is the spirit with which this Organization should work. This is the spirit with which we, as Members, must work to bring the FAO to a level that we need, that the global community needs, to ensure that we can end hunger. I thank all of the members who worked so hard to get us here.

Ms Nike Ekaterini-KOUTRAKOU (Greece)

I wish to join the previous speaker in congratulating all who have worked to achieve this result. Greece appreciates the sense of compromise by the entire Membership on the basis of which an agreed level of the budget for 2012-2013 was reached and which it shares.

Greece wishes, however, to recall the increase of its share in the Assessed Contributions approved by the UN General Assembly in December 2009, on the basis of a period of growing economy.

It also recalls the extraordinary financial crisis which the country is going through at present and which the Greek people and its Government are seeking to overcome with the assistance of our European and international partners. Under these circumstances, the Greek delegation wishes to put on record that it will vote with reservation for the approval of the budget.

Greece will try its utmost to remain an active Member of the Organization in the general context of its international obligations because it appreciates the work this Organization does for all of us.

CHAIRPERSON

We will proceed to vote on the resolution. Secretary-General, you have the floor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Draft Resolution is contained in document C 2011/REP/23. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against, and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green in favour, red against, yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Results of the vote: Number of votes cast: 135

Majority required: 96

Votes for: 135

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0



**FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS**

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

**ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA ALIMENTACION
Y LA AGRICULTURA**

01/07/2011
15:55:17

Vote on: Budgetary Appropriations 2012-13
Vote sur: Projets d'ouvertures de crédits budgétaires 2012-13
Votacion para: Proyecto de consignaciones presupuestarias para 2012-13

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	135
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	135
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

**Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:**

ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COOK ISLANDS, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KYRGYZ REP., LAO, LATVIA, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REP. MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIAN ARAB REP., THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, TUVALU, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, YEMEN, ZAMBIA

**Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:**

**Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:**

**No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:**

AFGHANISTAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FIJI, GRENADA, GUYANA, JAMAICA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MAURITANIA, NAMIBIA, NAURU, NEPAL, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, RWANDA, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAK REP., SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOMALIA, ST KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, UGANDA, VIET NAM, ZIMBABWE

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference has thus adopted the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriation for 2012-2013.

I would like to thank Mr Olaniran for his unreserved efforts to bring Conference into consensus on this Budget Resolution.

Governance, Legal, Administrative and Financial Matters**Questions relatives à la gouvernance et questions juridiques, administratives et financiers****Cuestiones de gobernanza y de índole jurídica, administrativa y financiera****Constitutional and Legal Matters****Questions constitutionnelles et juridiques****Cuestiones constitucionales y jurídicas****28. Amendments to the Basic Texts****28. Amendements aux Textes fondamentaux****28. Enmiendas a los Textos Fundamentales****CHAIRPERSON**

I therefore propose to move on to Item 28. Under Item 28, Amendments to the Basic Texts, we are going to deal with a number of matters. I propose to deal with them one by one in the following order. Firstly, we will deal with the question of the Change in the Official Name of the Organization in Spanish. Secondly, we will deal with the Proposed Amendments to Rule XII paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization. Thirdly, we will deal with a Proposed Resolution amending the Financial Regulations of the Organization, and lastly, we will deal with the issue of Proposals to Increase the Membership of the Council.

28.1 Proposed Amendments to the FAO Constitution (C 2011/LIM/9)

28.1 Propositions d'amendements à l'Acte constitutif de la FAO (C 2011/LIM/9)

28.1 Propuestas de enmienda de la Constitución de la FAO (C 2011/LIM/9)

CHAIRPERSON

If you agree with this, I propose we deal with the question of the official name of the Organization in Spanish. The relevant document is C 2011/LIM/9 entitled 'Official Name of FAO in Spanish'. I will give the floor to Mr Tavares of the Legal Office to briefly introduce the item.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

Document C 2011/LIM/9 contains an extract of the Report of the last Session of the Council. On that occasion, the Council endorsed a proposal originating in the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to change the official name of FAO in Spanish, so that the word "Food" should precede the word "Agriculture", for the sake of consistency among the designations of the Organization in other language versions.

The Council referred the matter to the Conference for approval. I take this opportunity also to recall that the proposal was circulated to the Membership by a Circular State Letter on 14 January 2011, and the proposal was also reviewed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

I, do therefore, invite the Conference to adopt this editorial change to the Spanish version of the Constitution, which is of a straightforward nature.

Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments on this amendment? It is so decided.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

*Amendment to the Rule XII.11 of the General Rules of the Organization
Modification du paragraphe 11 de l'Article du Règlement général de l'Organisation
Enmienda al artículo XII.11 del Reglamento General de la Organización*

CHAIRPERSON

We will now deal with another question, a proposal to amend Rule XII, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization. The proposal is set out in document C 2011/LIM/13 – Amendment to Rule XII, paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization (Draft Resolution). I give the floor to Mr Tavares of the Legal Office to introduce the item.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

Mr Chairman. This is also an issue, we believe, of a straightforward nature, although it involves the adoption, through an electronic nominal vote, of a Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization.

The document that is before you, Sir, is document C 2011/LIM/13, and it contains an extract of the report of the Hundred and Fortieth Session of the Council, together with a Draft Conference Resolution for approval by the Conference. Following review of the matter by the CCLM, the Council endorsed the proposal to amend Rule XXII, paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization setting forth the standard rule for elections for an elective place other than the election of the Director-General. This rule foresees that, if a candidate does not obtain the required majority, and if there are more than two candidates for one elective place and none of them obtains required majority of votes cast, successive ballots are held among candidates until a candidate obtains such a majority. The operation of this Rule, Sir, has led at times in the past, including at the last session of the Conference, to a number of inconclusive ballots during a substantial period of time. Over the years, there has been consensus as to the need to amend this provision, but this has not been done.

It is proposed therefore, to amend Rule XII, paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization in order to provide that in an election, for one elective place in which there are more than two candidates, the candidate having obtained the lowest number of votes at each ballot would be eliminated. This is, in fact, a Rule that we have applied in practice several times on the recommendation of the General Committee. So the Draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization is to be adopted by a two-thirds majority of votes cast, in accordance with the provisions of the General Rules of the Organization on amendment.

As I understand it, you and the Secretary-General will in due course provide further information on this voting procedure. A Draft Resolution amending that Rule, Rule XII, paragraph 11 of the General Rules of the Organization, is before the Conference for approval.

Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any delegations that wish to intervene in this matter?

If there are no comments from the members of the Conference, I would ask the Secretary-General to provide an explanation of the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As explained by Antonio Tavares, this Draft Resolution is for the amendment of the General Rules of the Organization. Under Rule XII, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, amendments to the Rules are approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Under Rule XII, paragraphs 7(a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote that is, a vote which records the names of Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. "Votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes, and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for a decision to be taken by the Conference, the total number of affirmative and negative votes must be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

CHAIRPERSON

If there are no questions from the floor, we will proceed to vote.

Ok, let's proceed Secretary-General.

SECRETARY GENERAL

We shall proceed on the vote of the Draft Resolution contained in document C 2011/LIM/13. Delegates are invited to press one of the voting buttons on the desk in front of them. Green, if they wish to vote in favour, red, if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación



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ET L'AGRICULTURE**

**ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA ALIMENTACION
Y LA AGRICULTURA**

01/07/201
16:08:3

Vote on: Amendment to the Rule XII.11 of the General Rules of the Organization
Vote sur: Modification du paragraphe de l'Article XII du Règlement Général de l'Organisation
Votacion para: Enmienda al artículo XII.11 del Reglamento General de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	137
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	137
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COOK ISLANDS, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZ REP. LAO, LATVIA, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL QATAR, REP. KOREA, REP. MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAO TOME AND PRINCIP SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIAN ARAB REP., THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, TUVALU, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FIJI, GRENADA, GUYANA, INDIA, JAMAICA, KUWAIT, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MAURITANIA, NAURU, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOMALIA, ST KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SURINAME, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, UGANDA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Results of the vote

Number of votes cast: 137

Majority required: 96

Votes for: 137

Votes against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

The Resolution is adopted.

Amendments to the Financial Regulations (C 2011/LIM/8)

Amendements du Règlement financier (C 2011/LIM/8)

Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero (C 2011/LIM/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to the other the issues, that are the proposed amendments to the Financial Draft Resolution. The relevant document is C 2011/LIM/8.

I will ask Mr Tavares of the Legal Office to introduce this item.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

The document that is before the Plenary of the Conference is C 2011/LIM/8, which consists again of an extract of the Report of the last Session of the Council of FAO. At that session, last April, the Council endorsed amendments to the Financial Regulations that had been proposed by the Finance Committee and the CCLM for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

The Council noted that the effective date of the amendments would be January of the year for which IPSAS compliance statements would be issued, and that it was expected that this would be 1 January 2013.

The Council endorsed the Draft Resolution that is now before the Conference. This Draft Resolution includes a table with two columns showing the current Financial Regulations and the proposed amendments thereto. This presentation as you can see, although it is not a very usual one, is one that presents the advantage of being very clear.

Under Financial Regulation 15.2, the Financial Regulations may be amended by the Conference in the same manner as provided for for the amendment of the General Rules of the Organization. So the procedure for the amendment of the Financial Regulations is the same as that followed for the amendment of the General Rules of the Organization and, therefore, this Draft Resolution would need to be adopted through a nominal vote by a majority of two thirds of the votes cast at this Plenary meeting of the Conference.

So this Draft Resolution is before the Conference for approval. Thank you, Sir.

CHAIRPERSON

Are there any comments? We have to vote on the Resolution. So let's proceed to vote on this issue.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Chairman, I think we are fully familiar with the procedure, and there is no need to repeat the Rules applicable in this case. Here again, a two-thirds majority of vote cast is required, and delegations are

kindly invited to press the voting buttons in front of them, green in favour, red against and yellow to abstain. Please, kindly vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación



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LA ALIMENTACION
Y LA AGRICULTURA**

01/07/201
16:15:01

Vote on: Amendments to the Financial Regulations
Vote sur: Amendements au Règlement Financier
Votacion para: Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	135
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	135
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, COOK ISLANDS, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, DEMOCRATIC REP. OF CONGO, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZ REP., LAO, LATVIA, LEBANON, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REP. KOREA, REP. MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIAN ARAB REP., THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, TUVALU, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REP. OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, COLOMBIA, CROATIA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FIJI, GREECE, GRENADA, GUYANA, ICELAND, INDIA, JAMAICA, KUWAIT, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, NAURU, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOMALIA, ST KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, UGANDA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Result of the vote: number of votes cast 135

Majority required 96

Votes for 135

Votes against 0

Abstention 0.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

The Resolution is adopted.

Proposal to amend Article V.1 of the FAO Constitution submitted by Morocco (C 2011/LIM/14; C 2011/LIM/20)

Proposition d'amendement de l'article V.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO soumise par le Maroc (C 2011/LIM/14; C 2011/LIM/20)

Propuesta de enmienda al artículo V.1 de la Constitución de la FAO presentada por Marruecos (C 2011/LIM/14; C 2011/LIM/20)

CHAIRPERSON

We have a last point on the Agenda which is a proposal to increase the number of Council seats. The documents to be considered under this item are C 2011/LIM/14 – Proposal to amend Article V.1 of the Constitution submitted by Morocco (on behalf of the Group of G77) and C 2011/LIM/20, The First Report of the Resolutions Committee containing two Draft Conference Resolutions on this matter. The first Draft Resolution is intended to amend Article V.1 of the Constitution; the second Draft Resolution contains a proposed consequential amendment to Rule XXII, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization.

Before we go any further on this matter, I wish to know if any delegates wish to take the floor.

Are there delegates that wish to intervene on this matter?

M. Hassan ABOUYOUB (Maroc)

Le Maroc, au nom du Groupe des 77, avait soumis à l'appréciation de cette Conférence la proposition que vous venez d'aborder. Nous avons essayé d'obtenir un consensus sur cette proposition pour éviter une procédure de vote. Le Groupe des 77 demeure attaché à sa proposition qui, comme vous le savez, est le résultat de très nombreuses discussions et négociations qui avaient pour objectif de rétablir l'équilibre des Représentations régionales, suite à l'augmentation du nombre des Membres de notre Organisation.

Nous avons des taux de représentation qui vont de 15 à 20 pour cent, jusqu'à 100 pour cent. Des propositions de compromis ont été faites mais, malheureusement, elles ne permettent pas dans le cadre de l'équité de la représentation et la cohérence disons régionale d'apporter la réponse adéquate à certaines composantes du Groupe des 77 que j'ai le privilège et l'honneur de représenter.

Si nous n'avons pas de consensus sur ces dispositions là, nous préférons retirer cette proposition et laisser la question ouverte à d'autres négociations lors des prochaines Conférences.

CHAIRPERSON

Members of the Conference who would like to intervene at this matter, you are welcome, please. Does that mean there is consensus on the issue?

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

The consultations to which the Distinguished Ambassador of Morocco referred have revealed that we are still a considerable distance away from reaching consensus on this point. Whereas we have had a remarkable degree of consensus as a Conference, and it is very much our wish that decision-making continue as the modality of this Organization and, of course, it is the only proper way to proceed on issues of governance. So as everyone in the room is aware that there is no consensus on this subject, I would simply like to very much welcome the intervention of the Ambassador Morocco indicating that in light of that, the G77 would indeed withdraw their proposal and as indicated, the issue would remain alive for future Sessions of the Conference.

In that light, we would like to note that already in the consensus resolution of Conference 2008, Resolution 1/2008, adopting the IPA, there is, in fact, provision for a review of the workings of FAO's governance that includes an independent review as an input to this process, and the target for completion of that review of governance report is 2015.

In light of that, it would seem that there is a mechanism that for reference to everyone, is IPA recommendation 2.74. Given that there is also this review agreed by Conference, there would seem to be an opportunity for Conference, indeed, to review the issue of size and composition of the Council without the requirement to push the issue any further at this Conference. And so once again, I would just like to conclude by welcoming the Chair of G77's clear preference for consensus, and simply indicate that we entirely share this position, and we would be happy to work with him towards that end.

CHAIRPERSON

It is clear that there is no consensus on this matter. So what would be the position of the G77?

Please Morocco, you have the floor.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Morocco)

The decision as proposed by the Chair was taken. As we have withdrawn the Draft Resolution, it means that we maintain a line in the whole subject. We think we should be inspired by the Resolution we adopted at the Thirty-sixth Session of Conference. I think it is in keeping with the idea of maintaining our collective work and endeavour on this issue for the next biennium. This could be the right decision, if you allow me.

CHAIRPERSON

I think the position of the G77 is clear. They withdrew the Draft Resolution, but the matter will be continued to be discussed in the coming Council and Conference Sessions. So, can I take it that the Conference accepted the withdrawal of the Draft Resolution? Thank you very much.

Applause**Applaudissements****Aplausos****CHAIRPERSON**

Item 28 is now closed. There are no matters to be handled under Item 29.

Appointments and Elections (continued)**Nominations et élections (suite)****Nombramientos y elecciones (continuación)****8. Election of Council Members (C 2011/11)****8. Élection des Membres du Conseil (C 2011/11)****8. Elección de los miembros del Consejo (C 2011/11)****CHAIRPERSON**

I now move on to Item 8, Election of Council Members.

You have before you document C 2011/11, and the daily Conference Journal which includes a chart of countries nominated by region and by electoral period.

Given that Rule 22 of the General Rules of the Organization allows for the election of Council Members by clear general consent when the number of candidates is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled, I suggest we key out election of the candidates by clear general consent when there are no more candidates than vacant seats.

If no delegation wishes to make a comment or request, or seek clarification, we shall now proceed.

I call on the Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

As indicated in today's Journal, the candidates for Africa are as follows, for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013, there is one seat and Côte d'Ivoire is the candidate for that seat.

For the period 1 December 2011 to 30 June 2014, there are four seats to be filled, and the four candidates are: Algeria, Cameroon, Guinea and Togo.

Finally, for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2015, there are three seats to be filled, and the three candidates are: Eritrea, Gabon and Republic of the Congo.

CHAIRPERSON

May I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Africa? So decided?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

It is endorsed. We now move on to Asia. Secretary-General, please proceed.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson, for Asia, with regard to the period 1 December 2011 to 30 June 2014, there are three seats to be filled and the 3 candidates are: India, Indonesia and Pakistan.

For the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2015, there are three seats to be filled and the six candidates are: Bangladesh, China, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Thailand.

Sri Lanka has announced they wish to withdraw and informed this Conference that pursuant to consultations within the Regional Group. Sri Lanka has decided to withdraw its candidature with the view to paving the way for the candidates of the Region of Asia to be elected for the FAO Council by acclamation.

CHAIRPERSON

May I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Asia? So decided.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Europe. Secretary-General, please.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For Europe Mr Chairperson, with regard to the period for December 2011 to 30 June 2014, there are four seats to be filled and the four candidates are: Denmark, France, Italy and Poland.

For the period July 2012 to 30 June 2015, there are three seats to be filled, and the three candidates are: Germany, Portugal and United Kingdom.

CHAIRPERSON

May I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for Europe? Thank you, it is endorsed.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

So we now move on to Latin American and Caribbean.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson, for this region in respect of the period 1 December 2011 - 30 June 2014, one seat is to be filled and the applicant is Ecuador.

For the period 1 July 2012 - 30 June 2015, there are three seats to be filled and the applicants are: Chile, El Salvador, Venezuela.

CHAIRPERSON

May I take it that the Conference wishes to approve the candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean? So decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the Near East.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the Near East Region, regarding the period 1 December 2011 – 30 June 2014, there are three seats and the three candidates are: Afghanistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The period 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2015, one seat to be filled and Jordan is the applicant.

CHAIRPERSON

May I assume that the Conference wishes to approve the candidates for the Near East, the proposed candidates for Near East? So decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the Southwest Pacific.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For the Southwest Pacific, there is one seat to be filled for 1 December 2011 to 30 June 2014 and Australia is the applicant.

CHAIRPERSON

May I assume that the Conference approves the proposed candidates for the South West Pacific? So decided.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

May I congratulate the countries which have just been elected to membership of the Council.

7. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2011/9)

7. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2011/9)

7. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2011/9)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 7, that is the Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Under Article V, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We have one candidate for the post, as mentioned in document C 2011/9, namely Mr Luc Guyau (France).

We will now proceed with the vote by secret ballot for the election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

In accordance with Article II of the FAO Constitution, and the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 96 Member Nations must be represented at this time. The Secretary-General will give details of the voting procedure and ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Delegates will receive a ballot paper, with the name of the applicant and three boxes with the words “in favour”, “against”, and “abstention”. Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire. In accordance with Rule XII, of the General Rules of the Organization, ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

Under the same Rule, should any delegate invalidate her or his ballot paper, she or he may request a new blank ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area. The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the elections officer.

We now calculate the number of Member Nations present. Please press the green button located at the front of your desk, that is, the third button on your right, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present at this time. As you can see, the electronic system indicates that there are 135 delegations present in the room.

We can thus proceed to vote.

CHAIRPERSON

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

Also, in accordance with Rule XII, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two Tellers from the delegates or representatives.

May I therefore ask the delegates of Tunisia and Sri Lanka to proceed to the voting area.

The Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Yes Mr Chairman.

I call the Members in the alphabetical order, in English.

Vote
Vote
Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will recall those members who did not vote.

CHAIRPERSON

The voting has now been completed. The Tellers will leave the room with the Officers-in-Charge of the elections and will count the vote, until then, we will briefly suspend the meeting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have an announcement on behalf of the Chairperson of Commission II. Mr. Yaya Olaniran has the pleasure to invite his friends, the members of Commission II, actually Members his friends, to a reception in honour of Commission II members, tomorrow 2 July at 13:00, at the restaurant Orazio, via di Porta Latina 5. I repeat, tomorrow, 13:00, restaurant Orazio, via di Porta Latina 5. Friends of the Chair of Commission II, members of Commission II are kindly invited to attend.

The meeting was suspended from 17.25 to 17.53 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 25 à 17 h 53

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.25 a las 17.53

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Nomination of the Independent Chairperson of the Council 2011-2013 Designation du président du Conseil 2011-2013 Designación del Presidente del Consejo 2011-2013
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	142	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	119
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	14
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	133

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	67
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Luc Guyau (France)

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council
est nommé président du Conseil
ha sido nombrado Presidente del Consejo

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

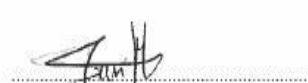
Gothami Indikadahena (Sri Lanka)

Signature
Firma



Hazar Sassi Naili (Tunisia)

Signature
Firma

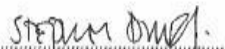


Date
Fecha

01/07/2011

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones



7. Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2011/9) (continued)**7. Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2011/9) (suite)****7. Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2011/9) (continuación)****CHAIRPERSON**

We now return to Item 7, Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. The votes have been counted and the result will be presented by the Secretary-General. Secretary-General, please.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We brought our ballot.

Ballot papers deposited: 142

Abstentions: 9

Defective: 0

Votes for: 119

Votes against: 14

Votes cast: 133

Majority: 65

Mr Luc Guyau of France is accordingly appointed as Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Applause**Applaudissements****Aplausos****CHAIRPERSON**

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Guyau on his election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council and wish him all the best in this very demanding role.

I invite Mr Guyau to make a few remarks. Mr Guyau, please.

M. Luc GUYAU (Président Indépendant du Conseil Elu)

Permettez-moi de vous adresser tous mes remerciements pour la confiance que vous venez de me renouveler. Vous m'avez élu pour un second et dernier mandat de deux ans qui devrait se terminer le 22 juin 2013 à l'issue de la Trente-huitième session de la Conférence. Pendant ces deux ans, je ne ménagerai aucun effort pour assumer la mission que vous m'avez confiée. Mes remerciements s'adressent aussi au Secrétariat pour l'appui qu'il m'a apporté avec les contraintes qui étaient les siennes. Comme vous le savez, je suis issu de la société civile. Un milieu dont les règles et les pratiques sont différentes de celles des diplomates. De ce qui pourrait apparaître comme un handicap, faisons en un atout. Je sais que cette reconduction n'était pas évidente pour tout le monde même si elle est conforme aux pratiques de l'Organisation depuis sa création. Encore une fois, merci à tous.

Je voudrais simplement vous réaffirmer deux engagements. Premièrement, celui de mon indépendance. Je serai neutre vis-à-vis des pays et des groupes régionaux comme vis-à-vis du Secrétariat. Je suis au service de vous tous, à votre entière disposition pour effectuer des tâches qui m'incombent telles qu'elles sont prévues par le Plan de réforme et les Textes fondamentaux. Deuxièmement, celui de mon engagement total en faveur de l'Organisation. Nous avons un nouveau Directeur général élu, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva avec qui j'ai déjà eu une séance de travail. Nous avons un budget pour lequel un consensus a été obtenu hier, grâce aux bons offices du Président de la Commission II, le Représentant permanent du Nigéria, notre ami Yaya Olaniran que nous pouvons féliciter encore une fois aujourd'hui et nous avons une Organisation dont les mérites et les efforts sont reconnus de tous et qui occupent la première place au sein de la Gouvernance mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. Il nous faut maintenant la rendre encore plus efficace afin de relever l'immense défi de la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté. Nous sommes dans un monde qui change. La

FAO doit changer avec lui en étant plus proche du terrain tout en restant unie, forte et performante. Je vous remercie de votre confiance.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Mr Guyau. Does any delegation wish to take the floor? Poland.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (Poland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey associate themselves with this statement.

We are pleased with the outcome of the re-election of Mr Luc Guyau as Independent Chairperson of FAO Council.

We believe Mr Luc Guyau is committed to facilitating the Organization's management in the context of changing food security policy and international governance architecture.

FAO Council is in the middle of these processes. There is a constant need for more effective and transparent working methods. The role of the ICC is also to maintain a balanced dialogue with all FAO Council Members, as well as Regional Groups.

There is also a pressing need for continuation of implementation of the FAO Reform. FAO Council plays a crucial role in the other side of this process. We know that Mr Luc Guyau is well aware of these expectations and challenges. While passing to him our warm and sincere congratulations, we would like to mention that in these tasks he may count of the support of the EU and our advice.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I speak on behalf of the Near East Group. On behalf of our Group, I would like to hail the re-election of Mr. Guyau as Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We have been working with him for two years now. Those endeavours have been extremely fruitful, and we hope to be able to work alongside him in future as well, with the same impetus and the same enthusiasm, especially in light of the need for Reform.

And we are sure he will discharge his task to the best of his ability. Once again, I would like to restate my congratulations to him for his re-appointment.

Mr Hassan ABOUYOUB (Morocco)

I would like to seize this opportunity on behalf of the G77 plus China to congratulate Luc Guyau for his re-election. I know he is aware of the agenda we have had. The G77 is ready to continue its cooperation with the Chairman to implement what we have decided and what we will complete tomorrow in the whole set of decisions and resolutions that are on our table these days in the Conference.

We know that on the Governing Bodies, on the maintaining of priorities, we still have a lot to do. We are convinced that, with the spirit of openness shown by Luc Guyau, we will achieve more in the interest of the "have nots" that are the major part of the G77.

M. Antonio MARQUES PORTO (Brésil)

Merci M. le Président. Au nom du groupe latino-américain des Caraïbes, je voudrais féliciter M. Guyau pour sa réélection. Il sait qu'il peut compter sur nous, qu'on espère de lui tout ce qu'on peut espérer d'un homme qui sait qu'il a beaucoup à faire pour notre Organisation, pour la réduction de la faim dans le monde et pour mener la FAO aux bons résultats et au consensus que nous avons vu émerger aujourd'hui et hier. M. Guyau, soyez sûr que comme Président indépendant du Conseil, vous aurez toujours le support, l'appui et le bon conseil du Groupe latino-américain. Bonne chance.

Mr Alexander A. OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

On behalf of the Russian Federation, we would like to congratulate the re-elected Independent Chair of the Council, Luc Guyau, and to wish him every success in his post. We would like to assure him that he can rely on our support in his work. We would like to express our conviction that this trust that has been shown to him in his election will make it easier for him to work in finding consensus within the Council on important matters relating to the future of the Council.

Mr Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, we congratulate Mr Guyau on his re-election. We are all aware of the tasks ahead to be achieved by working together, by consensus, by productive dialogue and in the context of ongoing Reform. The Southwest Pacific wishes to congratulate him, and offer their assistance in his forthcoming term.

CHAIRPERSON

I think this brings the Tenth Plenary meeting to a close. Tomorrow we will reconvene our meeting in the afternoon at 15:30. I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 18:10 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 18:10 horas

Annex I
Annexe I
Anexo I

Address by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Allocution de Sa Sainteté le Pape Benoît XVI
Discurso de Su Santidad el Papa Benedicto XVI

Monsieur le Président,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je suis particulièrement heureux de vous accueillir, vous tous qui participez à la trente-septième Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture, perpétuant une longue et heureuse tradition, inaugurée il y a soixante ans désormais, au moment de l'implantation à Rome de la FAO.

À travers vous, Monsieur le Président, je désire remercier les nombreuses Délégations gouvernementales qui ont tenu à être présentes à cette rencontre, témoignant ainsi de l'universalité effective de la FAO. Je voudrais également renouveler le soutien du Saint-Siège pour l'activité méritoire et irremplaçable de l'Organisation et vous confirmer que l'Église Catholique s'engage à collaborer à vos efforts pour répondre aux nécessités réelles de nombreux frères et sœurs en humanité.

Je saisis cette occasion pour saluer Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général, qui, avec compétence et dévouement, a permis à la FAO d'affronter les problèmes et les crises suscitées par les réalités globales changeantes qui concernaient, même de manière dramatique, son domaine d'action spécifique.

Au Directeur Général élu, Monsieur José Graziano da Silva, je présente mes vœux les plus sincères pour le succès de son activité à venir, souhaitant que la FAO puisse répondre toujours plus et mieux aux attentes de ses États membres et apporter des solutions concrètes aux personnes qui souffrent à cause de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Vos travaux ont indiqué des politiques et des stratégies en mesure de contribuer à la relance importante du secteur agricole, des niveaux de production alimentaire et du développement plus général des superficies rurales. La crise actuelle qui frappe désormais tous les aspects de la réalité économique et sociale requiert, en effet, que tout soit fait pour concourir à éliminer la pauvreté, premier pas pour délivrer de la faim des millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants qui ne disposent pas du pain quotidien. Cependant, une réflexion complète impose de rechercher les causes de cette situation sans se limiter aux niveaux de production, à la demande croissante d'aliments ou à la volatilité des prix : facteurs qui, bien qu'importants, risquent de faire lire le drame de la faim en termes exclusivement techniques.

La pauvreté, le sous-développement et donc la faim sont souvent le résultat d'attitudes égoïstes qui, partant du cœur de l'homme, se manifestent dans son activité sociale, dans les échanges économiques, dans les conditions de marché, dans le non-accès à la nourriture et se traduisent par la négation du droit primaire de toute personne à se nourrir et donc à être libérée de la faim. Comment pouvons-nous taire le fait que même la nourriture est devenue objet de spéculations ou bien est liée aux évolutions d'un marché financier qui, privé de règles sûres et pauvre de principes moraux, n'apparaît attaché qu'au seul objectif du profit ? L'alimentation est une condition qui concerne le droit fondamental à la vie. La garantir signifie aussi agir directement et sans délai sur les facteurs qui, dans le secteur agricole, pèsent de manière négative sur la capacité de fabrication, sur les mécanismes de la distribution et sur le marché international. Et ce, alors qu'une production alimentaire globale, selon la FAO et les experts autorisés, est en mesure de nourrir la population mondiale.

Le cadre international et les fréquentes appréhensions engendrées par l'instabilité et l'augmentation des prix exigent des réponses concrètes et nécessairement unitaires pour obtenir des résultats que les États ne peuvent garantir individuellement. Cela signifie faire de la solidarité un critère essentiel pour toute action politique et toute stratégie, de façon à faire de l'activité internationale et de ses règles

autant d'instruments de service effectif à la famille humaine tout entière et en particulier aux plus nécessiteux. Il est donc urgent d'avoir un modèle de développement qui considère non seulement l'ampleur économique des besoins ou la fiabilité technique des stratégies à poursuivre, mais aussi la dimension humaine de toutes les initiatives et qui soit capable de réaliser une fraternité authentique (cf. Caritas in Veritate, 20), en s'appuyant sur la recommandation éthique de « donner à manger aux affamés » qui fait partie du sentiment de compassion et d'humanité inscrit dans le cœur de toute personne et que l'Église compte parmi les œuvres de miséricorde. Dans cette perspective, les institutions de la Communauté internationale sont appelées à œuvrer de façon cohérente suivant leur mandat pour soutenir les valeurs propres de la dignité humaine en éliminant les attitudes de fermeture et sans laisser de la place à des instances particulières qui se font passées pour des intérêts généraux.

La FAO est aussi appelée à relancer sa structure en la libérant des obstacles qui l'éloignent de l'objectif indiqué par sa Constitution : garantir la croissance nutritionnelle, la disponibilité de la production alimentaire, le développement des aires rurales, afin d'assurer à l'humanité la libération de la faim (cf. FAO, Constitution, Préambule). Dans ce but, une pleine syntonie de l'Organisation et des Gouvernements devient essentielle pour en orienter et en soutenir les initiatives, spécialement dans la conjoncture actuelle, qui voit se réduire la disponibilité des ressources économiques et financières tandis que le nombre des affamés dans le monde ne diminue pas selon les objectifs espérés.

Ma pensée va à la situation de millions d'enfants qui, premières victimes de cette tragédie, sont condamnés à une mort précoce, à un retard dans leur croissance physique et psychique ou sont contraints à des formes d'exploitation pour recevoir un minimum de nourriture. L'attention aux jeunes générations peut être une manière de contrer l'abandon des aires rurales et du travail agricole, pour permettre à des communautés entières, dont la survivance est menacée par la faim, d'envisager leur avenir avec une plus grande confiance. Nous devons constater, en effet, que malgré les engagements pris et les obligations conséquentes, l'assistance et les aides concrètes se limitent souvent aux urgences, oubliant qu'une conception cohérente du développement doit être en mesure de dessiner un avenir pour toute personne, famille et communauté en favorisant des objectifs sur une longue période.

Il faut donc soutenir les initiatives que l'on désire prendre aussi au niveau de la Communauté internationale tout entière pour redécouvrir la valeur de l'entreprise familiale rurale et en soutenir le rôle central pour parvenir à une sécurité alimentaire stable. En effet, dans le monde rural, le noyau familial traditionnel s'efforce de favoriser la production agricole grâce à la transmission sage des parents aux enfants non seulement des systèmes de culture ou de conservation et de distribution des aliments, mais aussi des modes de vie, des principes éducatifs, de la culture, de la religiosité, de la conception de la sacralité de la personne à toutes les phases de son existence. La famille rurale est un modèle non seulement de travail, mais de vie et d'expression concrète de la solidarité, où le rôle essentiel de la femme est confirmé.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames, Messieurs,

L'objectif de la sécurité alimentaire est une exigence authentiquement humaine, nous en sommes conscients. La garantir aux générations actuelles et à celles à venir signifie aussi préserver les ressources naturelles d'une exploitation frénétique car la course à la consommation et au gaspillage semble ignorer toute attention au patrimoine génétique et aux diversités biologiques, très importantes pour les activités agricoles. Mais à l'idée d'une appropriation exclusive de ces ressources s'oppose l'appel que Dieu adresse aux hommes et femmes, pour qu'en « cultivant et protégeant » la terre (cf. Gn 2, 8-17), ils promeuvent une participation à l'utilisation des biens de la Création, objectif que l'activité multilatérale et les règles internationales peuvent certainement concourir à réaliser.

À notre époque où, aux nombreux problèmes qui assaillent l'activité agricole, s'ajoutent de nouvelles occasions de contribuer à apaiser le drame de la faim, vous pouvez œuvrer pour qu'à travers la garantie d'une alimentation correspondant aux besoins, chacun puisse grandir selon sa vraie dimension de créature faite à la ressemblance de Dieu.

C'est le souhait que je désire exprimer, tandis que sur vous tous et sur votre travail, j'invoque l'abondance des bénédictions divines.

Annex II
Annexe II
Anexo II

**Address by His Holiness Benedict XVI to Participants to the 37th Session of the FAO
Conference Sala Celementina, Vatican City 1st July 2011 (Non official translation)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Mr. Director-General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am especially happy to welcome all of you participating in the 37th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations today. In so doing, you are continuing a long and cherished tradition dating back sixty years to the time when the FAO made Rome its Headquarters.

Through you, Mr. Chairperson, I should like to thank the many government delegations that have demonstrated their wish to be here today, once again manifesting the universal nature of FAO. I should also like to renew the support of the Holy See to the noteworthy and irreplaceable activities undertaken by the Organization. I wish to confirm to you that the Roman Catholic Church associates itself to your efforts in responding to the very real needs of our brothers and sisters in humanity.

I also take this opportunity to greet Mr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO who, with great competence and devotion, has had FAO meet the problems and crises emanating from the ever-changing global realities that affect, often in a very dramatic way, its very specific mandate.

To the Director-General Elect, Mr. José Graziano da Silva, I wish to express my sincerest wishes for the success of his forthcoming mandate. In so doing, I also wish to express the desire that FAO shall always be able to respond to the requests of its Member Nations, and that it shall implement concrete solutions for the benefit of those suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Your programs are indicative of policies and strategies that shall contribute to the important relaunching of the agricultural sector, increased levels of agricultural production and overall rural development efforts. The current crisis affecting all aspects of the social and economic sectors requires, in effect, for everything possible to be done to eliminate poverty. This is the first step in delivering millions of men, women and children, who are unable to receive their daily bread, from hunger. It is therefore incumbent upon us to try to understand the rationale for this turn-of-events without limiting ourselves to talk of production levels, rising food demand or price volatility: factors that although important, run the risk of couching this dramatic situation exclusively in technical terms.

Poverty, underdevelopment and, consequently, hunger are often the result of selfish attitudes springing forth from men's hearts and manifesting themselves in social activities, economic exchanges, market conditions, and non-access to food. These attitudes culminate in the negation of the principal right of every individual to acquire food and to be free tied to evolving financial markets bereft of defined rules and moral principles that it is exclusively tied to the profit motive? Food impacts on the fundamental right of life. Guaranteeing food also implies acting directly and without delay against those factors that, in the agricultural sector, negatively impact on production capacity, distribution mechanisms and international markets. And all of this takes place with a global food production capacity, according to FAO and other experts, capable of feeding the world!

The frequent disturbances created through economic instability and price increases in the international arena require concrete and cohesive responses to obtain the results that Member Nations cannot guarantee individually. This implies that we must make solidarity an indispensable criterion for all our political actions and strategies in order to also be able to turn international actions and their rules and regulations into instruments at the service of the human family in general, and the neediest in particular. It is therefore an imperative to create a developmental model that does not just take into consideration the economic aspects of requirements or the technical viability of strategies to be undertaken, but also the human dimension of all these initiatives and those capable of achieving a true

brotherhood (cf. *Caritas in Veritate*, 20) while adhering to the ethical principle of “providing food to the hungry.” This is part and parcel of the feeling of compassion and humanity inscribed in the heart of all human beings, and the feeling that the Church condones through the dispensation of charitable acts. Under these circumstances, organizations from the international community are called upon to work coherently in the implementation of their mandates, to uphold the values inherent in human dignity, to eliminate close-mindedness and to disregard trends that are taken as general truths.

FAO is also being called upon to relaunch its organizational structure by eliminating those obstacles that distance it from the principal objective of its Constitution: to guarantee food increase, availability of food production, development of rural areas in order to ensure that humanity is free from hunger (cf. FAO, *Constitution*, Preamble). A distinct synergy between the Organization and governments is essential in leading and supporting initiatives within the current financial climate. Indeed, the world has witnessed the reduction of economic and financial resources, resulting in the number of hungry in the world not decreasing according to expected targets.

My thoughts are with the millions of children who, as the first victims of this tragedy, are condemned to precocious deaths or delays in their physical and psychological development, or are subject to different forms of exploitation in order to receive a minimum amount of food. Focus on the younger generation may be a means of countering migration from rural areas and promoting agricultural employment. This focus could also assist entire communities, whose mere survival is threatened by hunger, to look towards their future with greater confidence. We should indeed take note of the fact that despite the many promises and commitments made, concrete aid and assistance has often been limited to emergency cases. This approach overlooks the fact that a coherent development program should be able to guarantee a future for every person, family and community over a long period of time.

It is therefore also necessary to support initiatives at the international level, to rediscover the value of the rural family enterprise and to maintain a pivotal role in achieving stable food security. As a matter of fact, in rural areas the traditional family structure is conducive to agricultural production thanks to the wise transmission from parents to children not just of farming, conservation, or food distribution techniques, but also as a result of the maintenance of lifestyles, educational principles, culture, religious feelings, coupled with the innate understanding of the sacred nature of the individual during every stage of his existence. The rural family is a role model not just as far as work is concerned, but also as regards life and the concrete expression of solidarity, as well as a social entity where the role of women is recognized.

Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are aware of the fact that the objective of food security is to ensure an authentic human need. To guarantee this objective for current and future generations also implies a commitment to safeguard natural resources from their frantic exploitation. The course towards consumerism and consumption has accelerated to such an extent that our genetic patrimony and biological diversity, so important for agricultural activities, are being overlooked. Moreover it should be noted that the notion of an exclusive appropriation of natural resources is against the call that God has made to men and women for them to “cultivate and protect” the land (cf. *Gn* 2, 8-17). Indeed, it is important to promote the participation and use of the gifts of Creation, a goal that multilateral actions and international rules and regulations can certainly assist in implementing.

Despite the many problems affecting agricultural activity, new opportunities are arising to contribute to relieving the drama of hunger. We must work towards the guarantee of food according to each individual's need, so that each one of us may grow according to his true potential as a being created in the image of God.

This is the wish that I should like to make. Meanwhile, I should like to also invoke a wealth of divine blessings on your behalf, and that of your work.

Conference Conférence Conferencia

Thirty-seventh Session Trente-septième session 37.º periodo de sesiones
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011 Rome, 25 juin - 2 juillet 2011 Roma, 25 junio - 2 de julio de 2011
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME RÉUNION PLÉNIÈRE 11.ª REUNIÓN PLENARIA
2 July 2011

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:46 hours

Mr Tefera Derbew,

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 46

sous la présidence de M. Tefera Derbew,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11.ª sesión plenaria a las 15:46 horas

bajo la presidencia de ls Sr. Tefera Derbew,

Presidente de la Conferencia

**Adoption of the Report
Adoption du Rapport
Aprobación del informe**

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Eleventh Plenary meeting, which is of course the last Plenary meeting of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference, to order.

This afternoon we have three reports to be adopted by the Conference, the report of Commission I, report of Commission II and the Plenary meetings.

Please ensure that you have before you the four documents containing the draft report, C 2011/REP. The first part, C 2011/REP/1 contains items discussed in the Plenary meetings. The second part contains Commission I items, the third part contains Commission II items and, finally, you have the report on Item 23 containing the Budget Resolution adopted by the Conference yesterday.

The breakdown of the items is given on page two of today's Journal. I would like to remind the Conference that suggestions for editorial changes in the different languages can be passed on to the Secretariat after the meeting.

Adoption of the Report of Commission I (C 2011/I/REP/11 to 19 and C 2011/I/REP/27, 35.8, 35.9)

Adoption du Rapport de la Commission I (C 2011/I/REP/11 to 19 and C 2011/I/REP/27, 35.8, 35.9)

Aprobación del informe de la Comisión I (C 2011/I/REP/11 to 19 and C 2011/I/REP/27, 35.8, 35.9)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now begin with the adoption of the report of Commission I. I would like to invite Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer, Director, Head of the OECD Division of FAO and of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce the report.

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Chairperson, Commission I)

Commission I adopted its report which is now before the Conference. In addition to that, I would like to thank the two Vice-Chairpersons of Commission I.

We believe that this is a very balanced report and an accurate summary of the proceedings of Commission I for which I thank the Chairperson and the members of the Drafting Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

You heard the proposal made by Dr. Wögerbauer. I therefore propose that we adopt the Report of Commission I *en bloc*. Please note that editorial amendments may be suggested later.

Are there any comments on the proposal? Republic of Moldova.

Ms Victoria CHITII (Republic of Moldova)

First of all, the delegation of the Republic of Moldova would like to congratulate Mr José Graziano da Silva on his election to the position of FAO Director-General and Mr Luc Guyau to the position of Independent Chairperson of the Council, wishing them success in the realization of their high mandates and assuring them that the Republic of Moldova is giving its full support and commitment to fulfil its engagements within FAO.

We greatly appreciate the work of the Drafting Committee and we would like to recall the repeated interventions of the Moldovan Government regarding the full-fledged FAO presence in the country, which was reflected in the official correspondence addressed to this effect to FAO by the Moldovan Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry and given a particular importance in the context of the discussions held during the meeting of the acting President of the Republic of Moldova with the FAO senior officials.

We would also like to underline and appreciate the due attention given to the issue during the Twenty-seventh FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in Yerevan in May 2010, the report of which

reflects, in paragraph 12, the fact that in the context of the conditionalities of the new medium- and long-term vision of the Decentralised FAO Offices Network, serious consideration shall be given to the request of a series of countries in the region for the consolidation of the FAO presence there. For my country, that is expressed in the nomination of an Assistant FAO Representative in the Republic of Moldova, thus underlining the imperative significance of consolidating and improving the cooperation and efficiency of the collaboration with FAO.

The Republic of Moldova would like to ask for a clarification. In the draft text of the report, we have here in paragraph 3 of Item 11, the final text, says “The Conference endorsed the report of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Regional Conference for Europe.” In the last line, it says that “due consideration to full-fledged presence in some countries of the region.” My question is: does the fact that the Conference endorses the report of the Twenty-seventh Session, considering the full-fledged presence of FAO in some countries of the region, mean the possibility of action to be taken for those countries? That is the clarification the Moldovan delegation requires.

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Chairperson, Commission I)

Thanks also to the intervention of the Republic of Moldova. The question you have asked can be answered with yes; there should be action taken. The point you have made mentioning the country of Kyrgyzstan and also your country in the report of the Regional Conference, this is true. In Conference reports and in reports of the Council there is never mention of a specific country. So the only thing which I can propose, and maybe this will help both delegations concerned to solve the problem. What we can do is to put a footnote, saying, with a reference to paragraph 12 of the Report of the Seventeenth Regional Conference for Europe in Yerevan, Armenia with the relevant dates and the relevant document, C 2011/23. The Council document was CL 140/16, so we can make a reference to paragraph 12 to this document if so wished.

CHAIRPERSON

Is that acceptable to Moldova?

Ms Victoria CHITII (Republic of Moldova)

That is acceptable for the Republic of Moldova.

CHAIRPERSON

I ask for your approval, including the inclusion of the footnote, which is already mentioned by the Chairperson of Commission I.

Since there is no objection, the report is adopted.

Report of Commission I adopted

Rapport de la Commission I adopté

Informe de la Comisión I aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank Ms Wögerbauer, the Chairperson of the Commission, for guiding the work of the Commission and also Mr Paul Murphy from Canada, who was the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. My thanks to the members of the Drafting Committee also.

There is a request from the Republic of Congo for the floor.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Merci Monsieur le Président. Toutes nos excuses mais il y a une petite coquille qui s'est glissée dans la version anglaise. Lorsque l'on regarde le Rapport de la 26^{ième} session pour la région Afrique, il est écrit «République démocratique du Congo» en version anglaise. Il faudrait peut-être corriger et écrire «République du Congo».

Le Congo adopte ce Rapport comme vous l'avez suggéré.

CHAIRPERSON

I think we took note of this and it should be corrected in the translated version of the English. Thank you.

Adoption of the Report of Commission II (C 2011/II/REP/21 to 26)

Adoption du Rapport de la Commission II (C 2011/II/REP/21 to 26)

Aprobación del informe de la Comisión II (C 2011/II/REP/21 to 26)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to the adoption of the Report on items taken in Commission II, which is to be found in document C 2011/REP/1 for Commission II.

I would like to ask Dr Yaya Olaniran, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce the Report, with the exception of the section on the budget level, which Conference endorsed yesterday.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Commission II)

Commission II met and discussed the main issues that were placed before us. I have as Vice-Chairperson, Ambassador Agnes van Ardenne, who by now should have been in Amsterdam because she has finished her assignment here. I also have His Excellency from Oman Al Bakri, as a second Vice-Chairperson. The Drafting Committee Chairperson was Mary Blanca Rios, and we were intending to produce for you the report that I am hereby submitting for the approval of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I propose that we adopt this Report *en bloc*. Are there any comments on the proposal? Can I take it that the Conference wishes to adopt the report? The report is adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Report of Commission II adopted

Rapport de la Commission II adopté

Informe de la Comisión II aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank Dr Olaniran for his work as Chairperson of the Commission. I am sure the Conference also wishes to express its appreciation to Ms Mary Blanca Rios of the United States of America, the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, along with all the members.

Adoption of the Report of Plenary (C 2011/REP/1 to 28 and C 2011/REP/30 to 35.9; C 2011/REP/35/ADD to 35/ADD 2)

Adoption du Rapport de la Plénière (C 2011/REP/1 to 28 and C 2011/REP/30 to 35.9; C 2011/REP/35/ADD to 35/ADD 2)

Aprobación del informe de la plenaria (C 2011/REP/1 to 28 and C 2011/REP/30 to 35.9; C 2011/REP/35/ADD to 35/ADD 2)

CHAIRPERSON

Finally, we have come to the adoption of the reports on those items examined in the Plenary. The document concerned is C 2011/REP for Plenary. Before I give the floor to delegates, there is a correction on Item 10, paragraph 2 reads: “The Conference noted that high and volatile international ...” but should be corrected to read “The Conference noted that highly volatile international....” With this correction, if any delegate wishes to take the floor, you are welcome.

If there are no comments, then may I take it that the report is adopted?

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

In the report on Item 6, I have some comments.

In the draft resolution, in point 2c) and in point 4, I have some additions. This is in document C 2011/REP/6, and then in the Resolution, point 2c):

“the Organization will directly render appropriate housing accommodation to be assigned as the official residence of the Director-General and pay related expenses, in lieu of rental subsidy;

and here we would like to add

“In line with the report of the General Committee, it was agreed that the overall accommodation costs should not exceed 180 thousand Euros.”

CHAIRPERSON

There is also a sentence that should follow what Hungary already mentioned, that this rate will be adjusted according to inflation by the Finance Committee. That was included in the Report of the General Committee, but it is missed here. So Legal Counsel, would you comment on this issue?

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

If the Conference agreed to this proposal, we would recommend that the actual text of the paragraph of the Report of the General Committee on the matter be reproduced in the Report of the Conference, not in the actual Resolution. You may also recall that the recommendation also referred to the possibility that the ceiling be referred to the Finance Committee, and we would have a specific paragraph after the Appointment Resolution dealing with this specific matter.

The text could be as follows if you agreed, and it would be a paragraph added to the Report after the Appointment Resolution. “In relation to operative paragraph 2C of the Resolution on the Appointment of the Director-General, “the Conference agreed that the overall costs of the rental of the Director-General’s housing accommodation and related expenses to be covered by the Organization should not exceed Euro 180 000 per year. The Finance Committee may review this ceiling of expenditure”.

This would be, as I said, a separate paragraph in the Report after the Appointment Resolution, if you agreed with this proposal.

Mr Kent VACHON (Canada)

I am just a little confused as to why we are doing this as a separate paragraph, when, as far as I can tell, the issue is that the General Committee amended the original Draft Resolution, the General Committee then proposed a revised text to the Conference. The Report of the General Committee was then adopted, but I think what we have before us is the un-amended original proposal that went to the General Committee, and not the one that came out of the General Committee and through Plenary. It seems to me that there was simply an error in not including in this report the final product of the

General Committee and Plenary's deliberations and decision-making. It simply seems to me, the logical way to solve this is to use the text that was in the General Committee Report, and adopted by Conference already.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

I agree with my colleague from the General Committee. Since it was adopted in the General Committee, we should include it here.

And, if I may, I also would like to ask that we include the second paragraph from the General Committee Report, the Fourth Report that you are just reading, point 2. There is point 3 in the General Committee Fourth Report. It refers to the final disclosure statement, I mean that one.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

We would reflect in operative paragraph 2c the decision of the General Committee, which foresees the possibility of review of the ceiling by the Finance Committee as necessary.

Regarding the question of the Financial Disclosure and the fact that the Director-General needs to comply with the policies of the Organization on gifts and gratuities, you may also wish to keep in mind that this is already in the contract that you have reviewed in the General Committee. We could still add a paragraph to the Appointment Resolution, but this is already in the contract that you have reviewed in the General Committee.

Subject to this we are in your hands.

Mr Balázs HAMAR (Hungary)

That is right. It is already in the contract, so we are satisfied, but we would like to have the sentence, of course with the amendment, as you said, also included. We should refer to the Finance Committee as well, so that the Finance Committee may review the ceiling of expenditure as was agreed in the General Committee and then by the Conference, as we adopted the Report of the General Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

If the Conference accepts the amendment on 2c, in line with the discussion, the proposal of the General Committee and if it satisfies the interests of the Conference that the Financial Disclosure issue is included in the contract, please let me check the approval of the Conference.

Do you approve in line with these adjustments? Does the Conference approve the proposal in line with these adjustments? United States of America.

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

Just for the sake of clarity my delegation would like just to be certain how the language will read in paragraph 2c, page 3 of the C 2011/REP/6.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Iraq was also a member of the General Committee when the Fourth Report was adopted. We agreed on what was stated by the delegations of Hungary and Canada, and therefore we agreed with the addition of what was adopted in the General Committee to this paragraph.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Office)

The full text of operative paragraph 2c of the Appointment Resolution reads, first, "The Organization will directly rent appropriate housing accommodation to be assigned as the official residence of the Director-General and pay related expenses, in view of rental subsidy."

Then the paragraph would continue as follows, "The overall costs of the rental of the Director-General's housing accommodation and related expenses to be covered by the organization should not exceed Euro 180 000 per year. The Finance Committee may review this ceiling of expenditure."

Thank you.

Mr Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I think that just as well the General Committee does not have more members, otherwise time may be taken.

I just wanted to take the floor to agree with fellow member of the General Committee, Iraq, that this is the reflection of the discussion that was held, not only the reflection of the discussion, but the agreement that was made, and that was brought to the General Committee and the Committee's Report was adopted.

So, we support the inclusion of what Mr Tavares has just read out, and also the reference to Financial Disclosure and part four of this Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

May I have your approval.

It is approved by the Conference, thank you.

**Report of the Plenary adopted
Rapport de la Plénière adopté
Informe de la Plenaria aprobado**

**Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos**

CHAIRPERSON

This effectively brings to an end the substantive work of this Session of the Conference.

I wish to thank every one of you for the spirit of cooperation and dialogue that has been tangible throughout the week and which has enabled us to reach this satisfactory conclusion.

I believe the Conference has worked well over the past eight days due to the mutual respect, and will to overcome barriers in reaching consensus decisions in the interest of the Organization as a whole.

Many delegates have remarked on the spirit of teamwork that enabled the budget level to be determined without us having to work into the middle of the night. Likewise, there has been agreement to defer discussion on matters which risked dividing the membership on governance matters. I am grateful to you for this pragmatic approach, as it has certainly made my task as Chairperson less arduous.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to the three Vice-Chairpersons and other Members of the General Committee for their commitment to ensuring due diligence in examining sensitive issues, thereby ensuring the smooth-functioning of the Conference. There were many frank and divergent exchanges during our meetings, but never were our discussions anything less than respectful and cordial, which surely has to be the best way to handle governance issues in a large international arena such as FAO.

My thanks also go to the Chairpersons and Members of the Credentials Committee and the Resolutions Committee for their contribution to the work of the Conference.

I would also like to say some words of appreciation to the six candidates who stood for the post of Director-General. I think we all were struck by their steady commitment to the goals and purposes of FAO. I was also encouraged to witness the calm and respectful participation of 180 countries in the two ballots which took place in this Hall last Sunday. Naturally, I wish Mr Graziano da Silva my best wishes as he prepares for the demands of the high office which awaits him. I know that both the Members and staff of the Organization will offer him their steadfast support in the battle to reduce the number of hungry people in the world.

Indeed, whatever differences of opinion that inevitably arise in an international forum like FAO, let us not forget the overarching purposes of this Organization of ours: to reduce the number of people suffering from hunger, to eliminate poverty, and to manage natural resources sustainably.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, who has been an unfailingly dynamic and extremely able leader of FAO for almost 18 years. The fact that agriculture is once more high on the international agenda is surely due to tireless actors in the field of development such as Dr Diouf, and we are all grateful to him for that.

Dr Diouf has been a powerful advocate for poor women and men in agriculture across the planet and has never lost sight of the importance of smallholder farmers, whose crucial role in providing food security was highlighted by Kofi Annan here just one week ago.

We wish Dr Diouf well in his future endeavours, and express a debt of gratitude for his years of dedicated stewardship of FAO.

Before I close this last meeting of the Session does anyone wish to speak? The floor is open. New Zealand.

Mr Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

I would like to take the floor very briefly to congratulate you and your delegation on the manner of which you have chaired this Conference. My interaction with you is in the General Committee with the most difficult issues, and we have worked through in a methodical and transparent fashion under your careful and helpful guidance.

We certainly appreciated the manner in which you conducted those meetings and I can do no better than quote your own words that we had “frank and divergent views expressed in a respectful and cordial manner” due to the way in which you chaired those meetings. So, we would like to thank you very much for that, and we wish you a safe return to Addis Ababa.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Christopher HEGADORN (United States of America)

On behalf of the delegation of the United States of America, I wish to take the floor to thank you, for the excellent work you've done here this past week, also the Host Country of Italy, the Vice-chairs and all the Officers of this Thirty-seventh Session of Conference and all of our colleagues here for the excellent outcomes of this Session, which reflect the hard work done leading up to this event in Technical Committees, in Working Groups, and in Governing Bodies throughout the biennium.

On a personal note, I would also like to point out that this is my last official intervention as a member of the US Mission, as I depart my post this coming week. I wish to recall the remarkable amount of work we, as members, have achieved in the past three years, including the approval of the IPA, reform of the CFS, creation of a High-Level Panel of Experts and much progress in the Finance Committee, the CCLM, and so much more.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank my Ambassador and loudly and clearly affirm my appreciation and profound respect for the many superb diplomats here among Rome delegations and for the remarkable FAO staff throughout the entire Organization, including many of those on the Podium before us today.

In that respect I wish for FAO a very bright and productive future and continued success in all aspects of its mandate.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

There is one organization - World Rural Forum - that would like to take the floor. Before this, I shall give the floor to Poland.

Mr Wojciech OSTROWSKI (Poland)

Mr Chairman, the EU would like to thank you and the Vice-Chairpersons for the very effective way you conducted this Session of the FAO Conference.

Thank you very much, and congratulations.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I wish to recall, for the benefit of their Excellencies, Ambassadors and Ministers, that the next six months will be for us a new experience. Given the number of successes of the FAO in recent years under the guidance of Dr. Jacques Diouf, we must ensure that we continue to demonstrate solidarity. We must work together in order to help the outgoing Director-General to properly fulfil his duties over these forthcoming six months, while also opening our hearts and committing to cooperating with the new Director-General over that same period, making sure that the handover will also ensure an increase in quality, opening up new horizons for this Organization.

Mr Wilfred Joseph NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

The Tanzanian delegation, on behalf of the Africa Regional Group, congratulate you, Mr Chairman of the Conference and the Chairpersons of Commission I and II, all the officials of the Conference and all the delegates, for the successful conclusion of this Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference.

The unity of membership has prevailed all over this week, and this we wish will continue to be an overriding consideration in everything we do in the governance of the renewed FAO.

We also pay our tribute to the hard work of Management under the leadership of Mr Jacques Diouf.

Mr Diouf, we wish you a smooth ending of your remaining months.

Sr Antonio de Aguiar PATRIOTA (Brasil)

Brasil toma la palabra en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe para unirse a los otros compañeros, los otros delegados y expresar su gratitud por la conducción segura, tranquila de esta Sesión de la Conferencia, Conferencia que ha sido importante por la nueva dirección que ha traído a esta Organización. Aprovechamos la oportunidad también para agradecer una vez más la gestión del Dr. Diouf frente a esta Organización que tanto ha hecho por la erradicación de este grande flagelo que es el hambre en el mundo. Deseamos al Dr. Diouf que sea muy feliz, con mucha salud para él y su familia.

Mr Ammar AWAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Near East, I should like to extend our congratulations to you for your leadership of this Conference. I also pay tribute to all the Member Nations and the delegations for the unity among ourselves. On behalf of our group as well, we should like to give thanks to Dr Diouf for all his services during this long period. We promise him to continue to collaborate with him until the very last day of his term in office. We express our congratulations as well to Mr Graziano da Silva for having been appointed the Director-General of FAO. We also vow to join forces with him to reduce the numbers of the malnourished and the hungry in the world.

Mr Esteban PAGARAN (Philippines)

I just want to echo the sentiments other delegations on behalf of the Asia Group. We thank Mr Diouf for his distinguished service to this Organization, and we also welcome Mr Graziano da Silva, our incoming Director-General.

CHAIRPERSON

May I now invite Ms Marlene Destreza Ramírez, Secretary General of the World Rural Forum.

Ms Marlene Destreza RAMÍREZ (World Rural Forum)

On behalf of the more than 335 farmers and rural organizations in 60 countries and five continents which have campaigned for the International Year of Family Farming, we, the World Consultative Committee on the campaign composed of ten men and women representatives from the four continents of Africa, Asia, America and Europe, and the World Rural Forum, we wish to express our deep gratitude to the FAO on its Thirty-seventh Session for the resolution in support of the International Year of Family Farming and for its eventual transmittal to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the view of the UN declaring 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

This gratitude comes from us, especially women farmers, who believe that family farming is the basis of sustainable food production in achieving food security, food sovereignty, the Millennium Development Goals, and is a fundamental pillar for the integral development of all Member Nations.

We commit to pursue this campaign with vigour and dedication. We enjoy your continuous support and partnership, as well as solidarity in sharing responsibility for feeding the world and caring for the Earth.

Mr Evgeny F. UTKIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation delegation joins and endorses all of the wishes which have been expressed by the Heads of Delegation of the countries here at the Thirty-seventh Session. We, on the successful conclusion of this Conference, wish to commend the fine way in which you have conducted all of the meetings of the Session. The FAO Conference is not a simple Conference, each one of them allows the Organization to move forward and this Conference has not been an exclusion and, indeed, it has been the most important because we now move into the concluding phase of the Reform of the Organization. So we congratulate you and your staff, your deputies, and the entire staff and personnel of FAO and all delegates for the successful conclusion of this Conference.

We wish Jacques Diouf every success in his future activities, and it is precisely under his leadership that this process of reforming and enhancing the efficiency of the Organization began.

We wish the new incoming Director-General every success. Mr José Graziano da Silva who comes in to take the place of Jacques Diouf, should now conclude this process and take the Organization on to even fuller implementation of these serious tasks in the world of eradicating hunger. This is a very important endeavour, because this problem is one of the most important ones in the world. This merciless problem for humanity will have to be resolved with the help of this Organization. We are grateful to all of the participants of this Organization for their efficient work, for achieving effective results and for managing to find a consensus on very difficult issues pertaining to the future activities of the Organization. We hope to see successful cooperation with all countries and delegations in future. We thank all of the participants and we thank you, Chairperson, once again and we thank the Government of Italy for the wonderful circumstances which were created for all of the participants in the Conference here. Thank you.

Mr Saad Zaki NASSAR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Government of Egypt, we express our thanks and congratulations to you, Mr Chairperson together with all your assistance and the management for the successful conclusion of this Conference which made very important decisions that will affect the future of the Organization.

We also thank the Organization for all the support provided to the delegations. We expressed our congratulations to the new Director-General and we wish him all success in leading this Organization to fulfil its mandate at international level to fight hunger and poverty in the world and to ensure food security.

We are also grateful to Dr Diouf for all his efforts during his term in office in this Organization, and we thank him for the Reform of FAO over the last 18 years and for all his efforts to fight poverty and hunger in many countries in the world.

We affirm that Egypt, the country that knows current revolution will contribute with all its energy and effort towards the goals of FAO and to promote the South-south cooperation and to collaborate as well with all the countries, the African countries and the Nile River basin countries.

Mr Anthony BROWN (Cook Islands)

I wish to thank your leadership in administering this Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference.

On behalf of the Pacific Islands, I should also like to thank Mr Jacques Diouf for coming to our region on a number of occasions to see how vulnerable we are with our economies and with our geophysical surroundings of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific.

Mr Diouf, you have conducted yourself well in managing the Organization, which has mandated you to lead at a national level and international level. We have come to appreciate how you have handled our issues in our region.

You have been a great supporter of our region, and we have been a great supporter of your leadership. I can only trust, on behalf of the Pacific Islands, that our new Director-General will fulfil the mandate, if not supersede, your performance, with our international global mandate of taking care of the sustainable resources we have on our planet Earth.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairperson of the Conference. Like others who spoke before me, I would like to praise you for the very able manner in which you conducted so successfully the activities of our main Governing Body.

I would also like to wish well to my successor Mr. Graziano da Silva, who can count on my full support, not only before I leave the Organization at the end of the year but after. And I must say we have already started to work closely together. I would like to take this opportunity to most sincerely thank all the Member Nations of FAO. There were 169 when I arrived and they are 191 today, including the historic decision of the Russian Federation, who was a Founding Member of FAO, to join our gathering.

I would like to thank you all for the support you have given me. It is not easy to manage an Organization of such magnitude, covering so many sectors, where the visions, the appreciation of situations and the interests are sometimes very different. But beyond all those elements, we have always felt that all the Member Nations were committed to the goal of this Organization of eradicating hunger and poverty and were all committed to ensuring the success of this Organization because they give their opinion, and their ideas to make this Organization truly a universal United Nations Organization, but I have also been given their resources and their technical expertise.

I have always said that we have certainly some of the finest civil servants in the UN System. Most of those to be hired were selected out of 80 to 300 candidates through a transparent process involving all relevant technical departments and human resources, and in many cases, also the staff associations. They are committed, they have given us their knowledge, their dedication and they have given us their time, sometimes at the expense of their families. I am grateful to all of them.

But the best gift you could have given me, and you gave me, was to show the world that FAO is the most democratic of all the UN institutions, where every country has one vote. Decisions are taken by all Members, big or small, and decisions are taken in a transparent manner through a secret ballot. And you have chosen a Director-General to continue the work of this Organization.

You have, in the same process, also arrived at a budget without objections on the part of any country, and this was not easy. Therefore, I appreciate your effort, your sense of dialogue and consensus. We have tried to accompany you by being proactive and by proposing alternatives, and we are pleased that the last budget I proposed was approved with an increase in the resources.

But beyond the Regular Programme budget you have shown confidence in this Organization because the extra-budgetary resources are much greater than the Regular Programme budget, and these are

voluntary funds. This shows also that you are committed to the goal of eradicating hunger in the world.

I believe we can do better, I believe we can do more, but I am convinced that following in particular the crisis of 2007-2008 and its economic, social, political and human consequences, there is a greater awareness on the need to invest more in agriculture, in particular in small farmers' agriculture in the countries where we have the 1 billion hungry people -- on average it is 925 million. I am sure you will help the countries to be able to address the great challenge of feeding a population that will go from roughly 7 billion now to 9.1 billion, requiring an increase before 2050 of 70 percent in world food production and 100 percent in the production of developing countries. I know that you can make it. I know that you have the will. I know that you have the resources. I know you have the expertise and I therefore would like to take this opportunity from the bottom of my heart to thank you on my behalf, on behalf of my family and on behalf of all the staff of the Organization for having been by my side over these 18 years, and for also, sometimes we don't notice it, having changed radically the infrastructure of this Organization through individual contributions to have meeting rooms, to have the Atrium, to have the Media Centre and to have so many business centres and utility rooms, the last one being the facility that our friends from Estonia gave us to facilitate communication for all the Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives freely across the world.

To all of you, my best wishes for success in your careers, success for your families and I am sure that this is not the last time we will have the opportunity to get together. I have fond memories of the relationship we have developed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Dr Diouf for his inspirational last remark to the Conference. May I remind you that the Council will convene for its Hundred and Forty-second Session on Monday, 4 July at 9:30 hours in the Red Room. To those who are travelling home, I wish you a safe journey. To those staying on in Rome, I wish you continued success in your work with FAO. I declare the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 16:50 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 16:50

