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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-fourth Session • Trente-quatrième session • 34° período de sesiones

**Rome, 17-24 November 2007
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(20 NOVEMBER 2007)

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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-fourth Session
Trente-quatrième session
34º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 November – 24 November 2007
Rome, 17 novembre – 24 novembre 2007
Roma, 17 de noviembre – 24 de noviembre de 2007**

**FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
PRIMERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

19 November 2007

The First Meeting was opened at 10.03 hours
Mr Christer Wretborn
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 03.
sous la présidence de M Christer Wretborn
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.03 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Christer Wretborn,
Presidente de la Comisión I

**SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE AYANT TRAIT À
L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA EN MATERIA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y
AGRICULTURA**

**6. Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Gender and Development
Plan of Action (C 2007/16)**

**6. Rapport de situation sur l'application du Plan d'action pour la parité
hommes-femmes et le développement (C 2007/16)**

**6. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción
de la FAO sobre Género y Desarrollo (C 2007/16)**

CHAIRPERSON

We cannot wait too long. We are talking a lot about efficiency savings in this Organization and I think it is time to start now.

Good morning to everyone, and welcome to this meeting in Commission I.

We have in front of us six items to deal with; three today and three tomorrow. I am confident that, with your cooperation and good will, we will undertake and complete our work in due time.

I have an announcement: I, the Swedish Ambassador for FAO, am Chairing this Commission I and then we have two Vice-Chairs: from Algeria, Mr Abdel Malek Titam, Inspector General of the Directorate General of Forests and from Austria, Ms Hedwig Wögerbauer. They are the two Vice-Chairs.

On the podium here we have: to my right, Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division and; further to my right, Ms Yianna Lambrou, Senior Officer and; to my left, Barbara Burlingame, Secretary for Commission I; and further to my left, Robert Mayo, Assistant Secretary to Commission I.

Now we come to the issue about quorum. I would ask you if there are any objection to my proposal that we have a quorum.

There is no objection.

We continue with Item 6 as background, I will give you some information on this point.

The last Conference requested that a new Progress Report on the Gender Plan of Action be prepared at the completion of the cycle 2002-2007. The Conference also requested that a new Plan of Action be submitted for the period 2008-2012. As has been the case in past years, the Progress Report assesses FAO's achievements and challenges in fulfilling the Organization's mandate towards achieving gender equity in all of its work.

As you are aware, gender mainstreaming is a priority across the UN System and all UN Agencies face the challenge in pursuing gender equity, in a rapidly changing context of globalization, urbanization and climate change as well as achieving the MDGs.

Furthermore, the IEE stressed the importance of ensuring that gender and other inequities are addressed by the Organization with adequate resources to support its work.

We look forward to hearing your views and to continue the dialogue on how to achieve the challenge of eradicating poverty and hunger by involving the rural poor farmers, fisheries and forestry users, which mean both men and women.

Now I will give the floor to Ms Marcela Villarreal to introduce this point on the agenda.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Thanks to all of you who are here this morning to discuss the progress report of the last biennium of implementation of the Gender Plan of Action of FAO and also, hopefully, to endorse the new proposed Gender Plan of Action for 2008-2013.

The new Plan of Action, which supersedes this one – this is the old one, now in its last phase of implementation – builds on past experience and lessons learned in gender mainstreaming, not only here within FAO but also as experienced in many of the other sister UN Organizations.

The way in which we did this Plan of Action was to ask each of the technical units to identify three outputs from their own programme of work and budget, and to make sure that they would be gender-sensitive, also to identify and construct up to two indicators for which they would be able to measure progress and to monitor how well they are doing in implementing their own outputs.

So, this responds directly to a request from you, the Member Nations, in which we were asked in the implementation of the last Plan of Action. We were asked to be able to measure, much better, and impacts. We believe that with this way of working – having the buy-in from each of the technical units – we will be able to measure much better the progress and, therefore, report to you as these new outputs are implemented.

Now, with this way of working, we ensure that this Plan of Action is fully embedded in the Programme of Work and Budget, which is precisely the first recommendation in the External Evaluation Report on gender issues.

The first recommendation was that there should not be a separate Plan of Action, but the Plan of Action should be fully embedded in the Programme of Work and Budget. Even without knowing this – because we started working quite before we got the report from the IEE – this is already the outcome. It is fully embedded and if it will be published in a separate version, it does not mean that it is separate. It is just that it is an extraction of the Programme of Work and Budget, which probably will be published separately just for ease of reference.

As it is, with this way of working we have ensured a direct link to the Strategic Framework of the Organization and also a direct contribution – this was very important – to MDGs and very specifically MDG 1 – on reduction of poverty and hunger – and clearly, also MDG 3 – which is gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

We had developed a systematic and comprehensive training programme for the Organization so that, together, with the outputs that each technical unit has identified, they will have the training, methodologies, guidelines and everything that they need in order to be able to implement fully this Plan of Action.

The IEE also requested us to provide how much it would cost to have this full training programme and that is already included in the costed version of the final report of the IEE.

I do not want to take the floor any longer because we have a very short time for this discussion. I just would like to underline one fact. As you all know, we have been suffering from dwindling resources, as much as the rest of the House has been, and so for us it has been very, very essential to be able to count with extra-budgetary resources. I would just like to thank very warmly the direct contributions from Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands and Spain which have been essential for implementing this previous Gender Plan of Action.

I will close here and wait and see what comments you might have in order for us to improve the programme, the Plan of Action and be able to start implementation as soon as possible if you will endorse it.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I open the floor I have a short announcement. It is about the European Community and its Member States.

The competence of the European Community and its Member States is mixed. The competence is mixed.

Now I open the floor for speakers to intervene.

I give Malaysia the floor first, followed by Afghanistan.

Malaysia, you have the floor.

Raj R. D'NATHAN (Malaysia)

Malaysia commends FAO for providing this valuable document, C 2007/16.

In spite of good progress achieved for the last five years in the Gender Development Plan of Action, 2002-2007, the Organization is still facing some major challenges, particularly budget constraints, inadequacy in capacity, non-commitment from the middle and senior managers, ineffectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation system, lack of data on the actual impact of gender aspects in the Organization's projects, as stated by the project programme review committee in 2006 and the lack of success of the gender focal points.

However, my delegation is pleased to note the Organization will introduce a new GAD PoA for the period 2008-2013, targeted as a gender mainstreaming strategy to address some of the major challenges from the previous plan, including a systematic and comprehensive training programme and human resource gender parity action plan to improve gender balance in the Organization.

Malaysia would like to urge the Organization to provide a comprehensive plan with well-defined programmes for the implementation of the new GAD PoA for the period 2008-2013 by taking into account all of the recommendations provided in the IEE FAO final report. The report could then be submitted to the forthcoming sessions of the Programme and Finance Committee for further debate.

Malaysia endorses this report.

Ms Fatima ZAHIR (Afghanistan)

We welcome the third progress report on the four objectives of FAO's Gender and Development Plan of Action 2002-2007 and also appreciate the presentation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2013. We note that the IEE report considers the 2002-2007 Plan of Action as well integrated into FAO's Programme of Work and Budget and considers it to be a good model for the UN System to emulate.

The creation of a network of 54 focal gender points in 29 divisions of FAO and the establishment of the Inter-departmental Working Group on Gender are indeed helpful mechanisms for mainstreaming gender issues into Regular Programme activities in field projects of FAO. We note the progress in building awareness about gender issues among the staff of FAO. But it seems more work is needed in the area of awareness-building because in paragraph 535 in the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO it is stated, and I quote, "the IEE survey of staff found that 40 percent of the respondents had not heard of the Gender and Development Plan of Action and only 14 percent used it in their work." We also note that paragraph 536 in the IEE report states that the gender issues in economic work is less mainstreamed than in crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry.

We note that a variety of tools are employed in promoting gender issues in the work of FAO. Perhaps most important is the Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) programme for capacity-building and creation of awareness. Other useful training initiatives are the Gender, Biodiversity and Local Knowledge System and FAO Livelihood Diversification and Enterprise development.

In Afghanistan, more than 25 thousand rural women benefited from training in backyard poultry production system. Also, gender issues are mainstreamed in our National Programme for Food Security, which receives assistance from FAO. The work on gender-sensitive indicators is another useful area of work, including improvement in statistics associated with it.

Another issue is partnership with other UN Organizations on gender issues. Cooperative arrangements appear to be progressing well. For example, the intent to prepare the Gender and Agricultural Livelihood Source Book jointly with the World Bank and IFAD.

We appreciate the presentation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2013. It draws on the experience of the Action Plan of 2002-2007 and introduces further modifications such as linking gender issues to key global issues like climate change, bioenergy and further promoting the work on capacity-building, partnership arrangements, monitoring and evaluation.

We feel the following aspects could have received explicit treatment in the preparation of the Plan of Action 2008-2013. One aspect is the recommendation in the IEE report, as stated in paragraph 649, which states that the Gender and Development Plan of Action be integrated into FAO's Strategic and/or Medium-term Plan and be reported as part of the programme cycle. The second aspect is closer linkage of the Plan of Action with MDG 3. The third aspect is the rough costing of the Plan of Action 2008-2013 with regard to prospective resources, both Regular Programme and extra-budgetary resources. The fourth aspect is the need for a clear presentation of integrating the elements presented in the Plan of Action into the design of field projects, particularly under the "ONE UN" initiative, where the emphasis is on closer integration with national programmes and gender-related activities sponsored by other stakeholders.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The United States welcomes and endorses the Progress Report on implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action for the period 2002-2007.

We commend FAO for an active and productive gender and development programme and recognize the leadership of the FAO Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division as well as the collaboration of FAO field and headquarters units in working with countries to achieve gender equality. We also applaud the partnership programmes identified in the report and encourage further collaborative efforts.

The United States supports the observations and recommendations contained in the report, particularly:

- that the sustained commitment, accountability and proactive support from middle and senior managers to gender-mainstreaming are essential for the effective implementation of the Plan of Action;
- that a system to monitor effective implementation of gender mainstreaming needs to be put in place; and
- that the Gender Focal Points should be appointed from senior levels staff, and that their tasks should be considered as part of the regular programme of work and included in their job descriptions and performance evaluations.

We also would like to thank Ms Villareal and her colleagues for their commitment and results.

José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement. The European Union believes that no true development is possible without gender equality. In rural areas, women constitute the backbone of the economy and the family and community support. Gender inequality is a major obstacle to eradicating hunger and poverty. Gender equality and equal rights for women in the society is a fundamental ingredient in achieving all Millennium Development Goals.

We want to thank the FAO Secretariat for an informative, analytical and frank document C 2007/16, which is also the final progress report of the Gender and Development Plan of Action for 2002 and 2007. The document prepared in a concise and competent manner by the Gender, Equity and Rural Development Division, gives a good picture of the state of play with gender

issues in the Organization. A lot of good solid work has been done but even more remains to be done and we can by no means remain complacent with the present situation. We note that the Independent External Evaluation considered FAO to have been on the forefront of gender equality in the 1980s and 1990s. However, present day, FAO seems to be underperforming with a low proportion of women in management positions in either professional rates, given the relevance of the subject to much of its mandate. It is time for the FAO to regain its prominent role in the work towards gender equality. This can start by putting their own house in order by adopting efficient gender mainstreaming tools into practice by appointing a Senior Manager responsible for gender issues and thereby giving the issues, the attention and the importance merits. This is also the goal of the four Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2013, presented in the document hand.

There are several instruments in FAO to implement the Gender and Development Plan of Action. Advocacy work is always important at every field of FAO activities, both at its normative work and at every technical type of work. The socio-economic and gender analysis programme is FAO's key programme for capacity-building and in new pertinent socio-economic and gender analysis gets cuts, have been development on terms like AEDS and natural resource management and for emergency situations. The FAO developed socio-economic and gender analysis tools have been also used by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme, which we note with satisfaction. Gender sensitive statistics are a major tool in making visible the inequality faced by women and the different situations of men and women in various fields of natural resource management and use. This work is of highest priority and should be mainstreamed for information and analysis on FAO activities. In other words, there must be mainstreaming of everything that FAO does.

The Gender and Development Plan of Action has four main strategic objectives: access to food and nutrition; natural resources; agricultural support systems; and gender sensitive policy and planning. The report gives examples of FAO's work during the biennium 2006-2007 in these areas. A special focus has been given on emergent trends that have severe impacts on food security and rural poverty, many diseases, mutable HIV/AIDS, and emerging programmes, which we note with satisfaction. However, as the report rightly notes, important challenges remain and effective gender mainstreaming has not yet been achieved in FAO. FAO must check equal capacity in terms of well-trained personnel to the different levels in and types of interventions. We strongly agree with the report that the system to monitor effective implementation of gender aspects needs to be developed and put in place. Moreover, the issue of gender focal points must be taken seriously. Senior level persons should be appointed to the task and their performance evaluated in a real way. Finally, Mr Chairperson, we welcome the next Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2012 and note with satisfaction the selection of four global issues to specifically address, namely: emergencies, climate change bioenergy, diseases and globalization. We endorse the recommendations of the report and urge the Organization to put them into practice.

Ms Rahima MSHANGAMA (Tanzania)

The Tanzania delegation sincerely welcomes this new Gender and Development Plan of Action. It contains good ideas as well as a good plan for activity and output that will be taking place during the next six years of its implementation. We are glad to see that FAO continues to take very seriously the issue of gender equality and its mainstreaming in the development programmes and this remains as the top priority of the Organization and more widely the entire UN family. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania recognizes that gender inequality is the root cause of vulnerability to disease, such as HIV/AIDS, feminization of poverty and interruptable disparity in access to service and resources ranging from access to education, health care, productive capital and the ownership of assets.

Since independence, my country has formulated policies aimed at achieving gender equality in the Tanzanian society. But, despite these well-meaning policies and strategies, despite the achievement of the last 40 years, the gender gap still exists, and as a Government we are determined to continue addressing these challenges. The Tanzania delegation is therefore, greatly

encouraged to see that FAO led by the newly-established Gender Equality and Rural Development Empowerment Division, has formulated the new Plan of Action to intensify support for gender mainstreaming both within the Organization and among member countries. Lessons for the first Gender and Development Plan of Action show that progress has been made but challenge remains. Resources are required to ensure the implementation of the Plan of Action but resource alone will not do. Political support and commitment on the part of Senior Management of FAO, Governing Bodies and indeed all Member Nations are required now more than ever. The goal of eradicating extreme poverty, and indeed achieving the rest of the Millennium Development Goals, cannot be achieved if gender issues are not addressed. It is my sincere hope and indeed the hope of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania that this Gender and Development Plan of Action will receive the support it deserves and will achieve its objectives. The Tanzania delegation endorses the report.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Implementing the 2002 to 2007 Plan of Action, Canada is pleased to note that the new Gender and Development Plan of Action makes efforts to address some of the gaps identified in the progress report on implementation of the current Plan of Action. In particular, we see reference to improve the accountability for gender equality through better monitoring and evaluation of its implementation, as well as staff training and capacity development. We encourage the FAO to continue its efforts to raise the profile of gender equality by appointing Senior Officers to work on these issues, to find champions for gender equality at all management levels and to include gender equality objectives in performance assessments of staff and managers in an effort to improve overall accountability and ownership of the new Plan of Action.

One of the IEE recommendations is that a performance management system with evaluations at every level, up to and including the Director-General be developed. One measure that should be built into that system is demonstrated commitment to the Organization's stated gender goals.

Mr Chairperson, severe resource constraints did not stop the Canadian Civil Service from mainstreaming gender equality and perspectives. Now, we look to rapid advances within the FAO, regardless of the budget level approved later this week. This is a UN-wide priority and Canada fully supports it. In short, Canada applauds the latest Plan of Action and we look forward to its implementation and subsequent progress reports.

Ms Tina LINDSTRÖM (Sweden)

Sweden speaks on behalf of the Nordic Countries; Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The Nordic Countries align themselves with the statement made by the Presidency of the EU on this point of the agenda. FAO has a central role to play in combating hunger and poverty and to achieve the MDGs. Improved food security and elimination of hunger and poverty can only be achieved if development strategies are firmly based on gender equality.

The Nordic Countries welcome the comprehensive progress report prepared by the Secretariat on the implementation of the current Gender and Development Plan of Action. It describes important achievements made but it also highlights the challenges and tasks ahead. The Nordic Countries find that the new Plan of Action 2008 to 2013 is a good platform for addressing these challenges and tasks. The Nordic Countries would like to comment on a few of the issues at hand such as strategies for mainstreaming, leadership, gender balance in the work force, and the need to translate policies into changes on the ground. As the new Gender Plan of Action states, gender mainstreaming is the main global strategy for promoting gender equality. Studies show that gender mainstreaming has fared fairly well at the policy level, but that serious challenges remain at a level of implementation. FAO is in a similar situation as many other UN Organizations. The policies are in place, but implementation has been difficult. The Nordic Countries welcome the increased focus on implementation. We would however, like to stress that mainstreaming is not enough. The strategy of mainstreaming has, in fact, undermined responsibility and reduced focus on women as targets for and partners in development cooperation. We believe it is necessary to

address this situation through targeted efforts, the allocation of sufficient resources and a clearer and a more explicit mainstreaming strategy.

Strong emphasis should consequently be put on the need for a two-pronged strategy, mainstreaming and targeted interventions. Experience shows that the single most important factor for success is strong leadership that demands results and seeks to keep women's right at the top of the policy agenda. For an effective implementation of the Plan of Action, it is essential to have the sincere and active commitment from the middle and senior managers to the gender mainstreaming process. FAO should make sure that management at all levels are accountable for promoting gender equality and ensuring that mainstreaming in all areas of policy and programming.

We appreciate the fact that FAO has strengthened its mechanisms for gender mainstreaming through the appointment of a number of gender focal points. This is a step in the right direction. We take it for granted that the gender focal points are equipped with clear mandates, that time and resources are allocated as appropriate and that necessary gender training is provided. These criteria are essential for gender focal points to be able to function properly.

The IEE Report points out that FAO has a low proportion of women in management positions and higher professional grades. According to the Report, women are also more commonly found in administrative and language-related functions. A better gender balance in the workforce is necessary. We encourage FAO to make sure that the human resource gender parity action plan will create a framework that can support the Organization in achieving this.

The Nordic Countries are strongly committed to UN Reform. Better cooperation and coherence of the various UN organizations on gender equality must be part of these reforms. FAO gives several examples on fruitful cooperation with other UN Agencies, and we are pleased to hear that FAO's socio-economic and gender analysis programme tools guidelines are used by IFAD and WFP to develop the scales of their country project staff. The three-based Rome Organizations are all concerned with enhancing the livelihoods of poor people in rural areas and we would like to see the cooperation between them enhanced, not least in emergency situations. Gender imbalances and, in particular, the vulnerability of women and children in crisis situations must be analyzed and systematically dealt with. The Rome-based Organizations should be able to cooperate and complement each other in such situations.

Mr Chairperson, to conclude, we welcome steps taken in the right direction. But more needs to be done. We need to see policies being transformed into practices. We need to see mainstreaming backed up with targeted interventions. We need to see strong leadership and accountability at all levels of the Organization. We need to see a better gender balance among FAO staff at all levels, not least in management positions and we need to see adequate capacity and resources at the different levels of intervention. We trust that FAO management and staff, as well as Members, will use the momentum created by IEE to create an organization that can stand as a model for others when it comes to gender and equality.

Ms Adele BRYANT (New Zealand)

The New Zealand delegation thanks the FAO Secretariat for the progress report and note the gender mainstreaming efforts to date, in particular the achievements since 2005. We also note with concern some of the findings of the recent Independent External Evaluation, which indicate that FAO has been underperforming with regard to gender mainstreaming, considering its relevance to the Organization's core mandate and that FAO's leadership, as a UN Agency in this area has slipped over the years. There is a need to stiff up the commitment and the responsibility of the entire UN System, especially the Specialized Agencies, such as the FAO to work towards gender equality and women's empowerment as an integral part of their role. Hence, we welcome the chance to address some of these weaknesses and challenges through the proposed new targeted Plan of Action. We endorse the content of the proposed new Plan of Action in principle, with some suggestions for improvement, to ensure momentum for gender mainstreaming, as systemized and sustained.

International learning has shown that gender mainstreaming is generally not achievable without rigorous institutional accountability systems for both management and staff. Therefore, we welcome measures to increase gender targeting initiatives and monitoring an evaluation by technical divisions under the new Plan of Action.

However, we note that this targeting remains at the output rather than at the outcome level and urge FAO to increase attention towards measuring and demonstrating positive gender equality results on the ground.

We are encouraged by the new Plan of Action commitment to invest in capacity development and dedicated staffing for gender as a critical means of increasing the awareness, knowledge and competencies of staff for mainstreaming gender. We also stress the vital role that FAO Senior Management will have to play in providing leadership and creating an enabling environment for the new Plan of Action to be operationalized at all levels, including through continuing efforts to increase gender balance in senior staffing and holding staff accountable for gender mainstreaming in their respective organizational functions.

Lastly, we urge FAO to continue to lift its gain in contributing to inter-agency cooperation for gender equality, particularly in terms of collaboration on gender equality programmes at country level and as part of the one UN Pilot initiatives to ensure consistency and synergy in the implementation of the UN System-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming.

Hiromori KUROKI (Japan)

Japan appreciates FAO's active promotion of the gender mainstreaming through the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, which is MDG 3, is to help achieve other MDGs such as eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Japan has also promoted gender mainstreaming on ODA projects, based on the gender and development initiative granted in March 2005. Japan supports its progress reports on the implementation of FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action. Japan also supports the proposed Gender and Development Plan of Action 2008-2013. Japan welcomes that the Plan sets clear outputs and progress indicators for the evaluation of the achievement. Japan hopes that the evaluation will be used for the effective implementation of the Plan.

Ms Nuha Hussein FATHALLAH (Iraq)

We are delighted to be here for the second time. The Iraqi delegation congratulates the efforts of FAO in order to carry out or ensure equality between genders. We welcome the views expressed by our Minister, who deals with the policy that ensures we will have gender mainstreaming, particularly in rural areas. We have training courses for them and I can tell you that in Iraq, our women are moving forward and we need your assistance. FAO through established objectives is moving towards a full coverage of these activities. We would like to see this work being done in Iraq and we would wish you peace and every blessing.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Iraq, the next speaker is Brazil followed by Gabon. Gabon is the last speaker on my list. Brazil, you have the floor.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

This is the first time that my delegation takes the floor I would like to congratulate you on your election to preside the work of this Commission.

The Brazil delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the work done by FAO in gender and development issues as shown by the results contained in the progress report of the implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action.

The Brazilian delegation would like to stress one specific aspect related to the activities of awareness raising for gender and sustainable development in rural areas.

As duly highlighted by document C 2007/16, the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development sponsored by FAO and hosted by the Brazilian Government, in Porto Alegre last year, made clear the important relationship between gender and rural development. Likewise, the Conference recognized the relevance of governments to devise and implement policies to uphold the rights of women in rural areas.

Gender is an important issue among a vast array of crucial matters related to rural development, including the more democratic access to land by means of agrarian reform. Brazil will be following with the utmost interest the appropriate follow up to the work done in Porto Alegre in all its aspects, with a view to allow the necessary funds for it.

Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Je voudrais féliciter Mme Villareal et son équipe pour le bon travail réalisé depuis des années dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action pour la parité hommes-femmes et le développement. Comme l'a très bien dit Mme Villareal, l'aspect interdisciplinaire du Plan d'action a toujours été fondamental et bien appliqué et ceci avant que l'EEI ne souligne son importance. Je voudrais ouvrir ici une parenthèse pour rappeler que pour le moment les recommandations de l'EEI n'ont pas encore été adoptées par les États-Membres. Nous appuyons le nouveau Plan d'action pour la parité hommes-femmes 2008-2013 et notamment les quatre éléments fondamentaux décrits au paragraphe huit du document C 2007/19. Nous appuyons la déclaration des Pays nordiques et encourageons le Secrétariat à poursuivre son travail dans ce domaine.

Ms Zhang MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation has taken note of the fact that, as regards development and the Gender and Development Plan, FAO has done an excellent job in increasing the empowerment of women and increasing the training for this. We are pleased and congratulate you on the progress achieved. The Chinese delegation wishes to widen awareness of this and increase our knowledge on this subject. As regards the Plan of Action for 2008-2013, and the report on this Plan of Action, China is very pleased to support this Plan of Action.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Development Division)

These are indeed very important and very welcome suggestions and I would also like to thank you very much for the endorsement, the wide endorsement for the Gender and Development Plan of Action for 2008-2013.

I could not agree more with you, for those countries that mentioned that gender equality is not only an issue of principle and of human rights, but is also basically an issue of development. You cannot have good development without really addressing gender equality issues and we will never be able to reach MDG 1 if we do not have a good strategy for gender equality.

I do agree with the importance stressed by the Nordic Countries of moving from policy to implementation, and indeed, I believe that this new Plan of Action gives us very good grounds to be able to implement effectively, with adequate monitoring and evaluation, which was an issue that was raised also by several of you.

We do agree entirely that much more remains to be done, as the EU said, and we believe as Afghanistan raised, that by integrating fully the Plan of Action into the Programme of Work and Budget, we will be moving effectively to doing much more as requested by you.

There were a number of points brought up by a number of delegations, which we agree with entirely. We agree entirely that we need very good leadership, better mechanisms for accountability, that senior and middle level managers should be held accountable for the implementation of this programme, this Plan of Action, and that performance appraisal mechanisms should include, not only for the senior managers, but for staff in general, what they do on gender issues. This was an issue that was brought up by the IEE, FAO needs to have better performance appraisal mechanisms and indeed they should include performance on gender issues, not only for the gender focal points but for all of the staff. We welcome that very much.

The issue of monitoring and evaluation was brought up by several countries including the USA, Japan and others, and that we agree with entirely and it is an issue that we will take up, indeed, with strengthened force. Awareness-raising was raised, as well as the issue of improved capacity building and again we agree with you entirely. The issue that more can be done in awareness raising, as brought up by the Independent External Evaluation (IEE), is an issue we take to heart, and we include a very strong component of awareness raising for the next Plan of Action (POA), including very much incorporation of the Field Staff activities for awareness, reaching all of FAO staff, not only at Headquarters level.

The importance of very sound statistics is an issue we are working on very strongly. We have developed training for different regions on gender disaggregated data, how to collect them, how to analyze them and very specifically, how to integrate them into policy. Much more needs to be done in this area, and we will continue to do this.

The issue of resources was brought up by several delegations, including Tanzania and the Nordic Countries and the need for more resources was brought up. Of course we agree with that, naturally, but we also take into account what Canada said, –if there are no additional resources, we still have to do the job– and we agree with that entirely. Of course with more resources, we will do a better job but lack of resources is no excuse for not taking this issue up, because this is in effect a priority issue for the Organization.

We were asked to strengthen partnerships and this again was brought up by the IEE. We cannot work in isolation from the rest of the UN System, from all the other partners in development and indeed we are strengthening our partnerships, not only with the Rome-based Agencies, who are our natural partners, and we have had strong partnerships with them in the SEAGA, which is brought up in the reports, but in several other areas also. We are working quite hard towards improving what we can do in the one UN and, indeed, we have had some successes already, incipient in a couple of the One UN countries.

We agree very much with the Nordic Countries in the sense that gender mainstreaming is not enough. In effect, gender mainstreaming is just a process and the final objective is gender equality. So, gender mainstreaming is a tool and the fact that we have included targeted interventions already, as requested by the Nordic Countries, in this version of the Plan of Action, shows we are doing both at the same time, mainstreaming and targeted interventions, which we believe is important. We also saw that a gender mainstreaming strategy was not enough and we address that already in this new POA.

Brazil raised the issue of the ICARRD Follow-up. Indeed that Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development was very strong on gender issues, and the Declaration has basically an agenda for action in it. We are addressing it, with a lot of importance given to that.

There is an issue of gender balance, gender balance not only within FAO but within the rest of the UN is a main issue. Throughout the UN, we have too few women in all the management positions and also in the higher Professional positions. That is an issue that will be very much addressed within the Human Resources Gender Plan of Action, which is being produced right now by the Division of Human Resources of FAO, so they will hopefully be able to report back to you, the Member Nations, with what progress they will have been making in this area.

And finally, I would like to thank you all and very specifically, I thank those countries which mentioned what they are doing in gender mainstreaming within their own countries including Tanzania, Afghanistan, linking with the national programme for food security, among others. Iraq, naturally we welcome your request.

I would just like to say once again, thank you all very much for this endorsement and for your very useful suggestions.

7. Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C 2007/17)

7. Rapport intérimaire sur l'examen triennal d'ensemble des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies (C 2007/17)

7. Informe provisional sobre la revisión trienal amplia de la política relative a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas (C 2007/17)

CHAIRPERSON

We will start now with Item 7, Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPRI) of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System and the document is C 2000/17.

At the podium we have Ms Annika Söder, Special Adviser to DG, ADG, Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up (UNC) and we will also have Mr Tesfai Teclé, ADG, Technical Cooperation Department, and we also have to the right of Ms Söder, Mr. Basharat Ali, Director, Office for Coordination and Decentralization and further to the right, Mr Hans Page, Chief, the officer who is responsible for the draft report for this meeting.

We are now talking about this Interim Report and its presented response to FAO Conference Resolution 13/2005 which requests the Director-General to take appropriate actions for the full implementation of UN General Assembly Resolution on the TCPRI. This Resolution, adopted by the General Assembly in 2004, provides overall directives on the architecture of the UN Development System, it emphasises natural ownership of the development, takes a holistic and comprehensive approach to both the UN System and its individual components, and describes the mechanisms and instruments throughout the UN System should provide support to national development. After this introduction, I now leave the floor to Ms Söder, ADG who will introduce this document.

Ms Annika SÖDER (Special Adviser to Director-General, Assistant Director-General, Office of UN Coordination and Millennium Development Goals Follow-up)

Two years ago, FAO Members reaffirmed their commitment to support UN system-wide reforms for a more coherent, coordinated, and effective UN country presence. In its Resolution 13/2005, this Conference requested that the Director-General of FAO take appropriate actions for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, or better known as 2004 TCPRI.

Today I am pleased to present an Interim Progress Report on the implementation of the 2004 TCPRI by FAO. Our report proposes ways forward to make FAO's support and specialized knowledge available to Member Nations in a coherent and coordinated manner that meets their national development needs. Discussion on the report is particularly important as many issues of the Secretary-General's "*Delivering as One*" pilot initiative, currently underway in eight countries, are closely related to the TCPRI, and the importance of both of these for the achievement of the Internationally-Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

FAO's approach to the implementation of the TCPRI involves close interaction with UN inter-agency mechanisms, and also takes into account FAO's ongoing reforms. The report covers a number of areas of priority in the TCPRI, and I shall briefly highlight some of these important areas. As we are discussing this item here in the Conference, the General Assembly of the United Nations is conducting the 2007 edition of the TCPRI. Consultations are taking place in New York for the adoption of a new resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Our report to the FAO Conference, on the implementation of the 2004 TCPRI is, therefore, particularly timely.

As you will be aware, the 2004 TCPR contains important provisions on funding of operational activities for development. A key message of the 2004 TCPR is the need to *enhance predictable, adequate and sustained funding for long-term development objectives*. The current report illustrates the steps that FAO is taking to address these issues and the challenges that it is facing along the way.

We are developing practical instruments to reduce dependence on earmarked voluntary funding, and we are creating a financial framework aimed at mobilizing longer-term and less conditional funding. These instruments include Strategic Partnership Agreements to provide flexible funding for interdisciplinary action and a Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities to ensure rapid response to emergencies.

We are also working with other UN partners in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), to promote the use of joint programming mechanisms by the UN System at the country level. Similarly we are engaged with governments in many countries on supporting their analytical and policy work, usually funded through Unilateral Trust Fund arrangements, the governments' own resources. A major challenge is how to ensure adequate funding for country-level activities, as well as global and regional initiatives.

Furthermore, FAO has identified two challenges that are also common to other Specialized Agencies in the UN: one challenge is that of incorporating economic development issues in the UNDAF currently they mainly focus on social concerns; the other challenge is ensuring that specific priorities, such as policy advice, knowledge provision and standard-setting work, are integrated in UN programming at the national level.

It is also important that UNDAF priority areas are agreed by the, UN Country Team, the Host Government and its development partners.

Our report notes FAO's strong commitment to the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes. FAO's own planning instrument, the National Medium-term Priority Framework also called NMTPF, provides a suitable entry-point into the UN System-wide UNDAF process, this is particularly clear in the context of the "Delivering as One" pilots. I would also like to underline that FAO is also fully committed to the effective functioning of the Resident Coordinator system. FAO sees value in a Resident Coordinator who is accountable to the UN System, in line with the wording of the 2004 TCPR. FAO has achieved significant results in other specific areas of implementation of the TCPR Resolution. Let me mention just a few examples. One, FAO is working with a strategic approach to capacity-building, totally in line with the special attention devoted to this area in the 2004 TCPR. Two, we are also proud of significant achievements by this Organization in South-South Cooperation. Thirdly, FAO has been notably active in strengthening our regional and sub-regional activities, this is well-aligned with the major changes urged by the TCPR on decentralization. Fourthly, the Gender and Development Plan of Action that FAO launched for the period 2002-2007 facilitated substantial work in this domain as you also heard earlier this morning. Fifthly, the increasing involvement in transition from relief to development has allowed FAO to achieve remarkable results in one of the new priority areas of the TCPR. Six, FAO has also been particularly active in system-wide initiatives regarding evaluation undertaken by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG). Seven, FAO is also contributing to the dialogue within the UN System on common premises, harmonization of business practices, shared services, regional structures and cost-recovery policies.

Without going into further details on these achievements, I invite you to see these details in the report in front of you. On the whole, the quality and intensity of FAO's response to the 2004 TCPR is significant and extensive.

We are committed to the renewed efforts that the entire UN System is making for full achievement of the objectives set out in the Resolution. We recognize that the current reforms of the UN System at country and global level offer opportunities for more effective access to the

wide range of support services and specialized knowledge of the UN, including advice on policies and norm- and standard-setting capacities, that only the Specialized Agencies can provide.

We strongly believe that the basis on which the UN development system must be assessed is its responsiveness to the national priorities of the Member Nations and its contribution to the achievement of the Internationally-Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

FAO is committed to a thorough involvement in system-wide efforts for an enhanced effectiveness in the development support function at the country level, and we therefore look forward to the outcome of the ongoing negotiations for a new resolution that Member Nations are conducting at the General Assembly.

Let me assure you that we are fully engaged, in a constructive and collaborative manner, in the UN reform process to ensure that we can deliver on our mandate and deliver on conference policies and resolutions also under new and emerging arrangements.

Ms Marie MARCHAND (Suisse)

La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat pour le document intitulé: "Rapport intérimaire sur l'examen triennal d'ensemble des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies" qui illustre souvent de façon détaillée l'approche adoptée par la FAO quant à la mise en œuvre de la Résolution 59/250 de l'Assemblée générale. La Suisse félicite le Secrétariat pour son analyse parfois très pertinente des défis et opportunités que représente pour la FAO le processus de réforme du système opérationnel des Nations Unies actuellement en cours. La Suisse est consciente des défis que pose ce processus de réforme aux agences spécialisées du système des Nations Unies mais elle est aussi foncièrement convaincue que ce processus représente avant tout une opportunité unique pour ses Agences de contribuer, de manière plus pertinente et efficace, aux priorités nationales de développement.

Nous percevons clairement les difficultés auxquelles doit faire face la FAO en ce qui concerne la disponibilité et la prévisibilité du financement de ses activités opérationnelles. Cependant, comme le souligne le Rapport intermédiaire, je cite: "L'approche de la FAO en matière de mobilisation des ressources extrabudgétaires est encore davantage orientée par les formules de coopération préexistante que par une évaluation complète des besoins prévus". La Suisse encourage donc vivement la FAO à combler son retard en s'inspirant des mesures déjà mises sur pied en matière de mobilisation et gestion des ressources volontaires par d'autres agences spécialisées.

Nous saluons l'introduction par la FAO de "cadres nationaux sur les priorités à moyen terme" comme outils de planification et de gestion des activités opérationnelles au niveau des pays. Nous pensons que, ces cadres nationaux d'appui devraient être améliorés afin de pouvoir réellement servir de base à la FAO dans sa recherche de partenariats sur le terrain y compris pour la mobilisation des ressources volontaires additionnelles et pour la définition de programmes conjoints avec d'autres agences onusiennes. Nous aimerions rappeler que la création de capacités occupe une place tout à fait centrale dans la Résolution 59/250 de l'Assemblée générale et que ceci est le reflet de l'importance accordée par les États au rôle particulier du système des Nations Unies en la matière. Ce rôle particulier appelle à l'utilisation de modalités d'exécution particulière et devrait interpeller la FAO sur la manière dont elle fournit son assistance technique sur le terrain.

Un volet important de la réforme opérationnelle du système onusien concerne l'harmonisation et la simplification des procédures administratives dans le but de réduire la charge administrative et les formalités qui pèsent sur les organisations et leurs partenaires nationaux. La Suisse regrette que le Rapport du secrétariat ne soit pas plus explicite sur les mesures mises en place par le Directeur général afin de réduire la charge administrative et les formalités qui pèsent sur la FAO et ses partenaires nationaux.

Depuis l'adoption de la Résolution 59/250 en 2004, de nombreux éléments sont venus étoffer le discours sur la cohérence du Système opérationnel des Nations Unies. Les efforts en la matière

ont notamment subis un coup d'accélérateur avec la publication du rapport du panel à haut niveau et le concept "Unis dans l'action". Comme le Rapport du Secrétariat semble l'indiquer, avec son dernier chapitre "La voie à suivre", la route est encore longue. Les efforts consentis jusqu'ici par la FAO dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de la Résolution 13/2005 de la Conférence méritent d'être encouragés et poursuivis de manière constante et consistante. La Suisse souhaite donc demander au Directeur général qu'il poursuive ses efforts en vue de la mise en œuvre de la Résolution 13/2005 de la Conférence en cohérence avec les recommandations pertinentes de l'Evaluation externe indépendante. La Suisse souhaite également qu'un rapport sur les progrès réalisés soit soumis par le Secrétariat lors de la prochaine session de la Conférence, ceci en tenant compte des éléments introduits dans la nouvelle Résolution de l'Assemblée générale sur l'examen triennal dont les négociations sont actuellement en cours à New York.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation welcomes document C 2007/17, and we congratulate the Secretariat for the information provided therein on the implementation of the 2004 TCPR resolution by FAO.

We also thank Ms Söder for her presentation.

Brazil recognizes the important contribution of FAO to the operational activities of the UN System. FAO has an essential role to play in supporting Members in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular MDGs 1,7 and 8. It is thus only natural that FAO takes an active part in the global efforts for a more coherent and better coordinated UN country presence, with the aim to meet more effectively national development needs.

In the debate on operational activities for development, both of FAO and of the UN System in general, the question of funding is essential. Unfortunately, the implementation of a reform agenda for the UN development system has been disassociated from the realization of international commitments related to an increase in development assistance. In particular, ODHL, through the regular budget of UN funds, programmes and agencies has seen a serious decrease in recent years. FAO is no exception. As much as the Organization is committed to reform, and to collaboration with the rest of the UN System, it also participates in an environment of increasing competition for increasingly scarce resources. Moreover, we also acknowledge the problem of FAO and of the other Specialized Agencies of not having assured programmable resources for technical cooperation work at the country level.

Last but not least, the work of harmonization simplification and greater efficiency of system-wide operational activities, as document C 2007/17 amply shows, has a cost in itself; the implementation of measures related to the TCPR should not affect negatively the availability of resources for development activities.

Predictable adequate and sustainable funding for long-term development objectives are key concerns in the TCPR.

Brazil welcomes FAO's efforts to develop a more coherent resources mobilization strategy, including a more holistic approach to regular and extra-budgetary funding.

We recall, however, that any such strategy should be aligned with an agreed framework a transparent process and development priorities. In this regard, attention should also be given to the support cost rates for programmes and projects funded by extra-budgetary resources at country level.

Regarding South-South cooperation, an issue of particular interest to my delegation is the further development of FAO of triangular cooperation programmes with donors from the North.

While this Commission I reviews FAO's Interim Report and the TCPR resolution, our colleagues in the next room will be engaged in discussing the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, as well as the follow up process for the Independent External Evaluation.

Brazil believes that this debate cannot be disassociated. Issues related to the FAO renewal, programming and, in particular, budgeting have impact on the implementation of General

Assembly Resolution 59/2050 by this Organization. It is clear that only with adequate, stable and predictable resources will FAO be able to respond to Members' demands for effective operational activities for development and to guarantee full national ownership.

Brazil therefore requests that FAO continue to report on its efforts to implement the GA Resolution 59/2050, bearing in mind that the Sixty-second General Assembly will approve a new resolution on the matter.

This is an issue of importance and interest to all countries. We do recognize that it belongs within the General Assembly and the ECOSOC, FAO and other Specialized Agencies can add a useful and valuable perspective to the debate. Nevertheless we sense a certain disengagement on the part of some FAO Members and we can see that by your somewhat short list of speakers. We therefore urge the Secretariat to bring this issue to the attention of Members, even before the next Conference. This can be done in various ways, including through the organization of informal meetings open to all Permanent Representatives.

Finally, I would like to refer to the draft resolution present in document C 2007/LIM/11.

I understand that this is an issue for the Drafting Committee, but I would like to express for the record that Brazil cannot go along with the reference to the IEE in the fourth paragraph.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada recognizes and supports the important steps that FAO is taking to implement the TCPR recommendations, as well as its commitment to better aide delivering by delivering as one with other UN Agencies at country level.

We trust that many of the challenges raised in the report will be addressed within the One UN pilots. It is important to remember that implementation of the One UN is an iterative process. The lessons from these pilots will be documented and shared and as the pilots go forth, we trust that specific issues raised by the Specialized Agencies will be seriously addressed through a formal evaluation that will be undertaken under the auspices of the UN Evaluation Group.

With respect to coordination costs, we recognize that there are considerable costs associated with planning and setting-up systems for delivering as one. It is perhaps more difficult, however, to conceptualize and quantify the costs associated with lack of coordination.

The IEE had very useful analyses and recommendations on how FAO partners, and its areas of comparative advantage in the field. We trust that these will be digested in moving forward from this review.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

We thank the Secretariat for the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR). We appreciate the description of the FAO's approach to implementation of the UN General Assembly resolution on the TCPR and the thoughtful analysis of the challenges to implementation.

As the UN General Assembly negotiates the TCPR Resolution in New York, the United States believes that: First, the UN should focus on capacity-building; second, we need to ensure that we are all making every possible effort to achieve the goals we set for ourselves in the Millennium Declaration and; third, we must strive for greater coordination in the UN's development activities, not for the sake of coordination, but rather as a means to achieve better results in the field.

We would like to comment on a few areas addressed in the interim report before us.

On capacity-building, we welcome FAO's commitment to ensuring that national ownership is at the center of FAO's interaction with its partners and that FAO – rather than seeking to be the implementer, the manager or even the source of expertise – is seen as a source of external support to country-driven programmes. In this regard, capacity-building is a strategic approach aimed at

strengthening the capacity of people, organizations and society as a whole to achieve their own goals in the field of agriculture and development.

Next, on the UNDAF, we recognize the challenge for FAO and other Specialized Agencies to ensure that agency-specific priorities – such as normative and standard-setting issues – are adequately reflected in the UNDAF priority areas that are agreed by the country team, the Host Government and its development partners. We agree with the interim report that the Resident Coordinator's funds raising efforts should not become the sole source of resource mobilization for the UN System at the country level, as resource mobilization for agency-specific activities – in particular, support to Member Nations with norm and standard-setting work – will continue to be necessary.

On the issue of regular and extra-budgetary funding, we commend FAO for its ongoing efforts to develop a more coherent resource mobilization strategy that would better link FAO's objectives and resource requirements to various sources of funding and that would be based on the prioritized programmes and expected results agreed to by the FAO Membership.

Finally, on the issue of the Resident Coordinator System, we agree that the Resident Coordinator System should be the neutral mechanism through which the UN System pursues system-wide objectives in a coherent and harmonized manner and that coordination should facilitate and not be at the expense of substantive work.

Again, we would like to thank FAO for this report.

Raj R. D'NATHAN (Malaysia)

Malaysia thanks FAO for providing document C 2007/17, regarding the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) on operational activities for development of the United Nations system. However, Malaysia would be pleased if the Secretariat could provide all these achievements in a matrix form for easier reference, based on the nine main activities that illustrate FAO's approach to the implementation of the TCPR.

FAO response to the 2004 TCPR is significant and extensive, such as in the areas of UN System-wide coherence initiatives of UNEG, country-level capacity of the UN System, South-South cooperation programmes, regional activities and involvement in the emergency and rehabilitation activities.

Malaysia would like to commend FAO in establishing the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division in 2002, and note the strong involvement of FAO in support of transition from relief to development. The Organization's total delivery of emergency programmes has increased by 18 percent in 2006, compared to 2005.

Malaysia would like to urge FAO to continue to increase the delivery of operations, particularly in response to Avian Influenza programmes and other emergency and rehabilitation programmes in the African Region.

Malaysia is very concerned with the declining resources of the Organization's regular budget by 25 percent, in real terms, since the biennium 1994-95 and at the same time, the extra-budgetary contributions have increased to a level nearly equivalent to the regular budgetary resources. This is not a good sign for a multilateral, international organization like FAO.

FAO must continue its role as a knowledge organization that helps its Member Nations to develop and apply norms and standards particularly, the CODEX Food Standards, IPPC, ITPGRFA, the Rotterdam Convention on Pesticides and others in developing their national capacities and providing technical services.

FAO must establish better links with other international organizations and create more partnerships with several donors, to join programmes at both regional and country-level in order to provide better results and impact, as well as efficiency savings.

FAO should provide better programme methodology of achieving One UN programme and One UN budget at a country level with the aim of providing a better delivery system and cost-effectiveness.

Malaysia would like to urge the Organization to carry out more country-level evaluation of its activities and present the evaluation results to the forthcoming Programme and Finance Committees and the Council session to deliberate on the effectiveness of its activities.

José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

First of all, accept our congratulation for your election as Chairperson.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union – Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and, Turkey – associate themselves with this statement.

We thank the FAO Secretariat for the informative documents C 2007/17, which give a good overview of the actions and activities undertaken so far by FAO to implement the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review, Resolution No. 13/2005, adopted by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-third Session on 25 November 2005. It shows that FAO's response has been significant and extensive. We appreciate the commitment of FAO in its field and call upon the Organization to continue the work in order to come to a more coherent and coordinated United Nations System at field level.

The Independent External Evaluation recommends – on page 150 – that in order to increase the relevance, effectiveness and impacts of FAO's technical work, FAO's work should be aligned, to the maximum possible extent, with United Nation's System priorities and that all national medium-term priority frameworks should be strongly integrated into delivering as One United Nations.

We ask FAO to actively take part in the United Nation's reforms and to participate fully in the One UN pilots. These pilots offer the UN System a one time opportunity to better perform at country level.

Ms Sebueng KELATWANG (South Africa)

South Africa welcomes the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR).

The South African delegation is particularly encouraged by FAO's initiative to work with other UN Agencies at country level. It will further add value if FAO can begin to partner with government departments in implementing government projects where applicable. This will not only ensure funding for projects, but it will also ensure that capacity is built at national level and ownership of project implementation remains with countries concerned. This is in line with Resolution 59/250 and I quote, "reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be emphasised in the achievement of sustainable development and recognizing that national efforts should be complimented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownerships, strategies and sovereignty."

Arsen M. VARTANYAN (Russian Federation)

The Russian Federation highly appreciates the work done by FAO to strengthen the cooperation and coherence within the UN System. We commend the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of the Operational Activities for Development of the UN System, which encompasses a political framework for the implementation of a complex reform in the humanitarian area of the United Nations. The Russian Federation recognizes the TCPR as a basis for enhancing collaboration among the three Rome-based UN Agencies, as well as further reform initiatives for FAO renewal.

We are convinced that the main efforts to strengthen the coherence between FAO and other UN entities should be focused on the country level. They should therefore include measures to improve and increase the effectiveness of the Resident Coordinators System (RC). However, the Russian Federation does not support the formulaic imposition of a mechanism to achieve coordination and coherence. Individual responsibilities of different UN organizations are to be taken into account. The one size does not fit all principle at the country level should also be kept in mind to maintain, wherever possible, the unique mandate of UN Specialized Agencies and particularly FAO, amongst others.

We consider inappropriate the attempts to treat as valid the recommendations of the High-level Panel on the UN System-wide Coherence to create One UN – these recommendations have not yet received a consensus agreement. All the more so that the intergovernmental negotiations on this issue are still underway and far from completion.

The Russian Federation approves the FAO initiatives, pursuant with TCPR recommendations on national capacity building. In this context, we support reform proposals of the Director-General, particularly those launched in January 2007 focused on the organizational development, including the establishment of a new FAO Division for Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building.

Ms Adele BRYANT (New Zealand)

As we recently noted in the Second Committee during the recent session of the UN General Assembly, we are a strong supporter of the UN development system and we are highly committed to improved development effectiveness. We believe that the UN must strive to maintain its relevance through consistent adaptation to a rapidly changing world, while continue to deliver tangible results on the ground. We would like to see a UN System that adds value, and has a clear sense of its purpose and role.

These comments clearly apply to FAO, and we thank the Secretariat for the Interim Report they have provided us.

While there are many significant issues, New Zealand would like to see the following emerge from the current TCPR process.

First, that national ownership is the keystone to all development activities. To this end, Specialised Agencies such as the FAO should increasingly align to the national priorities and plans of developing countries, and work through national execution using national expertise where possible, such that countries own and control their development processes.

We know that FAO is well-positioned with technical expertise and knowledge systems to support the capacity development needs of developing countries, particularly in developing related norms and standards, and that these needs should be identified and requested by developing country partners.

Yet leadership is crucial. New Zealand would like to see a strengthened Resident Coordinator system with appropriate authority, accountability, resources, monitoring framework and dispute resolution mechanism.

We note FAO's commitment to providing full support to the Resident Coordinator system, and we urge FAO to ensure constructive participation around essential strategic issues.

As a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, we fully subscribe to the need for improvement in the quality of aid along with its impact on development. Like others, we also want an operational system that delivers, and a UN that works effectively on the ground in providing value for money.

We will be looking to implementation of certain recommendations of the IEE to enhance a more effective delivery of FAO's programmes and capacity-building in developing countries.

New Zealand is pleased to support the proposal by Switzerland and by Brazil for continued monitoring and reporting of implementation of TCPR taking into account relevant IEE recommendations and the outcome of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly.

José QUINTEROS GÓMEZ (Cuba)

La delegación de Cuba, felicita al Sr. Presidente por su elección para presidir los debates de esta Comisión.

Nuestra delegación agradece la presentación de este documento realizada por la Secretaría con todos los detalles presentados. El documento, a nuestro entender, muestra muchas de las acciones tomadas por la FAO desde hace varios años en los marcos de sus propias iniciativas para alcanzar una mayor eficiencia en su labor y para permitir que la Organización pueda apoyar mejor a los Países Miembros, acciones en las cuales nuestra delegación ha participado y que apoyamos en toda su extensión, especialmente aquellas relativas a la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Como se ha planteado acá por la Secretaría y ha sido mencionado por otros delegados, hemos reconocido que los Países Miembros de las Naciones Unidas se encuentran ahora realizando un amplio proceso de consultas sobre el tema de la revisión trienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo en el sistema. En ese sentido, nuestra delegación considera que la FAO, al mismo tiempo, debe continuar perfeccionando su labor en el marco de todos estos procesos de reforma y de perfeccionamiento que hemos adoptado, incluido todo el proceso que va a iniciar ahora de análisis de los resultados de la Evaluación Externa Independiente que son elementos que la FAO puede tomar en cuenta. Sin embargo, nuestra delegación considera que nuestra Organización, aun en este momento, no está en condiciones de tomar decisiones con respecto a esta Revisión Trienal Amplia, precisamente porque aun se están desarrollando consultas importantes que tendrán un resultado posterior y que lógicamente tendría después que determinarse cuáles serán los mecanismos y las formas en que el resultado de esa revisión se fuera a aplicar en el futuro.

Ms Zhang MING, China (Original language Chinese)

We are very grateful to the Secretariat for having provided us with this Report. It provides us with the details of the results achieved under the Triennial Comprehensive Review. We believe that South-South Cooperation has played a very important role in this respect as regards food aid.

China has collaborated on a large scale as regards South-South Cooperation. The results have been very good and we trust that it will be able to play an even more important role in order to assist developing countries expand their agriculture. China very much hopes that FAO will set up cooperation with other UN Agencies in an effort to cover various aspects involved. This would enable us to ensure capacity-building and, in this context, we trust that greater results are still to be achieved.

Ms Rahima MSHANGAMA (Tanzania)

Tanzania is one of the pilot countries for the One UN Programme, together with development partner and UN Organizations working in Tanzania.

Tanzania has actively participated in the formulation of the One UN document. The Tanzanian delegation welcomed this initiative which will not only address the UN working together but is an initiative aimed at completing the ongoing national reforms of working as one, targeting the same, the rural poor, in addressing hunger and poverty.

As a pilot country, we look forward toward effective efficiency and well-coordinated efforts towards achieving national and millennium goals.

We also expect that the best practice will be replicated in other countries too.

Mohammed HASSAN NEJAD PIRKOUGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the role of FAO in development-oriented activities of the UN System as essential and backs FAO in its endeavour to carry out this role. In this line, I would like to add a few points.

My delegation notes resource mobilization insururities of initiatives of the DG and increasing approvals of voluntary contributions to the level almost equal with Assessed Contributions, however, regrets that conditionality of such resources mostly earmarked the little help in providing predictable and sustained resources for the Organization. We continue to believe that core activities of the Organization should be financed by the Regular Budget.

My delegation further supports ongoing initiatives to reduce the size of earmarked contributions through a strategy partnership framework and SFERA.

We believe that linking FAO's objectives and priorities to sources of funding as suggested by the Interim Report is a risky effort which, if not managed well, may sacrifice objectives to meeting resource requirements.

Last but not least, my delegation should like to mention that the One UN initiative is still in its pilot phase, and multilateral negotiations regarding the initiatives are far from completion.

CHAIRPERSON

That was the last speaker on the list, and I would now like to give the floor to the Secretariat, Ms Annika Söder to comment on your different issues.

Ms Annika SÖDER (Special Adviser to the Director-General, Assistant Director-General, Office of the UN Coordination and Millenium Development Goals Follow-up)

Thank you all for the very interesting and constructive contributions. There were some issues raised that I would like to ask my colleagues to comment upon, and then I will try to make a small conclusion.

Tesfai TECLE (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

I think that all the interventions were asking FAO to continue on the route that it has already initiated. Many positive recommendations on how it should proceed were articulated by several countries. For example, allow me to refer to the message that was received from the Representative of the United States which basically highlighted the route that the Organization has been pursuing. Perhaps, I could make a few remarks on some of the issues: the UN's 'Delivering as One', but not only through the "pilot countries", but also in a number of other countries; and the issue the Representative of South Africa raised on working together at country level, particularly with few middle-income developing countries.

In the case of "Delivering as One", FAO is focussing on the pilot countries at the moment, for which I would like to thank the Government of Spain for helping the Organization to be effective participants. There are a number of other countries as well where FAO is collaborating with sister UN Agencies in the framework of the UN Country Teams in elaborating programme proposals through the Common Country Assessment and the UNDAF process. I think the recommendations which have been received are encouraging, and FAO intends to pursue future activities along the same lines.

On resource mobilization, FAO supports the recommendations of elaborating a strategy which is also one of the recommendations by the IEE. Actually, the groundwork has already been initiated and it is expected that collaboration and consultation will take place with you and your guidance will be sought before finalizing the strategy.

On emergencies, I would just like to indicate that, although FAO's activities related to emergencies are primarily of an immediate nature, the Organization does as much as it can to incorporate capacity-building. In particular, the Avian Influenza experience clearly demonstrated

that wherever there was a capacity, it was possible to act rapidly, so most of the interventions have strong capacity-building components. Most of you indicated that the Organization should focus on capacity-building, and I would like to assure you that high priority will continue to be given to it.

As regards working with countries, building on existing local capacities, I support the suggestion by the delegate of South Africa. There are a number of Unilateral Trust Fund projects where the objective is to bring in outside expertise only if required, and rely as much as possible on local expertise. FAO's aim is to bring in new knowledge and build capacity by working with existing local expertise. In this respect, I would like to recognize the statement given by the Representative of China, and express the Organization's appreciation of the Chinese assistance through the South-South Cooperation Programme. FAO will deepen its collaboration by bringing-in other partners and ensuring that sustainability is ensured in the long term.

I am sure that my colleagues have additional comments to make.

Ali BASHARAT (Director, Office for Coordination and Decentralization)

Most of these questions and answers have been addressed by Mr Teclé, but I would just like to say a few words about capacity-building on which Mr Teclé has made his comments, but I would like to put the capacity-building in the context of FAO's decentralization policy and strategy.

FAO reform which is now being implemented includes a decentralization operating model, regional offices focus on region wide priorities while Sub-regional offices address Sub-regional priorities and provide technical support to the countries in the Sub-region, complimented by other units as the case may arise. FAO's Country Offices are designed to fulfill essential functions of the Organization as a catalyst, a provider as well as a total of FAO services adopting to country situations according to identified needs and priorities and of course availability of extra-budgetary resources and the governments priorities.

Talking about government needs and priorities, as you all know FAO tries to achieve that through the national medium-term priority framework, as well as UNDAF. FAO's decentralization policy and strategy of its implementation also puts a lot of stress on increased Country Office capacity through more delegated authority to Country Offices and to the country representative, as well as the support structure for the Country Offices which is provided from the Sub-regional office, complimented by the capacity of the regional office and other Headquarters units.

The country concerned should have access to the full reign of knowledge and expertise of FAO to this mechanism.

Country level capacity is conceived to provide the portal to this knowledge in the context of its policy advice to their national counterparts and increasingly the UN country team work. Capacity has to be placed in this context. For example, FAO Representatives are now being trained on a regular basis and they have been brought to Headquarters in addition to other means of training such as through the organization of seminars in various regions and sub-regions on different subjects like assistance to be provided on emergency situations. In addition to that, now other training is being provided at Headquarters on management skill negotiations skills and communications skills In addition to that national programme officers in both programme areas and in administrative areas are also being provided additional training on a regular basis. Now as you note country offices are financed through the regular budget of FAO, whereas FAO's technical cooperation activities at country level rely mainly on the availability of extra-budgetary resources, except for very modest support from TCP and Special Programme for Food Security.

For budgetary and economic scale reasons, FAO's technical staff in the field are now looking in Sub-Regional Offices. I understand that this may not be the best possible scenario, this may be suboptimal, but this is the best solution we can think of under the current budgetary context.

Ms Annika SÖDER(Special Adviser to Director-General, Assistant Director-General, Office of UN Coordination and Millenium Development Goals Follow-up)

I would just like to add a few aspects mainly relating to the system-wide cooperation. FAO participates fully in all the eight, Delivering as One country pilots, as you know. This includes Albania, where FAO is not present on the ground, we have no office there, but we recently joined the One programme that was signed, on the UN day, on 24 October.

We believe there are many interesting aspects to test in the eight country pilots. We find it very rewarding that there will now be a system-wide evaluation of the pilots, that will be conducted by the United Nations Evaluation Group but farmed out to independent evaluators and that will start at the beginning of next year when it will be possible to evaluate how we have been able to work together in the entire UN System in the eight countries.

Other aspects to test are, of course, the national ownership aspects, and if this UN exercise carries the risk of becoming too UN-centric and not involve other actors in the field, of course the Governments are there, also the Bretton Woods institutions, other international and financial institutions and bilateral donors, because the UN exercise must not result in another layer for the Governments to deal with.

Also we see progress, when it comes to involving economic sectors in the UNDAFs in the programmes at the country level, and this is clearly true in most of the pilots at this stage. So we can see that day by day progress is being made in the pilots when it comes to involving the entire UN System.

I would also like to mention, keeping the membership informed on the progress that FAO is making regarding the follow-up of the TCPRs. In June this year, we organized an informal seminar for all our Permanent Representatives on UN Reform. We are also planning a more specific one for the beginning of next year on the cooperation between the three Rome-based Agencies. That cooperation is also a part of the entire UN system-wide reform process.

I would also like to mention that there is a close link between capacity development, ownership and policy advice, and we find it important that the follow up of the TCPR to look after that the role of FAO and other Specialized Agencies when it comes to providing technical knowledge, to giving policy advice, to enhancing capacities in their national governments and to providing knowledge when it comes to global public goods and about public issues. Those roles mainly conducted by Specialized Agencies but also by some Trust Fund programmes so that they are guaranteed in the One UN exercise. That is why we find the TCPR 2004 very correct when it says it must be an inclusive progress when it comes to working better in the field.

Finally I would like to recall that in the Independent External Evaluation, there is a discussion on partnerships and how we work in the UN System. It is rumoured that FAO is not a good partner, but the IEE spells out very clearly that this rumour is wrong and that FAO is a very good partner when it comes to working together in the UN System.

CHAIRPERSON

Anyone who would like to ask for the floor after these comments from the Secretariat? If not, we will close this point about the interim report for the moment. I just would like to raise the issue about this Draft Resolution submitted by Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. It is obvious that there is some support for this Resolution, but obviously some others have some remarks on it. So, could I ask those countries who have submitted this Resolution to make contact with all the other countries who have a view on this to see if they can find a solution. Then we will raise the issue again tomorrow in the meeting; is that okay? Fine, so decided.

**OTHER MATTERS
AUTRES QUESTIONS
OTROS ASUNTOS**

25. Any Other Matters

25. Autres questions

25. Otros asuntos

25.7 Reports of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources (Interlaken, Switzerland, 3 - 7 September 2007) and of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 11 - 15 June 2007) (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13)

25.7 Rapports de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources zoogénétiques (Interlaken, Suisse, 3 - 7 septembre 2007) et de la onzième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 11 - 15 juin 2007). (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13)

25.7 Informes de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Zoogenéticos (Interlaken, Suiza, 3-7 de septiembre de 2007) y de la 11ª reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2007) (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we move to Item 25.7, which was put on the agenda during the opening session of the Conference and it is about the Reports of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Interlaken in Switzerland on 3-7 September 2007 and of the Eleventh Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Rome, 11-15 June 2007. The documentation is C 2007/INF/23 and the Resolution is contained in C 2007/LIM/11.

Now we have on the podium Mr Alexander Müller, Assistant Director-General for Natural Resource Management and Environment, and Mr Samuel Jutzi, Director, Animal Production and Health Division, and I will give the floor to Mr Müller for a brief introduction of the item.

Mr Alexander MÜLLER (Assistant Director-General, Natural Resources Management and Environment Department)

It is my pleasure to briefly introduce this agenda item. The International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, which was hosted by Switzerland in September this year in Interlaken, adopted two important documents: the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration on Animal Genetic Resources.

These documents, I understand, will be presented in more detail by the distinguished delegate of Switzerland. A draft resolution, submitted by the Government of Switzerland, and reviewed by the Resolutions Committee is given in document C 2007/LIM/11.

I would like to add that the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which acted as a Preparatory Committee of the Interlaken Conference, also adopted a multi-year programme of work. This multi-year programme of work covers all sectors of genetic resources, including animal genetic resources, as well as cross-sectoral issues.

In adopting its multi-year programme of work, the Commission made specific provision to follow-up on the outcomes of the Interlaken Conference and to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

With its multi-year programme of work, the Commission has reaffirmed its unique position as the only intergovernmental body that specifically deals with all genetic resources of relevance for food and agriculture.

This multi-year programme of work is an excellent vehicle to strengthen cooperation in relation to biodiversity for food and agriculture, both within FAO and between FAO and other relevant international organizations. It lays the basis for a coordinated and consistent approach to the conservation and sustainable use of all genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use for present and future generations.

In closing, I wish to convey my gratitude and deepest appreciation to the Government of Switzerland and particularly the Federal Office for Agriculture for hosting the Interlaken Conference and collaborating closely with FAO to make it possible. My very personal thanks go to Mr Bötsch, the Chairperson of the Interlaken Conference. I would also like to thank the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Governments of Australia, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Spain for their financial support.

CHAIRPERSON

Now before I give the floor to Switzerland I will just mention that we have interpretation until 12.30 more or less sharp. So we will have to perhaps continue this discussion tomorrow, but now, Switzerland, you have the floor.

Manfred BÖTSCH (Switzerland)

The First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held from 3-7 September 2007 in Interlaken in Switzerland. As the Chair of the Conference, it is my privilege to report on its outcomes to the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference.

The Interlaken Conference was success; it was attended by delegates from delegations from 109 countries and by 42 organizations. At the Conference the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture prepared by FAO was launched. This country-driven report contains the first ever authoritative global assessment of livestock biodiversity and will provide a basis for our efforts to promote the wise management of animal genetic resources in the future. It was prepared on the basis of 169 country reports and inputs from international organizations and technical studies. The main result of the Conference was the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. It contains 23 strategic priorities which address current and future challenges in the areas of characterization, inventory and monitoring, sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. It also addresses the needs for politics, institutions and capacity-building at national level and through international cooperation.

The Global Plan of Action was adopted through the Interlaken Declaration. The Declaration acknowledges that the maintaining of the diversity of animal genetic resources is essential to enable farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders to meet current and future production challenges resulting from changes in the environment, including climate change, to enhance resistance to diseases and parasites and to respond to changes in consumer demand for animal products.

The Declaration also recognizes the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers, pastoralists and animal breeders have made, and will continue to make, for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. The Declaration notes the significant ongoing loss of livestock breeds and calls for prompt action to conserve animal breeds at risk, through the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Confirming their common and individual responsibilities in respect of conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Governments also

recognize the interdependence of countries, regions and peoples. The adoption of the Global Plan of Action and the Interlaken Declaration provide a major contribution to achieving the Millennium Development Goals; in particular Goal 1, Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger and Goal 7, Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

Through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture which will monitor and oversee the implementation and the outcomes of Interlaken within the context of its multi-year programme of work we just heard about, our countries have been able to make great advances in our joint efforts to develop coherent framework for the management of agricultural biodiversity.

The multi-year programme which the Commission adopted at its recent Eleventh Regular Session covers all components of genetic resources for food and agriculture including the supporting components of the International Treaty. The multi-year programme will greatly facilitate the coordination of our work on the different components of agriculture biodiversity.

I invite the FAO Conference to endorse the results of the Interlaken Conference, as well as the Commissions multi-year programme of work through the resolution presented in the documents C 2007/LIM/11.

Let me thank you for the opportunity to reproach on the Interlaken Conference and for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Manfred Bötsch, Chairperson, Interlaken Conference, Switzerland.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation welcomes the inclusion of this new item in the Conference agenda, and is pleased to have the opportunity to express its views. We thank Mr Müller and Mr Bötsch for the presentation of the results of the Interlaken Conference, as well as the Eleventh Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for food and Agriculture. We also warmly thank the Swiss Government for hosting the Interlaken Conference and for taking a lead role in this important issue at FAO.

Brazil agrees with the assessment that Interlaken has been a true milestone in the global efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources. The Global Plan of Action and the Interlaken Declaration provide an essential framework for future action. It is, however, only a first step forward in a challenging long-term process for countries and for FAO to manage in a sustainable manner the world's AnGR for food and agriculture.

Brazil recalls, in particular, that the implementation of the Global Plan of Action will require substantial new and additional financial resources.

As has been recognized by the Interlaken Conference, the necessary financial resources for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action by developing countries are insufficient.

We are aware that the main responsibility of implementing the global Plan rests with national Governments. However, international cooperation and support to developing countries will be essential if we are to succeed. This includes financial support to national programmes, capacity-building and transfer of relevant technology for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

In this aspect, we also acknowledge the essential role of FAO in supporting country-driven efforts in implementing the Global Plan of Action.

Brazil would also like to highlight the fact that the Global Plan of Action should not be used as an excuse for the provision of subsidies under the guise of incentives for the conservation of species at risk. The Global Plan does not provide room for evading international trade obligations.

Finally, we would like to recall one issue in particular which did not see much advancement at Interlaken. We refer to the question of the rights of small-scale livestock breeders in developing countries the custodians of most of the world's animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Though we are aware that much of this debate is going on in the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, further articulation of the concept remains a significant challenge. We would like this issue to be included in the Report to be presented by the Commission on Genetic Resources at the next Conference.

With these additional points, we could endorse the Draft Resolution as proposed by Switzerland.

Hamid BENAZZOU (Maroc)

Tout d'abord, je vous félicite pour votre élection en tant que Président de cette Commission; ensuite je vous remercie et je remercie le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents mis à notre disposition. Notre Délégation salue la publication du Rapport sur l'état des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation. Nous considérons que cette évaluation des ressources génétiques doit être, comme cela a été dit par le Représentant suisse, constituée à la base pour l'élaboration de la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources génétiques.

La Délégation marocaine soutient le plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques, notamment en ce qui concerne la caractérisation, l'inventaire et la surveillance mais surtout la surveillance des tendances et des risques. Nous soutenons aussi la stratégie en matière de conservation surtout, comme ça a été dit précédemment, conservation en matière des petites races notamment dans les pays en voie de développement et en particulier les races détenues par les petits éleveurs, qui jouent un rôle très important dans l'approvisionnement de ces pays en produits animaux et d'origine animale. Néanmoins, la mise en oeuvre d'un Plan d'Action mérite d'être soutenue, mais elle ne peut avoir lieu qu'en mettant en place un mécanisme de financement approprié et la création d'un compte de Fonds fiduciaires à la FAO qui serait financé avec l'appui du secteur privé et des ONGs.

José QUINTERO GOMEZ (Cuba)

Muy brevemente, para hacer reconocer el apoyo de Cuba al Informe de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Zoogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura tenida en Interlaken, apoyar el Informe de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y también apoyar el plan para el programa anual de esta comisión aprobado en la Conferencia, que fue uno de los principales resultados de la misma. Destacar, además que la asignación de recursos para poder llevar a cabo este plan es una cuestión de suma importancia, especialmente para Cuba el tema de los recursos forestales es de mucho peso.

CHAIRPERSON

We only have this Draft Resolution here and if I understood Brazil correctly, you can support it but you had some small comments. We can solve it in the same way as we had proposed for the other Resolution – you and Switzerland or other countries who are involved or interested in it having a small meeting and discuss what you can do or what changes can be done. Can we work like this? No objections? Fine. This was the last point on the agenda, yes? The Secretariat has one announcement before we close.

SECRETARIAT

For your information, the Drafting Committee of Commission I, as nominated by the Regional Groups, will consist of the following Members: Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Qatar, Tanzania and the United Arab Emirates.

The Secretariat still wished confirmation from the Group of 77 as to who will Chair the Drafting Committee.

The first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place tomorrow evening at 18:00 and will meet in the German Room, which is in Room C-269.

CHAIRPERSON

With that, we now close this meeting. We will meet again tomorrow morning at 9:30 sharp, of course.

Have a nice day. See you tomorrow.

The meeting rose at 12.24 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 24

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.24 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-fourth Session
Trente-quatrième session
34º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 November – 24 November 2007
Rome, 17 novembre – 24 novembre 2007
Roma, 17 de noviembre – 24 de noviembre de 2007**

**SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I
DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEGUNDA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

20 November 2007

The Second Meeting was opened at 09.47 hours
Mr Christer Wretborn
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La Deuxième séance est ouverte à 09 h 47.
sous la présidence de M. Christer Wretborn
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 09.47 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Christer Wretborn,
Presidente de la Comisión I

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(continued)

QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE GÉNÉRALE AYANT TRAIT À L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (suite)**CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA EN MATERIA DE ALIMENTACIÓN Y AGRICULTURA (continuación)**

8. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 2007/INF/10; C 2007/INF/14)

8. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO (C 2007/INF/10; C 2007/INF/14)

8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO (C 2007/INF/10; C 2007/INF/14)

CHAIRPERSON

Welcome to this Second Session of Commission I meeting. We have an agenda in front of us with three points: Item 8 United Nations/FAO World Food Programme; Item 9 International Year of the Potato 2008; Item 10 International Year of Natural Fibres 2009. I will add at the end of the meeting we will come back to the discussion about the two Draft Resolutions which we had yesterday, at the end of the meeting.

We have also to decide about quorum and I propose that we agree that we have quorum. Any objections? No.

It is so decided.

We are honoured to have here today with us Ms Sheila Sisulu, WFP Deputy Executive Director, Policy and External Affairs Department, and also to my right, Ms Claudia Von Roehl, Secretary of the Executive Board, Ms Lubna Alaman Chief, Interagency Affairs Division of External Relations and Ms Katharina Gola, External Relations Office, Division of External Relations.

Ms Sisulu, who will be our first speaker and will introduce agenda Item 8 United Nations/FAO World Food Programme, will brief us on the WFP paper entitled "Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based Agencies" which was submitted for consideration to WFP's recent Executive Board, Second Regular Session of October 2007.

Ms Sheila SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, Policy and External Affairs Department, World Food Programme)

As the Chairperson has said, the World Food Programme 2006 Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO Council has already been discussed by both the WFP Executive Board in February 2007 and by the FAO Council in June 2007. I will therefore not summarize the report in my oral remarks here today. I will, however, speak about the WFP paper entitled "Collaboration Among the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies", which we submitted for consideration to our recent Executive Board, Second Regular Session of October 2007.

Before I focus on the Rome-based Agencies, let me give you a brief picture of WFP in 2006. WFP distributed 4 million metric tons of food to some 88 million beneficiaries in 78 countries. Sixteen and a half million people were reached through emergency operations; 47 million through our protracted relief and recovery operations and over 24 million people through development activities, of which 85 percent were women and children.

Returning to the Rome-based Agencies' cooperation, at the Board's First Regular Session in February 2007, during the discussion of the WFP 2006 WFP Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO, delegates requested more comprehensive details on this collaboration in the form of a Board paper.

In line with this request, WFP, FAO and IFAD agreed in February this year to initiate a joint mapping exercise to identify and report on our collaboration at three levels: Headquarters,

regional and country levels around four pillars as follows: one, Agricultural Investment; two, Policy Formulation, Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Advocacy; and three, Emergency and Rehabilitation, including Disaster Risk Management; and four, Administration.

Let me now highlight some major points from the Board paper.

At Headquarters level, the Rome-based Agencies cooperated in procurement, human resources, finance, information technology, conference, protocol and knowledge sharing services. Details can be found in the paper on administrative collaboration which was submitted to the Joint Meeting of the Ninety-seventh Session of the FAO Programme Committee and the Hundred-and-Eighteenth Session of the FAO Finance Committee in May 2007.

At the global level, particularly in policy and advocacy, the Rome-based Agencies have worked together on events and delivered joint statements to United Nations intergovernmental meetings since our joint participation in the 2002 Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development. These include events such as ECOSOC and the General Assembly and in raising awareness and political support for reducing hunger and rural poverty. For instance, the Agencies collaborated on the 2006 International Forum on the Eradication of Poverty. Meanwhile, all our joint advocacy messages are based on the “twin track” strategy to reduce hunger and rural poverty.

The three Agencies continued to work together in support of the International Alliance against Hunger. Following interventions by Member Nations during the Committee on World Food Security at FAO in 2006, a working group comprising the co-founders was established to strengthen the Alliance.

The Rome-based Agencies also formulated common positions in the Standing Committee on Nutrition, the OECD/DAC and the Network on Gender.

WFP and FAO collaborated in the Strengthening Emergency Needs Assessment Capacity to improve WFP’s emergency needs assessments and post-crisis information. They also collaborated in developing the Consolidated Appeals Process needs analysis framework, guidelines for the Integrated Food Security and Humanitarian Phase Classification, and the Crop and Food Supply Assessment missions.

Moreover, WFP and FAO have been collaborating in the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping, and have recently embarked on a joint exercise to improve logistics.

New regional initiatives included the Sahel Agricultural and Rural Development Initiative which was launched to address the structural causes of food insecurity in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.

FAO and WFP worked together on a regional food security initiative in the Horn of Africa, to reach consensus on measures that can be scaled up to address long-term vulnerability to food insecurity in the region. This culminated in a high-level multi-country consultation in Nairobi in June 2007 involving Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. There was strong country ownership of the process, with ministerial-level representation at the meeting.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP is participating in an inter-agency effort with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and FAO to prepare a document that positions addressing hunger and child under-nutrition as a prerequisite for social cohesion in Latin America.

At country level, WFP and FAO collaborated in 55 countries on 84 projects in 2006, while WFP and IFAD cooperated on 10 projects in 8 countries.

In response to United Nations reform and achievement of the MDGs, especially MDG 1, the Rome-based Agencies recently jointly established the Food Security theme groups at the country level. The main purpose of the groups is to enhance inter-agency collaboration and coordination to support countries’ own development efforts in the areas of food security, agriculture and rural development. The groups are providing a platform for food security programming, information-

sharing and interagency coordination. One of the most active of the newly-established groups is in Mozambique, which is also a United Nations "Delivering as One" pilot country for increasing the coherence of United Nations development activities.

During the discussion of the Rome-based cooperation paper, the Board welcomed the enhanced partnerships to improve cost-effectiveness and avoid duplication. Many Board Members called for a comprehensive strategic approach to strengthening WFP partnerships, including partnerships with UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP and the Rome-based Agencies. Some Board Members suggested that the Rome-based Agencies should have a short-term and long-term common strategy on food security and agricultural and rural development, which would enable it to be built into Common Country Assessments, UNDAFs and Poverty Reduction Strategies.

The Board highlighted the importance of WFP's work in Africa and the benefits of strengthening partnerships. Board Members highlighted early-warning systems as an area where WFP and FAO could increase their work together; increased analysis in the aftermath of crises could be added to WFP's current role of providing food. Some Board Members enquired about the role of other development partners and about ways in which global issues such as climate change might affect strategies on collaboration.

In its decision, the Board encouraged WFP to continue to enhance its cooperation with FAO and IFAD in areas that contribute to the achievement of strategic and management objectives. The Board urged WFP, subsequent to the Strategic Planning process, to consult with the Rome-based Agencies on undertaking a joint document on the directions that future purpose-driven operational partnerships could take at the global, regional and country level.

Let me conclude by saying that partnerships with UN Agencies, Governments, international and national non-government organizations are vital to WFP. We are very proud of our close and important partnership with the Rome-based Agencies. We look forward to further developing this fruitful collaboration in the near future in our drive to give a better life to millions of needy people in this world.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I open the floor for commentary remarks. Would anyone like to ask for the floor? We have two speakers on the list. First Colombia and then the United States.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Muy brevemente, solamente quiero agradecer a la Sra. Sisulu y al Personal del PMA que ha venido a presentar este Informe y la labor de la Junta Ejecutiva, particularmente con este énfasis, sobre asociaciones con otras agencias del Sistema de Naciones Unidas en Roma. Es un tema muy importante que se resalta al ser uno de los puntos traídos a colación en el ámbito de la Conferencia de la FAO, en la medida en que, tanto acá como en la Junta del PMA estamos sosteniendo discusiones sobre temas estratégicos, entre los cuales el tema de las asociaciones es un tema clave.

Buena parte de las discusiones que escuchamos sobre el futuro de las obligaciones de Roma en la lucha contra el hambre, le hacen un énfasis bastante grande al hecho de que muchas de las respuestas están en el trabajo conjunto y en la creación de sinergias entre las Agencias del Sistema con base en Roma. Quisiéramos que en futuras conferencias se vieran cifras un poco más grandes de las que estamos escuchando hasta ahora. Como ya lo habíamos comentado en el ámbito de la Junta: 84 proyectos de asociación con la FAO y 10 con el FIDA, suenan a números muy pequeños para el potencial de cooperación que hay entre las agencias.

Sin embargo, nos parece que la discusión que se está teniendo en la Junta del PMA, como la que estamos teniendo aquí en la FAO, en el salón del frente, se está hablando de la Evaluación Externa que tiene un capítulo con énfasis muy importante sobre ese tema.

Nuevamente agradezco la presentación y obviamente estamos de acuerdo con la aprobación del Informe.

Rich NEWBERG (United States of America)

Like Colombia, the United States thanks the World Food Programme for this report and its focus on UN collaboration.

2006 was a banner year, with major decisions taken by the Executive Board on, for example, ensuring that targeting emergencies is an integral part and component in all stages of the planning cycle in mainstreaming economic analysis throughout the Organization, all with the aim of improving the effectiveness of WFP programmes.

We appreciate the statistical information and descriptions of WFP's participation in joint programmes and its collaboration with partners in 2006, and particularly for the record number of partnerships with NGOs in 2005.

On the issue of cooperation with the Rome-based agencies, we would like to express our support for the informal steering committee that is focusing on improved coordination among the Rome Agencies. We believe that increased cooperation will enhance coherence, increase efficiency and lower costs.

To the United States, it is clear that the challenges before us are great and we cannot accomplish them without forging new and strategic partnerships within and outside the UN System.

Ms Siti Nugraha BAULUDIAH (Indonesia)

Indonesia wishes to thank you for the 2005-2006 WFP Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO Council. I also appreciate Mrs Sisulu's presentation.

Indonesia wishes to welcome the all inclusive and participatory approach that the WFP Secretariat is undertaking in preparing a Strategy Framework for 2008-2011.

We also welcome the effort in restructuring of human resources and look forward to a more geographical and gender balance in the WFP personnel structure.

Indonesia would also like to express its appreciation in the efforts WFP is undertaking in enhancing collaboration with other UN Agencies under the One UN initiative, and especially with the Rome-based UN Agencies.

Mun Yong NAM (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

I acknowledge that the report presented by Mrs Sisulu, Deputy Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) to this meeting gives a graphic description of the activities that the WFP has undertaken for the last two years.

The WFP has taken a number of measures to secure resources of cooperation to the best of its ability with a focus on implementing short, mid and long-term strategic plans aimed at reducing poverty and hunger and ensuring food security in accordance with the humanitarian mission and objective for the last two years.

The Organization is working together with UNICEF and the World Bank to map out and implement a global action plan geared to eliminating child hunger and malnutrition and, at the same time, is pushing ahead with activities of developmental assistance, such as nutritious food supply to schools and rural development work food projects in developing countries.

Along with this, while raising effectiveness of the operation of the Organization, it has provided prompt assistance to countries afflicted by natural disasters, war and conflicts in several regions across the world which, in the last year alone, amounted to over 5.2 million tons of food aid to 73 million people in 80 countries.

The WFP offered a huge amount of humanitarian food aid to my country that suffered temporary food scarcity caused by severe natural disasters for the last 10 years and has been involved in assistance of a developmental character since the year 2006.

This August, it offered emergency food aid in response to floods in my country, thus encouraging the people in their efforts to normalize the living of the afflicted people and rehabilitate the damage.

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to highly appreciate the achievements made by the Organization in a bid to reduce worldwide hunger and poverty and express thanks to Executive Director Josette Sheeran, officials of the Organization and donor countries for exerting a lot of effort to increase assistance to my country.

The DPRK is committed to successfully ensuring food security in the country, in close cooperation with the WFP.

Ms Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte DISSANAYAKE (Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Sri Lankan delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the report presented by the Deputy Executive Director of WFP and also to thank the Executive Director, Josette Sheeran for her able stewardship of WFP.

We also acknowledge the 2008-2011 Restructuring Plan and taking on board and setting up the office for evaluation and taking on board initiating implementation of UN System-Wide Coherence. As per the G-77 and China position, the speediness with which WFP Headquarters started to restructure human resources work in line with the UN System-Wide Coherence related to governance is very much appreciated.

I also wish to note Sri Lanka's appreciation for the initiatives that WFP has been taking to address the issues of poverty, hunger and nutrition in the world. Sri Lanka also appreciates its continued support in addressing emergencies in the world, and Sri Lanka in particular.

At the last Executive Board, two projects for Sri Lanka were approved, which included one to address malnutrition in Sri Lanka, and the other one was the third budget increase to support people who were already devastated by the Tsunami. The understanding of WFP on these critical needs of Sri Lanka is appreciated.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I thank WFP and all of the countries which are Member Nations of WFP and the donors for supporting these projects. Thank you.

Neil FRAZER (New Zealand)

New Zealand is pleased to be able to commend the World Food Programme for the committed, effective and professional way in which it carries out its mandate for humanitarian and development activities.

In 2007, NZAID updated its assessment of WFP as a multilateral agency. We found that WFP aligns with the values and principles of NZAID, that WFP is well led and managed and an effective and efficient agency without rival in its core mandated area. New Zealand strongly values WFP's contributions in the area of vulnerability mapping and the lead role it plays in strengthening UN reform in logistics and humanitarian areas.

In 2005-06, NZAID doubled its annual core funding for WFP to NZD 2 million, and has subsequently doubled this again to NZD 4 million in the current financial year. This core funding is provided as a fully multilateral untied contribution, aimed to allow WFP to allocate resources effectively to meet its strategic priorities.

New Zealand is therefore concerned at a sustained decline in the proportion of WFP's funding which is fully multilateral and the continued impact of restricted, tied and conditional funding on WFP's ability to deliver the most appropriate, timely and effective response to situations. We believe WFP donors need to live up to commitments of untied, predictable and flexible aid as outlined in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and Good Humanitarian Donorship in order to create a sound working environment for effective multilateral intervention.

WFP, for example, faces a continued rise in the absolute numbers of people suffering hunger, an increased frequency of emergencies, unprecedented high commodity and transport prices and a post food surplus era yet is faced with a drop in its operational budget.

To respond to these challenges, WFP's new strategic plan will need to make strong and strategic choices as to where it can make most difference, in what aspects it holds the strongest comparative advantage and which tools in its toolbox can be used to best effect. We believe this must lead to a much more mainstreamed use of non-food responses, including the use of voucher and cash transfer options and to more targeted food provision interventions. In order to do this, WFP will need to further strengthen its investment in rigorous needs assessment and the links between this and programming decisions. We hold considerable concern that the new WFP management plan has effectively cut core-funded positions in needs assessment at the very time they are most needed. We also believe WFP will need to further strengthen collaborative partnerships in which it works, wherever possible within country-led processes, to ensure the foundations are built for longer-term food security.

Here at FAO we are debating the response to a challenging IEE report in which FAO is called to live up to its global governance role in food and agriculture, achieve stronger focus and improve the management and resourcing of this work. Such challenges and the depth of change proposed also offer profound opportunities.

Few organizations in the multilateral sphere will be as deeply involved in the response to climate change as the Rome Agencies. Few are more central to achieving the core MDG targets of reducing hunger and poverty. Yet progress in these areas will require a redoubling of commitment to effective partnerships which allow the strengths of each, to be deployed to maximise the whole. And it will be essential that all are working to an agreed and common analysis, goal framework, grounded in the food security needs of the poor in Member Nations and the local responses to these needs.

We strongly endorse the current efforts to understand and strengthen the collaboration among the Rome food and agriculture agencies in areas of policy and advocacy, administration, needs assessment and programming. This collaboration will contribute to the emergence of the critical leadership on rural development and food security issues that is now required if we are going to deliver on the core MDGs by 2015.

CHAIRPERSON

I ask Mrs Sisulu if she would like to have any comments.

Ms Sheila SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, Policy and External Affairs Department, WFP)

Thank you very much to the Members who have given their comments and their compliments. We will carry the information and recommendations to the Executive Director. We do note the issues that were raised about the need to collaborate more, especially possibly with IFAD. The numbers seem to be rather low but we are together with IFAD and FAO on forging the links in action, on the ground especially, to collaborate.

9. International Year of the Potato 2008 (C 2007/14)

9. Année internationale de la pomme de terre 2008 (C 2007/14)

9. 2008: El año internacional de la patata (C 2007/14)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we will start with Item 9, the International Year of the Potato 2008.

I think you all know the background to this. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2008 the Year of the Potato.

On the podium here I have to my right Mr Jose Maria Sumpasi, Assistant Director-General for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection. We also have Mr Shivaji Pandey, Director of the Plant Production and Protection. We also have Mr Eric Kueneman who is the Chief of Crop and Grassland Service of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division.

Before formally hearing the briefing on this topic, I would like to invite you to turn your attention to the screen for a short video presentation, introducing the Year of the Potato.

Video Presentation on the Potato

Présentation vidéo sur l'histoire de la Pomme de terre

Videopresentación sobre las historia de la Papa

Eric KUENEMAN (FAO Staff)

The Secretariat of the of the International Year of the Potato, (IYP) 2008 is grateful for this opportunity to share with you our progress, future expectations and needs in order to facilitate the International Year of the Potato's observance.

Potato is in many ways a hidden treasure contributing to many aspects of society. It plays a fundamental role in the world's food security and social economic development. It is a staple food from more than a billion people worldwide. Its products, festivals and traditions have great significance for the world's cultural heritage. Potato cultivation and post harvest activities constitute an important source of employment and income in rural areas, especially for women in developing countries.

Potato adapts to wide range of uses as a food security crop, as a cash crop especially in developing countries, and a source of starch in many industrial areas. However there are still many technical problems in development-related issues that directly affect potato production and potato-based food systems, especially in developing countries.

As was mentioned in the multimedia presentation prepared for ECI, we can look at how this all began. The initiative for the International Year of the Potato started with Conference in 2005, right here, which was led by Peru and the GRULAC countries requesting FAO's collaboration and having 2008 be named the International Year of the Potato. This led to FAO Conference Resolution 4/2005 in November 2005 which requested the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2008 the International Year of the Potato. The General Assembly highlighted the fact that the potato is a staple food and diet of the world's population and the need to focus the world's attention on the role that potato can play in providing food security in eradicating poverty.

The General Assembly requested FAO to facilitate the International Year observance in cooperation with the CGIAR and, in particular, with the International Potato Research Centre that we know as CIP.

So why the International Year of the Potato? The mission of the International Year of the Potato is to increase the awareness of the importance of potato as a food in developing nations and promote research and development of potato-based systems as a means of contributing to the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The year will provide an opportunity to raise the awareness about the importance of agriculture in addressing issues of global concern, such as food insecurity, malnutrition, poverty and threats to the environment. The Year will also raise awareness about agriculture and rural development among policy-makers and donors and the general public and especially school children.

We would like to draw your attention to the five fact sheets that were developed by FAO technical staff in different divisions. Those fact sheets have been available outside and they are on the web site. I would like to mention in particular the fact sheets potato, nutrition and diet, potato and biodiversity, potato and gender, the global potato economy and potato biotechnology. Please look at these fact sheets, I think that you will find them very interesting.

The IYP strategy is to engage partners, an entire potato community in developing country-driven activities throughout the world. Typically these activities will include information generation,

dissemination and exchange, knowledge systems for decision-making along with feasibility studies, technical guidelines and specialized publications. They will include organizing and supporting scientific conferences exhibitions, cultural events, art and photographic competitions around the theme of potato and related issues.

They will involve and include transferring proven technologies through education, extension and capacity-building. They will include applying best management practices and the promotion of policy and regulatory environments conducive to better potato development, and they will include supporting projects and value added schemes to support sustainable development of the potato sub-sector.

How partners could promote the IYP observance. Partners can contribute to funding and human resources needs of the Secretariat so that we can be more effective in working with out national partners. Partners can encourage educational and youth campaigns in their own countries. They can support the national and regional activities, badly needed support in this area. They can support and promote the global photo, art and science contests to raise awareness. They can support and contribute to the web site and associated publications now in five languages. They can include promote sustainable development of potato-based systems and help the Secretariat in this regard.

Just a few words about main events. The first event that took place was really in February this year, where we had an informal International Steering Committee meeting here in Rome to get organized. We had the launching of the International Year at the UN Secretariat in New York on 18 October, at the same time that the World Food Day was held in New York.

There will be a large global research conference called Potato Science for the Poor: Challenges for the New Millennium, which will be held in Cuzco, Peru from 25-28 March and this will be the major potato conference that FAO, CIP and the support of the Government of Peru and Switzerland have provided.

There are plans for a Global Potato Conference in New Delhi, India, and if this comes forward, this will be in December 2008. So there are many events coming on line and I do not want to list them all here, but you can find them on the web site of www.potato2008.org. This is a very interesting web-site and you will even see the multimedia presentation that you just witnessed that is available on the web site at this time.

We invite you to send us details about potato meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops and projects for us to put on the web site www.potato2008.org.

A few concluding remarks. We need your support. A multi-donor Trust Fund project was developed and a fast-track mechanism established by FAO's Technical Cooperation Department to enable donors and partners to support the implementation of the International Year of the Potato.

Funds secured through this channel are expected to be used to contract experts and service providers to assist in the preparation and the production of communication materials and the development of the web site in five languages to support the launching of the year and to catalyze activities at regional and national levels. So far, the Governments of Ireland, Spain, Italy and Switzerland, plus two private sector partners McCain Food and Scott Simplot, have already contributed generously to this Trust Fund. We are grateful for these contributions, but we still need US\$500,000 to facilitate activities, particularly at the national and regional levels and to finalize this year in a responsible way. Investing in the International Year of the Potato will contribute to achieving food security to fight hunger and malnutrition, alleviate poverty, enhance livelihoods, protect environment and attain the Millennium Development Goals.

When Member Governments charged the FAO Secretariat to take on responsibilities based on extra-budgetary resources, such the event of the International Year of Potato, we believe that they need to be ready to give the kind of support that is needed to carry out the mandate that you give us and we would be very grateful for further support in the future.

The International Year of the Potato presents a unique opportunity for farmers, consumers, environmentalists, government ministries, international agencies and stakeholders from civil society, NGOs and the private sector to work together in a shared goal. By spreading awareness now, we can assure that the work of the International Year of the Potato against hunger and improving the livelihoods of the poor will be reached and be active beyond the year 2008. This International Year is our chance to improve food security, alleviate poverty and preserve the environment for billions of people for whom potato is a hidden treasure. We wish you all a productive International Year of the Potato 2008, we thank you for your attention and we appreciate your support.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Kevin SMYTH (Ireland)

May I thank Eric Kueneman for the fine presentation.

The issue of hunger and food security remains one of the most critical development challenges we face globally. Ireland sees the celebration of the International Year of the Potato in 2008 as an opportunity to make a contribution towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals by focussing on the potato and the vital role that agriculture can play in improving nutrition and supporting food security. Ireland is pleased to provide funding of US\$300 000 to support the many activities coordinated by FAO that will take place this year.

Ireland has also provided practical support for international action in developing countries by providing core funding of Euro200 000 annually for 2007-2009 to the International Potato Research Centre, CIP, in Peru, and we are also providing Euro320 000 in 2007-2008 for a potato research project undertaken by CIP in Malawi. In addition, an Irish National Coordination Committee has planned a programme of events for Ireland with an emphasis on nutrition. This will include activities for schools, including a primary school competition that aims to promote both the awareness and the growing of the potato.

The potato has played a central role in Irish history. The failure of the potato crop due to potato blight in 1845 led to a famine that left one and a half million people dead, and a further one million citizens were forced to emigrate. It took over 140 years to recover from that disaster. Irish people have a deep memory of the effects of famine on a nation, and this is an experience which informs our policies today.

Today in an effort to refocus attention on hunger, Ireland has set up a hunger task force to identify the contribution that Ireland can make to international efforts to reduce hunger. The task force, which is now operational, will focus on the global challenge of hunger and food security and review our own aid programme to see how best Ireland can respond to this challenge.

Ireland, in conjunction with the FAO, call on all FAO Members to support practical concrete actions during the International Year of the Potato to focus on the potential of this crop to reduce hunger and to raise awareness of the importance of taking action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms Maria Isabel CADIMA PAZ (Bolivia)

Deseo agradecer la presentación realizada esta mañana por la FAO en celebración del Año Internacional de la Papa.

Mi delegación desea agradecer el trabajo que realiza la FAO para llevar adelante este Año Internacional de la Papa, que es ampliamente reconocido por la Comunidad Internacional a través de la Resolución 4/2005 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas como uno de los productos tuberosos más importantes en la lucha contra la desnutrición.

La papa no solamente recoge un legamen cultural de los países andinos, si no que en la actualidad asegura la alimentación a millones de personas en el mundo proporcionando trabajo a cientos de personas débiles, en especial las mujeres.

Bolivia agradece que la FAO y la comunidad internacional hayan dado este especial remarque al producto y deseamos que se siga colaborando para que los cientos de variedades de papa que existen en el mundo -en mi país solamente se encuentran 200 variedades de papa- puedan sobrevivir al paso del tiempo como una herencia aportada por los Incas que seguirá siendo un elemento fundamental de la seguridad alimentaria en el mundo.

Saludamos al Año Internacional de la Papa e invitamos a que los Estados Miembros de la FAO, así cómo fuera mencionado por la delegación que me precedió, celebren el 2008 como un año especial que nos lleve a resaltar los elementos fundamentales que tiene la papa en la Seguridad Alimentaria en el mundo.

José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

It is an honour for Portugal to have this opportunity to speak about the International Year of the Potato (IYP) and its meanings. We welcome the United Nations, FAO's and the Latin America and Caribbean Group's initiative to proclaim 2008 as the International Year of the Potato focus on this significant crop.

The potato has played a fundamental role in human nutrition, for millennia in the Americas and for centuries in Europe. In recent decades, the potato has been playing a very important role as food security and poverty alleviation at the global level, as the recognition of the International Year points out.

The European Union and its Member States agree with FAO and the United Nations in seeing the International Year of the Potato as an opportunity to exchange information and visions about the use of potato and its role in sustainable development, namely in the poorest rural areas.

It is also an opportunity for the private sector and for private stakeholders to make their contributions for the international community.

It is also an opportunity to international organizations involved in food, agriculture and rural development and among them, FAO, to have a more holistic approach to the scientific, technical and educational issues about food production and distribution and its implications.

With regard to the designation of the International Year of the Potato, the European Union considers that it is essential that careful consideration be given to the issues of funding well in advance of designation.

The monitorial system must fulfil its responsibilities in highlighting the theme and during the normative work, but we believe that the success of the International Year of the Potato must be applied at national and local levels with the involvement and support of the national authorities and the civil society.

Ms Siti Nugraha BAULUDIAH (Indonesia)

Indonesia wishes to support the International Year of the Potato 2008. I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia is going to utilize the International Year of the Potato 2008 to launch a nationwide promotion in order to increase potato consumption to encourage the people to diversify their food consumption to eat more potatoes over rice as their staple food.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brasil)

La delegación brasileña, quisiera expresar su satisfacción organizativa del Año Internacional de la Papa en 2008, la cual se propuso en la 33ª Sesión de la Conferencia de la FAO y adoptada por la Sexagésima Octava Sesión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

Brasil, como integrante del GRULAC, dió su amplio apoyo al proyecto de resolución planteado por el Gobierno de la República del Perú.

Brasil comparte la percepción de que la cultura de la papa juega un rol económico, social, ambiental, cultural y alimentario sumamente importante, no solo para Latinoamérica y el Caribe, si no también para todo el globo. El gobierno de Brasil desea que el Año Internacional de la Papa obtenga destacado éxito y que se logre cumplir con sus objetivos.

Hiromori KUROKI (Japan)

The Japanese Government will be holding a national committee and discussions on how to deal with the International Year of the Potato 2008 in Japan.

Concretely speaking, we have plans to enlighten and spread the International Year of the Potato 2008 widely through our home page and by holding symposiums and so on.

Rich NEWBERG (United States of America)

I would like to thank FAO for the presentation, and thank you for the opportunity to speak on the International Year of the Potato. The International Year of the Potato presents a unique opportunity for the global community to promote the nutritional, economic values of the potato and to develop effective strategies to boost consumers' access to potatoes, particularly in developing countries.

We believe the good nutritional aspects and economic value of the potato, relative to other traditional staple crops, make it a perfect fit to utilize in helping to alleviate hunger around the world. We would encourage countries to implement sound economic policies, production, prices, market and trade for the potato sector, including value-added products to ensure that the benefits of new technologies and markets are fully optimized.

Also we would encourage governments to promote, increase production and consumption of potatoes and, where applicable, lift import restrictions on potatoes to ensure their availability to meet food needs.

We look forward to participating in activities to promote the International Year of the Potato.

Abdelmalek TITAH (Algérie)

Je voudrais remercier Monsieur Kueneman pour sa communication introductive. La délégation algérienne salue l'initiative de la FAO de déclarer l'année 2008 "Année internationale de la pomme de terre".

Effectivement, la pomme de terre constitue un aliment de base de très large consommation et à ce titre son développement, à une plus grande échelle, peut contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte contre la pauvreté dans le monde.

Cependant, des contraintes d'ordre technique subsistent telles que la production de semences de base, la protection phytosanitaire et d'autres et à ce titre, la FAO peut jouer un rôle majeur pour accompagner les pays dans leurs efforts de développement de la production de la pomme de terre mais aussi pour renforcer la coopération internationale dans les domaines technique, financier et commerciale.

Sabah Saleem AL-KAWAZ (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to thank FAO for the International Year of the Potato. I should like here to give you a brief overview on the cultivation of potatoes in Iraq. Potato cultivations are rudimentary in Iraq. Iraq also lacks the production of enough potato seeds to support this product and to support the farmers in their production in spite of the seed research undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Iraq depends on importing the seeds from Europe. The cultivated area in Iraq, according to the statistics in 2002, is close to 38 700 hectares and the production reaches 630 000 tonnes with yield per hectare reaching 16.5 kilogrammes. This is a very low level, because of the lack of knowledge in the cultivation of potatoes and the lack of techniques, the bad seeds and the lack of use of machinery and equipment in the right time.

At present, Iraq needs support and technical expertise from the countries well experienced in the production of potatoes, from FAO and from the International Centre for Potatoes in order to increase the potato yield in Iraq.

Iraq is also unstable at present and seeks support from FAO.

Mohammed Hassan JUBARA MOHAMMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We should like to express our thanks and appreciation for FAO for all the efforts undertaken to ensure food security and for observing 2008 as the International Year of the Potato.

Potatoes are a very important commodity and are very nutritious. Potatoes are an important food source in Sudan and they are well cultivated in different parts of our country. We, in this respect, would like to thank the assistance from Holland to improve the quality of potato seeds in Sudan.

We also call upon this year to focus upon the efforts on the coordination among all the producers and the research centres to spread the modern techniques and technologies in potato production in order to also produce local varieties. These efforts should focus on helping the developing countries to take part in the different *fora* at the regional and global level.

Raj R. D'NATHAN (Malaysia)

I will be very brief. Malaysia welcomes and supports the International Year of the Potato 2008. This food is important and relevant to many developing countries in providing food security and eradicating poverty in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms ZHANG MING (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to express my thanks for the information provided by the Secretariat and it is very important for this programme. The Chinese Government would like to support the implementation of this programme.

China is a large country producing potatoes, and potatoes will provide a very important raw material for the industry. In addition to the food, China will always pay attention to the production and processing of potatoes.

So, therefore, I would like to express our support to the various activities envisioned during the International Year of the Potato.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

También muy brevemente, solamente para agradecer a la Secretaría por el interesante video, la presentación, así cómo por el material promocional sobre el Año Internacional de la Papa que hemos tenido oportunidad de ver: todos son de una excelente calidad.

En calidad de uno de los promotores de la iniciativa del Gobierno del Perú, respaldados por el GRULAC como un país andino, expresamos nuestro apoyo a las declaraciones que nos han precedido y especialmente a las de Brasil y Bolivia en nombre del GRULAC.

La papa juega un papel fundamental en la economía rural de Colombia. Es un producto que está presente en múltiples formas en nuestra dieta tradicional, de tal manera que alentamos a la FAO en las actividades relacionadas con el Año Internacional de la Papa. Le deseamos éxito con todas las actividades relacionadas asegurándole que Colombia se unirá en la medida de sus posibilidades a esas celebraciones.

Ibrahim ILBEGI (Turkey)

We would like to thank FAO and the Secretariat for their efforts and the information presented. As we all know and mentioned, potatoes are one of the important agricultural commodities to reduce and poverty, as well as the cash crop. Also it has a crucial role in nutrition.

From this standpoint, therefore, the country is going to support the International Year of Potato by organizing campaigns and promotional activities to produce and consume more potatoes. This will make a significant contribution to the programme.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

Merci Monsieur le Président. En premier lieu, je tiens à féliciter le Président pour son élection sur cette Commission.

La proclamation de l'Année internationale de la pomme de terre en 2008 a sa juste raison d'être. La production mondiale en 1998, selon la FAO, était d'environ 290 millions de tonnes; 280 millions cultivés sur 18 millions d'hectares avec 17 millions de tonnes par année. Malgré un léger déclin de la production en Europe, et depuis 1960, une croissance se vérifie en Asie, Afrique et l'Amérique latine où la production globale est aux environs de 160 millions de tonnes. La croissance a plus que doublé ces vingt dernières années. Il est évident que la pomme de terre joue un rôle important, non seulement dans la diète alimentaire, mais aussi, elle constitue une source d'emplois, de revenus en zone rurale. Plante utile à la sécurité alimentaire, culture de rente, aliment pour animaux, source d'amidon pour de nombreux usages industriels.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation a, pour les activités stipulées au paragraphe cinq: "les activités de l'Année internationale de la pomme de terre ne peuvent pas être réalisées sans une contribution financière; sans contributions, sans une mobilisation des ressources extraordinaires à cet effet. Nous nous félicitons de la contribution généreuse de l'Espagne et de l'Italie pour le fonds fiduciaire multi-donateurs.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président, nous félicitons la FAO de pouvoir penser sur cette initiative qui est tant louable puisque la pomme de terre est devenue une alimentation très répandue au niveau international.

Ms Aicha MINT SIDI BOUNA (Mauritanie)

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier le conférencier de son exposé.

Le problème de la sécurité alimentaire et de la lutte contre la malnutrition constitue pour nos pays une préoccupation majeure. Pour résoudre ce problème ou essayer de résoudre ce problème il faudrait tout d'abord intensifier et diversifier nos produits agricoles. Justement la pomme de terre rentre parfaitement dans ce cadre puisque c'est une des solutions pertinentes qui pourrait être apportée eu égard à son importance économique et son potentiel sur la réduction de la faim.

Vous avez aussi évoqué un sujet intéressant c'est la relation entre la femme et la pomme de terre au niveau de la production et de la transformation. Il faut donc améliorer l'accès des femmes aux intrants à la vulgarisation à travers une amélioration des techniques culturales et de la conservation de la biodiversité.

Je tiens finalement à remercier la FAO pour avoir élaboré les fiches techniques et d'avoir mis en place une stratégie qui repose sur l'amélioration des connaissances, le transfert des technologies et l'amélioration de la réglementation. Ces opportunités sont offertes à nos pays pour participer à ce processus et le succès de la pomme de terre cette année repose bien sûr aussi bien sur les efforts au niveau national qu'international.

José María SUMPSI VIÑAS (Director-General Adjunto, Departamento de Agricultura)

Es motivo de satisfacción el poder comprobar el alto apoyo que los Estados Miembros ofrecen a esta importante celebración del Año Internacional de la Papa. La papa tiene un valor no solamente como alimento dentro de un esquema de seguridad alimentaria, si no también un enorme valor

cultural y socio-económico como uno de los elementos fundamentales de la cultura andina y de la economía de muchas familias de pequeños campesinos en todo el mundo.

Quisiera también decir al hilo de algunas intervenciones, que creo que este Año Internacional de la Papa es una organización modélica en 3 niveles o grupos de colaboración: los donantes, la FAO en su capacidad técnica y los Estados Miembros que han querido organizar actividades nacionales para celebrar el Año Internacional de la Papa.

Los donantes han contribuido con su financiación y especialmente quisiera agradecer la generosa contribución de Irlanda, también la de Italia, España y Suiza. La mayor parte del presupuesto para el Año Internacional de la Papa es extra-presupuestario, y la cantidad que la FAO destina de su presupuesto del Programa Regular para esta celebración es prácticamente insignificante.

También hemos logrado una pequeña cantidad de financiación de parte del sector privado, siempre hablando de la colaboración pública privada. Verdaderamente no es nada fácil conseguir la financiación privada, pero algo hemos logrado.

En segundo lugar, la FAO se centra fundamentalmente en prestar asistencia y apoyo técnico a nivel internacional, todos los documentos, informaciones y material producidos para darle importancia al Año Internacional de la Papa a nivel mundial. Pero el principal elemento de la FAO es el apoyo técnico a los Países Miembros que han decidido organizar localmente algún acto sobre el Año Internacional de la Papa, en especial el acto central, el más importante lógicamente, que es el que se celebrará en Lima, Perú y que está organizado por el Perú y en concreto por el "Centro Internacional de la Papa". Parece todo lógico, que este Centro Internacional de la Papa, que es un centro del CGIAR, sea elemento básico y Perú el país fundamental para ser quizás la celebración más importante. Pero no solamente hay esta celebración si no que hay otras más.

En tercer lugar y para concluir, también deseo agradecer a los Países Miembros que han querido celebrar este Año organizando a nivel nacional importantes eventos. Como decía el Sr. Kueneman, hay más de 25 eventos en 25 países de todo el mundo sobre el Año Internacional de la Papa. Por este motivo, creemos que se trata de un ejemplo de colaboración entre la FAO (a nivel técnico y en la obtención de fondos para la celebración), los donantes (que han contribuido con sus fondos a esta financiación) y los Países Miembros que voluntariamente han querido organizar en su país actos importantes para celebrar este Año Internacional de la Papa.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your participation in this topic.

As Mr Sumpsi said, it is strong support for the International Year of the Potato and we look forward to work with you on this issue throughout 2008. By spreading awareness we can ensure that the work of the International Year of the Potato fight against hunger and improving the livelihood of the poor will reach beyond 2008.

Now I would like to close Agenda Item 9 by wishing you a successful International Year of the Potato 2008.

This Agenda Item is closed.

10. International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 (C 2007/15)

10. Année internationale des fibres naturelles 2009 (C 2007/15)

10. 2009: El año internacional de las fibras naturales (C 2007/15)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move to Item 10, International Year of Natural Fibres 2009.

I believe that you all know the background to this. A Resolution by the last Conference in 2005 called for 2009 to be declared the International Year of Natural Fibres.

The Director-General subsequently transmitted the Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in December 2006. The General Assembly proclaimed that 2009 will be the International Year of Natural Fibres. In doing so, it invited FAO to facilitate the observance of the year. The Secretariat has begun to make arrangements for this International Year of Natural Fibres in 2009.

Now, on the podium I have to my right our new Assistant Director-General, Hafez Ghanem, and to the right of him, Mr David Hallam, Chief, Trade Policy Service and to the right of him, Mr Brian Moir, Economist.

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

Document C 2007/15, which has been distributed to all of you, outlines the arrangements made to date for the International Year of Natural Fibres in 2009.

The Chairperson has already given the background to that International Year, about the decision by the Conference in 2005 and the subsequent adoption by the General Assembly in 2006. I would just like to add a few points to what the Chairperson has already said and what is in the document in front of you.

We believe that natural fibres constitute a group of agricultural commodities which are important to many countries and a source of income for many very poor farmers. For example, I think of cotton in West Africa, jute in Bangladesh or sisal in Tanzania.

Natural fibre industries in developing countries make a significant contribution to incomes and employment and hence to food security. The development of these industries can play a major role in poverty reduction. However, natural fibres have faced strong competition in their traditional markets from synthetic substitutes and growth has been very slow. While new uses have been explored and new products developed - for example, use in building or the automotive industries - and the environmental advantages of natural fibres are widely recognized, the market share of natural fibres remains under threat. There is a need to raise the profile of natural fibres, thereby strengthening demand and contributing to improved welfare of fibre-producing farmers.

The International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 has four objectives: First, to raise awareness and stimulate demand for natural fibres; second, to promote efficiency and sustainability of natural fibre industries; third, to encourage appropriate policy responses from Governments to the problems of the industries; and fourth, to foster international partnership and cooperation among the different natural fibre industries.

Some progress has been made in preparing for the Year and important first steps have already been taken towards the achievement of the fourth of these objectives, the international partnership.

An International Steering Committee representing all natural fibre industries around the world has met several times to begin discussing arrangements between the various natural fibre industries. It has formulated objectives for the Year, and has overseen the preparation of a communication plan to guide activities through to the end of 2009. A presentation was held at FAO Headquarters in January 2007 to acquaint delegations with plans for the International Year of Natural Fibres. An Interdepartmental Group within the Secretariat has met several times. Finally, a brochure is now being printed in six languages, and we are building a new web site.

Compared with what needs to be done, we are just at the beginning, and efforts need to be stepped up considerably if the Year of Natural Fibres 2009 is to be a success. So far we have been severely limited by lack of resources.

A multi-donor project was developed indicating a budget of US\$2.4 million. This funding would allow FAO to provide communication materials and publicity, coordinate activities, and operate one or two specific events such as an international conference on natural fibres. We are looking forward to your support for this.

The declaration that 2009 will be the International Year of Natural Fibres, in our view, presents an opportunity for global agriculture to highlight the attributes of these fibres and to lead efforts towards improved food security and poverty alleviation for the many poor farmers who produce them. By working in partnerships with all stakeholders and with adequate donor support, I am sure that it will be a success.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is now open for comments and questions. Would anyone like to ask for the floor? I will give the floor to Portugal, followed by the Philippines.

José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

First of all, we welcome in the name of the European Union, the new Assistant Director-General and support, of course, the excellent work we expect from you.

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

Alongside with food, we can say that agriculture – in its full dimensions with controlled animal and vegetal production, including forestry – always was practiced to improve human livelihood with fibres and other raw materials. Today, natural fibres like cotton, wool, flax, hemp, sisal and jute still form the economic base for millions of farmers, including many small-scale farmers in the poorer regions of the world. Also, it must be stressed that new uses have already been successfully developed in sectors such as building and plastic industries. It would be of great interest to further encourage studies on these matters in the context of the International Year.

As a long time producer and consumer of natural fibres and with its full engagement in global development at all levels, the European Union welcomes the intended objectives of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, contributing to the welfare of fibre-producing farmers on the basis of sustainable, efficient and equitable production and transformation of these commodities.

As pointed out in our statement about the International Year of the Potato 2008, we support a more holistic approach to these initiatives, including the funding issues. With regard to the designation of International Years, the European Union considers that it is essential that careful consideration be given to the issue of funding well in advance of designation. At the same time, the systemic evaluation of the outcomes of these initiatives could enlighten us of the real impacts of drawing our attention to a specific crop or group of crops.

There are increasing numbers of International Years on an ever-widening range of subjects and the members of the European Union wonder whether their impact remains as significant as their proposers intend. We therefore suggest that the FAO Secretariat should examine the impact of both the International Year of Natural Fibres and of the Potato and report to the FAO Membership on their results in practical terms. The European Union encourages FAO to invite other United Nation organizations to review, as well, the rationale of International Years with respect to their genuine impact.

Ms Kristine Leilani SALLE (Philippines)

My delegation wishes to thank FAO for the support it has given through Resolution 3/2005 during the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference to declare 2009 as the International Year of Natural Fibres.

The Philippines notes the role that natural fibres play in clothing of the world population and naturally supports as well its role in contributing to food security and poverty alleviation.

The Philippines also promotes the integrated development of the fibre industry in all its aspects, from research and production, processing, marketing and trade regulation, and sustains its growth and demand for fibres and fibre-based products, both in the domestic and international markets.

The Philippines has some 30 useful fibre crops, 13 of which have commercial application. In fact, The Philippines contributes 85 percent of world supply of abaca production. It therefore goes without saying that the Philippines sees the opportunity to reiterate its support in the Declaration of 2009 as the International Year of Natural Fibres and encourages other countries to support this awareness building exercise.

We call on donor countries to extend extra-budgetary support to this celebration as it will put the role of natural fibres on the international development agenda.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation would like to reiterate its support for the initiative of the International Year of Natural Fibres in 2009. Brazil shares the view that natural fibres represent an economic activity, important in many developing countries, which plays a role for economic development and improvement of living standards.

In the case of our country, as duly highlighted by document C 2007/15, sisal production sustains more than 700 000 people in the poor and rural areas of the north east region, particularly in the state of Bahia. Producers unions, research centers, local and federal governments are committed to modernize the cultivation and processing of sisal and increase exports. The production of this fibre in Brazil already corresponds to 56 percent of the global output of this commodity and 60 percent of world supply.

Promoting trade of natural fibres, adding value to its production chains, are instrumental policies that need to be encouraged.

We also believe that the international cooperation is a key factor to boost the natural fibre industry, and we thus welcome the work of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Hard Fibres, the Group on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibres as well as the Common fund for Commodities.

Brazil also sees with satisfaction the four objectives defined by the International Year of Natural Fibres, which we believe can lead to expanded demand, production and trade of fibres.

We favour the development of an effective communications plan and increasing dialogue between fibre industries worldwide.

We hope the International Year of Natural Fibres will not be a wasted opportunity, and call on donors and other stakeholders to participate in it.

Raj R. D'NATHAN (Malaysia)

The production of natural fibres is an important source of income for farmers and plays a role in food security and poverty eradication, crucial to many developing countries. We welcome the four proposed objectives of INYF 2009 in paragraph 5 of the document C 2007/15.

Malaysia welcomes the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, and looks forward to the Progress Report on the activities implemented in the next Session of the Conference.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola)

La plupart des fibres naturelles sont négligées, à part le coton suite à la promotion, ces dernières années, ont été supplantées par les fibres synthétiques. L'initiative de proclamer l'année 2009 comme Année internationale des fibres naturelles, permettrait de revitaliser ce produit de base. Il est évident que les fibres naturelles représentent une source importante comme matière première dans le secteur de l'habillement, l'ameublement, l'emballage, la fabrication de papiers, etc. Donnons l'exemple du coton qui est un produit de base, produit aussi bien dans les pays développés que dans les pays en développement. L'industrie mondiale du coton fournit des opportunités d'emploi pour 100 millions de fermiers et les industries liées à l'agriculture.

Monsieur le Président, les fibres naturelles jouent un rôle important dans l'économie de beaucoup de pays, régions et nations. Dans certains pays, en particulier en Afrique de l'Ouest la production de fibres naturelles représente plus de 50 pour cent des exportations nationales. Elle joue un rôle important pour réduire la pauvreté rurale. Il est estimé qu'environ 15 millions de personnes sont

engagés dans la production de fibres naturelles, particulièrement le coton. A cet égard, nous appuyons les objectifs stipulés au paragraphe 5 du document C 207/15 et soutenons la proposition du fonds fiduciaire multi-donateurs. Vu l'importance de ces produits naturels, nous partageons l'idée d'organiser une Conférence internationale sur les fibres naturelles. Le succès des objectifs internationaux des fibres naturelles ne pourra pas être réalisé sans un financement extra-budgétaire qui est pour nous indispensable.

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

From our perspective, I believe that the objectives set out for the Year of Natural Fibres are very important objectives, given the fact that the livelihoods of so many poor people depend on natural fibres. If we can move towards achieving those objectives, I believe that we would have done something very important.

There are two points that I would like to make after having listened to all the comments. The first point is that I very much agree with the idea that we do need to evaluate those activities, those Years and measure ourselves against the objectives that we have set out. I believe that we are going to do that, certainly in the case of the Year of the Natural Fibres and working with my colleague, José Sumpsi, on the Year of the Potato. That would help us see where we are and how to move forward.

The second point that, as far as the Organization of this Year is concerned, our measure of success would also be how much partnership is there? How much demand? Not just from countries. We know there are demands from the countries concerned, but also from the private sector and other stakeholders. We will do our best to make sure that it is just not an initiative coming from up there, but that it is something that is fully owned by the sector and the people working in it.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

25. Any Other Matters (continued)

25. Autres questions (suite)

25. Otros asuntos (continuación)

25.7 Reports of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources (Interlaken, Switzerland, 3 - 7 September 2007) and of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Rome, 11 - 15 June 2007) (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13 (continued)

25.7 Rapports de la Conférence technique internationale sur les ressources zoogénétiques (Interlaken, Suisse, 3 - 7 septembre 2007) et de la onzième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (Rome, 11 - 15 juin 2007). (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13) (suite)

25.7 Informes de la Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Zoogenéticos (Interlaken, Suiza, 3-7 de septiembre de 2007) y de la 11ª reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (Roma, 11-15 de junio de 2007) (C 2007/INF/23; C 2007/LIM/11; C 2007/LIM/13) (continuación)

CHAIRPERSON

With that I close this Item of the Agenda. Thank you for the discussion and debate.

Let's go back to the discussion of yesterday about the two Drafts Resolutions; the Draft Resolution about the International Technical Conference on Annual Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Draft Resolution about implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

As you remember, there were some questions discussed and there were some outstanding questions which are for further discussion in order to find a common position on these issues.

We believe Switzerland has worked on this during yesterday and during this morning.

I invite Switzerland to take the floor and inform us of the outcome of these discussions.

Ms Marie MARCHAND (Switzerland)

How do we proceed now? Shall we start with the first Resolution on Animal Genetic Resources or the other one?

Manfred BÖTSH (Switzerland)

On the Draft Resolution on Animal Genetic Resources, following your advice from yesterday, we had some informal consultations during last night and this morning. As a result of this consultation we are now coming up with two minor proposals for change in the Draft Resolution on the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

The first change addressed paragraph 6 on the first page, which reads as follows: "stresses the importance of", we would suggest deleting "fully". The paragraph will read: "stress the importance of implementing the Global Plan of Action". So, the deletion of the term "fully".

On the first paragraph on the next page, which starts with "appeals", then we would propose to delete "donors" and replace "donors" with "all FAO Members" and the paragraph will read as follows: "appeals to all FAO Members and to relevant international mechanisms". Then it will stay as it is. These are the two proposals for change.

CHAIRPERSON

Everyone has heard this. It is more-or-less editorial changes, as I see it.

Is it possible to agree to the Resolution as it is and then we convey it to the Conference for a decision?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Can we then move on to the next Resolution?

Ms Marie MARCHAND (Switzerland)

There was a concern with the inclusion of a reference to the IEE recommendations in the operational part of the Resolution, so we have had consultations and we have worked out a solution.

We would withdraw the reference to the IEE in the operational part of the Resolution. That means that paragraph 5 would then stop after "Resolution". That means we would delete "in coherence with the relevant recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation". This would be taken out.

We have agreed then to move the reference and to include the reference in the preamble. That would mean that we would have now three paragraphs in the preamble and the one that should be added should read as follows: "bearing in mind the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO". So, again, we would withdraw the reference from the operational part and make the reference in the preamble.

I have a second amendment to make because we realized yesterday that the last paragraph refers to the Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference. We are of the view that in order to avoid any

confusion should the Membership decide to have an extra-ordinary session, we would propose to speak about the next Ordinary Session of the Conference instead of the Thirty-fifth Session of the Conference. So, it would be replaced with "the next Ordinary Session".

CHAIRPERSON

This change is understandable. I must say that I have not seen the preamble. Is it not here? It is not linked to the Resolution, as such?

Ms Marie MARCHAND (Switzerland)

What I mean is that the third paragraph would come right after paragraph 2, "mindful of the crucial importance" and then we will add a third paragraph, "bearing in mind".

CHAIRPERSON

Okay. Thank you very much. Is that everyone?

Portugal, you have the floor.

José Luis COELHO SILVA (Portugal)

I would like to say that the European Union and its 27 Member States support Switzerland's draft proposal of the Resolution on the TCPR.

CHAIRPERSON

If nobody else would like to speak on this, can we agree to send the text now amended as proposed by Switzerland and convey it to the Conference for a decision?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

The next Session will be held tomorrow at 18:00 in the Green Room for the adoption of the report.

The meeting rose at 11.39 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.39 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-fourth Session
Trente-quatrième session
34º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 17 November – 24 November 2007
Rome, 17 novembre – 24 novembre 2007
Roma, 17 de noviembre – 24 de noviembre de 2007**

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I
TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
TERCERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I**

21 November 2007

The Third Meeting was opened at 18.13 hours
Mr Christer Wretborn
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La Troisième séance est ouverte à 18 h 13
sous la présidence de M. Christer Wretborn
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la Tercera Sesión a las 18.13 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr Christer Wretborn
Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I (C 2007/I/REP/6; C 2007/I/REP/7; C 2007/I/REP/8; C 2007/I/REP/9; C 2007/I/REP/10; C 2007/I/REP/25.7)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I (C 2007/I/REP/6; C 2007/I/REP/7; C 2007/I/REP/8; C 2007/I/REP/9; C 2007/I/REP/10; C 2007/I/REP/25.7)
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I (C 2007/I/REP/6; C 2007/I/REP/7; C 2007/I/REP/8; C 2007/I/REP/9; C 2007/I/REP/10; C 2007/I/REP/25.7)

CHAIRPERSON

I think it is time to start this meeting and what we are supposed to do is to adopt the report from the Drafting Committee and I wonder if anyone has read it or if you need some time to read it? Is it okay? The report is available to the right here, to the left from your side.

I know that we have to ask ourselves if we have a quorum and I believe that we have a quorum. Are there any objections? No objections.

Thank you. Then I will leave the floor to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, Mrs Saranya Hasanthi Dissanayake, Sri Lanka, to introduce the report for you. Please, you have the floor.

Ms Saranya Hasanthi Urugodawatte DISSANAYAKE (Chairperson , Drafting Committee)

The documents that we have here to consider are: document C 2007/I/REP/6, The Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Agenda and Development Plan of Action, that is Item 6, and then we have document C 2007/I/REP/7, the Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations Systems, this is Item 7. Then we have the document C 2007/I/REP/25.7, Any Other Matters, which actually also includes the Resolution on International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007 and the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held in Rome in June 2007.

The next document is C 2007/I/REP/8, United Nations/FAO/WFP, that is Item 8. The fifth document that we would be considering is the document C 2007/I/REP/9, International Year of the Potato 2008 that is Item 9. Then there is the final document C 2007/I/REP/10, International Year of Natural Fibres 2009 and that is classified as Item 10.

CHAIRPERSON

Yes, you have heard the information from the Chair of the Drafting Committee and you have the Reports in front of you and I ask you, can we adopt this Report *en bloc*? Brazil.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

I do believe that the Drafting Committee did a wonderful job, but I do have some comments on at least one of the documents, so I would not go for adoption *en bloc*.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

There should be one minor change to our Brazilian colleague's recommendation for the entrust of accuracy. After the comma, it should be "while one Member noted" and then the rest of what the Brazilian said. Otherwise it reads as if several Members made that point when, in fact, it was only one Member.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

In the interest of time I could go along with this proposal however, I would like to remind everybody here that it is not usual for the Conference Report to express one Member, two Members or several Members. We do realize that there were three Plenary meetings going on, and most of the delegations are very small and people were simply not in Plenary.

I do know of a number of delegations who would agree with this point which was, indeed, made by Brazil but unfortunately they were not in Plenary to make them. I think as a practice it is not a good idea to put this in numbers.

CHAIRPERSON

I take it that you are prepared to take this as a compromise?

Then we make this change in the Report, proposed by Brazil and amended by Canada, while one Member noted that the outcome of IEE is still under consideration by the Governing Bodies.

We this change in the Draft Report, can we then take the Report as it is *en bloc*?

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

I think we are missing a part here. At least I have not seen the Report on the item regarding Interlaken. It was not with the other papers and should be circulated.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Porqué no aprobamos los documentos uno por uno, sin irlos revisando, para no preguntar, para ver si es en bloque o no, podemos ir saliendo de cada uno de ellos. El documento del Tema 7 con la enmienda, lo podemos aprobar y sacarlo de la discusión así como todos los demás.

CHAIRPERSON

We should give, perhaps, five minutes to read.

Are you prepared Brazil?

We have first Item 6, Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (C 2007/16, C 2007/19).

Can Item 6 be adopted?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

We then have Item 7, Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C 2007/17 and C 2007/LIM/11), the Item we just amended.

Can we adopt that?

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

I am sorry, I have one very little observation on Item 6. It is just a request to the Secretariat to spell out ICCARD.

Yes, we can adopt the Item.

CHAIRPERSON

That is an editorial change so there is no problem.

Then we come back to Agenda Item 7, just amended by Brazil and Canada.

Can we adopt Agenda Item 7?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We have the Agenda Item 8, United Nations FAO World Food Programme.

Can we adopt Item 8?

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

CHAIRPERSON

Then we have the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, Item 10.

Can we adopt Item 10?

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

CHAIRPERSON

Then we have Agenda Item 25.7, which you are reading just now.

Can we go for a decision and ask the Brazilians?

Kent Vachon (Canada)

I apologize if I missed it in the Drafting Committee, but in paragraph 2, (the second to last line) "and to the many countries – at the moment it says "who had generously supported", it should read "which generally supported".

CHAIRPERSON

With that change can we adopt Agenda Item 25.7?

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

Then we are coming to an end of our discussion and I thank you for the good cooperation and a special thanks to Sri Lanka's Mrs Hasanthi Dissanayake for an efficient chairing of the Drafting Committee, and for completing the job on schedule.

I also thank the Secretariat, of course, interpreters, technicians and everyone responsible for administration and arrangements and to the delegates, of course, as I said, for your good cooperation and for finishing our meeting in time and shows that we can really work efficiently together.

The Report of Commission I will be presented to the Conference for adoption on Saturday.

Ms Siti Nugraha MAULUDIAH (Indonesia)

I just want to make sure that when we are reporting to the Conference, the wording here in the document should say Commission because it is Commission rather than the Conference.

I just wanted to make sure because I made this intervention clearly in the Drafting Committee and it was not changed. I just want to make sure that the day after tomorrow, when we report this to the Conference, we have Commission rather than the Conference.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

El debate del Comité de Redacción fue en inglés, hay algunas partes de la versión en español que necesitamos someter a la Secretaría, algunos cambios para una versión más clara. Simplemente quería dejar saber que en la versión en español, vamos a sugerir algunos ajustes para reflejar mejor nuestras discusiones.

CHAIRPERSON

With that I think we can close this meeting and thank you once again.

The meeting rose at 18:30 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.30 horas

