

Rome, Roma, 2007



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
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 17-24 novembre 2007
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 17-24 de noviembre de 2007
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
DE LA CONFERENCIA**

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(20 November 2007)

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(24 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**

17 November 2007

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PRÉMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:07 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 07
sous la présidence de M Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.07
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN**

- 1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2007/LIM/8)**
- 1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2007/LIM/8)**
- 1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 2007/LIM/8)**

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have the honour to welcome you to FAO headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. I am glad to welcome you all to your Organization, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

I should also like to welcome the representatives of Andorra and Montenegro, which have applied for Membership in the Organization, and also to the Faroe Islands, which has applied for Associate Membership. These applications will be placed before the Conference for decision by secret ballot this afternoon.

The first item on the agenda is the election of the Chairperson of the Conference. The Council, at its Hundred and Thirty-second Session in June this year, designated Ecuador as the country which would provide the Chairperson for this session of the Conference. At its Hundred and Thirty-third Session, which concluded yesterday, the Council proposed that His Excellency Carlos Vallejo López, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador, preside over this Conference Session. May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal, and if so, can it confirm this by acclamation?

May I now invite His Excellency Carlos Vallejo López, to come forward and take the Chair.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Distinguidos delegados, excelencias, señoras y señores.

Para mi país y para mi personalmente es un honor haber sido elegido presidente de esta Conferencia de la FAO, permítanme agradecerles la confianza depositada por ustedes.

Unas pocas ideas para expresar lo que sentimos los países pobres en algunas ocasiones. Pobres en la problemática del sector rural. Esta Conferencia tiene lugar mientras a escala mundial se están experimentando ya las consecuencias de la explotación desaforada de los seres humanos y de los recursos naturales. Los seres humanos pueden reaccionar de diversas maneras dentro de una relación de fuerzas, la respuesta de la naturaleza es en cambio implacable y no negociable. Lo que está sucediendo es un llamado a revisar la forma de lo que la sociedad humana ha concebido y su relación con la naturaleza, algo está fallando en la forma en que razonamos y en la forma en que elegimos los valores que mueven nuestras conductas.

Como nunca el mundo se ha intercomunicado en tiempo real, como nunca las interacciones entre las partes y los sistemas, entre los procesos parciales y los procesos globales que están a la vista. Como nunca las más diversas formas de pensar y actuar, los avances formidables, sobre todo en informática, salud ciencia y tecnología pueden estar al alcance de un clic, la Caja de Pandora se llama ahora Globalización. Como nunca también una dominación unipolar tiende a extenderse a

todo el planeta, pensar de la misma manera, vestir de la misma manera, comer de la misma manera y hasta disfrutar de manera uniforme todas las satisfacciones, se crean mercados cada vez más amplios para los productos más inverosímiles.

Cabe entonces cuestionar el rol de la FAO en el nuevo marco, es posible que estemos alcanzando un punto de inflexión en donde los esfuerzos por llegar con la alimentación para todos y superar la pobreza rural, puede naufragar en medio de los procesos impulsados por esta "bendita o maldita" Globalización.

Ya es conocido que la pobreza del planeta tiene un rostro rural, los campesinos pobres alcanzan 800 millones de un total de 1,200 millones de pobres en el mundo, son los más castigados por los grandes procesos a escala planetaria, viven con menos de \$1 al día, van a la cama con hambre todos los días, cada 4 segundos una persona muere de hambre, cada año 6 millones de niños mueren de desnutrición antes de su quinto cumpleaños, el continente africano antes exportador de alimentos y también Latinoamérica es ahora importador de la tercera parte de los granos que consume.

Los pobres rurales enfrentan cada vez mayores desventajas en el mercado globalizado, cuando ofrecen sus productos o cuando venden su fuerza de trabajo y aun cuando deben beneficiarse de los servicios públicos. Como productores, los pobres rurales se ven afectados por la globalización de maneras diversas y cada vez mejor documentadas, a su vez la posibilidad de que se beneficien de ella está plagada de dificultades, debidas a las distorsiones de la libre competencia y las barreras creadas por poderosos intereses internacionales, los subsidios y las medidas proteccionistas están afectando gravemente a los agricultores de América Latina y de otros países del tercer mundo, las regulaciones sanitarias y de calidad así como la falta de acceso al crédito y a la tecnología, son barreras adicionales para que los productores pobres puedan incursionar en rubros nuevos como frutas, vegetales, flores, lácteos, productos procesados que requieren además facilidades de almacenamiento, transporte y tratar con intrincadas redes del mercado internacional.

Los productores que cambian sus estrategias tradicionales que necesitan adoptar controles ambientales están en inferioridad frente a los competidores que a su vez no los aplican. Como vendedores de sus fuerzas de trabajo los pobres rurales no están en posibilidad de moverse entre los sectores de la economía, debido a su falta de acceso a la educación y a las oportunidades de capacitación. Tampoco pueden aspirar a ventajas salariales en los países pobres ni el capital ni sus dueños tienen incentivo alguno para mejorar los salarios de los pobres, pues ellos no mueven los mercados internos, sus salarios pueden ser reducidos siempre a un mínimo.

Como usuarios de los servicios públicos los rurales no son los más afectados por las políticas de ajuste que acompañan al aperturismo global, los cortes en educación y salud suelen ser los primeros en adoptarse, es políticamente más fácil cortar los gastos en los más débiles, los ricos no cooperan con la austeridad fiscal, si algún gasto social se hace no llega a los pobres debido a barreras burocráticas y a menudo a la corrupción política.

Las reducciones de aranceles pueden también tener efectos adversos en países en donde los aranceles son una fuente vital para el ingreso de los Estados. Ha llegado la hora de desarrollar una conciencia a escala mundial, las soluciones tendrán que contemplar la totalidad y la complejidad de las relaciones, hay que crear y desarrollar nuevas misiones de política, hay mucho espacio para innovar si se revisan por ejemplo las recetas de los programas de estabilización a fin de minimizar su impacto sobre los pobres, pero sobretodo el cambio de visión debe llevarnos a aprender de la vida y no sólo de la teoría.

El mundo globalizado y del conocimiento globalizable ofrece la oportunidad de conectarse entre sí a los pobres rurales de nuestros países, que han logrado enfrentar exitosamente los nuevos retos a fin de facilitar un aprendizaje común. Programas con un nuevo enfoque podrían facilitar asimismo la cooperación entre los países pobres en aspectos claves como materias primas, distorsiones de mercado, fluctuaciones en los precios o coordinación en materia de política ambiental.

Es necesario también pasar de los mapas de la pobreza a los mapas de los sistemas de explotación y de los desaciertos. Ya no se puede seguir pensando en medidas dirigidas a aliviar la pobreza como si fuera una bacteria sin tener en cuenta las fuerzas adversas sistemáticas que provienen de las grandes políticas globales. Ya no se pueden mantener las viejas recetas de ajuste y estabilización mientras no seamos capaces de apretar también el cinturón a los obesos. Esta es la hora del nuevo pensar y del nuevo actuar, ahora que es el momento histórico de nuevos paradigmas, como por ejemplo el socialismo del Siglo XXI, que ya clarea sobre los pueblos sedientos de justicia, ahora que como dijo un patriota latinoamericano, “el futuro ya no es lo que era”.

Señores delegados, como ustedes saben, tenemos un extenso Programa de Trabajo y en vista de que tenemos solo siete días para cubrir nuestro programa, pido la colaboración y el entendimiento de todos para lograr el mejor uso del tiempo disponible. Pasemos a la agenda.

Tema No. 1: Señores delegados, ahora procedemos a la elección de los tres Vicepresidentes de la Conferencia. De acuerdo con la propuesta del recientemente concluido 133^{vo} Período de Sesiones del Consejo, contenidas en el documento C 2007/LIM/8, los candidatos para ocupar los tres cargos de Vicepresidente de la Conferencia son: el Sr. Kaman Nainggolan de Indonesia; el Excelentísimo Sr. Abu Baker Al-Mabrouk Al-Mansouri de Libia; y el Sr. Vladimir Iosifov de la Federación Rusa. A consideración de ustedes que, de ser aceptado, pido un aplauso. Felicito a los tres Vicepresidentes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

(C 2007/LIM/4; C 2007/LIM/8; C 2007/LIM/10)

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

(C 2007/LIM/4; C 2007/LIM/8; C 2007/LIM/10)

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

(C 2007/LIM/4; C 2007/LIM/8; C 2007/LIM/10)

PRESIDENTE

Señoras y señores, hemos completado el Tema 1 de nuestra Agenda de trabajo, pasamos al Tema 2: Candidaturas de los Miembros del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales. Señores delegados, procedemos a la elección de los Miembros de los dos Comités: del Comité General y el de la Conferencia Especial. Se somete a consideración las candidaturas de los siete Estados Miembros para integrar el Comité General de la Conferencia. De acuerdo con la propuesta del 133 Período de Sesiones del Consejo, contenida en el documento C 2007/LIM 8. Los Estados Miembros son: China, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Gabón, Guatemala, Kuwait y Nueva Zelandia. Si no hay alguna objeción por parte de los distinguidos delegados, solicito un aplauso. Felicito a los Representantes de los siete Estados Miembros del Comité.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Procedemos a informar sobre las propuestas de candidatura a los nuevos Estados Miembros que han de integrar el Comité de Credenciales de esta Conferencia. De acuerdo con las recomendaciones del 133 Período de Sesiones del Consejo, contenidas en el documento C 2007/LIM/4, los Estados Miembros son: Australia, Canadá, El Salvador, Gabón, Malasia, Omán, San Marino, Ucrania y Zambia. ¿Hay alguna objeción por parte de los señores delegados?

De no ser, así solicito un aplauso. Felicito a los Estados Miembros por su elección al Comité de Credenciales.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

OTHER MATTERS

AUTRES QUESTIONS

OTROS ASUNTOS

25. Any Other Matters

25. Autres questions

25. Otros asuntos

25.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 2007/INF/9)

25.1 Conférence McDougall (C 2007/INF/9)

25.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (C 2007/INF/9)

PRESIDENTE

Pasamos al siguiente Tema “Otros Asuntos”, de acuerdo con el Tema 25: Disertación en Memoria de McDougall (C 2007/INF/9). Señores delegados, pasamos a este Sub-tema 25.1: Disertación en Memoria de McDougall, que lleva el nombre de Frank McDougall, uno de los padres fundadores de nuestra Organización y que se pronuncia en cada período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Doy la palabra al Señor Director General, quien presentará al orador a la disertación de este año.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Chairperson, Excellencies, Honourable Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour and great pleasure for me to introduce His Excellency Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf, Minister of Public Works and State Minister of Municipal Affairs of Kuwait who has kindly agreed to deliver the Twenty-fifth McDougall Memorial Lecture on behalf of His Highness Sheik Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, who is unable to be with us here today.

Since 1959, we have had the privilege of listening to the McDougall Memorial Lecture delivered by statesmen, women and luminaries, who have enlightened and inspired us with their thoughts and vision. Following this tradition, we are privileged today to hear the words and thoughts of a most eminent and distinguished personality who is well known throughout the world.

Even though it could not be possible for His Highness Sheik Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah to be here with us this morning, it is nevertheless a great honour for us to be able to partake of his wisdom, vision and thoughts on how best to address world food security issues and redress the global scourges of hunger inspired by his vast culture and rich experience.

His Highness Sheik Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah is a prominent personality, not only in the Arab world, but worldwide. Over the years, he has increasingly dedicated himself to diplomatic efforts across the globe and is a personal member of the Kuwaiti bilateral Friendship Societies with the United States of America, United Kingdom, France and Italy, and is also an eminent member of the French Diplomatic Academy.

His Highness has served his country with distinction and has been decorated on numerous occasions by the Heads of State of Argentina, Finland, Indonesia, Iran and Senegal, the United Arab Emirates as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

FAO wishes to express its highest esteem to His Highness Sheik Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah for his remarkable endeavours and tireless efforts in favour of international cooperation, human development and social justice, and to convey deep appreciation for having agreed to honour the Organization by providing it with the Twenty-fifth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Our deep appreciation is also extended to His Excellency Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf, Minister for Public Works and State Minister of Municipal Affairs of Kuwait, for having travelled to Rome to deliver the Lecture on behalf of his His Highness Sheik Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

His Excellency Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf majored in Civil Engineering at the United States Toledo University. From 1975 to 1985, he was the Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Urban Planning Department and from 1988 to 1990, he served as Director of Planning. From 1991 to 1997, he served as Deputy Chairperson of the Kuwaiti Engineers Association for Project Development and Construction. From 1997 to 2000, he served as Director-General of Project Development Affairs and from 2000 to 2007, as Adviser to the Kuwaiti Municipality Chairperson for Engineering Affairs prior to his appointment as Minister for Public Works and Minister of State for Municipal Affairs at the beginning of this year.

His Excellency Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf is also a member of the Higher Council of the Traffic and Engineers Association.

I now have the pleasure of inviting His Excellency Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf to deliver the Twenty-fifth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Moussa Hussein Abdullah AL-SARRAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you for these very warm words that you spent introducing His Highness, our Prime Minister.

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this lecture on behalf of my Prime Minister, may God protect him. I am delighted to be able to deliver this lecture on the occasion of this Conference Session. He has asked me to wish all the best for this Conference.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here before you today to deliver this lecture at this Conference session in memory of Mr Frank McDougall.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, for his kind invitation to participate in this session and delivery this lecture.

Throughout the Conference sessions, many distinguished personalities have delivered lectures in memory of Mr McDougall and I would like to begin by expressing my deep gratitude to Mr McDougall and paying tribute to his efforts which led to the establishment of FAO.

Allow me to seize this opportunity to address some of the issues that relate to the ongoing efforts to combat poverty and hunger, and the potential for achieving our related objectives.

First of all, let me point out that eliminating poverty and hunger have caught the attention of the international community for several decades now. Indeed, the World Food Conference, celebrated in 1974, stressed that every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition in order to develop their physical and mental faculties. However, the target set by the World Food Conference, of eliminating hunger, food security and malnutrition within 10 years was not met, which led to the convening of the 1996 World Food Summit at FAO Headquarters. This Summit was viewed as a historic event, with its renewed commitment at the highest global and political levels to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and to ensure food security for all.

We subsequently had the United Nations Millennium Declaration of the year 2000, which falls within this context, as do the associated Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As you know, there are eight such development goals; the first being to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and to reduce by half the number of poor and hunger by 2015.

The agreed goals are within our reach, so long as all partners remain committed to mutual cooperation and to their responsibilities. In fact, poor countries have pledged to create an enabling environment and the conditions needed to realize the desired goals, in addition to introducing the necessary reforms and implementing the appropriate policies. They have also committed themselves to good governance, transparency, eliminating fraud, to the implementation of strategies against poverty and to the allocation of additional resources to social sectors such as health and education. For their part, developed countries have undertaken to support the efforts of poor countries through financial assistance, debt relief and the foundations for equitable and fair global trade.

In the light of the above expectations and requirements to build a better future for the world's poor and hungry, we must ask ourselves where we now stand in relation to our commitments and engagements. The second obvious question refers to what we are doing, in the light of what has been achieved and what we still need to do in order to move forward and achieve our goals.

According to reports by FAO and other UN Organizations, there has been progress in some regions and countries in reducing the number of poor and hungry people, and yet the overall outcome has fallen short of our hopes and expectations. There are still about 850 million people suffering from poverty and hunger, although we are midway towards the year 2015, since the Millennium Declaration of the year 2000. Truly alarming is this slow pace towards achieving our historical goal, which represents a common vision of the international community and is the first step towards subsequently redoubling our efforts to completely eradicate poverty and hunger worldwide. Millions of people are still suffering from poverty in a world of accelerating progress in knowledge, technology, communication and other areas. In our globalizing world, the poor are still unable to escape isolation, alleviate their suffering and fully exploit their potential. So, they cannot decide for themselves and live in dignity.

Despite the current situation, there is still room for achieving the desired goals, in particular eradicating poverty and hunger. What are we doing to save millions of people and ensure their inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition by 2015? On several occasions, at conferences and seminars, the international community has expressed its willingness and hope to reach the desired target through commitments, engagements, action plans and programmes designed on the basis of studies and recommendations. It, therefore, comes down to the capacity of partners to meet the challenges and provide the proper conditions for success.

What can the partners do, under current circumstances, to make progress towards eliminating poverty and hunger and reaching other objectives before it is too late? All indications point to an urgent need to provide additional financial assistance to poor countries and to build a more equitable structure for international trade, while paying greater attention to agriculture and countering the effects and implications of poverty and hunger.

I will now discuss briefly each of these issues, if I may.

As concerns financial assistance, the international community recognized in previous conferences including the Johannesburg Conference, that achieving the desired objectives will not be possible unless adequate financial resources are allocated to key activities, projects and programmes in fields such as health, education, drinking water, sanitation and agricultural production. I would like to refer in this context, to the debt relief initiative loaned by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in the 1990s for the heavily-indebted poor countries. Beneficiary countries were able to allocate a larger portion of funds made available by debt relief to core strategic activities against poverty. However, despite the importance of this initiative, the funds were still not sufficient to fill the funding gaps for activities aimed at eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving sustainable development on the economic, social and environment levels. In this context and aware of the importance of having adequate resources for the development process, the international community called upon developed countries, through the United Nations, to allocate 0.7 percent of their gross national product to Official Development Assistance in developing countries. Nonetheless, the actual contribution of those countries is barely half of that percentage. Given the current circumstances and conditions, we call upon those countries to

redouble their efforts. Otherwise it will be difficult to achieve the planned goals and targets. I have chosen to raise this issue given my country's interest in cooperation for development. More than 45 years ago, it established the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development which is a specialized independent institution for development assistance. The Fund's activities now cover 101 developing countries the world over, mostly the Least Developed Countries, 40 countries in Africa. The Fund's effort succeeded in funding over 720 projects for a total of over US\$ 13.6 billion in agriculture, energy, water, sanitation, transportation, communication, health and education. In addition, to supporting the activities of social funds and development banks which play a major role in supporting projects on the medium, small and micro levels. And this, in turn, offers new employment opportunities and contributes to alleviating poverty and hunger.

Now the activities of the Kuwait Fund are not limited to funding projects. They also encompass technical assistance, grants for consultancies services and support activities to enhance the technical and administrative capacity of many developing countries. The Kuwait Fund has also always been ready to provide support and assistance for any debt relief initiative, such as the HIPC, (Highly-Indebted Poor Countries) debt initiative and the debt cancellation initiative for amounts due to the World Bank's International Development Agency and the African Development Fund. Taking into consideration the activities of the Kuwait Fund in developing countries on the whole, in addition to grants and funds provided by the Kuwaiti Government, official assistance for development from Kuwait to the developing countries, between 1970 and 2006, averaged over 2 percent of annual GNP, which is almost three times the percentage set by the United Nations.

Although Kuwait is a developing country and its economy is still heavily dependent on oil, a key diminishing natural resource, it has made every possible effort to act as a supportive in partner in development, aware of the importance of cooperation to enable developing countries to achieve growth, progress and well-being for their citizens.

As regards international trade in an era of globalization and fierce competition among countries to access global export markets, we need to consider the current balance of international transactions between developed and developing countries and the great discrepancy that exists between their economic, technical, technological and administrative capacities. We also need to consider the rules and regulations that governed the flow of goods and services between these countries.

The international community has recognized the extreme importance of the close relationship between trade and development. When the Ministers of Trade gathered at the Doha Ministerial Conference of November 2001, adopted the Development Agenda, giving top priority in the World Trade Organization to development issues in the interest of developing countries. Furthermore, the Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Hong Kong Conference in December 2005, reiterated the importance of the development dimension in the Doha programme of work and launched an initiative to help developing countries build their capacities and expand their trade activities. Such interest in building the trade capacity of developing countries by providing technical aid and assistance stems from the fact that the developing countries that have succeeded in increasing their capacity to access global market are precisely those that have also succeeded in making substantial progress in alleviating poverty and in improving the living conditions of their people. However, other developing countries have been unable to foster economic growth and poverty alleviation through trade activity. Therefore, building the trade capacity of developing countries is one of the elements that would enable trade to play an active role in development and poverty alleviation.

Other elements include removing obstacles and constraints on exports to developed countries. This would allow developing countries to benefit from globalization and it would avoid the ineffective economic reforms in those countries, particularly trade liberalization.

In order to increase the capacity of developing countries, allowing them to compete on global markets, there needs to be an appropriate infrastructure for the market flow of goods and services. What we also need is competence in business management to seize opportunities in an effective manner.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, agriculture has a major role to play in the economies of developing countries and it is also the primary source of foreign currency. Seventy-five percent at least of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Therefore, increasing agricultural production is a fundamental element in combating poverty, both in producing food for local consumption or for export to the global market.

Much attention has been paid to agriculture over the years, as shown by the establishment of the FAO by the international community more than sixty years ago. This Organization where we are gathered today and to which I should like to convey our gratitude for all of the efforts it is making to achieve food security for all. The international community has reiterated its interest in agriculture when it established the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in which the OPEC countries, especially Kuwait, have played a historical role. Given that agriculture is a guarantor of food security for all, the flow of agricultural products across borders should be aligned with production and marketing policies, with due consideration of the impact of those policies on the poverty and hunger that the international community has undertaken to eradicate. Agricultural trade issues have indeed been placed on the Doha Round agenda but are still unresolved, including the significant support that the OECD countries give their farmers. We truly hope that these negotiations will be concluded on a platform of justice and equality among all parties in the knowledge that the free trade of agricultural commodities, especially food crops, will help free hundreds of millions of people from poverty and hunger. While aware of the important role of agriculture in providing food, we also need to heed its sustainability in a context of population growth, limited availability of land and water, and the need for environmental protection. Those are the challenges that we must overcome through rules and policies that will put a stop to desertification and soil erosion, will rationalize the use of irrigation water and provide farmers with the knowledge and technology they need for their specific circumstances and environments.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the plagues of poverty, hunger and disease that we are witnessing today in various regions of the globe are counter-balanced by prosperity, progress and well-being in other regions of the world. This reflects the disparity that exists in what is commonly known as the Global-Village brought about by globalization. The former scenario is discouraging and is entirely inconsistent with the humanitarian dimension of humanity and with the construction of a world of peace, security and well-being for future generations. Eliminating poverty and hunger is not limited to the human dimension. It has also an economic, social and political environmental dimension. The poor, the hungry and the sick are marginalized. Their potential is not exploited and they are denied their most basic human rights. In order to strengthen and implement democracy, freedom and justice, the poor and the hungry need the conditions and capabilities to avoid disillusion, despair and consequent resource to the chaos, violence and disruption that can threaten political and social stability, undermine the development process and increase the number of people suffering from poverty. At the same time, political instability, internal conflicts and wars produce devastation and many victims, destroy economies and hinder the development process.

Efforts should therefore be made to build peace and eradicate poverty and hunger. Building peace goes hand in hand with development. The populations of many countries in the Arab Region are suffering from instability, insecurity and poor living conditions, including Iraq, which we hope will regain stability and security and enjoy peace and development in an environment of security and confidence in the future well-being of its people. In Palestine, we are all aware of the daily sufferings of the Palestinian people that stem from the embargo imposed by the Israeli occupation, which limits their freedom of movement and prevents them from enjoying their rights on their own land. We look forward to putting an end to that long-lasting occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy their rights in their land and building an independent State. In the meantime, other Arab countries are facing political crises that remain unresolved and that are preventing them from engaging in the development process.

By way of conclusion, I should like to reiterate that we are still able to achieve our goals, in particular, our goal of freeing hundreds of millions of people from hunger, poverty, disease and

malnutrition and enabling them in dignity to play an active role in the international community and its shared interests. First and foremost, this requires a renewed commitment of all partners, including UN Agencies, international, regional and national development organizations, donor countries, developing countries, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, each playing their respective role according to capability and competence. Everyone should redouble their efforts to help us meet our targets before the endeavour becomes more complex and costly. May God bless you all.

PRESIDENTE

Agradecemos al conferencista por la magnífica disertación en representación del Jeque Nasir Al-Muhammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Primer Ministro del Kuwait.

Frank McDougall era Australiano. Invito a la representante de Australia a hacer uso de la palabra ante el podio.

Ms Amanda VANSTONE (Australia)

It is a pleasure to respond to his Excellency, Mr Moussa Hussein Abdullah Al-Sarraf's McDougall Memorial Lecture. You have highlighted some of the important challenges the international community faces in helping to build a world without hunger.

Before I go further, I would like to reflect briefly on what it is that this lecture commemorates.

Through this biennial lecture, FAO acknowledges Frank McDougall's contribution to the establishment of this Organization. Today, as the Organization contends with affirming its role in the Twenty-first Century, it is timely to reflect on the vision, determination and cooperative spirit that the founding fathers brought to the task of establishing FAO as an international forum to address global food and agricultural challenges. As a fellow Australian, I am proud of Frank McDougall's role and of Australia's continuing engagement with this Organization. Since Frank McDougall's time, Australia has strongly supported FAO's goals, and been a constant participant in its important and diverse range of activities. Australia's ongoing commitment to FAO is today further demonstrated through our strong support for the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

The State of Kuwait has also been an enduring participant, having joined FAO in 1963, Kuwait has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the goals of the Organization particularly in the struggle against poverty. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with Kuwait in these important goals. His Excellency Mr Moussa Al-Sarraf has outlined some of the challenges and opportunities still facing many developing countries in particular, and those concerned about future world food security. But cooperation, important as it is, represents only one part of what we need to do. As His Excellency rightly acknowledged, free trade in agriculture is critical to achieving food security and poverty reduction.

Mr Chairperson, it is Australia's view that international trade is the primary driver of agricultural growth and a vital part of overall economic development, food security and poverty reduction. This view is neither new nor unique.

Unfortunately, farmers in developing countries continue to have to operate in highly-distorted world markets, where they compete with farmers in developed countries, some of whom are heavily subsidized. This injustice is compounded by the fact that access for many of the commodities developing countries are competitive at producing, is frustrated by a multitude of tariff and non-tariff barriers in other markets.

Such policies severely curtail the income and export earning potential of farmers in many developing countries and unfairly limit the ability of their agricultural sectors to grow and expand. Hence the path to economic development and greater food security is much more difficult than it needs to be.

The WTO Doha Round offers the greatest potential to genuinely reform world agricultural markets. Australia is a leading advocate of multilateral trade reform and has been working closely

with our Cairns Group partners for many years, in the push for a fairer trading system. In fact, this year the Cairns Group has celebrated its twentieth year.

Historically, reform of global trade in agricultural products has never been easy and Australia acknowledges the considerable challenges that lie ahead of us in Geneva. Australia continues to hold our ground for good reason, for ourselves, but indeed for developing countries as well. The evidence from the OECD is clear. Countries that heavily subsidise their farm sectors cannot hold back the tide of adjustment and pressure for change. Indeed, the rate of decline in farm numbers tends to be greater in countries with large subsidies than elsewhere. In fact, the problem is made worse with even greater adjustment hurdles further down the track. The Australian Government figured out some time ago that we were not doing our farmers any favours by propping up their production or their prices, not to mention, of course, the costs to our consumers and taxpayers. Australia's experience shows first hand that domestic reform can work. Reform of our agricultural sector has made it one of the most efficient in the world.

Our openness to the rigours and the rewards of world markets has continued to push our industries to invest heavily, in ongoing productivity gains at home. Of great relevance here today is the fact that the costs of OECD farm subsidies also come at a cost to developing countries.

Today FAO faces one of its greatest challenges, that of the need for reform and renewal to ensure FAO's continued growth as a relevant and effective player in the global environment. As we consider the future direction of FAO over the course of this conference we may draw some comfort from the findings of the Independent External Evaluation which has stated, that if FAO didn't exist it would need to be created. The work of FAO is not yet done. Collectively, we must continue to build on the foundations laid by FAO's pioneers, while also ensuring that FAO is forward-looking, innovative and responsive to the needs of the Twenty-first Century. The Independent External Evaluation of FAO will be critical to achieving this.

In conclusion, your Excellency, may I again express my appreciation for your thought-provoking and insightful comments particularly on the importance of the ongoing efforts to combat poverty and hunger. I am privileged to have had this opportunity to respond to His Excellency Mr Moussa Al Sarraf's address, which has been a fitting reminder of Frank McDougall's vision for the FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Propongo por consiguiente dar por concluida esta primera Sesión de la Conferencia e invitar a los Miembros del Comité General de la Conferencia integrados por los tres Vicepresidentes, el representante de Libia, de la Federación Rusia y de Indonesia, así como a los representantes de China, Dinamarca, Estados Unidos de América, Gabón, Guatemala, Kuwait y Nueva Zelandia a participar en nuestra primera reunión del Comité General de la Conferencia, que tendrá lugar inmediatamente después de la clausura en la Sala de Líbano, situado en el segundo piso del Edificio D-209.

Distinguidos delegados, damos por concluida nuestra Primera Sesión Plenaria, retomaremos este trabajo hoy a las 3 de la tarde. Señoras y señores, gracias.

The meeting rose at 11:05 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 11:05

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 PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
17 November 2007

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.30 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La Deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.30
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a dar inicio a la Segunda Sesión Plenaria.

Muy buenas tardes, espero que hayan disfrutado del descanso. Los trabajos preparados para esta Segunda Sesión Plenaria de la Conferencia se inician. Por la seguridad de todos nosotros, solicito su atención para la proyección de un video sobre las medidas de seguridad en caso de incendio. Entiendo que la preocupación de la FAO es que, si hay un incendio general del edificio, no se suspendan las sesiones y no falte ni un solo delegado. Veamos el video.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

PRESIDENTE

Voy a dar la palabra a la Sra. Williams, Secretaria General de la Conferencia y el Consejo, quien nos dará un breve anuncio relativo a la participación de la Comunidad Europea.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Community and its Member States is contained in information document C 2007/INF/4, which is available at the Documents Desk.

I would like to draw the attention of the meeting to this Declaration.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session (C 2007/1

C 2007/12-Rev.1; C 2007/INF/4; C 2007/LIM/9; C 2007/LIM/10; C 2007/LIM/18; C 2007/LIM/20; C 2007/LIM/21)

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session (C 2007/1;

C 2007/12-Rev.1; C 2007/INF/4; C 2007/LIM/9; C 2007/LIM/10; C 2007/LIM/18; C 2007/LIM/20; C 2007/LIM/21)

3. Aprobación del programa y organización del período de sesiones (C 2007/1;

C 2007/12-Rev.1; C 2007/INF/4; C 2007/LIM/9; C 2007/LIM/10; C 2007/LIM/18; C 2007/LIM/20; C 2007/LIM/21)

4. Admission of Observers (C 2007/13; C 2007/LIM/9)

4. Admission d'observateurs (C 2007/13; C 2007/LIM/9)

4. Admisión de observadores (C 2007/13; C 2007/LIM/9)

PRESIDENTE

Con relación al Tema 3, Aprobación del Programa y Organización del Período de Sesiones y del Tema 4, Admisión de Observadores, como estaba previsto y fue pedido a la Conferencia esta mañana durante su Primera Sesión, el Comité General se reunió y ha preparado su Primer Informe que contiene las propuestas relativas a los Temas de nuestro programa,. Aprobación del Programa

y Organización del Período de Sesiones, incluido el Calendario Provisional, y la Admisión de Nuevos Estados Miembros, así como otros arreglos de organización.

Señores delegados han recibido todos ustedes el Informe de la Primera Reunión del Comité General. El Informe se encuentra en el documento C 2007/LIM/9.

Voy a leer como procedimiento, voy a leer cada sub-título de los temas tratados, daré un pequeño espacio para el análisis de los señores delegados, someteré a votación, si no hay observaciones o si hay alguna observación, luego del debate queda aprobado.

Programa de Períodos de Sesiones. Pueden revisar y veamos si hay comentarios. Si no existen comentarios, queda aprobado.

Establecimiento de Comisiones y Calendario Provisional del Período de Sesiones. Si no existen comentarios, queda aprobado.

Nombramiento de los Presidentes y Vice-Presidentes de las dos Comisiones: Comisión I Embajador de Suecia y Comisión II de la República Dominicana. De acuerdo con el artículo XII del Comité, se recomienda a los Vice-Presidentes de las Comisiones se distribuyan como sigue: Comisión I, Argelia y Australia y Comisión II, Canadá y Nigeria. En consideración, si no existen observaciones, quedan designados.

Comité de Resoluciones. Están Madagascar, Filipinas, Italia, Paraguay, Egipto, Canadá y Australia. Siguiendo la recomendación, hay que esperar que los representantes de sus países indiquen los nombres de la persona que los representará. Si no existen observaciones, queda aprobado.

Admisión de Observadores de los Estados que Han Presentado Solicitudes de Ingreso como Miembros y Miembros Asociados a la Organización. Son el Principado de Andorra, la República de Montenegro y las Islas Faroe. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Admisión de Nuevos Estados Miembros y Miembros Asociados. Si no hay observación la votación se da a posterior. Queda aprobada.

Cuota de los Nuevos Estados Miembros y Miembros Asociados. Están establecidas las cuotas para los tres Estados. Sin observación, queda aprobado.

Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Elección de Miembros del Consejo. Esperamos que las candidaturas sean presentadas para que la elección sea el viernes, 23 de noviembre. Sin observaciones, queda aprobado.

Derecho de Voto. En el párrafo 25, hay un pequeño error, no es el sábado 20 de noviembre, sino el martes 20 de noviembre. La reunión que tendrá el Comité General nuevamente. Es solamente la versión en español la que tiene el error. Las votaciones de hoy y del día lunes si hubieran votaciones, está previsto. Pueden hacerlo todos los Estados Miembros y el martes se analizarán nuevamente en el Comité. Aprobado.

Derecho de Réplica. Es simplemente el establecimiento del sistema. Las réplicas se podrán hacer al final de las intervenciones de todos los participantes en el día. Sin observaciones, queda aprobado.

Actas Taquigráficas. Sin observaciones, queda aprobado.

Declaración de los Jefes de Delegación. Simplemente es el establecimiento del que previamente se inscribirán, habrá una lista para conocimientos de todos, el orden de participación, el llamado se hará al Representante que interviene y se anunciará el siguiente para que esté preparado. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Admisión de Observadores de Organizaciones Intergubernamentales y de Organizaciones Internacionales no gubernamentales. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Declaración en las Sesiones Plenarias de la Conferencia a las Organizaciones Internacionales No Gubernamentales Reconocidas como Entidades Consultivas. Está la Federación Internacional de Productores Agrícolas. Sin no hay observaciones, queda aprobado la participación.

Actos Especiales. Hay cinco Actos Especiales, unos relacionados con la acuicultura, bosques, financiamientos para la agricultura, calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos, comercio y seguridad alimentaria, que se desarrollarán paralelamente a las Sesiones Plenarias de la Conferencia. Si no hay observaciones, queda aprobado.

Reunión Oficiosa de Observadores de Organismos No Gubernamentales. Creo que es de simple trámite y no existen observaciones. Queda aprobado.

Asistencia de los Movimientos de Liberación. Es la propuesta nada más del Movimiento de la Liberación de la Palestina, como Movimiento que solicita asistir. Sin observaciones, queda aprobado.

Antes de la conclusión una pequeña aclaración. En el punto 6, yo indiqué que la Comisión I es Australia. Me disculpen es Austria.

Las conclusiones. Si no existen observaciones, queda aprobado.

Queda entonces aprobado por parte de la Sala el Primer Informe del Comité General.

Vamos a pasar al Primer Informe del Comité de Credenciales. Antes de iniciar el debate, sobre el Tema 21 del Programa, tenemos que aprobar el Primer Informe del Comité de Credenciales. Yo ofrezco la palabra al Excelentísimo Señor Noël Baïot de Gabón, Presidente del Comité de Credenciales, para que nos presente su informe. Por favor representante.

Noël BAÏOT (Président de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs)

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, Honorables invités, Mesdames,

Le document n'a pas encore été distribué. Je voudrais avant tout apporter une indication en ce qui concerne la version en espagnol que vous recevrez. Il y a donc une erreur qui s'est glissée uniquement sur le document en espagnol: au lieu de lire "Suisa" il faudra lire "Swaziland".

Monsieur le Président, avec votre permission, je vais devoir rendre public le Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs. La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a tenu trois séances, les 5, 14 et 16 novembre 2007 pour examiner les pouvoirs des Délégations des Membres de l'Organisation invités à la Trente-quatrième Session de la Conférence de la FAO.

La Commission a élu Monsieur Noël Baïot du Gabon et Madame Daniela Rotondaro de Saint Marin, Président et Vice-Président, respectivement. La Commission de Vérification des pouvoirs a été informé de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation concernant les délégations et pouvoirs ainsi que les usages et les critères que respecte l'Organisation en matière d'affectation des pouvoirs conformément aux usages de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies dans ce domaine, et conformément au paragraphe 2 de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation et aux critères suivis par la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs lors de ses précédentes sessions.

La Commission a examiné les pouvoirs et les renseignements que le Directeur général a reçus au sujet de la Commission, la composition des délégations figurant sur les listes ci-jointes. La Liste A comprend soixante-quatre Membres qui ont soumis des pouvoirs officiels ainsi que l'exige le paragraphe 2 de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation. La Liste B comprend cent trois membres dont les pouvoirs ont été considérés comme de simples renseignements sur la composition de leurs délégations. Sept membres ont informé le Directeur général de leur intention de ne pas assister à la Conférence, et seize n'ont fourni aucune indication quant à leur participation ou à leur représentation à la Session de la Conférence.

La Commission recommande à la Conférence que tous les pouvoirs des délégations des pays figurant sur les deux Listes soient acceptés. Étant entendu que les pouvoirs officiels des

délégations figurant sur la Liste B seront communiqués dès que possible au Directeur général et que toutes les délégations soient autorisées à participer pleinement aux travaux de la Conférence.

Monsieur le Président, afin d'assurer la bonne marche des travaux, je propose aux délégations qui auraient des observations sur leurs pouvoirs ou sur les listes annexées au Rapport, de bien vouloir les communiquer directement au Secrétariat. À cet égard, je tiens à souligner tout particulièrement que le document C 2007/LIM/10, c'est-à-dire le Rapport dont je viens de vous donner lecture et les Listes, reflètent la situation de hier soir vers 19 heures. Depuis, le Secrétariat a reçu un très grand nombre de pouvoirs en bonne et due forme. La situation des pouvoirs soumis par les délégations sera reflétée dans une version ultérieure de ce Rapport que je vous présenterai plus tard dans le courant de la présente Session de la Conférence.

PRESIDENTE

En consideración al Informe, no hay observaciones. Yo declaro aprobado el Informe del Comité de Credenciales.

Gracias, Sr. Presidente y a los Miembros del Comité de Credenciales, por la labor desempeñada.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES

21. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2007/10; C 2007/LIM/9)

21. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 2007/10; C 2007/LIM/9)

21. Solicitudes de ingreso como Miembro en la Organización (C 2007/10; C 2007/LIM/9)

PRESIDENTE

Tema 21: Solicitud de ingreso en la Organización. La Conferencia examinará el Tema 21 relativo a las Solicitudes de Ingreso en la Organización. Se han recibido tres solicitudes de admisión en la Organización de los siguientes países: el Principado de Andorra, la República de Montenegro (en calidad de Estados Miembros), y de las Islas Faroe (en calidad de Miembro Asociado). El Artículo II.2 de la Constitución de la FAO, establece que esta Conferencia puede decidir la admisión en calidad de Estados Miembros de la Organización de cualquier Estado que haya depositado una solicitud de admisión, acompañada de un instrumento oficial en el que se acepten las obligaciones derivadas de la Constitución vigente en el momento de la admisión, por una mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos y a reserva de que se encuentren presentes la mayoría de los Estados Miembros de la Organización. El documento C 2007/10 provee la información relativa a las tres solicitudes de admisión recibidas por la Organización.

En virtud del Artículo II.2 de la Constitución de la FAO y de las disposiciones contenidas en el Artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización, el quórum necesario para esta elección es la mayoría de los Estados Miembros, esto significa que 95 Estados Miembros deberían estar presentes.

Doy la palabra al Secretario General para que exponga los detalles del procedimiento y la votación.

Quiero insistir, por favor, en oprimir el botón verde que tienen a mano derecha, las delegaciones que aún no lo han hecho, para completar el número de países que hacen el quórum.

De todas maneras, aunque no se hubiera completado el número de los países, ya hay el quórum suficiente con 99 Miembros.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The electronic system indicates that there are 99 delegations present in the room. We can thus proceed to vote.

Agustín ZIMMERMANN (Argentina)

La República Argentina se remite a la solicitud del Reino de Dinamarca al Director General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación de admisión de las Islas Faroe en calidad de Miembro Asociado a dicho organismo internacional y que el Director General comunicara a los Miembros mediante comunicación K/CA-11/7 fechada el 4 de septiembre de 2007.

La República Argentina no se opone a la admisión de las Islas Faroe en calidad de Miembro Asociado de la FAO, conforme fuera solicitado por el Reino de Dinamarca, según el contenido de la nota K/CA-11/7, en los términos establecidos en la Constitución de la FAO específicamente los párrafos 2 y 11 del Artículo II y su Reglamento General, por no tratarse de un territorio objeto de una disputa de soberanía reconocida por las Naciones Unidas.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados hemos terminado la primera vuelta de la votación, hay algunos países que habiendo sido llamados no se han presentado a votar, vamos a hacer un segundo llamado, si con ese segundo llamado los delegados no están presentes, pediremos a los escrutadores que procedan a definir la votación. Señor s, proceda con el segundo llamado.

Unos pocos segundos para ver si algunos de los delegados que han sido convocados a la segunda vuelta se acercan a votar.

Pedimos a los señores escrutadores de abandonar la sala para hacer el conteo de los votos junto. Gracias.

Vamos a tomar unos minutos para pedirle al Señor Director General que regrese a la sala que tiene que ayudarnos con una intervención.

OTHER MATTERS**AUTRES QUESTIONS****OTROS ASUNTOS**

25. Any Other Matters (continued)

25. Autres questions (suite)

25. Otros asuntos (continuación)

25.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 2007/INF/6)

25.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen (C 2007/INF/6)

25.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen (C 2007/INF/6)18

PRESIDENTE

Aquí está el Director General, señores delegados, esperando los resultados de la votación podríamos continuar con la ceremonia de entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen, A. H. Boerma, Edouard Saouma y dar la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga.

Empezaremos con el Tema 25.2 de nuestro Programa, la Presentación del premio B. R. Sen para el 2006-2007. La persona galardonada recibirá una medalla, un pergamino, un premio metálico de 5,000 dólares americanos y un viaje de ida y vuelta a Roma para el galardonado y su cónyuge, con el fin de participar en la acción de la Conferencia en la que tiene lugar la ceremonia de entrega. Sr. Director General, por favor, presentar los galardones del premio B. R. Sen.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The prestigious B.R. Sen Award is in honour of the former Director-General, Mr. B.R. Sen and, as agreed by the FAO Conference in 1967, the yearly award is to be given to the FAO field officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country, or countries, to which he or she has been assigned, in particular, in the field of sustainable agriculture and rural development or food security.

On this occasion, I shall be presenting the awards for the years 2006-2007 to two very deserving winners.

The B.R. Sen Award for 2006 goes to Mr Brian Dugdill, a national of the United Kingdom. It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the development of an innovative, complete farm-to-consumer dairy food chain system in Mongolia, while serving as Chief Technical Advisor on a Japanese-funded project in that country.

Mr Dugdill and his project team introduced six low-cost commercial dairy models designed to get milk safely and affordably from rural areas to urban centers, with an emphasis on milk quality and profitability. The models are in commercial operation with public-and private-sector partners at 16 locations across the central region of Mongolia, where most of the urban population lives.

Mongolia is now on its way to self-sufficiency and food security in milk and dairy products and its White Revolution has been institutionalized as the official national dairy programme through a 2006 government resolution.

Mr Dugdill's vision, leadership, and sound technical expertise were catalytic factors in the realization of this achievement in a very short period of time.

Now for the B.R. Sen Award for 2007. It is conferred to Mr Shim Imai, a national of Japan. It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the adaptation and effective application of an innovative rural development approach to food security, poverty reduction and livelihoods improvement while serving in Indonesia as the Regional Special Programme for Food Security Coordinator for the Japanese-funded Special Programme for Food Security in Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka. Three instruments comprise the approach applied to the project: the farmers' group development plan, a field intervention planning tool; the revolving fund system, a micro-finance management tool; and a vectorial project analysis, a project monitoring evaluation and impact assessment tool.

This approach enhanced the planning capacity of small farmers, putting special focus on the poorest and most disadvantaged segment of the community while also introducing appropriate institutional arrangements.

Mr Imai's strong coordination role and professional commitment were key factors in the successful application of this approach by the project management units in the four countries. In on-going efforts to significantly reduce poverty, all four governments have taken concrete actions to replicate and expand these methods to wider areas within their respective countries.

May I now call Mr Brian Dugdill and Mr Shim Imai to receive the award.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Quiero invitar al Sr. Brian Dugdill a hacer uso de la palabra, por favor.

Brian DUGDILL (Recipient of Awardee of B.R. Sen Award 2006)

Mongolia is one of the remotest countries in the world with one of the harshest climates. For long periods in winter, the temperature stays below minus 35°C; and in summer, in the Gobi Desert, it reaches above 40°C. Ulan Bator is the coldest capital city in the world.

With its extreme continental climate and vast grasslands, livestock are hugely important to the livelihoods and well-being of the majority of the people of Mongolia, who were, until very recently, a predominantly nomadic society depending mainly on milk and meat for sustenance.

Being the first FAO staff member to be posted to Mongolia was both a luxury and a privilege for my family and I, a luxury because I have been a milkman all my life. I grew up on a dairy farm in the north of England. My parents ran a mixed farming business and almost as soon as I could walk, my job was to fill bottles with milk for household delivery before I went to school. I went on to work on the farm, then in the private-sector in the United Kingdom and Europe.

In 1976, I went to Bangladesh with my family for FAO, initially for one year. We stayed for ten years helping to set up the Milk Vita dairy cooperative, which today is a thriving business, buying surplus milk from 150 000 very poor rural families, and delivering it safely and efficiently to millions of low-income urban consumers. We stayed more on than off with FAO for the next 32 years, working in many countries.

Being posted to Mongolia was a privilege because not only do Mongolians consume a lot of milk, by Asian standards, but Mongolia's nomadic herders produce more than one hundred traditional dairy products, many of which have unique functional properties. Milk is sacred and a central part of Mongolian culture. For example, before all important journeys, it is sprinkled on the hooves of horses and on the wheels of vehicles, including aeroplanes. In fact, Mongolians milk almost any animal that moves, including camels and horses, and even reindeer.

It is a privilege to accept this honour on behalf of the project team and our families who have all worked long and hard to deliver the project, the Governments of Japan and Mongolia who funded the project, the FAO colleagues concerned in China, Bangkok and Rome, but most of all, on behalf of all the nomadic herders and public-and private-sector partners in Mongolia who gave us their unstinting support.

During the last three years, the dairy food security project helped to re-build the dairy industry using a practical, sector-wide, cow to consumer dairy food chain revival strategy, which included establishing a generic Mongolian milk brand. Mongolia used to be self-sufficient in milk, but during the rapid transition from a state-run to a market-led economy in the 1990s, the dairy industry, like other food industries, collapsed and urban consumers became dependent on subsidized imports from developed countries.

Milk is nature's most complete food. In helping to re-build the dairy industry in Mongolia, the project has helped to improve rural household nutrition while increasing daily incomes and adding many jobs, one full-time job for every 50 litres of milk collected, processed and marketed. In so-doing, the project is helping Mongolia to achieve its Millennium Development Goals of halving undernutrition and poverty by the year 2015.

It will be a privilege to share the cash prize with the children of Bayanlig School located in a very remote part of the Gobi Desert. As the area is so vast and the distances so great, the children are weekly boarders travelling to and from school by camel. They are taught by a dedicated team of teachers, assisted by parents who raise handsome Bactrian camels and make truly functional foods from camel milk, as well as produce wool for clothes and blankets.

If we were in Mongolia, it would be time for a toast; either an *airag* toast – with beer fermented from mare's milk; or an *arkhii* toast - with vodka distilled from fermented camel milk. Here, today, I just wish to say, on behalf of our team and our families, *bayar laa laa* - thank you very much.

PRESIDENTE

Mis sinceras felicitaciones por su labor, Sr. Dugdill. Voy a invitar al Sr. Imai a hacer uso de la palabra, por favor.

Shim IMAJ (Recipient of B.R. Sen Award 2007)

Honourable Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues and Friends,

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the high tribute you have accorded me. I am indeed deeply honoured to be selected, as the Regional Coordinator of the Asia Coordination Component of the Regional Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) funded by the Government of Japan, for this prestigious B.R. Sen Award.

This award is foremost a recognition of the excellent team work carried out by the participating countries, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Sri Lanka, and the Project Management Units and farmers in the respective nations. While humbly and gratefully accepting the honourable B.R. Sen Award for sustainable development, I should also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Donor Government, Japan.

I vividly recall that I was deeply moved by the social ethos of the SPFS during the address by the FAO Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, at the May 2001 Signing Ceremony in Jakarta. However, at the same time, I realized that the SPFS was a visionary programme, not only because of its multidisciplinary composition but rather for how it aimed to achieve longer-term sustainability. And that was our baptism of fire into a challenging programme.

I have been privileged to participate in the development of innovative project approaches such as the Farmers' Group Development Plan (FGDP), a participatory model where farmers are key in project design from the very onset. This model serves to motivate all parties to strive for sustainability and instill the mindset that "Nothing is for free". The Revolving Fund System (RFS), as another example, aims at both the timely provision of project funds as well as a schedule for their recovery. Farmers participating in the project realize that the RFS is not a free handout and that funding needs to revolve to other people in order that, over time and in a gradual manner, all members of the community benefit from the programme. Finally, the Vectorial Project Analysis (VPA) allows for close monitoring of project achievements, in particular for two scalars, namely "Livelihood" and "Mindset".

While applauding the participating farmers for the remarkable achievements of the immediate objectives of the rather short-term interventions of the FAO supported SPFS projects, I should like to emphasize that the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic intends to reflect the SPFS into the National Programme for Food and Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation Strategy. In Sri Lanka, the Government plans to expand the SPFS into 15 000 villages under the "Gama Negama Programme"; in Bangladesh, the SPFS will be replicated in 100 upazilas; and the Government of Indonesia is taking action to expand the SPFS into 10 600 villages under the "Desa Mandiri Pangan". These upscaling plans in each of the participating countries are proof of their continued commitment to strive for food security, and to make the SPFS approach sustainable.

I take this opportunity to humbly express my gratitude for the outstanding guidance and support received from FAO Management and technical colleagues in Headquarters and the Bangkok-based Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Finally, allow me to turn to my spouse and express my deep gratitude for her continuing backing and understanding of the complex requirements of my professional life. Your continued support, Naoko, was and is indispensable.

Thank you very much for your attention.

PRESIDENTE

Mis felicitaciones por su contribución a la labor de la FAO, Sr Imai. El representante del Japón me ha pedido unos pocos minutos para hacer una intervención como país que ha financiado este Programa. El representante del Japón, por favor.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan congratulates Mr Brian Dugdill and Shin Imai, for being recipients of the prestigious B.R. Sen Awards for the years 2006-2007, respectively. Japan is proud of the high quality of work shown by Mr Imai, and believes this is applicable to staff of our nationality in general who are extremely under-represented in terms of number, but not in terms of their ability. My delegation is also proud of the high performance of the Japanese-funded projects in Mongolia and the South Asia Region. Japan is willing to continue supporting those FAO activities which show high efficiency, effectiveness, impact and are really valuable for Member Nations such as Host Countries of field projects and their people. Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson.

25.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 2007/INF/7)

25.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma (C 2007/INF/7)

25.3 Entrega del Premio A.H. Boerma (C 2007/INF/7)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a abordar el Tema 25.3: Presentación del Premio A.H. Boerma, galardón que se otorga cada dos años a un periodista o escritor cuyos trabajos en la televisión o la radio hayan contribuido a incrementar la atención pública internacional acerca de los problemas de la seguridad alimentaria y las medidas encaminadas a su solución.

El premio consiste en una medalla, un pergamino, un premio en metálico de diez mil dólares americanos y un viaje de ida y vuelta a Roma para el galardonado y su cónyuge. Permítanme dar la palabra al Director General para que nos presente a los galardonados.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have counted three times the pages, and I am sure this time there are no doubles.

Each biennium is memorable for a particular event or events and in the last two years, I think you will agree that Avian Influenza, climate change and bioenergy among other areas of special interest to FAO have been at the forefront of international attention.

In a very large part, this is due to the special role of the media focusing public attention on the issues, not just one article, report or film, but a virtual campaign, especially on a global scale to develop awareness to the point where there is an impact on decision-makers at the highest level.

This year the A.H. Boerma award is being shared by two journalists for the remarkable contribution that each has made towards increasing public awareness and by pure coincidence, not least for the role they have played in reporting on Avian Influenza and its potential huge effect, on animals and human health, as well as its economic impact.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I announce to you the winners of the A.H. Boerma Award for 2006-2007. They are Mr Hany El Banna, an Egyptian journalist, writer and Editor-in-Chief of the Agricultural Magazine and Mrs Elizabeth Rosenthal, a leading correspondent for the International Herald Tribune and New York Times newspapers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recall that this Award was established by the FAO Conference in 1975 as a tribute to the leadership of Dr A.H. Boerma, who was FAO's Director General from 1968 to 1975.

Mr Hany El Banna is an Egyptian journalist and editor, specializing in agricultural and rural development issues. He is a frequent writer on FAO, having covered FAO-related issues since

1990, including food security and all the themes, in almost every edition of the monthly publication, of which he is Editor-in Chief, the Agricultural Magazine. Mr El Banna represents a dynamic force and focal point for agricultural information and data on national, regional and international issues related to agriculture and food security. His contribution both to the Agricultural Magazine and an Egyptian magazine on farmers cooperatives has helped to focus public attention in the Arabic-speaking countries of the Near East on such issues as commodities, agricultural production and economic and food security.

Mrs Elizabeth Rosenthal is the International Herald Tribune's health, science, and environment correspondent. She has been among the most active international journalists writing on the subject of Avian Influenza and its effects on animal and human health, as well as, its social and economic effects. A trained medical doctor and a key analyst on scientific and medical issues, her writing has repeatedly drawn attention to that need for prevention at source that is among poultry populations as the most effective way of stemming the further spread of the Avian Influenza pandemic. Thanks to her regular in-depth reporting from the onset of the disease in 2003 to the present day, together with her writing on other issues concerned with food security, health and the environment, she has made an invaluable contribution to increasing awareness, writing as she does, for two leading and highly-influential English-language daily newspapers, the International Herald Tribune and the New York Times.

Mr Chairperson, your Excellencies, distinguished guests, it is with gratitude and respect that I confer the A.H. Boerma Award, to the two winners for this biennium, given the very important contribution they have made, quite individually and in different parts of the world, to publicizing issues which continue to impact hugely on the work of FAO and in acting towards a world where there is access to food by everyone.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

La Sra. Rosenthal desafortunadamente no ha podido estar con nosotros por compromisos de última hora, entiendo que hay un pequeño video para la Conferencia. Invito al Sr. El Banna que venga al podio.

Hany El BANNA (Recipient of Boerma Award 2007)

I have the honour today to express my very sincere appreciation and respect for granting me and my colleague Mrs Elizabeth Rosenthal, the A.H. Boerma award for the 2006-2007 biennium. This event which constitutes an outstanding landmark in my professional career, will remain a source of overwhelming happiness for myself as well as for my family.

It has, in fact, been a constant preoccupation to try to ensure the much-needed media support, to develop the National Agricultural Development Plan with the aim of avoiding food shortages in Egypt, as well as in the Arab world and throughout the Near East Region.

Agriculture and Food Security have been for the last twenty-five years and will continue to be the focus of my attention, whether in my current position as Editor-in-Chief of Egypt's Agricultural Magazine or in working with other media in the future. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has played a remarkable role in boosting agricultural development through its projects in Egypt. The Organization has been actively involved in planning the Telefood in our country, and this is very important to Egypt.

In concluding I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to you all, while pledging to continue my efforts in supporting agricultural development and in furthering FAO's campaign towards the right to food for each woman, man as well as for every child wherever he or she lives as an inherent human right.

*Video Presentation**Présentation vidéo**Videopresentación***Ms Elizabeth ROSENTHAL (Recipient of Boerma Award 2006)**

Thank you for the great honour of presenting me with this year's A.H. Boerma award. The award which is presented for my reporting about Avian Influenza, a topic that seemed powerful in 2006, but of course has fallen off the front page a bit in 2007, will, I am sure, re-emerge sooner or later.

This year, instead, you and we, the media, focus more on the affects of climate change and global warming. Indeed, I will not be in Rome to accept this award in person, which I greatly regret because the UN Secretary General will be making an important speech in Valencia at the final meeting of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, today. But in many ways, I have come to see that Avian Influenza and climate change have a lot in common. Let me tell you what I mean. When I first started covering health and environment for the International Herald Tribune and the New York Times, I thought of the two parts of my beat being distinct, with little overlap if at all. What I learned from covering first. Avian Influenza last year, and now climate change this year is that so many of the world's problems are interrelated, health environment, poverty, food, agriculture, trade, and certainly my contact with FAO has helped me be more aware of that.

But first, let me go back to Avian Influenza, a problem that has been largely intertwined with my career as a journalist. In 1997 when I was learning Mandarin Chinese in Beijing, in preparation for taking up my post as Beijing correspondent for the New York Times, I went on a New Year's holiday to Hong Kong. I had not told my two kids, who were then toddlers, and my mother who was visiting from New York. The day after we arrived, I got a call from my editors in New York. I heard that one million birds were being culled in Hong Kong to contain a strange new disease, and "could I do a story?" they asked. I sent my mother and kids to the park, and spent the morning at Hong Kong's street markets watching what would now be considered a very primitive call, street vendors snapping the heads of ducks and chickens and tossing them into plastic containers for collection. This was nothing like what we see today, and for me as a child of New York city, it was not the first time I had seen a cull, probably the first time I had heard of the cull, but I think also the first time I had seen a live chicken. So ten years later, I have seen a lot more culls and a lot more birds and know a lot more about Avian Influenza. I have seen it in the village of Dogubayezit, in eastern Turkey where I interviewed a mother whose children had tragically died of the disease. I have seen it in villages nearby Dogubayezit where tens of thousands of chickens had died suddenly in a week, a bunch of farmers told me, and at that point they had no idea why. I have seen the threat that a town in Switzerland where all the poultry had been placed indoors for fear that wild birds would infect the flock. In fact, last year I spent so much time following Bird Flu around the world, that my children who are now teenagers, took to calling me "the Bird Flu Lady". So I guess this Award will make them happy too.

In covering Avian Influenza, which I initially thought of as a health problem, I discovered quickly that I needed to interview not just health officials, but agricultural officials, environment officials and trade officials as well. Had climate change somehow changed bird migrations, pushing the disease to Europe? Had illegal poultry trade allowed Bird Flu to spread to Africa? Bird Flu is laying low by now, but I am sure it will be back again and I will be covering it again.

This year for me at least, and I am sure for you as well, climate change presents the same kind of cross-disciplinary challenges. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us that the globe is warming, and that is most certainly caused by greenhouse gas emissions. As all of you in this room are aware, the story is just not about the environment, just as Bird Flu was not just about health. In an increasingly small and globalised world it is all connected, so now I find myself once again calling on all the UN Agencies from FAO to UNEP, to WHO, but this year on a different topic.

How are changing climate patterns affecting crop viability in a changing world? How are fish prices in Europe and Japan affecting fish stocks and poor fishing men in West Africa? How is the

push for biofuels that can potentially reduce carbon emissions affecting forests in Indonesia? Will melting glaciers in the Himalayas lead to wars over water in Southeast Asia? I am hoping that as we move forward in these kind of issues that both you at the UN and we in the media work harder to present all the facets of these complex issues. Once again thank you very very much for this wonderful award.

25.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 2007/INF/8)

25.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma (C 2007/INF/8)

25.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma (C 2007/INF/8)

PRESIDENTE

Fue establecido por la Conferencia durante su Vigésimo Séptimo Periodo de Sesiones, en honor del ex-Director General Eduardo Saouma. Se considera una institución que haya ejecutado con particular eficacia un proyecto financiado por el Programa de Cooperación Técnica cada bienio. El Premio consiste en una medalla, un pergamino, un premio en metálico de 25,000 dólares americanos y un viaje de ida y vuelta a la sede de la FAO en Roma de sus representantes de institución galardonada para participar en la ceremonia de entrega del premio y recibirlo en nombre de la institución que representa.

Ofrezco la palabra al Sr. Director General, a fin que nos presente al ganador del Premio Eduardo Saouma.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

El Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) es un instrumento establecido desde hace muchos años para poner la competencia especializada de la FAO rápidamente a disposición de los Países Miembros a fin de responder a problemas específicos de desarrollo en los sectores agrícola, pesquero y forestal. En honor a mi predecesor, la 27ª Sesión de la Conferencia estableció el Premio Edouard Saouma para galardonar a la institución nacional o regional que hubiese implementado un proyecto del PCT con particular eficiencia.

Fueron recibidas muchas nominaciones de gran calidad para el premio 2006-2007. Entre éstas, la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca y Alimentos del Ministerio de Economía y Producción de la República Argentina sobresalió por el resultado excepcional, en términos de impacto y efectos catalíticos logrado en la implementación de un proyecto del PCT sobre el Protocolo de Cartagena sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología. La Secretaría está representada hoy aquí por el Excelentísimo Sr. Victorio José María Taccetti, Embajador de la República Argentina ante la FAO, quien recibirá el premio en nombre del Excelentísimo Sr. Javier Urquiza, Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos de Argentina.

La dedicación y la profesionalidad del personal de la Secretaría y su excepcional motivación y entusiasmo han sido vitales para la exitosa implementación de este proyecto innovador, el cual ha sido fundamental para ayudar al país a enfrentar los nuevos desafíos en la comercialización de granos derivados OVM (Organismos Vivos Modificados), planteados con la entrada en vigor del Protocolo de Cartagena sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología.

Gracias a sus notables capacidades de coordinación y de organización, la Secretaría estableció un equipo técnico de trabajo, asegurando de este modo la contribución de muchos asociados nacionales clave. La Secretaría también dio inicio a un programa de difusión e información sobre los resultados del proyecto en todas las regiones productoras de cereales y oleaginosas en Argentina. Este esfuerzo excepcional de comunicación y participación ha ayudado a conseguir la puesta en práctica de los resultados del proyecto por parte de muchas instituciones gubernamentales y privadas, dentro de los nuevos escenarios de segregación y trazabilidad. Sobre todo, la Secretaría lanzó el programa más importante en materia de política productiva de los últimos 15 años en el sector cerealero: el Programa Nacional de Calidad de Trigo, que se orienta a la diferenciación según los usos del cereal.

Creo que se trata de un ejemplo excelente de un proyecto que, gracias a la dedicación del personal de la contra-parte y al empeño permanente del Gobierno, ha producido resultados concretos y significativos y ha conseguido excepcionales efectos catalíticos en el país, incluyendo un rol mayor dentro del marco del Protocolo de Cartagena y una posición líder en los debates del Codex Alimentarius.

Distinguidos delegados, es para mí un gran honor hacer entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma al Excelentísimo Sr. Javier Urquiza, Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos de la República Argentina, representado por el Sr. Victorio José María Taccetti.

Victorio José María TACCETTI (Argentina)

Señor Presidente de la 34ª Conferencia de la FAO, Ministro de Agricultura de la hermana República de Ecuador, Señor Director General Dr. Jacques Diouf, Señores Representantes de los Estados Miembros, Organismos y Organizaciones Internacionales y Organizaciones No-Gubernamentales.

Tengo el honor de estar hoy aquí en representación de un grupo de profesionales que integran la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Pesca y Alimentos de la República de Argentina. Mediante mis palabras intentaré transmitir nuestro agradecimiento a la FAO y al Comité que ha examinado y privilegiado esta propuesta para recibir el Premio Edouard Saouma. Este proyecto hoy reconocido, conlleva un complejo análisis e interacción de una cadena productiva. La evaluación de la capacidad, infraestructura y logística de manejo post-cosecha de organismos vivos modificados e identificación de estrategias para aplicar el Artículo 18 del Protocolo de Cartagena sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología, nos interesó por su promisoría trascendencia, y desde la Secretaría se decidió brindarle prioridad para su desarrollo.

Un grupo de tareas interinstitucional, con especialistas del sector público y privado de todo el país, puso en marcha el emprendimiento en cooperación técnica con la FAO. Su resultado plantea un camino a seguir por el sector agrícola, y representa a la vez, un desafío para el Estado Argentino y el sector empresarial que manifestó un alto interés por el proyecto, implementando ya algunas de sus propuestas.

El trabajo no solo nos muestra las alternativas válidas para llevar adelante una adecuada segregación y trazabilidad de granos de maíz y soja con presencia de organismos genéticamente modificados a los efectos de cumplimentar las normativas internacionales y las especificidades de cada uno de los mercados con los que Argentina comercializa sus granos, sino que nos ha dejado un gran capital intangible a todos los que de una manera u otra participamos de su concreción.

La profundidad de su análisis y la seriedad de sus planteos en el manejo del complejo granario nacional, ratifica a Argentina como un país confiable a la hora de cumplir sus obligaciones comerciales en un creciente y diversificado mercado agrícola internacional.

En el plano interno nos demostró que el trabajo conjunto deja como resultado no solo mejores vínculos institucionales sino que es posible conseguir soluciones exitosas ante problemáticas complejas.

Capacitación, transferencia de conocimientos y este grato reconocimiento debe llenar de orgullo a los funcionarios y técnicos de la Secretaría y a los de la FAO, así como también a operarios de plantas de silos, responsables de logísticas en acopio, gerentes de plantas, transportistas, responsables de logística en terminales portuarias y exportadores, que participaron del proyecto.

Para todos ellos este premio y el reconocimiento de una Organización tan prestigiosa como la FAO ocupada de un tema esencial a la vida del hombre como es la alimentación mundial.

Esperamos que este enfoque metodológico se convierta en un modelo práctico apropiado para que Argentina y otros países puedan dar adecuado cumplimiento a las normativas de las distintas naciones importadoras y, fundamentalmente, al compromiso asumido en el Protocolo de Cartagena.

Las negociaciones multilaterales y los requisitos de los mercados internacionales generan desafíos económicos y políticos para países como el nuestro. Contar con normativas y políticas internacionales acordes, sumadas a metodologías específicas en la operatoria comercial del complejo granario, representa una necesidad estratégica para Argentina, principalmente cuando posicionada en el presente como país agro-exportador, dicha actividad ejerce impacto directo sobre la economía del país, hoy felizmente recuperada y estable.

En este sentido y siendo un importante productor mundial de granos, Argentina busca estar entre los líderes en materia de biotecnología agropecuaria. De allí la importancia de este Premio, que nos ayuda a despejar las inquietudes y temores que circundan al manejo de organismos genéticamente modificados dando apoyo a un proyecto que establece parámetros técnicos claros para dimensionar los efectos de su utilización y comercialización en el marco internacional.

En estos últimos años Argentina demostró un alto compromiso para garantizar al mundo altos estándares sanitarios y de Bioseguridad, no solo a través de una legislación exigente, sino también mediante una acción de control y supervisión permanente por parte de organismos como el SENASA, el que avala diariamente la calidad y la sanidad de los alimentos argentinos. Argentina es hoy una confiable proveedora de alimentos para el mundo.

Un mundo que a través de la introducción de tecnologías seguras de organismos genéticamente modificados podrá afrontar bajo mejores condiciones problemáticas como la desnutrición y el agotamiento de energías no renovables.

Finalmente, quiero resaltar la significativa labor en beneficio de la comunidad internacional que despliega la FAO, brindando en forma permanente aportes sustanciales al sector productivo agropecuario.

Deseo reiterar el agradecimiento a esta Organización y expresar mi firme convicción de que su trabajo y el de sus Miembros dan cuerpo a la construcción de un mundo más justo, equilibrado y previsible.

25.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 2007/LIM/6)

25.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (C 2007/LIM/6)

25.5 Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (C 2007/LIM/6)

PRESIDENTE

Doy la palabra al Director General de la FAO.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, at its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizarraga Medal to be awarded every two years, upon the proposal of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The medal pays tribute to Dr Margarita Lizarraga, Senior Fisheries Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost 40 years, especially in developing countries.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre was selected as the recipient of the award for the biennium 2006-2007. The Centre is an intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. It was established in 1967 with the mandate to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia. The Centre has been devoted to the realization of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and recently completed its process with the publication of Four Regional Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries in Southeast Asia, relating to fishing operations, aquaculture development, fisheries management and fisheries post harvest technology and trade.

With the process of regionalization and the publication of regional guidelines as outcome, the Centre has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and its achievement is an outstanding and practical hands-on contribution to this application.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I now call on the representatives of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre, Doctor Siri Elmaharaj, Secretary General and Doctor Yasushi Kato, Special Adviser to receive the award.

PRESIDENTE

Invito al Sr. Elmaharaj, Secretario General del Centro a hacer uso de la palabra.

Siri ELMAHARAJ (Recipient of Margarita Lizárraga Medal 2006-2007)

Honourable Chairperson, Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre and the Asian Member Regions, it is indeed with great pleasure and honour that I receive the Margarita Lizarraga Medal award for the persistent efforts of SEAFDEC in promoting sustainable fisheries in the Southeast Asian Region.

After the adoption of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in October 1995, SEAFDEC acted accordingly to the challenges posed by the Code. In 1998, SEAFDEC initiated the realization of the CCRF accommodating the specific concern of Southeast Asia, particularly encompassing its culture, its fishery structure and its regional fisheries.

The regionalization of the CCRF was meant to bridge the gap between internationally-provided initiatives, such as the CCRF, and the actual implementation of the CCRF at regional, national and local levels, with inputs from the SEAFDEC Member Nations and financial support from the country of Japan. SEAFDEC came up with four regional critical guidelines: the regional fisheries operations; the responsible core culture; the responsible fisheries management; the responsible post-harvest practices entailed. In addition, supplementary guidelines were also developed to supplement the regional guidelines for the responsible fisheries management capacity fore pass, such as, the core management user for small-scale fisheries, fisheries statistics for capture fisheries, the use of indicators for sustainable development and management of capture fisheries, the use of fisheries for capture fisheries management. The complete set of regional guidelines was adopted by the Southeast Asian Member Nations and was thus endorsed and supported by the Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Ministers of Aquaculture and Forestry in 2005, resulting in policy changes and renewed fishery programmes as well as the rationale for the relevance of the fisheries provisions in East Asian Member Nations. The impact of the implementation of the regional guidelines in the Asia Region had been applied to human resources development and awareness building activities promoted by SEAFDEC, resulting in a positive change of attitude among the stakeholders. This led to the advancement of responsible fisheries based on the CCRF framework in the Southeast Asia Region by the Governments, the private sectors and individuals at national and local levels.

This medal award gives SEAFDEC more inspiration to intensify our efforts to set higher sights in promoting responsible fisheries in the Southeast Asia Region. Dr. Lizárraga promoted the adoption of the CCRF and dedicated most of her life to fisheries service in developing countries. SEAFDEC will continue promoting responsible fisheries in the Southeast Asia Region under the framework of the CCRF.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Sr. Elmaharaj, nuestra felicitación por su contribución. Ha pedido la palabra el representante de Tailandia.

Pinit KORSIEPORN (Thailand)

As the Host Country of the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) and on behalf of Members of the Centre, Thailand would like to congratulate the Centre and its staff for the honour of receiving the Margarita Lizárraga Medal from FAO at this Conference.

We would also like to express our thanks to FAO and its Member Nations for its recognition of the Centre's role in promoting responsible fishing operations, aquaculture development, fishery development and post harvest practices and trade in the Southeast Asia Region.

We are very pleased to inform the Conference that SEAFDEC has always worked in line with FAO's policy on sustainable fisheries development. Having said that, SEAFDEC deserves the prestige in its implementation for the benefit of the Region and of us all.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)**NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)****NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)**

21. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2007/10; C 2007/LIM/9)
(continued)

21. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (C 2007/10;
C 2007/LIM/9) (suite)

21. Solicitudes de ingreso como Miembro en la Organización (C 2007/10;
C 2007/LIM/9) (continuación)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a retomar el Tema 21 de nuestro programa de trabajo relativo a las Solicitudes de Ingreso a la Organización. Los votos han sido contados, estamos recibiendo los resultados y la Sra. Secretaria General, una vez que reciba la información, procederá a leer los mismos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of Ballot for Admission to Membership of Andorra – ballot papers deposited: 137, Abstentions: 1, defective ballots: 0, votes for: 136, votes against: 0, votes cast: 136, two-thirds majority of the votes cast: 91. Andorra, having obtained the required majority, is admitted to membership.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	137	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	136
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	136

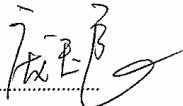
7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrage exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	91
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Andorra

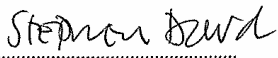
having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership
ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre
habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores


Signature Nolyia Landa (Honduras)
Firma


Signatura Yuliang Pang (China)
Firma

Date 17 November 2007
Fecha


Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Report of Ballot for Montenegro – ballot papers deposited: 137, abstentions: 2, defective ballots: 0, votes for: 134, votes against: 1, votes cast: 135, two-thirds majority of the votes cast: 90. Montenegro, having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Membership.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 2	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	137	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	134
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	135

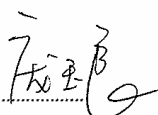
7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrage exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	90
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Montenegro

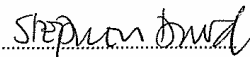
having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership
ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre
habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores


Signature Nolvía Landa (Honduras)
Firma


Signature Yuliang Pang (China)
Firma

Date 17 November 2007
Fecha


Stephen Dowd
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Report of Ballot for Faroe Islands – ballot papers deposited: 137, abstentions: 0, defective ballots: 0, votes for: 134, votes against: 1, votes cast: 135, two-thirds majority of the votes cast: 90. Faroe Islands, having obtained the required majority, is admitted to Associate Membership.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 3	ADMISSION TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ASSOCIÉS ADMISIÓN DE MIEMBROS ASOCIADOS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	137	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	134
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	135

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrage exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	90
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Faroe Islands

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

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores



Signature Nolya Landa (Honduras)

Firma

Signature Yuliang Pang (China)

Firma

Date 17 November 2007

Fecha

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

PRESIDENTE

Andorra, Montenegro y las Islas Faroe son ahora Miembros de la FAO. Sus delegaciones tomarán sus lugares entre nosotros. Permítanme expresar mis felicitaciones para los nuevos Miembros de la Organización. Ruego ubicarse en los correspondientes lugares a los Representantes de los tres países.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Allow me to extend a very warm welcome to Andorra and Montenegro, newly-elected Member Nations of FAO, and also to the Faroe Islands, which join our Organization as an Associate Member.

Each of these countries, by deciding to become a Member of FAO, have expressed its firm belief in the spirit of universalism of the United Nations System, as well as a clear desire to participate in this international forum. All three have expressed their belief in the importance of multilateral institutions, such as FAO, which more than ever are at the heart of our joint efforts to resolve the increasing complex and interrelated problems faced by the global community.

I welcome all three to an Organization in which, regardless of geographical location or size, we are all committed to working together to forge a mutually-beneficial relationship. With the newly-admitted Members, the Membership of FAO has become one of the largest of the UN family, with as many Members as the United Nations itself. This is a major achievement in the history of our Organization, one of which we can take pride collectively.

PRESIDENTE

Ofrezco la palabra al delegado de Andorra, por favor.

Albert PINTAT SANTOLARIA (Andorre)

Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames et Messieurs les délégués, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, c'est un grand honneur de pouvoir m'exprimer aujourd'hui pour la première fois devant la trente-quatrième Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Depuis 1278, l'Andorre est un état indépendant dont l'histoire s'est inscrite dans celle de l'Europe. Ce n'est qu'en 1993 que l'Andorre a acquis sa pleine souveraineté internationale en approuvant sa constitution. Pays de montagnes, l'économie andorrane était fondée, jusqu'à la moitié du vingtième siècle sur l'agriculture, l'élevage et l'exploitation des forêts. A partir des années 1950, l'Andorre a subi d'importantes transformations. Aujourd'hui la structure économique andorrane est caractérisée par la prédominance de services du commerce, du tourisme et de la neige, donc très dépendante de l'environnement.

A travers son adhésion aux Nations Unies en 1993, au Conseil de l'Europe en 1994, puis à d'autres organisations internationales, l'Andorre s'engage dans la voie du dialogue et de la coopération internationale. L'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture est le chef de file dans les domaines de l'agriculture, les forêts, la pêche et du développement rural et joue un rôle primordial dans la lutte contre la faim.

L'Andorre est fière de faire partie désormais de cette Organisation et je tiens à exprimer notre profonde reconnaissance devant vous qui avez rendu possible l'adhésion. Vous avez déclaré, Monsieur le Directeur général, le 18 octobre dernier aux Nations Unies, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation: "le monde a les moyens de mettre en œuvre le droit à l'alimentation, il est temps d'agir". Nous sommes à vos côtés. L'Andorre espère apporter son grain de sable dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté et œuvrer en faveur du développement agricole, de l'amélioration nutritionnelle et de la sécurité alimentaire. L'objectif étant d'assurer que chaque être humain puisse bénéficier d'une alimentation adéquate régulière, l'accès à l'eau potable et d'appliquer ainsi le droit à l'alimentation comme le premier des droits humains. Les forêts et les espaces boisés, en tant que dépositaires de la diversité biologique de notre planète, sont au centre

du futur de nos vallées et nos montagnes. Nous soutiendrons vos programmes et vos actions pour répondre au droit des générations futures tel que le reconnaît la Constitution andorrane. C'est justement en ce qui concerne la coopération en faveur du développement que le Gouvernement d'Andorre destinera son aide la meilleure pour l'utilisation de l'eau comme bien commun à partager et à réduire la faim et la pauvreté de la population la plus vulnérable.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Milutin SIMOVIC (Montenegro) (Original language Serbo-Croatian)

Mr President, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen. It a special honour and pleasure for me greet you on the occasion of the work of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, and I am positive that this work shall be successful.

The new development area is being opened today for Montenegro, being an independent and internationally-recognized state. This is an important day for the agriculture of my country because, by becoming the 192nd Member of the most prestigious world agricultural organization, Montenegro shall be enabled to achieve important, technical and institutional development and to take faster steps forward, as well as to become actively engaged into broader integration processes.

There is no doubt that Montenegro wishes to reflect on and use the experience of others. However, it has an ambition to enrich the world community by sharing with it all the characteristic qualities of the small state, its diversity, customs and its specific way of thinking and undertaking actions which are harmonized with the development of progressive forces and ideas. Montenegro is fully dedicated to the principles of the UN Charter, as well as to fulfilling all the obligations undertaken.

The experience of the developed states shall serve us as the guide towards the future and also the responsibility for that future emphasizes the need to achieve sustainable management of the available natural resources, in order to provide our descendants with better quality of life. At the same time however, our own traditional values, culture, history and all other specific characteristics shall be preserved.

The Montenegrin farmers rightfully want to achieve living standards which are reasonable for any modern person. Hence, they become increasingly aware of the necessity to raise their own competitiveness level at the market. Simultaneously, they are also aware of the need to accept the standards of the modern world, which especially refer to the high standards related to food safety.

The state of Montenegro will support the Montenegrin farmers in these efforts by harmonizing its agrarian policies with the European Community Agricultural policy by enhancing its institutions and administrative capacities by adopting new laws, by supporting food production development and also by the developing rural areas. All of this will be done in accordance with the positive practices from other countries. FAO's support in this process will be very important for us and much appreciated.

Our special task will be to do everything that is considered possible and necessary, in order to put these responsibilities into practice and to fulfil the expectations of the farmers.

Please let me express my sincerest gratitude to all those who have contributed to have Montenegro here today.

I would like to thank all the participants of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference who have voted for Montenegro to become a member of this Organization, which is extremely important to us.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias. Mi felicitación a los nuevos Estados Miembros. Tiene la palabra el delegado de las Islas Faroe.

Jóannes EIDESGAARD (Faroe Islands)

It is an honour for me to address you here today. This is a landmark occasion for the Faroe Islands. The Members of FAO have now welcomed our nation as an Associate Member of the Organization. I am deeply grateful for this approval.

As Associate Member, the Faroes look forward to participating more actively in the work of FAO. As many will know, we are not entirely new to FAO. The Faroes have been participating as a part of the Danish delegation to the Committee on Fisheries for some years now, and we have been following this work with great interest.

Although the Faroe Islands are small in political and economic terms, our nation has long been active on the international scene when it comes to fisheries and aquaculture, especially on the regional level in the North Atlantic. We enjoy close ties and cooperation on fisheries and ocean issues with our nearest Nordic neighbours and other North Atlantic partners in the Region.

We are, however, still on a steep learning curve when it comes to international cooperation on the global level. We know that we still have a great deal to learn, as well as much to benefit, from a more active participation in FAO's important work to enhance sustainability in food production and to ensure food security worldwide. Direct participation in this work as Associate Member will help strengthen our capacity – both in public administration, in the research community and in the business sector – to contribute to these common goals. In particular, we look forward to extending our network of cooperation and establishing closer ties through FAO with fisheries nations from around the world.

The Faroes have, in recent years, developed a National Programme for Development Assistance which focuses on participating in development projects in cooperation with IGOs and INGOs, with a view to contributing financial, as well as technical assistance.

The FAO and the World Food Programme are key players in this context. The Faroes have already participated in several of the World Food Programme's projects. In addition to regularly supporting their emergency response projects, we are at the moment also supporting a long-term School-for-Food Project in Gambia.

At the moment, we also have a representative in the Aceh Region of Indonesia, where we intend to participate in a development programme to improve sea safety awareness and boat-building skills in the Acehnese fisheries sector. This project is based on the conclusions of the post-Tsunami report produced by FAO, in which the need to develop better boat-building skills for future fisheries development in Aceh was highlighted.

With an economy overwhelmingly dependent on fisheries and aquaculture, the Faroes are keenly aware of the need to strengthen our ability to deal with the challenges of the globalized economy and global environmental threats. For us as a country in the High North, ensuring sustainability in the broadest sense is absolutely vital. This not only includes ensuring the sustainable utilization of marine and other resources but recognizing and acting on our commitments to minimize the negative effects of all our activities, including carbon emissions, on the environment.

The Faroes are strongly committed to strengthening our role as an active and responsible partner in global efforts to enhance global food security and ensure sustainable livelihoods around the world. Becoming Associate Member of FAO is an important step forward for us. We look forward to making many new contacts and new friends through this important global forum and we hope that our own contributions to the work of FAO, as modest and small-scale as they may be, will also make a difference.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias al delegado de las Islas Faroe. Para terminar con este Tema doy la palabra al Representante de Armenia que hablará en nombre de los países de Europa. El Representante de Armenia.

Vamos a dar por concluida esta Sesión, retomaremos nuestro trabajo el día lunes a las 9:30 en esta misma sala, convoco al Comité General para las 8:30.

Zorab MALEK (Armenia)

On behalf of the European Regional Group, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the countries which have been just elected to Membership of the Organization. Notwithstanding their diverse historical, geographical and agricultural background, all three will be received into the FAO European Regional Group, which I have the honour to chair, with a cooperative spirit and an open mind.

We value the contributions that Andorra, Montenegro and the Faroe Islands will make not only to the European Regional Group, but also to the work of FAO as a whole, and we will do our utmost to facilitate this contribution.

Benvingut a la FAO.

Doro dosli u FAO.

Welkomin til FAO.

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, hemos concluido con el Tema 21 del Programa. La Organización cuenta ya con 191 Estados miembros una Organización Miembro y un Miembro Asociado. La ceremonia de izamiento de la bandera de los nuevos Miembros de la Organización tendrá lugar en la entrada del Edificio A, en la mañana de lunes 19 de noviembre a las 9:00. Cuento Señor Director con tres miembros más que le apoyan.

Voy a dar la palabra a la Secretaria General que nos tiene algunas informaciones para los inicios de trabajo de día lunes.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have a message from the Independent Chairperson of Council.

There will be a Friends of Chair meeting during Commission II on Monday to consider the supplementary paragraph in the Draft Resolution on the IEE Follow-Up. The timing of this meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, hemos llegado al final de las tareas previstas para nuestra Segunda Reunión Plenaria. Vamos a dar por concluida esta Sesión, retomaremos nuestro trabajo el día lunes a las 9:30 en esta misma sala. Convoco al Comité General para las 8:30 del día lunes. Solo me resta pedirles a todos que por beneficio de esta Organización podamos mantener con exactitud los horarios de comienzo de las reuniones, 8:30 el Comité General y 9:00 en el Plenario. Señores delegados gracias, levanto la Sesión.

The meeting rose at 18.03 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 03

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.03

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 PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 November 2007

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.53 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López.
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a iniciar en un minuto la Sesión.

Señores delegados buenos días. Les ruego nuevamente tomar asiento, vamos a iniciar la Sesión. No es nuestra costumbre retrasarnos. Hemos dedicado unos pocos minutos para acomodar al Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial.

Vamos a dar inicio a la reunión. Invito al Señor Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini, Presidente Independiente del Consejo, quien va a hacer uso de la palabra. Él nos presentará un informe como Presidente de la FAO.

Mohammed Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, distinguished Members of the Conference, Excellencies and ladies and gentlemen, as your elected representative I am privileged to have this opportunity to report to you on major issues, that the greatest impact on the past and future performance of our Organization. I am confident that you are not willing to spend your precious time listening to a report on routine activities of the Council or to be reminded of figures and statistics that you have heard several times and that can be easily found at a click on your computers. Considering the time constraint, I will briefly touch on three major issues.

Let me start by an indirect but major element which often overshadows our discussions in the Council of whatever nature and even in Technical Committees and Regional Conferences of FAO, namely inequality and divide. At the start of the Third Millennium and 21st Century, we live in a divided world which poses a great challenge to global prosperity and development. As Nelson Mandela put it: “Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid”. While more than 2 billion live on less than \$2 per day, some countries enjoy *per capita* income of more than \$45,000. In 2005, the world’s richest 500 individuals had a combined income greater than that of the poorest 416 million, a number equalling almost half of the total hungry in the world. The inequality is so profound that it creates hopelessness for many, especially for those in the lowest income percentiles.

At the same time, others have demonstrated unbelievable success stories in putting the poverty and hunger behind them. One of our main tasks here in FAO is to propagate the second paradigm. Trends in global and even local income inequality and its discussion continue to rage, but trends are not destiny. Our past performance should not be a guide to the future outcomes. All of us, rich or poor, not only bear the responsibility of changing this picture, but it is in our interest to do so. Reduction of poverty and hunger in the world is a win-win game. Providing opportunity for the poor, the hungry and the destitute will help build shared prosperity, increase collective security which, in turn, will benefit from increased international wealth and trade. According to the Human Development Report, “in our interconnected world a future built on the foundations of mass poverty in the midst of plenty is economically inefficient, politically unsustainable and morally indefensible”. We have to seriously reconsider the habit of doing business as usual.

We are all familiar with the three pillars of Food Security, namely availability, accessibility and affordability. These principles should receive more weight and attention not only in combatting hunger and malnutrition, but in the provision of all public international goods and services, which ultimately leads to and increase in the poor’s share of world growth. My argument is also echoed in the recent publication by the World Bank, entitled *Agriculture for Development*. In this report we read: “Addressing income disparities in transforming countries requires a comprehensive approach that pursues multiple pathways out of poverty”.

Three out of four people in developing countries live in rural areas and most of them depend directly and/or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. If we can make headway in increasing income and welfare of farmers, we can be assured that we are moving in the right

direction to close the income inequality gap, the world over. Still in the 21st Century, agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction. The World Bank in its recent report has announced that: “it is time to place agriculture afresh at the centre of the development agenda, taking account of vastly different context of opportunities and challenges that has emerged”. In doing so, a major bottleneck is the widening knowledge divide between industrial and developing countries. Developing countries invest only a ninth part of what industrial countries put into agricultural research and development as a share of agricultural GDP. To narrow this divide, sharply increased investments in research and development must be at the top of the policy agenda.

Many international and national investments in research and development have paid off handsomely, with an average internal rate of return of 43 percent in 700 research and development projects evaluated in developing countries in all regions. African countries are additionally disadvantaged by the fact that their specific agro-geological features leave them less able than other regions to benefit from international technology transfers. The small size of many of those countries also prevents them from capturing economies of scale in agricultural research and development. Low investment in R&D and low international transfers of technology have gone hand in hand with stagnant cereal yields in sub Saharan Africa, resulting in a widening yield gap with the rest of the world.

Revolutionary advances in science and technology offer potentially large benefits to poor producers and consumers. The use of biotechnology is one such example. However, today investment in this area is largely concentrated in the private sector, mostly in developed countries, and is driven by commercial interests. It has had limited impact on smallholder productivity in the developing world. Research and development in agriculture is an area of great impact for FAO as the largest UN specialized agricultural Organization. This does not mean that FAO should get involved in research and development but, as a knowledge organization, should expand its capacity to transfer international knowledge to the interested countries, especially to small farm producers. Another tested and evidence-based way of combating inequality and divide is empowerment of the poor, who mostly live in rural areas with a livelihood greatly based on agriculture. This investment should be mostly in human capital, as we must invest in people, we have to feed minds. Let me conclude this item by quoting one of the African delegates who participated in the 50th Anniversary of FAO. He said: “do not give us food aid, aid us to produce our own food”. Capacity-building in a holistic style is not only a wise way of closing the inequality divide, but is an effective instrument of development with dignity. Reducing inequality in the distribution of human development opportunities is a public policy priority in its own right. It matters for intrinsic reasons. It is also instrumental in accelerating progress towards the MDGs.

My second point underlines the prevailing turbulence that affects agricultural commodity markets. According to FAO’s November Food Outlook, the picture is not all that positive. The FAO food price index rose by 9 percent in 2006 compared with the previous year. In September 2007, it stood at 172 points, representing a year-on-year jump in value of roughly 37 percent. The surge in prices has been led primarily by dairy and grains, but prices of other commodities, with the exception of sugar, have also increased significantly. What distinguishes the current state of agricultural markets is rather the concurrence of the hike in world prices of not just a few selected products, but of nearly all, major food and feed commodities. As has become evident in recent months, high international prices for food crops such as grains continue to ripple through the food value-supply chain, contributing to a rise in retail prices of such basic foods as bread, meat and milk. Rarely has the world witnessed such a widespread and commonly shared concern on food price inflation, a fear which is fuelling debates about the future direction of agricultural commodity prices in importing as well as exporting countries, be they rich or poor. The price boom has also been accompanied by much higher price volatility than in the past. Increased volatility highlights the prevalence of greater uncertainty in the market. Soaring petroleum prices have contributed to the increase in prices of most agricultural crops: by raising input costs, on the one hand, and by boosting demand for agricultural crops used as feedstock in the production of

alternative energy sources (e.g. biofuels) on the other. National policies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are behind the fast growth of the biofuel industry.

Freight rates have become a more important factor in agricultural markets than in the past. Increased fuel costs, a stretched shipping capacity, port congestion and longer trade routes have pushed up shipping costs. Exchange rate swings play a critical role in all markets and agricultural markets are no exception. Yet, rarely have currency developments been as important in shaping agricultural prices as in recent months. The volatility in prices, especially in the case of agricultural crops, will represent a major hurdle in decision-making by farmers around the world. Relative price changes lead to production shifts. It is clear that by shifting land out of one crop into another, prices of those crops with reduced planting could increase. Such trends have always existed and switching crops to maximize returns is nothing new. However, what makes recent episodes differ from the past is that inventories are being kept at low (almost pipeline) levels, which make prices particularly sensitive to unexpected changes. In other words, agricultural markets, and food crops in particular, may be going through a period whereby stocks, especially those in major exporting countries, no longer play their traditional role as a buffer against sudden fluctuations in production and demand. This change has come about because of reduced government interventions associated with a general policy shift towards liberalizing agricultural commodity markets. The role of farmers in this ever more populated world has never been more critical. It is one of FAO's key roles, at this key juncture, to help farmers make the right decisions, by providing them with reliable and timely information about market and price trends.

My final point briefly covers one of the most important events of the 62-year history of FAO, that is, the Independent External Evaluation of our Organization. The first-ever comprehensive Independent External Evaluation of this Organization has been carried out during the past three years. This Evaluation has been planned, paid, managed and supervised entirely by the Membership through voluntary financial contributions, of course with great assistance and outstanding support of Management and Secretariat. The Final Report of this evaluation (more than 400 pages) has been submitted to the Council, together with the Management Response "in principle". Council has welcomed and praised both the IEE Report and the Management response, and has submitted it to the Conference for final consideration. My Report to you today is very short; mostly in the language of the core team of evaluators:

Reduced to basics, the IEE was charged to come up with answers to these three questions:

1. Does the world need FAO? Yes, without doubt. FAO continues to fulfil roles and furnish a range of essential goods and services that no other Organization can.
2. Does FAO need to change to "fit for the Twenty-first Century and the challenges ahead"? Yes, in a major way and with a sense of urgency. Without transformational reforms, FAO's current trajectory will prove unsustainable financially, strategically and programmatically.
3. What needs to be done? A great deal. The IEE recommends rekindling an FAO Vision and an Immediate Action Plan in four cluster areas, which are discussed in depth in the Report.

In order not to lose the existing momentum and positive atmosphere that existed, the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council in November 2006, "invited its Independent Chairperson to informally convene, as he considered necessary between Council sessions, Friends of the Chair to discuss issues pertaining to follow-up to the IEE in preparation for Council sessions". The Friends of the Chair met for the first time on 15 June, and have since held a series of meetings to inform itself on the IEE findings and recommendations as contained in its report and the response of management. This has deepened FAO Members' understanding of the IEE proposals and enabled the Friends of the Chair to recommend to the Council a Draft Resolution of the Conference. The proposals which it recommends that the Council transmit to the Conference are designed to facilitate adoption of a resolution on IEE Follow-up. This proposal provides a Draft Resolution which all Members of the Friend of the Chair adopted with full consensus, including the establishment of a time-bound Committee of the Conference and the need for a Special Session of the Conference in the latter part of 2008. With the positive attitude and with the spirit of

cooperation which dominates the Friends of Chair meetings, I am confident that this resolution will be finalized shortly and will be presented to you for your final consideration and adoption.

Now, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates, the future of FAO, to a great extent is in your hands. The decisions which will be made in the Conference Committee by your representatives during 2008 and your final decisions next year in the Special Session of the Conference, if you decide to have one, will determine the destiny of this Organization for long years to come. This is a very vital decision, vital to millions of poor and hungry people who will be affected by this decision. My humble request to you is to be forward-looking and generous; this generosity will go a long way.

Mr Chairperson, please let me conclude my statement with a brief, true story: one thousand years ago, at the dawn of the second millennium, in Khorasan, north-east of Iran, there was a sufi (dervish), Abolhasan Kharaghani, whose home was open to the public as a guest house. At the entrance was written: "whoever enters this house, give her/him food. Do not ask his/her faith, because the one who is entitled to life by the Almighty is definitely entitled to food by Abolhasan." We might not be remembered 1000 years later, but what about next year?

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Excelentísimo Sr. Presidente de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial, Sr. Obiang Nguema, Señor Presidente de la Conferencia, Señor Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Señores Ministros, Excelencias, Señoras y Señores. La presencia de un número tan elevado de delegados de alto rango, entre los que se cuentan muchos Ministros, a los que doy mi más calurosa bienvenida, confirma su compromiso con la FAO y subraya la importancia de los temas que se debatirán durante la Conferencia en los próximos días. Me gustaría dar la bienvenida, en especial, a la delegación de la Federación de Rusia que se ha incorporado a la FAO en abril de 2006 y asiste por primera vez a la Conferencia en calidad de Miembro de pleno derecho. Deseo también dar la bienvenida a la República de Montenegro y al Principado de Andorra como nuevos Miembros de la FAO, así como a las Islas Faroe como Miembro Asociado.

Esta Conferencia es una de las más importantes desde la creación de la FAO hace ya 62 años. En los próximos días van ustedes a tomar decisiones que van a influir decisivamente en el porvenir de la Organización. Estas decisiones se inscribirán en un contexto agrícola mundial nuevo. En efecto, en estos dos últimos años la agricultura ha empezado a recuperar su sitio en el panorama internacional. El Informe para el año de 2008 del Banco Mundial resulta muy significativo a este respecto. Por primera vez en un cuarto de siglo, el informe se dedica al papel de la agricultura en el desarrollo. Según el Banco Mundial, el mundo de la agricultura se ha transformado de forma radical. Ha llegado el momento de reposicionar a la agricultura en un lugar central en las acciones orientadas al desarrollo, habida cuenta del contexto totalmente distinto, definido por las oportunidades y los problemas que han ido surgiendo en los últimos tiempos".

La agricultura se sitúa en el corazón mismo del proceso de desarrollo; éste es el mensaje que la FAO transmite sin descanso a la comunidad internacional desde hace años. Hoy me cabe la satisfacción de que se reconozca la credibilidad de dicho mensaje. Los medios de comunicación y la opinión pública manifiestan un interés creciente por las causas y las consecuencias económicas, sociales y políticas del aumento de los precios de los productos alimentarios, pero también por la seguridad alimentaria, así como por las enfermedades transfronterizas de animales y plantas. Se trata de una nueva toma de conciencia del lugar que le corresponde a la agricultura en la economía mundial, la salud de las poblaciones y la seguridad de las naciones.

La agricultura se situará en el centro mismo de las problemáticas más sensibles a las que deberá hacer frente la humanidad en este inicio del Siglo XXI. Ya se trate del cambio climático, del abastecimiento energético, del empobrecimiento de los recursos naturales o de los movimientos migratorios, la agricultura será al mismo tiempo una causa del problema y un elemento de su solución. Además, en el año 2050 habrá que alimentar a una población mundial que contará con 9 000 millones de habitantes, es decir, un 50 por ciento más que hoy. Será necesario proceder a una segunda revolución verde capaz de multiplicar por dos la producción de alimentos en la

primera mitad del presente siglo. Así pues, he propuesto que en el 2008 se organicen dos Conferencias de Alto Nivel que den a la comunidad internacional la ocasión de adoptar decisiones políticas y estratégicas sobre estas cuestiones, sobre la base de informaciones científicas y técnicas preparadas por comités de expertos.

Al referirse al cambio climático, en su informe publicado este año el Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático ha manifestado claramente que el cambio climático y los fenómenos extremos afectarán principalmente a las regiones más pobres del mundo. El ciclón que se ha abatido sobre Bangladesh y ha causado miles de víctimas constituye un ejemplo dramático de esto y, si me lo permiten me gustaría en su nombre presentar a los Representantes de Bangladesh nuestro testimonio de apoyo y nuestra profunda compasión, con un minuto de silencio por todas las personas que han sufrido las consecuencias de estos acontecimientos. Debido a estos cambios climáticos, en el África subsahariana, por ejemplo, el rendimiento de las culturas pluviales puede retroceder hasta la mitad entre hoy y el año 2020. La atenuación de estas repercusiones dependerá de la selección de variedades más resistentes y de las inversiones en las esferas de la irrigación, las instalaciones de almacenamiento, el transporte y las comunicaciones. En este sentido, será fundamental contar con un entorno político favorable a un comercio internacional más equitativo.

En cuanto a la bioenergía, conviene tener presentes los riesgos que para la seguridad alimentaría comporta la transformación de los cultivos alimentarios en combustibles. Sin embargo, también conviene sopesar las nuevas oportunidades de ingresos que ofrece la bioenergía a los agricultores. Las políticas y las decisiones estratégicas en este ámbito deben basarse en el análisis del balance agrícola de cada país y de sus respectivas disponibilidades de tierra y agua. La Conferencia de Alto Nivel sobre el Cambio Climático y el Desarrollo de las Bioenergías debería permitir que se elaborase una Carta Internacional de la Bioenergía en la que se tuvieran en cuenta simultáneamente las exigencias de la seguridad alimentaría, la agricultura sostenible y la protección del medio ambiente, así como la necesidad de destinar a los más pobres una parte importante de los beneficios de este nuevo mercado en rápido crecimiento. En dicha Conferencia se tendrá asimismo la posibilidad de reflexionar con mayor profundidad sobre la relación entre los cambios climáticos y las enfermedades transfronterizas de animales y plantas. Los efectos del calentamiento global y el incremento de los flujos de personas, animales y bienes debidos a la globalización favorecen la difusión, en un área geográfica más amplia, de virus que suponen nuevas amenazas para la salud humana.

(continues in English)

Your Excellencies, Mr President,

Already, in recent years, FAO has played a lead role, in partnership with the OIE and WHO, in combating Avian Influenza, which is one of the most destructive and terrifying animal diseases to have emerged in recent decades. Since 2003, this disease has affected 60 countries and millions of domestic fowl. With FAO's assistance, more than 130 countries have been able to adopt appropriate protection measures. The Organization has raised more than US\$150 million to combat the disease which, so far, has failed to mutate into the human pandemic that we feared. But there is no room for complacency. The threat remains very real and requires closer vigilance and continuing efforts. FAO has thus created a Rome-based Crisis Management Centre that provides immediate response to any outbreaks of animal, plant or food-related diseases.

An organization such as FAO needs to have the capacity for immediate response but also the ability to take a proactive and forward-looking approach. That approach should be based on an awareness and analysis of factors that are poorly understood and more or less random and others that are more predictable, but all of which will have an impact on the future food security of humanity; factors such as population growth, technological advance, dynamics of ecosystems, market forces and, indeed, the ethical purpose of human relations. These are all issues for a broader debate on "Feeding the World in 2050", which is the theme of the second high-level conference that I propose to convene in the autumn of 2008. That Conference will cover the major trends that we can already see: comparative population change in rich and poor countries, the

physical distribution of population with conurbations fed by accelerated urbanization, massive migration and emigration spurred by unacceptable disparities of income, new production, processing and marketing structures and international markets that are increasingly integrated horizontally and vertically.

There are, of course, other important issues and developments that FAO needs to look at. Official Development Assistance should increase following the commitments of Monterrey and the different G8 Summits. The financial landscape is changing dramatically with the emergence of new modes of financing, new sources of investment of the private sector and assistance from civil society. The emergence of regional economic communities and the refocusing of priorities of bilateral and multilateral development funding institutions also require strategic adjustment, on the part of FAO and of its role within the United Nations System, itself under reform, so that the Organization can fulfil its mandate and contribute effectively to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. FAO therefore needs to be put in a position where it can rise to those challenges and be able to meet people's demands and expectations.

At the Thirty-third Session of the Conference in 2005 and the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council in November 2006, you already intimated the need for change. A new organizational structure was therefore put in place from 1 January 2007. This restructuring of Headquarters was accompanied by a process of Decentralization that saw the creation of Sub-regional offices in Africa, Central America and Central Asia, the relocation of the Regional Office for Europe to Budapest and the opening of a Shared Services Centre divided into three hubs, located in Budapest, Santiago and Bangkok and expected to yield efficiency savings of some US\$8 million per biennium. These changes respond to the need for a more effective FAO that is more present in the field and closer to its target populations. But the changes also reflect the need to have the scientific capacity to examine the thematic strands that make up the broad food and agriculture issues, thus providing the foundations for major international debate by Member Nations on the achievement of sustainable development.

FAO is therefore more present to ensure the protection of biodiversity and to play a key role on issues relating to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, which has now been ratified by 116 countries and the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, which was adopted by 119 countries last September in Interlaken. Another example of FAO's presence in key issues is its action in favour of urban and peri-urban agriculture. For the first time in the history of humanity, there are now more people living in towns and cities than in the countryside. By the year 2050, 150 new cities the size of New York will be created. FAO has already implemented an ambitious Food-for-Cities programme aimed at helping poor urban populations grow their own food, notably in Latin America and Africa. Lastly FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which remains its main vehicle for providing direct technical assistance to Member Nations, saw total project delivery worth US\$46 million up until the end of October for 2006-2007. In line with the Reform approved by the Council in November 2005, the Decentralized Offices now play a significant role in the management of TCP resources and the FAO Representatives have the authority to approve TCP projects up to US\$200,000 per biennium.

continue en français

Monsieur le Président de la République Equatoriale,
Madame Constanza,
Monsieur le Président de la Conférence,
Monsieur le Président Indépendant du Conseil,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,
Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

La présence en aussi grand nombre de délégués de haut rang, dont de nombreux Ministres que j'accueille tous très chaleureusement, confirme votre engagement envers la FAO ainsi que l'importance des thèmes dont la Conférence va débattre au cours des jours à venir. Je voudrais, en particulier, souhaiter la bienvenue à la délégation de la Fédération de Russie, qui a rejoint la FAO

en avril 2006 et qui assiste pour la première fois à la Conférence en qualité de Membre à part entière. Je voudrais également souhaiter la bienvenue à la République du Monténégro ainsi qu'à la Principauté d'Andorre qui viennent de rejoindre la FAO sans oublier les Iles Faroé qui viennent de rejoindre la FAO en qualité de Membre associé. Cette Conférence est l'une des plus importantes depuis la naissance de la FAO il y a déjà plus de 62 ans. Dans les jours qui vont venir, vous serez appelés à prendre des décisions qui seront déterminantes pour l'avenir de l'Organisation.

Ces décisions s'inscriront dans un contexte agricole mondial nouveau. En effet, depuis deux ans l'agriculture recommence à récupérer la place qui lui revient dans le contexte international. Le Rapport 2008 de la Banque mondiale est tout à fait significatif à cet égard. Pour la première fois depuis un quart de siècle, ce rapport de la Banque mondiale est consacré à la place de l'agriculture dans le développement. Pour citer la Banque mondiale, "Le monde de l'agriculture s'est transformé de façon radicale, il est temps aujourd'hui de redonner à l'agriculture une place centrale dans les actions de développement, compte tenu du contexte totalement différent défini par les opportunités et par les problèmes apparus récemment.

L'agriculture est au cœur même du processus de développement, tel est le message que la FAO ne cesse de répéter inlassablement à la communauté internationale depuis maintenant des années. C'est un plaisir aujourd'hui de constater que le bien fondé de ce message est enfin reconnu. Les médias et l'opinion publique portent un intérêt croissant aux causes et aux effets économiques, sociaux et politiques de l'augmentation du prix des denrées alimentaires, mais aussi à d'autres questions comme la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, ainsi que les maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes. Il s'agit d'une nouvelle prise de conscience de la place qui revient à l'agriculture dans l'économie mondiale, la santé des populations et la sécurité des nations.

L'agriculture sera au cœur même des questions les plus sensibles auxquelles l'humanité se verra confrontée en ce début de XXI^e siècle. Qu'il s'agisse du changement climatique, de l'approvisionnement énergétique, de l'épuisement des ressources naturelles ou des mouvements de populations, l'agriculture sera à la fois une cause du problème et un élément de sa solution. En outre, en 2050, il faudra nourrir une population mondiale qui atteindra plus de 9 milliards d'habitants, soit 50 pourcent de plus qu'aujourd'hui. Nous aurons pour cela besoin d'une deuxième révolution verte capable de multiplier par deux la production alimentaire dans la première moitié de ce siècle. J'ai donc proposé d'organiser en 2008 deux Conférences de haut niveau qui donneront à la communauté internationale l'occasion de prendre des décisions politiques et stratégiques sur ces questions, sur la base d'informations scientifiques et techniques préparées par des Comités d'experts.

J'ai parlé du changement climatique. Sur ce thème, le Groupe d'experts intergouvernemental sur l'évolution du climat, dans son rapport qu'il a publié cette année, a clairement indiqué que le réchauffement climatique et les phénomènes extrêmes toucheront principalement les régions les plus pauvres du monde. Le cyclone qui vient de s'abattre sur le Bangladesh, causant des milliers de victimes, en est une illustration dramatique et, si vous me le permettez, je voudrais présenter aux Représentants du Bangladesh, en votre nom, notre message de soutien et les assurer de notre profonde compassion, et je vous demande de bien vouloir observer une minute de silence à la mémoire de toutes les victimes du cyclone qui a frappé le Bangladesh.

Du fait de ces changements climatiques, en Afrique subsaharienne, par exemple, le rendement des cultures pluviales pourrait reculer de moitié d'ici 2020. L'atténuation de ces impacts dépendra de la sélection de variétés plus résistantes et des investissements qui seront réalisés dans le domaine de l'irrigation dans les installations de stockage, le secteur du transport et des communications. À cet égard, l'élément fondamental sera la possibilité de disposer d'un environnement politique favorable à un commerce international plus équitable et en ce qui concerne la bioénergie, il convient de garder présent à l'esprit les risques que posent pour la sécurité alimentaire la transformation de cultures vivrières en biocombustibles. Mais il faut également, dans le mêmes temps, peser les opportunités nouvelles de revenus que les bioénergies offrent aux agriculteurs. Les politiques et les choix stratégiques qui seront opérés dans ce domaine doivent s'appuyer sur

une analyse de l'équilibre de la balance agricole de chacun des pays et des disponibilités en terres et en eau.

La Conférence de haut niveau sur le Changement climatique et le développement des bioénergies devrait permettre la préparation d'une Charte internationale de la bioénergie qui viserait à prendre en compte simultanément les exigences de la sécurité alimentaire, l'agriculture durable ainsi que la protection de l'environnement, mais aussi la nécessité d'affecter aux plus pauvres une part importante des bénéfices de ce nouveau marché en croissance rapide. Cette Conférence sera aussi l'occasion d'approfondir la réflexion sur les liens qui existent entre changements climatiques et maladies transfrontières des animaux et des plantes. Les effets du réchauffement climatique, ainsi que l'augmentation des mouvements de personnes, d'animaux et de biens qui sont la conséquence de la mondialisation, favorisent la diffusion, sur une aire géographique plus vaste, de virus qui créent de nouvelles menaces pour la santé humaine.

Excellence, Monsieur le Président, déjà, ces dernières années, la FAO a joué un rôle de premier plan, en partenariat avec l'OIE et l'OMS, un rôle de premier plan je disais dans la lutte contre la Grippe aviaire, qui est l'une des maladies animales les plus terribles et les plus destructrices. Depuis 2003, la grippe aviaire a touché 60 pays et des millions de volailles d'élevage. Avec l'assistance fournie par la FAO, plus de 130 pays ont pu mettre en place des mesures de protection adéquates. L'Organisation a mobilisé plus de 150 millions de dollars pour lutter contre l'épizootie qui, à ce jour, ne s'est pas transformée, comme on l'avait craint, en pandémie humaine. Mais il ne faut pas pour autant baisser la garde. La menace reste bien réelle et exige une vigilance accrue et des efforts maintenus. La FAO a donc créé à Rome un Centre de gestion des crises qui intervient immédiatement en cas d'apparition de maladies des animaux ou des plantes ou de problèmes d'origines alimentaires. Une organisation comme la FAO doit non seulement avoir une capacité de réaction, de réponse immédiate mais elle doit aussi avoir une vision proactive et prospective; cette approche doit se fonder sur la connaissance et l'analyse de phénomènes mal connus ou plus ou moins aléatoires également et sur d'autres phénomènes qui en revanche sont plus prévisibles sachant que tous ces phénomènes quelque soit leur nature vont marquer l'avenir de la sécurité alimentaire de l'humanité, comme par exemple, la croissance démographique, le progrès technologique, la dynamique des écosystèmes, les lois économiques du marché, sans oublier la finalité éthique des rapports humains.

Autant de sujets d'un plus vaste débat sur les moyens de nourrir le monde en 2050, ce qui est le thème de la conférence de haut niveau que je propose d'organiser à l'automne 2008. Cette conférence intégrera donc toutes ces grandes tendances que nous apercevons déjà: l'évolution démographique des pays pauvres et riches, la répartition spatiale de la population liée à une urbanisation accélérée, des mouvements migratoires massifs, engendrés par des écarts de revenus insupportables, nouvelles structures de production, de transformation et de commercialisation des produits, et des marchés internationaux de plus en plus intégrés horizontalement et verticalement. Bien évidemment, d'autres questions importantes nécessitent aussi de la part de la FAO une attention toute particulière, ainsi l'aide publique au développement devrait s'accroître à la suite des engagements de Monterrey et des différents Sommets du G8.

Le paysage financier se transforme profondément avec l'apparition de nouveaux modes de financement, de nouvelles sources d'investissements du secteur privé et d'assistance de la société civile. L'émergence des unions économiques régionales et la réorientation de la priorité des institutions bilatérales et multilatérales de financement du développement appellent aussi des ajustements stratégiques de la part de la FAO et sur le plan de son rôle au sein du système des Nations Unies, lui-même en voie de réforme, afin que l'Organisation puisse remplir pleinement son mandat et contribuer efficacement à la réalisation des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement. Il nous faut donc mettre la FAO en mesure de relever ces défis, afin qu'elle puisse être à la hauteur des attentes et des enjeux.

À la 33^{ième} Session de la Conférence en 2005 et à la Cent trente et unième Session du Conseil en novembre 2006, vous avez déjà anticipé certains changements nécessaires. Une nouvelle structure organisationnelle a été mise en place à partir du 1^{er} janvier 2007. Cette réorganisation du Siège

s'est accompagnée d'un processus de Décentralisation qui a vu la création de Bureaux sous-régionaux en Afrique, en Amérique centrale et en Asie centrale, ainsi que la réinstallation du Bureau régional pour l'Europe à Budapest, et l'ouverture d'un Centre de services communs de la FAO, divisé en trois pôles, localisés respectivement à Budapest, Santiago du Chili et Bangkok, qui permettra de réaliser des gains de productivité d'environ 8 millions de dollars par exercice biennal. Ces évolutions répondent au besoin d'une FAO plus efficace et davantage présente sur le terrain, plus proche des populations qu'elle veut aider. Mais ces changements reflètent aussi la nécessité de disposer des capacités scientifiques nécessaires pour étudier les thèmes relatifs aux grandes questions agricoles et alimentaires, fondement et base indispensables pour alimenter de grands débats internationaux sur un développement durable parmi les États Membres de l'Organisation. Ainsi la FAO est aujourd'hui davantage présente pour assurer la protection de la biodiversité et jouer un rôle de premier ordre sur ces dossiers dans le cadre du Traité sur la protection des ressources phylogénétiques, aujourd'hui ratifié par 116 pays à travers également le Plan d'action Mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques adopté par 109 pays en septembre dernier à Interlaken.

Autre exemple de la présence de la FAO sur des dossiers sensibles, son action en faveur de l'agriculture urbaine et périurbaine. Pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'humanité, il y a plus de personnes vivant aujourd'hui dans les villes que dans les campagnes. D'ici à 2050, 150 nouvelles villes de la taille de New York verront le jour. La FAO a donc déjà mis en œuvre un programme ambitieux d'approvisionnement alimentaire des villes pour permettre aux citoyens pauvres de produire leur propre nourriture, notamment en Amérique latine et en Afrique. Enfin, le Programme de coopération technique de la FAO, qui reste le principal mécanisme d'assistance technique directe aux États Membres, a réalisé des projets qui se sont chiffrés à 46 millions de dollars à la fin du mois d'octobre sur la période 2006-2007. Conformément à la Réforme approuvée par le Conseil en novembre 2005, les bureaux décentralisés jouent maintenant un rôle important dans la gestion des ressources du Programme de coopération technique et les représentants de la FAO sur le terrain sont habilités à approuver des projets du PCT jusqu'à hauteur de 200 000 dollars par exercice biennal.

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence,
Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

La FAO a changé au cours de ces deux dernières années et nous allons maintenant tirer profit de cette évolution. Mais face à tous les nouveaux défis qu'elle doit relever pour éradiquer la faim dans le monde, il faudra redoubler d'efforts. A cet égard, le rapport d'Évaluation externe indépendante est pour la FAO une opportunité majeure. C'est une base de travail qui doit permettre aux États Membres de prendre les décisions à la hauteur des enjeux. L'équipe des évaluateurs a travaillé pendant 18 mois pour préparer un document de plus de 400 pages avec 109 recommandations et plus de 300 mesures concrètes. Il recommande aux États Membres et au Secrétariat d'engager un programme significatif de réforme et d'accroître le budget pour donner à l'Organisation les ressources nécessaires à la mise en œuvre du programme. C'est en effet d'une Réforme dans la croissance ("reform with growth") qu'il s'agit. Selon le rapport, citation "la FAO continue de remplir des fonctions cruciales et de fournir tout un éventail de biens et services essentiels comme aucune autre organisation n'est en mesure de le faire. Il y a toujours de nouveaux défis que seule une organisation à vocation mondiale disposant du mandat et de l'expérience de la FAO peut relever avec autorité et en toute légitimité" fin de citation. Dans un autre passage, le Rapport note aussi que si les mesures suggérées et les recommandations faites dans ce Rapport étaient appliquées, la FAO pourrait établir une nouvelle norme d'excellence pour les organisations multilatérales.

Certaines des critiques de l'Évaluation externe indépendante (EEI) – tout à fait prévisibles dans un document de cette nature – concernent des problèmes de structure et d'organisation qui sont communs à l'ensemble du système des Nations Unies. D'autres critiques sont dues à la politique de Croissance zéro appliquée par certains pays du système des Nations Unies au budget du

Programme ordinaire au cours des sept dernières années où nous avons eu à approuver les budgets par exercice biennal. Le Budget ordinaire a baissé de 22 pourcent en valeur réelle entre 1994-1995 et 2006-2007. Dans le même temps, le PNUD a cessé de remplir sa fonction initiale de mécanisme de financement principal de la coopération technique dans le système des Nations Unies. Sa part dans les ressources extrabudgétaires de l'Organisation est passée de 31,3 pourcent en 1994-1995 à 2,5 pourcent en 2004-2005. Cette situation a contraint l'Organisation à supprimer 1686 postes entre 1994 et 2005, ce sont les chiffres du rapport de l'EEI. Ces réductions de personnel ont incontestablement pesé sur le moral du personnel. Je voudrais cependant souligner que les financements extrabudgétaires, qui sont de nature volontaire, ont atteint un niveau record de plus d'un milliard de dollars au cours du présent exercice biennal et je voudrais exprimer toute ma reconnaissance aux États Membres qui confient à l'Organisation des montants toujours plus élevés à travers les fonds fiduciaires. L'augmentation des contributions volontaires illustre la confiance que les donateurs placent dans l'Organisation - fiduciaire vient *de fiducia* qui, en latin, signifie confiance -. Mais l'insuffisance des ressources du Programme ordinaire empêche de renforcer durablement les capacités d'action de la FAO.

La Direction, dans sa réponse de principe au rapport d'évaluation préparée après de nombreuses consultations du personnel au Siège et dans les Bureaux décentralisés, a donné un signal positif clair de son engagement à donner une suite diligente et loyale à toutes les recommandations du rapport qui seront approuvées par les Organes directeurs. La Direction considère que c'est une chance pour la FAO d'être la première institution des Nations Unies à pouvoir engager un débat stratégique sur son avenir au moment où, à l'Assemblée générale à New York, commence le processus intergouvernemental de négociations sur les conclusions du "Groupe de haut niveau sur la cohérence de l'action du système des Nations Unies dans les domaines du développement, de l'aide humanitaire et de la protection de l'environnement sur la réforme des Nations Unis". Je souhaite bien évidemment que l'on puisse préserver l'équilibre des recommandations qui sont faites en permettant de mettre en œuvre les réformes proposées avec les moyens financiers correspondants.

Le Programme de travail et budget, qui sera discuté par la Conférence, a été achevé avant la publication du rapport de l'EEI et présente, comme demandé par le Conseil à sa session de juin, des informations supplémentaires sur le "budget de maintenance" selon les priorités reconnues et exprimées par les Membres. Sur le plan financier, il tient compte des augmentations de coûts prévues ainsi que des besoins complémentaires nécessaires pour maintenir le pouvoir d'achat des programmes de la FAO aux mêmes niveaux qu'en 2006-2007. Les propositions qui ont été soumises pour faire face au besoin d'assurer les équilibres financiers, la trésorerie et les réserves de l'Organisation sont en revanche très modestes suite aux recommandations des comités du Conseil. Sur le fond, le PTB met spécialement l'accent sur les travaux prévus dans quatre domaines multidisciplinaires clés: échange de connaissances, développement des capacités, changements climatiques et enfin bioénergies. Il jette également les bases d'une présentation plus intégrée des ressources du Programme ordinaire et des fonds extrabudgétaires, comme vous l'avez demandé. Le budget de maintenance prévoit – au même taux de change budgétaire – des provisions pour une augmentation de coûts de 101,4 millions de dollars EU et des besoins complémentaires de 18,7 millions de dollars qui avaient été portés à la connaissance des Membres ou approuvés pour une mise en application en 2008-09. Il s'agit notamment des investissements indispensables tels ceux nécessaires pour l'introduction des normes IPSAS, des coûts de transition pour les réformes déjà approuvées et de l'introduction progressive du russe comme langue de la FAO.

Sur la base des orientations du Conseil, un montant minimum complémentaire de 37,3 millions de dollars EU est proposé, dans un premier temps, pour assurer un meilleur équilibre financier de l'Organisation. L'adoption d'un budget de maintenance pour le prochain exercice biennal permettrait à la FAO de passer d'une croissance négative à une Croissance réelle zéro. Par la suite, comme le précise l'EEI, "la volonté de changement des parties prenantes doit aller de pair avec la nécessité d'appuyer le changement au moyen de ressources appropriées et c'est sur cette base que

doit être élaboré le Plan d'action immédiate". Ce processus doit commencer avec les discussions au sein du Comité chargé de préparer la Conférence extraordinaire de 2008, si vous l'approuvez.

Mais d'ores et déjà l'EEl suggère que la Conférence invite les Membres à fournir un appui extrabudgétaire pour la poursuite des réformes dans le cadre du Plan d'action immédiate et à préciser les modalités et le calendrier de ces réformes. Si, avec le Plan d'action immédiate, nous pouvons élever rapidement le niveau de confiance entre le Secrétariat et les États Membres, je suis naturellement favorable à ces propositions. Et s'agissant de mon devoir d'assurer une répartition géographique équitable du personnel de la FAO, dans les conditions prévues par la Conférence de 2003, je souhaite que les États Membres veuillent bien clarifier cette question afin que ses modalités de mise en œuvre soient dorénavant indiscutables.

En conclusion, je voudrais rappeler l'affirmation de l'EEl, selon laquelle "si la FAO devait disparaître, il faudrait la recréer en grande partie". Comme vous, je pense que rien ne peut remplacer notre Institution, surtout à l'heure où nous devons affronter les nouveaux défis de la sécurité alimentaire. Dans son rapport pour 2008, la Banque mondiale évoque "une nouvelle agriculture". Pour ma part, je souhaite qu'à cette nouvelle agriculture corresponde "une nouvelle" FAO. Cela exigera de notre part imagination, dévouement, détermination, confiance réciproque et travail acharné. Vous pouvez être assurés de mon engagement personnel et de celui du personnel de l'Organisation dans cette voie de renouveau.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention

The meeting was suspended from 10.59 to 11.02 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10.59 à 11 h 02

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.59 a las 11.02

PRESIDENTE

Ruego a los señores delegados tomar asiento que vamos a iniciar nuevamente la sesión. Señores delegados, para iniciar la sesión voy a dar la palabra a la Secretaría que tiene una información de tipo general. Ruego tomar asiento a los señores delegados.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, the Secretariat kindly requests that you divide your delegations, if you are able to do so, and send a delegate to Commission II, Red Room, First Floor, in order that a quorum can be convened to begin the meeting.

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2007/2)

5. Examen de la situación de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2007/2)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2007/2)

PRESIDENTE

Ruego a los señores delegados, tomar asiento y atender las intervenciones de los delegados de los países. Rogamos salir a los funcionarios de apoyo de los delegados que deseen conversar. Va a hacer uso de la palabra el Subdirector General para una cortísima intervención.

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

It is my honour to address you today in my new capacity as the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department of FAO. I just joined FAO two weeks ago, after 24 years with the World Bank, most recently in Sub-Saharan Africa. This experience has convinced me that sustained reductions in poverty and hunger cannot be achieved without the revitalization of the agricultural sector, and I believe that FAO is uniquely placed to help with that challenge. I am excited and proud to be associated with FAO and to be with you here today. I am particularly proud to be associated with the Department responsible for the preparation of the “State of Food and Agriculture”.

As you know, the “State of Food and Agriculture” have been revitalized in recent years. The publication has become increasingly influential in global debates on the critical issues of the day in food and agriculture by providing world-class service of the relevant empirical evidence and balanced, politically-neutral analyses of the policy options available to support sustainable, pro-poor development. The latest publication, which is in front of you today and which has just been launched last week, focuses on the linkages between agriculture and the environment, with the theme paying farmers for environmental services. The Report finds that agriculture can, and must be, part of the solution to the environmental problems we face, particularly, problems related to global climate change, water quality and bio-diversity. The “State of Food and Agriculture” argues that farmers need incentives to be better stewards of the environment. Just as we pay farmers for the food, fibre and fuel they produce, payments for environmental services can be an effective mechanism for improving incentives to farmers. But despite the rapid growth in both public and private environmental payment schemes, agriculture is relatively neglected and farmers in developing countries even more so. The report analyses a number of constraints and options for using environmental service payments to support pro-poor and pro-environmental outcomes.

The second part of the “State of Food and Agriculture”, also found in the document before you, C 2007/2, provides a long-term perspective on global and regional trends in food and agriculture. These trends reveal long-term growth and agriculture production and declining commodity prices, as well as improvements in many parts of the world, in both the number and proportion of people, who suffer from under-nourishment. But several recent trends, related primarily to climate change and bio-fuel development, have introduced new sources of uncertainty into the global agricultural economy. The recent rise in agricultural commodity prices is cause for concern regarding the food security of poor people, especially those in Low-Income, Food Deficit countries.

It is not clear whether these recent price trends reflect a temporary spike or a fundamental structural change that signals the end of the era of cheap food. This would present us with enormous challenges, but also opportunities. It may be possible to use this period of rapid change to revitalise agriculture in the developing world. Our discussions today therefore come at an opportune moment, where we can begin to address both the challenges and opportunities ahead. Please allow me, Mr Chairperson, to introduce Mr Prabhu Pingali, Director of the Agricultural Development Economics Division of FAO, who will present some of the salient points of this year's State of Food and Agriculture.

Prabhu PINGALI (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce to you the “State of Food and Agriculture” Report. As Mr Ghanem has mentioned, I will focus my comments on Part 2 of the Report, which gives the perspective on what has been happening to the food and agriculture sector. This year in our Report we have taken a historical perspective, a perspective to show you what has been happening to the food and agriculture sector over the last 50-year time period. If you look over a 50-year time period, we have seen tremendous progress in the food sector across the developing world. We have seen overall food production and agriculture production triple between 1960 and 2005-2006 time period, but a tremendous increase in overall production. A large share of that increase

in production has come from developing countries, as developing countries have invested in increasing agriculture productivity, invested in irrigation, other infrastructure and have improved the incentives for increasing productivity at the farm level.

We have seen over the last 50 years that *per-capita* production has kept pace with population growth rates, and, therefore, the dire production made in the 1950s and the 1960s that the world was going to run out of food did not take place, and we have seen overall favourable terms in terms of agriculture and food production. Over the last five decades, we have also seen improvements in *per capita* consumption of the food, we have seen improvements in *per capita* consumption for every single region of the developing world, including for Sub-Saharan Africa, although at a much slower rate in Sub-Saharan Africa. Availability of food reflected through *per capita* improvements and *per capita* consumption is very clear, although we are all aware of the distributional problems and the problems of access to poor, access to food by the poorest sections of the population.

We have also seen that, as incomes have risen and middle-class populations in developing countries have increased, there has been a fairly significant change in the diets of populations. We have seen a movement away from a predominance of calories from staple foods in the diets towards a much more diversified diet, that includes fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products, etc., and that change has been quite significant, and we anticipate that the shift and diversification of diet will continue well into the future. However, it is also well known to all of us that, not all regions of the developing world have seen the change, seen the positive change. Sub-Saharan Africa has seen negative trends in *per capita* production throughout the 50-year time period. East Asia, South-East Asia, South-Asia have seen significant improvements, and so has Latin America.

But even if you look within these regions where significant positive trends have taken place, you find that there are substantial differences between the Sub-regions: for example, South-Asia lags behind South-East Asia and East-Asia, the Central American region lag behind other parts of Latin America, etc. Even if you take countries that have done very well, you find significant inter-regional differences: for example, Eastern India, Western China, or North-East Brazil, have lagged behind the other more favourable areas within their own countries. The more marginal production environments have lagged behind the more favourable production environments. We also know that even with improvements in food production and food availability, the numbers of chronically-hungry people continue to be stubbornly high, even though a smaller share of the overall global populations. Today we are still living in a world where 1 out of 5 people in South Asia are chronically-hungry and 1 out of 3 people in South Saharan Africa are chronically-hungry. But if you do look at Sub-Saharan Africa more closely, you find several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that over the last 15 years have made significant progress in terms of improvements in their own food production systems and improvements in productivity.

As we look ahead, we anticipate that several more countries in the regional will be seeing positive trends, especially with the renewed commitment towards the agriculture sector and with the commitment to use agriculture as engine of growth and with an increased adherence to the Maputo Declaration to increase the budgets for the agriculture sector and with the implementation of the Four Pillars of the *Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*. So with that, we anticipate a movement towards positive trends for several countries within Sub-Saharan Africa as we look ahead. In terms of global markets, we have seen a tremendous growth in overall agricultural exports over the last 50-year time period, a tenfold increase in overall agricultural exports, even though the share of agriculture in total merchandise export has declined steadily over this time period.

We ought to note that developing countries, as a whole, have participated equally and with the developed countries in the export markets, and we see today that the share of overall exports of agricultural commodities from developing countries has risen quite substantially. However, if you look at the least developed countries of the world, the poorest of the poor countries in the world, we have seen this set of countries make a dramatic reversal in the terms of trade, from countries that were net exporters of agricultural products up until 1980 to becoming net importers of

agricultural products, and the gap, the deficit, increasing significantly over time. Many of the least developed countries have had very low agricultural productivity growth rates over this time period. They have seen their competitiveness in the agricultural sector declining over time, and their ability to maintain quality standards and safety standards have not been up to par, and as a result, their overall terms of trade have declined quite significantly.

There has been a significant change in the overall agricultural export market, and a diversification into non-traditional exports, non-traditional fruits, non-traditional vegetables, processed foods, etc., and this market has been growing quite rapidly. But most developing countries have not been able to participate in benefits from the growth of non-traditional markets. A few countries are very dominant in these markets, such as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Thailand, etc. But the vast majority of countries have not been able to make major inroads into this non-traditional export markets, and even countries that have made inroads into this export sector have concentrated on a few commodities, on a few crops: for example, green beans from Kenya or green peas from Zimbabwe, etc., a very narrow set of commodities, for which they have been able to capture some share of the market. But most developing countries' ability to enter the non-traditional export markets has been limited by their capacity to participate in this market, their phytosanitary standards capacity, their capacity to enforce food quality standards, etc., and that is an area where significant improvement in capacity is needed if the benefits are to be shared by these markets.

Let me now turn my attention to a concern that all of us have today, and that's the concern with rising commodity prices, and to ask the question: is this a short-term spike or have you seen the structural change and demand taking place? Certainly, as FAO has looked at what has been happening to prices and the latest commodity outlook report shows that the food price index has risen quite sharply in the 2006-2007 time period and the food price index has risen in concert with the rise in energy prices. If you look at individual commodity groups, we find dairy products, cereals, oil seeds, where there has been a fairly sharp rise in prices in the last twelve months or so, along with milk products. With these rising prices, we anticipate that many of the Low Income Food Deficit countries will see an increase in their food import bills. Some countries will see fairly large increases in their food import bills, and the foods that will see the largest increase will be coarse grain cereals, wheat, vegetable oils and dairy products. These are the areas where the food import bills will increase quite significantly over the next short time period.

The question that we have is: Is there a relationship between high would consider when we address such a question is whether there is a link between energy prices and agricultural inputs themselves, and we do see that agriculture input prices are rising as energy prices are rising and that is putting increased pressure on agriculture commodities. But we are also seeing diversion of agriculture commodities from food and feed into biofuel production. Primarily we are seeing diversions in terms of maize, oilseeds, etc. As you see this diversion into biofuel production, there will be increased pressure on the market for food and feed and increased prices, but we also see that as these prices go up, it could turn out that many of the currently used feed stocks for biofuels may not be as competitive, and there will be an opportunity to look for alternative sources of raw materials for biofuel production. We will also anticipate that, as the commodity prices rise, that would induce the search for new technologies and innovations for cheaper sources of production of biofuels to take place. We should, as we look at the current spike in prices, reflect on what has happened over the last 50 years. If you look at real price trends over the last 50 years, real prices have maintained a long-term declining trend, despite spikes occasionally taking place.

Whenever there has been a spike in prices, farmers have responded through increased production, increased productivity, etc., and the longer-term trend has been sustained. The question we have today is: Will we continue to see this historical pattern, or will we see a turnaround in the real prices of commodities? The answer to that question unfortunately is not available to us, but one would suspect that if these current prices continue to be high, we should anticipate a supply response coming in to increase production and increase productivity. We should also anticipate new technologies coming in for cheaper and more efficient biofuel production. We may see a lower pressure on the commodity prices, it is hard at this stage to say whether the historical trend

will continue or whether we are going to see a new change in the system. But biofuels itself has become a major growth sector across the world, and it is being increasingly seen with interest in the developing world.

Here I have provided for you the top 10 producers of biofuel: certainly the US and Brazil capture a major share of the market, but you do find China, the European Union, India, Russia, etc., starting to become players in this market. FAO anticipates that, as we look ahead towards 2025 time period, we should see a fivefold increase in biofuel production taking place, both from ethanol production as well as biodiesel production. A recent analysis done jointly with the OECD shows that, as the increase in biofuel production takes place, we will see an expansion in the overall production of the feedstock into biofuels, especially coarse grain cereals and maize, and with that, we will see an expansion in the area of these crops, but also an increase in productivity of these crops. Let us come very quickly to a set of future challenges that we see for the agriculture sector as a whole for the developing country agriculture. The challenge of bioenergy and the way we deal with bioenergy and the tradeoffs between food and food security have been discussed quite a bit this morning. The challenge of climate change was also brought up very clearly by the Director-General in his presentation today. Let me not repeat those comments.

Let me go to the third challenge: the one on urbanization. We are today living in a world where there are more people in urban areas than in rural areas, and the urbanization trends will continue quite strongly over the next several decades, and as that happens, the big food policy challenge for us is how do you feed urban areas, how do you feed the exploding urban populations? A big challenge for us is also to look at urban food trends in rural landscape and what that means in terms of long-term sustainability of rural environments and the natural resources in rural areas, and as we look at the urbanization and as we look at the increased pressure for an increasing agriculture production to meet food, fuel, feed and field demand, what does it mean in terms of the resource base and our ability to sustainably manage the resource base?

The last point here is, as we talk about integrating into global markets and as we talk about the benefits, that is: can developing countries, especially the least developed countries, put in place the infrastructure and the institutional systems allowing them to benefit from the opening up of markets and integrating into these markets? As we look ahead, the challenges for the agriculture sector today are as big as they were in the 1950s and 1960s. Perhaps, as we look ahead, the challenges are even greater, but the good news is that today agriculture is back on the agenda. There is an increased commitment at the national level and an increased commitment at the international level, and perhaps this new agenda and this new commitment create a new opportunity for the least developed countries to improve their agriculture sector and the food security. Thank you very much Mr Chairperson, for your attention.

**STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS
DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION
MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES**

China, Niger, Peru, United States of America, Egypt, India, United Republic of Tanzania, European Community, Portugal, Bahamas, Syrian Arab Republic, Italy, Andorra, Indonesia

Sun ZHENGCAI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I am very pleased to attend this Conference, to review with friends of all countries world food and agricultural status in the recent years, and jointly discuss food and agricultural development in the world. In recent years, all governments and international communities have invested arduous efforts to develop food and agriculture, and to eradicate hunger and poverty. Progress has been made, However, global food supply and demand have witnessed dramatic changes and are now facing a new situation, challenged by growing food demand, rising prices, changing environment

and climate as well as an emerging bioenergy industry. Developing countries have more complex food security concerns. Food and agricultural development in the world is not optimistic, with more challenging tasks. Fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the World Food Summit by the scheduled time are common obligations of the international community. We propose that developing countries make more efforts to increase support and investment in agriculture, establish and consolidate a system that guarantees support to agricultural development. Developed countries should take more concrete actions to intensify support to developing countries in food and agricultural development. All countries in the world should work together to further improve the international trade environment for agricultural products, step up exchange and cooperation, so as to facilitate the goal of cutting the number of hungry and under-nourished people in the world by half by 2015.

As a developing country with 1.3 billion people, China has always attached great importance to food and agricultural development. In recent years, the agricultural and rural economy in China has maintained a sound development momentum. From 2004 to 2006, grain output grew for three consecutive years. This year will envisage another bumper harvest with total grain output exceeding 500 million tonnes, registering a fourth consecutive year of growth. At the same time, other major agricultural products increase their yield steadily, which is accompanied by improving quality and safety of those same agricultural products, a constant increase in farmers' incomes and declining poor population in the countryside. Despite this, we are fully aware that China is facing more difficulties in maintaining a stable agricultural development and constant increase of farmers' income, and growing pressure in keeping general supply and demand balance and structural balance of major agricultural products such as grain. The Chinese Government will unswervingly consolidate the fundamental role of agriculture, pursue the modernization of agriculture with Chinese characteristics, and rely on domestic production to safeguard food security.

In recent years, the bioenergy industry has been emerging in several localities. We will persist with a development path with Chinese characteristics. Following the principle of "harmonizing food demands with energy demands, balancing land use for grains and energy crops", we will strictly control the use of corn and canola seeds to produce biofuel, make full use of agriculture and rural wastes, vigorously develop rural bio-gas, stalk gasification and solidification, and allow proper development of energy crop production. Agricultural trade is increasingly becoming an important factor in shaping agricultural development. At present, the most prominent issues in global trade include high subsidies, high tariff and unbalanced rules, which have a negative impact on agricultural development in developing countries. China supports long term goals and tasks for agricultural negotiation, such as those identified in the Doha Declaration. We hold that the new round of agricultural negotiations should fully take into account the special concerns of developing Members in protecting food security, maintaining farmers' livelihoods and eradicating poverty, effectively address the concerns of the recently acceded Members, and deliver more market access to the developing Members.

Against the backdrop of accelerating economic globalization, international cooperation in food and agriculture is becoming more important. China will honour its commitment, continue assisting developing countries in food and agricultural development, and be ready to augment exchange and cooperation with all countries in the world. Up until the present, the Chinese Government, through the South-South Cooperation program under FAO's "Special Plan for Food Security", has fielded nearly 900 agricultural specialists and technicians. We have put into place our commitments in the China-Africa Cooperation Forum held in Beijing in 2006, helping African countries to develop agriculture through establishing agricultural demonstration centers, fielding senior agricultural specialists, and assisting in training courses.

In its history of over sixty years, FAO has played a very active role in promoting world food and agricultural development, and reducing and eradicating poverty. The Chinese Government applauds the Organization for that achievement. At present, FAO is going through a critical period of reform and development. The Chinese Government will continue to support the Organization. We are willing to work with all Member Nations, to drive forward the sound

development of FAO, enhance its efficacy, and make a larger contribution to developing world agriculture and improving food security in the world.

Mahaman MOUSSA (Niger)

Permettez-moi de saluer l'admission du Monténégro et Andorre en tant que Membres de notre Organisation et des Îles Faroé en tant que Membres associés. Les deux dernières campagnes agricoles 2005-2006 et 2006-2007 au Niger ont été globalement satisfaisantes avec des excédents céréaliers respectivement de 21 112 et 334 315 tonnes. La campagne agricole 2007-2008 en cours dégage, elle aussi, un excédent céréalier important de l'ordre de 300 000 tonnes eut égard à la bonne pluviométrie enregistrée et au faible niveau d'attaque des ennemis des cultures à travers toute la banque agricole de notre pays.

Au Niger l'insécurité alimentaire, revêt depuis les années 1980 un caractère chronique et affecte plus de 24 pourcent de la population rurale. Cette situation a été, en grande partie, favorisée par la conjoncture de facteurs climatiques défavorables et de la pauvreté qui frappe environ 63 pourcent de la population. Elle met en exergue la fragilité de l'éco-système et l'incidence du changement climatique sur les productions agro-sylvo-pastorales. La recherche de solutions à ces épineux problèmes reste encore une préoccupation majeure du Gouvernement. C'est pourquoi, la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire figure en bonne place dans la Stratégie de développement rural (SDR) et la Stratégie de développement accélérée et de réduction de la pauvreté (SDRP). Cette dernière vient d'être approuvée par la Communauté des partenaires du Niger les 25 et 26 octobre 2007, lors de la Conférence de Bruxelles, sur son financement. Les actions entreprises dans ce sens: récupération des terres et reboisement, reconstitution des stocks de réserves, réalisation des ouvrages d'irrigation, intensification et diversification des productions agro-sylvo-pastorales en vue d'un accroissement de nos exportations, etc. notamment, dans le cadre du Programme spécial du Président de la République, ont déjà commencé à porter leur fruits et méritent d'être renforcés. La mise en œuvre de ces actions a bénéficié du concours appréciable des partenaires extérieurs qui ont appuyé de diverses manières les efforts du gouvernement nigérien.

Aussi, permettez-moi de remercier l'ensemble des partenaires techniques et financiers du Niger, pour cet engagement et leur demander de poursuivre leur appui dans la mise en œuvre de ces politiques et stratégies afin de faire de la mise en application des principes de la Déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité de l'aide, une réalité. Afin de créer les conditions pour poursuivre ces actions et pour obtenir un plus grand impact, le Gouvernement du Niger a organisé plusieurs rencontres, dont, entre autre, la "Rencontre de l'eau" qui a eu lieu les 12 et 13 juin 2007. Cette conférence était destinée à mobiliser des fonds pour financer trois importants programmes, à savoir:

Le programme de renforcement du stock national de sécurité alimentaire;
Le programme de restauration de l'environnement par les travaux d'infiltration des eaux pluviales;
Le programme de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire par le développement de l'irrigation.

Les promesses et dettes arrêtées au cours de cette Conférence sont estimées à un montant de 368 millions de dollars E.U. La "Rencontre sur la coordination de l'harmonisation et l'alignement de l'aide au développement" tenue en 26 27 septembre 2007 à Niamey qui a abouti à: L'élaboration d'un code de conduite sur l'harmonisation et l'alignement pour une meilleure efficacité de l'aide; La mise en place d'un cadre de concertation, partenaires techniques et financiers, gouvernements; L'établissement d'un plan d'action prioritaire, en vue d'améliorer la coordination de l'aide et le renforcement des capacités.

La Conférence des partenaires du Niger sur le financement de la stratégie de développement a accéléré la réduction de la pauvreté (SDRP 2008-2012) qui a permis d'enregistrer des annonces à hauteur de 4 milliards de dollars E.U. Cette Conférence a également recommandé la recherche d'appuis budgétaires auprès des bailleurs de fonds et a souligné l'importance de la valorisation des ressources humaines en tant que facteurs essentiels de développement.

Pour le développement rural, reconnu comme moteur de la croissance à travers la SDRP, le Niger devra s'assurer de la mise en œuvre effective de la SDR comme cadre de référence de toutes les interventions en renforçant notamment les capacités institutionnelles. Depuis 2003, le Niger s'est

doté d'une stratégie de développement rural, d'un Plan d'action et d'un Cadre de dépenses à moyen terme (CDMT) en 2006 relatifs à cette stratégie. Pour sa mise en œuvre, le Gouvernement a opté pour une approche programme afin de reconstruire progressivement un cadre cohérent et global pour l'exécution de la politique de développement rural et de ses composantes sectorielles. Le CDMT sectoriel sert désormais de support aux discussions budgétaires avec le Ministère de l'économie et des finances conformément aux prescriptions de la réforme des finances publiques. Les modalités de financement des programmes sont souples et adaptées à la spécificité de chacun d'entre eux. L'aide budgétaire ciblée et la mise en place des fonds communs seront privilégiées au détriment de l'aide aux projets. L'objectif est d'évoluer vers la mise en place d'une aide budgétaire globale. Un dispositif institutionnel de coordination a été mis en place, structuré du niveau national au niveau décentralisé comprenant des instances de pilotage et de concertation avec l'accompagnement et le soutien des partenaires techniques et financiers.

Au nom de son Excellence Monsieur Mamadou Tandja, Président de la République du Niger, chef de l'État, au nom du Gouvernement, je me fais le porte-parole de la population nigérienne pour adresser nos sincères remerciements et notre profonde gratitude à tous les pays amis et institutions qui oeuvrent à nos côtés. À l'endroit de la FAO et de tous les autres organismes du Système des Nations Unies, j'adresse toute notre reconnaissance pour les appuis multiformes qu'ils ne cessent d'apporter au Niger dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. À ce propos, j'invite, une fois encore, la FAO à être à nos côtés pour l'organisation de la célébration en 2008 des 25 années de la mise en œuvre du Programme intégré de développement rural de Kidal. Ce programme communément appelé projet Kidal est reconnu sur le plan international comme un exemple de réussite de coopération multi-bilatérale. Je lance aussi un appel, à tous les partenaires au développement pour une assistance soutenue aux programmes nationaux de redressement et de développement durable de l'agriculture, ainsi que le soutien à toutes les initiatives régionales et sous-régionales de sécurité alimentaire.

Monsieur le Président, Honorables Délégués, vous n'êtes pas sans savoir que la présente Conférence se tient à un moment où notre organisation invoque un tournant décisif de son histoire, marquée par des mutations profondes, dont la dernière en date pourrait être le point activement à l'ordre du jour de notre session. Je fais allusion à l'Évaluation Externe Indépendante (EEI) dont le rapport vient de nous être soumis. À cet égard, ma délégation accueille favorablement la proposition de la tenue d'une Conférence extraordinaire en 2008 pour un examen minutieux et responsable de ce Rapport. De même, la principale conclusion de l'évaluation, à savoir: la Réforme accompagnée de croissance, nous semble très pertinente. Cependant, pour ce faire, notre Organisation a besoin du soutien politique et de l'appui financier de tous ses Membres, cet appui devant se traduire par l'adoption d'un budget biennal respecté ou par le scénario de croissance réelle. Du moins, celui de Croissance Réelle Zéro, qui constitue le minimum indispensable pouvant permettre à la FAO d'exercer de manière acceptable ses programmes. Par conséquent, j'en appelle au sens de la solidarité de tous et de chacun, pour la préservation de cet outil commun qu'est la FAO.

Ismael BENAVIDES (Perú)

Sr. Presidente, Señores Ministros, Delegados, Señoras y Señores quiero agradecer al Director General por su optimista y visionario mensaje sobre el futuro de la agricultura en el mundo. El Perú considera importante fortalecer el apoyo de la FAO en nuestros países el cual busca contribuir a modernizar nuestra agricultura, ganadería y pesca. En ese sentido el Perú considera a la FAO como un socio importante para mejorar la compatibilidad de nuestra agricultura y la calidad de vida del poblador rural. Consideramos que el proceso de Reforma que viene implementando la FAO constituye un paso adelante para consolidar el papel de la Organización en el cumplimiento de sus mandatos en el contexto de los nuevos desafíos que impone el Siglo XXI. En esta situación el informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente que hemos recibido recientemente es un importante ejercicio de análisis profesional con valiosas propuestas que evaluaremos y que estamos seguros contribuirán al proceso de reforma de la FAO.

Permítanme compartir con ustedes algunos avances de la agricultura en el Perú, nuestro Ministerio de Agricultura ha definido recientemente seis ejes estratégicos para el desarrollo agrario basado en adaptar nuestra agricultura a los Retos del Milenio que aquí hemos visto en buscar nuestra compatibilidad a nivel mundial. En primer lugar definimos el factor más crítico que es el agua, segundo lugar, el acceso al mercado para nuestros productores; tercer lugar, la investigación agraria; el cuarto, el crédito y el seguro agrario; el quinto la información agraria y finalmente el desarrollo rural para apoyar a la agricultura pobre adecuando nuestra estructura a estos seis pilares.

Hoy la agricultura peruana se desenvuelve en el contexto de una de las economías más dinámicas de la Región, inserta en la economía global y basada en la competitividad. Esta definición de política nos está permitiendo aplicar una gestión más precisa para la obtención de resultados y así mantener los altos índices de crecimiento sectorial. En el año 2006, la producción agropecuaria registro un crecimiento del 7 por ciento con relación al año anterior, las exportaciones agrarias alcanzaron la cifra de 2,066 millones de dólares mostrando un incremento del 32 por ciento en relación al 2005. Asimismo se observó un incremento en el superávit de la balanza comercial agrícola pasando de 240 millones en el 2005 a 580 millones en el 2006. Para los próximos cinco años se estima que tanto el producto bruto sectorial como las agro-exportaciones muestren tasas de crecimiento positivas de al menos 5 y 15 por ciento anual, respectivamente. A nivel del Congreso de la República, la Comisión Especial Multipartidaria de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio viene trabajando proyecto de Ley del Derecho a una Alimentación Adecuada, En relación a este tema, el 16 de octubre se celebró, también en el Perú, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación promovido por la FAO con el lema el “Derecho a la Alimentación” el cual corresponde a uno de los aspectos principales que nuestro sector viene enfocando en sus acciones a través de diversos proyectos que buscan asegurar la disponibilidad, acceso y uso de alimentos nutritivos priorizando al poblador rural y buscando lograr una oferta competitiva que asegure un incremento de sus ingresos. Como producto de este nuevo enfoque de política sectorial se proyecta generar 400,000 nuevos empleos directos y unos 200,000 indirectos en el sector agrario para el 2011 y contribuir en reducir la pobreza rural en un 35 por ciento cuya tasa, todavía, es del 69 por ciento comparado con un 40 por ciento en las poblaciones urbanas. Esto refleja uno de los grandes retos que enfrenta nuestro país, por una lado, tenemos cifras macro-económicas muy promisorias pero que deben de reflejarse de manera más intensa en la disminución de la pobreza. Es ahí donde estamos focalizando nuestras intervenciones y muchas veces es un tema de gestión y no sólo de recursos.

En este contexto, quisiera destacar la necesidad de dejar de lado la falsa dicotomía entre la política de seguridad alimentaria y la política de competitividad planteada por algunos teóricos del desarrollo, olvidando que los agricultores no sólo son consumidores de alimentos, sino también productores. En una economía de mercado abierto y ante la creciente globalización, no puede haber seguridad alimentaria sin productores competitivos que estén en capacidad de asegurar el abastecimiento adecuado en cantidad, calidad, oportunidad y precio al mercado. Tampoco nuestro país podría ser competitivo de manera sostenible a nivel nacional e internacional si la mayoría de nuestra población perdiera capacidades intelectuales y físicas por haber padecido, o padecer, de desnutrición especialmente desde su infancia. La seguridad alimentaria y la competitividad son, pues, dos caras de la misma moneda y esto se evidencia que en el actual comportamiento al alza del precio de importante productos alimenticios básicos, si bien es cierto, que afecta a los sectores más pobres. También es una oportunidad que no se presentaba en décadas a nuestros productores agrarios, significando así una real transferencia de recursos de la ciudad al campo. Por ello estamos comenzando acciones de promoción para incrementar nuestra oferta nacional de maíz y trigo, entre otros productos, Asimismo el Estado ha iniciado estrategias como el programa “Crecer” orientado hacia la lucha contra la desnutrición crónica infantil en cuya implementación juega un papel importante distintas dependencias del sector público agrario.

Por último quiero hacer un reconocimiento a la FAO por la relevancia que le viene dando a un producto nativo del Perú como es la papa al establecer la conmemoración del “Año Internacional de la Papa en el 2008” a solicitud del Gobierno peruano resaltando la contribución del Perú al

mundo con este producto de origen millenario en nuestra zona andina y así promover su consumo, su diversidad y su reconocimiento como fuente valiosa de alimentación.

Finalmente, reiteramos nuestro compromiso con el desarrollo de la agricultura ante los desafíos de este nuevo milenio y nuestro apoyo a las acciones que la FAO tomará frente al futuro y afirmamos la disposición del Perú de compartir sus esfuerzos agrícolas y su excepcional biodiversidad para aumentar la productividad del campo y reducir la pobreza rural en el mundo.

Charles F. CONNER (United States of America)

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here in the Eternal City and to join my colleagues from all over the world at this Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I am proud to represent the United States of America as we review the "State of Food and Agriculture" and the mission of this vital Organization. It is no coincidence that both the current priorities and the future mission of the FAO are bound to our actions of this week-long Conference. More than sixty years have passed since the FAO was founded to serve as the world's ministry of agriculture, food and nutrition. Our charge now, and our challenge, is to make FAO strong in the decades ahead and to carry out that mission to its fullest.

FAO is a vital and essential global organization, it facilitates the participation of developing countries in the global agricultural economy, provides a forum for addressing the emerging global challenges facing agriculture, and it speaks on behalf of farmers and those who benefit from agriculture. Changing environments and the needs, however, require that every organization undertake periodic examination of its operations. The first Independent External Evaluation in FAO's 62-year history highlights a widely held belief that FAO simply must change: organizationally and financially, in order to regain the full confidence of its Members. To no one's surprise, the report also found in place a very talented and very dedicated corps of specialists around the world, who undertake their unique mission with all sincerity and all rigour. The United States honours their work. If I may, I would like to thank one of those dedicated individuals today, FAO Deputy Director-General, David Harcharik. David has given nearly 40 years of dedicated service to people in need around this globe. The United States thanks him for his contributions to this Organization and wishes him a happy and prosperous retirement. In all our discussions about FAO and its future, our goal must remain clear and we cannot lose sight of this.

We must cease the moment and undertake changes swiftly without equivocation and needless delays. The Independent External Evaluation lists 110 recommendations in its Report. Rather than spend time debating the merits of the individual recommendations, we should adopt the Report as a whole and then direct our energies to equipping FAO and its leadership with an Immediate Action Plan. Such a Plan must be both achievable and measurable, and we can surely gather our collective resources to develop it.

To provide stability for FAO while we pursue this important work, we need to approve a sustainability budget that preserves current staff levels, funds the Technical Cooperation Programme and provides adequate funding to priority programmes including those that are priorities for developing countries. It is no surprise to any of us at this meeting that sustained growth requires greater economic opportunities. Those opportunities come most readily from expanded trade. Increased trade, whether it is local, regional or global, provides people with more money to buy food, afford better housing, and monies to send their children to school. FAO is an essential player in helping all countries participate in global agricultural trade. The Standard-setting Bodies of Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Commission have laid an objective and impartial foundation for all of us to follow. Without them, the global agricultural trade system simply would not function as we know it.

The United States believes that these Bodies must be supported to their fullest extent possible. Other areas where FAO can have the greatest global impact include transferring knowledge on

agricultural-related issues, leading the world on agricultural emergency preparedness and response, providing trade capacity-building assistance, fostering information-sharing and, of course, building professional relationships. In those ways, FAO can enable real change for all of our countries. Standards based on sound science as well as trade capacity-building and information-sharing become fully realised when supported by a free and fair system of trade. The WTO Doha Development Round represents a strong engine - a strong engine to drive economic growth and reduce poverty in each country. That is why a successful conclusion to the Doha Round based on these principles of free and fair trade is simply imperative, and United States supports such a conclusion. The world today presents a host of complicated agricultural issues that simply know no border. New plant and animal diseases as well as other sanitary and phytosanitary concerns, threaten the safety of our people and of international commerce. As we discuss FAO's budget and the IEE findings, I hope we remain fully aware of our cooperative potential when it is deployed, and deployed most effectively.

The United States believes that FAO's mission is vital. Let me be clear on that point, and the IEE process has provided a unique opportunity for us to work toward more relevant, focused and an effective Organization. Together, we must forge a fresh path. I look forward to embracing that necessary goal with all of you. Each one of you, on behalf of the United States of America.

Amin ABAZA (Egypt)

Many factors at the global, regional and national levels affect agricultural development and the improvement of the living standards of the rural society. First, we all agree that the effect of climate change on the crop structure, diseases, natural resources and, in particular, water resources and biodiversity, would lead us all to comprehensive changes in order to adapt with these changes. Second, all efforts must combine to support FAO's role in combating the transboundary diseases, as well as in making available the knowledge and the results of research in the developed countries in order to speed up the world combating mechanisms. Third, the use of agriculture commodities by the developed countries as biofuels lead to the increase of prices and this is a burden to the importing countries. In addition, the agricultural sector faces important challenges at present, of which we mention the production rate, the price fluctuations and water scarcity, and the inability of countries to offer research and extension which limit agricultural development capacity, together with a continued demographic increase in the developing countries, especially the least developed countries.

The agriculture policy attaches a great importance on the development of agriculture, stressing and focusing on modern technology transfer, the improvement of the human element through extension and training as well as in labelling the rural women to take part in decision-making. Egypt and its continued endeavour to achieve comprehensive development realizes the importance of the multilateral cooperation and exchange of expertise and establishment of regional projects with the Arab countries, as well as the importance accorded to the African continent. Egypt is active in many of the development initiatives in Africa namely NEPAD, as Egypt presides over the agricultural market access committee in this initiative. We also support the role of FAO in its food security programmes, through the technical cooperation with the Organization and through the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation.

With regards to the financial crisis of FAO, I should like to express here our concern regarding the negative consequences on the rate of the programme implementation in the Organization and the Technical Cooperation Programme. This problem requires objective solutions to deal with the problem of arrears taking into account the exceptional circumstances which certain countries suffer, and without linking their arrears problem with their ability to benefit from activities of the Organization.

With regards to the budget, we hope that we all reach a consensus to rebuild the financial capacity of FAO. In this regard, we should reiterate in principal here the proposals of the Secretariat in the maintenance budget and we hope that the deliberations will lead to an agreement that meets the expectations of all countries.

The United Nations faces a new trend towards reform. I have examined the Report of the Independent External Evaluation and, in this respect, I should like to express Egypt's appreciation of the work of the evaluator's core team and all the recommendations that the Report put in place in order to enable FAO to undertake all its responsibilities and to combine development and growth together. We should also here point out that the Report has accorded high priority to the role of the Organization in knowledge management, and it accorded low priority to the support of research and extension of institutions and agriculture education. This requires that there would be greater coordination among all the international and regional organizations to create synergies. I should also point out an important aspect of the global trade rules and stress the importance of taking into consideration the interests of developing countries in terms of the access of their products to the world markets. We therefore hope that the agriculture negotiations in the WTO will lead to an agreement that leads to better access by the developing countries.

P.K. MISRA (India)

I would like to join the delegates in expressing the Government of India's profound sense of grief on the loss of life and property in Bangladesh last week, consequent upon the super cyclone. In this context, we welcome the inclusion of concerns arising from short and long-term implications of climate change on FAO's agenda of work. I see this Conference as a unique occasion for all of us to chart new pathways to lead the world's farmers, livestock holders and fishers out of poverty to lead lives that are meaningful, where there is freedom of choice and widespread ability to engage on equal terms with the rest of the world.

In the couple of years since we last met, the world has continued to witness important changes and developments. Two years back, we had rededicated ourselves to the tasks of accelerating the pace of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG1 for eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and MDG7 for ensuring environmental sustainability. According to FAO reports, the last two years have been a mixed bag of achievements. While some countries have performed well, in the case of some others it is felt that more needs to be done to help achieve the MDG goals. Even within those countries where the economic growth rates have been high, there are challenges of making this growth more inclusive by expanding the outreach of development to a large number of farm families, especially those who are either dependent on rainfed farming or underlivelihood and marginal production environments.

Food security at the national level, in many cases, continues to be endangered due to growth in the population and limits imposed by stagnant growth of the economies. I am happy to share the Indian experience of the last couple of years with you and others present here. The Indian economy, as a result of policy measures creating an all-round climate conducive to development, has grown at a faster pace than ever before. However, we are cognizant of the fact that this is only one significant part of our efforts: the other important aspect being the reduction, indeed the removal, of poverty. Due to sustained efforts on the part of the Government during 1999-2000 to 2004-5, the rural poverty has been brought down from 27 percent to 22 percent. We recognize that we have a long way to go toward this in order to ensure year-round employment in the rural areas and especially during the non-farm season. A nationwide rural employment guarantee scheme was launched two years back.

More recently, we have established a national food security mission, with the objective to increase both production and productivity to ensure food security, both nationwide and at the level of farm households. The other most important initiative taken towards enhancing agricultural productivity in the Ashna region or the national agricultural development programme which provides for additional assistance to incentivise states or provinces to take up agricultural development as a priority and in a comprehensive manner with definite action plans. Attention will be focused on announcing a farm-level economy and expansion of employment opportunities. We have initiated other measures too. These include accelerating growth in agriculture by substantially stepping up investment, increasing productivity, diversification of high-level agriculture without jeopardizing food security, use of knowledge and technology-based interventions, post-harvest management, encouraging agro processing and evaluation, promoting livestock and fisheries, and streamlining

supply chains and marketing to help farmers and consumers, revitalizing the agricultural research and extension system and enhance the role of public-private partnership in various stages of agriculture.

I am happy to recall that we, as the representatives of the Member Nations expressed, two years back, the political will and took the initiative to see the need for extensive reform in FAO. The Organization, 60 years old by then, had played a vital role in the resurgence of world agriculture, but was in need of an infusion of fresh ideas and mechanisms for it to be revitalized in the future. By initiating an Independent External Evaluation of the Organization, and by supporting a set of reforms by the Director-General in the last two years, we have recognized the continued relevance of FAO for both the developed and developing countries.

At this Conference, we are at a juncture where we need to decide on how to facilitate the way forward for this Organization. The report on the IEE of FAO has been received only a few weeks ago and I recognise that the time since then has been inadequate for us to decide on the wide-ranging recommendations. However, I must underscore the need for a continued recognition that this task brooks no delay. We need to set up a mechanism and decide on a framework that is participative and facilitates decision-making. At the end of the exercise, we should have a vibrant Organization, which has the ability not only to help individual nations but, in fact, provide worldwide leadership for agriculture and rural development, and in this process creating sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, enabling farm families who have realized food and nutrition security and prosperity.

In today's world where increasing costs can adversely affect the core mandate and objectives of any organization, at FAO there will always be room for improvement, both in cutting costs and in enhancing effectiveness. At the same time, there is a need to make informed choices of what is essential and needs to be done. The Regions need to prioritize, and yet leave room for flexibility and innovation.

FAO today needs a flexible framework to address priorities that are either global, regional or national. Global priorities need to be addressed through corresponding strategies and multilateral partnership. At the same time, regional and national priorities cannot be allowed to be overlooked, otherwise they will impact the Organization in its ability to address issues at the grassroots level where livelihoods are earned and poor families subsist. For all this, we need a healthy and financially-sound FAO. I trust the organizational re-engineering exercise will bear this in mind. We have an unfinished agenda on our hands for answering food and nutritional security at the household level and for removal of poverty. This calls for best applicable agriculture practices at the field level backed by an international policy paradigm which helps attain the objective. FAO in its new incarnation through reform should have the ability to work in partnership with national governments on a broad policy framework that helps the farmers according to their needs and in accordance with priorities set by national governments. FAO should seek for wider partnership with other agencies of the UN System and expand its outreach, looking at the major challenges facing agriculture, particularly in the developing world.

The broad areas in which the world would be looking for a leadership role by FAO include dissemination of knowledge, based inputs for adjusting to contemporary challenges, continuation of the engagement with greater vigour, design and implementation of production systems in the rainfed areas that will directly benefit a large number of people, expansion of capacity-building. There is a need for better synergy among FAO, the CGIAR and the national research and extension systems and with academic institutions in developing countries to optimize the benefits for a large number of the population engaging in subsistence agriculture. To the ongoing pursuit of food and nutrition security, we have now to add the dimension of climate change and its impact on global agriculture. We can no longer afford to treat this as a problem of the future. Wheat production in India is suffering because of higher than average temperatures. It is, indeed, worrisome that some of the most vulnerable parts of the world, where agriculture is likely to be adversely impacted, are expected to be in the tropics, especially in the arid and semi-arid regions. The synergy discussed above should be visible, and efforts will be made in this direction so that

the benefits of approaches to mitigation of the problems and the toolkits that are developed are available to the stakeholders in the shortest possible time.

Let me now turn to the development of biofuels and the simultaneous threat of diversion of cereals for bioenergy for food security, particularly in the developing countries. The challenge before the international community today is to see whether production of bioenergy can stimulate growth and become an opportunity for farmers across the world or whether it will lead to fears of food insecurity and higher prices in a large number of developing countries. FAO should lead an initiative to find an equitable and satisfactory response to the technological, social, economic issues in the world in relation to the cultivation of cereals and non-cereal crops for biofuel production. With the expertise of the Organization, this should not be difficult.

For far too long, an overwhelming number of farmers around the world have led lives at a margin of existence. Let it today be our collective resolve to make this Organization an effective instrument for us to make the world a better place for them to earn their livelihoods and enable them to become effective contributors to wellbeing now and in the future. Before I conclude, I would like to place on the card the appreciation of the Government of India to FAO and UNIDO for selecting India to host the Global Agro-Industries Forum, 8-11 April 2008. I assure FAO and UNIDO that we will make this Forum a success. I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture of India, the Host Country, to urge Ministers and Excellencies present here to participate in this Forum in large numbers and make it a success.

Stephen MASATU WASSIRA (United Republic of Tanzania)

During the World Food Summit of 1996, Heads of States and Government established the target of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by no later than 2015. It is encouraging to note that some successes have been recorded in the reduction of the share of undernourished people in Sub-Saharan Africa. Within the East African Sub-region where Tanzania stands, indicators show that prevalence of hungry people declined, even though not in terms of numbers. It is implied that if we are to meet the World Food Summit Declaration in the Millennium Development Goals, we need to do more. The major driving force for us in Sub-Saharan Africa has to come mainly from agricultural growth.

In Tanzania, agriculture contributes about 45 percent of the GDP. Between 2000 and 2005, the sector grew by an average of 5.2 percent *per annum* with the highest growth rate of 5.8 percent registered in 2004. During 2006 this sector grew by only 4.1 percent due to severe drought. This series of up and down trends seriously affect our desire for agricultural growth. Several factors continue to constrain our agricultural growth including low production and productivity due to inappropriate technology, inadequate access to support services, such as research and extension services, overdependence on reinforced agriculture, lowered transition and improved technologies and weak network of input and output markets, lack of financial services in rural areas, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic which threatens to wipe out gains achieved over the years. In addition, periodic recurrence of outbreaks of pests and transboundary diseases, especially in the crops and livestock sub-sectors, poses a serious challenge to the sector. A case in point is in the recent outbreak of Rift Valley fever which severely affected both livestock and humans.

The environment within which agriculture practice is increasingly being affected by climate change as bodies of unprecedented unusual droughts and fires in different parts of my country and the observed non-performance of crops according to traditional patterns have been on the increase. It is high time through collaborative efforts and adherence to international conventions that appropriate actions are taken to reduce the effect of climate change.

The Government of Tanzania through its overall development framework of the national strategy for growth and reduction of poverty has put up sectors of specific strategies and the programmes addressing these problems and the constraint. The agricultural sector development programme ASDP of 2002 is one of the programmes which has the objective of achieving sustainable agricultural growth through transformation from subsistence to commercial agriculture. The implementation of ASDP is our challenge as it requires substantial investment. Inadequate

resources are among the major factors affecting the implementation of such important and innovative strategies and the programmes that have been designed to enhance the development of sustainable food security, agriculture production, natural resources.

We, therefore, thank all the development partners who have signed into assistance through the ASDP basket fund and the general budgetary support and we welcome more of this partnership. Current developments unfolding from global energy crisis had led to a strong move of the development of bio-fuels. Tanzania is an environment conducive to the production of bio-energy with crops including jatropha, sugarcane, sweet sorghum, cassava, forest stocks and others. The country recognizes the potential and importance of this sub-sector of the economy. On the other hand, the country also understands that there are threats that the development of bio-fuel crops pose.

We, therefore, call upon FAO to assist developing countries such as Tanzania in building capacity to develop a balanced policy approach in the development of bio-fuel. My delegation is aware of the financial difficulties FAO has suffered which have negatively impacted on effective implementation of the programmes which we, the Members of FAO, always endorsed at this biennium. As FAO struggles to bring in efficiency gains and effectiveness, this will be possible if we the Members not become active owners, accountable and, in particular, in honouring our Assessed Contributions.

We have also to appropriate FAO with a Zero Real-Growth biennium budget. We congratulate the Director-General for undertaking reforms and FAO Staff for their understanding of what these reforms entail. The decentralization of services to the Regional, Sub-regional and the more importantly to FAO Country Offices is appreciated as a means of effective and efficiency that FAO operations at country level. Further, my delegation would like to register its appreciation to the broad measures we Members took for having an Independent External Evaluation of FAO to bring about institutional performance and a diagnostic review of the way forward of our Organization. To us, the Report has helped to evaluate the accomplishment and justified the urgent and great need for changes. There is more commitment on the part of Member Nations for the changes to happen, and we have to be more responsible and accountable to FAO than before.

While we appreciate the initiative and the proposed actions in the IEE Report, we note the work ahead which will be entrusted to the Conference Committee to revisit the recommendations that the FAO Management propose. We request that when it comes to prioritizing the work of FAO the regional perspectives question must be given highest consideration. For example, to those of us who are going through subsistence production depending on rainfed agriculture and a rural linkages to markets, we will need issues of production, irrigation, agro-processing, agricultural extension and research and natural resources to be addressed within a referenced regional perspective. We want FAO to be an effective partner in our agricultural development. It is our hope that, under the spirit of One UN and the Reform that FAO is undergoing, it will be able to exhibit what it does before and ensure that agriculture development and specifically the food security agenda is implemented without being prejudiced. Consequently, certain country offices with the necessary skills, financial resources and appropriate back-up from Sub-regional Offices will need to be enhanced.

In concluding, it is my delegation's wish to desire that the Technical Cooperation Programme resources in the Programme of Work and Budget of FAO be increased and protected from any unfavourable eventuality.

Luis RIERA FIGUERAS (European Community)

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

We thank the FAO Secretariat for providing a general assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture in 2007. The renewed and welcomed international interest in agriculture and in all fields relevant to the FAO mandate represents for the European Union and its Member States a

unique window of opportunity to actively contribute to the FAO impact and international influence.

The European Community shares the concerns expressed by FAO regarding agricultural productivity growth in the least developed countries. Critical challenges to be addressed in the next decade are related to financial and institutional constraints, environmental degradation, inefficiencies and inequalities in land reallocation and distribution, water scarcity, poor education and health diseases. Policy instruments to foster the productivity and sustainability of smallholder farmers who are at the core of rural development call for enhancing integration a smallholders in producer's organization and their participation in higher-value markets, as well as for improving the quality and quantity of public investments including infrastructures, broadening the spectrum of financial services and promoting private-public partnerships.

In order to react to the declining trend observed in *per capita* agriculture valued in sub-Saharan Africa and food security concerns, also of course connected with the failure of market-driven product diversification, the European Community adopted the communication advancing agriculture in Africa in July 2007. The communication sets out a strategy for cooperation on agricultural development with a special reference to the continental and regional levels. The need to address emerging global challenges such as climate changes, bioenergy development, food security and malnutrition and gender equality, call for an integrated and coherent approach in order to achieve effective results and a strategic division of level between the various actors and partners, both at public and private sector levels.

In the framework of the European Union Development Cooperation, the aim is to foster the sustainable economic and social development of developing countries, their smooth and gradual integration in the world economy and poverty reduction. In February 2001, the EU adopted a key initiative to provide full access to the European Union market for the world's 49 least developed countries in what we called: "The Everything But Arms Initiatives". This Initiative extends duty- and quarter-free access to the European Union market to all products from less developed countries except, of course, arms and munitions. The European Union is also currently negotiating economic partnership agreements with the countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions. The economic partnership agreements, while being WTO-compatible are development-oriented free-trade agreements aiming at supporting regional integration and fostering sustainable development.

The Common Agricultural Policy reform has enabled the European Union to make a positive contribution to the success of the Doha Development Agenda in the WTO context. The European Union rural development policy which will be the main focus over the period 2007-2013, concentrates on three key areas: agricultural competitiveness, the environment and rural population. Together with the OECD, FAO has recently published more updated figures on trade and even medium-term projections. The two Organizations confirm the continued shift in trade patterns. OECD countries as a whole are expected to see a fall in their share of world production and exports for many commodities, while developing countries increase their trade, both for the so-called South-South trade as well as for their export to developed countries. Moreover, a report prepared for the NEPAD Secretariat, estimates that demand on regional and local markets in developing countries will grow nearly ten times as fast as demand on international markets, in particular as a result of population growth and urbanisation.

In order to capitalize on regional trade opportunities and reverse the negative trend that has affected poor countries' exports over the past few years, it is necessary to make progress in terms of regional integration, institutional strengthening, capacity-building and coordination in SPS measures, a strengthening of producer organizations and disseminating up-to-date research and market information. Developing countries should resist at higher growth rates in the medium-to long-term as they benefit from the removal of trade barriers and from improved preferential access to old agricultural markets. The European Community recognizes the importance of investing in agriculture and rural development in developing countries and elsewhere. Innovative funding instruments such as microfinance targeted especially at women, and public-private

partnership constitutes an invaluable tool to promote local ownership of rural development policies and enable smallholders to gain sustainable access to natural resources. The need to address diverse and involving consumers concerns over health, environmentally-sound agro-processing practices and affordability calls for adopting a sustainable approach to food production and supply chain management. In developing countries, the demand for higher valued processed products is rising, boosted by rising incomes, urbanisation, liberalized trade and advanced technology.

In order for rural households to benefit from expanding market opportunities, efficient agricultural sector governance and public policy are required, meaning a repositioning in the role of the state and an empowerment of farmers' land organizations with an aim of crowding in private sector investment. This will imply the formulation of an active policy framework, interventions in situations of market failure by enforcing competition legislation and the provision of public goods, such as agricultural education, agricultural research and marketing formation together with the organization of safety-net mechanisms to assist groups susceptible to external risks. A decentralization process will help deal more efficiently with farmer organizations, the civil society and private sectors. Recent increases in agriculture commodity prices which may reverse the long-term downward trend has raised some concerns among Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries over future food prices in global markets.

While structural factors in the world's cereal markets were foreseeable, such an increasing demand in emerging economies, increasing industrial users at low level of global stocks due to long-term policy changes in developed countries, climatic factors such as severe weather conditions in 2007 have had also a significant impact on food prices. Projections carried out by the OECD, the European Community and FAO, forecast that a low commodity prices level will stabilize at a higher level plateau over the next ten years, in a medium term, agricultural raw material prices will continue to decline in real terms. Nonetheless in a short term, reduced world food stocks are having a serious impact on Low-Income, Food-Deficit Countries in the developing world, with the total cereal imports for these countries forecast to increase considerably. Concerning the natural resource basis, climate change and vulnerability, the European Community recognizes that a sustainable management of natural resources is important for economic, social, political as well as environmental reasons, as is stated in the framework for the Common Agricultural Policy.

The European Union is currently involved in the preparation of the next 2-year cycle for the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, focusing on the implementation of the Johannesburg Agenda in the areas of agriculture, rural development, land, desertification and Africa. The European Union reconfirms finally in this Conference its readiness to engage constructively in the expected FAO Reform process as the result of the IEE as a path of the overall United Nations Reform. The European Community is committed to follow up on the 2005 Paris Agenda on Aid Effectiveness by supporting new financing mechanisms, and harmonizing its efforts to work towards achieving the World Millennium Development Goals with the European Union Members States and its international donors partners as declared in the European Consensus for Development adopted in December 2005.

Jaime SILVA (Portugal)

President, Delegates, Ministers, it is an honour for me to address this FAO Conference and, in so doing, I would like to start by congratulating you Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director General of FAO, We had the pleasure of receiving you recently in Lisbon. Unfortunately due to several commitments relating to the current Portuguese Presidency of the European Union my stay in Rome will only be a short one. As this will be the only opportunity I will have to address this Conference, I would like to begin by saying that Portugal fully endorses the statement already made by the Representative of the European Commission made on behalf of the European Community and its Member States concerning the review of the State of Food and Agriculture in the World.

As Minister of Agriculture for Portugal, I will now focus on the main objective of my intervention. It may not directly address Item 5 but I hope that it will be above all a message of hope and optimism. The European Community currently is the world's largest provider of development assistance and has set itself a series of very ambitious objectives and targets between now and 2015 for its Members to move towards the 0.7 percent target, 0.7 percent of GDP. By 2015 all the longer standing Members of the European Union expect to have reached this target and will have contributed some EUR.90 billion to the world's development aid flows.

With regard to the Doha Round of negotiations we stressed the need for an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive agreement. We very much aim for the achievement of an agreement that will be in the interests of every Country and Regional Group and constitute an important element in fostering world economic growth. The Portuguese Presidency of the European Union has, in cooperation with the European Commission, promoted both "Development Days" and also the European Union Africa Summit to be held on 8 and 9 December in Lisbon. These two initiatives are examples of many others and testify to the EU's fundamental commitment to assisting developing countries in their strategies for poverty alleviation, economic growth and improvements in governance.

The Report on the State of Food and Agriculture reminds us that we are far from reaching our common Millennium Development Goal number 1, that is, the halving of poverty and hunger by the year 2015. In fact, some 850 million people around the world still have insufficient access to food. Hunger and malnutrition are caused by poverty, when people cannot buy sufficient or sufficiently balanced food or when they lack the opportunity to grow enough food themselves. 75 percent of hungry people live in the rural areas of the developing countries and that means that they are living in the very areas that could be producing much of the food to feed their populations locally.

Agriculture is one of the most significant driving forces for sustainable development in many developing countries. As such agriculture and rural development are crucial components in addressing the Millennium Goal number 1. Such a development process must be sustainable in social, environmental and economic terms and it must also pay due respect to human rights and build national capacity.

In this context, there is a clear interest in seeing a strong and effective FAO working as part of a renewed and re-energized UN System capable of exploiting the opportunities and tackling the challenges of the future, responsive to the needs of its constituency in order to play its full part in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The EU Member States have a clear political will to contribute to positive change in the culture of FAO and to act as a bridge-builder within its Membership, with clear strategic priorities.

We realize that FAO has a privileged relationship with developing country Member governments. FAO's ability to reach all countries makes it a key partner within the UN System for all its Member Nations and provides a unique opportunity to harmonize policies and strategies, as well as data collection, methodologies and indicators. FAO, within the scope of its mandate, can be a key forum for collaboration and coordination on major global concerns and new challenges related to agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, animal and plant transboundary diseases and safeguarding biodiversity and genetic resources.

In this context, the EU Member States support the Reform process that is underway, here at FAO in the light of Independent External Evaluation (IEE) and in accordance with the conclusions of the Council of the European Union, adopted last June. All of this is destined to help construct a better future for the world that all of us would like to see, one world free of extreme poverty and hunger.

Lawrence CARTWRIGHT (Bahamas)

My delegation notes the modest gains in the reduction of world hunger and notes the staggering estimate of 852 million of hungry people remaining on the planet. This estimate is 52 million more than the last Conference, but actually represents a reduction in the percentage of the hungry

at the global level based on the increase in whole population. Sadly this reduction is not in all areas of the world, political instability masks this reduction, as some regions have seen actual increases in the number of hungry, while other regions have seen significant improvements in reducing the number of the hungry.

The right to food is an inalienable right of all human beings. The realization of this right is threatened by many factors. Political instability, armed conflict, catastrophic weather phenomena, inequity in trade regimes, disparity and levels of development between States and regions as climbing energy costs diversion of food stocks to the production of bio-energy and the increasing cost of producing food are all limiting the realization of the right to food for all. The current estimate of the need to increase food production by 60 percent above the current level to ensure adequate food for all is truly daunting. Record levels of food production in developed countries are mirrored by reduced availability of food and increased food insecurity in many developing countries. The disparity in development between states and the inequity in trade regimes is resulting in the further marginalization of small developing states. The spectre of impending global climate change is likely to further destabilize the small and vulnerable states. Small Islands Developing States are most vulnerable to all of the above threats.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas with a population of just under 400 000 and a total land surface area 15 880 square kilometres, is by any definition a Small Island Developing State. The Food and Agriculture Organization has a very important role to play in providing technical assistance to small countries like the Bahamas. Where, despite limited physical and human resources, they are expected to participate in a global environment with countries with various levels of competence and resources. Water is a limited resource for the Bahamas. In light of this, the agricultural sector is required, not only to increase the efficiency of water use for agriculture, but also to ensure that the water used by the sector does not contaminate the existing resources available for drinking. We are seeking the assistance of FAO to develop a sound management plan for the safe and sustainable use of ground water resources. In a similar vein, the current land tenure system is a limiting factor in the rational development of agriculture. In light of this, land tenure is being considered for part of the Reform. It is hoped that these Reforms will allow increased investments in this sector by providing an instrument for farmers to use to gain access to credit from banks and other financial institutions.

The Caribbean Region is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and rainstorms. These natural phenomena usually cause significant damages to infrastructures and always impact adversely on food safety and security. In the last decade, the Bahamas has been affected by a number of hurricanes that have contaminated our water, destroyed bridges, ports, roads and other infrastructure which are important to the proper production and marketing of agricultural products.

The Bahamas is presently in negotiations in order to become a part of international and regional trading groups. The FAO can continue to play an important role in increasing capacity to minimize the impact of a more liberalized trading environment on our nation's food security. The Bahamas counts its fisheries' resources as among the nation's most valuable assets. The past contributions of FAO towards the development of sustainable commercial fisheries in the Bahamas are greatly acknowledged. The Bahamas look forward to further assistance as it seeks to embrace aquaculture in a more meaningful way as a means of significantly boosting the level of seafood production for both foreign exchange earning potential and contribution to national food security.

In closing, please allow me to thank also the Director-General and the FAO for the technical assistance provided to develop a contributory scheme for catastrophic insurance to farmers and fishers in the Bahamas. In addition, our thanks are extended for the valuable assistance in providing training in preparing the Bahamas to meet the threat of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza.

I should like, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Bahamas, to congratulate the Director-General on his vision for this Organization and for the technical and financial support provided to the Bahamas. We look forward to the continued cooperation with the FAO.

Adel SAFAR (Syrian Arab Republic) (Original language Arabic)

I am honoured to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in this Session. It is my pleasure to congratulate both you, Mr Carlos Lopez, as Chairperson, and your Vice-Chairpersons, for your election. I'm confident that the experience, wisdom and capability of the Chairperson will be the main elements for the success of this Conference and the achievement of its goals. Allow me to express my happiness to address you in Rome, the capital of ancient civilizations, which was selected by the international community to host the Headquarters of this Organization that deals with the human issues related to the achievement of food security. I would like also to express my deep gratitude to Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, for the significant efforts he makes in managing this Organization that is playing a valuable role in improving the food security situation all over the world. The world is witnessing a scientific revolution and accelerating progress in all aspects of life, but this development does not have a clear impact on our ambitions related to hunger and poverty reduction and the implementation of the resolutions of the World Food Summit held 1996. Millions of people around the world are still facing hunger, poverty and undernourishment, while many others are enjoying welfare and prosperity. Additionally many countries are suffering from the heavy burdens of deaths, natural disasters and human tragedies caused by wars. They are also facing challenges of backwardness, weak education systems and unhealthy living and housing conditions that are not convenient for human beings.

Food availability has been given top priority by the Syrian Government as it has been included in the socio-economic development plans, which are mainly based on agricultural development. The Syrian Government is also adopting the programmes and offering the services required for ensuring their agricultural production development and the increasing food trade flow with the aim of enhancing food availability in a stable and accessible manner. Moreover, it is adopting the legislation required for the enhancement of investment in all the sectors, including in agriculture. Syria is also endeavouring to deal with the constraints facing the agricultural development process with particular reference to scarce land and water resources. It has recently adopted an investment project for conversion to modern irrigation with facilitated conditions, with the aim of rationalizing water and increasing productivity. The strategy was successful in many respects. It's worth mentioning that during the last few years, the annual growth rate has increased by 5.5 percent. Furthermore, the exerted efforts resulted in significant achievements, such as the enforcement of the educational system and making it available to everyone, that is, making basic education compulsory and providing health services in terms of vaccinations against contagious diseases, as well as empowerment of rural women.

The achievement of peace, the termination of all forms of occupation and combating terrorism are crucial for the achievement of development and the provision of food. Accordingly, Syria is adhering to bringing about just such a comprehensive peace all over the world. At the same time, it rejects all forms of terrorism, but Israel is still ignoring all the international resolutions related to its withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied in 1967, including the Syrian Golan. Moreover, it declares its denial of the principles and requirements of just and comprehensive peace which deprives the region from living in peace, security and prosperity. Recently, Israel added a new crime to its records by pruning the fruit trees seedlings in the occupied Golan, in an evident violation of the international human law and in contradiction to the convention related to economic, social and cultural rights that forbids depriving people of their source of living. Syria has notified United Nations of this crime, and has requested an intervention to prevent such practices by the Israeli occupation.

Finally, it should be reaffirmed that the objectives of the World Food Summit require dealing with all possible, current and future constraints. We hope that our meeting will be an occasion for a further confirmation of our national and international commitments, increasing the volume of

developed countries and relevant organizations' assistance to poor countries, so as to help them implement their development programs, reduce their debt balance burden, enhance their trade systems, transfer modern technology and consolidate sustainable development requirements.

Lastly, I want to express my gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the other international organizations for their efforts in terms of shedding light on the aggravation of hunger around the world. We hope we will be able to eradicate hunger and to come out with appropriate solutions to limit poverty and hunger, so that we enjoy a peaceful and prosperous world.

Paolo DE CASTRO (Italy)

I am honoured to attend, as Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies of the Italian Government, the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. In this same hall around one month ago, we celebrated World Food Day, talking about the Right to Food. On this occasion, I realized that hunger and poverty in the world are far from being defeated. In fact, the number of destitute and undernourished people is increasing. Positive signs are recorded only in those countries which benefited from a slower demographic growth and a fast economic growth, mainly in the agricultural sector. It is not by chance that the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, talked about the African Green Revolution in his speech at World Food Day on 16 October. Agriculture, indeed, represents the basic sector of the whole economy of those countries like Tanzania which have scarce natural resources, where most of the population works in the agricultural sector and where the incidence of the agricultural sector on the Gross Domestic Product overcomes or is higher than 35 percent. On the other hand, I am aware that the new role and the new values attributed to agriculture have been fully underlined from the authoritative voice of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI during the prayer of the Angelus.

As already stated on several other occasions, the growth of the agricultural sector is not sufficient alone to reduce poverty and uncertain food security. But in any case, it represents the activity which can independently guarantee the access to food for the developing countries which have the right to develop their own agriculture and their own agricultural model. During the post-war period, Europe developed its own agricultural policy model characterized by socio-economic feature, changing and adjusting it on the basis of socio-economic situations over the years. Today more than ever, on the eve of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, it must be able to face the recently-emerging challenges pertaining to sustainable use of natural resources, food security and the impact of climate change on natural resources. Today Europe is facing a new context characterised by new burdens and a new economic rationale and any political intervention strategy must deal with this new context. I also believe that whatever international cooperation policy is to be adopted, this strategy must be focused on sharing this approach with developing countries, bearing in mind the changing economic, social, financial and environmental conditions which are constantly evolving worldwide.

For Italy, FAO represents the reference organization to combat poverty, to combat hunger and malnutrition. The Italy/FAO Cooperation Programme began in 1982, and comprises three main sectors; sustainable development in rural areas, food security and assistance to agricultural policies in developing countries. Through this programme, the Italian Cooperation Agency and the FAO created a new role for achieving the Millenium Development Goals. With this goal, the National Committee for World Food Day Celebrations, in collaboration with 99 bodies and institutions, coordinated over 1000 social and cultural initiatives across Italy, based on the motto "Italy with the UN Against Hunger in the World". The celebrations to be held on the 15 of December will be carried out under the high patronage of the President of the Republic and the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and anybody with willingness to consolidate its ties with the FAO and all the other international organizations of the UN Agri-food Forum in Rome involving all stakeholders working in this sector. This is clearly represented in the Memorandum of Understanding for international cooperation in the agricultural and agri-food sectors concluded in 2002 between Italy on the one hand and FAO, IFAD and the WFP on the other. The initiative is new not only for the number of bodies involved, but because of the importance of those involved.

Furthermore, this initiative aims at paving the way for a strong organic relationship between the three organizations based in Rome, agricultural research and development bodies, the academic world and trade associations, companies and NGOs.

I believe that FAO is the only organization which can decisively contribute to fighting hunger and poverty. The world needs FAO because no other international organization plays its role or can replace it in carrying out some of its services. This can only happen, however, if the FAO is effective and strong, and I have read with great attention the result of the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and I believe that the analysis carried out and proposed suggestions are a good basis for reform of the Organization since most Member Nations believe that deep changes are now essential and urgent.

Without going into the details of the Report, I would like to draw your attention to the key points of the FAO Organization. I agree with the analysis that we need a new Strategic Framework and to reduce duplication. A new brave and effective strategy is therefore much needed. A strategy focused on assimilating the growth of the private sector and the development of agriculture and agri-food businesses in these countries is therefore more necessary than an assistance-based approach. These projects can be implemented if the budget of the FAO is brought to an equitable level so they can be supported by proper financial resources. Only in this way can the Organization be adjusted to external conditions in a constantly changing world in order to face the challenges of the 21st Century.

PRESIDENTE

Voy a pedir al Sr. Vicepresidente de Indonesia, que me sustituya en la conducción de esta Sesión para dar la palabra al Representante de Andorra y que continúe con la palabra Indonesia. Tengo que cumplir con una reunión del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) que estaba prevista para la una de la tarde.

*Kaman Nainggolan, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair
Kaman Nainggolan, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Kaman Nainggolan, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia*

Joël FONT (Andorra)

L'Andorre vient juste (deux jours) d'adhérer comme État membre de plein droit sur l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation. Notre pays d'une superficie de 468 Km carrés comptait en 1950 environ de 5,000 habitants, aujourd'hui il en compte 83,000. Cette croissance considérable s'explique par le passage d'une économie d'autosuffisance basée sur l'élevage et l'agriculture, à une économie encrée sur les services, notamment sur le commerce et sur le tourisme. Cette croissance forte et rapide n'a pas effacé dans l'esprit des andorrans les souvenirs transmis par les générations et générations d'avoir vécu des temps très difficiles. En 1960 le Parlement andorran, conscient que l'Andorre était en train de subir un changement social important, s'est fixé comme objectif de travailler pour la sauvegarde du secteur primaire par le biais du système d'aide. En 1993, l'Andorre a acquis sa pleine souveraineté internationale en approuvant sa Constitution et c'est en l'an 2000 que le Parlement andorran approuve la loi de l'agriculture et de l'élevage. Cette loi est une garantie de maintien et d'évolution du secteur agricole en harmonie avec le contexte si particulier d'un pays touristique de montagne. Le principal objectif de cette loi consiste en l'adoption de politiques d'orientation permettant la reconversion nécessaire au secteur agricole tout en s'intégrant harmonieusement aux différents secteurs collectifs du pays. Pour cela il faut bien entendu travailler dans le cadre d'une agriculture et d'un élevage durable, c'est-à-dire celui qui permet une utilisation des techniques agricoles permettant de conserver les ressources naturelles et respectant l'environnement à l'insécurité et à la qualité alimentaire. Monsieur le Président, pendant des siècles, l'organisation économique et sociale de l'Andorre était dirigée essentiellement vers l'autosuffisance.

Notre peuple n'a pas oublié son passé et c'est la raison pour la quelle l'Andorre désire contribuer à la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde. L'Andorre souhaite également œuvrer en faveur du développement agricole et de l'amélioration nutritive et de la sécurité alimentaire. La

possibilité d'assurer à chaque être humain une alimentation régulière et adéquate est essentielle pour l'Andorre. Il convient donc de mettre en œuvre le droit à l'alimentation comme un réel droit de l'homme.

Anton APRIANTONO (Indonesia)

We have only eight years to reach the Millennium Development Goal of halving poverty and hunger. One question remains to be answered: Are we on the right path towards achieving that goal? The agricultural sector plays a key role for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Consequently, FAO holds the position as the leading international organization which is indispensable to the implementation of the agricultural cooperation agenda that can make a better life for hundreds of millions of poor people.

It is believed that growth in the agricultural sector contributes directly to the attainment of food security and supports poverty reduction, while at the same time, playing a significant role in increasing all economic growth in most developing countries. This simple equation is exemplified in the case of Indonesia. The increase in rice production in 2007 as compared to that of 2006 is forecast to increase by 4.8 percent, and for corn, the increase is forecast to be 14.4 percent. Meanwhile, the economic growth may increase by 0.8 percent, from 5.5 percent in 2006 to 6.6 percent forecast for 2007. This undeniably will have the direct effect of lowering the poverty level by more than one percent, from 17.75 percent in 2006 to 16.6 percent in 2007. But, if poverty is measured by expenditures of one US dollar *per capita* per day, then the poverty level in 2007 was only 7.5 percent of the total population. Meanwhile, the number of extremely food-insecure people decreased to only 2.5 percent of the total population in 2007.

As one of the biggest agro-based countries with use of biodiversity, Indonesia has a strong commitment to sustainable agricultural development. For example, as the largest producers of crude palm oil, Indonesia is very concerned for the application of principles and criteria for sustainable palm oil towards a certified palm oil industry. I take this opportunity to strongly encourage our parties to strengthen our joint effort to implement the principles of sustainability for our agriculture. I believe FAO can play a more significant role in this matter.

In supporting Indonesian agricultural development, some projects facilitated by FAO and IFAD, such as the Special Program for Food Security (SPFS) and income generating for small farmers' projects, have been successfully implemented. Learning from the previous projects and approaches, it has been identified that the basic priority to ensuring the sustainability of agriculture programmes at the grass roots levels is to strengthen our agriculture extension and farmers' institutions, which subsequently will result in improving the position of the farmers. This has been piloted through developing village food programmes since 2005. Recently, the project has covered 600 villages and it will be expanded next year to cover another 10 000 villages.

Regarding Avian Influenza, I would like to thank FAO for its strong support and collaboration in preventing the spread of Avian influenza in Indonesia. Various actions to fight against Avian Influenza have also been well implemented, including the strengthening of institutions through the establishment of local disease control centres and participatory research and response at local district level.

Before I conclude, I would like to comment on the Independent External Evaluation Report which contains recommendations to make FAO a dynamic, effective, efficient and credible organization. I call all FAO Members to work together increasing the momentum to formulate the best strategic approach to follow up the Report. It will be wise to prioritize the FAO work programme in a more meaningful way.

The meeting rose at 13.20 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.20

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**

**FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

19 November 2007

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.42 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López.
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2007/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2007/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2007/2)
(continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

El Salvador, Iraq, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Mali, Finland, Angola, United Kingdom, Fiji, Philippines, Tunisia, South Africa, Israel, Honduras, Malaysia, Turkey, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nigeria, Netherlands, Guatemala, Sweden, Yemen, Cape Verde, Spain, Islamic Republic of Iran, Germany, Benin

PRESIDENTE

Continuamos con el Tema 5 que es del examen del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Invito a hacer uso de la palabra al representante de El Salvador, y ojalá cumplamos con la propuesta de cinco minutos por cada delegado.

Mario SALAVERRIA (El Salvador)

Es un verdadero privilegio encontrarme en este trascendental evento, foro de alto nivel sobre el Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Permítanme expresar mis felicitaciones al Sr. Director General de FAO por la organización de este magno evento y mis agradecimientos al Gobierno y pueblo italiano por su cálida hospitalidad. Al mismo tiempo, quiero agradecer a la FAO y a la cooperación internacional por el apoyo que han dado a nuestro país.

En los últimos años todos hemos sido testigos sobre los cambios que ha experimentado la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo, influenciado por los cambios climáticos, aumento de la demanda de alimentos y una búsqueda constante de alternativas energéticas. A nivel internacional el alza creciente del precio del petróleo ha afectado la generación de alimentos al aumentar los costos de producción agropecuarios y agroindustriales, especialmente por los derivados del petróleo como son los fertilizantes e insumos, el aumento del combustible para la utilización de maquinaria agrícola, fletes terrestres y marítimos.

Otro aspecto que es importante destacar es que hoy, para producir alimentos de forma eficiente y rentable se hace indispensable contar con más tecnología, para lo cual se necesitan fuertes inversiones. El precio de los principales productos agrícolas se ha incrementado, por ejemplo el trigo y la leche que han alcanzado récords históricos en el mercado internacional. El arroz se encuentra en su nivel más alto de los últimos 10 años. El maíz y la soya también están por encima de los precios promedio de hace una década y las carnes se han incrementado en diferentes países, especialmente por el alza del maíz amarillo y la soya.

Esta coyuntura mundial tiene un impacto directo en los consumidores en cada uno de nuestros países, incrementando el precio de la canasta básica de alimentos y el incremento de la inflación doméstica. Sin embargo, en El Salvador creemos que esta coyuntura internacional, si bien constituye un reto, también la consideramos una oportunidad muy clara para la agricultura ya que hoy más que nunca los Gobiernos debemos invertir más en el sector agropecuario para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y generar oportunidades de desarrollo en las zonas rurales.

En El Salvador, gracias al apoyo del Sr. Presidente de la República, Don Elías Antonio Saca, quien denominó su período de gobierno como el quinquenio del agro. Hemos superado el estancamiento del sector agropecuario y agro-industrial salvadoreño, pasando de una tasa de crecimiento negativo, en un crecimiento positivo acumulado en 3 años de gobierno del 17 por ciento.

Este crecimiento ha convertido al agro en uno de los sectores más dinámicos de la economía. En este mismo marco estamos implementado una serie de medidas de apoyo a los sectores productivos, bajo una política sectorial agropecuaria, que establece reglas claras y certidumbre a las inversiones agropecuarias y agroindustriales. Estamos trabajando fuertemente en la diversificación agropecuaria, invirtiendo en tecnología, riego e incentivando productos de mayor valor agregado como son hortalizas, frutas, pesca, acuicultura y etanol de la caña de azúcar, entre otros.

Por otra parte, con la entrada en vigencia del Tratado de Libre Comercio con los Estados Unidos, los resultados han sido muy positivos. En el año 2003, las exportaciones agropecuarias y agro-industriales hacia los Estados Unidos fueron de 120 millones de dólares, mientras que en el año 2006, pasamos a más de 337 millones de dólares, experimentando una tasa de crecimiento mayor al 180 por ciento. Para el año 2007 esperamos superar los 440 millones de dólares. Así también, hemos duplicado las exportaciones agropecuarias y agro-industriales al mundo, pasando de 500 millones de dólares a superar los 1 000 millones de dólares. Hemos disminuido sustancialmente las importaciones de productos agrícolas, gracias al incremento de la competitividad en nuestro sector.

En el camino en el que estamos empeñados, la asistencia de la FAO ha sido y debe continuar siendo vital para la consecución de nuestros objetivos nacionales. El Salvador considera que esta Organización debe mantenerse al día con los cambios que estamos viviendo y es por ello que esperamos que el ejercicio emprendido hace casi tres años, de realizar una Evaluación Externa e Independiente de este organismos, dé sus adecuados frutos, haciendo de la FAO una Organización más fuerte y más eficiente, con la adecuada capacidad de respuesta a las más urgentes necesidades de los Estados Miembros. Ante estos retos y desafíos que enfrentamos los países, es tarea de todos los gobiernos, organismos de cooperación internacional y sociedad civil, trabajar juntos en el fortalecimiento del sector agropecuario y agro-industrial, ya que lo que hagamos hoy constructivamente es lo que quedará grabado en el mañana de nuestra historia.

Abdul Latif Jamal RASHID (Iraq)

I'm very pleased to extend my congratulations to Mr Chairperson and his deputies for the election and I wish to them and to our conference all success. We all recall last month the FAO and most nations of the world, including my country Iraq, celebrating the World Food Day. The theme for this year of the World Food Day was "Right to Food", which was first recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This role is recognized in Iraq at all levels, people and state. We are working hard to implement this theme in a reasonable and practical way, and we support all means which may assist to achieve this noble goal. This is not only to secure food for our own people, but also to support other needy people in different parts of the world.

The agriculture sector in Iraq has an important role in the economic and social life and worth more than 50 percent of the manpower, and provides 30 percent of the needs of the citizens for nutrition. At present, it contributes 9 percent of Iraqi local production. The total area of Iraq is about 44 million hectares, out of which 11 million hectares are suitable for agriculture. However due to misuse and mismanagement and continuous wars and destructed by the previous regime,

this sector suffered a great deal which can be summarized as follows: neglect of the final farm products; interference of the State in small agri-business minimizing the role of private sector, lack of action by the State to credit small farmers; failure of the previous regime to conclude legal water treaties with our neighbouring countries in absence of the necessary and practical means of maintenance and operation of irrigation and drainage networks, low crop yields resulting from agriculture practices, implementing all methods in animal husbandry and the rest of products. In view of this and due to our great belief to be self-sufficient in the basic commodities with direct support from the Iraqi Government, the new Iraq has adopted a number of basic plans to rehabilitate the water resources and agricultural sector. Further, the Iraqi Government has taken a serious step called "agricultural initiation" to improve the sector with the necessary funds. The improvement will include supporting the agricultural products and gradual reduction of food subsidies, encouraging private sectors providing credit to small farmers, working to achieve legal water treaties with our neighbouring countries, cooperating on information exchange and operational procedures; adopting the concept of integrated land reclamation, establishing new irrigation projects in many areas of the country; introducing new technology; completing a number of small and large dams and networks, improving and maintaining the work on irrigation projects; restoring and developing the Marsh area, and integrating a development plan for the Southern part of the country.

We would like to have Iraq ratify regional and international treaties related to agricultural, environmental and water resources. I would like to add here that the required funding for these plans come to about US\$30 billion. Here we emphasize that it is essential for the new Iraq to allocate an increased budget, plan for the agricultural sector and draw up a proper development plan. In this regard, I would like to mention that many countries and agencies have already provided assistance in the form of loans or grants to fund these projects. Furthermore there are others with whom we are concluding negotiations to finance some vital projects for rehabilitation of irrigation and agricultural infrastructures. For those we extend our thanks, among them FAO, the Rajid contribution site to increase benefits for some specialized projects for practical implementation in Iraq, and according to suggested specification from Iraqi specialists.

We support the indication in the final Report of the Independent External Evaluation committee by the FAO and we look for a speedy implementation of this evaluation Report.

Finally, I would like to register our thanks to FAO Director-General and the FAO staff for the management of this programme in achieving the agricultural development for food production, as this a right of all human beings.

Im SANG-GYU (Republic of Korea)

I am honoured to deliver the address on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea at this Conference, and would like to express my deep appreciation to the Director-General and the FAO Secretariat for arranging such a wonderful meeting here in Rome.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate Mr Carlos Vallejo Lopez on being elected as Chairperson for this Conference. I hope that the Conference will be of a great success under your excellent leadership.

FAO is celebrating the Sixty-second Anniversary this year since its establishment in 1945. Nobody denies the fact that, for all those years, FAO has made a great contribution to improving the nutritive conditions and alleviating hunger and poverty around the world.

Furthermore, since the Thirty-third Session of the Conference, FAO has conducted the overall reform and the Independent External Evaluation of the Organization to properly respond to the changing environment and meet new demands.

I believe that by reflecting the results of the IEE and through cooperation with Member Nations, FAO will finally deal with an imminent challenge of efficient alleviation of hunger and poverty, and actively tackle such new challenges as climate change, biodiversity and bio-energy.

Recent events such as the spread of transboundary animal diseases and degradation of the environment increase concerns and worries of the international society with regard to sustainable agriculture and food safety.

To achieve the world's food security and food safety, each Region should first establish a network according to its special characteristics and expand mutual cooperation. Under the keen understanding of the necessity of such work, Korea has been building networks and conducting cooperation projects in fields such as agricultural policy, animal and plant quarantine, water management and food culture.

Korea will actively join the endeavours of FAO in overcoming poverty by increasing our support to the projects for which the concerted efforts of the international society are needed.

As a foundation for healthier diets for humankind, we need to teach our children to think about not only the food they eat but also about agriculture and their community.

I hope that FAO will play a leading role in introducing excellent traditional food of Member Nations and contribute to the improvement of the dietary and cultural exchanges of humankind.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce to all of you the Korean traditional food which was recognized by WHO as a good example of a nutritionally-balanced one Kimchi, the Korean traditional food for which Codex set the standard in 2001 by recognizing it as a food for the world, was introduced in the US magazine "*Health*" as one of the five most healthy foods in the world. The Korean Government is planning to launch a project introducing and promoting Korean food to the world, and will make every effort to make a contribution to the improvement of human health and culture.

World food security can be achieved through an efficient harmonisation of production and trade of each country. Therefore, at the ongoing WTO/Doha negotiations, flexibility should be given to allow Members to maintain an appropriate level of domestic production considering the need for food security, and the interests of importing and exporting countries should be reflected in a balanced manner.

Also, some countries which are highly dependent on importing agricultural goods are loudly expressing their concerns regarding skyrocketing international prices of grain following recent the increased cultivation of agricultural products for bio-energy. With regard to this issue, I would like to ask FAO to analyse the comprehensive effects of bio-energy production on food security and rural development and provide suggestions for alleviation of poverty and hunger.

We all agreed that FAO needed reform with growth based on the IEE which was conducted with the full support of all Members after the Thirty-third Session of the Conference. I hope that FAO, by humbly accepting the results of the IEE and setting a future direction, will be reborn as an international organization which efficiently and actively responds to the needs of Member Nations.

Mohamed Elamin KHABBASHI EISA (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

It's a great pleasure for me to address this audience on the occasion of this Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference. On behalf of the Government of Sudan, I would like to express my warmest greeting to the Heads of Delegations of all countries participating. I would like to congratulate the Chairperson on his appointment and wish him the very best in his work. We re-emphasise our commitment to put our delegation at his service in meeting the objectives of the Conference.

The questions of agricultural development and sustainable development are among the most important on the international agenda and at every level. We can consider the performance indicators that are used to try and determine how far along we are with meeting the Millennium Development Goals. One of these lead us to conclude that, unfortunately, we're falling far short of our aims and that's why it's all the more necessary to redouble our efforts. This is important for everybody, developing or developed nations. We have to make sure that we can give the agricultural sector the resources they require. There are some important issues which are going to be tackled at the margins of this Conference Session and they are issues that must be fully taken into consideration in order to meet our objectives. Competitiveness is an imperative in this world, and we must have a shared vision in order to boost the capacity of producers so that they can improve their performance in terms of quality controls and safety and to make sure that there's greater agricultural and rural financing.

In my country we've been trying to develop the agricultural sector. We've made food security a strategic objective and we've done this by stepping up our public expenditure. We've announced an agricultural revolution for the period 2006 and 2011. We've put in place financial and institutional policies to try and create a better investment climate and increase farmer income. We have lessened both the tax and the customs burdens and we've re-allocated part of our oil revenues to try and meet these targets. We have tried to put all of this on a fast-track and to make sure that agricultural sector financing takes up 43 percent of our development financing. We have increased the capital of the agricultural bank, we've restructured it to make sure rural financing institutions help small producers by providing savings, credit and insurance services. In this first year of operations, we have made tangible progress and this has been seen in terms of the production of maize and wheat. In future years, we're going to be using modern technology to improve productivity, we shall choose crops that have a very high food value.

All of the changes we've seen take place, both on the international stage and locally, climate change and globalisation, etc. All of this requires cooperation from everybody within FAO. We must have a shared vision, we must make sure that we can all benefit from everybody's capacities so that we can really tackle these challenges. We very much welcome the Reform that is underway in the Organization. We believe we can make all its activities more effective in a quicker decision-making process by Member Nations and we very much welcome the Organization's increased role and the bureau's role in Sudan. We believe we must develop the agricultural sector in our country and we thank the Organization for its cooperation, with which we've been able to put in place a strategic plan in the medium-term for the national food security. All of this has been done hand-in-hand with the strategic planning of the Sudanese government. We have a Green Revolution and we've been able to help the food security deficit in our country and our Region.

We would very much like to thank all countries who have given us their support on this. By way of conclusion, let me express a vote of thanks to FAO and to its management at all levels for its unstinting efforts to improve the agricultural sector. We very much hope that the resolutions of this Conference will be fully implemented.

Sangaré TIÉMOKO (Mali)

Je voudrais au nom de ma délégation, adresser mon salut à l'ensemble des participants à la 34^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO. Par la même occasion, le Président de la République du Mali, Son Excellence, Amadou Toumani Touré, nouvellement réélu, le Premier Ministre, Modibo Sidibé et le Gouvernement du Mali transmettent leurs vœux de succès à nos assises qui sont d'une grande importance pour l'avenir de nos pays et de nos peuples.

Je voudrais manifester, par ailleurs, notre solidarité avec tous les pays qui, comme le nôtre, ont été victimes d'inondations au cours de ces derniers mois, manifestation évidente et dramatique des effets des changements climatiques dont l'humanité souffre actuellement.

J'adresse également nos félicitations aux nouveaux membres de l'Organisation, notamment la Principauté d'Andorre, le Monténégro et les Iles Féroé.

Il est admis que l'agriculture est une des branches les plus importantes de la production matérielle. Elle fournit les denrées alimentaires indispensables à la vie de l'homme et des matières premières diverses à partir desquelles les industries légères et alimentaires produisent de multiples articles de grande consommation.

Dans tous les pays, le bien-être de millions d'hommes dépend de l'état et du développement de l'agriculture, des formes sociales de son organisation, de son niveau technique et professionnel et de la façon dont est répartie sa production.

Pour une lutte efficace contre la faim et la pauvreté, la communauté internationale a unanimement reconnu ces dernières années, le rôle central de l'agriculture comme moteur du développement économique et social des pays en développement. Nous pensons aux objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, aux nombreuses conférences internationales à l'exemple du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, au Sommet mondial sur le développement durable de Johannesburg, de la Conférence internationale sur le financement du développement de Monterrey, des Conférences tenues par l'Organisation mondiale du commerce et des nombreux Sommets des Chefs d'État africains à l'exemple de ceux de Maputo et de Syrte.

Ces rencontres ont été l'occasion d'engagements pris pour impulser la croissance de nos pays en conférant les ressources adéquates au développement agricole. Parmi ces engagements, il convient de citer celui pris par les pays développés d'affecter 0,7 pourcent de leur PNB à l'aide au développement et celui de nos États d'affecter au moins 10 pourcent de leur Budget au développement de l'agriculture sur cinq ans. Depuis, des efforts, certes, ont été déployés, mais l'essentiel reste encore à faire dans la mesure où l'insécurité alimentaire continue de sévir dans la plupart des pays du monde, particulièrement dans ceux de l'Afrique subsaharienne.

La FAO nous a rappelé que sur les 854 millions de personnes qui souffrent de sous-alimentation, 820 se trouvent dans les pays en développement et pour la majorité en Afrique. Ce constat amer interpelle nos consciences. Nous avons la responsabilité, tant au niveau de nos pays qu'au sein des institutions où nous assumons leur représentation, de définir les politiques les meilleures et de prendre les mesures les plus appropriées pour sortir nos populations de la précarité alimentaire et de la pauvreté.

Au Mali, le Projet pour le Développement économique et social, proposé par le Président Amadou Toumani Touré et mis en œuvre actuellement, met l'accent sur la primauté accordée au développement agricole pour l'avènement d'un Mali débarrassé de la faim et de la pauvreté. De manière volontariste, la contribution du budget d'État au financement du secteur agricole passe de 14 à 20 pourcent pour les cinq prochaines années. Dans ce choix, qui fait de l'agriculture le levier fondamental du développement du Mali, un accent particulier est mis sur les cultures céréalières pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire de la population.

Le Développement de l'agriculture est donc parmi les priorités du Président de la République et de son Gouvernement. La Loi d'orientation agricole adoptée le 5 septembre 2006, véritable instrument de valorisation et de croissance de notre potentiel agricole, consacre notre stratégie globale de développement agricole.

La célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation de cette année a été placée sous le thème du "Droit à l'alimentation", répondant à une nécessité pour toutes les populations du Globe composées en majorité d'enfants qui souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition malgré toutes les ressources dont l'humanité dispose.

L'aide alimentaire à ceux qui en éprouvent le besoin doit se faire judicieusement et selon les principes de solidarité, d'éthique, de morale, sans nuire au devoir et à la responsabilité de toute nation de pourvoir à la réalisation du droit à l'alimentation adéquate au bénéfice de ses populations.

La République du Mali accorde une attention particulière au développement des secteurs de la pêche et de l'élevage dans nos pays. Le développement de l'élevage qui regorge de potentialités pour notre pays reste confronté à la maîtrise des maladies infectieuses transfrontalières et autres

zoonoses qui limitent les échanges entre notre pays, et la valorisation de notre bétail. Le développement agricole est étroitement lié au développement des ressources naturelles et en particulier des forêts, dont le rôle est central dans la lutte contre la production de gaz à effet de serre qui influe négativement sur l'évolution climatique en détruisant la couche d'ozone.

A l'image de l'agriculture mondiale, notre pays est aujourd'hui confronté aux effets désastreux des changements climatiques, de la hausse vertigineuse des cours mondiaux du pétrole et des déprédateurs.

Dans notre ambition de faire de l'agriculture l'un des principaux leviers pour la réalisation de l'objectif numéro 1 des OMD, d'autres défis ont pour nom la garantie d'un accès équitable aux marchés mondiaux pour les produits agricoles des pays en développement, l'élimination de pratiques déloyales telles les subventions agricoles pratiquées par les pays en développement et autres barrières tarifaires.

On ne peut aujourd'hui parler de développement agricole sans relever et saluer le rôle majeur que la FAO joue dans ce contexte. Notre pays suit avec intérêt la vie de notre Organisation. Notre pays a suivi le processus de réforme de la FAO et y a apporté une contribution financière modeste mais hautement symbolique de notre volonté d'apporter un appui à cette initiative à laquelle nous croyons et qui fut endossée par la 24^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO qui s'est déroulée au Mali.

Le Mali a salué la mise en œuvre de l'Evaluation externe indépendante de la FAO. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous avons pris une part active aux travaux dès le départ. Le Rapport qui a été produit constitue une bonne base de négociations pour le futur de la FAO. C'est pourquoi, nous accordons une attention toute particulière à la Résolution que la Conférence aura à adopter à cet effet.

Nous avons parlé des attentes que nous plaçons comme toujours en la FAO mais le corollaire en est la dotation de l'Organisation en ressources suffisantes.

Aussi, partageons-nous l'avis émis par le Directeur Général en introduction qui dit que "L'Organisation ne peut continuer à fonctionner de manière satisfaisante et répondre aux attentes des Membres si les Membres eux-mêmes n'envisagent pas des solutions durables et n'appuient pas leur Organisation". C'est pourquoi, nous voulons fermement marquer notre soutien sans ambiguïté pour un Budget consolidé de maintenance proposé par le Secrétariat qui permettra à l'Organisation de connaître un fonctionnement à la hauteur de la situation.

Nous exhortons donc les Membres à s'acquitter également de leurs contributions aux ressources de l'Organisation.

Ms Sirkka-Liisa ANTTILA (Finland)

It is a great pleasure for me to address this Conference today. We are here to take important steps concerning the future of the Organization. First of all, I would like to congratulate every party that has been involved in the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. The schedule and the whole process have been challenging, but the firm commitment of the Member Nations, the Secretariat and the evaluators has made it possible to finalise the work on time. We consider the recommendations of the Evaluation to form a good basis for the renewal of FAO, and look forward to them guiding the road ahead of us.

The evaluation process has strengthened our view of the role of FAO as a global lead agency in food security, agriculture, forestry and fishery-related issues. The vast information base and experience of the Organization needs to be harnessed fully to improve the lives and livelihoods of people in a sustainable way. We are concerned about the food insecurity that continues to affect the lives of a large number of people due to the adverse climate conditions but also due to human actions. Finland therefore emphasises the roles of the Governments to the enhancement of democracy, rule of law and fight against corruption for creating a conducive environment for food security. We also call for a more determined fight against climate change to ensure that food can be produced all over the world, also in the future.

Coming from Finland, we consider the role of forests of utmost importance. Forests are carbon sinks that slow down the global warming. Forests produce renewable raw material for bioenergy, provide food and shelter for people and livestock, and are very important for water management. Forests also preserve biological diversity. We were pleased to note the positive assessment of the Evaluation regarding the work of FAO Forestry Department. We would like to encourage the Organization to maintain the high level of its forestry-related work and continue playing its vital coordination role at the global forestry debates.

Mr. Chairperson, we know the vital role women play in achieving food security in the world. Women need to be empowered to fulfil their role of crucial economic actors which requires, for example, the equal access to productive resources such as land and knowledge. The Evaluation highlighted shortcomings in FAO's work in gender mainstreaming and we would like to urge, once more, the Organization to strengthen the gender perspective at all levels. There is an obvious need to raise gender awareness and provide advice to national governments. We also strongly recommend FAO to improve its gender-disaggregated data collection and act as a resource and information bank in this regard. For example, today we would have benefited from a gender-disaggregated presentation of the State of Food and Agriculture report. Since we all recognise the importance of the matter, let us put it into practice.

Alfonso Pedro CANGA (Angola)

C'est un grand honneur pour moi et pour la délégation qui m'accompagne, de prendre la parole dans cette Trente-quatrième Session de la Conférence de la FAO et c'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que je m'associe aux orateurs présents pour exprimer ma satisfaction à Monsieur le Président et aux autres Membres du Bureau que je félicite pour leur élection.

Nous profitons également de cette occasion pour saluer et remercier au nom de mon Gouvernement le Directeur Général de la FAO pour l'appui qu'il ne cesse de fournir à mon Gouvernement et à mon pays dans nos efforts pour améliorer la production alimentaire et éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté.

En ce qui concerne la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et l'agriculture, nous constatons avec plaisir les résultats positifs enregistrés dans certains pays d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Amérique Latine qui se sont produits au cours des dernières années pour augmenter la production et réduire le nombre de personnes malnutries.

Au niveau de l'Afrique, l'Angola est l'un des pays qui est arrivé à réduire le nombre des personnes malnutries, grâce aux politiques et stratégies du Gouvernement orientées pour la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté, principalement en milieu rural, où vit la majorité de la population.

Malgré les efforts que les pays en développement sont en train de fournir et l'engagement continu des institutions internationales, avec une mention spéciale à la FAO, nous sommes encore loin d'atteindre les objectifs fixés par le Sommet Mondial de l'Alimentation (CMA) et les objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

À cet égard, il est nécessaire et urgent d'augmenter le niveau des investissements dans les secteurs de l'agriculture et des pêches, d'établir des politiques et des stratégies cohérentes et de leurs relations justes dans le commerce international des produits agricoles.

Mon Gouvernement considère la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et le combat contre la faim et la pauvreté comme un problème d'État et, par conséquent, ils constituent une priorité dans nos Programmes de Développement Economique et Social.

À cet effet, sont en cours de réalisation la réhabilitation des infrastructures productives et sociales telles que les routes les systèmes d'irrigation, les systèmes d'approvisionnement en eau et en énergie.

Il faut souligner que le Programme "Eau pour tous" de l'initiative présidentielle vise à fournir l'eau potable en qualité et quantité suffisante aux populations rurales.

D'autre part, un processus de restructuration du système de commercialisation des produits agricoles, est en cours dans lequel nous voulons dynamiser en même temps les actions de formation, la recherche et l'extension rurale.

Il faut également souligner la création par le Gouvernement de la Banque de Développement d'Angola qui a comme mission de financer des projets du secteur productif, en priorisant les filières du secteur agricole et des pêches.

Il est également de mon devoir de souligner l'augmentation du budget alloué à l'agriculture qui permettra de réaliser des projets de développement agricole et rural.

Le savoir est la clé du développement. Cependant, nous constatons, avec préoccupation, que beaucoup d'agriculteurs, principalement dans les pays en développement n'ont pas accès ou un accès limité aux techniques et technologies avancées de production. Pour cela, ils sont dans l'impossibilité d'augmenter leurs rendements de façon soutenue.

A cet effet, nous lançons et encourageons les institutions de coopération bilatérale et multilatérale, d'appuyer les pays qui en ont besoin pour développer et fortifier leurs systèmes de formation, de recherche et d'extension. Sur cet élément nous considérons d'extrême importance la Coopération Sud-Sud.

Les questions liées au commerce international des produits agricoles méritent une attention particulière de notre part, car il est impératif qu'il y ait justice dans le commerce des produits agricoles pour que les producteurs et les consommateurs en aient un bénéfice soutenu. Pour cela, nous reconnaissons les efforts déployés par nos pays en vue de mettre fin aux pratiques injustes et préjudiciables au commerce international des produits agricoles.

Je souhaiterais également qu'en matière de bioénergie une analyse approfondie soit effectuée afin d'identifier de façon claire toutes les implications liées à la sécurité alimentaire et à la réduction de la pauvreté.

Pour terminer, Monsieur le Président nous voudrions saluer l'admission du Monténégro, de l'Andorre et de Îles Féroé dans cette grande famille qu'est la FAO.

Gareth THOMAS (United Kingdom)

FAO's State of Food and Agriculture Report this year is, as in previous years, an excellent publication. The world certainly needs a UN Organization that is capable and determined to lead effectively the international community's response to the issues highlighted in the Report. At the moment though, FAO is not that Organization although it has the potential undoubtedly to be so.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals is the greatest challenge facing the world today. Last week our Prime Minister spoke about the urgent need for multilateral institutions fit for the Twenty-First Century to help meet that challenge. The UN is the most important part of this System, but it does need Reform. Specialized Agencies need to be Centres of Excellence trusted as honest brokers operating with the highest levels of efficiency to help fulfill their mandates.

Now Reform is, of course, underway throughout the UN and we in the United Kingdom will support that Reform and we will have extra money to support that Reform. The high level panel on System-wide Coherence is beginning to lead to improvements to how the System works including the UN One pilots at country level. A number of Agencies, including here in Rome, are placing emphasis on strategy, efficiency, delivery and above all, results. But we want to see faster progress on the Panel's recommendations for UN Reform. More than ever, the world needs a strong FAO. But we also know that FAO in spite of the excellent work it is capable of is not presently up to the job. The Independent External Evaluation therefore provides us with a huge opportunity. If we the Membership and the staff of FAO together can implement fully the IEE's recommendations, then we will create an effective and trusted Agency that can address issues of the highest importance for our collective future. But if we miss this opportunity then the credibility of FAO to lead the UN's work on agriculture will be damaged beyond measure.

In short we need a UN System that helps build the capacity of Member Nations not merely replicates what they already have and tells them what they already know. A world-class System with world class people should be our aim.

For those high-performing UN Agencies and operations who share this vision, who commit to Reform including working together as one, then the United Kingdom will commit to providing longer-term more assured funding, but we will give less support to those who fail to meet the challenge.

The Independent External Evaluation has made it clear that FAO does not yet qualify and identifies problems of inefficiency, lack of strategy and limited impact. Poor people cannot wait any longer for change. I do not think that the Membership can wait even for another year. Tackling Reform is now a matter of extreme urgency, we need to get moving, there are things that FAO's Management can start doing next week while the Immediate Action Plan is being prepared, and if the Organization can demonstrate its seriousness over the next year, then we will be prepared to review the situation at the Special Session of the Conference proposed for 2008.

The United Kingdom would, subject to performance benchmarks and milestones that I hope that this Conference can identify, be in a position to provide additional resources within this biennium, but we would need to be convinced by progress on Reform in spirit and in the letter.

I am optimistic that FAO can do this, but what if this opportunity is missed, if FAO does not become the leaner, effective, flexible Organization the world needs to help survive climate change, if we do not see real Reform, should we simply return to Zero Nominal Growth budgets? I do not think so. Frankly if Reform does not work this time, I wonder what point there would be in remaining in Membership. I really hope that we will never get to that situation. I think that our collective first priority should be improved governance as well as making the executive functions of the Council and the Technical Committees effective. I think that we must change this Conference, too, into one that deals effectively with the issues concerned to the world. Almost all Members are represented by Ministers, but looking around I can see few in the audience. We come as Ministers, we speak and we leave with little opportunity for a proper exchange of views.

I think that we must modernize the management and administration of this Organization, especially delegated authorities and management of human resources. We must give FAO an operational strategy, a framework within which we and all in FAO can prioritize and work on common goals. Immediately by the Special Session of the Conference in 2008, there should be some practical examples of Reform already underway. Why not appoint Assistant Director-Generals to lead Working Groups for each cluster of the IEE early actions? Now I am optimistic that all the efforts that went into the IEE will not be wasted, our goals were right and they were shared across the Membership and that reflect the importance to all of us, but especially to the world's poorest people of food, agriculture, forest, fisheries, etc. The list is long, but these issues are too important for us to be satisfied with anything less than a fully effective and efficient Agency. That is the opportunity for all of us. We believe that FAO can and will deliver, but we want to see genuine Reform.

Jainend KUMAR (Fiji)

Agriculture plays a critical role in Fiji's economic development. It continues to fulfill the role as a main source of employment with approximately 54 percent of the population depending on it for their livelihood. Significantly, the sector has a crucial role to play as a major provider of food, particularly in addressing the food security needs of the population and at the same time a significant contributor of some 40 percent of countries revenue.

We welcome the findings of the Independent External Evaluation Committee which has identified many positive contributions in regards to the role of and achievements of FAO. The Report articulates many challenges for the Organization which merits detailed consideration, particularly with regard to the management, governance and resourcing by FAO. Importantly, it also describes a broad range of possible responses to address these challenges which are both comprehensive and also quite descriptive. We trust that there will be no reduction in resources to service

countries in the Pacific. I wish to reiterate the call by the Pacific Ministers of Agriculture in our meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands this year, where we decided that current Reform within FAO should not affect negatively on the present capacity at the FAO Sub-regional Office of the Pacific to deliver its services for the benefit of its Members.

The Independent External Evaluation Report has clearly addressed some of the currently delivery modalities of FAO technical assistance, notably the Technical Cooperation Programme, which has been very successful to date. However, we noted that the IEE had some reservations on small grants, such as the Telefood Programme. Small countries in the Pacific Islands with very limited capacity to implement bigger projects, such as Technical Cooperation Projects, find that small-scale projects such as Telefood are more effective in targeting food insecure communities of our nations.

The Regional Programme for Food Security is nearing completion with the extension phase starting in the year 2008. In our meeting in Majuro, Marshall Islands in May this year, the Ministers from the Pacific Islands countries overwhelmingly endorsed the implementation of the extension phase, which will have a significant impact in increasing agricultural production and food security for all our people in the Pacific.

We would like to thank FAO and the Italian Government for their financial contribution, which has enabled the implementation of the pilot and the extension phase of the RPFS. We certainly look forward to the commencement of the extension phase, which will further enhance food security and livelihood for all our people in the Pacific Sub-region. We also call on our developing partners to lend your support in the implementation of this programme.

The International Plant Production Convention is playing an important role by providing a framework, building technical capacity and regulatory infrastructure to ensure that developing countries effectively participate in international trade of plant and plant products. The Independent Evaluation of IPPC in 2007, recommended additional resources to facilitate the implementation of the convention and ensuring a focus on better coordination of plant production capacity-building and regulatory infrastructure. International Phytosanitary Development Standards are seen by most parties as a priority. The provision of additional resources to progressively deliver five standards annually as outlined in the IPPC Business Plan adopted earlier this year should be accorded the highest priority.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and its impact on resource sustainability is a matter of high international concern. Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing has been undermining the national and international efforts in managing fisheries in a responsible way. We certainly support FAO's efforts to develop and implement National and Regional Action Plans to combat IUU Fishing.

We totally support FAO's efforts in promoting Sustainable Forest Management to ensure that forest resources are sustainably managed to meet the social, economic and cultural needs of our people and for future generations.

The Government of Fiji is currently pursuing a revision of the National Forest Policy with financial assistance from two key partners, the SPC FAO Forestry Programmes and the SPC GTZ Pacific Regional Forestry Programme. The revised forestry focuses on the sustainable development of forest resources based on best management practices and forest management guidelines. This is relevant to the Fijian context. The policy also aims to strengthen and reflect forestry-related development links to other factors, targeting poverty alleviation, gender, alternative livelihoods and emerging issues such as climate change, trade and marketing.

We would like to acknowledge the support of FAO, SPC, GTZ in this regard. Fiji's priority the next two years in terms of FAO assistance will focus on the national agricultural centres, which will be implemented in 2008.

In closing, the Government of Fiji is appreciative of the work of FAO through its honourable Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf for efforts exerted in ensuring sustainable food security and

rural development in Fiji. During the last five years, Fiji has been the largest recipient of FAO assistance in the Pacific Sub-region to which we are very grateful. In particular I would like to thank the Sub-regional Office for the Pacific for their support and guidance.

As FAO's partners in the Sub-region, we will continue to support FAO's concerted efforts to reduce hunger and poverty in our small part of the world.

Arthur C. YAP (Philippines)

Allow me first to extend our warmest congratulations to His Excellency Carlos Vallejo López of Ecuador for his election as Chairperson of this momentous Conference. These greetings also extend to your bureau. It is definitely a pleasure to meet His Excellency Jacques Diouf once again since our Manila meeting when the FAO conferred the highly-coveted CERES AWARD on our President, Madame Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Allow me likewise to join our colleagues in welcoming our new Members Andorra and Montenegro, and Associate Member Faroe Islands, to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

For the first time since the 1970s, I am pleased to share with you that the Philippines is growing more than 5 percent in four consecutive years (2004-2007). The Philippines under President Arroyo's term has experienced 27 consecutive quarters of growth, the longest period of economic expansion in Philippine post-war history. It is a story of political will despite great odds to legislate new revenue measures, it is a story of intensified infrastructure and social spending to build the nation in a global region known for high growth and rising incomes,

However, despite this favourable growth trend, much needs to be done to address poverty reduction, hunger mitigation and job creation. Agriculture, directly responsible for the jobs of more than 12 million Filipinos and much more indirectly, a sector which commands 20 percent of the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product, needs to grow at a sustained pace beyond 4 percent to be able to lift millions out of poverty. This year, we will have a chance to do that but we come to this world body to declare that in this battle to save lives and build futures, we cannot leave matters to "chance". The fact that agriculture is so much dependent on the vagaries of the weather demands that we prescribe solutions that are deliberate, and well-studied, for the application not just of a few nations, but application for the whole family of nations led by a strong, united and competent FAO.

Our Government is intervening by putting in place hunger-mitigating measures such as increasing food production, enhancing efficiency of logistics and food delivery, promoting good nutrition, and increasing rural incomes through agri-business. We are investing in roads, irrigation, better technology, post-harvest support, market access and finding ways to address rural credit and insurance needs. The fundamental challenge is how to grow faster at higher and sustainable levels and bring about broad-based growth that will uplift the lives of Filipinos through agriculture.

GDP growth originating in agriculture is reported to be about four times more effective in raising incomes of extremely poor people than GDP growth originating outside the sector. Thus, the growth potentials of the sector should be unleashed in order to benefit a majority of the poor who rely on agriculture and fisheries for a living.

It is encouraging to note that the 2008 World Development Report puts agriculture afresh at the centre of the development agenda. There is a realisation that agriculture and the rural sector has been neglected and underinvested over the past 20 years. Only 4 percent of Official Development Assistance, for example, go into Agriculture. Aid for Agriculture as a share of total aid declined from 20 percent in the early 1980s to 8 percent at the end of the century. ODA commitments devoted to agriculture have declined by 10 percent, despite the 68 percent increase in aid flows from 1980 to 2003.

Taking account of the different context of opportunities and challenges in agriculture on a per country, regional and global basis, FAO must push for more and smarter investments in agriculture to spur growth in the sector. Agriculture in least developed and developing countries must be supported to become an attractive investment area for financiers by minimizing the risks and maximizing returns from agricultural activities.

We make a strong call for the following:

Firstly, strong rural infrastructure foundations for agriculture and fisheries.

Secondly, facilities for trade and agri-business financing in the realm not only of production but in processing, value-adding, logistics, access to local, regional and global markets. There is a recognition that for the Development Agenda of the Doha Round to reach and benefit the most impoverished of our brethren, "aid-for trade" cannot remain a slogan, but a reality for developing nation Members.

Thirdly, FAO must move for a greater understanding, capacity-building, training and extension for technical and regulatory matters in the fields of food safety and health. In a borderless trading order, food safety and health cannot be used as an excuse to hinder but to promote the greater flow of trade.

Fourthly, FAO must move for integrating the efforts of the agriculture production sector with other members of the private sector engaged in processing, supply logistics, transportation and distribution in the local and international arenas.

Fifthly, FAO must put greater efforts in calling for renewed multilateral partnerships and financing in confronting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Finally, the rising costs of fuel and our regard for public health, the environment and natural ecosystems have also prompted the Philippines to go into bio-fuel development. Bio-fuels have the great potential to alter not only the face of energy production and consumption and the environment, but the entire paradigm of agriculture as well. We call on greater research and cooperation on the sharing of technology, efforts and investments in the area of bio-fuels research and production.

I end with a reminder that as much as we are in conclave here as a family of nations, committed to feeding the world in the context of eradicating poverty, we must do so with great care and fidelity, to the recognition that we are but stewards of our Earth's resources for generations yet to come, stewards for fragile and scarce resources for the use and enjoyment of all mankind, today and for all time.

Mohamed Habib HADDAD (Tunisia)

Nous voudrions également remercier Monsieur Jaques Diouf et son équipe pour les efforts immenses qui ont été déployés et qu'ils continuent de déployer pour traduire les politiques et les programmes de l'Organisation. En réalité, je voudrais aussi féliciter les réunions de haut niveau et l'idée d'organiser ces réunions. Les lignes directrices ont été très bien choisies, elles sont fidèles à nos intérêts premiers. Nous attendons beaucoup de ces réunions qui, pour nous, vont être un moyen d'enrichir notre dialogue et de mettre notre expérience en commun.

Monsieur le Président, malgré tout le développement scientifique et technique du domaine de l'agriculture, nous avons encore, pour grande priorité au plan national et international, d'aller plus loin en agriculture devant les énormes défis que nous rencontrons dans un secteur tellement vital.

Aujourd'hui, et plus que jamais, nous devons absolument améliorer nos résultats, notre productivité en qualité et en quantité tenant compte, en particulier, de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire aujourd'hui. On voit que nous sommes bien en-deçà des résultats que nous voulions

obtenir. Nous nous débattons contre un manque de ressources naturelles, des ressources qui sont de plus en plus rares, nous rencontrons aussi des conditions peu favorables à la production: climat, changement climatique, par exemple, catastrophes naturelles, sécheresse, inondations dans toutes les régions du monde, dans beaucoup d'entre elles, avec aussi, davantage de demandes sur les produits de base. Ce qui découle de l'amélioration de la richesse dans beaucoup de pays, de l'augmentation démographique aussi. On atteindra les neuf millions à l'horizon 2050 et la chose s'exacerbe encore avec ce que nous voyons sur les marchés internationaux, c'est-à-dire une augmentation astronomique du prix des hydrocarbures et des carburants. Ce qui a des retombées immédiates sur le stockage, la vente, la distribution et les prix des carburants et aussi des produits de base telles que les céréales. Nous sommes pris à la gorge, la situation est inquiétante. La dégradation de la situation alimentaire, en particulier dans le monde en développement, d'après la FAO devrait voir pour 2007-2008 un résultat de 52 milliards de dollars de moins pour les pays en voie de développement, une perte sèche qui va à l'encontre des programmes de développement et là, nous invitons toutes les organisations internationales pertinentes à tout faire absolument pour stabiliser les prix et mettre un point final à cette situation qui, au bout du compte, risquerait à des pratiques déloyales du commerce: monopole, spéculation qui aggraverait encore l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, tous ces grands défis, que faut-il faire pour les relever? Des mesures d'urgence doivent être prises au plan des méthodes de travail dans le cadre de nos programmes de travail pour contrecarrer les effets négatifs de cette tendance et pour pouvoir avancer sur la voie des OMD. Nous félicitons tout le personnel de l'EEI et le groupe de travail qui ont mis ces initiatives en œuvre, en très peu de temps finalement, et nous félicitons tous ceux qui nous ont permis d'arriver à des recommandations bien pesées, bien pensées, efficaces et qui sont une excellente référence pour nos programmes du futur et pour une meilleure utilisation de nos ressources autant financières qu'humaines.

Les résultats de l'Évaluation ont mis en lumière toute la pertinence de la FAO, ont fait voir combien grands étaient son domaine de compétence et ses connaissances.

Je vous invite à suivre les recommandations de l'EEI en ce qui concerne l'amélioration des méthodes de travail. Pour nous, c'est un travail qui est logique, qui a un caractère absolument obligatoire, qui est quelque chose de fondamental pour cette organisation qui a quelques 60 ans si l'on veut dépasser les difficultés actuelles et la voir jouer son rôle d'une manière plus efficace, plus moderne, mieux adaptée à la situation actuelle, toujours en plein changement dans le domaine social comme dans le domaine économique.

Je voudrais redire que nous sommes absolument d'accord avec les grandes conclusions, la grande conclusion de l'EEI quant au futur de la FAO: la Réforme dans la Croissance. Nous voudrions souligner l'importance aussi de conjuguer les efforts et les intérêts de toutes les parties prenantes et l'importance d'avoir de bons investissements financiers pour que ces recommandations théoriques deviennent réalité.

La Tunisie, grâce à la politique financière globale que nous devons au Président Ben Ali, a pu avancer de façon constante sur la ligne de la Croissance malgré toutes nos difficultés et toutes les difficultés de l'économie internationale, que l'on a bien vu au cours des ces dernières années. Grâce à ces politiques, on a pu accuser 5 pourcent d'augmentation de PIB sur les dix dernières années et à une augmentation de revenus par habitant de 7,3 pourcent sur ces vingt dernières années et une baisse de la pauvreté de 3,8 pourcent.

On a réussi également à élargir le segment de la classe moyenne, une classe moyenne qui fait à peu près les $\frac{3}{4}$ de la population maintenant. En agriculture, on a octroyé de grandes priorités à ce domaine dans notre politique du développement avec toute une série de projets pilotes et de réformes à caractère structurel. Tout cela, nous a permis aussi, de continuer dans la réforme, réforme de l'immobilier, de l'investissement et du crédit.

Tous ces éléments de réforme ont été fort bien reçus par les agriculteurs, par toutes les parties intéressées, avec des retombées extrêmement positives sur le secteur agricole de la Tunisie.

La production a connu 65 pourcent d'augmentation entre 1987 et 2006 par rapport à la période d'avant qui allait jusqu'à 1986. Nous devrions arriver à notre autonomie en produits de base avec les céréales, la viande, les légumes et les produits laitiers.

Nous avons mis sur pied différents programmes de stabilisation des prix, de l'énergie et des produits de base agricoles essayant d'aller vers des énergies alternatives et renouvelables. Nous avons pris toutes sortes de mesures pour soutenir les grands domaines de l'agriculture, par exemple, augmentation de 22 à peu près à 50 pourcent dans le prix des céréales et nous avons aussi réussi à prêter assistance aux petites exploitations pour les aider à maintenir le prix et la qualité des semences.

Monsieur le Président, ce ne sont là que quelques exemples de tous les efforts que la Tunisie a fait et les résultats obtenus jusqu'à présent dans le domaine de l'effort du développement général et complet.

Nous essayons au plan international d'aller vers la coopération et la sécurité et plus loin, en essayant d'arriver au droit de l'homme fondamental qui est la sécurité alimentaire et un bon régime: grand objectif du XXI^{ème} siècle et notre Président Ben Ali a lancé un appel.

Ms Lulu XINGWANA (South Africa)

Chairperson, let me take this opportunity, as my colleagues have done already, to say a warm congratulations to you on your appointment as the Chairperson of Conference.

The FAO report on the State of Food and Agriculture says that "world agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, has achieved notable success over the past half century but faces serious challenges now and in the coming decades". Agricultural growth contributes directly to food security but it also supports poverty reduction and acts as an engine of overall economic growth in many of the developing countries. However, the success of the agricultural sector at the global level has not been shared uniformly across regions and countries, however, and seems to have waned since the early 1990s.

Many of the Least Developed Countries, particularly those located in marginal production environments, continue to experience low or stagnant agricultural productivity, rising food deficits, and rising levels of hunger and poverty. This Conference comes at a time when South Africa, like most developing countries, is experiencing the impact of climate change. In the past, growing seasons we have experienced droughts and floods, which have had a negative effect on the availability of food and consequently the high food prices. The price index for food reflects an annual increase of 11.1 percent in August 2007 from 10.2 per cent in July 2007.

While this situation requires closer monitoring, I am happy to acknowledge the role that FAO has played in the Region in the past few years working with WFP in addressing the issues of rehabilitation and relief after the drought. It has been acknowledged that while food aid is necessary for countries that face food shortages as a result of disasters, rehabilitation work is equally important if such countries have to go back into production again and be food self-sufficient.

Chairperson, South Africa, in line with the Africa position, welcomes this comprehensive Report of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE), and congratulates the team for finalizing their work on time. Although, there has not been sufficient time to unpack each of the recommendations in detail, the Report has, nonetheless, served as a reminder of the history, purpose and mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as it was envisioned in 1945.

Secondly, it provides yet another opportunity for South Africa to affirm its commitment and renewed effort to support FAO as it repositions itself into the Twenty-first Century.

According to the Report, FAO's future relevance and effectiveness will depend on fundamental shifts to the Organisation's rural and agricultural development paradigm to place greater emphasis on employment for income-generation and food access.

The concluding statement of the IEE Report that "supports the transformative strategy with growth" can be equated to a widely used paradox in the agricultural sector, that "of an egg and a chicken". The question is often asked, is it the egg first or the chicken? The response depends largely on where you are on the value chain, as a producer, a consumer, service provider or legislator.

While the paradox will continue to filter into our debates and deliberations, we should make a concerted effort to move beyond the analysis of the problem, but rather work towards reaching consensus on how to achieve these two interlinked objectives - that of contributing towards strengthening FAO and building a FAO that is fit for the Twenty-first Century and for the challenges ahead and also ensuring, at the same time, that there are sustainable resource mobilisation and utilisation strategies in place.

The level of detail on how to achieve this noble goal can be done by a small group, in consultation with the broad Membership. As a way forward, South Africa supports the proposal to establish a Joint Working Group with Management to develop the Immediate Action Plan and start up actions to examine the Report. It further endorses the proposal of a Special Session of the Conference to be held in 2008.

To that effect, South Africa wishes to reiterate its active participation in all FAO activities, and avails itself, to participate fully in the Committees that will be mandated by the Conference to take this matter forward. Furthermore, we support the Council Resolution of June 2007 that urged FAO to continue to protect the financial resources allocated for the implementation of the TCP and the maintenance budget. It is also within this context, that South Africa calls upon the Member Nations to make their financial contributions on time, and those in arrears, to put corrective measures in place to halt the further decline of resources available to FAO.

In conclusion, South Africa believes that any reforms should empower the hungry people of the world, to feed and develop themselves. In this context women play an ever-increasing role and should be empowered. Rural women, in particular, play an ever-increasingly important role for many households where women are the sole or primary providers. By empowering women, many households facing the so-called "triple threat" of hunger, poverty and disease may be allowed to become self-sufficient entities that are no longer dependent on donations.

In closing, South Africa and the rest of Africa, further believe that it is time for women to be more empowered at all levels within this Organisation, especially at Senior Management levels. This will help ensure the building of an organisational form that fits the vision, functions and culture envisioned for the renewed FAO of the Twenty-first Century.

Shalom SIMHON (Israel) (Original language Hebrew)

I am pleased for the opportunity given to me to address the distinguished representatives of the FAO Member Nations.

FAO has an important task to fulfil: to support all those Member Nations in need, to accomplish their most fundamental duty: to supply sufficient and good nutrition to their population.

The agricultural sector, all over the world, has to provide more food to an ever growing human population, which utilizes more land for urban needs on the account of fertile arable land. On top of that, fresh agricultural produce has often not been sufficiently provided in many parts of the world, where rain fall is insufficient.

Not only turbulent weather conditions are an obstacle for food supply. Natural resources such as land and water, that have always served man solely for agricultural produce, are nowadays a target for competition of another major element of need for humankind – energy, or more precisely bioenergy.

The dramatic soar of some basic food commodities, such as milk powder and cereals, in the international markets changes the long-lasting trend of decreasing food prices, a phenomenon that characterized the second part of the Twentieth century. This outcome might change a bigger share of the household budget all over the globe and make the struggle for food even more difficult for the Least Developed Countries' populations, especially in rural areas.

We are confident that if the right measures will be taken then the sufficient supply of good nutrition for all is achievable. Take the State of Israel, for example. In a tiny piece of land, more than half of it is desert and precipitation is in shortage. Nonetheless, agriculture has been flourishing for many decades now, producing efficiently vegetables, fruits, and flowers, cotton and wheat, dairy and poultry products. About a quarter of our fresh produce goes for export. Right vision and devotion on one hand and a practical way of implementation on the other made this end a reality.

A combination of agricultural research, extension and advisory services to the farmers, and efficient farm management, proved to be a winning formula on the way to gain a modern and lucrative agriculture, one which serves also as a field laboratory to the Israeli agro-technology industry. This industry is not only providing technological solutions at home, but also disseminates its products, *inter alia* drip irrigation systems, high-yield varieties and propagation materials and many other highly-efficient technologies, all over the globe. The turnover has already surpassed one of the exports of fresh produce. We believe these achievements could be replicated by many FAO Member Nations.

With your permission, I will refer to one crucial input- water. It appears that rain water, for the irrigation of crops, is insufficient in very many cases. Moreover, even if there is affluent rainfall but not in the right time or place, that in fact means unavailability of natural irrigation water. That's where human ingenuity should be drafted, in order to diversify water resources and increase water availability at the time and place needed. This can be done by the utilization of efficient, accurate and water-saving irrigation technologies to increase the yield of a large variety of crops. In Israel, vegetables, fruits and field crops are artificially irrigated throughout most of the year, making irrigation efficiency and productivity per cubic meter unprecedentedly high.

Advanced irrigation technologies are already used in many countries, and this positive development should be further encouraged.

Making the "Right to Food" a reality for the whole of mankind necessitates more measures than those presently taken by individual Member Nations. It is also a matter of international cooperation. The State of Israel, for five decades now, has been providing technical cooperation in agriculture to many countries worldwide, including our neighbouring countries and the Palestinian Authority. Through this cooperation, dozens of thousands of experts from abroad have been exposed to Israeli advanced knowledge and know-how for the improvement of agricultural produce in their countries. In doing so, Israel is not unique. Many other Member Nations operate similar technical cooperation bodies, aimed at the improvement of agricultural production worldwide.

We believe that agriculture can also serve as substantial means for the promotion of peace and regional stability, and we have been sharing this belief with our neighbours. Israel and the Palestinian Authority have been cooperating in the promotion of agricultural produce. Both send fresh products to in each other's markets and export fresh agricultural produce. Despite repeating tension periods, Israel enables farmers from the Palestinian Authority to send their products to the

Israeli markets, and to use Israeli facilities to export fresh produce abroad. Both the Palestinian Minister of Agriculture and myself keep ongoing working relations in order to maintain cooperation between the agricultural sectors, to support and improve the livelihood conditions of the farmers of both peoples.

Finally, I would like to wish the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Director- General, the staff of the organization and all Member Nations a fruitful discussion during the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference.

Héctor HERNÁNDEZ AMADOR (Honduras)

En primer lugar, quiero felicitar al Ministro López Vallejo por su elección como Presidente de esta Conferencia.

El desarrollo de la agricultura y el medio rural se ha visto sujeto a serias pruebas durante los últimos dos años.

Las circunstancias del cambio climático y los consecuentes desastres naturales, el estado de los mercados, los productos básicos agrícolas, los efectos de las plagas en los animales y en las plantas, los persistentes problemas de acceso adecuado a la tecnología y financiamiento rural, en especial para extensos grupos de población a fin de fortalecer las capacidades de la pequeña agricultura o acelerar el ingreso rural, las presentes limitaciones de acceso a mercados y las implicaciones agrícolas por los altos precios de los energéticos, continúan siendo, entre otros, elementos de fondo a superar ante las amenazas que se ciernen sobre el desarrollo sostenible de la agricultura en el contexto de las metas fijadas por la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, con el propósito de lograr la prosperidad rural en los países.

Señor Presidente, para Honduras ha sido motivo de gran satisfacción que la FAO haya logrado incorporar en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de este 34° período de sesiones, cinco Eventos Especiales orientados al diálogo y análisis de temas de urgente atención, los que sin lugar a dudas, permitirán el intercambio de puntos de vista sobre sus experiencias en un foro de alto nivel como éste y los cuales coinciden con las prioridades sugeridas por la agenda del futuro de la agricultura, que enfatiza el Banco Mundial, en su reciente informe del 19 de octubre pasado, sobre el Desarrollo Mundial 2008, en el que advierte que a fin de alcanzar el objetivo de reducir a la mitad la extrema pobreza y el hambre para el 2015, el sector agrícola debe convertirse en el eje del programa de desarrollo de las naciones.

En el mes de julio recién pasado, los 34 Ministros de Agricultura de las Américas, se reunieron en Antigua y en Guatemala, a fin de dar seguimiento a los mandatos agrícolas de los Jefes de Estado y Gobierno de las Américas. En esta oportunidad, conocieron los informes de los gobiernos nacionales sobre el progreso de implementación del Plan Agro 2003-2015, que contiene la agenda compartida de largo plazo para el mejoramiento de la agricultura y la vida rural de nuestro hemisferio. Esta agenda establece las acciones estratégicas a impulsar por los países de América Latina y el Caribe, conjuntamente con los actores del agro y otros responsables del desarrollo de la agricultura y el mejoramiento de la vida rural en el continente americano.

En esta oportunidad se efectuó un profundo análisis de los principales temas estratégicos y asuntos críticos que afronta la agricultura de las Américas y como resultado de ello adoptamos una nueva agenda ministerial hemisférica 2008-2009 que dará continuidad a la implementación del Plan Agro.

Centroamérica vive un proceso histórico en su proceso de incorporarse a la economía internacional y de esta manera impulsar su desarrollo económico y social en una forma sostenible. El actuar conjuntamente a los siete países de la Región, les permite enfrentar de mejor manera los retos comunes de dicho proceso y aprovechar las ventajas tradicionales de la integración. Estas ventajas cobran una mayor importancia en el caso del sector agrícola, ya que se ha adoptado la concepción ampliada de la agricultura y se incluyeron no sólo las actividades productivas primarias agrícolas y pecuarias, sino también las de transformación y comercialización de los

productos agropecuarios. Ante la realidad rural de Centroamérica, los ministros de agricultura de esta Sub-región del hemisferio occidental adoptaron en octubre pasado una política agrícola centroamericana en respuesta al mandato del Artículo 21 del Protocolo de Guatemala, que rige el proceso de integración del área y en el marco del Plan Agro al que me refería anteriormente.

Finalmente, no quisiera cumplir estas palabras al pleno de esta Conferencia sino reconocemos la valiosa colaboración de las múltiples organizaciones multilaterales y agencias de apoyo bilateral por asistirnos en esta tarea de reordenar el proceso de políticas, inversiones y prioridades en las Américas en el campo de la agricultura, lo mismo que por promover la iniciativa de una América sin hambre, como mecanismo articulador de la Cooperación Sur-Sur y que con el apoyo de FAO y otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas, estamos implementando para que América Latina alcance las metas para erradicar el hambre en nuestro continente.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Haji Mohd YASIN (Malaysia)

I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairperson for the opportunity to address the Thirty-fourth Session of this Conference, and thank FAO for the assessment of the State of Food and Agriculture in the world.

We note that the value of world production of agricultural produce increased by almost thirdfold the average growth of 2.3 percent in 1961 exceeding population growth of 1.7 percent during the same period. The increase reflects Members' commitment in the increasing food production to meet the growing demand by the world population estimated at 6.5 billion. However, we also know that despite the substantial increase, the number of hungry and undernourished in developing countries were reduced by only 3 million since 1990 compared to 820 million people in developing countries who were still suffering from hunger and malnourishment, the reduction is indeed small and remains a matter of great concern to us all. Therefore, there should be renewed emphasis both at the national, regional and global levels to ensure an integrated approach in implementation to achieve the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals.

There should be greater concerted and concrete actions by national governments and multilateral development organizations to ensure the fundamental right of people, the right to be free from hunger. It is apt that the theme of this year's World Food Day is "Right to Food". In this respect FAO has a crucial and critical role, in not only enhancing national initiatives but also in further harnessing international cooperation to achieve these goals. Approximately 89 percent of FAO's substantive programmes directly address the Millennium Development Goals in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Revitalized extensive and intensive efforts and initiatives are indeed needed to translate programmes and activities to reduce further the large number still within the clutches of hunger and malnutrition.

Parallel growth progress in other equally important development goals including rural development must be achieved in tandem with efforts to reduce the number of people who do not have food or access to food. It is therefore important that we pay equal attention to rural development which is associated closely with agricultural activities and with approximately three-quarters of the world population living in rural areas. Developing the rural areas will play a crucial role in eradicating poverty and reducing hunger and undernourishment.

In addition to agriculture and rural development we have to deal with other equally important issues, these include climate change, which has already begun and threatens to alter our planet irreversibly, bio-energy, eruption of biodiversity, transboundary diseases and pests, food quality and safety, loss of forest coverage and environmental degradation and over-exploitation of fishery resources, just to mention some, but all of which have substantial implications on agricultural development and reduction in the number of hungry and undernourished. All these issues are important and demand the constant attention and resources of FAO in harnessing cooperative and collaborative national and multilateral actions to address them before its disastrous effects confound. Bio-fuel and its effects on agricultural development and food production are issues that must be fully assessed. While the allocation of agricultural produce for production of fuel has the positive effects of addressing escalating food prices and enhancing farmers' income, the diversion

of agricultural produce for fuel production, may also adversely affect food security and increase the cost of production and inputs such as corn for animal feed. We recognize that the use of modern bio-fuel has the potential to contribute to agriculture and rural development, but this should be not at the expense of ensuring adequate food supply. Detailed research and analysis of bio-fuel production, as well as development of a comprehensive database on bio-energy, is necessary to assist Member Nations to develop the right policy and balance for food and bio-fuel production.

Malaysia has been successful in eradicating poverty. Poverty declined from 22.8 percent in 1990 to 5.7 percent in 2004. Largely, our success has been as a result of the Government's policy of enhancing economic growth and distribution of wealth. The Department of Agriculture has been revitalized and given due prominence under our Ninth Malaysian plan 2005-2010. Malaysia regards the agriculture sector as one of other main engines of growth which can contribute significantly to the creation of wealth. Our plan for revitalizing agricultural development hinges on the concept of new agriculture. We seek to transform the sector in a modern, dynamic and a competitive one through further extension of large-scale commercial farming with greater private sector participation and venturing into to high-quality and value-added activities as well as unlocking the potentials of biotechnology. In our efforts to integrate agricultural activities of small-scale farmers into mainstream economic activities to uplift their socio-economic wellbeing on a sustainable basis, we are encouraging them to adopt the concept that "agriculture is business". This involves a change in mindset to conduct farm activities as a business venture that will provide them with adequate and sustained income. The thrust of the nation's agriculture policy is also to increase production through greater application of modern technology, research and development, utilization of high-yielding clones and breeds, greater mechanization of farms and best agriculture practices, aimed at creating a sustainable production system for producing quality and safe produce. In order to reduce the adverse effect of worldwide price fluctuation which strongly affect farmers' income, we are also expanding agro-business processing activities and product diversification.

In conclusion, the role of FAO in facing the challenges of food insecurity, hunger and malnourishment in the world continues to be relevant and I want to reiterate the support of the Government of Malaysia in addressing the daunting task facing the Organization. My Government supports the efforts of FAO to obtain a more than dynamic and efficient management so as to strengthen its key role.

At this time we would like to take the opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to Mr David Harcharik for his excellent work in leading FAO and the support the nomination of Mr Jim Butler as an incoming Deputy Director-General to the Organization. We look forward to working closely to him.

Mehmet Mehdi EKER (Turkey)

I am pleased to address you as the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on this occasion. Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to welcome the new Members, Andorra and Montenegro, and Associate Member, Faroe Islands. Distinguished delegates, it is our deep sorrow to hear the tragic news of the disaster which occurred in Bangladesh. I would like to express our deep sorrow and condolences for the victims. Unfortunately, mankind is still not capable of overcoming natural disasters. However, we can mitigate the impact of these disasters by means of cooperation and by taking appropriate measures beforehand. We should be aware that these incidents can happen anytime and anywhere. Therefore, we should improve the collaboration among countries in this regard. The world is faced with a serious climate change problem. We all know the damage caused by the drought and high temperatures in South-East European countries, including my country, last summer. This shows that drought is a problem not only for certain Regions or continents, but it may also be a problem for everybody. These incidents indicate that we should preserve our natural resources and utilize them in a more economic manner. From now on, we should prevent food wasting, especially in developed countries and use the world's resources in a more efficient manner. Our world has given us a warning on climate change and drought, and we should take this into account

without delay. We should arouse public awareness in terms of the environment. My suggestion would be that FAO gives high priority to the projects on drought, climate change and preservation of land and water resources.

Distinguished delegates, today we should overcome the difficulties in achieving food security and combating hunger. We strongly support efforts of FAO in combating hunger and poverty. Unfortunately, as you all know, there are more than 850 million people who live in hunger and desperate poverty and most of these people live in the rural areas. We cannot remain indifferent to the problem of food security. Prevention of waste of food is one of the elements of food security. In order to prevent waste of food, FAO and other international organizations should start programmes with the concept that each piece of wasted food may feed a hungry person, to sensitize and mobilise humanitarian functions. In addition, in parallel with combating hunger and malnutrition we should not ignore the problem of hypernutrition, which also causes another sort of food waste and, above all, serious health problems.

Another important issue is the increasing use of food sources in the production of biofuels resulting in high food prices, causing more difficulties for poor people to reach food. Increasing use of biofuels is an important improvement for controlling global warming. However, the increasing prices of food products suggest grains should also be taken into consideration to prevent its negative effects. It is essential that biofuels should be obtained from non-food plants and waste materials. I suggest that FAO should give priority to research and development on this issue.

Turkey has supported the most important item of the FAO reform programme, namely, the decentralization aimed at increasing the Organization's relevance and ability to take a strong interest in the problems of Member Nations. We conducted the necessary vote to open a Sub-regional Office in Ankara, Turkey, and last July, we made the official inauguration. I would like to thank the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and everybody who worked during this process. The office will cover Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, as well as Turkey. For the first five years, my Government has committed a financial support, which equals US\$2 million per year, totalling US\$10 million for the projects to be implemented in these countries. Therefore, my country with 62 years' experience of FAO, will serve Central Asian countries.

The Government of Turkey has decided to present its candidature for election to the FAO Council for the next period. Membership to the FAO Council will give Turkey a greater opportunity to enhance its participation, support and contribution to international efforts and cooperation within FAO. In view of these considerations, Turkey would highly appreciate the valuable support of the Member Nations for our candidature for election to the FAO Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to ensure FAO of Turkey's continuing support to the Organization in achieving its laudable objectives for increasing global food and nutritional security. Thank you.

Abu Baker Al-Mabrouk AL-MANSOURI (Lybian Arab Jamahiriya)

Allow me, first of all, to say that it's a great pleasure for me to be able to congratulate you on your election, Chairperson, and I congratulate you on your good stewardship of this meeting. I am delighted to be able to participate with my delegation to this Thirty-fourth Session of FAO's Conference.

I very much hope that we will be able to meet our objectives to end hunger and malnutrition that more than 850 million people throughout the world suffer from. We all harbour the hope that this Organization will seriously tackle the climate change which is besetting the world. My country covers over 2 million square kilometres. We are classified as an arid or semi-arid region. We have scarce natural resources and arduous climatic conditions in our country and this makes it very difficult for agricultural programmes to get off the ground, and it makes it difficult to exploit natural resources and to achieve sustainable agricultural development.

What we therefore need are agricultural policies with clear objectives and we need to select rational strategies that can preserve, husband our resources and ensure that they are still there for the future generations. Development programmes have stressed the sensible exploitation of arable land in our country to make sure that we become self-sufficient and that we can diversify our income and have a balanced development. We want to end hunger and poverty and we want to support our national production in order to become self-sufficient in our food production. And in order to do this, we put in place wide-ranging agricultural programmes; programmes in the fisheries sector; aquaculture. We have provided financing to farmers and we have invested in research and in development. We put in place a very broad-ranging water distribution network in order to provide people with irrigation water and with water for human consumption. We put in place programmes to plant 4.5 million trees last year in my country. All of this to try to improve our natural pasture land and to make sure they are more productive to increase yields and to safeguard areas that have suffered from desertification. We have set aside 250 000 hectares for pasture land and we have covered 80 000 square meters for dams and for further channels, canals for water.

The Right to Food is one of the basic human rights and Libya has its own programmes for food security. FAO has carried out programmes in five countries in the Sahel Region. We also have a programme against the transboundary pests in four African countries. All of this has been financed by my country. We have also provided technical and operational inputs to try to eradicate the tsetse fly in Ghana and we have also participated in other programmes to try to combat the desert locust. The Screw Worm problem in North Africa is something that we have devoted a programme to. There are programmes that our leader has personally participated in, with a view to ensuring that the African continent's animal resources are safeguarded and to make sure that pests and diseases don't reach the Mediterranean and are properly contained.

We congratulate FAO, led by Jacques Diouf, particularly for its Technical Cooperation Programme, and for all it does for the sustainable development of agriculture. We also congratulate and thank all those countries that have helped materially and financially the programmes.

We are working together with all countries to try tackle the lack of food that rampages throughout the world and we harbour the hope that all countries, all international organizations will find a way of working together to help poor and developing countries in order to assist them put in place their own development programmes.

Abba Sayyadi RUMA (Nigeria)

I am pleased to convey to you the felicitations, goodwill and fraternal greetings of the President of Nigeria, Umaru Yar'Adua, and the Nigerian rural population of nearly 140 million that continue to look forward to FAO with an increasing hope for a better future. I feel proud to represent Nigeria before this world agriculture ministry and to emphasise that, as members of the international community, we must bring our knowledge, skill and resourcefulness to help Africa fight hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

On our part, the comprehensive Africa development programme set by Africa's Heads of State in 2002 is being vigorously pursued. The commitment of our political leaders, as stated in the Maputo Declaration, to allocate at least 10 percent of our respective national budgets to agriculture, if religiously implemented for the next five years consecutively, seems to be the boldest and most far reaching political commitment made in agricultural development at a continental level.

I am pleased to report Nigeria's modest efforts, with its agriculture budget representing about 7 percent of the net budget, which in essence is more than 14 percent of the national budget, due to the Government's policy shift in agricultural financing. The Government of Nigeria is introducing public and private partnerships in mechanisation, post harvest storage, food and cash crops production, as well as in promotion of commercial livestock and fisheries development. If the PPP projects were to be factored in as government expenditure, the percentage of Nigeria's agriculture

would have been well over 14 percent. This, in addition to a sustainable financial mechanism, is currently being pursued before the national assembly for legislation, known as the Agricultural Development Fund, which will attract 200 billion Naira, about US\$ 1.5 billion, as an agricultural intervention over the next four years.

On account of these considerations, I would like to enjoin FAO to continue assisting the developing nations in cross-cutting issues, of comparative advantage to FAO more than to any other organization, such as bio-control, bio-energy, transboundary pest management, food quality and safety. The donor countries should not use Reform as a facade to reduce support to FAO in this regard. FAO should also be fast forthcoming in the unique challenges of global concern in meeting the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of micro-credit for medium and small-scale enterprises, rural access, mobility to facilitate trade, water and sanitation. This, in addition to the reform currently going on to sufficiently reposition FAO, will provide an impeccable trajectory for the engineer of the FAO service delivery mechanism that will no doubt create greater confidence among Member Nations and reposition a collective commitment to the actualisation of the Millennium Development Goal targets by 2015.

I am delighted that one of the High-Level Special Events dedicated to mark the occasion of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference is the presentation of a talk on financing agriculture. The fact that it will be practically impossible for African countries to achieve the objective of reducing poverty and fighting hunger as long as the agricultural sectors of most African countries remain undeveloped stresses the importance of this High-Level Special Event. I therefore take this opportunity to call on Donor agencies and our developed partners to substantially increase the flow of investment in the agricultural sector of Sub-Saharan African countries. In this regard, Nigeria expresses its willingness to provide incentives based on the mutual understanding to any investment in agriculture, including equity participation not exceeding 30 percent of the total expenditure of such investments.

In the same line, the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference declared that the Aid-for-Trade Initiative should be respected by the international community. The Aid-for-Trade Initiative, when well implemented, will enable developing countries to build production capacities and trade infrastructure, necessary to benefit from substantial market access, increase their trade and consequently increase income and reduce poverty. I hasten to mention that aid is not, and cannot be, a substitute for the development and trade that could result from a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda. If the developed countries are willing to demonstrate their commitment to the MDGs, there must be unhindered market access for African countries through the removal of all forms of trade barriers and an increasing investment in the agricultural sectors, rather than food importation into Sub-Saharan African countries, which is continuously weakening their productive capacities.

Nigeria today is concerned with building the appreciable growth rate, recorded in agriculture over the past seven years, and with repositioning the sector so as to make Nigeria an economic leader by the year 2020. In this regard, it is believed that the agriculture sector has a prominent role to play in ensuring food security and food availability and surplus, and creating a potential for export. We have commenced an agricultural sector reform, carefully redesigning various irrigation programmes and providing the essential inputs, such as fertilizer pump power and improved seeds, through public and private partnerships, promotion of commercial livestock fisheries and aquaculture development, organization of farmers and young rangers into viable and vibrant cooperatives and specialised cooperative groups that will lead Nigeria's agriculture transformation initiative. We also commenced a land reform programme and a special agriculture programme, which will hopefully improve our total density from a current level of 0.2 to the FAO benchmark of 1.5.

Let me seize this opportunity to express on behalf of the Government and the people of Nigeria our profound appreciation to the FAO for a great support given to Nigeria, especially on the implementation of the Special Programme on Food Security. The South-South Cooperation Programmes have recently started to support the combating of the Avian Influenza outbreak. I

wish to profoundly express an allegiance of support to the leadership and management of FAO. Mr Chairperson, Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your attention.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Netherlands)

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank the Chair for this opportunity to speak to you today. I am very pleased to address the Conference for the first time, although, of course, the Netherlands' relationship with the FAO goes back much further.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, in 2050, nine billion people on this planet could live without worrying every minute of the day about food, water and death, free from the fear of losing cattle, of seeing the harvest fail of rain, or lack of rain simply because they could lead a stable, healthy and safe life, and simply because that would enable them to develop personal strength and be independent? I ask this, because, despite all the hard-nosed statistical data we exchange these days, this is actually about people. People with histories, names and families. Sadly, we know that many of them, all too often, miss out on opportunities that should be open to all. But I am confident that we can work on solutions. After all, we have the responsibility for and the management of planet Earth and its natural resources, and we have the FAO with its knowledge, resources and organisational infrastructure. This is both a privilege and a challenge for us all, and we have given our commitment in the form of the Millennium Development Goals. The facts speak for themselves. It will clearly take a great deal more effort to achieve these goals in reality.

The Netherlands sees agriculture as one possible way to fight hunger and poverty. In many developing countries, agriculture is a driving force behind economic development, and it is a crucial factor in dealing with the world food problem. The EU and the World Bank share this vision. We know from the 2008 World Development Report that growth in agriculture - even more than in other sectors - leads to a reduction in poverty and in this context, I believe we must strive for sustainable forms of agriculture. For that reason, I am very glad that sustainable agriculture has been chosen as a current topic by the UN Committee on Sustainable Development. After all, it is not just you and I who need to live from the land: it has to be there for our children and grandchildren and their future generations. I also see the rural development as a precondition for sustainable and structural development which merits our full attention.

That said, I would like to turn to the Dutch vision, the extra effort needed for agriculture and rural development and the role of the FAO.

The Netherlands continues to spend 0.8 percent of its GNP on development cooperation. Within that budget, we pay special attention to agriculture and rural development. The Netherlands also devotes its energy to firstly, a more intelligent and innovative approach to agricultural development, not investing in another great, new irrigation system but instead investing in a tailor-made local mix of management, knowledge and manpower. Investment in knowledge - and specifically in research, education and extension services - must provide the basis for strong and sustainable agricultural development. That is how Dutch agriculture has become the second largest exporter in the world. Secondly, applying innovative production techniques to strengthen production capacity in developing countries is necessary. For example, exploiting specific properties of plants that can enable them to grow in saline conditions, trying to put public-private partnerships as much as possible in the centre of these innovations. Thirdly, changes are necessary to bring cultivation, processing and marketing as much in harmony as possible. Forthly, production and processing of biofuels should be at or near the place of origin. Fifthly, there should be protection of ecosystems and biodiversity. The Netherlands wishes to see a proper balance between producing crops and cereals for the mouth and for the motor. Where there are competing claims, the Netherlands favours producing biomass for food. The sixth point: there should be a WTO agreement on the liberalisation of world trade in agricultural products. In our view, this should be an agreement to which all parties fairly contribute, and a development Round in which we realize, at least, substantial steps of our hopes and dreams for development. If we fail to deal with the specifics of development, research indicates that at least 70 per cent of the benefits of liberalisation will go to rich countries and the wealthier developing countries. And

finally, improving the production and trading capacity of small farmers in the developing countries themselves is important. This will put them in a better position to access regional markets, and to meet the high quality standards set by, for instance, the EU for imports of fish, fruit and vegetables. International standards on food and food production can help in this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now we will speak about FAO. The Netherlands appreciates the work done by the Independent External Evaluation Committee in such a short time. The Committee is very explicit about the need for change. Doing nothing will lead to decline: "a decline for which the world will be a poorer place". Let me be clear, we need the FAO, but not as it operates today. We need a more efficient and effective Organization with a different culture, in terms of administration and substance. Modern management and leadership is essential. And it is also crucial to implement the Committee's recommendations in full, and not just sixty per cent of them. Let me also be clear about extra funding for the FAO. In my view an Organization has to perform well if it wants to impress the donors. And it is also crucial for the FAO to translate the recommendations into action, so that the important issue of food security and poverty reduction which is a right at the heart of all of us, gets the attention it deserves. Words cannot alleviate hunger; it will take incisive action and real energy. The Netherlands also urges the FAO to continue to take an active role in the debate on System-Wide Coherence and the One UN pilot schemes, as these schemes offer an ideal opportunity to improve field-level performance.

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are gathered here as responsible and interested parties. It is now within the reach of all of us to combat hunger and poverty with agriculture, with intelligent and clear choices, and with an improved FAO. If we continue to invest in agriculture in this way, millions of people will gain a livelihood, and the chance to build a better future, with self-respect and self-confidence.

Bernardo LÓPEZ FIGUEROA (Guatemala)

Señor Presidente, señoras y señores delegados y observadores. Quiero en un inicio ratificar las palabras del Señor Director General en su intervención de esta mañana cuando nos hacía ver el carácter histórico y estructural de esta Conferencia. Por lo mismo, nos congratulamos por su elección Señor Presidente, los Ministros de Agricultura del Continente Americano que conocemos sus calidades y sus cualidades sabemos que la dirección de esta Conferencia está en buenas manos y sin duda será un éxito.

Permítanme referirme de forma breve a lo que creemos que son los temas estructurales a tratar en esta Conferencia. Primero, el tema de la nueva agricultura. El modelo convencional de la agricultura existente se está agotando basado en la producción e inmerso en el mundo de la globalización apenas dispone de los elementos necesarios para solucionar los problemas esenciales de las áreas rurales.

Ya no se puede concebir la realidad agrícola de una manera aislada en sí misma. Las soluciones se han de enmarcar en una perspectiva más amplia, en un desarrollo rural de más alcance en el que las actividades económicas se complementen, y no se sigan trabajando en una forma aislada.

Evolucionar hacia una nueva agricultura que vaya dando respuesta a otro tipo de exigencias demandadas por la sociedad actual, parece un imperativo compartido por nuestros pueblos.

En este momento, en que todos los países son actores de la misma globalización, la agricultura transita por un cambio estructural e histórico, particularmente, en áreas como la agroenergía, la biotecnología, el cambio climático y qué papel se desempeñará sobre el tema de las negociaciones comerciales de la ronda de hoja ¿Cuáles son las consecuencias para la seguridad alimentaria de este nuevo entorno de la agricultura? Aunque el crecimiento de la agricultura en sí apoya la seguridad alimentaria, no garantiza los alimentos para los pueblos en las zonas rurales. Muchos países en desarrollo han experimentado un incremento en la producción sin poder repartir de manera uniforme los beneficios de estas actividades. Paradójicamente aquellos que producen los alimentos son los que menos disponen de ellos.

Llevando el tema del discurso a aspectos regionales, creemos como Guatemala, que es necesario seguir apoyando a la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre que lucha por el derecho a la alimentación, uno de los Objetivos del Desarrollo del Milenio con el fin de erradicar el hambre en la Región y que es una iniciativa que ha sido lanzada por el Gobierno de Brasil, el Gobierno de Guatemala y la FAO.

Solicitamos enfáticamente seguir apoyando esta iniciativa así como otras que promuevan la mejora de las condiciones de vida de la población rural vulnerable. Asimismo, quiero unirme y darle seguimiento a las intervenciones de mis colegas de El Salvador y de Honduras al momento de comunicar este foro la existencia de la nueva política agrícola centroamericana. En definitiva, la convergencia de políticas nacionales en la región consolida y mejora en la adaptación de la agricultura a las nuevas condiciones y al nuevo entorno. La política agrícola centroamericana busca promover las condiciones necesarias para el desarrollo de una agricultura moderna competitiva, equitativa, articulada regionalmente con capacidad para adaptarse a nuevos roles, afrontar los desafíos y las oportunidades así como fomentar la necesaria imperación entre el sector público y el sector privado.

Finalmente, respecto al informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente que ha sido enviado a esta Conferencia, creemos que como Estados Miembros estamos comprometidos a analizar detenidamente este documento para establecer el proceso a seguir en la renovación de esta Organización. Nuestro objetivo principal deberá ser poder dotar de una apropiada institucionalidad, acorde al nuevo entorno de la agricultura mundial y los retos que ésta misma plantea. No me resta más que agradecer en nombre de la República de Guatemala a los organismos de cooperación internacional y particularmente a la FAO por el apoyo recibido para la implementación de la política agropecuaria y sectorial en nuestro país.

Eskil ERLANDSSON (Sweden)

The world's total wealth has never been greater. Yet more than 854 million people go hungry every day. Every five seconds, a child dies of hunger or of diseases caused by malnutrition. This is morally unacceptable and an enormous waste of human energy and creativity.

FAO, as the UN's organization for food, has a key role in efforts to address the Right to Food. Investments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries as part of rural development are crucial in the development context, as these sectors make up most of the national economy in poor countries and a majority of the population depends on them for survival.

These industries are the basis for livelihood and are also the foundation on which all business activities in rural areas are based. Trade, transport and small-scale manufacturing are highly dependent on them. Most of the world's poor people live in rural areas. There is broad evidence that improving the conditions for agriculture, forestry and fisheries has a sustainable impact on employment and food security. There is therefore considerable potential for reducing poverty and hunger by means of higher production. Accordingly, Swedish development policy will focus increasingly on rural development, in particular agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

FAO highlights and strengthens areas to which Sweden also accords priority, such as bioenergy and climate change.

In public debate and in the media, we often hear that climate change will hit developing countries hardest. How agriculture affects the climate and how the climate affects agriculture need analysis and relevant strategies. FAO has a natural role here.

Deeper discussion is needed for all the issues surrounding the relationship between increased bioenergy production, food security for developing countries and living conditions in rural areas. Personally, I believe the ethical issues will become increasingly important in the public debate, and I welcome the contributions by the FAO Secretariat.

Development assistance can be used to meet the climate threat. Sweden has therefore initiated a Commission on Climate Change and Development. It will be headed by Sweden's Minister for International Development Cooperation.

The great success story of FAO in recent years has been the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Great efforts are now required to get the Treaty's Secretariat to function properly and to implement the programme of work as well as the funding strategy. Sufficient resources must be made available to enable the Treaty activities to be implemented.

Budget cutbacks have made it impossible for FAO to maintain its comparative advantage and its core competencies. The focus now is on the effectiveness and relevance of the Organization. We therefore welcome the findings of the IEE.

The Management Response is constructive, showing that the management is prepared to engage in the Reform process. Sweden is therefore hopeful that the IEE Report and the Management Response will be the basis for the necessary changes at FAO.

Confidence must be created in the implementation of the IEE. "Reform with Growth" must be a key word here. In Sweden's view, a maintenance budget should be approved providing a level of resources that, combined with efficient measures, will put FAO in a reasonable position to conduct its activities. However, this must not mean that the Secretariat relaxes its efforts. Conducting work to rationalise activities and improve efficiency will be vitally important for the ongoing process after the extraordinary Conference.

Ahmed AL-HAWSHABI (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

Allow me first of all Mr Chairperson, to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Thirty-fourth Session of our Conference. I would also like to congratulate all the members of the General Committee. I am sure that under your guidance sir, the proceedings of this Conference will be crowned with success, once again thanks to your wisdom. I am particularly pleased to address you today on behalf of the Republic of Yemen.

In Yemen, we do consider that this Conference of the Organization is an excellent opportunity for an exchange of views among Member Nations regarding a certain number of problems, issues and obstacles faced by the agricultural sector throughout the world. The Government of Yemen does assign particular importance to agricultural and rural development and in the course of the last thirty years, our country has experienced real development and growth in the area of agricultural production of plant and animal life.

However, we do trust and hope in more progress in this most important sector of life, since the agricultural sector, is the one that produces food and Yemen, like many other countries throughout the world, is faced with many challenges and has been since it began developing agriculture. This is especially true in light of the rapid population growth which raises more and more requirements with respect to producing food for the population.

The society of Yemen is basically agricultural. The rural population represents two thirds of the country's population and the agricultural sector employs more than half of the labour force. Now all of these facts give you an idea of just how important this sector is for our economy. Now the relationship between the development of the agricultural sector at large and food security is an issue which has been resolved. Again, the obstacles which have been before us continue to be those faced by agriculture throughout the world: climate change for example, the limitation of water and also problems linked with direct marketing.

The increase of prices of food at the outset of the year threaten food security in our country, as well as in a certain number of other countries that are of a similar nature. We all know very well that the increase of prices in foodstuffs raw materials is linked to a number of factors including the production of bionergy, which is, as some people see, a threat and even a danger that could very well contribute to the increase of hunger in the world and could also constitute a threat to a human being's right to sound food. You cannot imagine how important this is for rural production. Why look for bionergy while there are other alternatives for the production of energy, instead of going for bionergy?

Yemen has a very special experience with FAO and we have really profited and benefited from our relationship with this Organization. We trust and hope that we can further deepen this

cooperation, and we shall not forget the very serious and relative support we sought from FAO when we were threatened by desert locusts at the outset of this year. The effort deployed by this Organization to assist us was very substantial, and the Organization did help us to have the necessary resources to face and deal with that threat, and with the threat of it spreading to neighbouring countries. I would like to underline the pioneer role played by our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, nor can we forget all the efforts deployed by the Organization in question to assist us in facing natural catastrophes, especially in connection with Avian Influenza and other transboundary diseases.

All of those problems, as you can understand have a direct influence and impact on food security. The efforts deployed by the Republic of Yemen to liberate itself from hunger include the execution of the programme by his Excellency, the President of the Republic, who encourages the agricultural rural sector to diversify its activities in the Five Year Plan 2006-2010. Now this Plan has been translated into the field with a clear timetable and with precise funding regarding the activities deployed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and the other Ministries as such. All of this will guarantee the necessary nutritional input to the population, increase the income of our citizens and also guarantee facilitated credit to farmers.

We also proceeded to distribute land to the young graduates of our universities and technical institutes, to avoid unemployment and cut back on poverty.

Credits presented by the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development helped launch this project for agricultural development for the wellbeing of poor families in the rural area. The Government Initiative Policies and the other activities of Civil Societies will enable us to attain our objectives.

We note that there is an increasing need for FAO to play an important role in order to sustain agricultural development throughout the world. We quite seriously take the Report of the Independent External Evaluation, but do not really have the necessary time to deal one by one with all the necessary issues contained therein. The idea of organizing a Special Conference next year to focus on the IEE is an important point. We endorse that idea and so support it because by that time, then we would have had the time to prepare everything in order to draw up a strategic plan on the basis of common agreement among Member Nations.

The Secretariat of this Organization has done an enormous amount of work in reforming this Organization as part of the Global Reform of the UN System and in Yemen we do applaud the role played by the Management and especially the Director-General in that framework. We trust and hope that we can reinforce and strengthen our relations with this Organization and also ensure coordination with the other UN Agencies.

Lastly, we would like to underscore the importance of all of the subjects presented for consideration on the agenda, and we do wish full success to this general Conference.

Ms Maria Madalena NEVES (Cap Vert) (Original language Portuguese)

Je voudrais féliciter la FAO pour la publication du rapport sur la Situation de l'Alimentation et de l'Agriculture 2007, document qui nous emmène au débat sur ces questions importantes et indispensables comme par exemple les changements climatiques ainsi que le rôle de l'agriculture et la promotion d'un développement durable. Développement à visage humain, c'est ce que nous devons avoir et ses résultats doivent être positifs pour les personnes. Nous pensons qu'il faudra le faire avec l'aide des populations rurales surtout celles qui vivent dans la pauvreté.

Malgré le développement économique et malgré toutes les grandes déclarations dans les Conférences la réduction de la pauvreté et la lutte contre la faim continue d'être un des principaux défis de l'heure actuelle. Dans ce cadre, les engagements assumés dans le cadre de la déclaration du Millénaire, c'est-à-dire de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrants de la faim et de la malnutrition d'ici 2015 sont loin d'être atteints. Ce n'est que dans un cadre de solidarité avec les pays les plus frappés par la pauvreté et par l'insécurité alimentaire, ce n'est qu'ainsi et grâce à une

coordination très forte entre les partenaires et les différents programmes, pourrions-nous, créer de nouvelles opportunités et garantir de meilleures conditions de vie pour les populations rurales.

Le Cap-Vert est vraiment un petit pays insulaire sahélien et nous sommes confrontés depuis plusieurs décennies par la sécheresse les effets de la désertification avec une pluviosité aléatoire. Le résultat de la campagne agricole 2007-2008 a été marqué par une situation de sécheresse, et en plus les pluies ont été insuffisantes et sont arrivées au mauvais moment et n'a fait qu'aggraver la situation.

On a eu une réduction de 31 pourcent de notre production céréalière par rapport à la campagne agricole des années précédentes et on a eu aussi une réduction de 50 pourcent par rapport au cinq dernières années. Face à cette situation en plus nous avons eu une production très faible de fourrages et une faible recharge de nos nappes phréatiques.

En conséquence, la situation alimentaire risque de devenir très grave pour les populations rurales les plus vulnérables.

Comme au cours des années précédentes nous devons mobiliser des ressources supplémentaires pour exécuter les programmes d'emplois publiques permettant aux familles les plus vulnérables d'obtenir des revenus.

Malgré cette situation très négative nous avons réussi à avoir de bons résultats dans nos initiatives de développement.

À partir de 2008 nous allons commencer la transition vers le groupe de pays de revenus moyens. Nous sommes engagés dans une stratégie de transformation de notre pays dans plusieurs secteurs étant bien conscients du rôle du développement rurale et en essayant de promouvoir un développement avec insertion sociale nous avons élaboré et nous sommes en train d'appliquer comme éléments du processus de transformation de notre Pays un programme national de sécurité alimentaire et un plan stratégique de développement agricole.

Pour nous, dans ce secteur nous avons une mission essentielle: de transformer les conditions des populations rurales grâce à la production et la mise en valeur des ressources agricoles, d'élevage, forestiers et non agricoles. Nous voulons améliorer les exploitations familiales par des systèmes de production agro-sylvo-pastorales adaptés aux conditions spécifiques du pays.

Notre idée est de mettre en valeur la multifonctionnalité de l'agriculture afin de permettre une gestion intégrée des ressources naturelles. Tout particulièrement des ressources hydriques et des sols, voulant créer de meilleurs emplois nous voulons produire d'avantage et des produits de meilleure qualité. Nous voulons promouvoir l'aménagement et la mise en valeur du territoire et protéger l'environnement.

Bien sûr nous avons su déjà pas mal avancer dans la stratégie et dans l'élaboration des programmes de projets, qui pourront être financé.

Cependant la consolidation de ses résultats et la mise en valeur des potentialités de croissance du secteur et l'assurance d'amélioration des conditions de production et l'amélioration des revenus de plus de 65 pourcent des pauvres du Cap-Vert, exige la mobilisation de plus en plus de ressources et surtout, des innovations dans la coopération et le financement novatrices conformément au défis de cette étape dans notre processus de développement.

Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs

La 34^{ème} Conférence de la FAO revêt une importance historique pour notre organisation. Dans un moment où l'on assiste à l'introduction de l'agriculture, à nouveau au centre des programmes internationaux. Cette réunion nous permettra d'analyser aussi le rapport de l'Evaluation Externe Indépendante de la FAO.

Le Cap-Vert accueille les conclusions du rapport et est disponible à travailler avec tous pour arriver à un consensus indispensable pour l'approbation et la mise en œuvre d'un programme de réforme.

Quant à l'imposition de budget, nous sommes favorables au budget de maintenance, vu que grâce à lui la FAO pourra faire face au défi énorme auquel elle est confrontée en ce moment, elle pourra continuer à aller de l'avant en mettant en pratique, sans interruption, les programmes qu'elle a, surtout dans les pays en développement.

Comme le dit le rapport de l'EEL "si la FAO n'existait pas il faudrait l'inventer".

En ce moment la situation est critique pour l'organisation, nous sommes tous responsables pour trouver des solutions pour résoudre cette situation.

Vu que non seulement la situation des plus vulnérables est menacée mais même l'avenir de l'humanité.

Je voudrais aussi féliciter Monsieur le Président, en conclusion, qui a été élu à la tête de cette conférence Monsieur Carlos Vallejo López, ainsi que les membres du Bureau. Je leur souhaite le plus grand succès possible lors de cette 34^{ème} Conférence.

Santiago Menéndez de LUARCA (España)

Señoras y señores ministros, jefes de delegación, señoras y señores, en nombre del Gobierno de España, es para mi un honor dirigirme a esta conferencia en la que se están debatiendo temas trascendentales, no sólo para el futuro de la FAO como organización, sino y sobre todo, para el bienestar de la población mundial, objetivo último de todas las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas.

Quisiera agradecer a los servicios de la FAO, la presentación del documento "El Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación", en el que se señala cómo la agricultura mundial y también la pesca y la silvicultura han alcanzado un notable desarrollo a lo largo del último medio siglo, pero a su vez afronta nuevos retos sin haber resuelto problemas tradicionales.

El reto fundamental consiste en reavivar el crecimiento de la agricultura a escala mundial y extenderlo a quienes se han quedado atrás.

En el mundo hay cerca de 854 millones de personas, que padecen hambre. Un número que apenas ha variado con respecto a las cifras de 1990-1992, en las que se basaron la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y los compromisos de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Los avances experimentados resultan insuficientes.

¿Qué hubiese pasado si no subsistiese la FAO y los demás organismos internacionales? La respuesta es clara. La situación sería aún peor. De ahí, el apoyo del Gobierno Español a la colaboración multilateral, aunque seamos conscientes de que hay que profundizar en varios aspectos importantes para adaptar estas instituciones a las nuevas realidades.

Las orientaciones de la política de cooperación internacional en España, se podrían resumir así:

España está alcanzando un puesto destacado en la cooperación internacional con unas contribuciones a organismos multilaterales, que está previsto alcancen unos 700 millones de Euros al cierre de este año, a los que hay que añadir 528 millones de Euros, que el Presidente del Gobierno de España puso a disposición del Grupo de Desarrollo de las Naciones Unidas el pasado mes de diciembre.

En el Plan Director de Cooperación, España apuesta claramente por una nueva estrategia multilateral. El gobierno español tiene el compromiso de alcanzar una ayuda oficial del desarrollo del 0,5 por ciento del PIB al final de la presente legislatura, que acaba el próximo mes de marzo y un 0,7 por ciento en 2012.

El acuerdo marco del reino de España y la FAO que entró en vigor el día 22 de marzo del 2005, reconoce el mutuo interés en impulsar la cooperación para el desarrollo de actividades en el ámbito de la agricultura, la pesca y la alimentación.

España ha pasado a ser el primer país donante de fondos extra-presupuestarios de la FAO. La contribución total de España en 2006 ha sido de 41 millones de dólares. Sin duda la política multilateral es un componente esencial de nuestra política de desarrollo y de cooperación. Por ello

la cooperación da prioridad a aquellos organismos internacionales que tienen capacidad de incidencia en los países y regiones que contribuyen a la orientación de políticas públicas de lucha contra el hambre.

En el marco del fortalecimiento del proceso de planificación para mejorar la calidad de la ayuda de la cooperación española planteada en el Plan Director, se ha elaborado la estrategia de la lucha contra el hambre.

Las iniciativas para lograrlo están enfocadas a conseguir la soberanía alimentaria, lo que supone transformar la distribución desigual de los recursos, que es la causa fundamental del hambre. Por ello resulta prioritario apoyar el fomento de políticas dirigidas hacia la distribución y el acceso equitativo de los recursos: agua, tierra, pesca y bosques, servicios, investigación, extensión, información y financiación; promoción de iniciativas de inclusión social e inserción productiva de la población excluida. Apoyar las actuaciones dirigidas a mejorar la seguridad alimentaria, especialmente de mujeres y niñas. Apoyar las iniciativas dirigidas al aprovechamiento racional y sostenido de los recursos naturales. Apoyar las iniciativas dirigidas al fomento de sistemas de producción sostenibles. Apoyar la promoción del conocimiento y difusión de la diversidad cultural alimentaria y apoyar la adopción del enfoque territorial de desarrollo rural. Asimismo, se consideran de mucho interés aquellas iniciativas que tienden a generar espacios para el diálogo y establecer nexos entre las propuestas que emanan de la sociedad civil y los planteamientos políticos estratégicos oficiales desde los organismos e instituciones internacionales.

Nos enfrentamos Señor Presidente, a nuevos retos en los que es preciso abordar de manera global con un enfoque estructurado e integrador aspectos tan relevantes como el crecimiento demográfico en los países más pobres, el menor crecimiento de la producción agrícola, la bioenergía o ahorro-energía, el agua y el cambio climático. Y desde el apoyo a la postura mantenida en la sesión de esta mañana por el Representante de la Comisión Europea y del Señor Ministro Portugués como Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de la Unión Europea, no quisiera concluir mi intervención sin hacer referencia al informe de la Evaluación externa independiente en el que yo destacaré una reflexión sobre la que invito a que trabajemos todos juntos. Si la FAO no existiera, habría que inventarla. En este contexto, el Gobierno de España declara su voluntad de buscar un consenso que nos permita lograr el objetivo de tener una institución como la FAO, fuerte, eficaz y eficiente; es decir, como dice el Informe: Reforma y Crecimiento. Los nuevos retos a los que nos enfrentamos, nos obligan a ser más solidarios, a reforzar nuestros compromisos con instituciones de ámbito mundial y con la fortaleza moral y medios suficientes para alcanzar nuestros objetivos de paz y de libertad.

Sadegh KHALILIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) (Original language Farsi)

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the leading country in Southwest Asia, continues its support, cooperation and collaboration with FAO to play its role, in mitigating poverty and hunger in the world. We have been active in various international meetings and conferences in the past several years and taken important steps at national and regional level in achieving these objectives. Since the World Food Summit in 1996, great strides have been taken in Iran to reform the structure of agriculture and rural sectors and to promote sustainable food production. The results of these efforts are reflected in different indicators of sector growth, food security and self-sufficiency.

In the last 25 years, agricultural production has increased by 2.4 million tonnes to 100 million tonnes annually in 2006, from just 25.6 million tons in 1977. These figures indicate, despite several successive draughts that hit agriculture and rural life in Iran, the *per capita* agricultural production has almost doubled. The nation achieved self-sufficiency in many crops and pursued the policy of increasing the share of animal proteins in the range of measurable growth in the sub-sector, as a result the production of livestock products increased by annually 4.2 percent to 10.7 million tonnes in 2006.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has also introduced its new forest policy and economic tools aiming to strengthen public participation in the fields of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of forestry programmes by emphasising the role of the private sector, NGO's and local

communities. The main goal of this policy is to conserve biodiversity and natural eco-systems, aiming at the conservation of rare species and natural sites. The forest policy also aims to develop forests through restoration of the forest. One of the ways to develop forest resources is to plant popular and multipurpose trees that can be used to conserve natural forests and landscape.

The Islamic Republic of Iran with four decades of extensive work has carried out various projects to conserve soil erosion and controlling shifting sand dunes, aquifers and water shift management. The recording of genetic resources in Iran with more than 12 thousand different plant varieties has received high ranking in Near East countries as a major source of crop origin and Iran will continue working towards the full implementation of the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. As with food safety and food quality, there is a growing awareness and sensitivity among the various stakeholders resulting in the incorporation of food safety and environmental issues in the majority of agricultural development and crop extension programmes. These are set out in specific policies and programmes adopted to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, minimize the risks associated with animal drugs and heavy metals, as well as other pollutants in agriculture.

Mr. Chairperson, the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference is being held while extreme poverty remains the daily reality for more than 850 million people. Climate change will likely exacerbate that trend. At present the world's agriculture is at a crossroads due to more mouths to feed, populations vulnerable to hunger are on the rise, progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been unsatisfactory, and investment in urban centres is depriving agriculture of its relative share. The rapid depletion of natural resources is raising great concern regarding the sustainability of agriculture. Disincentives and barriers to agricultural imports from developing countries is also a source of major concern. Recent announcements regarding the eradication of poverty through the Millennium Development Goals shows the changing attitude of the international community in favour of more support. For agriculture, there are signs of hope, but the international concerns raised by challenges like climate change, water scarcity and globalisation still remain, particularly for the developing and low income countries are still there.

Mr. Chairperson, in such a situation receiving the report of the Independent and External Evaluation has brought us a further hopes, so the Islamic Republic of Iran appreciates the IEE Report, in particular recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 regarding the Immediate Action Plan and the Director General's Management Response 'in principle', which will provide for decision-making by Members. It will improve and strengthen FAO by providing it with the necessary tools for it to be able to fulfil its mandate and respond to the needs of its Members.

Mr. Chairperson the Rome Declaration of World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action states food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economical access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, to eat their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. We believe in FAO cooperation in terms of providing technical assistance, advocacy, and their consequent realization. At the end may I express my best wishes for a successful conference.

Klaus Jorg HEYNEN (Germany) (Original language German)

"If FAO were to disappear tomorrow, much of it would need to reinvented". This is the conclusion drawn by the evaluators of the final report of the Independent External Evaluation. And Germany agrees entirely with this. When we are talking about food and agriculture for around 6.6 billion people in this world, there is simply no alternative to FAO.

FAO, we believe, plays an important role for the relationship between North and South. It maintains intensive relations with governments in all Member Nations. FAO lobbies for the more than the 850 million people who are threatened by hunger and poverty in the rural regions worldwide, and what matters is to give these people access to a future, that is to say access to natural resources, to education, to medical care and first and foremost to adequate and healthy food.

Germany therefore, particularly welcomes the fact that FAO chose the motto of "The Right to Food—Make it Happen" for this year's World Food Day. The German Federal President was invited as a keynote speaker on that occasion. He raised many pressing issues of vital importance to the future of mankind. Many of these issues result from global trends that also represent a challenge for FAO. This Organization urgently needs a redefinition of its priorities for that purpose.

Germany will continue and wants to continue to play a very dedicated role in the debate on priorities and structures of this Organization. We are eagerly waiting for an in-depth discussion of FAO's priorities and the structures of this very important Organization are of vital importance. In this context we strongly support the idea of a Technical Conference next summer on some of the most challenging issues such as bioenergy and climate change. We urge all Members and the FAO Secretariat to actively participate in this Conference and to support it. I can tell you here and today that you enjoy our firm commitment.

The World Development Report commissioned by the World Bank makes very clear the serious nature of the situation.

This is a rare moment of so-called window of opportunity, that we have now for the issues related to agriculture; food and rural development, for issues affecting producers as well as consumers; for the further development of global trade that also provides small-scale farmers with a basis for their livelihoods, whilst meeting the challenge of demographic change at the same time.

Over the past few years, Germany has supported FAO with pilot projects under a bilateral Trust Fund in order to identify future fields of activity and here I would just mention: bioenergy, transboundary animal diseases and sustainable farming, just a few examples.

It is our joint responsibility, now, to lead the entire Organization into the future, the future of mankind and in particular the future of many millions of people who are still threatened by hunger and poverty today, and it is our joint responsibility to set clear priorities and to develop adequate structures.

Our window of opportunity is a narrow one but we believe that we are in a good position to take that window. The IEE has so far, we believe, been a complete success. It provides an excellent foundation for our joint work. The Friends of the Chair group has already paved the way for the activities ahead and I call on all of us today, not to abandon this foundation but to work in a spirit of good cooperation to make sure the Organization is brought into good shape for the challenges of the coming decades in setting priorities, in establishing effective and efficient structures, as well as a financially stable and sound basis. Germany is sure that we will achieve success.

Roger DOVONOU (Bénin)

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais avant tout propos, remercier pour avoir donné à mon pays le Bénin l'opportunité de s'exprimer à cette occasion solennelle.

Lors de son investiture le 6 avril 2006, le Président de la République du Bénin, son Excellence Boni Yayi a pris l'engagement solennel de faire du Bénin un pays de création de richesse, de croissance économique et de prospérité. Pour la réalisation de cette vision, le Chef d'État béninois a ciblé l'agriculture comme l'une des priorités de son Gouvernement.

Au-delà de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, la volonté politique clairement affirmée à travers les orientations stratégiques de développement du Bénin (2006-2011) et la stratégie de croissance pour la réduction de la pauvreté (SCR) 2007-2009, est de rendre notre agriculture compétitive, créatrice de richesse et d'emploi.

A cet effet, trois objectifs fondamentaux ont été assignés au secteur agricole à savoir:

Accroître les productions végétales, animales, halieutiques et promouvoir le développement des filières porteuses pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et participer aux échanges sous régionaux;

Améliorer la productivité et la compétitivité en agriculture par la mise au point et la diffusion des innovations technologiques, ainsi que l'adaptation des filières à leurs environnements économiques et réglementaires;

Améliorer l'environnement institutionnel, financier, juridique et politique de façon à créer les conditions requises pour rendre l'agriculture attrayante et compétitive.

Excellence Monsieur le Président, Honorables Invités, Mesdames et Messieurs;

Le gouvernement et le peuple béninois restent pleinement conscients des défis majeurs que notre agriculture se doit de relever dans le contexte régional et international qui prévaut aujourd'hui. Il s'agit en effet de nourrir la population béninoise; et d'assurer la croissance des revenus des productions agricoles pour la satisfaction des besoins non alimentaires et l'amélioration des conditions d'emploi et d'existence en milieu rural. Il est également attendu du secteur agricole, qu'il puisse jouer le rôle de vecteur de croissance économique pour atteindre un niveau satisfaisant en matière de contribution du secteur agricole à l'économie nationale.

Pour ce faire, le gouvernement s'est engagé à accompagner les producteurs agricoles et les opérateurs du secteur agro-alimentaire pour la modernisation de l'agriculture. Les stratégies en cours mettent l'accent sur:

la promotion des grandes entreprises agricoles en parfaite harmonie avec les exploitations agricoles de type familial et une plus forte implication des opérateurs privés dans le développement des filières;

la satisfaction progressive des besoins combien énormes des producteurs en infrastructures et équipements de base, notamment pour la mécanisation agricole et la maîtrise de l'eau;

l'appui à l'émergence et à la professionnalisation des Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles; et

la revalorisation du statut des producteurs et productrices afin de garantir leur participation plus active à la définition de politiques et au processus de prise de décision dans le secteur agricole.

Excellence Monsieur le Président, Honorables Invités, Mesdames et Messieurs, des problèmes majeurs d'accès et à l'utilisation de produits vivriers et denrées agroalimentaires se posent par moments dans plusieurs communes du pays et concernent diverses catégories de personnes, notamment les plus pauvres. Tout le monde s'accorde à reconnaître que la pauvreté dans not pays est un phénomène à caractère essentiellement rural.

Les objectifs et les orientations stratégiques visant à assurer la sécurité alimentaire sont pris en compte dans le Programme National pour la sécurité alimentaire dont la formulation est en voie d'achèvement au Bénin avec l'appui soutenu de la FAO.

Ce programme qui prend en compte tous les volets du secteur agricole permettra d'asseoir à moyen et à long terme les fondements d'une réelle sécurité alimentaire au Bénin.

Devant cette auguste assemblée de la 34^{ème} Session de la Conférence de notre prestigieuse Organisation, la FAO, il me plait de réaffirmer l'attachement du Gouvernement du notre Président Boni Yayi et du peuple Béninois tout entier aux nobles idéaux de lutte contre la faim, la malnutrition et la pauvreté.

Cet attachement est manifeste dans les grands chantiers que le Gouvernement a ouverts, notamment pour la valorisation des ressources de la vallée de l'Ouémé, l'appui à la diversification agricole, le renforcement de la recherche agricole, la dotation budgétaire exceptionnelle (10 milliards de francs CFA en 2008) pour l'appui à la mécanisation agricole, la recrutement spécial de personnel d'encadrement technique, et j'en passe.

Il me plait également d'affirmer que la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire au Bénin est une préoccupation personnelle du Chef de l'État béninois. C'est ce qui l'a récemment motivé à manifester sa volonté politique en s'impliquant personnellement dans l'organisation des manifestations qui ont marqué la célébration de la 27^{ème} journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation et le lancement de la 11^{ème} édition de la campagne de Téléfood. Le Président de la République en

personne, accompagné des membres de son Gouvernement et des Représentants des hautes Institutions de l'État, a présidé les cérémonies officielles de ladite journée qui ont eu lieu le mardi 16 octobre 2007 au Bénin. Ce fut un première dans l'histoire de mon pays et la preuve du soutien politique sans précédent du Chef de l'État, à la résolution du problème de sécurité alimentaire.

C'est ici le lieu de témoigner solennellement à son Excellence Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur Général de la FAO et à notre institution commune qu'il dirige, la gratitude du peuple béninois et de son Président, son Excellence Boni Yayi, pour tout ce qu'ils ne cessent de faire en vue d'accompagner de manière tangible le développement agricole du Bénin. Nous profitons de ce forum pou vous remercier encore une fois pour la distinction dont vous venez d'honorer un des opérateurs privés du Bénin pour ses nombreux efforts dans la filières riz, notamment la variété pluviale performante le NERICA.

Enfin, mon pays le Bénin estime qu'aucun développement fût-il durable, qu'aucun pays émergent ne peut se construire sans la paix et la stabilité politique, sans une bonne gouvernance et sans la solidarité partagée, toutes choses fondamentales que le Bénin s'efforce de consolider à tout prix et en bonne sagesse.

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, el día de mañana debo atender asuntos relacionados con esta Presidencia fuera de este recinto.

Voy a solicitar al Sr. Vice-Presidente, Representante de Libia, que me ayude a la conducción de la sesión en la mañana, y al Representante de la Federación Rusa, para que me ayude a la conducción en la tarde del día de mañana.

Gracias señores delegados por su asistencia. Esperemos que mañana iniciemos a las 9.30 en punto y que ojalá los dos Vice-Presidentes que conducen la sesión tengan mejor suerte que yo y puedan hacer respetar los cinco minutos para cada representante.

The meeting rose at 17.56 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 56

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.56

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**

**FIFTH PLENARY MEETING
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

20 November 2007

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.42 hours

Mr Abu Baker Al-Mabrouk Al-Mansori
Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Abu Baker Al-Mabrouk Al-Mansori
Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Abu Baker Al-Mabrouk Al-Mansori
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2007/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2007/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2007/2)
(continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Laos People's Democratic Republic, Norway, Haiti, Bahrain, Guinea, Canada, Morocco, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Congo, Viet Nam, Ghana, Thailand, Qatar, Iceland, Cameroon, Zambia, Paraguay, Botswana, Dominica, Gabon, Algeria, Ukraine, Ireland, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, France

PRESIDENTE

Good morning everyone, I call the Fifth Plenary Meeting to order before continuing this morning with item five, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I would like to remind you that the High-level Special Event on Forests and Energy will be held this afternoon in the Green Room. The Special Event will be addressed by His Excellency Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde. The delegates are kindly requested to be present in the Green Room by 14:00 hrs, before the arrival of the President and the Director-General. I would also like to draw the attention of participants at the High-level Special Event that speaking time during the event will be raising the pledges. Ministers wishing to intervene will be invited to do so first, followed by other speakers. We can continue Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture, and I give the floor to our first speaker of this morning, Laos.

Sitaheng RASPHONE (Laos People's Democratic Republic)

First of all, on behalf of the Laos delegation, allow me to present my sincere congratulations to the elected Chairperson and Vice-chairpersons to this Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. Generally speaking, the agriculture and forestry sector in the Laos People's Democratic Republic has been growing continuously since the country achieved basic self-sufficiency in rice production in 2000. The added value of the sector has increased by about 3.5 percent *per annum* which represent around 46 percent of the GDP. To-date, many Lao products have become competitive and the number of exported goods has gone up and particularly for rice, coffee, maize, different types of beans, sugarcane, tobacco, green tea, large animals, vegetables, fruits, plantation wood and non-timber forest products.

The MDGs remain an integral part of our Sixth Five-Year Development Plan up until 2010. We remain also strongly supportive to the World Food Summit Plan of Action. The Special Programme for Food Security of FAO has also become part of our long-term food security strategy and programme. The agriculture GDP is to grow at a minimum of 3.5 percent or 36 percent of total GDP growth until 2010. Our rice production target for 2010 is 3.3 million tonnes or 500 kgs per head, which is significantly above the national average but we still face rice deficiencies in most of the remote upland areas or in about two-thirds of the country. Long-term development programmes for the sector have been formulated more in line with our development

partners and with the implementation of the Declaration of Paris and translated into a country-based Declaration of Vientiane. The agriculture sector will continue to contribute significantly to the country's poverty reduction target of about 15 percent of the total population by 2010 and total eradication by 2020.

We also aim to increase our forest cover to 53% in 2010 via more sustainable use and a stronger local participation to co-manage existing resources, and along with our long-term policy to encourage increased conservation agriculture throughout the country. We believe that for Laos People's Democratic Republic these are the most appropriate strategies to address climate change. In the case of export goals, our sector is to contribute to more than one-third of the total planned annual export targets, which reflects the leading role that agriculture and forestry still have in the country.

Unfortunately, we are still hit by natural disasters every year. This year's floods have damaged a large number of irrigation schemes, affecting nearly 10 percent of total cultivated areas. Three Avian Influenza outbreaks occurred between 2006 and 2007. More than a million heads of poultry have been culled to-date and small holder poultry farming has been halted until now. Our Government has continued to urge the rising of people's awareness and campaign to continue to closely monitor and control possible future outbreaks. The situation is gradually recovering. However, we remain determined to accelerate reforms in the agricultural sector, initiated in 1986. The increased decentralization and "populization" of natural resource management; the commercialization and trade liberalization of the sector, in parallel with aligning to regional economic integration especially within the ASEAN Community and the East Asia Economic Partnership Schemes, has gradually turned the Laos Agricultural Sector into a net supplier of comparatively advantageous commodities in the Region, including bio-fuel crops. This has directly benefited our farming communities and the country as a whole, and has also contributed significantly to the possible early eradication of poverty in the rural areas.

Our Government and Ministry will continue to work closely with our ASEAN and East Asian Development Partners towards our mutual benefit and, through this close cooperation, ensure that our country continues to enjoy the dynamic agricultural growth since the last decade. The Government of the Laos People's Democratic Republic has laid down a comprehensive strategy and development program to address food security, poverty eradication and economic advancement in the country. We have set our own path to follow and we will continue along this path to achieve our sector development goals. Our Government highly appreciates the invaluable support of our partners, including that of FAO, in their collective efforts to help us achieving our development goals. Laos People's Democratic Republic supports and is confident that the reform proposed for FAO to become decentralized, flexible, holistic and responsive to the real needs of the developing world would bring about true possibilities to accelerate the realization of goals, as set in the World Food Summit.

Terje RIIS-JOHANSEN (Norway)

The Report of the Independent External Evaluation states that the world needs FAO. It also states clearly that this Organization is in a serious state of crisis and in dire need of reform. Allow me to congratulate the IEE Core Team for their work. This Report must be one of the most comprehensive, honest and clear-cut evaluation reports ever to be made in the UN System. The challenge for us, the Membership and the FAO Secretariat, is to implement it and follow-up its recommendations. My statement will be focused around these follow-up issues: (1) the need for improved leadership; (2) Member Nations' ability and will to make exclusive and clear-cut prioritizations; (3) the need to agree upon a set of main forward-looking priorities; (4) the need for Membership to abandon the policy of Zero Nominal Growth.

Firstly, I wish to emphasize the need for improved leadership in FAO. Norway has always been a keen advocate for reform and changes, both in the UN System in general and in FAO, specifically. Sadly, we regret to note that Management has so far been unable to answer this by

reforming FAO in full. We are aware of the ongoing reform process initiated by FAO Management, but find that it has so far failed to deliver the required results. The IEE Report clearly analyses the key role of FAO Management by encouraging FAO to modernize the Organization. If FAO is to change in the desired direction, Management does, indeed, have a key role to play. Management's response in principle indicates support by FAO Management in the follow-up process. We take note of that and we expect a proactive role by the Management in full and open partnership with FAO Members.

Secondly, it is clear that we, the Members, also must feel responsible for the current dramatic situation of the Organization. The IEE Report states that the FAO governance has failed as we have been unable or unwilling to provide the necessary guidance for the work of FAO. As a result, there is a mistrust between the Membership and the Secretariat and also within the Member Nations. This has to be broken if we are to fulfil the mandate of FAO.

My third follow-up issue is related to the urgent need to identify a set of main forward-looking priorities and place FAO and its mandate in relation to current challenges and trends: (1) world agriculture markets are changing; (2) agricultural production growth is slowing; (3) there is a continuing population growth in the poorest countries. Climate change is certain to have an important impact; (4) bio-energy and water management are two other key words in this connection; and (5) there is also a new focus on agriculture in development, above all, exemplified by the World Development Report 2008.

FAO must and shall play an important part in addressing these issues within its mandate. FAO is a global warning and standard-setting institution. Efficiency in field operations is, however, a prerequisite for putting standards and norms into effect. Vice-versa, experience gained in the field should feed into the important normative work at a global level. It is against this background that you must seize the opportunity next year at an Extraordinary Session of the Conference, and provide guidance on short-term and longer-term forward-looking priorities for the Organization.

My final follow-up issue is directly linked to what the IEE Report calls Reform with Growth. FAO has, for some decades, witnessed a reduction of its budget in real terms as a result of the Zero Nominal Growth policy of a large part of its Membership. This policy must be abandoned by all Member Nations to enable FAO to change and perform better in accordance with Members' priorities. By endorsing the proposed maintained budget, we would, in effect, abandon such policies. I would also like to urge all Members to discipline and to pay their Assessed Contributions in time, thereby contributing to a sound financial platform for this Organization.

Before closing, I would urge the Rome-based institutions to take advantage of their parallel processes of Reform and Renewal. Both IFAD and WFP are engaged in reform and revision of strategies. This, coupled with the World Bank's renewed interest in agriculture in development, should provide inspiration for increased cooperation between the three institutions. We must seize this opportunity to capitalize on the resources of each institution and prepare the ground for more dynamic cooperation, both in Rome and with other development partners. Chairperson and colleagues, we have a historic opportunity to reform FAO and renew our collective commitments to global food security. The first important step to take now is to establish the Conference Committee. We must then meet in Rome again one year from now, to make more concrete decisions regarding FAO's future. Norway stays committed to this process and will participate fully in it and in all its proceedings. Thank you for your attention.

François Edouard SEVERIN (Haïti)

Au nom du Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti que j'ai l'honneur de représenter à cette tribune, au nom de la délégation haïtienne et en mon nom personnel, je tiens à remercier le Conseil de la FAO et le Secrétariat de la 34^{ème} Session de cette Conférence pour l'opportunité qui m'est offerte de faire état de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en Haïti et des objectifs fixés par le Gouvernement. Je veux présenter de façon tout à fait particulière au Directeur Général de la FAO, le Dr Jacques Diouf, les salutations du Président de la République Monsieur René Préval qui m'a chargé de lui faire part de ses regrets de ne pas pouvoir répondre

positivement à son invitation de participer, à titre d'intervenant principal, à l'Évènement spécial de haut niveau sur "L'aide pour le commerce et la sécurité alimentaire".

Le Président demeure toutefois très attentif au suivi des recommandations de cette Conférence dont le thème central s'inscrit dans le cadre de la lutte pour la sécurité alimentaire qui a connu un point culminant au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996, Sommet au cours duquel, il a eu à présenter à l'Assemblée, le Plan global de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle pour Haïti. En conformité avec les lignes d'action fixées dans le cadre de ce Sommet, des efforts ont été consentis pendant la dernière décennie par le Gouvernement haïtien afin de réduire l'insécurité alimentaire dans le pays. Une unité plurisectorielle responsable de la coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire a été mise en place. Un projet de loi a été soumis par le Ministère de l'agriculture au Gouvernement pour transformer cette unité en un Office national de la sécurité alimentaire jouissant de toutes les prérogatives nécessaires à l'accomplissement de ses missions. En effet, plusieurs programmes et projets ayant pour objectif principal de réduire l'insécurité alimentaire, d'augmenter la productivité et la production agricole ont été mis en exécution avec l'appui de nos partenaires internationaux dont la FAO. Mais le secteur agricole, compte tenu de certaines contingences, est encore loin de fournir la quantité d'aliments nécessaires à la couverture des besoins de la population, d'où une augmentation importante de l'importation des produits alimentaires de base, avec une incidence négative sur l'économie nationale par suite des sorties significatives de devises fortes et d'une balance commerciale très négative pour le pays. Il demeure évident qu'Haïti de part sa topographie montagneuse à 80 pour cent et sa position géographique qui la place sur la route des cyclones tropicaux, dont plusieurs la frappent chaque année, en causant des dégâts de plus en plus importants au secteur agricole en particulier, est un pays à haut niveau de vulnérabilité environnementale, ce qui réduit considérablement sa capacité d'atteindre une autosuffisance alimentaire. En effet, au cours de cette année 2007, le pays a subi en moins de trois mois les effets dévastateurs de trois désastres naturels, dont les cyclones Dean et Noël qui ont endeuillés de nombreuses familles et occasionnés des inondations et des pertes considérables dans le secteur agricole, surtout au niveau des couches les plus pauvres de la population. Malgré cette situation difficile, le pays possède encore beaucoup de potentialités et des atouts majeurs, parmi lesquels, il y a lieu de citer, une population rurale à forte proportion de jeunes, une production agricole globalement organique, une biodiversité remarquable, des ressources hydro-agricoles sous-exploitées ou non-exploitées, un potentiel agro-touristique indiscutable.

Le Gouvernement haïtien s'évertue actuellement, avec l'appui de ses partenaires internationaux, à mettre en valeur ses potentialités de façon à créer beaucoup plus d'opportunités d'investissement et de création d'emplois dans le milieu rural, en vue non seulement d'augmenter la production agricole et les revenus des familles paysannes, de diminuer l'incidence de la pauvreté rurale, mais aussi de réduire l'exode rurale et les flux migratoires vers les centres urbains et les pays voisins. Je veux mentionner la création récente d'un Centre de facilitation des investissements (CFI) dont la mission essentielle est d'orienter les potentiels investisseurs et de faciliter leurs démarches administratives.

Dans le cadre de sa politique de développement national, l'approche stratégique du Gouvernement haïtien consiste à promouvoir un relèvement des exploitations agricoles et une intensification durable de leur production, par la mise en place d'un système approprié de valorisation des filières productives, particulièrement des produits organiques dont la demande sur le marché mondial est en constante augmentation. De même, la participation des exploitants et des représentants des collectivités locales dans la sélection et la gestion des projets d'initiative communale est encouragée dans le cadre du processus de décentralisation. Cette approche stratégique concerne également: la mise en place d'un système opportun de crédit rural, la recherche de créneaux porteurs en matière de commercialisation, la création de valeur ajoutée par l'amélioration de la qualité des produits, grâce à un meilleur contrôle zoo-phytosanitaire et l'encouragement à l'établissement en milieu rural de petites et moyennes industries de transformation. Elle concerne également la promotion de l'agro-entreprenariat, la remise en état de fonctionnement des centres de recherche-formation-action, la construction ou la réhabilitation des infrastructures

hydro-agricoles et de maîtrise de l'eau dont l'installation de lacs collinaires, la réforme agro-foncière, etc.

Pour atteindre ces objectifs, le Gouvernement haïtien entend également: (1) garantir l'efficacité et l'efficience des interventions dans le secteur agricole par l'amélioration du cadre institutionnel et juridique de façon à octroyer aux organisations professionnelles agricoles la capacité juridique nécessaire à leur parfaite intégration dans l'activité économique nationale et leur permettre de se présenter en interlocuteurs autorisés face aux autres partenaires du secteur; (2) travailler à l'harmonisation des interventions intersectorielles et décisionnels en encourageant la concertation et l'intégration des différents intervenants publics, privés nationaux et internationaux, au niveau du secteur agricole dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la santé et autres, de façon à favoriser les choix raisonnés d'interventions acceptées et soutenues par tous les acteurs et surtout par les communautés bénéficiaires; (3) appuyer des projet de production de bioénergie de façon à réduire la facture pétrolière et la dépendance de la population rurale vis-à-vis des carburants importés, pourvu qu'ils n'entrent pas en compétition frontale avec la production alimentaire; (4) réduire la vulnérabilité de la population face aux risques de désastres naturelles par la mise en place de projets de reforestation d'aleps et de mécanismes destinés à diminuer l'impact négatif des catastrophes périodiques.

Le document de stratégie nationale pour la croissance et la réduction de la pauvreté (DSNCRP), qui entrera en exécution à partir de janvier 2008, entend amplifier les efforts déjà effectués afin d'améliorer les indicateurs socio-économiques et nutritionnels de la population. Le gouvernement haïtien apprécie à sa juste valeur la coopération agissante et grandissante avec la FAO, dont l'appui s'est toujours orienté dans le sens des activités visant le développement durable et l'amélioration des conditions de vie en milieu rural. Cette coopération se concrétise à travers la mise en exécution, depuis de nombreuses années, de plusieurs projets de développement agricole dont l'impact a toujours été très positif sur la production agricole et l'amélioration des revenus des bénéficiaires.

Au nom du gouvernement haïtien, je présente mes plus vifs remerciements à la FAO pour l'accompagnement fourni à Haïti dans la mise en place et l'exécution de certains projets d'envergure, soit national soit lié à l'agriculture tels le Projet de recensement général de l'agriculture, le Programme d'appui institutionnel pour la restructuration du Ministère de l'agriculture, soit régional comme les Programmes d'agriculture péri-urbaine et le Projet de développement local dans certaines zones du pays. Je lance un appel solennel à la FAO et à nos autres partenaires de la coopération internationale, bilatérale et décentralisée et aussi du secteur privé des affaires pour que les effort déployés de concert avec le gouvernement haïtien puissent converger davantage dans le sens de la recherche d'investissements significatifs, en plus de l'aide au développement, ce qui aboutira à une meilleure sécurité alimentaire, à la création d'emplois, pour la génération de plus de revenus dans le cadre du développement durable.

Devant l'accélération des changements climatique enregistrés à l'échelle mondiale, je veux terminer cette déclaration par un appel à la solidarité de tous les pays membres de la FAO en reprenant cette boutade d'un responsable de haut niveau d'un grand pays du nord, qui a lancé ce cri du cœur, "nous devons cesser d'exporter des problèmes vers les pays du Sud mais nous évertuer à y exporter des solutions".

H.E. Mansoor HASSAN BIN RAJAB (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic)

It is a pleasure for me to participate in this Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. I am honoured to extend the greetings of my Government and those of his Majesty, Hamad bin Issa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, with his best wishes of success for this important gathering in this beautiful and ancient city of Rome to deal with some of the most important issues that the international community is dealing with, that is, the provision of adequate food. I would also like to extend my congratulations to the Chairperson of this Session and its new Members, who have recently joined the Organization, hoping they will support the Organization, its aspirations and goals.

This Session is being conducted while many people around the world are suffering from malnutrition, amounting to more than 854 million according to an FAO Report. Thanks to the efforts of the Organization and the Member Nations, there is also a decline in the number of people suffering from malnutrition. However, many people suffer from disasters, and about 39 countries have serious shortages in food supplies, due mainly to national conflicts, wars, and natural disasters. Despite the improved levels of food production around the world and the increase in exports, we must be more determined to reach the levels we aspired to reach; that is to say, to provide food security which will foster social security and stability around the world. The resolutions of the previous session of the Conference and the World Food Summit have adopted a strategy that is extending to the year 2015 to bridge the gap between consumption and production, and to enhance efforts aiming at combating famine and alleviating poverty to free and rid the world of these plagues for the benefit of the entire mankind.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is considered as one of the countries with limited agricultural resources. However, the importance of its agricultural sector is not related to its contribution to the GDP and the provision of agricultural goods. This sector has a very positive impact on the environment, the cultural heritage, and the overall social set-up, especially with the production of palm trees. Throughout the past three decades, the agricultural production has in many fields contributed to develop the sector in quantity and quality. However, due to a number of changes and developments, social or economic, at both the national and international levels, the Kingdom is facing today a challenge, a very difficult challenge, which is related to scarce water resources and the difficulty in competing with imported products. All these factors play a major role in the degradation of the agricultural sector, and are also creating a deficit in the food balance. In view of the above economic constraints, the Kingdom of Bahrain is aiming to develop a sustainable agriculture through the implementation of non-conventional agricultural policies, that take into consideration not only the traditional means of agriculture, but also the preservation of the environment and the modernization of our equipment, allowing us to harvest crops in a sustainable manner, to compete in the international markets, to use our resources and increase investment opportunities in this field. The Kingdom of Bahrain looks forward to cooperating more with the FAO and with relevant organizations and friendly countries in various fields, including the agricultural sector, by the means of experience exchanges, training, and technology transfers, to keep up with the rapid development pace, technology development in particular, around the world. This will undoubtedly contribute to modernizing the agricultural sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

At the end of my speech, I would like to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director General of the FAO, and to the staff of the Organization for the excellent preparation of this Session and of its documents. I hope that at the end of this Session, we will be able to reach recommendations and resolutions that will contribute to ridding the world of poverty and hunger. I also hope we will combine our efforts to dispatch this mission at the best of our ability. We ought also to make utmost use of our resources to provide for the basic food needs of our people.

Mahmoud CAMARA (Guinée)

C'est pour moi un réel plaisir de m'adresser à vous, Monsieur le Président, au nom de la délégation que j'ai l'honneur de conduire à cette 34^{ième} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Pour vous féliciter Monsieur le Président pour votre élection et féliciter mon frère et ami Docteur Jacques Diouf, Directeur Général de la FAO, et vous transmettre par la même occasion les salutations de Monsieur le Président de la République le Général Lansana Conté et de son Gouvernement. Nous félicitons également les pays qui viennent de rejoindre la grande famille FAO, en leur souhaitant plein succès dans leurs politiques de réduction de la pauvreté. Nous saluons également le groupe des évaluateurs qui ont réalisé un excellent travail dans l'objectif ultime de doter l'une des plus prestigieuses institutions du système des Nations Unies d'une capacité opérationnelle à s'attaquer aux vraies causes de la pauvreté dans le monde.

Monsieur le Président, l'examen de la situation alimentaire de l'agriculture a toujours été une préoccupation majeure de notre gouvernement, et la FAO, qui ne cesse de nous accompagner par son appui technique de qualité à travers sa longue expérience pour améliorer l'agriculture dans les pays en voie de développement. Au-delà de cet appui technique de la FAO, cette institution s'emploie inlassablement à la recherche de solutions pour l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de projets et programmes de développement rurale, notamment dans les sous-secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, de la pêche, de la foresterie qui constituent les domaines privilégiés permettant d'atteindre les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire.

Mesdames et Messieurs, la République de Guinée pour une population estimée en 2007 à 9 870 000 habitants dispose d'importantes potentialités à ressources naturelles avec des conditions agro-écologiques très favorables au développement de l'agriculture. En dépit de ce potentiel, la production agricole nationale est insuffisante pour couvrir les besoins du pays. Il en résulte que plus d'un ménage sur trois, dont 90 pourcent en milieu rural ne peuvent satisfaire leurs besoins alimentaires ni en quantité ni en qualité.

Cette situation paradoxale s'explique par la persistance de petites exploitations orientées vers une agriculture de subsistance peu productive, caractérisée par le système de production extensif, un faible taux d'équipement et d'utilisation d'intrants, d'importantes pertes post-récolte et une très faible capacité d'investissements. A cela, il faut ajouter le manque d'infrastructures de base, la non-maîtrise de l'eau et l'enclavement de nombreux villages et zones de production. Pour inverser cette tendance, le Gouvernement a élaboré et adopté en 2002 un Document de Stratégie de Réduction de la Pauvreté (DSRP) qui a été révisé en 2007. Ce document reconnaît au secteur agricole un rôle moteur de croissance, susceptible d'accroître les revenus des ruraux et particulièrement les plus démunis, tout en assurant la sécurité alimentaire.

Les grandes orientations pour le secteur agricole ont été redéfinies dans la Politique Nationale de Développement Agricole (PNDA) Vision 2015 adoptée par le Gouvernement en octobre 2007. Cette politique confirme l'importance de la sécurité alimentaire comme principale axe stratégique et de ce fait, centre ses interventions sur la maîtrise de l'eau, l'intensification et la diversification des cultures vivrières, la promotion de l'agriculture périurbaine. Il y a lieu de rappeler que la FAO a été un partenaire technique privilégié dans l'élaboration de cette politique sectorielle en collaboration avec les autres partenaires au développement. C'est dans ce contexte que sur le plan opérationnel, le Gouvernement, avec l'appui de la FAO, a initié le processus de formulation d'un Programme National pour la Sécurité Alimentaire (PNSA). Ce programme est bâti sur la prise en compte de diverses expériences qui permettront de mieux cibler les investissements par rapport aux Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, dont la priorité vise à réduire de moitié le nombre de pauvres et de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition d'ici 2015. En République de Guinée, la campagne agricole 2006-2007 a été dans l'ensemble plus ou moins bonne.

Elle aurait été meilleure n'eussent été les inondations intervenues durant la période allant de juillet à septembre 2007 qui ont perturbé les systèmes culturaux dans la plupart de nos régions agricoles, entraînant des pertes importantes sur les cultures vivrières, notamment le riz. Les plaines alluviales ont été particulièrement affectées sur près de 20 000 hectares et plus de 10 000 ménages ont été sinistrés. Selon les estimations de nos services de statistiques, la production végétale se chiffrait à 1 340 000 tonnes de riz paddy, 546 765 tonnes de maïs, 231 093 tonnes de fonio, 294 494 tonnes d'arachides et 1 068 548 tonnes de manioc. En ce qui concerne le sous-secteur de l'élevage, la production est estimée à 3 962 000 bovins, 1 247 000 ovins, 1 489 000 caprins. Quant aux ressources halieutiques, la mer procure 94 pourcent des poissons pour la consommation dans le pays et la pêche continentale 6 pourcent. Il convient de noter que le marché guinéen a été particulièrement éprouvé en 2006 avec une flambée généralisée des prix des denrées de première nécessité à tous les stades de leur distribution, particulièrement le riz.

Toutefois, il convient de noter que des actions d'envergure sont prévues dans la nouvelle politique agricole pour faire face aux défis de la sécurité alimentaire. Un appui de la FAO serait nécessaire pour assister le Gouvernement dans la préparation et la faisabilité la mise en œuvre des

programmes définis. Notamment, le programme de diversification, le programme de promotion d'exportation agricole, le programme de développement et programme animale en systèmes d'élevage améliorés, le programme de développement des marchés des intrants équipements agricoles et vétérinaires. Au titre du Programme de Coopération Technique (PTC) avec la FAO, le Gouvernement accorde également beaucoup d'importance aux domaines liés au Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire, à l'agriculture urbaine et périurbaine, une maîtrise de l'eau, la mise en place d'un système d'information des statistiques agricoles et des pêches sont aussi nécessaires. Tous ces programmes contribueront dans une large mesure à assurer la croissance durable visée par la relance de l'économie nationale entreprise par le Gouvernement, à travers la mise en œuvre de politiques sectorielles, notamment du secteur primaire.

C'est sur cette perspective que je voudrais terminer mon intervention, Mesdames et Messieurs, en exprimant toute la gratitude de mon Gouvernement à la FAO, à son Directeur Général Docteur Jacques Diouf, et à tous les partenaires pour leur soutien constant au développement rural et agricole de la Guinée. Exprime à la même occasion aussi le souhait que l'Exercice de l'évaluation qui vient de se terminer aboutisse à une FAO encore plus active et performante sur le terrain, dotée de ressources budgétaires suffisantes pour accomplir sa mission au bénéfice des paysans pauvres.

Gerry RITZ (Canada)

In 1945 Canada was proud to host the founding FAO Conference in Quebec City and we are proud to continue as a leading FAO Member Nation. As you know our world is changing at a rapid pace and if the challenges we face today have evolved from the issues that impacted global health and prosperity 60 years ago, more than ever it's important that organizations dealing with poverty and hunger are as efficient and effective as they can be.

Canada has an abundance of safe wholesome nutritious food. We also have tens of thousands of hard working farmers who not only feed Canadians, they help to feed the world. Last year Canadian agriculture agri-food exports reached the record of almost 28 billion dollars. Not all countries are so fortunate. Canada remains deeply concerned about the millions of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition around the world. In 2006-2007 the Canadian International Development Agency, or CIDA, invested 195 million dollars in agricultural development projects. Canada remains committed to supporting global agricultural development. CIDA, this year, is planning to spend nearly 200 million dollars for agricultural development in this current fiscal year. This is a two and a quarter percent increase in budget over the previous year. To effectively meet the challenges facing our global community nations must move together on a number of fronts. We need a vigorous programme of humanitarian aid and development assistance and we must at the same time continue to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Canada is committed to ensuring a safe secure food supply for Canadians and for those worldwide who consume Canadian products. Agriculture continues to evolve and this reality poses challenges and offers unique opportunities. That is why the Codex Alimentarius Commission is so important. Our world requires international standards to protect the health of consumers and a coordinated international approach to ensure fair practices in food trade. The FAO plays a pivotal role in working with all countries to meet their responsibility to produce safe food for their consumers at home and consumers abroad. The International Plant Protection Convention is an important tool for the FAO to help ensure plant health while supporting the food demands of a growing global population. Protecting our environment is also a concern Canada takes very seriously. Canada will continue to work with and within the FAO to promote globally sustainable agricultural practices to ensure a healthy environment for our future generations. We have been blessed with abundance and we are sharing our abundance with those most in need. We are an enormous nation with unsurpassed natural resources and hard working people. The FAO strongly supports competitiveness and productivity in the global food manufacturing, by establishing international standards on food safety and plant health.

We look forward to continuing our work with the FAO in our joint efforts to address world hunger. Two years ago the Members of this great Organization agreed to launch an Independent External Evaluation. That Evaluation took an in-depth look at ways FAO could better respond to these challenges and opportunities. The Report of the Evaluation is before us now. It reaffirms the key role that the FAO must play in creating a supported policy environment for agricultural development and hunger reduction. It also points to some fundamental reforms that are required for the FAO to play this role effectively. Greater strategic focus, improve governance and streamline management and organizational structures. Canada strongly supports the diagnosis and recommendations that the evaluation has offered us.

In closing, Canada calls on you, our fellow Members, in cooperation with the management of the FAO, to commit to the implementation of these recommendations with the urgency that they require. Here in the FAO and a wider global community we have the expertise and the determination to make real and tangible progress in reducing world hunger.

Aziz AKHENNOUCH (Maroc)

C'est pour moi un réel plaisir de m'exprimer, aujourd'hui, à l'occasion de cet 34^{ème} Session de la FAO, car il s'agit d'une rencontre au sommet où les pays sont mis face à leurs responsabilités autant au niveau économique, social et humain. Nous avons tous ici une conviction c'est que l'agriculture est au cœur de tous les défis de nos sociétés: croissance, sécurité alimentaire, développement durable, indépendance énergétique. Cependant, l'agriculture, nous le savons tous, n'est pas une activité comme les autres. Nous en connaissons encore aujourd'hui la précarité, en particulier, du fait des aléas climatiques qui s'imposent à nous, nous connaissons l'importance, pour chaque pays de disposer d'une souveraineté alimentaire, c'est-à-dire d'une sécurité de ses approvisionnements, afin de prévenir une dépendance excessive vis-à-vis des marchés internationaux. A ce propos, les travaux de qualité conduits par la FAO sur les politiques agricoles, le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire et les rôles de l'agriculture apportent de plus en plus de références et d'outils pouvant aider les gouvernements et les autres acteurs du développement dans leurs politiques agricoles. Je voudrais, à ce titre saluer Monsieur Jacques Diouf qui, depuis sa première élection en tant que Directeur Général à la tête de notre Organisation, a toujours œuvré pour nous permettre de relever les défis actuels et futurs de la sécurité alimentaire.

Le Royaume du Maroc contribue, pour sa part, à la mise en œuvre du Programme spécial de la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays africains subsahariens. Un programme qui enregistre des résultats encourageants dont nous souhaiterions voir le champ d'intervention élargi. Nous comptons évidemment sur l'appui et le soutien de la FAO à ce Programme en tant que structure spécialisée et sollicitons une augmentation des moyens qui lui sont alloués ainsi qu'à la coopération technique, afin de répondre aux besoins urgents des pays désireux de bénéficier de la Coopération sud-sud.

La sécurité alimentaire a toujours constitué l'une des priorités nationales des politiques économiques du Maroc qui œuvre à assurer l'approvisionnement continu du pays en produits alimentaires et ce, à travers le développement d'une agriculture productive, de l'exploitation responsable de ces ressources halieutiques et du développement des activités littorales et aquacoles. Les taux moyens de couverture des besoins nationaux en produits de base ont ainsi atteint des niveaux satisfaisants, couvrant en particulier 100 pourcent pour les fruits et légumes, 98 pourcent pour les viandes, 85 pourcent pour les produits laitiers, 55 pourcent pour le sucre et 60 pourcent pour les céréales. L'agriculture irriguée, bien que ne couvrant que 11 pourcent de la superficie totale, assure à elle seule 45 pourcent de la valeur ajoutée agricole. Elle contribue considérablement aux exportations marocaines et joue un rôle vital dans l'approvisionnement du marché national surtout en période de sécheresse. De même, les régions à agriculture pluviale qui souffrent des effets de sécheresse et de la raréfaction de l'eau, ont enregistré des investissements importants, privilégiant les programmes de petite et moyenne hydraulique, l'introduction des plantes résistantes et de la sécheresse et de développement de l'élevage. S'agissant du secteur halieutique, la politique des pêches maritimes du Maroc puise ses fondements dans le nouveau

contexte international qui plaide pour la sauvegarde des ressources biologiques marines, leur exploitation durable et une forte valorisation des potentiels gérés par le patrimoine halieutique national, et la lutte contre la pêche illicite.

En effet, l'étendue de la Zone économique exclusive, ses caractéristiques biologiques, sa biodiversité mais également sa vulnérabilité, donnent la juste mesure de la dimension du Programme d'action mis en œuvre pour accroître la contribution des secteurs des pêches maritimes au développement socio-économique du Royaume, notamment dans les années à venir où la mer est appelée à jouer un rôle de premier plan dans la sécurité alimentaire. Pour atteindre ces objectifs, le Royaume du Maroc adopte une politique rigoureuse de gestion et d'aménagement des pêcheries à même d'assurer un maximum de production soutenue, tout en préservant l'équilibre biologique des stocks et des écosystèmes marins, garants de la sécurité alimentaire. S'agissant de la lutte contre la pauvreté, le Maroc enregistre un recul du taux de pauvreté qui est passé de 19 pourcent en 1999 à 14 pourcent en 2004, date du dernier recensement. En outre, le lancement depuis le 8 mai 2005 par Sa Majesté le Roi, Mohammed VI, de l'Initiative nationale pour le développement humain (INDH) constitue un modèle en matière de développement humain visant l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations vulnérables. L'INDH dont les objectifs cadrent parfaitement avec ceux de l'Alliance internationale contre la faim initiée, encadrée et suivie par la FAO, a permis à près de 350 communes rurales, soit 27 pourcent de l'ensemble des communes rurales au Maroc, de bénéficier de la lutte contre la pauvreté. Dans le même sens, le Maroc a opté pour l'implantation de nouveaux micro-pôles de développement régionaux à travers la réalisation de 20 villages de pêcheurs et de 42 points de débarquement aménagés. Pour ce qui est de la raréfaction des ressources, je voudrais attirer l'attention sur le fait qu'aujourd'hui, la demande mondiale en matières premières agricoles est en forte augmentation. En plus de la hausse des besoins liés à l'alimentation humaine, notamment dans les pays émergents, de la forte demande en produits bruts destinés à l'alimentation animale, le marché mondial doit faire face à la montée en puissance des utilisations non-alimentaires des produits agricoles au premier rang desquels on trouve les biocarburants. C'est une grande source d'inquiétude pour les pays en développement comme le Maroc. Des pays confrontés au problème de l'autosuffisance alimentaire aggravée par les difficultés d'approvisionnement en ces produits sur le marché international.

Cette Session constitue pour nous une opportunité pour sensibiliser tous les États membres de l'Organisation sur la gravité de la situation, sur la nécessité d'adopter un Code de conduite pour une utilisation judicieuse et rationnelle des produits agricoles. Avant de clore mon intervention, je voudrais exprimer la satisfaction de mon pays quant à ses relations de coopération avec la FAO qui sont concrétisés sur le terrain à travers des projets d'une extrême importance pour mon pays et, tout particulièrement dans le domaine de l'irrigation, l'amélioration des productions agricoles, la santé animale et la lutte anti-acridienne.

U Htay OO (Myanmar)

The 1990-1992 figures of 850 million undernourished people have not been changed, on which the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) commitments were based to halving hunger by 2015. Lack of progress in reducing hunger, sustaining the natural resources and coping with climate change, have raised concern and impose challenges on world's agriculture today. According to world food situation assessment made by FAO, crop and livestock output in recent years, fell to the lowest annual rate since the early 1970s. The problem of food insecurity is also compounded by ever increasing global population growth. Achieving MDGs commitments may not be possible in the absence of strong political will and commitment of the international community.

Myanmar being an agricultural country, the government has placed emphasis on agriculture sector as the base and all round development of other sectors of the economy as well. The Government has been steadfastly implementing the National Development Plan with the aim to achieve equitable and balanced development and to reduce socio-economic gap between the rural and urban areas of the country. Progress has been achieved in the expansion of cultivable land area and the net sown area increased to 12.61 million hectares in 2006 from 8.05 million hectares in

1988 showing an increase by 1.6 times. Mixed and multiple cropping areas increased by fivefold to 7.8 million hectares in 2006 from 1.58 million hectares in 1988. Thus the cropping intensity increased from 119.6 percent to 161.8 percent, resulting in doubling of the total sown area to 20.4 million hectares from 9.63 million hectares during the same period. The average annual agriculture sector growth in Myanmar is 8.5 percent, indicating stable increase of food supply in Myanmar.

Rice is Myanmar's staple food and the vital element to consider when setting the national as well as regional food security policy. Sown area of rice has risen from 5.8 million hectares to 8.1 million hectares and production has increased by 175 percent reaching to 30.9 millions metric tonnes during 1996 to 2007. As a surplus rice producer, the export of rice has been liberalized to expand and to further enhance the productivity for food security. In order to increase agricultural productivity for food security and rural income, the Government is making its utmost effort to expand the availability of irrigation water. So far, altogether 204 dams and 305 pump irrigation projects have been constructed during the past 18 years, providing irrigation to 2.25 million hectares, which is 18 percent of the net sown area. Moreover, application of advanced technology, utilization of improved varieties and increased use of farm machineries have complemented towards the higher farm productivity.

Fishery is one of the most important industries in Myanmar for domestic food supply for import and export. Annual fish production in 2006-07 was 2.84 million metric tonnes. In livestock sector, Myanmar attained significant growth rate of 14.3 percent in meat production, 10.2 percent in milk production, and 12.3 percent in egg production during the recent years. In Myanmar, almost 50 percent of the total land area is still covered by forest. A total of 38.22 thousand hectares of community forest has been established at the end of 2006 with the active participation of local community and NGOs. New plantations of teak and other commercial hardwood species are being established both by the State and private sectors. Timber from forests is also extracted annually in accordance with the annual allowance cut (AAC).

While we are striving for sustainable food production, energy security becomes a critical issue for developed and developing countries. With the advancement of technology an abundance of agricultural crops and crop residues can be transformed into energy sources. We are now entering into the new dimension of agricultural development with respect to bio-fuel production and utilization. It is essential for us to maintain the balance between food, feed and bio-fuel production. Myanmar, as land and water resources rich country, plans are being implemented to establish 3.2 million hectares of *Jatropha curcas* plantation in marginal lands in order not to compete with other food crops, with the immediate objective of rural energy sufficiency. So far, 1.3 million hectare of *Jatropha* has been planted by active mass participation. Nowadays, food security is facing many challenges in addressing the common problems of increasing global population, global climate changes, natural disasters, food safety, and energy security. In order to overcome these challenges, we, the Members of FAO should double our current efforts to ensure food security both locally and globally. As we look ahead, I have ever confidence that both political will and financial resources could be timely and adequately raised to ensure the achievement of our World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals that we all have fully and whole-heartedly committed.

Rugare GUMBO (Zimbabwe)

Allow me to express my gratitude for this opportunity to share with you my views during this Session of the FAO Conference, on the State of Food and Agriculture. I would also like to congratulate the Chairperson and Vice-chairs on their election and wish them a successful session. Agriculture remains the most important sector in most economies of the developing world, where it is a source of livelihood to over 70 percent of the population and contributes significantly to GDP. The growth of agriculture not only addresses food security concerns, hunger and poverty, but it also has the catalytic effect of propelling economies to a sustained growth path. The report on the State of Food and Agriculture highlights the success of the agricultural sector on a global

level, stressing however that this success is not shared equally among Member Nations of the FAO, with many developing countries still facing many challenges in agricultural production.

Like most developing countries, Zimbabwe's economy is strongly underpinned by the agricultural sector which accounts for over 18 percent of the GDP, 60 percent of the industrial raw materials and is a source of livelihood to over 70 percent of the country's population. The strong forward and backward linkages agriculture has with other sectors make it very strategic for investment and for ensuring food security as well as eradication of hunger and poverty. However, realisation of the potential presented by agriculture is hampered by supply side constraints obtaining in most developing economies. In the case of Zimbabwe, dependence on rainfed agriculture is no longer sustainable due to the recurrence of droughts and other factors. Other production constraints relate to the system of supply of critical inputs, post production support systems and relative incentives for production of crops guaranteeing food security. To address the foregoing challenges, the Government of Zimbabwe identified several key areas of interventions, among others, to promote the right conditions for increased agricultural production to ensure that, through our own production the country would achieve food security, produce adequate raw materials for the manufacturing sector and improve its export earnings.

The interventions are as follows: (i) as a result of drought in 2006-2007 season, the Government is scaling up the Crop and Livestock Input Credit Scheme, while at the same time attracting, private sector investment in overall agricultural production. We are augmenting supplies of critical inputs through imports financed from our own resources and lines of credit extended from bilateral partners; (ii) to encourage production of strategic crops and livestock, we have introduced price incentives that have a direct correlation with import parity prices. Further, we are mobilising smallholder farmers to take advantage of the incentives and plant at least one hectare of strategic food crops per household. These measures will increase agriculture output and food - security at the household level; (iii) we are also distributing to farmers tractors, farm implements, combine harvesters and animal-drawn implements through a medium-term credit facility, under our recently-launched Agricultural Mechanisation Programme, drawn from a number of sources including FAO/TCP on the country Mechanization Strategy; (iv) to reduce our import bill associated with import fuel, we are engaged in the development of the bio-fuel projects. Recently we have commissioned a bio-diesel plant in the country, and we look forward to FAO assisting us in forging appropriate bilateral and multilateral relationship to develop this promising area; (v) rehabilitation and development of irrigation schemes continue to be a priority because we want to minimise the risks associated with rainfed agriculture, more so in light of the increase in the frequency of droughts in our Region. However the pace of irrigation development is being hampered by limited capital and human resources. In this regard, Zimbabwe would welcome development partners, for mutual beneficial cooperation. We are grateful to the technical support we received from FAO in the development of appropriate institutional arrangements for effective management of water resources; (vi) promotion of production and use of drought tolerant crop varieties also has taken centre stage, in the low rainfall areas, in order to counter the effects of drought. To this end we are directing efforts at increasing seed production of seed for drought tolerant small grains and introducing drought-tolerant food crops, such as cassava.

We look forward to tapping the expertise within FAO for production and processing of these crops. To prevent post-harvest losses, the country is promoting development of appropriate technology for post-harvest technologies. Consequently we would welcome FAO support in developing linkage systems for rural infrastructure and agro-industries. We look forward to FAO assisting us in forging appropriate bilateral and multilateral relationships. Finally, to enhance the impact of these interventions, the Government is reviewing the Agriculture Policy Framework with assistance from FAO, aware that the effectiveness of the new agricultural policy framework depends on the capacity in the country, in terms of both capital and human resources. The Government will invite development partners to address areas of mutual interest, particularly those guaranteeing household food security and improving the livelihoods of the small-holder farmers.

On the areas of Programme Work and Budget and IEE, Zimbabwe associates itself with statements by Chairpersons of Africa Group and the G77. My delegation associates itself with Report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees' recommendations for a two-year maintenance budget. This budget is to ensure that FAO programmes maintain their efficiency in power so that field activities are not cut to meet the cost of inflation, sliding of the US dollar and financing unbudgeted programmes approved by the Members during the Conference, as was the case during the current biennium. Any cuts at this stage would weaken the effectiveness of FAO programmes. The maintenance budget is also meant to safeguard the TCP Programme, whose resources were being tapped into as the Organization tried to deal with the liquidity crunch that forced it to borrow externally. Yet, TCP funds are essential in helping Member Nations translate knowledge and technology gained through FAO into food security programmes. In this regard, we look forward to emerge from the Conference with the Organization being accorded a two-year budget in line with the PWB. This would strengthen the Organization's financial reserves and Working Capital Funds, and ensure that programme delivery is not interrupted midway as was the case in the current biennium. We see a strong FAO as a secure launching pad for the recommendations of the IEE. We realise that the budget would need to be reviewed once the recommendations of IEE have been examined by the Members.

My delegation also welcomes the IEE Report. We believe in the conclusion that FAO remains relevant in the world, more so to the developing world. Be that as it may, we would like to recommend that thorough analysis of the Report is carried out to guide us on how best we go about implementing the recommendations. We should be guided by the recommendation from the Report of the Independent Chair of the Council, which proposes the setting-up of the Conference Committee to analyze the Report and propose an Immediate Action Plan and Elements of a Strategic Framework. Since the renewal of FAO is very important to us, we should ensure that there is full ownership of the process by all the Members, and that the work of the Committee is very transparent. Therefore, it should be financed through the Regular Budget. The Council has proposed an indicative budget of US\$4.8 million which we should support. My delegation also supports the convening of a Special Conference to consider the committed recommendations in 2008. In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate its confidence in the Director-General of FAO and its staff for the steady job that they have done for this Organization. We are Confident that the Director-General and his staff will be able to handle the transformation required by the IEE process with the usual dignity and integrity. We urge the Director-General to continue in his endeavour.

Murray SHERWIN (New Zealand)

The FAO stands at a crossroad. After 62 years it cannot rest on past achievements, nor paper over the cracks of where it is underachieving. Its founding purpose and the need for many of its services continues in the face of persistent rural poverty, environmental degradation, barriers to international trade, the lack of development of international markets, and global food, animal, and plant health emergencies. The challenges for the FAO, and its Membership, are clearly laid out in the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) Report. New Zealand joins those who have welcomed this rigorous, wide-ranging and comprehensive assessment of FAO. As the Report makes admirably clear, this is an Organization in crisis. We accept the IEE analysis and appreciate that the recommendations represent a comprehensive and balanced package. It is a package that we should resist unpicking. But how can we respond? New Zealand looks to the Director-General, the staff of the FAO, and our fellow Members, to seize the opportunity provided by the IEE to address the problems of governance, systems, culture, and structure, highlighted in the IEE Report. Most importantly, we need to clarify and strengthen the FAO's Strategic Framework. Members and staff alike need to know and agree on where the FAO is going, and where its resources should go to achieve best results. We need clear benchmarks and milestones for implementation, in order to facilitate close monitoring of progress and outcomes. We all want to see the FAO doing the vital job its Members expect and deserve. But to justify an ongoing commitment of funding, the Organization must be able to demonstrate that it is rigorous in its determination of priorities and efficient in its use of resources. Today, Members of the FAO face

new challenges of climate change; energy security, efficient, sustainable production and trade of agricultural products; and water supply and quality. We need a strong, effective, fit-to-purpose FAO to enable an effective and equitable global response to these challenges.

The New Zealand Government has placed sustainability high on its own policy agenda. We are implementing a range of long-term sustainability strategies for our economy, our society, our environment, culture and way of life. Because of their importance in land use and their contribution to the national economy, agriculture and forestry are at the heart of our actions in addressing these sustainability issues. For example, almost half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions are derived from our livestock industries. Reflecting that, New Zealand's recently-announced Comprehensive Emissions Trading Scheme will include agriculture and forestry. Next week, New Zealand will host an International Conference on Greenhouse Gases and Animal Agriculture. At this Conference we will launch an International Research Network focussed on greenhouse gas emissions from livestock. We have been gratified by the interest from many countries wishing to participate in this initiative, and are eager for further collaboration. Climate change is among the particular concerns of our Pacific Island neighbours. In this respect we particularly appreciate the role of the FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific. This Office has improved the quality of engagement between the FAO and the Island States, and facilitated better targeting of effort by the FAO, related to the unique needs of the Pacific Island economies.

Once again we welcome the release of the FAO flagship publication, "The State of Food and Agriculture". We take note of the theme concerning payments to farmers for environmental services, and how subsidies that encourage the production of marketed goods at the expense of other eco-system services, can aggravate environmental degradation. New Zealand has shared this concern for many years now. We actively promote the role that global agricultural trade liberalisation can play to avoid these perverse effects. We sincerely hope that the political will can be found to bring a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Round as soon as possible. We see this as a powerful engine for development and greater food and environmental security.

There is rightly much talk of the IEE in this meeting. But, I would like also to commend another recent evaluation – that of the Workings of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its institutional arrangements. We would like to express our continuing support for the work of the IPPC to maintain and improve plant health status and to facilitate trade. We also give high priority to the aims and outcomes of Codex Alimentarius to protect human health and facilitate trade. IPPC and Codex are critical components in the framework for trade in agricultural products. It is in *fora* such as these that the FAO can underscore its essential value for all Members. These are core assets for FAO to build upon. New Zealand urges the Organization to ensure that adequate funding is provided to enhance the impact of both IPPC and Codex.

Now is the moment to seize the opportunities offered by the IEE. New Zealand is ready to work with others to ensure a prompt and comprehensive response to the IEE recommendations, for the good of the Organization, for the benefit of all Members, and to meet the responsibility we all hold for those who are suffering from poverty and malnutrition.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (République du Congo)

Excellence Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, sans déroger à la règle, j'aimerais avant tout, au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur Denis Sassou Nguesso, Président de la République, Chef de l'État et à mon nom propre, saluer les délégations ici réunies, et renouveler à Monsieur le Directeur Général de la FAO, Jacques Diouf, les félicitations pour toutes les initiatives qu'il ne cesse de prendre en vue de permettre à notre organisation de remplir ses fonctions cruciales en faveur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture mondiale et particulièrement l'invitation adressée aux Ministres des Finances à l'Événement spécial de haut niveau sur le financement de l'agriculture pour susciter ainsi une meilleure prise en compte de la problématique de son financement lors de l'élaboration des projets de budget de nos États.

La reconnaissance par la Banque Mondiale et par les institutions internationales ainsi que par de nombreux pays, de la place prépondérante qu'occupe l'agriculture dans le développement durable,

est un fait majeur. Que dis-je? C'est une nouvelle réalité qui devrait désormais obliger nos États à réorienter les finances vers ce secteur devenu un secteur de concentration. Le rapport de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO établit un diagnostic pertinent qui interpelle les États Membres à se pencher sur la réforme de notre institution commune en vue de prendre en compte dans les programmes et budgets futures les nouveaux défis et enjeux qui découlent des évolutions actuelles de notre monde. Comme l'on fait observer quelques délégations qui se sont exprimées avant moi, les recommandations faites par l'Évaluation externe indépendante et qui ont balisé la dite réforme, méritent d'être approfondies par les États Membres et renvoyées en débat l'année prochaine afin de permettre la renaissance de notre organisation.

Concernant le programme de travail et budget, le devoir accordé à la FAO des moyens substantiels de travail en adoptant un budget de croissance réelle que garantit la réalisation des programmes de terrain. Comme viennent de le signifier les orientations de la récente journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le 16 octobre 2007, il est temps d'agir. Là réside la condition sine qua non pour assurer des lendemains meilleurs au cours de l'alimentation et agriculture dans la fidélité, la stabilité et le progrès qui déterminent la paix, la vie des hommes et le développement des Nations. C'est ce à quoi s'attend le Gouvernement congolais, à travers une politique basée sur les stratégies du développement agricole 2004 – 2013 à l'occasion des présents échanges, notre délégation voudrait informer les partenaires de notre pays au double plan bilatérale et multilatérale notamment dans le cadre de la FAO des efforts que la République du Congo déploie en vue du développement agricole et de la promotion de l'alimentation et du droit à l'alimentation pour tous. Il s'agit pour la matérialisation des ces stratégies ci-dessus évoquées de la mise en œuvre entre autre des projets ci-après; le programme spécial sur la sécurité alimentaire, le programme de développement rural et le programme de réhabilitation des pays agricoles.

Notre pays a exécuté de janvier 2003 à décembre 2007 ce programme dans neuf départements sur douze, le dit programme pilote financé par le Congo avec l'assistance de la FAO a appuyé plus de 2 300 bénéficiaires hommes et femmes. Les résultats encourageants obtenus après cette phase pilote ont conduit le Gouvernement à élaborer un programme national pour la sécurité alimentaire qui a pour objectifs globaux la lutte contre la faim, l'insécurité alimentaire et la réduction de la pauvreté. Le coût de ce programme est chiffré à 84 600 000 dollars des États-Unis. En outre, le Gouvernement a signé un accord d'un montant de près de 22 840 000 dollars avec le Fond international de développement agricole pour la mise en œuvre d'un second projet de développement rural dans les départements du Niari, de la Lékoumou et du Bouenza. Un troisième est en cours de formulation avec le concours de la FAO, il intéresse le département du Pool, de la Sangha et de la Likouala. Par ailleurs le Gouvernement a bénéficié d'un accord de dons de la Banque Mondiale pour la mise en œuvre dont le financement total est de 40 000 000 de dollars US. À cet égard le Parlement a voté la loi pour la création d'un établissement public administratif dénommé fond de soutien à l'agriculture qui va assurer le financement de l'agriculture.

Pour mon pays l'engagement est prêt de contribuer à faire aboutir les décisions sur les nouveaux défis de l'agriculture dont la bioénergie. Mais il est impératif de les assortir d'une analyse pertinente pour que ne soit pas compromise la situation des paysans qui risquent ainsi de manquer de terres. En tenant compte que certains pays ont résolu le problème de la production et de la productivité, nous au Congo, nous engageons un grand combat pour la production des semences de bonne qualité par la biotechnologie car nous disons: sans semence il n'y a point d'agriculture. Il est opportun d'affirmer ici que le Gouvernement du Congo s'emploie, conformément aux engagements internationaux, et aux prescriptions de la loi fondamentale, assurer les obligations de respect de protection et de garantie à la promotion du droit des populations à se nourrir.

La combinaison de l'accent de l'État et de celle de l'ensemble du secteur privé en matière de recherche agronomique de vulgarisation des nouvelles technologies, la mise en place des filières de renforcement des capacités des producteurs, le contrôle de la qualité des produits et la professionnalisation des producteurs agricoles, conduira le Congo à la victoire sur la faim. L'égard à l'envergure des défis agricoles et alimentaires qui se posent à l'humanité, le réflexe immédiat de voir animer les États est à en point douter celui de resserrer le cours du triple plan sous régionale,

régionale et internationale. Aussi sommes-nous appelés plus que jamais à travailler la main dans la main en vue d'une coopération toujours plus agissante notamment sur le terrain entre les pays du Nord et du Sud et le pays du Sud entre eux dans une solidarité agissante gage de la victoire dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans nos pays.

Nguen VIET THANG (Viet Nam)

Over many decades, under the creative leadership of the Director General, the FAO has always played the leading role in coming up with proposals, initiatives to tackle global issues on food and agriculture. Developing countries have always found proactive support from the FAO politically and technically with a view of increasing productivity, outcome and efficiency from agricultural, forestry and fisheries production, preventing effectively diseases on livestock and crop, fishing and aquaculture, ensuring food security and making ground for the socio-economic development in the member countries. We believe that facing such big difficulties and challenges, the FAO needs to continue its efforts in reforming and renovating to further improve the effectiveness of its activities to meet the expectations of the international community. Despite the budget constraints and having to deal with emergencies from disease outbreaks, natural disasters, the Reform process within the FAO over the last two years has made initial successes. However, it is just the pilot phase, and requires more time to get proved. Vietnam is also experiencing the pilot phase for the United Nations activities under the "One UN" mechanism.

With regard to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009, we support the common G77 platform that there should be a Real Growth to the Budget to make sure that the FAO can perform effectively the Programme of Work in line with its functions.

With regard to the current FAO aids and TCP activities, the delegation of Vietnam supports the following orientations: (1) focusing human resource and budget on the fight against worldwide Avian Influenza; (2) emergency food aids to the victims of tsunamis, droughts, typhoons and floods, earthquakes, etc., to prevent, mitigate and overcome the consequences, at the same time supporting with inputs, crops, animals and seeds to help restore food and agricultural production; (3) support to technology transfer to help developing countries in the areas of biotechnology, biodiversity and biosafety; (4) promoting the South-South Cooperation Programme.

During the last years, with the support from FAO, other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other countries, Vietnam put its efforts in implementing programmes of poverty reduction, agriculture and rural modernization programme, contributing to the achievement of our national objectives, as well as the goals set out by the FAO. Vietnam has been implementing the Millennium Development Goals with successes ratified by the world community, especially in relation to the first Millennium Development Goal on Poverty Reduction and the commitment at the Food Security Summit. Between 1996 and 2004, Vietnam has successfully reduced the number of poor households by half, as well ahead of the first Millennium Development Goal requirement to be achieved by 2015, maintaining the general growth of agro-forestry-fisheries at 4-5 percent annually and strengthening food security.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency the Director-General and his staff for their valuable support, especially for the recent emergency aid programmes. Our sincere thanks also go to other international organizations and the donor community who have supported and extended precious assistance to Vietnamese agriculture and rural development.

Ernest A. DEBRAH (Ghana)

I should take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairperson for being elected to Chair function, Ghana wishes to recognize and to express our appreciation the invaluable work that the FAO is doing through the dedicated management and staff to reduce hunger and poverty across the globe. In particular, Ghana wishes to express her gratitude to the Organization for the immense support received over the years, and above all, the rapid response received from the disposition from other agencies in the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in certain parts to the country. I take this opportunity to assure the Director-General of the commitment of the Republic of Ghana to the worthy cause of FAO. Ghana, like all developing countries, has over time relied on the

agricultural sector to drive the overall development and good of her economy. This reliance is based on the immense contribution the sector plays on the economy. It contributes out 36 percent to the GDP and employs about 7 percent of the economically active work force. Agriculture in Ghana is predominantly a small-holder venture: about 85 percent of farm holders cultivate land areas of up to two hectares and only 15 percent cultivate lands above two hectares. Generally, the agriculture sectors perform relatively well over the last four years. Since 2002 the total has grown to an alarming rate of 6 percent, all the subsectors, cocoa, non-cocoa crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry contributed positively to this performance, with the cocoa subsector registering the highest growth. Ghana can be regarded as being satisfactorily food self sufficient in the middle staples, although maize self sufficiency is greatly influenced by rainfall reliability. The country, however, imports about 60 percent of its rice, and 30 percent of its poultry and livestock requirements.

The agriculture sector, however, is constrained by outmoded practices, slow adoption of improved technologies and put-in practice, and little access to credit. Food production in Ghana is in feed, the subtype is further characterized by high harvest losses, little value addition, poor infrastructure, the stringent market, and access to inadequate research support. Bitter challenges confronted the country which requires support for capacity-building to combat and to reduce the impact of such occurrences include transboundary pests and diseases of crops and livestock, and the effect of climate change on agricultural production and food security. To address the bottlenecks, the Government has revised its food and agriculture strategic development policy which envisage a modernized agriculture sector, that would result in a structurally transformed agriculture and evident in food security and emergency preparedness. The interventions for modernizing agriculture includes reform to land acquisition and property rights, as reaching the provision of revision infrastructure and enhancing access to credit adding impulse for agriculture, for more selective crop and livestock development, improving access to mechanized agriculture, increasing access to research and extension services, expansion and improvement to already existing infrastructures and restoration of degraded environment.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, although Ghana is making sturdy progress in agriculture, she is still confronted with major challenges. The good news however is that there is the political will to confront these challenges and Ghana hopes to be self-sufficient and to reduce poverty and hunger in the very near future.

Rungruang ISARANGKURA (Thailand)

Poverty still persists in many parts of the world, after the World Food Summit in 1996. If the present world agricultural situation continues without a dramatic change, the world community may not be able to reach the targets set by the MDGs by the year 2015. In the case of Thailand, the Royal Government of Thailand is confident that the number of our undernourished people and hunger will be reduced to even less than half before 2015. The expected success is due to the adoption of the "Sufficiency Economy" philosophy to tackle poverty reduction both in urban and rural areas. In the farming sector, the "New Theory of Agriculture" has been introduced, aiming at managing land and water resources in a proper and balanced manner. The Theory is an initiative of His Majesty the King, for the betterment of Thai farmers, which has proven a success in poverty reduction in a sustainable way. Environmental scientists predict that the impacts of global warming and climate change would greatly affect agricultural production, genetic contamination and transboundary animal diseases which continue to threaten food security in many countries around the world. These are urgent issues which require prompt action, not only of a single country but also of the world community. Thailand strongly urges FAO to timely assist Member Nations in addressing these global threats in their adaptation and mitigation. Biofuel has become one of the alternatives to mitigate the impact of climate change. The increasing price of fossil fuels also becomes the incentive for many Governments to change their policy towards bio-fuel production rather than food production. Therefore, it is a great challenge of FAO to provide policy advice to member countries on bioenergy production as well as on food production so as to ensure food security and conserve the environment. Thailand is very pleased that this issue is included in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget of the next biennium.

Thailand welcomes the IEE report with the aim of improving the capacity of the organization. We believe that the Reform will lead to FAO's excellence in agricultural technology, cost-efficiency and effectiveness, and better services to Member Nations. All the stakeholders should be open-minded to the IEE recommendations and make the best selection for the benefit of FAO. Meanwhile, impact on staff at every level should be kept at a minimum. Thailand has recognized the important role of FAO in coping with food production and food security in the developing world, especially in Asia and the Pacific. We also appreciate the devotion of FAO staff, in particular, in emergency agricultural recovery from natural disasters. Finally, Thailand assures that it will continue to work closely with FAO for a proper "Reform with Growth."

Abdurrahman Bin Khalifa Bin Abdulaziz AL-THANI (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

The documents presented show the increase in world food production. However, there are still hundreds of millions of people who face poverty and hunger and these unfortunate situations urges us to call for synergy and collective efforts in order to find the effective solutions to fight poverty and reduce hunger and improve nutrition in all countries of the world. We, in the State of Qatar, on the basis of the lofty humanitarian principles reiterated by His Highness the Emir of Qatar in many and various international *fora*, also reiterate the commitment of Qatar to reduce hunger and poverty and to achieve sustainable development. Qatar has always endeavoured to give assistance and help to many countries of the world, especially in the times of crisis through the official authorities and the civil society organizations.

Despite the difficult natural and climatic conditions we have succeeded in accomplishing self-efficiency in agricultural crops, especially vegetables, and 85 percent of self-efficiency in fisheries, and this through the development of agriculture and fisheries and through the strategies elaborated for those sectors based on the use of modern technologies in such a way that goes in line with local circumstances and with the aim of achieving sustainability. We also gave special attention to the development and rationalization of water resources, in particular the use of modern irrigations method and the use of treated water, in particular in the use of fodder cultivation. We have also developed livestock and veterinary services, as well as animal disease diagnoses. For this purpose we have established the Qatar Bio-agricultural Technology Centre, that will start its work by mid-2008. The Centre will have the mandate of improving advanced technologies, research and development in the domains of agriculture, livestock and fisheries. Here we would like to reiterate our serious approach to this Centre that would improve research and development, not only for the countries of our Region but for other Regions as well. We do reiterate the contribution of Qatar to the international efforts for the sustainability of food production. We are approaching now the final phase of consultancy studies on the establishment of a Marine Sciences and Fisheries Centre that will conduct research and studies on the preservation of fisheries and sustainable development, fishery production increase, as well as aquaculture techniques and quality control of fisheries.

FAO has increasing responsibilities ahead. Therefore, the Organization needs the best possibilities in order to improve its work in rural and agricultural development in particular in the developing countries. We therefore support the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008-2009 and we are sure the Organization will use efficiently the available resources. In conclusion, I would like to express the appreciation of the State of Qatar for the strenuous efforts made by the Organization under the leadership of the Director-General, Dr. Jacques Diouf. This work has been done by the Organization to increase world food production and for agricultural sustainable development, and you have our full support to achieve the aspired goals.

Einar Kristinn GUDFINNSSON (Iceland)

A significant proportion of animal proteins consumed in the world is from fisheries products, not least in the developing world. The economic benefits derived from the fisheries sector contribute greatly to development and economic well-being around the world, as well as to enhance food security. My country attaches great importance to the work of FAO's Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. We want to support its work regarding the Code of Conduct for Responsible

Fisheries. In recent months we have been cooperating with the Department on issues including Vessel Monitoring Systems for Fishing Vessels. We welcome the good work done at the Department in this field, and we remain convinced that it will continue to bring benefits to the world's fisheries and for safety at sea.

I would like to emphasize the role of FAO as the appropriate forum for addressing global issues in fisheries. FAO has proved to be an important forum for cooperation and coordination, on a range of issues. These include the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries and the protection of vulnerable marine eco-systems. In cases where global cooperation is required, FAO will continue to be of vital importance. Having said that, it should be stressed that responsible management of living marine resources is best carried out at national and regional level, and should be in the hands of those with most at stake and who are most affected by the decisions taken. Rights-based and market-driven fisheries free of state subsidies, based on the best available scientific information, are the only way to secure sustainable utilisation of the fish stocks and the economic well-being of the people involved. It should be our aim to fully utilize our living marine resources on a sustainable basis, which should not be confused with over-utilizing fish-stocks.

Iceland shares many of the concerns expressed about the state of the oceans and of fish stocks in some regions. While these concerns may get the incumbents of States to work together, they are not best addressed with additional global instruments or initiatives. On the contrary, certain approaches would in fact be counter productive and harmful. There are no global fish stocks. The necessary legal framework for management of the living marine resources is in place in the UN Convention: 'The Law of the Sea'. What needs to be done is to implement effectively existing instruments. Enhancing food security has been the core of Iceland's development cooperation through the Icelandic International Development Agency and the UN University Fisheries Training Programme. Here FAO is an important partner and has made a significant contribution to the development of international norms of sustainable fisheries and responsible fish treaty. The UN University's geo-thermal training programme has been a second pillar in our capacity-building efforts.

Allow me to inform you that my Government has also decided to markedly increase its contribution to development cooperation. This includes funding of a three year pilot programme in capacity-building in the fields of soil conservation and land management. This programme is for postgraduate students and professionals from developing countries with dryland areas and it is our hope, that it will in future take the form of an UN University training programme. This field is one of the core normative activities of FAO and we therefore hope to have fruitful cooperation with these experts in the years to come. Through this we hope to strengthen our cooperation with FAO in the fields of agriculture and sustainable land use. Revitalization efforts through the development of sustainable land use and forestation and combating active soil erosion have been a core activity in Icelandic agriculture and from the enactment of laws on these issues that were passed in the Icelandic Parliament a century ago this week.

Another area of particular interest is our participation in the important work of FAO within the area of preservation and sustainable use of domesticated plant and animal genetic resources. In this field, the Nordic Countries have had a closer research cooperation that has led to important technology transfer, especially to developing nations. I believe that FAO has a great future, built on more than 60 years of experience and hard work. As a knowledge centre in its fields of work, it has no equal. We need to build on this solid foundation but at the same time look ahead. Therefore Iceland welcomes the report of the Independent External Evaluation. We believe that now is the moment to reform the Organization to apply modern management principles and in particular, to implement gender equality. We are now preparing the FAO for its important tasks in the Twenty-first Century.

Jean NKUTE (Cameroun)

La présente Session de la Conférence se tient au moment crucial où les problèmes de développement dans le monde connaissent de nouvelles perspectives. En effet, avec le retour de

l'agriculture en tant que centre d'intérêt en matière de croissance, de l'offre, de l'emploi et de l'amélioration des revenus des plus pauvres, il y a eu lieu de nourrir beaucoup d'espoir pour la croissance de nos pays en développement, dont l'essentiel de l'économie repose sur ce secteur. Nous nous attendons également à ce que la Conférence internationale sur le financement du développement, qui se tiendra au cours du deuxième semestre 2008 à Doha, confirme cet espoir et cette tendance.

Le Directeur Général nous a présenté pour examen à cette Session, une proposition de Programme de travail et de budget pour le biennium 2008-2009. Permettez-moi d'oser quelques commentaires sur ces deux grands défis majeurs dans le monde d'aujourd'hui à savoir les changements climatiques et la question des bioénergies qui sont également repris dans la description du contexte environnemental ayant influencé la préparation de ce Programme de travail et budget. Les changements climatiques constituent une des grandes préoccupations du monde d'aujourd'hui, non seulement en raison de leur impact sur l'environnement, mais aussi pour leurs effets négatifs directs et induits sur les productions agricoles et donc sur la sécurité alimentaire. Nous redoutons que les pays les plus affectés par les changements climatiques, soient encore les pays en développement, notamment les pays africains, aux écosystèmes et économies fragiles. Pour ce qui est de la question des bioénergies, l'engouement montant pour la production de biocombustibles pour substituer les combustibles fossiles, est consécutif à l'inquiétude née par rapport à ces derniers. Les prix semblent de plus en plus prohibitifs et la production est moins certaine de couvrir les besoins de la consommation future. L'option, pour les pays en développement de se lancer dans la production des bioénergies, pourra revaloriser les filières agricoles et contribuer à l'augmentation des revenus des petits producteurs agricoles en leur offrant de grands bénéfices financiers. Le Cameroun suivra donc, avec attention, le travail de la FAO dans ces deux domaines.

En revenant sur la proposition du Programme de travail et de budget 2008-2009, permettez-moi de dire combien mon pays est satisfait de constater que les grands programmes prioritaires, que ce document présente, épousent dans les grandes lignes, la stratégie nationale de développement agricole au Cameroun. Les négociations qui sont envisagées pour la détermination du niveau du budget 2008-2009 ne devraient pas nous faire perdre de vue les difficultés financières qui entravent la bonne marche de l'organisation. Le budget de maintenance, qui est la proposition du Directeur Général, doit être mis dans son contexte et compris dans sa justesse. Nous restons très reconnaissants à la FAO pour les divers appuis qu'elle ne cesse d'apporter au Cameroun. Pendant les deux derniers exercices biennaux, le Cameroun a bénéficié du concours sans précédent de la FAO dans le cadre du Programme de coopération technique, ayant couvert plusieurs aspects du développement agricole. Le processus de l'Évaluation externe indépendante est une initiative louable pour laquelle le Cameroun attache un grand intérêt. Nous avons accueilli favorablement le rapport final de cette évaluation ainsi que la réponse de la Direction et nous souhaitons vivement que les recommandations qui y sont faites, puissent être systématiquement discutées par les experts, par les Etats membres et mises en œuvre, afin de rendre la FAO plus apte à remplir son mandat et pour qu'elle comble mieux nos attentes. Sur un autre plan, le renforcement des bureaux régionaux permet une meilleure décentralisation de l'Organisation et aboutit nécessairement à l'amélioration de la gestion des programmes dans le pays. La nécessité de réadapter l'Organisation dans le cadre des Réformes du système des Nations Unies s'impose donc.

Comme à chaque session de la Conférence, l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture est un thème récurrent. Cette année, les discussions concernant cette question vont, j'en suis convaincu, mettre un accent particulier sur la situation très préoccupante de la mauvaise performance de l'agriculture africaine. Mais, le plus grand problème auquel est aujourd'hui confronté l'agriculture dans les pays en développement, notamment en Afrique, est celui du financement. Ces pays sont toujours à la recherche d'une stratégie de financement adaptée à l'agriculture. Pour terminer mon propos, je voudrais dire que le Cameroun croit en la FAO, comme institution au service de ses Membres, génératrice du savoir dans le domaine de l'agriculture et du développement rural et en ses capacités à remplir son mandat en collaboration avec les autres institutions internationales, notamment le FIDA et le PAM dans un partenariat

stratégique. Il suffit de lui en donner les moyens et je ne doute pas que nous sortirons de cette Conférence, satisfaits d'avoir accomplis notre devoir.

Ben KAPITA (Zambia)

Zambia is committed to working with and supporting the FAO in its endeavours of ensuring that agriculture continues to be recognized by world leaders and especially those from developing countries that it is the key to poverty reduction and the fight against hunger and for income-generation and job creation. On the report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, Zambia supports the plan to create a Conference Committee to study the 403-page document and over 100 recommendations and also the convening of the Special Conference next year for action on the Report. Meanwhile, Zambia appeals to all Member Nations of FAO to ensure that the TCPs are not disrupted in the maintenance budget for the 2008-2009 biennium as we feel that the budget should be for two years as stipulated in the FAO Constitution.

Given the resource endowment in terms of the main factors of agricultural production, i.e. land, labour and water, Zambia has the potential to expand agricultural production. The Zambian Government is committed to developing the agricultural sector and has to put in place a policy environment conducive to fostering growth in the sector. Our overall policy goal is to facilitate the development of a sustainable and competitive agricultural sector that guarantees food security at the household and national levels and maximizes the sector's contribution to economic growth (GDP). Zambia applauds the effort that NEPAD is making through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) which is aimed at helping our countries to formulate priority and bankable investment programmes in the agricultural sector. Zambia is in the process of finalizing the stocktaking of the policies, strategies and investments in the agricultural sector with a view of carrying out detailed analysis of what investment priorities will be required to achieve a sustained growth of six percent from the current 3.9 percent in 2006.

Zambia is grateful, of course, to FAO for the preparation of bankable projects. Zambia is currently food-secure and can export some surplus maize to food-deficit countries in our regions. Despite floods in some districts, the country generally experienced favourable rainfalls. This, coupled with timely input supply during the last agricultural season, Zambia managed to produce enough maize which, when added to the carryover stocks from the previous season, can adequately cater for the nation's food requirement. Other food crops, notably cassava, wheat and rice, recorded some increases.

Zambia is also promoting the production and marketing of high value crops such as coffee, cotton and paprika. Other food crops such as cassava, sorghum, millet and groundnuts as well as beans are being produced to supplement our staple food crop, maize. An important strategy now is the promotion of value addition. The loss of forest and forest degradation in Zambia continues to be a serious source of concern and has its root causes in social and economic factors such as agriculture, unsustainable fuel wood collection, illegal settlements, uncontrolled forest fires and over-exploitation of timber.

To ensure continued increases in agricultural production, Zambia is implementing a number of programmes and interventions aimed at achieving sustained food security and income generation. These include: (i) provision of subsidized inputs such as fertilizer and seed to a targeted number of viable but vulnerable small-scale farmers; (ii) promotion of conservation farming and crop diversification with emphasis on increased productivity of high value products and food crops; (iii) promotion of irrigation development: Zambia has over 423 000 ha of irrigable land of which only about 100 000 ha is completely under-utilized. With abundant underground and surface water, this potential is currently under-utilized. The Government has developed a National Irrigation Plan (NIP) and we have set up an Irrigation Development Fund, which we launched in September of this year, and of course we are grateful to FAO for its support in this way; (iv) promotion of livestock development: the contribution of the livestock sub-sector to agricultural growth has been greatly hampered by the incidence of livestock diseases, poor animal husbandry practices and poor marketing. Zambia is working with other partners in reducing incidences of livestock diseases. To address this, an Emergency Disease Control Fund has been

set up and recently established a Small-sector Livestock Investment Programme (SLIP), which is supported by IFAD; (v) promotion of Fisheries Development: the fisheries sub-sector plays a very important role in our country in terms of food security, nutrition and income generation. We are promoting restocking and conservation of fish stocks in natural water bodies. Zambia would like to thank FAO for its support of the recent Fisheries Act amendment. Aquaculture development is being promoted in most parts of the country. Cage farming, though new, has attracted by both local and foreign investors; (vi) commercialization of agricultural lands: the Government's policy on land development is to ensure that land is readily available for agricultural purposes.

We have embarked on the development of farm blocks in all our nine provinces through provision of basic public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams, canals and electricity so as to attract both local and foreign investors. Currently, three farm blocks have been prioritized for immediate implementation. I am glad to report that Zambia has increased financial resources allocated to the agricultural sector from 5.5 percent in 2006 to 8.5 percent in the 2007 national budget. The increase complemented by resources from cooperating partners and the private sector, will lead to increased sector growth and food security.

I would like to conclude by thanking FAO for providing support to its Member Nations in addressing issues of agricultural development and food security at household, national, regional and global levels. In order to improve the financial standing of FAO, Zambia would like to join other Member Nations to appeal to all those Nations that have not paid their dues to clear their outstanding obligations. In the future we shall all pay our dues. This is the only way we can say that we want to do this.

Gerardo BOGADO (Paraguay)

El Paraguay, cuya economía se sustenta fundamentalmente en la producción agrícola y ganadera, afronta hoy los mismos retos y desafíos que otros países: la degradación de los recursos naturales, dificultades en la venta de sus productos, cambio climático, empobrecimiento de la tierra, etc. Somos conscientes de que tales retos y obstáculos no los podremos encarar ni superar sin la cooperación solidaria, tanto vertical como horizontal, de otros Estados, ya que nuestros recursos técnicos y económicos son limitados. En coincidencia con el hecho de que hoy la agricultura vuelve a ocupar un lugar preponderante en la agenda de los organismos multilaterales, el Paraguay manifiesta su vivo interés de que esta coyuntura se traduzca en acciones concretas que contribuyan positivamente a lograr el desarrollo agrícola, ganadero, acuícola y silvícola, para beneficio de los sectores más vulnerables de las poblaciones de los países en vías de desarrollo.

El Programa de la agricultura familiar es estratégicamente importante para el Paraguay, porque involucra al 84 por ciento de las fincas rurales. Este programa constituye un modelo de gestión agrícola diferente, que asegura la producción del 70 por ciento de alimentos para autoconsumo, permitiendo de esta manera, el ejercicio de la soberanía y la seguridad alimentaria, así como el manejo equilibrado y sostenible de los suelos, del medio ambiente y de los recursos naturales. Las familias productoras rurales se enfrentan cada día a nuevos desafíos, tales como: la tecnología y sus avances, los mercados con su vertiginoso dinamismo y sus extremas exigencias. Estos factores acentúan su vulnerabilidad y aceleran el proceso de exclusión social de las mismas. En este contexto, la FAO, a través del Programa Telefood, se encuentra realizando una excelente labor, llegando directamente y sin intermediarios a los beneficiarios, con sus más de 50 micro-proyectos productivos.

Por otra parte, el Programa de Producción de la Stevia Rebaudiana Bertoni, "*Ka'a He'e*" en el idioma guaraní, especie originaria del Paraguay, de uso tradicional y ancestral, está despertando el interés mundial, teniendo en cuenta que es un edulcorante natural, no calórico, 300 veces más dulce que el azúcar. Por ello, esperamos que los organismos competentes sigan prestando su apoyo para la plena certificación de las bondades de este producto natural, habida cuenta de la importancia de este rubro en la economía de nuestros pequeños productores rurales. En este sentido, y si bien el objetivo principal de la política agrícola del país es priorizar la alimentación de la población, vemos que el desarrollo de los bio-combustibles puede brindar nuevas oportunidades para la generación de ingresos.

Asimismo, consideramos que los recursos hídricos disponibles, permitirán el desarrollo de la acuicultura como una alternativa de fuente proteica para la mejora del nivel nutricional de la población, por lo que la experiencia y la capacidad de cooperación de la FAO en este ámbito, será de fundamental importancia para transformar una actividad tradicionalmente extractiva y depredatoria en una creativa y productiva. La República del Paraguay tiene la plena confianza de que el proceso de reforma en el que se halla abocada la FAO, fortalecerá a la organización en beneficio de todos los Estados Miembros y particularmente de los países agrícolas en vías de desarrollo. En este contexto, y considerando que uno de los pilares de dicha reforma es la descentralización, consideramos de gran importancia contar con un servicio de expertos regionales que apoyen a los técnicos de los países, para optimizar los procesos de producción.

Así también quisiera puntualizar que el Paraguay es un país altamente dependiente de sus exportaciones agrícolas, con una economía pequeña y vulnerable, en un territorio geográfico sin litoral marítimo. Por ello, cualquier obstáculo al comercio agrícola perjudica ostensiblemente las posibilidades de desarrollo de nuestro pueblo.

Finalmente, tengo el agrado de informar a este foro que el Paraguay será la sede de la próxima reunión del Grupo Intergubernamental de la Carne y los Productos Lácteos, que se llevará a cabo en mayo de 2009, en cuya organización estamos trabajando en forma conjunta con la FAO. Este evento refleja la importancia estratégica que estos sectores productivos representan para la economía de nuestro país, por lo que la República del Paraguay ha comprometido sus mejores esfuerzos para el éxito de esta importante reunión. En este contexto, quisiera aprovechar esta ocasión para extender a ustedes una cordial invitación a visitar el Paraguay y disfrutar de la cordialidad del pueblo paraguayo.

Johnny K. SWARTS (Botswana)

The goal of universal food security and nutrition is a vision shared by all of us and it is important to work together towards achieving this noble endeavour. The realisation of such a vision requires, among other things, the recognition that the attainment of food security requires the multi dimensional and multi-central approach and that it is a process that should be strategically managed in order to achieve desirable results. It is indeed disturbing and distressing to know that despite all the noble efforts that have been put in place, the attainment of the World Food Summit commitment of reducing the number of hungry and ill-fed people by half by the year 2015 still seems an illusion for most countries especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite the fact that population in Southern Africa is increasing, agriculture growth has either remained stagnant or decreased. As a result, the net *per capita* food production in the Region is decreasing. The Region also continues to experience low agriculture of value addition and thus continues to remain uncompetitive in the world markets. The issue of food insecurity remains a great challenge to the region. In view of this, African countries have, through the Maputo Declaration, committed themselves to allocate at least ten percent of their national budgets to agriculture. Progress in this regard, however, is not satisfactory in most African countries. My Government has demonstrated political will to ensure food security by investing in a number of programmes that are meant to promote food security at both household and national levels. This includes, among other things, the national Master Plan for arable agriculture and their redevelopment that was established in 2002 with the aim of commercializing agriculture with a view to improve food security, generate employment, promote export and increase farm income as well as promoting diversification and competitiveness of the sector.

As a semi-desert country, Botswana has also developed a national water master plan to guide Government on effective development of water sources and efficiency of utilization of scarce water resources. In addition, the country is effectively engaged in regional consultations regarding the use of water from international rivers for the development of agriculture. The country also recognizes the critical role of land in agriculture development with respect to poverty alleviation and enhancement of food security. To this end, my Ministry is engaged in a land gazette exercise whereby all land that is suitable and available for agriculture, is gazetted and preserved exclusively for agriculture purposes. This will ensure that such land is not used for non agriculture

ventures. It is my pleasure to know that above commitments are gradually paying dividends as reflected in the national poverty levels. Poverty levels have steadily been reduced from 59 percent in 1986 to 47 percent in 1994 and to 30 percent in 2004.

The poverty level is now being projected to fall further to 23 percent by 2009. Despite the achievements made so far and the initiatives we are undertaking, there are still areas where further work is needed and assistance is required. This includes technical capacity-building in the areas of trade, such as compliance with sanitary and high-sanitary requirements and meeting compliance clauses so as to assist the country in competing effectively under trade liberalization and in benefitting from the liberalization of our trading system.

Before I conclude I would like to underscore the fact that agriculture development is central to food security and food security is pivotal to sustainable development. To achieve sustainable development, we are compelled to address the components on the food security equation which task is becoming increasingly complex and costly. It is for this reason that FAO needs to be well-focussed and resourced. My country therefore welcomes the Independent External Evaluation Report which calls for reforming the Organization with growth, so that it can effectively and efficiently render assistance to the countries in need. It is therefore confident that all countries represented here will continue their unwavering support to this Organization by supporting the proposed maintenance budget for the next biennium.

Matthew J. WALTER (Dominica)

As a Small Island Developing State, Dominica is confronted by several challenges which present social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. The absence of economies of scale, small consumer markets, high transport costs, heavy reliance on external trade, limited human and natural resource base and vulnerability to external events and natural disasters are some of the features which characterize our small, vulnerable, and open economy. Indeed, the recent passage of Hurricane Dean on August 16 to 17, 2007 left in its wake a clear manifestation of the vulnerability of our agricultural sector and the national economy as a whole to such events. As we grapple with the rehabilitation of agriculture and infrastructure, in this post-hurricane period, we remain mindful of the ongoing negotiations against the background of the recent changes in agricultural trading structures which have also demonstrated the vulnerability of our small banana economy. The erosion of ACP preferential margins for banana markets has meant tougher times for our producers, and we expect many more challenges with the advancement of the EPA negotiations. An Overseas Development Institute study indicates that Dominica will be the OECS banana-producing country to experience the heaviest losses in the banana sector as a result of changes in the trading regimes. In fact, one estimate predicts that banana sector employment in the four (4) banana producing countries of the OECS will fall by 84 percent.

As you are aware, while agriculture contributes directly to food security, it represents an important pillar to poverty reduction and economical growth. As part of the OECS Sub-region and indeed the wider CARICOM Region, the characteristics of small vulnerable open economies are not unique to Dominica. As trade barriers are dismantled and preferences removed, CARICOM agrifood producers can expect more aggressive import competition since the Caribbean represents a growing market for agricultural commodity exports from developed countries. This underscores the need for Governments along with regional and international institutions such as FAO to engage and collaborate more actively in the process of attaining food and nutrition security objectives for our people along with agricultural and rural development. It is for this reason that initiatives have already been undertaken at the regional level to address the many constraints to regional transformation through the adoption of common policies and programmes in areas which are critical to the economic and social integration of our Region. FAO has also played a key role in the process through the implementation of regional programmes which are expected to contribute to the success of regional transformation. The most recent include: (1) the National Medium-Term Investment Programme (NMTIP) and a portfolio of Bankable Investment Project Profiles (BIPPs) which provide a review of strategies, programmes and priority actions at country level with a view to identifying priority investment projects and

sources of funding; (2) the Caribbean Regional Programme for Food Security seeks to strengthen and increase national food security systems with emphasis on trade policy and promotion for improved market access and development; (3) the regional programme which targets support for the countries of the region for preparation and sensitization in issues related to Avian Influenza.

In addition to these regional programmes, FAO is currently engaged in the implementation of projects and programmes at country level with the objective of improving food and nutrition security, as well as the competitiveness of our agricultural sector. FAO's support in the conduct of damage assessment, post-Hurricane Dean recently and emergency support to farmers and fisherfolks following past disasters is noteworthy. The execution of these programmes and initiatives has provided tangible benefits to the agricultural sector in Dominica. Enhanced outcomes would be realized with greater investment funding, better coordinated interventions, and greater capacities and competencies in various areas. Notwithstanding, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, I wish in a special way to applaud FAO on the many initiatives which have been undertaken to facilitate the repositioning of agriculture in Dominica and indeed the CARICOM Region. We look forward to future collaboration with FAO in improving food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and agricultural and rural development.

Faustin BOUKOUBI (Gabon)

J'en profite pour saluer tous les participants et, à travers eux, leurs populations, surtout les plus nécessiteuses d'entre elles, que j'encourage très sincèrement dans leur combat contre la faim et la malnutrition. Je pense particulièrement à celles du Bangladesh qui vivent un drame en ce moment et à qui j'adresse les condoléances de mon pays, ainsi que l'expression de toute notre compassion.

L'examen du document C 2007/2 montre certes une évolution encourageante de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde, avec notamment une baisse relative de la population sous-alimentée dans la plupart des pays en développement, grâce à l'augmentation de la production agricole. Cette tendance est constatée pour la première fois, depuis plusieurs décennies, en Afrique, à l'exception, hélas, de l'Afrique Centrale à laquelle mon pays appartient. Cependant, force est de constater que le nombre absolu des affamés dans les pays en développement est, lui, en hausse, depuis plus d'une décennie. Ainsi, la situation en Afrique reste dramatique: depuis 1990-1992, le nombre de personnes victimes de la faim est passé de 169 à 206 millions, soit 25 pourcent de la population sous-alimentée dans le monde en développement. Dans ce contexte, le rôle de la FAO, à quelques années du terme des objectifs du millénaire pour le développement, reste primordial.

Notre Organisation, par l'appui qu'elle apporte au développement agricole dans les pays en développement tant en intégrant les politiques régionales comme le NEPAD en Afrique, que les politiques nationales, est unique en son genre. De surcroît, elle se trouve aujourd'hui confrontée à de nouveaux défis tels que le changement climatique et le développement des bioénergies. C'est donc avec détermination que mon pays, le Gabon, a appuyé en son temps, la proposition de réforme du Directeur Général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et que nous avons soutenu, de même, le processus d'Évaluation Externe Indépendante de la FAO qui devrait nous permettre d'améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de cette Organisation face aux enjeux actuels et futurs. Aussi voyons-nous avec satisfaction ce travail d'évaluation achevé. Nous remercions l'équipe qui en a eu la charge, à qui nous réitérons nos vives félicitations. Nous remercions et félicitons également le Directeur Général et toute son équipe pour leur pleine implication dans ce processus, ainsi que la promptitude avec laquelle ils ont donné leur réponse de principe. Notre devoir à nous, États Membres est désormais d'exploiter au mieux ce rapport et la réponse de principe de la Direction Générale, afin d'en tirer tout le bénéfice pour notre Organisation et partant, pour nos populations qui en ont tant besoin. Pour notre part, nous nous engageons à œuvrer à la redynamisation de notre organisation, conformément aux mécanismes qui seront décidés par la Conférence. Des réformes pertinentes et salutaires doivent être engagées.

D'ores et déjà, nous approuvons la tenue d'une conférence extraordinaire en 2008 et promettons de nous y impliquer pleinement pour sa réussite. Nous pensons que, comme toute Réforme sensée, celle de la FAO dans laquelle nous nous engageons, doit préserver les acquis. De ce fait, doter la

FAO d'un budget de deux ans lui permettra de poursuivre les programmes existants. Pour cette même raison, ma délégation appuie le budget de maintenance proposé par le Directeur Général. Par ailleurs, nous estimons que les coûts de la mise en application des recommandations de l'EEI qui seront retenues par nous, États Membres, ne devront pas grever l'exécution des programmes existants et non remis en cause.

Nous réaffirmons également notre appui au PCT et à l'utilisation effective de ses fonds pour la mise en œuvre des projets, contrairement à la tendance récente qui les a vu servir de compte de réserve pour l'Organisation. Nous appuyons aussi l'augmentation des ressources dans certains secteurs comme la production, la lutte contre les maladies transfrontières, le Codex Alimentarius, la sécurité sanitaire des aliments ainsi que d'autres domaines interdisciplinaires tels le développement durable, la parité homme-femme et le VIH/SIDA, tout en approuvant le flux des ressources vers les nouveaux domaines comme les bioénergies et le changement climatique. À ce sujet, je pense qu'il est juste et bon de soutenir et d'encourager ceux qui font des efforts, comme mon pays le Gabon, dont le Président a consacré plus de 11 pourcent de notre territoire à la préservation de l'environnement, au bénéfice du monde entier. Nous encourager consisterait à contribuer au financement des programmes d'aménagement des parcs nationaux créés à cet effet et de sédentarisation des agriculteurs, qui, sinon, continueraient à détruire les forêts, utiles pour le ralentissement des changements climatiques. Un tel soutien, de même que la maîtrise de l'eau et la définition de mécanismes de financement de l'agriculture, combiné aux efforts actuellement déployés par le pays notamment dans la production de semences améliorées, la mise en œuvre du Programme Spéciale pour la sécurité alimentaire, ainsi que des programmes d'aquaculture et de pisciculture, contribueront certainement à assurer la sécurité alimentaire en général et celle du Gabon en particulier.

Abdeslam CHELGHOUM (Algérie)

L'état de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde dressé lors de différents sommets mondiaux de l'alimentation a évolué dans un sens qui ne laisse pas grande place à l'optimisme et ce, malgré la mobilisation mondiale qui a suivie cet événement. L'objectif vise à réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim à l'horizon 2015, fixé lors du dernier Sommet et repris par la Déclaration du millénaire reste encore un défi de premier ordre qui exige d'avantage d'efforts et une mobilisation plus grande de la communauté internationale. Mais convenons-en se limiter à réagir en recourant uniquement à des politiques ponctuelles et conjoncturelles reste insuffisant. Il faut, en effet, revenir à une perspective beaucoup plus large et mettre l'accent sur la nécessaire poursuite de la mise en œuvre des Objectifs du développement pour le millénaire. Ce qui implique l'approfondissement des efforts déjà consentis pour contribuer plus efficacement à l'éradication de l'extrême pauvreté et de tous les maux qu'elle génère. Le but recherché, il faut sans doute le souligner encore, reste l'accès pour tous à l'éducation, l'amélioration de la santé infantile et maternelle, la réduction de la mortalité maternelle, la lutte contre les grandes pandémies, la promotion et l'égalité des droits de la femme et l'établissement d'un véritable partenariat entre le Nord et le Sud.

Confrontée à ce défi, l'Algérie s'est attelée à le relever en s'engageant dans une nouvelle politique de développement agricole et rural soutenu par un plan de grande envergure, qui participe aux réformes économiques globales mises en œuvre ces dernières années. Des résultats déjà obtenus par ce plan sont probants et s'expriment, entre autre, en termes d'intensification de la production, la disponibilité de l'offre des produits agricoles, l'amélioration significative de la situation des populations rurales, la consolidation tout aussi sensible de la sécurité alimentaire du pays. Notre Organisation a accompli de manière consciencieuse et avec honneur les missions premières qui lui ont été fixées à sa création. Son rôle dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim et sa mobilisation au travers du nécessaire développement des pays pauvres et des populations vulnérables sont aujourd'hui reconnus. D'un autre côté, ses travaux de haute facture, notamment ceux qui portent sur les politiques agricoles et la sécurité alimentaire, constituent sans contexte une contribution décisive aux efforts d'identification des défis que l'humanité doit relever à la clarification des grands enjeux qu'ils induisent et à l'élaboration des stratégies de réponses préconisées. En tout état de cause, ils font de notre Organisation un cadre de référence incontournable en matière de

production, d'information et d'expertise et enfin, contribue opportunément à éclairer la décision politique, voire même à la susciter et à orienter les efforts que déploient sur le terrain à d'autres niveaux, les ONG et les autres acteurs concernés par les questions qui nous occupent. Mais la complexité des situations et des tragédies vécues en de nombreux points de notre planète, la multiplication des défis auxquels l'humanité est aujourd'hui confrontée, les contraintes, souvent difficiles à surmonter pour une organisation aussi rompue que la nôtre au travail du terrain et à la réflexion, tout cela plaide en faveur de profondes réformes que notre Organisation doit prochainement connaître.

À l'avenir, la FAO devra être en mesure de faire avec plus d'efficacité de moyens aux situations d'urgence qui ne manqueront pas encore, malheureusement, de survenir de part le monde. Elle devra aussi se doter d'outils d'évaluation et d'analyse de la sécurité alimentaire qui répondent mieux à la complexité de ces nouvelles situations. L'Évaluation Externe Indépendante constitue un instrument supplémentaire qui permettra à la FAO, non seulement, de recentrer ses activités en se concentrant sur les domaines présentant un avantage comparatif pour mieux aider les pays membres à atteindre les Objectifs du millénaire pour le développement, mais également pour permettre d'assouplir les mécanismes d'allocation des ressources tout en renforçant les systèmes de contrôle et de suivi-évaluation. Il s'agira, à travers cette évaluation, d'élaborer et d'adopter sans tarder un plan d'action triennal ou quadriennal qui doit faire l'objet d'une prise en charge et d'une direction commune de la part des Organes directeurs et du Secrétariat en vue de faire de la FAO une Organisation véritablement adaptée à ce siècle.

Permettez-moi de renouveler mes remerciements pour l'excellente organisation des travaux de la Conférence et pour le choix pertinent des thèmes soumis aux discussions. Je termine en vous remerciant sincèrement de votre engagement et en prenant la liberté de rappeler que l'éradication de la faim répond à un double impératif: un impératif d'ordre moral qui renvoie à la condition humaine et à l'exigence de solidarité de la communauté des hommes et à un impératif d'ordre économique et social qui conditionne le développement économique, la stabilité sociale et politique et la sécurité des nations. Ce défi ne peut être relevé que si tous les acteurs de la coopération gouvernementale jouent le jeu, chacun agissant bien sûr dans le cadre de ses compétences propres et tous unis pour un même engagement, pour un monde plus équitable.

Ms Valentina ZAVALEVSKAYA (Ukraine) (Original language Russian)

Ukraine has been an FAO Member State for four years already. Since becoming an FAO Member Nation in 2003 cooperation with this Organization has become a priority in international relations of Ukraine in the field of agriculture. Agriculture is a special, most socially significant component of the national economy of Ukraine which provides state food safety. One fifth of the people working in the area of economic activities are occupied in this sector, and almost a third of the Gross Domestic Product is formed and more than a quarter of production assets are concentrated in this sector. More than 95 percent of food resources are produced by the agro-sector which provides almost three quarters of the retail commodity turnover in the domestic market. After a fall in gross agricultural output of about 50 percent in the 1990s, Ukrainian agriculture started to recover in 2000, and by 2004 it had increased by over 30 percent to roughly 70 percent of its pre-independence level. In 2005, gross agricultural output fell marginally by 0.1 percent due to the fall in crop output by 2.5 percent. In 2006 gross agricultural output accounted US\$18,791 million. For today, in the Ukraine there are three categories of farms. First of all, household plots which own parcels of land which do not exceed two hectares. The second form independent private enterprises - are owned by private individuals and which do not exceed five hectares. Agricultural enterprises are legal entities such as production cooperatives, partnerships, collective agricultural enterprises, joint-stock companies. Over 65 percent of arable land is owned by former state and collective farm members and rented out of large-scale operators which have about 3,000 hectares of land on average. Around 30 percent of land is privately owned and individually operated in the form of household plots and independent private farms. Less than five percent of the country's arable land is owned by the state.

And now I would like to give an overview of the main kinds of agricultural output. Plant production remains one of the most developed. Ukraine is a large producer and a significant net exporter of grains. Grains account for almost 60 percent of total area sown. A 2005 gross grain crop accounted 38 million tonnes, 2006 year — 34.3 million tonnes. Good harvests in these two years combined with competitive prices allowed for a record grain export of 13 million tonnes in the marketing year of 2005-2006. Last year's plant growing period of the majority of agricultural crops in Ukraine was characterized by long drought which has lowered total plant production in ten regions of the country from 30 to 50 percent, and 11 percent as a whole across Ukraine. At the same time, due to the timely provided measures it was possible to soften negative influence of natural factors and to provide manufacture of the majority of agricultural production in volumes, sufficient for full satisfaction of internal needs of the country. Besides the significant export potential of sunflower, rape, soya, oil, sugar, production of a fruit-and-vegetable complex and some other kinds of agricultural output are provided. The sunflower crop harvest, another major export-oriented commodity, reached record showings in 2005-2006 and accounted relatively 4.7 and 5.3 million tonnes. The rise was due to higher yields and high profitability of oilseed production inducing farmers to increase area sown.

Livestock production started to recover in 2001 and since then registered positive rates of growth every year with exception of 2003. In 2004 and 2005, strong increase in real incomes stimulated demand for livestock products which in turn contributed to sharp increases in retail and farm gate prices for meat and milk products. Domestic livestock prices were further pushed by stricter regulations on livestock imports, in particular for poultry, applied in 2005. Milk production stabilised in 2005 as a continued fall in the number of cows was counterbalanced by an increase in productivity per cow. Milk production is concentrated in tiny household plots providing 81 percent of milk and 67 percent of milk marketed in Ukraine. Low quality of milk supplied by households remains a major problem for milk processors. According to a report by the Ukrainian Dairy Producer Union, an average large dairy producer procures milk from as many as 20,000 suppliers. The food-processing sector has developed rapidly in the past five years (average growth index is 15 percent). In Ukraine, industrial production of food products is provided by over 22,000 enterprises employing more than one million people. In 2005, the sector's output increased by 13.7 percent driven by a strong growth in demand. The highest rates of growth were registered in production of juices, canned vegetables, processed liquid milk, cheese, meat products and chocolate and cocoa products. In 2006, gains amounted to US\$17 billion.

Production of the food-processing industry of Ukraine is exported to many countries of the world. The most active consumers of Ukrainian food production among the CIS countries are the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Among the countries of the European Community the greatest exporters are Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Spain, Poland and United Kingdom. In 2006 export of Ukrainian agricultural production accounted US\$3.8 billion. It should be noted that for some years now Ukraine has positive foreign trade balance which by the end of 2006 accounted for US\$1.4 billion. We understand that, first of all, it is recognition of food quality characteristics and also it is characteristic of the country's potential opportunities. So, there are opportunities for Ukraine to contribute to the decision of one of the most priority issues for the nearest 15-20 years, accepted at the World Food Summit in 2002 concerning a minimum reduction by half of the population which is chronically-undernourished. However, we are convinced that the effective struggle against famine today is not possible without considering lessons from the past. In the 1930s, Ukrainian people experienced one of the terrible tragedies of their history - they were victims of the 1932-1933 famine which is currently recognized by all the state institutions of Ukraine and by many countries of the world. We are convinced that the main thing is not to allow a similar tragedy to happen again, now or in the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to communicate with the representatives of the Member Nation of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. Ukraine is open to dialogue and cooperation. FAO initiatives are attentively considered by us, and we hope that every year our cooperation will be more and more fruitful.

Trevor SARGENT T.D. (Ireland)

Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger is the first Millennium Development Goal. This is a multi-dimensional problem, but there are strong links between hunger, poverty, food security and food production. The hungry poor are still based mainly in rural households. Therefore, an increased focus on and support for agriculture is a major component of the solution to global hunger. After decades of neglect, there is a strong and renewed focus on agriculture as the key sector in many of the poorest developing countries to promote prosperity and reduce poverty. Hunger and food shortages are important challenges that the world must tackle together. Food insecurity is closely related to political and economic stability of each Region and the number of undernourished people could increase further unless there is a timely response to global climate change. The tragedy in Bangladesh today highlights the urgency of our work here. Climate change is a global reality and we have an estimated ten year window to get it under control. We have to ensure that our choices respect the limits of Planet Earth and that our actions concerning climate change need to help future generations. The FAO is undertaking important work in this area and we look forward to receiving its input into this task.

Irish people have a deep memory of the effects of famine on our nation and this is an experience which informs our policies 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 issue of hunger and food security remains one of the most difficult development challenges we face globally. The rising price of grain worldwide has brought the importance of food security into sharp focus. The intention to establish the Hunger Task Force was announced by the Taoiseach, the Irish Prime Minister, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2005 when he highlighted continuing hunger and malnutrition as an affront to our common humanity. The Task Force, which is now operational, will focus on the global challenge of hunger and food security and consider all aspects to see how Ireland can most effectively respond to this challenge.

It should also be remembered that 2008 has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of the Potato. Of course the Irish famine of the nineteenth century was due in part to the failure of one variety potato, monocrop, and Ireland sees this event as an opportunity to make a contribution towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals by focusing on the potato and the vital role that agriculture can play in improving nutrition and supporting food security. Ireland's funding will support the many activities coordinated by the FAO that will take place during that year. We will also provide core funding to the International Potato Research Centre (CIP) in Peru and funding for a potato research project undertaken by CIP in Malawi. Nationally, a programme of events in Ireland has been planned with an emphasis on nutrition. This will include activities for schools, including a plan for children to grow potatoes organically in every primary school in the Republic of Ireland. Ireland greatly values and appreciates the work of the United Nations multilateral system and the central role FAO plays in this system. It is vital for all that the FAO undertakes its activities in the most efficient and effective manner possible. Here at FAO, an Independent External Evaluation has been undertaken. This evaluation, which has been based on an open, transparent and participatory process, has made many recommendations, which can support real and lasting change. It is important that the implementation of this evaluation proceeds speedily and successfully.

The document before us today sets out clearly the many challenges facing the agri-food sector throughout the world. In addition to its role in areas such as landscape and culture, agriculture must feed the world's population which is growing by 85 million people per year, as well as provide employment and business opportunities, and produce energy supplies and do all of this in a sustainable manner in an era of increasing demands, an unpredictable climate and diminishing resources. I sincerely believe, and indeed I pray, that it is possible to do this in a way that will help the lives of the undernourished on this planet for the better, and a reinvigorated FAO must be a lead organization and play that role.

This week will be an important week in Rome and this Conference has many major tasks ahead; some of which will be challenging and often difficult. We, as the Membership, need to push ahead with, and make progress in all areas, including the reform of FAO. By improving the effectiveness of this Organization, we will move closer to meeting the first Millennium Development Goal. Ireland looks forward to a positive and productive meeting.

Alexander V. YAKOVENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

It is for the first time we take part in the Conference of FAO as a full-fledged Member of the Organization. In this connection, I would like to confirm our full support of this Organization. It is necessary to consolidate efforts of all the countries to settle the problems related to hunger and malnutrition. In this connection, the two Conferences planned for 2008 deserve our close attention. Our country consistently follows the cause as a responsible partner. Our relations with the UN System have moved up to a totally different level – we are ceasing to be a recipient of international humanitarian aid and technical assistance and are shifting our interaction towards equal cooperation with increasing funds provided by Russia as a donor.

On 14 June 2007, Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, approved the concept of the Russian Federation's participation in promoting international development, the adoption of which became an important step in establishing an efficient development assistance mechanism in the country. The concept brings assistance into the national activities that we have been carrying out for the last ten years. Over these years, Russia has been consistently increasing its development assistance. In 2006, the commitments of our country, without taking into account debt written off, amounted to about US\$ 216 million. Moreover, Russia has already written off or undertaken to write off US\$11.3 billion of debts of the poorest countries. Steps are being taken to increase voluntary contributions of Russia into the budgets of the programmes, funds, special institutions and other organizations of the UN System. Russia has also been increasingly contributing to international efforts within the FAO scope of activities, namely tackling energy and food security issues, to improving education level of the population in order to address the issues of sustainable development at the national level, combating infectious human and animal diseases and taking measures aimed to preserve and increase forest resources. At this stage, Russia wants to be full partner of the FAO. As a priority, we consider making the Russian language an FAO official language a priority. A positive solution for this issue will in many respects help to strengthen technological, scientific, technical and investment activities of Russia within the Organization, and we thank all those countries who supported the adoption of Russian as an official language.

We also appreciate the work performed by FAO to enhance interaction and coordination within the UN System. I would like to emphasize that the main efforts intended to improve coordination of the activities of FAO and other organizations of the UN System should be focused on the country level, including in the context of strengthening the Resident Coordinator system. At the same time, we proceed from inadvisability of imposing a pattern of achieving coherence and coordination. We note the importance of taking account of individual characteristics of various UN Agencies and national contexts, as well as the desirability of preserving, if possible, the uniqueness of mandates of such Specialized Agencies as FAO. On our part, we intend to encourage a balanced approach to consolidation of the UN development system, including within FAO, which, on one hand, will make it more attractive to donor countries and, on the other, will make it possible to preserve its separate mandate and relative advantages of every UN Agency and exercise effective intergovernmental control over their work.

I would also like to express concern about the difficulties arising at this critical stage of FAO activities because of the instability of its unstable financial situation. Since the time the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded, it has gone a long way towards development. But in all complex situations, FAO has always managed to find a way out of any apparent deadlock. We are convinced that current difficulties, in particular related to FAO Reform, will also be overcome. For our part, we will try to contribute as much as possible to resolving urgent problems. We intend to participate actively in the process and work towards

increasing stability and efficiency of FAO at all levels. Based on these considerations, Russia has also moved forward its candidacy for the FAO Council which, we hope, would be supported by the Conference.

Manfred BÖTSCH (Suisse)

Le chiffre est éloquent mais aussi cruel dans sa triste réalité: quelque 850 millions de personnes continuent à souffrir de malnutrition dans le monde en 2007. Ceci est inacceptable et témoigne de l'insuffisance des progrès vers l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de réduire de moitié le nombre des personnes victimes de la faim d'ici 2015. Certes, des avancées ont été réalisées dans certaines régions du monde. Dans d'autres, par contre, la situation continue à être très préoccupantes et va s'aggraver en raison du changement climatique. Face à cela, il est important que la communauté internationale ne baisse pas les bras mais bien au contraire poursuive ses efforts.

La Suisse continuera - comme elle a fait jusqu'ici - à apporter sa contribution à la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition. La FAO a un rôle important à jouer. Elle doit rester ou plutôt redevenir un acteur clef en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture. A ce titre, je tiens à souligner que la Suisse partage le constat de l'Evaluation externe indépendante. Les recommandations de cette dernière doivent constituer la base sur laquelle la réforme nécessaire et urgente de la FAO doit être mise en œuvre. J'espère vivement que la présente Conférence prendra les décisions qui s'imposent. Si la FAO continue sur sa trajectoire actuelle, elle sera en effet incapable de relever les défis qui se posent. Elle ne sera pas non plus en mesure de répondre aux attentes de ses Membres, d'exploiter ses avantages comparatifs et de préserver ses compétences essentielles. La Suisse appuie la recommandation de formulation d'un Plan d'action immédiat.

Il est nécessaire en partant des objectifs toujours pertinents de l'Organisation, de définir clairement les priorités de l'Organisation sur la base des recommandations de l'EEI et de l'analyse qui y est faite des avantages comparatifs de la FAO. La Suisse entend participer de manière active et constructive à cet exercice. Mon pays est profondément attaché à la FAO. Il souhaite collaborer avec une FAO forte, dynamique et efficace, une FAO qui soit aussi dotée des ressources financières et humaines nécessaires pour lui permettre de mener à bien sa réforme et de relever les grands défis du XXI^e siècle. La Suisse appuie par conséquent la vision de l'EEI. La réforme de la FAO doit aussi s'intégrer dans le contexte global de la Réforme du Système des Nations Unies.

Mon pays salue la volonté et les initiatives déployées par la FAO en vue d'une plus grande intégration dans le Système des Nations Unies. Elle la presse à poursuivre avec détermination dans ce sens. La FAO a un atout de taille. Elle dispose d'un personnel qualifié, engagé et motivé. J'en ai personnellement fait l'expérience dans le cadre de la Conférence d'Interlaken sur les ressources zoo-génétiques.

La FAO se trouve à la croisée des chemins. La Conférence de la FAO revêt donc cette année une importance toute particulière. Les décisions prises cette semaine détermineront de manière décisive l'avenir de la FAO et nous l'espérons dans le bon sens: celui de la Réforme. Ayons la force et la volonté d'entreprendre ensemble cette réforme pour le bien de l'Organisation en nous appuyant clairement sur les recommandations de l'EEI. Si nous ne le faisons pas, ou de manière insuffisante, le déclin de l'Organisation sera alors irréversible. La Suisse ne le veut pas. Elle souhaite une FAO forte et efficace dans le cadre d'une famille onusienne cohérente et efficiente.

Viliam TURSLAY (Slovakia) (Original language Slovak)

The Slovak Republic, Member State of the European Union and integrated in the Regional Group of Europe and Central Asia at work for FAO appreciates and is aware of the importance of following-up on FAO activities with regard to support of its Member Nations. In an ongoing search for effective possibilities of alleviating hunger, malnutrition and growing poverty in the world, we believe in implementing the commitments of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. I'm pleased that this year's Conference provides the opportunity for evaluation of recommendations from the current process of the FAO Reform from November 2005 to date. I also consider Reform necessary to get closer to Member Nations of FAO in

providing services, but also in fulfilling its mandate efficiently. The results of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) of FAO should be considered as crucial in guiding the Organization and in supporting its activities. I would like to express our interest in cooperating in the implementation the IEE and to support all chosen processes, including the proposal to hold a Special Conference in supporting the execution of technical programmes and in management and finance. According to the conclusions of previous FAO Councils, Programme and Finance Committees I expect the delegates' discussions during this Conference will help us to get even closer and to fulfil the true needs of FAO Members within the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget.

On behalf of the Government of the Slovak Republic and Slovak experts, we express our interest in becoming involved in technical development programmes, in supporting projects for building capacity in developing countries, in spreading knowledge and in building databases through the FAO programme in the future. The programme declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic supports sustainable development of agriculture and guarantees national food security, as well as the development of forestry management. Therefore, we find it effective that an important Specialized Agency within the United Nations System, FAO, deals with those strategic issues concerning the use of raw materials and energy resources on a global, as well as on a national and regional level. We appreciate and consider it necessary to extend the cooperation of FAO within the UN System, not only within the International Alliance Against Hunger, the Rome-based Organizations, but also in the broader context of strengthening multilateral cooperation in the field of nutrition, forestry, fishery and working to prevent animal and plant diseases spreading across borders and in protecting and preserving genetic resources for food and agriculture. Among the strategic aims and interests in developing cooperation beneficial for all partners, the Slovak Republic will support mainly those priorities leading to strengthening the FAO's multilateral activities, sustaining FAO's position as knowledge base of agriculture and food, disseminating knowledge, creating international and national networks including thematically-focused networks, preparing strategically-oriented reviews and studies, developing capacity, programmes beneficial to FAO Members, development and strategic studies in the field of bio-energy, production and use of bio-fuels to preserve food security, forests and their use. This would be done to improve the quality of living mainly in developing countries, broaden the involvement of FAO in the area of climate change and biodiversity, maintain effective participation in cooperation endeavours that protect animal health and prevent disease, especially in the fight against animal diseases that jeopardize the health of the world population, such as the Avian Flu and also implement the International Plant Protection Convention.

We support the attention of the FAO to monitor the protection of all genetic resources influencing harvests, environment, food, agriculture and forestry, following the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources in Interlaken, normative work within the joint FAO/WHO programme, Codex Alimentarius, and humanitarian food and technical aid in emergencies, in building early warning systems, and in developing relations with consumers. We also support the field of analysis, building databases on human nutrition and implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Right to Adequate Food. We are also required to unite our efforts and pay extra attention to alleviating hunger and malnutrition, with the key focus on assistance to regions of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and also parts of Asia in FAO's work. I believe that our commitment to help the undernourished people will be confirmed by accepting FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009, as well as by implementing the proposals of the IEE so that the Organization can continue to carry on its mandate in the future.

I very much hope that at the Thirty-fourth FAO Session of the Conference will be characterized by a constructive and creative atmosphere and that mutual international solidarity will reign, so that the Conference conclusions on the implementation of steps in the reform process will benefit millions of starving people and relieve their everyday suffering due to food shortages all over the world.

Hemantha WARNAKULASURIYA (Sri Lanka)

According to FAO estimates, around 854 million people worldwide were undernourished in 2001 to 2003 period, which includes 9 million in industrialized countries, 25 million in countries in transition, and 820 million in developing countries. It is in this context that the relevance and importance of FAO, as an international body has become paramount. It also provides the timely impetus for all Member Nations, to make FAO more effective and efficient, to address these issues, which I believe was the basis on initiating the process for the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

As for Sri Lanka, we have embarked on a new agricultural strategy for the country through the introduction of the National Agricultural Policy in September 2007 to uplift the farming community. The Government policy on agriculture emphasizes enhancing the income and living conditions of farmers, through increased productivity and other improvements, while ensuring food security in the country and availability of safe food products to consumers. However, the performance in the agricultural sector has been constrained by poor rural infrastructure and unstable macro-economic environment resulting in high interest rates and inefficiencies in public sector support services. These have limited the ability of farmers to increase the efficiency of their operations and discouraged them in engaging in agriculture further. The Agricultural strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture Development and Agrarian Services provides a framework that addresses many of these constraints. It is built on a dynamic process, guided and supported extensively by public sector activities. The framework also provides a much improved policy environment and rural infrastructure development to facilitate agri-business. It also envisages increased productivity, and, diversification of farming systems to encourage growing new crops and using new technologies.

We are living in a globalized world and are subject to all the consequences of competition. To meet these challenges, the Government of Sri Lanka, while endeavouring to increase the production and improve productivity, will also strive for upgrading the quality of end products. When it comes to quality, the best example is the spice trade. Sri Lanka survives in today's international spice trade, because of its distinct flavour, fragrance and chemical properties. However, we still insist on further improving the quality of our spices and of raising the quality of all other agricultural crops.

The Government of Sri Lanka continues to support the farming sector through a number of institutional support programmes such as the Farmer Insurance and Pension Scheme and a Farmers' Bank. Farmers are also encouraged to organize themselves into viable farmer companies and to help maintain the irrigation management system, and coordinate input supplies and output marketing.

Sri Lanka's agriculture is presently at a crossroads. After a number of years of internal strife with the conflict in the North and the East, Sri Lanka is now heading towards stability, particularly in the East. In 2006, Sri Lanka recorded its highest rice production ever which was 3.34 million metric tonnes. Meanwhile, production of other subsidiary food crops and vegetables also increased, since farmers shifted from rice to these crops, to maximize available water resources. In 2006, although the production of tea declined marginally, rubber and coconut production increased by 4.6 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively.

In addition several initiatives have been taken to promote forestry in line with the Forestry Sector Master Plan. The Government of Sri Lanka also has vigorously embarked on close cooperation between both public and private sectors, and introduced new technologies, related biotechnology, and higher yielding hybrid varieties of grains, fruits and vegetables. It is in this connection that I seek FAO's assistance for Sri Lanka to access new technologies that will not only help increase output, but also minimize post harvest losses, increase value addition, improve quality and better marketing. As all of you may recall, Sri Lanka was much affected by the Tsunami on 26 December 2004. The Tsunami catastrophe devastated the Southern and Eastern coastal areas,

killing thousands of people. In the aftermath of the Tsunami, FAO provided much assistance to Sri Lanka and is still assisting with projects related to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

On behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, I express my sincere gratitude to FAO for its much needed and timely interventions. In addition, I would also like to thank FAO for the assistance extended to several sectors, including forestry and fisheries, which have made a positive contributions towards Sri Lanka's economic development, and the well-being of its citizenry. Our wishes are that the FAO as the international body that is empowered to address the world's poverty, hunger, and malnutrition will play a greater role in uplifting the livelihoods of the masses.

Mme Mireille GUIGAZ (France)

Je m'exprime au nom de Monsieur Michel Barnier, Ministre de l'agriculture et de la pêche, qui était présent parmi nous hier et qui, pour des raisons indépendantes de sa volonté, n'a finalement pas pu s'exprimer. Il m'a chargé de lire son discours et m'a demandé aussi d'exprimer toute notre compassion et préoccupation à l'égard du Bangladesh et de nous associer aux manifestations qui ont déjà été produites dans cette enceinte.

Construire un monde libéré de la faim, voilà ici, notre raison d'être et voilà notre objectif, à nous qui sommes présent aujourd'hui. Mais nous en sommes encore bien loin, malgré les progrès qui ont été accomplis. En effet, ce combat contre la faim a eu des succès et la FAO y a pris toute sa part. Mais ce combat continue à se livrer dans un contexte nouveau dans lequel les agriculteurs du monde doivent relever deux grands défis, le premier de ces défis est de produire plus car nous serons 9 milliards sur la terre en 2050. Pour nourrir ces 9 milliards de personnes, il nous faudra en 2050, doubler la production alimentaire mondiale. Pour le continent africain et, en particulier, pour l'Afrique au sud du Sahara, il faudra probablement tripler cette production et peut-être même la quadrupler. Le défi c'est donc bien le défi alimentaire mais nous savons aujourd'hui qu'il nous faudra aussi produire mieux, c'est le second de ces défis. Face à la diminution des surfaces agricoles, à l'érosion des sols, à la désertification, face à la diminution des ressources en eau, il nous faut assurer la croissance de la production dans un cadre durable, pour les générations d'aujourd'hui et les générations à venir. L'agriculture est donc au cœur des grands équilibres écologiques de la planète. Nous devons intégrer, réintégrer cette réalité dans nos choix de politiques agricoles dans les pays du nord comme dans les pays du sud.

Ainsi, Mesdames et Messieurs, les questions d'agriculture, d'alimentation, de pauvreté et de développement sont à nouveau sur le devant de la scène internationale et sont au sommet de nos agendas. C'est le deuxième point que je voulais aborder avec vous aujourd'hui. Le récent rapport de la Banque mondiale témoigne de l'intérêt renouvelé de la Communauté internationale pour ces questions. Ce rapport, nous en partageons le message principal. Plus que jamais, l'agriculture doit retrouver le rôle moteur qui lui revient dans le développement. Une mobilisation efficace du secteur agricole passe par la mise en œuvre de politiques alimentaires, agricoles et rurales, adaptées à la situation de chaque pays. Cependant, nous ne devons pas non plus négliger des politiques régionales et sous-régionales, qui peuvent être particulièrement efficaces, pour faire jouer des complémentarités entre les acteurs et les économies à niveau de compétitivité équivalente. Enfin, des politiques de régulations des marchés restent indispensables, c'est le message de la France.

Les pays, dans lesquels on constate une réduction sensible de la pauvreté agricole, sont aussi ceux qui ont mis leur développement agricole à l'abri des aléas et des à-coups des marchés internationaux. Voilà pourquoi nous devons tenir pleinement compte des intérêts des pays pauvres dans la définition des règles du commerce mondial. Une libéralisation non régulée des échanges des produits agricoles créera, selon nous, des dommages considérables aux pays les plus pauvres. Ces pays doivent pouvoir disposer du temps et des instruments politiques nécessaires pour développer leur sécurité alimentaire, c'est-à-dire, préserver leur approvisionnement et mieux protéger le revenu de leurs agriculteurs. Dans cette perspective, la FAO doit être le principal outil d'intervention de la Communauté internationale pour une gouvernance mondiale agricole.

C'est le troisième point que je voulais aborder. Nous avons besoin d'une FAO forte mais nous avons aussi besoin d'une FAO modernisée, adaptée aux nouvelles contraintes et aux nouveaux enjeux du monde. C'est toute l'ambition des réformes proposées par l'EEI qui vient d'être menée et je voudrais saluer l'excellent travail mené par l'équipe chargée de cette Evaluation. Ce travail est sans complaisance, il est objectif, il décrit les difficultés que nous rencontrons, il montre clairement la situation actuelle, il montre que cette situation est le résultat d'une responsabilité partagée. La méthode proposée, le Plan d'action immédiat, le nouveau Cadre stratégique, nous les approuvons. Pour la France, le message est simple, la FAO doit voir ses missions définies clairement, sur la base de son mandat initial et dans une perspective de consolidation du pôle romain agricole international avec le PAM et le FIDA. La FAO ne peut pas tout faire, elle doit donc se recentrer sur des priorités claires et sur des sujets pour lesquels elle a un avantage comparatif certain.

Nous, la France, nous voyons cinq missions et cinq avantages comparatifs pour la FAO. Premièrement, l'appui à la définition de politiques adaptées à chaque pays et la promotion du renforcement des capacités. Deuxièmement, la diffusion des données et des statistiques fiables. Troisièmement, l'élaboration de normes pour faciliter les échanges commerciaux et l'appui aux conventions mondiales sur les sujets agricoles. Quatrièmement, les activités relatives à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments. Cinquièmement, la pure situation d'urgence et de post-urgence. Enfin, la FAO doit être un Forum, un lieu d'échanges et de dialogues sur les grands sujets agricoles.

Je souhaite que la Conférence aboutisse à une Résolution consensuelle mais aussi réaliste et claire. Nous voulons des décisions réalistes et claires. Sur ces bases, l'élaboration du Plan d'action immédiate devrait être conduite dans un cadre de travail ouvert, facilitant le consensus et le dialogue sur le fond, afin que nous puissions poursuivre cette Réforme dont la mise en œuvre doit se faire dans un cadre budgétaire réaliste. Nous devons faire collectivement des choix courageux, des choix stratégiques et programmatiques importants et nous devons aller vite. Ne pensons pas que nous avons tout le temps. Si nous fixons clairement le cap et les objectifs, si nous assignons à la FAO ses nouvelles responsabilités, nous attendons que le Directeur Général personnellement, et son Management personnellement, se mobilisent et sachent nous donner, les pistes à suivre et prennent des engagements d'atteindre les objectifs fixés. C'est ainsi que l'Organisation retrouvera ou augmentera toute son efficacité. C'est dans cet esprit, Monsieur le Président, Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres, que la France veut être à l'intérieur de la FAO, au côté de la Réforme, pour appuyer cette immense ambition, mondiale et internationale pour une FAO qui peut compter sur nous.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The Special Event on Financing of Agriculture will be held from 16.30 to 18.30 this evening in the Green Room. The Special Event will be addressed by His Excellency Rupiah Bwezani Banda, Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Deputy Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission; and Mr Akinwumi Adesina, Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

I would also like to bring your attention to the High-Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety, which will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, 21 November, from 10.30 to 12.30 in the Green Room. The keynote speaker will be His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. Thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 13.25 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.25

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
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 November 2007

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.49 hours

Mr Vladimir A. Iosifov

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 49

sous la présidence de M. Vladimir A. Iosifov

Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.49

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Vladimir A. Iosifov

Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2007/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2007/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2007/2)
(continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Japan, Rwanda, Nicaragua, Australia, Namibia, Nepal, Lesotho, Moldova, Uganda, Mozambique, Czech Republic, Denmark, Jordan, Chad, Hungary, Pakistan, Romania, Argentina, Cuba, Burundi, Croatia, Togo, International Federation of Agriculture, Bhutan, Malawi

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to open the Sixth Plenary Session, since I have the notes in English, I will sometimes switch into English. I would like to remind you that the High-Level Special Event on the Financing of Agriculture will be held from 18.30 to 20.30 this evening in the Green Room. This special event will be addressed by His Excellency, Ruphia Banda, Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Deputy Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission and Mr Adesina, Vice President of Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa.

I would also like to bring to your attention the High Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety which will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, 21 November from 10.30 to 12.30 in the Green Room. The keynote speaker of this event will be His Excellency, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

And now I would like to switch to the discussions of the Agenda in hand. My first speaker on the list is the distinguished representative of Republic of Japan.

I will give the floor to Japan.

Masahiro IMAMURA (Japan) (Original language Japanese)

First of all I wish to express my sympathies to the victims of the recent cyclone in Bangladesh. Japan has immediately decided to provide emergency aid in kind, and we would like to consider additional assistance in the future.

It is indeed a great honour for me to be attending the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference as the representative of the Japanese Government, and to be given the opportunity to express my views regarding food and agriculture.

First, I would like to pay my highest respects to the Chair of this Session and the Director-General, Jacques Diouf and his staff in the FAO Secretariat for their hard work in preparing for this Conference.

Today I would like to share my views on six topics. The first topic that I wish to address is global and environmental issues. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are based on the

precondition of a peaceful global environment. Any disturbance in the basic eco-system affects not only Japan's, but the entire world's, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which in turn, would result in affecting the global food supplies and regional communities.

Japan is, therefore, taking an active role in developing measures regarding the environment and resource-related issues, such as global warming, in anticipation of the G8 Summit that Japan will be hosting next year in Tokyo. In order to achieve our greenhouse gas reduction target in the Kyoto Protocol, Japan is working to secure sufficient carbon sink through forest maintenance and forest conservation. Japan is also taking initiatives to expand substantially and domestic production of biofuels.

With regard to biofuels, Japan is focussing on the development of efficient ethanol production technologies using several materials and resource crops, such as rice, straw and thinned wood as raw materials, since they do not compete with demand for food supply in Japan, in consideration of the fact that our food self-sufficiency ratio is as low as 39 percent.

Next I would like to talk about the Independent External Evaluation and the budget of FAO. As the country with the second largest burden share of contributions to FAO, Japan has a strong interest on the effective and efficient administration of FAO. We are seriously concerned that FAO's recent situation in terms of the organization and its finance has not been sound.

The Independent External Evaluation, (IEE) Report has recently been issued in an attempt to strengthen FAO and improve its efficiency. Japan highly appreciates the findings of the Report. Particularly, as is indicated in this Report, for the purpose of efficiently managing the FAO, we believe that it will be effective to take a selective approach on programmes and try to concentrate the limited resources in areas where the FAO has a comparative advantage and avoid overlaps with other organizations.

It will be desirable for FAO to prioritize programmes in which the FAO can benefit from its comparative advantage and also areas where no other institution than FAO can be effected to function well. In any case, I strongly hope that FAO can promptly and steadily implement the recommendations in the IEE Report within a budget which is realistic in scale, and also promote future reform while restraining the size of the budget.

Thirdly, I would like to address the issue of development initiatives. The WTO turnaround has the objective of achieving the development for the developing countries through trade. It is crucial that the developing countries truly in need of development should be able to derive the maximum benefits from a liberalised trading system. Prior to the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005, Japan launched the Development Initiative. In order to strengthen the trade capacity of the developing countries in line with this initiative, Japan is engaged in human resource development efforts through the FAO, making use of its wide-ranging cooperation, including South-South Cooperation.

As a concrete example of our efforts, Japan recently organized in Kenya a human resources development seminar for trade capacity-building which was considered to be highly successful.

Fourthly, I would like to talk about Japan's cooperation with Africa. Japan is attaching a great deal of importance to assistance for Africa. In May next year, Japan will be hosting TICAD IV, the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development inviting the African Heads of Government, representatives of international organizations and donor countries. With the basic message of towards a vibrant Africa, TICAD IV, will propose how the international community can make a concrete contribution to future African development in support of the positive political and economic changes recently experienced in Africa.

Furthermore, TICAD IV will consolidate the international community's experience, know how and funds in priority initiatives for accelerated growth, human security through peace stabilization and Millennium Development Goals attainment and environment and climate change solutions.

Fifthly, I would like to talk about the subject of forestry. The situation surrounding our forests is currently undergoing sweeping changes. International concerns on climate change and the global environment have also risen to an unprecedented level.

In order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, we must urgently find ways to curb deforestation in the developing countries. Under such circumstances, Japan is trying to respond to this need by taking various initiatives to combat deforestation in the developing countries. Problems concerning forests are cross-border and global in nature, so we need to combine the collective system of the entire international community in order to come up with the necessary support solutions.

Accordingly, Japan intends to continue to give its positive contribution to combat global deforestation.

The sixth and final topic which I would like to address is fisheries. As a responsible fishing nation, Japan would like to applaud FAO for its initiatives on fisheries resources management and has been actively supporting FAO in such activities.

In the field of fisheries, urgent action is required to resolve global problems such as overfishing capacity and IUU Fishing, which stands for Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing, whereby disorderly fishing activities are being conducted outside the international framework.

In order to deal with these problems, with the technical support from the FAO, Japan organized the first Joint Meeting of the five tuna conservation bodies in January this year. An action plan was adopted there in that Conference to preserve tuna stocks through cooperation among the five conservation bodies.

Japan will continue to work closely with FAO to find solutions to such problems related to international fisheries.

I wish to conclude my speech by expressing my strong hope that FAO, under the able leadership of the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, will be fundamentally reborn and proceed to eliminate poverty and hunger, achieve global food security and continue to make an active contribution to the global food and agriculture agenda of the Twenty-first Century.

Anastase MUREKEZI (Rwanda)

Cette 34^{ème} Conférence de la FAO est une Conférence qui a lieu dans un contexte où nous avons fait d'énormes efforts pour obtenir une plus grande sécurité dans les pays concernés, néanmoins, les pays en voie de développement ont connu au cours des dernières années, une plus grande insécurité au niveau alimentaire et il y a eu une augmentation de 15 millions de personnes dans notre pays et dans le monde entier également. Donc, le défi auquel nous devons faire face c'est savoir comment toutes ces personnes pourront avoir accès à l'alimentation et comment pouvons-nous également prendre un certain nombre de mesures pour renforcer la sécurité alimentaire et également respecter la déclaration qui a été faite en 1996 durant le Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation. En Afrique, le Président Maputo, en 2003, s'est engagé à consacrer 10 pourcent de son budget national à l'agriculture et ceci d'ici 2008. Ceci a été établi dans le cadre d'un certain nombre d'efforts qui ont été considérés dans le programme concernant tous les pays africains et le développement des pays africains.

Au Rwanda, pour cette raison, en 2007 cette année, nous avons avec nos partenaires et les différents acteurs concernés dans l'agriculture, pris des mesures pour développer l'élevage et également respecter les objectifs de développement. Nous avons compté pour mettre en place ces mesures incitatives au développement sur les tous les acteurs concernés, qu'il s'agisse de la société civile, d'entreprises ou autre. Comme j'ai dit, tout à l'heure, entre autres choses, pour augmenter nos capacités en terme d'élevage.

La 34^{ème} Conférence de la FAO, est une Conférence qui nous permet d'analyser en termes plus réalistes, les problèmes que nous avons dans notre pays et également voir qu'elles sont les stratégies que nous pouvons mettre en place. Les stratégies qui concernent le développement de

l'agriculture sont des stratégies qui font partie du programme international et dépassent les frontières de notre pays. Il est nécessaire pour nous d'arriver à une croissance durable.

Comment est-ce que cela est possible dans notre pays: en augmentant la sécurité au niveau alimentaire et également en une meilleure intégration des différentes cultures, également de l'élevage, également d'utiliser les ressources en eau pour pouvoir permettre une meilleure irrigation de ces cultures, également assurer la transformation d'une agriculture de subsistance en une agriculture plus compétitive et ce en ayant une approche qui concerne toute la chaîne de production également améliorer les revenus des agriculteurs, grâce à une diversification des cultures destinées à l'exportation et également en créant de nouveaux emplois dans le domaine de l'agriculture.

Treize années après le génocide qui a eu lieu dans notre pays, le Rwanda a réussi à respecter un certain nombre d'objectifs importants, entre autre la restauration de la sécurité chez nous et également en mettant en place un gouvernement qui a été démocratiquement élu en mettant une politique de décentralisation et l'intégration du Rwanda dans la Communauté internationale. Ces résultats ont permis de créer un environnement plus stable qui peut impulser le développement de notre économie, de notre agriculture. Néanmoins, nous ne devons pas oublier que nous sommes encore bien loin d'avoir atteint les objectifs que nous nous sommes fixés dans le cadre du Millénaire. C'est pour cela que nous devons poursuivre dans la voie de cet engagement, pour pouvoir utiliser, toutes les ressources qui proviennent de l'économie mondiale et ceci pour en faire bénéficier notre population, dans notre pays.

Je voudrais exprimer ici mon soutien total au programmes qui ont été entrepris par la FAO. Programmes que la FAO a mis en place pour contribuer à développer l'agriculture, l'élevage et l'industrie alimentaire. Le Rwanda, considère de façon très positive les réformes qui ont été proposées dans le cadre de cette EEI et considère également de façon positive le budget qui a été proposé pour permettre la mise en place postérieure de ce programme. Il s'agit donc effectivement de modifier ce système des Nations Unies, de façon à ce que tous les pays soient concernés.

Nous sommes heureux de pouvoir contribuer à cette réforme et fiers également d'être un des pays où la réforme est menée.

Je ne peux terminer mon intervention sans parler des échanges commerciaux. L'agriculture et le secteur de l'élevage dans les pays en développement et plus particulièrement dans le continent africain, devraient devenir des priorités absolues grâce à des investissements appropriés pour permettre comme je l'ai dit, tout à l'heure, une plus grande sécurité alimentaire et également une plus grande compétitivité.

Ariel BUCARDO (Nicaragua)

En nombre del Gobierno de la República de Nicaragua deseo agradecer la cooperación y asistencia técnica que ha brindado FAO a mi país, principalmente en las zonas rurales, en el campo de la seguridad alimentaria.

Al asumir el gobierno, el compañero Presidente Daniel Ortega, ha decidido impulsar acciones para reducir la pobreza, asumiendo con responsabilidad el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Con ese enfoque las instituciones que integran el sector público agropecuario y forestal, nos hemos organizado bajo una estrategia de desarrollo rural sostenible, vinculante con otras instituciones como es el sector de la educación, la salud, el medio ambiente, con el propósito de incidir en los niveles de desarrollo humano de la población rural.

En el contexto de América Latina, Nicaragua tiene el mayor porcentaje de pobreza. Aproximadamente el 70 por ciento, reflejado en el 80 por ciento de la población que sobrevive con menos de dos dólares y un 45 por ciento con un dólar al día. El nivel de desigualdad es uno de los más altos del continente americano. El 10 por ciento de la población más rica absorbe el 30 por ciento de los ingresos nacionales, mientras que el 40 por ciento de la población más pobre, apenas absorbe el 10 por ciento del ingreso.

El sector agropecuario representa el 20 por ciento del producto interno bruto del país y ha crecido en un ritmo del 5 por ciento anual. Sin embargo, producto de las políticas excluyentes, tenemos un millón de campesinos que viven en las ciudades en busca de alimentos, un millón de nicaragüenses trabajando fuera del país y estamos invirtiendo 300 millones de dólares en importaciones de alimentos.

El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional, se propone garantizar alimentos sanos, creando condiciones para producir, considerando la heterogeneidad socio-económica, agroecológica y ambiental del territorio rural del país. Esta será la base para el desarrollo de un modelo agro-industrial incluyente, vinculado al mercado interno en primer instancia, sin abandonar el fomento a las exportaciones, a través de la asociación de pequeños y medianos productores y productoras, los trabajadores y trabajadoras del campo, los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades étnicas.

En el aspecto comercial, el propósito es promover el comercio justo entre los países paralelamente, firmando acuerdos con los hermanos de Centro América, los Países Miembros del ALBA, la Comunidad Europea, Irán y países que han venido brindado apoyo a Nicaragua de forma incondicional y sostenida.

El Gobierno ha instaurado el Programa "Hambre Cero", programa de seguridad y soberanía alimentaria, que incluye acciones de capitalización productiva donde la mujer es socia y dueña de los medios de producción. De la misma manera, el Estado promueve que los servicios lleguen a la población empobrecida en forma articulada: como el agua, la salud, la educación, vivienda, caminos, servicios de almacenamiento, crédito y asistencia técnica. Las acciones productivas del Programa "Hambre Cero" se expresan en el programa productivo alimentario dirigido a beneficiar en cinco años a 75 000 familias rurales empobrecidas, encabezadas por mujeres que tengan de una a tres manzanas de tierra. El instrumento para la capitalización de la familia la constituye un bono productivo, que consiste en un medio de organización, de capacitación y asistencia técnica a la familia y que incluye un paquete de 23 bienes productivos, entre ellas vacas, cerdos, aves, semillas, material vegetativo, plantas frutales y forestales e infraestructuras productivas para albergar a los animales.

Nicaragua se enfrenta ahora a un reto aun mayor, producto del desastre nacional causado por el huracán Felix el pasado 4 de septiembre, lo que ocasionó la pérdida de 244 vidas humanas, 40 060 familias afectadas, 227 183 personas damnificadas, 880 000 productores que sufrieron pérdidas millonarias en la agricultura y fundamentalmente en los rulos de arroz, frijol, maíz, ganadería, provocando el encarecimiento de los productos básicos a nivel del país. Por otro lado, los daños de los bosques y reservas naturales son aproximadamente de 600 millones de dólares, mientras que las necesidades que van desde alimentos, medicinas, rehabilitación agropecuaria, pesca e infraestructuras suman unos 400 millones.

El Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional heredó el país en situación de emergencia social y extrema pobreza. Aunado a esto, los desastres naturales han agudizado la situación de vulnerabilidad, por lo que necesitamos siempre de la cooperación internacional.

Quiero aprovechar este estrado para agradecer a todos los países amigos y a la Agencia de Cooperación por la ayuda que han brindado al pueblo y Gobierno de nuestro país, convencidos que sólo produciendo alimento con los pequeños productores encabezados por las mujeres, vamos a salir del hambre y la pobreza.

Cliff SAMSON (Australia)

I welcome the opportunity to address this forum on behalf of the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, who is unable to be here today given a federal election in Australia which is to be held on the 24 November.

We welcome the focus of the Report prepared for this session on trade-related issues. It is our view that international trade is the primary driver of agricultural growth and a vital part of overall economic development, food security and poverty reduction.

It is unfortunate that we continue to see that the policies of a few large developed countries continue to severely curtail the export earnings of developing countries and unfairly limit the ability of their agriculture sectors to grow and expand.

Multilateral trade reform provides us with the only opportunity to reduce these distortions and revive and reinvigorate world agricultural markets.

Historically, reform of global trade in agricultural products has never been easy, and I am sure you will agree that given the current lack of progress in Geneva, it remains problematic and complicated today. That said, the WTO has been the primary focus of trade reform for a long time and will be so for the foreseeable future.

Not surprisingly, Australia, as Chair of the Cairns Group, finds the slow rate of progress frustrating. Our experience shows first hand that Reform can work and that farmers can operate in a profitable and sustainable way when production and price support is removed. In fact Reform of our agriculture sector has made it one of the most efficient in the world. Our openness to the rigours and rewards of world markets has driven the ongoing push for productivity gains in Australia.

Of course, the benefits of trade reform would not be limited to agricultural exporters like Australia. Evidence abounds on the benefits to farmers in developing and developed countries from reform of market access barriers and reform of domestic markets.

The welfare gains would be particularly felt in developing countries. Multi-sector reform can significantly enhance competitiveness on domestic and export markets.

Yet the slow rate of pace in the current WTO Doha Round of Multilateral Agriculture Negotiations, suggests that the message about the value of reform has unfortunately not been embraced by all.

Australia remains committed to working with others to achieve progress in the Negotiations and to ensure the benefits of reform are understood and achieved.

One of FAO's important activities is its role in setting harmonized plant quarantine and food standards which underpin global trade rules.

This is an area of growing importance for us all.

By providing developing countries with the framework to build technical capacity and regulatory infrastructure, such as through the IPPC and CODEX, FAO ultimately enables these countries to participate in world markets and therefore increase their ability to trade out of poverty.

Australia strongly encourages the FAO to enhance its unique and vital capacity in these areas and to provide, as a matter of priority, additional resources to achieve this.

Agriculture is one of the industries most exposed to the impacts of climate change. The current drought in Australia, one of the worst on record, highlights the vulnerability of the sector. Regrettably, more severe droughts and changing rainfall patterns are both likely scenarios as a result of changing climate.

We consider that adapting to the impact of changing climate is a priority for domestic development strategies and should be supported by the international community, including through capacity-building and technology transfer.

FAO has recognized the importance of this issue, and Australia looks forward to working with the FAO in this area.

Another key issue for our region is Avian Influenza. Although fewer outbreaks have been reported in the past year, this virus still poses a serious threat. Moreover, there are many emerging diseases being identified as zoonotic, infecting both humans and animals. Australia is working with other Asia-Pacific countries to develop a regional response to pandemics and emerging infectious diseases and is rolling out an Au\$ 100 million commitment over four years

for initiatives in our Region. Australia supports the strong role of FAO, the OIE and the WHO in addressing these threats.

We now need to shift from an emergency response focus to building resilient and sustainable capacity in our public animal and plant health services to prevent, prepare and respond to the emerging disease challenges.

I would now like to touch on an issue that is receiving considerable global attention at the moment, biofuels. While the rapid development of bio-fuels production may have noble objectives, it may also regrettably have unintended consequences. In particular, the potential for raised food prices through the use of land normally used for food production, or alternatively covered in forests, is a very real issue.

From the Australian perspective, we are committed to the development of a competitive and commercially viable bio-fuel industry, and have created a policy framework to encourage the development of Australian sources of bio-fuel, and to ensure their long term competitiveness.

Finally, perhaps the greatest challenge facing FAO, as 2007 draws to a close, is the need for organizational reform to ensure the FAO's continuing relevance.

The Independent External Evaluation provides a critical opportunity for Members to reaffirm their commitment to the shared goals of the FAO and to find a new way forward. We look forward to continuing a fruitful debate amongst Members and, ultimately, agreeing on a way forward that will make the FAO fit for purpose in the Twenty-first Century.

Nickey IYAMBO (Namibia)

Agricultural production and growth remains a key priority for Namibia since growth in this sector contributes to food security, and supports overall efforts in the reduction of poverty with the net effect of stimulating further economic growth.

We welcome reports which indicate that global agricultural value added *per capita*, has grown in real terms since 1961, but note with concern the fact that Sub-Saharan Africa is the only Region in which *per capita* agricultural value added has not seen a sustained increase, resulting in a declining trend on average.

The fight against hunger and the attainment of global food security remains a major challenge for the international community and indeed each and every one of us as a Member Nation of this Organization. Much work still remains to be done to fulfill targets set during the World Food Summit in 1996, to address the challenges facing the most destitute segment of the community. Two important programmes pursued by Namibia which is aimed at working towards the attainment of the World Food Summit target are: Number one, the Green Scheme Programme which seeks to assist the small-scale farmers and Number two, the provision of fertilizers and seeds to farmers.

Innovative approaches, which provides for public — private sector participation, and donor support, should be developed to address further challenges facing food security and poverty in our countries. If managed well, the approach can lead to increased successes for countries where there is a strong link between food security, poverty reduction and overall economic growth.

Regarding financing in agriculture, the Namibian Government, in accordance with the Maputo Declaration, has committed itself allocate at least 10 per cent of its national budget to agriculture, such as, crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. This is especially in view of the recognition that these sectors can act as an engine for further overall economic growth in the country.

In recognition of the diversification objectives, a Directorate dealing specifically with aqua fish farming and mariculture was recently established in Namibia. Successful efforts have been undertaken to put in place the policy and legal framework, through an enabling environment based on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Projects were established where lessons learned will be replicated to all other Regions in the country where water quantity and quality meet standards for Aqua-Farming.

Fair and equitable trade in global markets is important for countries such as ours, in order to generate increased returns on investments, made in the agricultural sector. Millions are spent on production and processing, ensuring that food safety requirements are to be met, animal identification and traceability systems are also in place, and that markets are developed.

Any disturbances in these markets due to positions taken by our major trading partners can have huge socio-economic implications on our producers and exporters. We thus call on our major trading partners to reconsider some of their positions in trade negotiations so as not to undermine or even reverse progress made in the global market.

It is indeed very important for us during this Conference to find the best ways on how to mobilize resources to implement FAO's programmes aimed at food and nutrition interventions at national, regional and continental levels, with the emphasis on effectively addressing food insecurity.

Our responsibility is to ensure an environment within which the undernourished of today can consume their own food tomorrow, safely, securely and sustainably. This requires dedication and untiring efforts from each and every one of us. Let us secure food for all.

Chabbi Lal BISHWAKARMA (Nepal)

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to attend this FAO Conference and to speak in this august forum for discussing the challenges and opportunities in the agriculture sector. Please allow me, Mr. Chairperson, to extend my heart felt congratulations to you on your well-deserved election to the Chair of this Conference.

Nepal underwent a historical transformation through a peaceful People's Movement whereby Nepalese people are now sovereign and supreme. The present Government of Nepal is committed to restructure the Nepalese state to become inclusive, democratic and participatory so that the marginalised and poor people can meaningfully participate in all political, social and economic spheres and have greater access to decision-making and benefit-sharing.

I am glad to mention that FAO was the first international organization to support our development efforts as early as 1953, with the assistance for establishing a Yak cheese factory in the Himalayas. Since then, FAO has been a consistent development partner.

Agriculture is still the principal source of livelihood for the majority of people in Nepal, and it holds the key to poverty alleviation and sustainable foundation for lasting peace in Nepal. Growth in agriculture and its transformation from subsistence to commercial is crucial for reducing poverty.

Nepal is incidentally both a Least Developed Country and a Landlocked Developing Country and, therefore, faces associated bottlenecks. Due to geographical remoteness and the difficulties associated with transit and transport of goods and services, we are often handicapped from accessing the world markets and are forced to loose price competitiveness. We would, therefore, like to urge the donor community to increase assistance in support of trade-related public investment and provide unhindered market access to our agricultural products.

In recent times, an area of global concern has been the global warming and climatic change. Rapid climate change can catch us unprepared. We in the Himalayan regions are very concerned that as Himalayan glaciers retreat and the sea levels rise, we would face huge losses through climate change-induced disasters, leading to crop failures and livestock deaths aggravating the food security situations. It is an irony that the least developed nations such as Nepal are the most vulnerable and are worst affected though they are the least responsible for the same. Even so, it is heartening that scientific studies have shown that there are ways to arrest the climate change phenomenon without compromising economic development and human progress, if we act now.

Industrialized countries should assume the leadership and demonstrate the necessary political will in adopting long-term commitments and Nepal is also very willing to contribute its due to this noble cause.

We also urge that there should be special provisions for addressing the special vulnerabilities and the mitigation and adaptation needs of the least developed countries, In this regard, I would like to thank the Director General and others for emphasizing very strongly the issue of global warming in this Conference.

We are working towards coordinating our cooperation with the international community and ensure that Nepal's overall development agenda fits with the values, priorities, and most critical needs of the Nepali people. We would like to implement programmes which are owned and supported by the Nepali people and which are within a logical frame of comprehensive and efficient overall development agenda.

Once again I would like to thank FAO and other development partners for supporting the development works in Nepal and we look forward to receiving continued assistance from the international community in this endeavour.

In conclusion, we look forward to a successful outcome of this Conference and hope it would guide us all on sustainable agricultural and rural development in the coming years.

Lesole MOKOMA (Lesotho)

The state of food insecurity in Africa continues to be of great concern to all Member Nations. The statistics presented by the FAO Secretariat does confirm that the numbers of undernourished people in Africa are increasing, while in other regions these numbers are declining. We note that countries characterised by rapid economic growth, especially in the agriculture sector, succeed in reducing hunger and do exhibit low levels of HIV/AIDS.

Lesotho, unfortunately, falls within the category of less performing countries, in terms of low level of economic growth and slow progress in reducing food insecurity. However, my country has made poverty reduction and food security top priorities as reflected by both the National Vision and the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Despite our efforts, the impact of HIV/AIDS, in addition to the recent drought, has worsened the food insecurity and vulnerability situation.

This year's harvest was the worst ever in 30 years. Lesotho is one of the four SADC Member Nations that were hit hard by drought, for the 2006-2007 summer cropping seasons. The drought that persisted between January and August this year led to an increase in food shortage, as well as a high level of the prevalence of undernourishment.

The situation was exacerbated by an alarming price escalation of food prices, animal feeds and fodder. The drought led to the declaration of the food, shortage crisis by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister Mr. Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili in July this year. We are grateful for the response made by the development partners to that appeal.

The Government has now introduced subsidies for the current summer cropping programme in view of the poor harvest which has eroded incomes and livelihoods resulting in low investments in farming. All agricultural inputs including seed, fertilizers, insecticides and tractor operations are subsidised by 30 percent. However, because of financial constraints this subsidy programme will cover only one fifth of the country's total arable land. Concerted efforts are being made to promote block farming and conservation agriculture.

The Council, in considering the Summary Programme of Work and Budget at its June 2007 Session, agreed that a "maintenance budget" provided a basis for further development of the full Programme of Work and Budget. Lesotho strongly urges the Conference to protect the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) from programme reductions. The TCP funds are essential in helping other Member Nations translate knowledge and technology gained through FAO into food security programmes.

The maintenance budget, therefore, should safeguard the TCP because of its importance to developing countries. It is against this background, that we urge all FAO Member Nations to make prompt payments to restore the financial health of the Organization, thereby ensuring a

sound launching pad for the implementation of recommendations emanating from the Independent External Evaluation.

Agriculture is largely a fallback livelihood option for the rural poor. This is why the agricultural sector is under close monitoring with a view to maximizing opportunities which will lead to accelerated growth of the sector and improve livelihoods. We have realized the need for reliable food security information system to enable informed decisions. It is for this reason that we call upon FAO to support our efforts that are aimed at improving food security database.

In conclusion, I would like to indicate that in pursuance of a more balanced process of rural development, Lesotho has recognized that the non-farm economy has to be promoted in a big way. If the access aspect of food security is to be addressed, then alternative sources of income beyond the agricultural sector have to be looked into. This is a big task which requires capacity-building, coordinated efforts and additional resources

Anatolie DORODENCO (Moldova) (Original language Moldovan)

It is an honour and great pleasure for me to be here at the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of the Republic of Moldova's Government, allow me to express our deep gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for its generous support in the framework of various technical assistance and emergency projects. I am glad to stress the great importance of FAO projects regarding the assistance to restore the winter wheat crop production and strengthen capacities to cope with the effect of adverse climatic events and the provision of support, through the TCP facility for the formulation missions for preparation of the Agricultural Census for strengthening phytosanitary capabilities, as well as for strengthening of capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to participate in the European integration consultations.

An enormous support was provided by FAO in the framework of the various activities for prevention of Avian Influenza on countries' territory. The Republic of Moldova is also eager to embark on activities related to the upgrading of the Human and Technological Facilities at the Special Service for Active Influence on Hydro-Meteorological Processes, and would like to increase its involvement in Telefood project.

The present Session of the FAO Conference has a special significance for the Republic of Moldova since in 2007, the country faced a drought which was the most disastrous ever registered on such a scale in affected area. As a result, 84 percent of the arable land area and 60 percent of the whole harvest of 2007 was affected by this calamity. The global production of cereal and technical crops in 2007 accounted for only 30 percent of average level registered during the previous five years. At the same time, over 25 percent of the country's livestock was slaughtered and sold by the rural households. The losses induced by the current drought in the Republic of Moldova were estimated to be of around one billion US\$1 billion. The repercussions on the financial status of agriculture producers has been substantial, determining a risk for disappearance of the animal's genetic fund and partial loss of the seed fund, endangering the population's food security. This drought's devastating impact on the agro food system which actually ensures 30 percent of our country's GDP and on the population's living standards, especially those of rural inhabitants who represent about 60 percent of the country's total population has compromised the agricultural crops of all categories of agricultural households, as well as the economic situation of the country.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has embarked on a number of urgent measures to assist the most seriously affected farmers and agricultural producers. It has doubled the fund earmarked for the provision of grants to agricultural producers. Right now, the Government is considering the approval of a Concept Paper on subsidies for agricultural producers. A new strategy on sustainable development of agro-food sector, developed with the input of FAO experts is in its finalization stage.

Simultaneously, the President and the Government of Moldova launched a number of appeals addressed to the international community for the emergency assistance for the most affected segments of the population in order to support the small farmers during the conduct of their

autumn agricultural work. FAO was the first Organization to react promptly to the emergency call addressed to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf.

I would like also to point out the personal input coming from Ms Mária Kadlecikova, FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia and FAO Representative in Moldova. Due to her efforts, the first rapid drought assessment mission was organized followed by the crop and food supply assessment mission fielded in September.

Mr. Chairperson, we really appreciate the significant support coming from your agency for the immediate steps taken to reduce the devastating impact of drought on the agro-food sector. We are also grateful for the support provided by the World Food Programme, the European Commission, Sweden, Azerbaijan, Romania, United States of America, Russian Federation, Lithuania, Cyprus, People's Republic of China, Swiss Confederation, Czech Republic, Greece, Austria, Italian Republic, Slovak Republic and many other countries that have stated their intention to grant support.

Up until the present moment, the Republic of Moldova has benefited from a total value of about US\$11 million of financial and humanitarian assistance for the purpose of recovering from the situation induced by the drought. We are deeply grateful and open to any assistance offered to our country during the process of coping with this calamity, but it goes without saying that the Government's efforts and mechanisms are not sufficient to assist and improve the current situation of Moldova's farmers. That is why we are actively collaborating with the development partners in order to embark on mid-term and long-term joint measures for revitalizing the agro-food sector. Thus the mid-term priorities of Moldova are focused on re-establishment of the livestock, including the animals' genetic fund, improvement of seed material production and its multiplication, modernization of monitoring systems and tools for guaranteeing food security and early warning.

With regard to long-term priorities, these would cover re-establishment and extension of irrigation systems, assurance of a larger and cheaper access to credit resources, as well as access to insurance related to agricultural hazards, including the weather risk management tools.

Mr Chairperson, Moldova reiterates its support to the FAO Reform process. At the same time, Moldova welcomes the carrying out of the External Independent Evaluation and assures you of its full support for this cause.

On the other hand, we sincerely consider that the FAO Representation in Moldova should be strengthened on a priority basis, taking into account the current challenges determined by natural calamities and the perspective of future development of collaborative relations between the Republic of Moldova and FAO. The enhancement of the FAO Representation in Moldova represents a prerogative not just for the country alone, but also for the region as a whole. This will raise the effectiveness of Moldova's participation in regional projects in various fields, such as food security control, monitoring of centres of Avian Influenza outbreaks and others. Thus, we kindly request you to examine the possibility of approving the position of a full-time Assistant to the FAO Representative in Moldova.

Honourable audience, please allow me to re-affirm the Republic of Moldova's willingness to develop cooperation relations with FAO.

Fred MUKISA (Uganda)

The Uganda delegation thanks the Secretariat for a very good document presented to this Conference. The most important message we derive from the Report is that development of agriculture in Africa continues to lag behind that of the entire world. We further take note of the continuing global decline in real prices and the net flow of agricultural commodities from developing to developed countries. The ever increasing-numbers of the poor and the hungry in sub-Southern Africa, now standing at 25 percent of the global figure, is indeed of great concern. In view of the above, my delegation wishes to mention some of the areas which require more critical focus in order to spare Africa's agriculture.

Increasing investment in the agricultural sector should be put higher on the policy agenda. In 2003, Africa's Heads of States and Government committed themselves to increase national investment in agriculture and rural development to at least 10 percent of the GDP. However, this level of financing is still inadequate.

Infrastructural development remains an important trigger factor for agriculture and rural development. Critical focus still need to be placed on improving infrastructures for water use and irrigation, improving physical and communication infrastructure, and improving marketing, storage, agro-processing and value addition. As the moment, the entire above are poorly and inadequately developed.

Creating systems and programmes to provide reliable, affordable and flexible agricultural credit to the farming communities. Existing micro-finance institutions are predominantly village-based and have neither suitable financial products, nor conditions for the rural farmers.

Member countries should enhance a forest special programme while preserving existing forests. In addition, potential sources of energy and energy saving technologies should be popularized among rural populations.

Engaging in more fruitful diplomatic and trade dialogue, to enhance fair and balanced trade between developed and developing countries.

While the global commodity flow continues shrinking, the forecast of developing countries should be increasingly put on local and regional markets.

The unaffording new challenges and opportunities must be topped to benefit developing world in general and in the African continent in particular. The challenges and opportunities include climate change. This calls for global focus on hot spots and development of strategies to avert and mitigate any associated disasters.

The increasing demand for bio-fuel requires the expertise of FAO especially in the areas of research and capacity-building. The African green revolution: FAO should be prepared and equipped to help the continent meaningfully to handle this important initiative. Well-coordinated political and diplomatic efforts should be directed towards addressing both the natural and human industry's sectors currently accentuating poverty and food insecurity. We implore our partners to continue supporting the above initiatives. We also call on this Conference to direct more funding to Technical Cooperation Programmes, sufficient programmes for food security and South-South cooperation.

I would like to conclude by congratulating our friend, Ghana, for achieving the most important goal, number one, of the Millennium Development Goals, by reducing the number of its hungry by half. My country and indeed many other African countries, should learn from and emulate Ghana's experience.

Ms Caterina PAJUME (Mozambique)

First of all, allow me to say that on behalf of my Government and the people of the Republic of Mozambique, we feel it is a great honour to have this opportunity to share our experience and recent developments in agriculture and food security situation in our country, Mozambique at FAO's Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference.

Secondly, allow me to join the previous delegations to welcome the new Members to the Organization.

The agriculture sector is the backbone of Mozambique's economic development, employing over 80 percent of the active population in rural areas, accounting for some 25 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

Crop production in Mozambique has been experiencing an average annual growth of eight percent over the past 10 years. This growth rate is the result of a combination of good policy environment, consolidation of peace, strong economic growth and good collaboration with the national and

international partners. As a result the country, is nowadays, is now becoming self-sufficient regarding maize, cassava, sweet potatoes and legumes. Likewise, the country has been experiencing a significant increase in livestock production and by-products.

Due its geographic location, Mozambique is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, which may affect negatively agricultural production, particularly under rainfed conditions. For instance, cereal production in the 2006-2007 agriculture season only increased by a modest three percent as a result of floods, drought and cyclones that affected about 280 000 hectares and that have undermined the economic abilities of approximately 520 000 vulnerable people who require food assistance between now and the next harvest.

A plan of action for disaster mitigation was immediately put in place to rehabilitate the production capacity of the affected families and FAO played a big role on attending our people to bring their lives back to normal.

According to the recent results of the food security and nutrition baseline survey undertaken by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN), chronic malnutrition is estimated to be 46 percent. Food security and nutrition is therefore a major concern for the Mozambique Government.

Recently, our Government approved the second phase of the Food Security and Nutrition Strategy and its Action Plan for 2008-2015. This strategy now incorporates the HIV/AIDS and human rights to adequate food dimensions and provides basic guidelines for different sectors, such as the Government itself, civil society, academics, researchers to enable our people to have access to adequate food by 2015 with a view to accelerate the fight against poverty and hunger.

The Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference is taking place at a time when the Government of Mozambique has just approved the country's strategy for a Green Revolution. The country is engaged in different programmes such as research and technology transfer, improved seed production, small-scale irrigation development and promotion of the use of the plough for land preparation. Along with these initiatives, the Government has established an investment fund of more than US\$300 000 for each district – and we have 128 districts in Mozambique – to be allocated primarily in agriculture and agriculture-related activities.

We believe that FAO has a key role to play providing technical assistance to Member Nations in their efforts to embark on the green revolution through implementation of comprehensive programmes for intensification and diversification of agricultural production.

We, therefore, expect that the FAO Programme of Work and Budget will give a high priority to this issue.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to pay a well-deserved tribute to FAO for commitment against the hunger and the determined action to enhance the state of food and agriculture in the world, including Mozambique, which has been benefiting from this Organization's activities. Our appreciation also goes to the Government and people of Italy who host the Headquarters of our institution and who have always helped FAO reach out to the world.

Ivo HLAVÁČ (Czech Republic)

I am very pleased for this opportunity to address the Conference as a Representative of a new, emerging donor – the Czech Republic.

At the outset, the Czech Republic goes along with the statements made by the European Union Presidency – Portugal – and of course the Representative of the European Commission.

We do welcome the document prepared by the Secretariat on the State of Food and Agriculture and let me make a few comments on that Report.

Firstly, my country is concerned about the growing rates of overweight obesity and the number of diet-related non-communicable diseases in developing or developed countries. Such a rapid deterioration of people's health is an alarming trend in nutrition and, together with persisting

undernourishment, it may increase fundamentally the prevalence of malnutrition around the world in coming years.

Secondly, the slow process in the WTO Doha Round – the continuing stalemate – undermines effective participation of all countries in the world trade liberalization. We hope for a break out in the multilateral trade negotiations, reaching an agreement of agriculture modalities, especially.

Finally, we are also concerned for the recent rise in commodity prices. In this context, we call for further analysis and especially policy debate on the market and food security impacts of increased biofuel demand.

We do believe that developing countries should pay a high priority to strengthen their agriculture sector and secure an adequate food supply for their population in a sustainable manner. In this sense, the Czech Republic is prepared to assist, as much as possible, these efforts oriented to eliminate hunger and poverty with our progressive developing assistance, which in a substantial part is allocated to agriculture and rural development. However, we believe that food insecurity must be primarily tackled by national governments.

We need – as FAO – great coherence, harmonization and coordination of our efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty, and the Czech Republic would welcome the launch of that kind of dialogue with some emerging donor countries. More specifically, we are open to coordinate our voluntary contributions to FAO with new donors from Central and Eastern Europe. We believe that this small coherent approach might be a good example for others to be more effective in bringing good results.

Last, but not least, it is our duty as FAO Members to have an organization that is able to facilitate our common target to half the number of hungry in the world by the year 2015. We do not assume it is achievable without the real and deep Reform of the Organization.

The Czech Republic, as a reform-minded country, urges all Members to not lose the current and unique opportunity for fundamental change and to show willingness, flexibility and openness as much as possible. The reform of FAO is the real opportunity and the Czech Republic believes that FAO will deliver.

Henrik KROU (Denmark)

First we will thank all of the Members of this Organization for admitting the Faroe Islands as a new Associate Member. I am sure that the Faroe Islands will benefit greatly from the Membership but I am equally convinced that FAO will benefit from the active membership of the Faroe Islands.

As a Member of the European Union, we fully align ourselves with the statements delivered Monday by the European Commission and by His Excellency Mr Coelho Silva, on behalf of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union.

I do not think I have to repeat a detailed report on Denmark's and the European Union's achievements as providers of development assistance. Denmark contributes with .8 percent of GDP to development assistance and we strongly encourage other countries to join us in realizing the long-standing UN target of not less than .7 percent.

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural development in the European Region will face many challenges over the coming years, such as international competition, fair liberalization of trade policy and population decline in rural areas. Climate change will add to these pressures and will make the challenges more difficult and more costly.

The projected climate changes will affect crop yield, livestock management and occasional production with important risks for farm income and land abandonment in certain parts of the Region. At the same time we know that other regions will face even more serious consequences.

FAO – through its multi-disciplinary expertise in agriculture, forestry and fisheries – could facilitate an integrated approach to climate change adaptation of farmers, scientists and policy makers.

Agriculture is a potential victim of climate changes and agriculture is, at the same time, a major source of greenhouse gasses and thereby contributing to climate changes. But agriculture also offers hope for understanding, curbing and coping with global warming.

Grown sustainably, biomass fuel has the potential to be clean, renewable source of energy. Capturing the full potential of bio-fuels means overcoming environmental and social constraints and removing trade barriers, which are at present hindering the development of a worldwide market.

Recently, the potential conflicts between bio-energy production and the protection of the environment, sustainable development, food security of the rural poor and the economic development of countries supplying feedstock have attracted attention. These potential conflicts should of course be addressed as soon as possible.

We should, at the same time, also focus on the potentials of bio-energy. Developing bio-energy represents the most immediate and available response to at least five key challenges and opportunities: Number one, coping with record high crude oil prices; number two, the need for oil-importing countries to reduce their oil dependence by diversifying their energy sources and suppliers; number three, the chance for emerging economies in tropical regions to supply the global energy market with competitively priced liquid bio-fuels; number four, meeting growing energy demand in developing countries, in particular to support development in rural areas; and number five, the commitments taken to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as part of the battle against climate change.

Bio-energy is forecasted to satisfy 20 percent of global energy demand by the year 2030, rising to between 30 and 40 percent by 2060. Bio-energy also has the potential to offer new growth opportunities in many rural areas of developing countries but it is important to guarantee the livelihoods and well-being of the most vulnerable at the same time. The forecasted growth in bio-energy needs to be carefully managed and coordinated if we are to make the most of its benefits and resolve its challenges and we need a strong FAO to assist the international community in these important tasks.

The question is, will FAO be able to exercise its proper role in the international processes in addressing climate change, bio-energy and the many other challenges agriculture, fisheries and forestry are facing?

The Independent External Evaluation (IEE) has assured us that FAO is an organization which provides important global services and public goods which cannot be assumed or be provided by any other institution. FAO is irreplaceable, especially with regard to setting standards and processing information on a number of issues concerning food security, rural development and agriculture. The IEE also points to a great number of specific areas where drastic changes are urgently needed and the IEE concludes that FAO will only be able to meet the challenges of the Twenty-first Century by undergoing a comprehensive programme for institutional renewal.

Denmark still has faith in FAO. We trust that FAO has immense technical expertise and understands the mechanisms of hunger and knows that establishing partnerships, including partnerships at the grassroot level, is the only means of achieving the changes on the ground that are vital for ending hunger.

With 98 percent of the hungry living in developing countries, it will be impossible to resolve the issue without having proper dialogue with those worst affected. FAO is, in our opinion, the viable and neutral forum for this purpose. We need FAO but a FAO in better shape, revamped and revitalized.

Therefore, Denmark welcomes the proposals from the IEE and we support the endeavours of the Members and the management of this Organization to reshape FAO to the task before it.

Inefficiencies must be swept away and clear priorities need to be set to make FAO more responsive and the work of an Immediate Action Plan must start right away.

Too many people have waited too long. Too many campaigners have held off their criticism, fearing to damage an organization that is essentially an ally in achieving common goals. The coming years need to represent a new era in global hunger policy, driven by an efficient FAO, modernized through a process of reform that should be in good progress before the next Conference. You can rely on Denmark's ongoing, full commitment to this process.

Radi TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

First and foremost I would like to congratulate the Chair for his election to this leadership position here in this Organization and I would also like to congratulate the newly-elected members. It is very much of an honour for me coming from the Hashemite Monarchy in my country to meet with the elite of the other countries in the world who work very hard together here in this Organization under the excellent leadership of the Director-General in carrying out these efforts in support of the hungry of the world.

We in Jordan in accordance with the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, have been working over recent years in preparing a policy that will take into account the food security for the people. We have ourselves achieved self sufficiency in agricultural products to a degree of 50 percent in dairy products and red meats. In spite of the scarcity of our natural resources we have achieved full self sufficiency in fruits and vegetables and we have begun exporting them to neighbouring countries.

Unfortunately, our basic food is based on grains and we have not yet achieved adequate levels of production for that to satisfy our national requirements, especially the strategic products that is to say, wheat and cattle feed. Jordan has established an initiative actually on the basis of the sponsorship of His Majesty our King, and we hope that this will give the necessary support for the plan to succeed.

We do recognise the fact that in spite of the great support and help that we have received from our international colleagues, and the most modern generation of technological advances in our activities which helps reduce the amount of water necessary in agriculture and this is also thanks to genetic engineering and other renewable interventions.

We recognise the sacrosanct necessity of this organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, for ourselves and for everyone else on this planet, but we do think the time has come for us to look again at the Constitution, the Basic Texts of this Organization so that we can make sure that we have corrected the aim of the Organization and its support to ensure human beings their right to proper food. When this Organization was founded it was always an objective of the Organization to support world peace and this is something that the modern state of Jordan is also devoted to. This is a fundamental pillar for the basis for security and peace in the world and for social and political stability, and it's on the basis of these assumptions and confirming the civilizing message of this Organization in the family of nations. This is the way forward to ensure proper nutrition to the populations of the world. We have always been against any of the political and economic theories and precepts and concepts that agree to any monopoly on the production or trading in foodstuffs or using them as instruments for political pressure or cultural pressure and we want to see an independent international pact established ensuring this.

To facilitate this Organization and other sister organizations, we see a very worrying situation when we see the numbers of people suffering from hunger and resulting in social imbalances and diseases and we feel that this constitutes an enormous responsibility for all of us. Most recent developments in the prices of basic foods, of staples, have reached news records. This is something that we want to be able to control in our policies, in our concepts and our approaches, establishing priorities for food security and establishing alternative policies for these programmes. So we urge the necessity for stabilisation of the prices of staple foods, basic foods, so that all people can have access to them and this means studying the repercussions of liberalisation of

markets, the repercussions of prices of basic foodstuffs and our international policies on the subject of the sources thereof.

It is time for us to put a value on the efforts of the Organization to ensure food security and this depends very much on original integration in the standards that cover the production and distribution of foodstuffs. It is going to be necessary to do this in order to help the many millions of people who have been displaced by wars, by natural disasters, by human disasters. We have seen the most ghastly images of human beings suffering from hunger while at the same time others are able to waste or keep to themselves vast quantities of perfectly good food.

It is very important for us to indicate, to point out the essential role that this Organization plays and that of the World Health Organization as well, in fighting against the scourge of Avian Influenza, and we also know that there are many other diseases that attack agricultural production, both in the animal and the vegetable kingdom. There is a total imbalance in the world's eco-systems and this is made very clear by the expansion of desertification and climate change and this is expressed in the increase in prices for energy products and for food products. Many of our citizens are also suffering from rampant deforestation. It is necessary to establish national programmes to protect our forests and an executive programme to protect all of our wooded lands.

We very much appreciate the work that the FAO does carry out and we urge that you understand that we in Jordan have a vital interest and a firm intention to cooperate and to respect the resolutions and decisions taken here and all of this is based on the importance of human cooperation and the hope that this Conference will be crowned with success, success for all of us. These are noble goals that we all share and we are all participants in this effort.

I thank you for your attention and we hope that God will help us all in the service of humanity.

Haroun KABADI (Tchad)

Je suis très honoré de m'adresser au nom de la délégation du Gouvernement de la République du Tchad à cette auguste assemblée réunie à l'occasion de la tenue de la 34^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO.

Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser toutes mes félicitations aux nouveaux membres qui se joignent à nous et également, au nouveau Président de la Conférence et aux Membres du Bureau.

Malgré l'ordre économique libéral universel instauré depuis plusieurs décennies pour lutter et réduire la pauvreté dans le monde, force est de constater qu'à ce jour, on dénombre encore 820 millions de personnes victimes de la faim, de la malnutrition, de la misère et de la pauvreté. En plus de ces tragiques situations, ces populations n'ont pas accès aux centres de santé et aux écoles.

Le libéralisme économique n'a pas fait que des heureux, il a également engendré et instauré des déséquilibres et des inégalités macro-économiques pour la plupart des pays africains dont mon pays, le Tchad.

Cette 34^{ème} Session revêt une importance toute particulière pour mon pays étant donné la pertinence des sujets à débattre et qui portent sur les domaines de l'agriculture, du développement rural, de l'aquaculture, des forêts, de l'énergie et de leur financement.

L'importance que ma délégation accorde à ces questions s'explique par la situation d'insécurité alimentaire quasi-permanente que vivent les populations tchadiennes depuis la sécheresse des années 1973-1974, et cela, en dépit d'importantes ressources naturelles inexploitées dont dispose mon pays.

Aussi, il convient de signaler ici la préoccupation de mon pays relative à l'assèchement progressif du lac Tchad qui nourrit plus de 30 millions de personnes. Cet assèchement est dû à la conjugaison de plusieurs facteurs dont la désertification. J'invite donc la Communauté internationale et, plus particulièrement, la FAO à appuyer les efforts des pays riverains du lac Tchad au transfert des eaux que l'Oubangui charrie vers le lac Tchad.

Pour faire face à la situation chronique d'insécurité alimentaire et, conformément à l'engagement pris à l'issue du Sommet mondial de 1996, dont l'objectif principal est de réduire de moitié à l'horizon 2015 le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition, le Gouvernement de la République du Tchad avec l'appui technique de la FAO, a d'abord élaboré et mis en œuvre le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire (PSSA).

Au vu des résultats du PSSA, le Gouvernement et la FAO ont convenu d'élaborer le Programme national de sécurité alimentaire (PNSA) dont l'objectif global est de vaincre la faim et de combattre l'insécurité alimentaire sous toutes ses formes.

Le PNSA, dont la mise en œuvre est prévue en deux phases de cinq années chacune, est fondé sur l'ensemble des orientations politiques et stratégiques pour le développement durable du secteur rural élaborées par le Gouvernement du Tchad au cours de ces dix dernières années. Il constitue l'une des traductions tangibles de la volonté nationale de réduire la pauvreté en milieu rural et donc, la base stratégique de toutes les actions envisagées par le Gouvernement à cet effet.

Les premières actions portent sur le renforcement des capacités des artisans locaux en techniques de constructions des silos métalliques en passant par la mise en œuvre des projets intitulés "Système d'alerte précoce" et "Amélioration de la filière spiruline" et bientôt, par l'exécution du projet d'aménagement de petits périmètres irrigués villageois, avec l'assistance technique et financière de la FAO. Il me plaît de dire que ces premières réalisations mettent en évidence l'engagement du Gouvernement de la République du Tchad, à travers le PNSA, à vaincre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté par la maîtrise de la gestion de l'eau comme élément fondamental de la politique agricole du pays.

C'est l'occasion d'affirmer que, pour atteindre pleinement les objectifs sus-énumérés, qui concourent, somme toute, à assurer la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations et à améliorer leur niveau de vie, l'assistance de nos partenaires est vivement sollicitée et ne saurait nous faire défaut dans notre entreprise.

S'agissant des résultats de la présente Conférence et sans vouloir anticiper sur les conclusions des travaux des commissions constituées pour cette 34^{ème} Session, particulièrement celle chargée des "questions de fond et politique générale en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture", permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de saluer cette initiative et de féliciter le Directeur Général de la FAO, pour les grandes réformes qu'il ne cesse d'initier afin de mieux orienter nos États dans le sens de la promotion d'une agriculture productive, durable et garantissant l'accès des populations à une alimentation suffisante et de bonne qualité améliorant, du coup, les conditions de bien être des populations rurales face aux défis de changement climatique et à l'utilisation des produits agricoles comme matière première des biocarburants.

Monsieur le Président, Monsieur Directeur Général, vos efforts sont particulièrement suivis et appréciés à leur juste valeur par Son Excellence Monsieur Idriss Deby Itno, Président de la République du Tchad, qui d'ailleurs, n'a jamais manqué de vous solliciter chaque fois qu'il en a été besoin. Votre présence à ses côtés à N'Djaména lors de l'adoption du PNSA et aussi pour son lancement, témoigne de votre engagement personnel à accompagner le Tchad dans son combat contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Fulop BENEDEK (Hungary) (Original language Hungarian)

First of all, I wish to offer my congratulations to the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons. May we also welcome the newly-elected Members of FAO, Andorra, Montenegro and the Faroe Islands.

Mr Chairperson, I am deeply honoured to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Republic of Hungary, at this Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference. There is a particular reason for this too, as this year is of great importance in the relations between Hungary and FAO. Following the decision of the Council and the Director-General, FAO's office for Europe and Central Asia has been operating in Budapest since July 2007. FAO's Shared Services Centre was inaugurated on the 7 November 2007 and operations have already commenced.

As agreed with FAO, we have launched a Scholarship Programme for students from developing countries and in 2007 we have also signed a Partnership Framework Agreement with FAO for the support of projects and activities aimed at promoting food security, sustainable rural development and also the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

We very much hope that the decisions taken within the framework of the FAO Reform will lead to greater efficiency and effectiveness for the Organization, supported by an adequate level of resources. We are committed to do everything in our power in order to achieve these goals.

We welcome FAO's report on the Independent External Evaluation. We are confident that as a result of the thorough professional discussion of the reports conclusions, the Organization will now enter a new phase based on reform with growth. We are convinced the world needs a strong FAO in order to achieve its set objectives and to meet the enormous challenges faced by the Organization. These challenges, along with the State of Food and Agriculture, are described in depth in the document prepared by the Secretariat and we offer our congratulations on this thorough work.

Without doubt, one of the greatest challenges of our time is posed by the interaction between climatic change and agriculture, coupled with the related issue of bio-energy. Dealing with these problems and answering the complex and controversial issues of bio-energy are among the most important and urgent tasks of FAO.

Please allow me to say a few words about the state of agriculture in Hungary, especially as the weather is becoming increasingly extreme, causing major problems and at the same time presents challenges to Hungary by posing threats to agricultural production.

Agro-business currently contributes twelve to thirteen percent to the GDP of Hungary. However, this scope of activity has a significantly more important role in the way it shapes the economic and social situation of our rural areas. In addition to supplying the country with safe and healthy food, agriculture offers work and livelihood for a sizable percentage of the rural population.

Moreover, there are still untapped reserves in rural development. The protection of the environment, as well as the task of keeping the country's landscape in an orderly state, cannot be conceived without substantial contributions from this sector. One objective, therefore, is the utilization of our agri-potential to the highest possible degree of efficiency.

Looking at the export capabilities of Hungarian agriculture, we are able to report continuing growth, especially since our accession to the EU. This is how we are able to contribute to satisfying the world's food requirements.

Environmental awareness and the policy of Sustainable Agriculture play an increasingly important role in the farming system of Hungary as well.

In conclusion, I wish to refer briefly to the state of food in the world. We are very pleased to observe the progress made in several countries, and the decreasing number of people suffering from hunger, which regrettably still falls short of the objectives of the MDGs. This situation can be significantly improved through professionally-designed investment programmes leading to sustainable development. This is also made clear in the World Bank's recently-published World Development Report. However, the most important issue remains the coordination of actions and attaining synergies instead of overlapping and duplications in the operations of the various global actors, the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, WFP, UNDP and bilateral donors. The ongoing UN Reform also points in this same direction. FAO needs to assume a leading proactive role in the field of agricultural development. This is indeed its shop.

Seerat ASGHAR (Pakistan)

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Honourable delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is indeed my very proud privilege to address this august gathering at the Thirty-fourth Session of FAO Conference. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs on their elections.

Mr Chairperson, why is agriculture so important to developing countries? The answer is simple: the case for agriculture has been made once again in the World Development Report 2008 "Agriculture for Development". Despite the fact that the share of agriculture in Overseas Development Assistance has gone down from 18 percent in 1979 to 3.5 percent in 2004, yet the share of developing countries in the world agriculture GDP has moved up to 65 percent. Three out of four people in the developing world live in the rural areas. Most depend on agriculture for a living. It is documented that poverty is concentrated in agricultural and rural areas, triggering rural-urban migration. It is also documented that 81 percent of worldwide poverty reduction from 1993 to 2002 was because of improved conditions in rural areas and only 19 percent because of rural-urban migration and appreciation of the above irrefutable evidence makes it clear that the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals depend mainly on agriculture and rural development. The State of Food and Agriculture elucidates the challenges and opportunities which the world is faced with. Rising population, falling agriculture production, bioenergy, water scarcity and the climate change to name a few. Where does this place the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the development architecture of agriculture? The mandate of FAO centres around food security and agriculture production; there cannot be two opinions that the mandate remains valid after 60 years, that FAO Membership reaffirmed the mandate of FAO two years ago, while commissioning that Independent External Evaluation.

Pakistan is happy to report that agricultural sector in the recent years has grown persistently by five percent and now accounts for 25 percent of its GDP. The production of wheat this year, which is our major food staple, has been recorded at 23 million tonnes which is the highest in the country's history. While we are satisfied with the results, we are not complacent because we know that we still have a long way to go. Most of all, we have to address the growth equity equilibrium. This is where FAO comes in. FAO remains important to us with its storehouse of knowledge, coupled with its operational interventions. Pakistan supports a stronger nexus between FAO's normative and operational roles. Where is FAO headed to? Does FAO deliver its mandate, what does FAO mean to all its Members. These are some of the questions that would need responding to over the next year and beyond. FAO means a number of things to different stakeholders. The developed world perceives FAO as an agency responsible for negotiating and hosting international treaties, compiling agricultural statistics and carrying out other normative functions. The developing world characterizes FAO as an agency that provides capacity building, helps with enhancing food security and renders sound policy advice. This may be an over simplification but serves as useful purpose for highlighting the dilemma that FAO faces as an organization. How can it balance its act to come up to the expectation of all its Members? It is true that FAO cannot be everything to everyone at all times; but it must give itself up to come up to the basic expectation of all its Members. That is the telling challenge that FAO faces today, that is, to deliver much more than what it delivers now, in a more effective and more efficient manner, prioritize where appropriate and be able to deliver sufficient resources.

Pakistan strongly supports immediately arresting the decline in FAO's resources over the last 14 years. What must follow is an agreement of the priorities, ways and means of achieving efficiently and meaningfully, and charting out a wad trajectory. Pakistan fully supports FAO in meeting and delivering on its potential.

Ms Cornelia HARABAGIU (Romania)

I have the pleasure and honour to address to Mr. Chairperson on behalf of Romanian government cordial congratulations for your nomination in this position at the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference and to express my success wishes for its good running.

At the same time, I assure you of the Romanian government interest towards the problems which the Conference proposes to debate and I express our delegations' desire to contribute to the success of the works.

The problems placed on the Conference Agenda have a special importance for solving the main trends and policies in the world food and agriculture field and for the measures that have been

taken in order to ensure the world food security, major objective of the Third Millennium for the eradication of the hunger and poverty, for the gaps elimination on the development at world level.

At the same time, we appreciate the documents, the reports and the independent external evaluation and we congratulate FAO Director-General for the permanent importance granted to the papers submitted to the Conference debates.

We also welcome the admission of new states within the Organisation and we are convinced that they will have a great contribution in the FAO activities and programmes implementation.

I would like to present you some aspects about Romanian agriculture, basic branch of our economy and one of the priority sectors in the context of Romanian accession to the European Union.

Currently, the agriculture of Romania represents about 90 percent of the GDP through the efforts of the 36 percent of the active population of the country population. During the last years, the situation of agriculture was really difficult due to the natural calamities: floods in 2005, draughts in 2006 and 2007 with catastrophic consequences, affecting large surfaces of agricultural lands, by reducing the harvest, by affecting the spring crops, vegetation stage and production potential.

The Romanian agriculture exploitation are mostly small sizes, fragmented, poorly-endowed, with a deep semi-subsistence and subsistence character, meaning that their owners produce mainly for self-consumption and only a part of their production are oriented to the market. The big number of such exploitation which represent a feature of the current Romanian agriculture impose for our government special efforts oriented to ensure their viability.

In this sense, it will be pursued to develop the semi-subsistence and the family farms in Romania in order to increase the farm economy viability, the incomes of the farmers to orientate the agriculture production to the market.

The development of the production processing and marketing specialised network chance; those operations shall be in the line with European conditions represents a major needs for Romanian agriculture that can be supported by enhancing the setting up producers group, operating in the market.

After accession to European Union, Romania had to apply to the principles of Common Agriculture Policy. This means to respect certain production and environment norms, as well as the funds absorption dedicated to sustain the farmers' revenues, to regulate the agriculture market and focus to the rural development measures.

In the framework of the CAP and concerning natural resources base, climate change and vulnerability Romania recognizes that a sustainable management of natural resources is important for economic, socio-political as well as environmental reasons.

In this context, the Romanian strategic priorities for 2007-2013 identify three priority areas: first, promotion and extensive rural development program implemented in all the regions of the country: mountains, hills and plains within a concept of rural development concerning the economic and social integration of the Romanian villages; second, assurance of a good environment to attract foreign capitals in good conditions, in order to sustain the investments and agriculture production development programs in Romania. A special attention will be given to the implementation of communitary programs and international projects as well as other foreign funding; third, setting up the competitiveness structures with those of the European Union able to carry out the implementation of rural development programs, financed by public and private budgets.

For the period 2007-2013, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania provides adequate measures for four priorities: increasing the agriculture and forestry sector competitiveness; environment improving of rural areas and biodiversity conservation; increasing the quality of life in the rural areas and the diversification of the rural economy; and the last one, Leader Programme.

What regards the funds absorption for 2007-2009, the funds for the programme implementation are set up by budgets which will be focused on support agriculture and food investment in the physical and human capital and modernization the rural infrastructure.

In the field of the rural development, there are promoting financial policies permitting to access to international funds programs for family agricultural exploitations for rural communities. In order to ensure the full absorption of the pre-accession funds destined to rural development. In order to stimulate the transformation of the peasant households in the agricultural family, the establishment and the strengthening the middle class in the rural areas, the budgetary effort was focused to sustain the investment in the rural space and stimulation as well as the banks participation and their competences development in the agriculture field.

We are convinced that the foreseen actions and the measures will create the new value and weight of the Romanian agriculture at the international level, tending to increase its contribution and its improvement at the global welfare and poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen I would like to emphasize the efficient collaboration between Romania and FAO by participation of FAO activities and the carrying out of some bilateral and regional technical assistance projects with FAO support in the fields of national interest such as agriculture and forestry sectors development, food products quality, animal diseases control, natural calamities effect diminution, control and monitoring the Avian Influenza virus evolution. We are interested and our Government supports the further cooperation, based on technical assistance for the agri-food sector development. Global warning and climate changes are special issues. Therefore, Romania supports the development of regional programmes of FAO level for rapid interventions on regions with the certification process.

We appreciate the efforts of the Organisation for its intensification of the activities able to lead and to increase the agriculture production efficiency, especially in developing and transition countries to the market economy.

Victorio José María TACCETTI (Argentina)

En los últimos 40 años se han producido profundas transformaciones en el sector agropecuario a nivel mundial.

Las nuevas tecnologías acompañaron marcadas modificaciones en los procesos de producción, comercio y consumo, vinculados con el sector, como así también una modificación en la composición de la canasta de productos.

Por un lado, se da la necesidad de alimentar a las crecientes poblaciones tanto rurales como urbanas, de los países en desarrollo.

Por otro lado la movilidad ascendente de los ingresos de una parte de la población mundial se traduce en demandas especiales, que provienen de consumidores más informados y preocupados por la inocuidad y calidad nutricional de los alimentos.

Este escenario que a simple vista es favorable, pone en riesgo a muchos países en desarrollo, de consolidar su posición de proveedores exclusivos de productos básicos. Ello, debido a que la industrialización de dicha productos básicos se registra fuera de sus fronteras con lo cual se limita la expansión del empleo.

Esta circunstancia se agudiza ante la llamada "progresividad arancelaria" y los obstáculos técnicos al comercio que enfrentan los países exportadores de productos primarios en sus esfuerzos por establecer sus propias industrias transformadoras de alimentos.

En este orden cuatro elementos resultan fundamentales: acceso a la tecnología, a los conocimientos, al crédito y el acceso a los mercados. En cuanto se refiere a la tecnología y al conocimiento, Argentina desea reconocer los numerosos y valiosos esfuerzos de la FAO en el campo de biotecnología aplicada a la producción agrícola. Los documentos preparados por la FAO, las consultas de expertos, las actividades de capacitación, entre otras tantas acciones,

representan aportes importantes para lograr el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio con relación a la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo.

Argentina ha adoptado tempranamente la biotecnología agrícola. Esto ha sido posible gracias a la aplicación temprana de regulaciones racionales, científicas y eficaces, como así como también al dinamismo de nuestros productores.

Por ello, mi país desea ofrecer su experiencia para colaborar en los esfuerzos de la FAO en la solución de los problemas del hambre.

Señor Presidente, deseo manifestar que en el ámbito del MERCOSUR y Estados Asociados estamos realizando esfuerzos sustantivos en pos de armonizar, entre otras, política y normativas sanitarias y fitosanitarias.

En cuanto se refiere al acceso a mercados Argentina apoya los principios de la Organización Mundial de Comercio porque ha establecido un marco jurídico que nos permite defender nuestros derechos y tener claras nuestras obligaciones.

Argentina mantiene razonables expectativas de éxito de la Ronda de Desarrollo de la OMC. Para lograr una mayor equidad en la distribución de los ingresos es necesario que las reglas del comercio mundial sean más equilibradas, dando lugar a la liberalización de los mercados agrícolas, conjuntamente con una eliminación de subsidios distorsivos aplicados a la producción y a la exportación de productos primarios.

La conclusión satisfactoria de la Roda de Doha podría impulsar el crecimiento y reducir la pobreza de manera significativa. Argentina es consciente de las repercusiones de estos procesos de cambio.

Señores, mi país se está recuperando de una profunda crisis cuya cara más dura nos enfrentó a la pobreza y la exclusión.

En octubre de 2002, registramos un 57.5 por ciento de pobres. No obstante, gracias a la implementación de políticas sociales activas, la situación social ha tomado un rumbo distinto.

La asistencia alimentaria a familias en situación de vulnerabilidad social, los incentivos a la autoproducción de alimentos, la puesta en marcha de planes de autogestión y programas como Pro-huerta, han sido algunas de las herramientas aplicadas con el objetivo de recuperar a la sociedad argentina.

El sector agrícola ha sido uno de los pilares fundamentales de la salida de la crisis. Contribuyendo en forma sustantiva al crecimiento de la economía que ha registrado una tasa promedio del 8 por ciento anual.

La adopción de tecnologías de vanguardia, se suma a las reconocidas ventajas comparativas de nuestra producción agropecuaria y recursos de pesca, lo que nos posibilita evolucionar de manera permanente en la elaboración de más y mejores productos.

La buena disponibilidad de agua y suelos aptos nos permite producir una gran variedad de cultivos a lo largo del año. En este marco estamos próximos a alcanzar una producción de 100 millones de toneladas de granos.

Las prácticas de siembra directa que reducen sustancialmente el impacto sobre el suelo, el control biológico de plagas y los notables avances registrados en biotecnología, hacen que se reduzca sustancialmente el uso de agroquímicos y el impacto negativo de estos sobre el ambiente.

Hoy podemos afirmar que Argentina genera alimentos para más de 300 millones de personas.

Las exportaciones argentinas han experimentado durante los últimos años una creciente diversificación de las ventas de productos no tradicionales, como por ejemplo nuestros vinos finos y carnes alternativas, esta diversificación productiva impacta positivamente sobre las economías regionales y la familia rural.

En ese sentido, propiciamos políticas que generen un ambiente social y económico racional para la agricultura familiar, a la vez que apostamos a mejorar los niveles de competitividad de nuestros agro-productos.

Asimismo, abogamos porque los programas internacionales en los cuales se armonizan las normas en materia de productos agroalimentarios, tales como el Codex Alimentarius, establezcan orientaciones para los Gobiernos sobre base científica y teniendo en cuenta un tratamiento inclusivo de las consideraciones de todos los Miembros. De ello se trata la armonización internacional.

Argentina interviene activamente en todas las acciones normativas de la FAO, pero más allá del balance positivo de este trabajo, deseáramos que a fin de lograr real legitimidad y universalidad de las normativas que surgen de los mismos, se genere un marco de efectiva participación de los Estados Miembros.

Consideramos que la FAO es insustituible para acompañar el proceso de desarrollo y crecimiento sostenido de la agricultura con equidad. Por esa razón, Argentina está estudiando con detenimiento las recomendaciones del Informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente, como así también la respuesta "en principio brindada por la administración con el objetivo de contribuir a la adecuación de esta Organización a los desafíos del siglo XXI.

Por otra parte, quiero expresar que el Gobierno de mi país honrará sus compromisos de deuda con esta y otras organizaciones internacionales, que se habían suspendido a raíz de la grave crisis económica y social. En el presente ejercicio hemos concretado el pago de 1 700 dólares y 1 700 euros, monto correspondiente a la cuota del año en curso.

Estamos a la espera de la aprobación definitiva de una Ley que habilite al Poder Ejecutivo Nacional al pago de cuotas pendientes, proyecto que ya cuenta con media sanción en el Congreso Nacional.

Otra importante cuestión a mencionar que da cuenta a la credibilidad que hemos recuperado a nivel mundial es que en octubre del 2009 el Congreso Forestal Mundial tendrá lugar en Buenos Aires.

Recibiremos con beneplácito a numerosos disertantes y científicos de excelencia académica quienes abordarán algunos de los más importantes temas de esta época, tales como la protección ambiental y los efectos devastadores del calentamiento global.

El intercambio académico y científico permitirá avanzar en la elaboración de una visión mancomunada sobre el futuro de los bosques y de la actividad forestal y sus aportes al equilibrio ambiental.

Para finalizar quisiera transmitir la convicción de mi país para trabajar en forma comprometida con la FAO y sus Estados Miembros en procura de un mundo más solidario y equitativo para las generaciones presentes y futuras.

Enrique Moret ECHEVARRÍA (Cuba)

Una y otra vez hemos recordado en este recinto que en la Declaración de Roma en junio de 1996, nuestros Jefes de Estado o Gobierno establecieron el objetivo de reducir a la mitad el número de personas que sufren hambre para el 2015.

Hoy existen en el mundo más de 850 millones de personas que padecen hambre y malnutrición. Lo logrado hasta este momento es insuficiente para eliminar, de las espaldas y las mentes de muchos de los habitantes de este mundo, la pesada carga que significa padecer hambre y malnutrición. La erradicación de este flagelo es, sin duda, una cuestión que trasciende las buenas voluntades y todos los compromisos alcanzados hasta este momento. Sólo con voluntad política será posible conservar y desarrollar la especie humana.

La población mundial continuará su tendencia al crecimiento y éste será mayor en los países en desarrollo. Las proyecciones para el comportamiento futuro de la producción agrícola mundial

son desalentadoras. La reducida disponibilidad de agua para el riego, que ya existe en muchas regiones del mundo, puede constituirse en el obstáculo más importante para el desarrollo agrícola. Las enfermedades que afectan a los animales y a las plantas disminuyen cada día la capacidad de producir alimentos en cantidades suficientes. El cambio climático ya está teniendo repercusiones adversas en la agricultura mundial y se prevé que estas repercusiones crezcan en el futuro.

Las islas del Caribe estamos particularmente sujetas a este tipo de afectaciones. Recientemente, como consecuencia de intensas lluvias y el paso de la tormenta tropical Noel por las aguas del mar Caribe, nuestro Gobierno ha estimado que las pérdidas preliminares se encuentran en el orden de los 499 millones de dólares; de ellos, 305 en el sector agropecuario y forestal, que incluyen 91 millones en pérdidas de productos en el campo y 78 millones en el costo de reponer las plantaciones afectadas.

Los recursos para la cooperación internacional, en específico los destinados a apoyar a la agricultura y a instituciones multilaterales que como la FAO trabajan en este campo, disminuyen constantemente. Los países ricos se niegan a trabajar para alcanzar compromisos serios para reducir y eliminar los millonarios subsidios a sus agriculturas. Cada día son mayores los condicionamientos y requisitos que se imponen para el otorgamiento de la ayuda oficial al desarrollo, y mayores son también las medidas unilaterales que, en franca violación del derecho internacional, se intentan imponer a países que no aceptan ningún tipo de condicionamiento para recibir dicha ayuda.

El propósito de destinar cantidades considerables de alimentos para la producción de bio-combustibles, impulsada por varios países industrializados para tratar de conservar sus derrochadores niveles de energía, sólo puede producir una nueva relación de dependencia para muchos países en desarrollo. Las consecuencias que tempranamente dicha política ha ocasionado ya son evidentes. Los últimos reportes de la FAO señalan un crecimiento vertiginoso de los precios de varios alimentos, en especial el trigo y el maíz, así como las semillas y harinas oleaginosas. Como consecuencia, se prevé que para los países de bajos ingresos y con déficit de alimentos (PBIDA), la importación de alimentos les cueste un 10 por ciento más que en el año 2006.

Señor Presidente, Cuba reconoce también que para la FAO, la situación actual del mundo impone importantes retos.

La Organización se encuentra inmersa en un importante proceso de reformas propuesto por el Director General. Es imprescindible que los resultados de las medidas aplicadas y las que acordemos aplicar en el futuro, nos permitan hacer de la FAO una Organización más eficiente y que responda mejor a las necesidades de sus Estados Miembros. Cuba trabajará en unión del resto de los países para que dicho propósito sea una realidad.

Las recomendaciones presentadas en el Informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente (EEI), son amplias y abarcan todos los ámbitos del trabajo de la FAO. Cuba considera que cada una de las cien recomendaciones de dicha Evaluación debe ser exhaustivamente analizada, debatida y consensuada en un proceso con amplia participación de todos los Estados Miembros.

En especial, Cuba desea llamar la atención particular sobre varios aspectos, entre los cuales se encuentran la necesidad de detener el decrecimiento de los recursos para el Programa Ordinario, además de conservar la importancia y la fortaleza del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT). Sin él, la FAO perdería parte importante de su razón de ser. La Organización debe continuar fortaleciéndose como una agencia enfocada prioritariamente a actividades de desarrollo, sin dejar de atender aquellas actividades de emergencia que sea necesario apoyar.

El Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA), bajo ningún concepto debe desaparecer, sino fortalecerlo e incrementarlo como importante mecanismo de intercambio y transferencia de conocimientos y tecnologías sencillas para los productores de los países beneficiarios, que ya ha logrado visibles impactos. No deberían suspenderse los proyectos del Programa Telefood, ya que cumplen sus objetivos de resolver problemas específicos de la producción de alimentos en

comunidades agrícolas. Los fondos extra-presupuestarios deben ser integrados más estrechamente en el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto y no sólo prioritariamente a actividades de emergencia.

Señor Presidente, el sector agrario cubano continúa realizando aportes importantes a la aportación de los índices de seguridad alimentaria, gracias a los intensos esfuerzos realizados por el Gobierno Cubano para garantizar la alimentación de todo el pueblo de Cuba. Los avances han sido reconocidos por el Sr. Jean Ziegler, Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas Sobre el Derecho a la Alimentación, durante su reciente viaje al país.

Cuba no está exenta de la influencia de factores como los elevados precios del combustible hasta niveles hoy casi inaccesibles.; El crecimiento de los precios de importantes productos alimenticios y otras materias primas imprescindibles para la industria alimenticia y la escasez de insumos agrícolas y equipamiento necesario para garantizar las cosechas de alimentos, entre otros elementos.

No obstante, Cuba continúa perfeccionando y aplicando transformaciones para reanimar el sector agrícola y aumentar sostenidamente la producción de alimentos, utilizando al máximo la capacidad y experiencia de la fuerza técnica creada por la Revolución, la cual ponemos a disposición de los países en desarrollo que la necesiten.

Sr. Presidente, Cuba, mediante la Cooperación Sur-Sur, en el marco del Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA), contribuye con más de un centenar de expertos y técnicos que han prestado y prestan sus servicios en varios países de África y América Latina y el Caribe. En el futuro, continuaremos apoyando a la FAO en el impulso de esta importante iniciativa.

En nombre del Gobierno de Cuba deseo reconocer el liderazgo y el importante rol jugado por el Director General, Jacques Diouf, al frente de la FAO. En ese sentido, reafirma la voluntad y el compromiso de Cuba con la Organización y su Director General en la implementación de acciones para luchar contra el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo.

Leopold NDAYISABA (Burundi)

Permettez moi d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre élection et de féliciter également le Directeur Général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour son importante allocution prononcée lors de l'ouverture de la 34^{ème} Session de la Conférence de notre Organisation.

Le Burundi, mon pays est un État enclavé aux dimensions modestes, d'une superficie de 27 834 m² avec une population à croissance rapide et à dominance rurale d'environ 8 500 000 habitants, plus de 90 pourcent de cette population vit de l'exploitation de la terre. Exploitations souvent mise en marge par les aléas climatiques et les catastrophes naturelles comme la sécheresse, les inondations, l'érosion des sols, les maladies transfrontalières des plantes et des animaux, etc.

Le Burundi fait face aujourd'hui à tous ces défis majeurs qui ont un impact négatif sur la production agricole et la sécurité alimentaire de notre population. Pour mieux affronter ces défis, le Gouvernement du Burundi a organisé au cours du mois de juin dernier les États généraux de l'agriculture en vu d'arrêter rapidement une politique agricole nationale et des mesures urgentes conséquentes.

Beaucoup d'intervenants se sont appropriées avant moi, il est formulé dans le Rapport de l'Évaluation externe indépendante selon laquelle même si la FAO n'existait pas il faudrait réinventer. En effet, je dois saluer ici le rôle primordial jouer par la FAO, à travers le monde et depuis sa création sous forme d'assistance multiforme destinée à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire des populations en général et du monde rural en particulier.

Notre Organisation assiste le Burundi dans les activités qui relèvent de l'assistance technique, dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts, de la pêche et de l'environnement par l'élaboration de politiques, des stratégies nécessaires au développement durable du secteur rural. La mise en œuvre de projets, soit sous financement du Programme de coopération technique, soit sur financement de partenaires de développement, tant bilatéraux que multilatéraux, la collecte, l'analyse et la diffusion de l'information sur le secteur rural et la sécurité alimentaire, la fourniture

d'une assistance agricole d'urgence. Cette assistance de la FAO au Burundi est devenue appréciée par notre gouvernement et notre population, d'autant plus que l'agriculture occupe 90 pourcent de la population active dans mon pays.

De part le passé récent, le Burundi était autosuffisant au point de vue alimentaire mais ces dernières années suite à l'explosion démographique, à l'érosion et aux aléas climatiques et des effets néfastes de la guerre civile que nous avons connus depuis plus d'une décennie, l'autosuffisance alimentaire dans beaucoup de régions du pays n'existe plus. Ce qui a forcé le Gouvernement et qui le force encore aujourd'hui, malheureusement, à recourir sans cesse à des aides et à l'importation d'un certain nombre de produits alimentaires.

A cela s'ajoute, l'insuffisance des semences, plus particulièrement à celles à haut rendement des engrais et des pesticides à prix abordable, le flux des rapatriés à qui le Gouvernement doit trouver des terres et de l'emploi, sans oublier la question des démobilisés de guerre qui sont confrontés aux mêmes problèmes. Il faut aussi signaler le fléau du VIH/SIDA qui saisit aussi de plus en plus dans le milieu rural et qui prive le pays d'une partie importante de ses forces laborieuses.

En dépit de ce tableau peu reluisant, le Burundi nourrit beaucoup d'espoir, notamment à travers le programme du Gouvernement actuel qui a décidé que l'agriculture et le développement du monde rural, soient élevés au niveau de ses plus grandes priorités.

Cet espoir se fonde aussi sur les idées développées lors du dernier Forum de juin 2007 sur les États généraux de l'agriculture, dont il a été question ci-dessus et qui a rassemblé beaucoup de partenaires du Burundi en matière du développement agricole parmi lesquels, la FAO a apporté un concours très précieux, que je dois saluer encore une fois aujourd'hui.

Parmi les grandes options retenues pour guider l'action gouvernementale dans le secteur agricole au cours de cette importante rencontre je peux citer notamment l'élaboration d'une politique nationale des intra agricoles, l'élaboration d'une politique nationale d'aménagements et de protection des sols et leur fertilisation, élaboration d'une politique de gestion des eaux et de l'irrigation, le développement des filières pour les nouvelles cultures d'exportations comme les fruits et les fleurs, la mise en place d'une politique foncière adaptée au contexte actuel avec notamment la révision du code foncier et qui tiens compte des normes environnementales et des objectifs du développement durable, l'alliance de la recherche scientifique, de l'enseignement secondaire universitaire et du développement socio-économique et enfin la poursuite de l'intégration de l'agriculture et de l'élevage.

La réalisation de cet ambitieux programme pour une assistance plus soutenue de la communauté internationale dont la FAO devrait jouer le rôle de leader, compte tenu de ses compétences et de son expérience incontestable. Je saisis cette occasion pour réaffirmer encore une fois l'attachement et le soutien de mon Gouvernement à la FAO et au projet de sa Réforme initiée par le Directeur Général.

Le Gouvernement du Burundi salut également le travail remarquable de l'équipe chargée de l'Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, dont la plus grande partie des recommandations vont contribuer à relever, à coup sûr, les grands défis posés par la question de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde et qui sont particulièrement ressentis dans les pays en développement, dont le Burundi fait partie.

Je voudrais lancer un appel pressant à la Communauté internationale pour qu'elle continue à soutenir la FAO par un apport accru de financement pour la mise en œuvre de son programme destiné aux populations pauvres du monde rural.

Je terminerai ce message en lançant à la même Communauté internationale, ici représentée, le même appel pour qu'elle poursuive son appui en faveur du Burundi, pleinement engagé dans un programme de reconstruction et de réconciliation nationale.

Tomislav VIDOSEVIC (Croatia)

It is a great honour for me to greet you in the name of the Republic of Croatia at the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference.

More than global challenges of political, economic and social nature, do not recognize borders between countries and require mutually agreed action in order to solve the issues on the agenda of the international community. The Republic of Croatia shares the concerns about world problems of our time caused by poverty, starvation, natural catastrophes and development epidemics and others. As a newly-elected new Member of the Security Council of the United Nations, during the years 2008-2009, Croatia will reinforce its efforts in order to address these issues and reach the decisions on the overall UN Reforms. Activities of FAO concerning Millennium Development Goals, combating poverty and famine, while at the same time FAO is engaged in promoting food safety and sustainable development in rural areas, confirm its dedication in addressing all these issues. It is a historic time for FAO in pursuing the process of reform. We express our commitment to the reform of the Food and Agriculture Organization which has always been a valuable factor of agricultural development in the world. We welcome the Independent External Evaluation Report and are looking forward to undertaking important steps regarding the reform at this Conference.

The Republic of Croatia has always had productive cooperation with FAO. With the help of FAO, huge efforts in development of rural areas have been invested in Croatia, while assuring complete access to food. On the national level, several projects of FAO technical aid have been implemented during the past ten years with considerable effects on improving agricultural and forest policy. Numerous FAO experts were involved in the process of agricultural reform in the Republic of Croatia. I would like to use this opportunity to express thanks for this valuable cooperation.

We are looking forward to cooperation between FAO and Croatia, a country to become the next EU Member very soon. Since it has acquired status of the candidate for EU Membership, Croatia achieved enormous progress in adjusting its institutional structure for the future implementation of EU legislature. During the last few years, we have made significant steps in harmonizing the Croatian agricultural policy with EU norms. Still, a lot remains to be done so that the European agricultural model becomes fully implemented.

We all know that agriculture, fishing industry, food safety, the veterinary sector and consumer protection are probably the most sensitive areas in negotiations during the process of accession. I am happy to inform you that recently the screening in the agriculture sector has been successfully completed which confirms the fact that we are going to be ready to achieve European standards even in the most challenging fields.

The global trends on market liberalization and agricultural policy informs in the European environment, as well as ever greater requirements of the consumers, impose the need for a further comprehensive reform of Croatian agricultural policy. Croatia is a country in the Mediterranean and Middle European Region, rich in tradition, with a great variety of climate and types of soil and, as such, contains all required pre-requisites for the development of agriculture. The significance of agriculture is even more important considering its linkage to one of our more significant sectors, which is tourism. Therefore, when we establish our national economic and agricultural policy, we also determine our fundamental goals for increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, food safety and food quality. We have put special efforts into preservation and sustainable development of rural areas.

Within the overall policy, we consider important to foster the productivity and sustainability of smallholder farms and their integration in producer organizations. Growth of GDP in Croatia in 2006 reached 4.8 percent and in 2007 an increase of 7 percent was realized in the first seven months. Croatia is also a country with the lowest inflation among the transition countries. In 2006, it amounted to 3.2 percent and in the first seven months of 2007, a fall of 2.1 percent was realized.

These parameters, together with the fall in unemployment rate plus the increase in export, are the main factors that maintain Croatian macro-economic stability.

Let me conclude by saying that we are aware of the momentum in the Reform process of FAO. I would like to emphasize, once again, that we are committed at this Conference to reach decisions regarding the reform in the most positive spirit, with the aim of making FAO more efficient in a constantly changing global world.

Yawo Sèfe GOGOVOR (Togo)

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre le message du Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'élevage et de la pêche du Togo, qui a été empêché au dernier moment. Voici le contenu de son message.

C'est pour moi un grand honneur et un agréable plaisir de prendre la parole à l'occasion de la 34^{ème} Session de la Conférence de la FAO, pour exprimer au nom du Président de la République togolaise, Son Excellence Faure Gnassingbé et du peuple togolais, notre gratitude à la Direction générale de la FAO pour toutes les réformes engagées notamment, la rationalisation de processus administratifs et financiers et la restructuration organisationnelle au siège de la FAO, dont l'objectif fondamental est d'améliorer l'efficacité et l'efficience de l'Organisation et sa capacité à fournir des services à ses Membres.

Je voudrais également vous assurer de la satisfaction du Togo des conclusions de l'Evaluation externe indépendante qui devrait de pair, avec le processus de réforme en cours, se renforcer.

Permettez-moi de rendre un hommage mérité au Directeur Général de la FAO pour cette initiative prise dans un contexte mondial difficile, caractérisé, entre autre, la pression des prix pétroliers et son corollaire, la production des bio-carburants.

La contribution de la FAO et les efforts des États Membres dans la réduction de la faim et la malnutrition marquée chaque année par la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et l'opération Téléfood, visant la mobilisation des ressources pour le financement des micro-projets, est à encourager.

La dernière prévision de production céréalière faite par la FAO en 2007 fait entrevoir des résultats record établis à 2 121 millions de tonnes, soit une croissance de maïs de 5,3 pourcent par rapport à la production de 2006. Cette croissance serait surtout due à la production du maïs en retrait en Amérique du Sud et aux États-Unis.

La même source fait état de l'augmentation de la production de blé et du record de riz estimé à 426 millions de tonnes, soit 1 pourcent de plus qu'en 2006. Une situation qui devrait contribuer efficacement à atteindre les objectifs de réduction de la malnutrition et de la faim.

Cependant, ce consensus ne devrait pas occulter l'existence des zones de faibles productions céréalières et de malnutrition. Au Togo, la disponibilité alimentaire couvre les besoins de la population en temps de bonne pluviométrie. Cependant, l'accessibilité reste problématique pour une grande partie de la population en raison de la pauvreté. L'insécurité alimentaire se pose en termes de difficulté d'accès de la population. Elle est très marquée en milieu rural où se concentre la majorité des pauvres.

Le Togo connaît depuis le début des années 90 une crise socio-politique qui a fortement freiné son processus de développement et aggravé la pauvreté. Selon les enquêtes dirigées dans le cadre de l'élaboration du document des stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté, 71,1 pourcent des togolais seraient vulnérables à l'insécurité alimentaire, c'est-à-dire 7 togolais sur 10 éprouveraient des difficultés à accéder à l'alimentation au cas où un événement défavorable à la production agricole survenait. La situation nutritionnelle n'est guère reluisante car 26 pourcent des togolais souffrent d'un déficit pondéral et 23 pourcent d'un retard de croissance. Par ailleurs, l'enquête sur la pauvreté a relevé que 77 pourcent des togolais sont pauvres en milieu rural. L'indice de la pauvreté avoisine 80 pourcent.

Depuis le début des années 2000, le Togo a adhéré à la mobilisation internationale, qui fait de la lutte contre la pauvreté le point central de l'action économique et sociale. Pour juguler la crise

politique le gouvernement a engagé depuis 2005 d'importantes réformes destinées à apaiser le climat politique. C'est dans ce cadre que tous les acteurs politiques ont signé l'accord politique global, qui a conduit, le 14 octobre 2007 aux élections législatives libres, équitables et transparentes, reconnues par la Communauté internationale. Le gouvernement entend ainsi donner, avec la reprise de la coopération internationale, un nouvel élan au droit à l'alimentation contenue dans le Traité sur les droits économiques sociaux et culturels que le Togo a ratifié le 24 mai 1984.

En terme de perspectives économiques, le gouvernement togolais a adopté en 2007, le document de la stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté, qui vise à corriger les faiblesses et à réajuster les actions et priorités nationales par rapport aux exigences de l'heure. En vue de ces actions entreprises, le gouvernement entend assurer un accroissement substantiel des investissements sociaux devant conduire à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des ménages et à l'accroissement des revenus des couches sociales défavorisées.

Pour ce faire, le gouvernement togolais apprécierait hautement la condision de bonne volonté, qui l'accompagnerait dans ces efforts d'amélioration des conditions de vie de sa population par le truchement de la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de la réduction de la pauvreté en vue d'atteindre les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement.

En août et septembre 2007, le Togo a subi de graves inondations après une période de sécheresse qui compromet les résultats attendus de la campagne 2007-2008. Qu'il me soit permis de remercier la FAO pour sa prompte intervention qui a soulagé les populations sinistrées. Afin de recréer les conditions de production, le Togo a encore besoin d'être soutenu. C'est pourquoi le gouvernement, par ma voix, présente, par anticipation, ses remerciements aux partenaires qui se manifesteront.

Je voudrais terminer mon propos en invitant tous les participants à formuler des recommandations permettant à tous les pays d'intensifier les actions en vue d'atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation et aussi du Millénaire pour le développement.

Sherub GYALTSHEN (Bhutan) ¹

Bhutan's overall development goal is Gross National Happiness, which is our attempt at optimizing the wellbeing of our citizens by balancing economic, environmental, social and cultural values and aspirations. Through this challenging development philosophy, Bhutan has made tremendous progress in uplifting the socio-economic condition of its people without jeopardizing the environment and culture.

Because of the fragile Himalayan environment, balancing the preservation and utilization of natural resources is of the utmost importance. Bhutan is well known for its pristine environment, for its uniquely preserved habitats and healthy populations of many internationally-threatened species, and for the country's commitment to conservation. As much as 40 percent of the land is now under protected area status, and the draft Constitution to be adopted in 2008 enshrines the preservation of at least 60 percent forest cover for all times to come. Bhutan is also one of the few countries in the world with net greenhouse gas sequestration, largely due to its vast forest cover and widespread use of renewable energy sources.

In terms of socio-development, nearly everyone now has access to basic human needs and we have virtually eliminated abject poverty. This is reflected in many development indicators such as life expectancy, which has increased from 46 years in 1977 to 67 years in 1999. The levels of mild malnutrition among children have fallen from 32 percent in 1993 to 18 percent in 1997; while the percentage of under-five children who were underweight has been reduced from 38 percent in 1989 to 9.8 percent in 2006.

In fact, Bhutan has already achieved several of the MDG targets, and is on course to attain most, if not, all of the others by 2015.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Nevertheless, we are not complacent with our progress as poverty remains a widespread problem in Bhutan, particularly in rural areas. A 2004 poverty analysis revealed that 38 percent of the rural population lives below the official poverty line - as compared to only 4 percent of the urban population. This poverty is largely caused by the remoteness of the communities and their limited access to markets, to small land holdings, and to the lack of alternative income opportunities. Hence almost 60 percent of Bhutanese farmers live more than one hour's walk from a road; the average farm size is only 1.7 hectares; and most farmers rely on a semi-subsistence economy.

The main thrust of the forthcoming Tenth Five-Year Plan (2008-2013) will therefore be poverty alleviation, including a substantial investment in the infrastructure, social services and in the productive sectors. To strengthen these efforts, policies and legislation have already been put in place in support of poverty alleviation, including a broad-based poverty reduction strategy, a national food security policy, disaster management plans, and legislation governing land and other resources. We also have high expectations that the ongoing processes of democratization, decentralization and strengthening of civil society will help fight poverty and malnutrition.

Some of the major efforts to be done in rural development during the coming five years will be the improvement of rural road access and market opportunities, the intensification of agriculture, the promotion of sustainable land management, and practical steps towards climate change adaptation. Although road construction is very expensive in mountainous regions such as Bhutan, improved access contributes not only to economic development, but also to social uplifting and service delivery. It is therefore the first priority of remote communities in Bhutan as reflected in the local development plans. The Government is therefore committed to a continued effort to improve rural road access.

The Government is also making a concerted effort to boost farm incomes by assisting farmers in increased market orientation, by creating market outlets, and by developing new marketing strategies and products. Because of the limited land resources and high transportation costs, Bhutan will not be able to compete internationally in the production of bulk crops. Instead, we are aiming at products of high value and low volume and at taking advantage of our special and very varied ecological conditions.

The intensification of agriculture will lead to changes in the entire farming system, which could lead to overexploitation of resources - and inappropriate land management. We will therefore also strengthen our effort to promoting sustainable land management by supporting farmers and local authorities to adopt appropriate management plans and mitigating measures.

Despite Bhutan's exemplary environmental record, we are not spared the effects of global climate change. One of the most serious effects is the melting of the glaciers which is evident in many places in our high Himalayas. This may affect the future hydro-electricity generation, on which Bhutan relies heavily as a national income earner. However, there is also a growing risk that the rapidly expanding glacial lakes collapse and send catastrophic floods sweeping through our narrow valleys and major population centers. The Government, with the assistance of international development partners, is in the process of developing capacity at central and local levels to adapt to these and other vulnerabilities related to climate change.

Irrespective of due progress made in recent decades, we are still battling with major challenges and risks. I would therefore end by expressing our appreciation and gratitude to FAO for its continued assistance and fruitful collaborations as we pursue our goal of Gross National Happiness.

Patrick H. KABAMBE (Malawi)²

On behalf of the Government of Republic of Malawi, my delegation and on my own behalf, I would like to thank FAO for availing me of this opportunity to comment on the State of Food and Agriculture at this Thirty-fourth Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference here in Rome, Italy. I am also very thankful to the Government of Italy and its people for the warm welcome they have accorded to me and the delegation of Malawi, just as they have done to the other delegates.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Carlos Vallejo López who has been elected as the Chairperson of this Thirty-fourth Session for the FAO Conference and Mr Kaman Nainggolan as the Vice-Chairperson. Your election indicates the confidence we all have in you to ably steer the deliberations during this Session. We would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation during our week-long stay here in Rome. May I also take this opportunity to commend the Director-General of FAO, Jacques Diouf, the FAO Secretariat and the entire team for their excellent work and success in organizing this important function.

This Session is where nations share ideas on what has been achieved in terms of food security and agriculture. Various efforts are being made by Member Nations worldwide as part of reducing hunger and notable achievements have been experienced, though there are still some challenges in the future prospects. Natural disasters, tribal conflicts, low technology uptake, low agricultural produce prices, high input prices, low purchasing power and trade barriers still remain a challenge. These are the major challenges affecting most African countries. Another serious challenge to food security and poverty eradication is the widespread and devastating effect of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has affected lives and livelihoods of the majority of the population, particularly the rural agricultural communities. The greatest challenge is on how best these issues can be handled to attain food security at all levels.

Malawi has in the past relied on rainfed agriculture which has led to varied crop productivity ranging from surpluses to shortfalls which, to some extent, has led to food crises as experienced in the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 seasons.

The Government of Malawi has, therefore, put in place various strategies to address food insecurity challenges through short, medium and long-term strategies. The short term measures include importation of maize for commercial sale and humanitarian food aid, implementation of targeted nutrition, therapeutic and supplementary feeding, school feeding, and other safety-net and social protection programmes. Medium-term Measures include access of modern farming technologies through government and donor partners' initiatives. Long-term Measures include access to input credit programmes, expansion and intensification irrigation activities, various seed multiplication programmes, improved and raised livestock production, crop diversification, promoting food utilization at all levels and construction of food storage structures. The Government is also developing the Food Nutrition Security Policy, the development of the National Fertilizer Strategy, the National Contract Farming Initiative, and the Agricultural Development Programme.

The strategies I have outlined, the Government has implemented these programmes with the support of its cooperating partners and their objectives are in line with the Malawi Growth Development Strategy (MGDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of eradicating hunger and poverty of the world population by half by the year 2015. Some of these programmes implemented are directly funded by FAO or through tripartite implementation agreements signed between a specific donor, the Government of Malawi and FAO.

² Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

One of the programmes worth mentioning is the Input Subsidy Programme which started during the 2005-2006 season. A total tonnage of 147,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer for maize and tobacco was sold at a subsidized price. This, coupled with good weather, led to a maize surplus of 400,000 metric tonnes. During the 2006-2007 season, a total tonnage of 150,000 metric tonnes of subsidized fertilizer for maize and tobacco and 6,000 metric tonnes of hybrid and open-pollinated varieties of maize seed were sold at a subsidized price. The weather for this season was also favourable, hence maize production resulted in a surplus of over 1.2 million metric tonnes.

For this 2007-2008 Input Subsidy Programme, approximately 170,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer for maize and tobacco, 8,000 metric tonnes of hybrid and OPV maize seed, 1000 metric tonnes of legumes (groundnuts, beans and soya beans) and some tonnage of basic pesticides for 200,000 cotton growers are to be sold at a subsidized price.

The private sector has been involved in importing and marketing of agricultural inputs for the Input Subsidy Programme for the two seasons 2006-2007 and 2007-2008.

With such maize surpluses, the Government lifted the Maize Export Ban and private traders were allowed to export maize directly (80,000 mt), to World Food Programme (WFP) Zimbabwe for humanitarian aid (34,000 mt) and to the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) for export to Zimbabwe (400,000 mt).

The export of maize has indeed assisted Malawi in the following areas:

- increase in crop export base as maize could now be grown as both a cash and food crop;
- assistance in increasing of foreign earnings. During the 2006-2007 Input Subsidy Programme, Mk 10 billion was spent on the inputs and the foreign earnings from the maize export for the 514,000 metric tonnes is approximated at Mk 18 billion. This leads to a net earning of Mk 8 billion to the country's economy;
- increased participation of private traders in regional and international trade and marketing of maize grain at all levels;
- improved quality standards of maize grain in the country as maize to meet regional and international standards; and
- high prices offered for maize grain locally, hence improving the household income level etc.

On the part of improving food storage structures in the country, the Government of Malawi has just completed the construction of a 20,000 mt steel bin grain silos in the southern part of the country. The country now has a total tonnage of 200,000 metric tonnes of silos storage of maize grain. Two additional steel bin silos of the same capacity are to be constructed in the next two years. In addition, through funding from the World Bank, Malawi is in the process of putting in place a Warehouse Receipt Systems Initiative (WRSI) on a pilot basis as part of improving trade and marketing of maize grain at all levels in the country.

The Government of Malawi has developed a Food Security Policy. The policy focuses on the areas of accessibility, availability, stability and utilization. Currently, the main factors and indicators contributing to food security, action plan and monitoring and evaluation systems are being put in place.

The Government has drafted the National Contract Farming Strategy with the overarching goal of improving agricultural productivity and marketing through contract farming. This is expected to assist in achieving food security and economic growth through equitable distribution of benefits arising from efficient and sustainable producer and agribusiness linkages in the agriculture sector. The major crops proposed in the contract farming are tobacco sugarcane, spices, cotton, tea, coffee and maize. Other crops like groundnuts and beans are also to be considered.

Under livestock production, small stock such as poultry, pigs and goats, and large stock such as beef and dairy production and marketing contracts are to be part of the arrangement. It is expected that with the introduction of contract farming strategy, farmers will be empowered to negotiate better prices for their produce and buyers will be assured of getting good quality farm produce in adequate quantities.

In addition, a National Fertilizer Strategy has also been drafted to ensure that Malawian farmers have the required agricultural inputs in each and every agricultural season. The strategy is to encourage and not stifle the participation of the private sector in agri-inputs business and the Government will strive to create a conducive environment for the development of the private sector. In the short term, it is important that the Government intervenes in the agri-inputs business to ensure that inputs are available countrywide on time. The intervention will have a specific time frame and a clear exit strategy developed in consultation with the private sector.

Malawi is also participating in the Right to Food initiative as it is a right of every man, woman and child to means of production or access to food in sufficient quantity and quality, and free from adverse substances and culturally acceptable. This initiative is being done by Non-Governmental Organizations in collaboration with government ministries, civil societies and churches through a task force. A Right to Food Bill is being drafted and is to be presented to Cabinet early next year (2008) and to be approved as a Government Bill for passing into Law.

The Bill is to address issues such as Disasters and Humanitarian Aid, Establishment of the Malawi Food and Nutrition Security Authority, Functions and Responsibilities of the Authority, Monitoring and Evaluation, among others. All these are aimed at ensuring that the implementation of the Food Security Policy is in line with the provisions of the Right to Food guidelines.

As part of preventing the entry of the highly pathogenic viral infection of Avian Influenza (bird flu), the Government of Malawi, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization and other regional institutions and stakeholders, have put in place several plans as efforts of minimizing its impact once an outbreak occurs by putting into place the following. (i) An institutional framework from village-level up to national level; (ii) public awareness on associated risks of the disease; (iii) strengthening of the capacity of managing the disease; and (iv) strengthening surveillance system in humans.

The immediate, medium and long-term measures include:

- border personnel targeted for sensitization;
- strict border control;
- active surveillance of all hot spots - wetlands, National Parks, the lakeshore and their surrounding areas;
- sensitization at grassroots level through UNICEF support;
- a ban on importation of birds and bird products;
- a National Task Force, for coordination and resource mobilization;
- a National Technical Committee to implement preparedness and control;
- regional rapid response teams for immediate action in cases of an outbreak;
- procurement of various items to assist during the surveillance, control, and development and dissemination of messages and other initiatives by FAO, WFP, UNICEF, SADC, AU and the Taiwan Government; and
- the Ministries of Health and Agriculture have pledged special funding for the Avian Flu programmes and activities.

However, the main challenge remains inadequate technical personnel, poor coordination, lack of feedback, and inadequate funding, among others.

Malawi has a big lake and several small ones which have over 800 endemic fish species which are both locally and internationally important and act as a source of tourism attraction. The current focus on fisheries is to improve fish production under capture fishing in deeper waters of the lake to exploit the under-exploited fish stocks. Offshore, more focus is on small-scale fishery technology to allow small-scale fishers to expand their operation to underexploited resources in the deep-waters of Lake Malawi.

Aquaculture programmes to promote the breeding of fish through the adoption of modern fish farming technologies, technology transfer and fish marketing and business development services are being developed.

Fish marketing is of great importance for fish farmers as part of strengthening food security in the country and this is reflected in the Five-year Strategic Plan put in place to develop and manage the fishery sector by establishing economically viable hatcheries countrywide, infrastructure development, information and policy and embark on fisheries research programmes.

All these initiatives in the fisheries sub-sector are being done to curb the challenges affecting the sector which include lack of fishing technology, high post-harvest losses due to poor handling, lack of knowledge on sanitary and phytosanitary issues that has affected fish exports, inadequate institutional capacity and high attrition, and ineffective enforcement of fishing laws.

Currently, the Government of Malawi and its developing partners are finalizing the Agricultural Development Program (ADP). The programme is developed in line with the overall objectives stipulated in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The ADP aims at harmonising investment and support programmes in the agriculture sector as part of contributing to food security and agricultural growth in the next five years. It also identifies key constraints of the agricultural sector and required investments within the context of national and regional strategies, policies and targets set for agricultural development and food security.

The programme has five pillars in line with the pillars of the CAADP namely; Sustainable Land and Water Management, Food Security and Risk Management, Agribusiness and Market Development, Agriculture Research Technology and Dissemination, and Institutional Development and Capacity Building. A zero draft document for ADP has been prepared and is being finalized for submission to the Cabinet by the end of November 2007 for approval.

Following the agreement at the AU/SADC Dar-es-Salaam meeting, I am proud to report that the Government of Malawi has made sure that 10 percent or more of the national budget is allocated to the agricultural sector. Since the 2004-2005 financial year to date, the agriculture sector has been allocated between 11 to 14 percent of the national budget.

In conclusion, food insecurity, environmental degradation, HIV/AIDS, malaria and water-borne diseases are still impacting negatively in our people's developmental efforts as levels of poverty still remain very high. As a nation within the African continent, there is still need for more strategies and effective policies to be put in place to overcome these problems. We expect that, with the planned interventions and adequate budgetary support to the agriculture sector, poverty eradication and hunger could be halved by 2015.

As we are to hear from other Member Nations during this Session on their efforts and experiences, as a nation we hope to learn more and borrow and use the experiences back at home to attain food security.

Jack WILKINSON (President, International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

For those who do not know, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers is made up of 115 national farmer organizations, of which two thirds are from the developing countries and which membership base is around 600 million farm families.

We are pleased to be present at this event and to express points of view that we from the farm see as critical. We are very pleased with the World Bank Report tabled on 19 October 2007, which clearly identifies a renewed role for both agriculture and farm organizations to, in fact, stimulate new growth and development in many countries and put new emphasis on reducing the malnutrition that exists throughout the world. Clearly, business is not acceptable with over 800 million people malnourished, with over two billion people on less than two dollars a day, whose ability to exercise a full-life opportunity is clearly limited.

With the FAO report being issued, it is our belief that FAO business as usual is also totally unacceptable. We therefore look forward to working with FAO, as it is truly reforming its approach to life, versus hopefully giving speeches on reforming its approach to life.

A very critical situation is facing many rural people, which has been discussed in many countries for so many years, with so little progress. We believe that, for once in history, we have an

opportunity to make progress without subsidies and without excess dollars going to the developed world. I invite you to reflect on why agriculture was brought into the Uruguay round. I remember, and I am sure many of you do as well: It was because the United States and the European Union were trying to out-subsidize each other in a trade war in an attempt to dump their surpluses around the world. Those surpluses that were so damaging to third parties, and particularly to developing countries, was an issue of much concern and a reason for disciplining domestic support programmes in various countries and aggressively dealing with export subsidies.

Even though some have expressed their disappointment on the progress made in the Doha round, I think we must give some credit where it's due. I think it's fair to say the European Union has started down a road where it is committed to reform its agriculture policy and that it is not only committed, but has put action in place to deal with the number of commodities and removing export subsidies. It has moved away from commodity-specific support, and I think that the surpluses that used to exist in the European Union clearly have disappeared and will continue to stay low. I think it's fair to say whether one is in favour of bio-fuels or not. The whole bio-fuels movement in bio-fuels has also helped to eliminate the surplus that existed until 18 months ago, the critical issue facing the developed world. I am therefore surprised that heads of states from the developing world are so critical of strong agricultural prices, as if now these are the most sinful thing out there.

We must remember that farmers, who have no other resources than agriculture, need profitability to expand their farms. Therefore, why don't we look at the strong prices that exist in many commodities as truly an opportunity for governments, if they send the price signal to farmers, to encourage agriculture production in developing countries, even though your country may have limited economic resources? Why don't we use this as an opportunity to stimulate the truly needed production in grains, oilseeds, livestock and other areas? I therefore implore you, as governments, to let those price signals flow through to your producers, and you, as FAO, to come forward and support with the technical staff needed to build this capacity.

But that will not be enough, because the technical capacity available at government level has somehow to be transferred to individual small-scale producer, or we will not have solved the problem. And this is where I think it's critical for you in your reform to look at this question, which is fundamental to all of us: how do we transfer information to producers? How do we help producers organize themselves in the market place, so they can truly increase the net income of the people they represent? With climate change upon us, we will have to find new farming techniques, introduce new seeds and find a mechanism to transfer these to small-scale producers, who otherwise risk to be left out of this round of technology advances.

Therefore, please look at your reform seriously at FAO, make people like the farmers in your country, your partners in development, and let us as international federation and other farm organizations truly be the vehicle to move research and technology to producers so that they can benefit from growing enough food for the world and improve their livelihood.

Report of the High-Level Special Event on the Role of Aquaculture in Sustainable Development

Rapport de l'Événement spécial de haut niveau sur le rôle de l'aquaculture dans le développement rural

Informe del acto especial de alto nivel sobre el papel de la acuicultura en el desarrollo sostenible

Ichiro NOMURA (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I will report the results of the High-Level Special Events on the Role of Aquaculture in Sustainable Development which was held yesterday afternoon. I was requested by the co-chair to report to you as follows:

Sixty-five FAO Member delegations with 23 headed by Ministers attended the Special Event. The Director-General delivered the welcoming address. He expressed the importance of aquaculture sector and future challenges in ensuring its sustainability. The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency, Mahinda Rajapakse could not attend the meeting in person. A video containing his key-note address was shown. While recognizing the importance of the sector and thanking FAO for bringing the subject of aquaculture to a high-level discussion, the President, His Excellency, Mahinda Rajapakse made several recommendations and remarks toward making aquaculture a high priority sector for global social and economic development as well as within the mandate of FAO. Secretariat introduced the subject by presenting the salient points of the Conference document C 2007/INF/16 – The Role of Aquaculture in Sustainable Development.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs of Norway, Her Excellency, Helga Pedersen and the Minister for Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt, His Excellency, Amin Mohamed Othman Abbaza. The meeting was opened for discussion and twelve Ministers and 14 delegates intervened. Members thanked FAO for recognizing aquaculture as an important activity and for organizing the Special Event on aquaculture. All interventions emphasized the importance of the sector and explained how national aquaculture policy and plans have been developed and implemented in support of its development. Although negative environmental impacts of aquaculture have been significantly reduced through continued stakeholder participation, the meeting considered continued sustainable aquaculture production with minimal negative social and environmental impacts to be very important. The meeting recognized that small-scale aquaculture farmers are facing difficulties in producing for export due to stringent trading requirements. Empowering small-scale farmers to become competitive in global trade is therefore important and urgent, and perhaps is a significant corporate social responsibility. The importance of aquaculture as a strong food producing sector, while contributions from capture fisheries are decreasing, was duly recognized. Better management of the sector is essential to ensure maximizing its contribution to social well being, national economies and international trade.

In light of the rapid growth of aquaculture, in comparison with other food-producing sectors, the importance and necessity of creating a sound enabling policy, regulatory, institutional and economic environment, including strong private sector investment to ensure sustainability, was stressed. The meeting recognized that commitment of Governments to provide appropriate support to aquaculture growth is essential. Such commitments should be expressed in the form of clear articulation of policies, plans, regulatory frameworks and strategies, availability of adequate funding for their implementation and incentives for investment.

It was stressed that there is a clear need for a concerted effort towards promoting aquaculture development in Africa as a part of the overall regional development programme. FAO's Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa, SPADA, was highlighted as a platform for collaboration. The meeting recognized that institutional and regional corporation was important for technology transfer, sharing experiences, improving production and dealing with trans-boundary issues. It was recognized that research training, capacity-building and extension are key areas for sustainable development of aquaculture.

The meeting recommended that the issue of climate change and its potential effects on aquaculture should be further studied and researched. Lastly, the meeting made a strong call for increased allocation of FAO resources to be made available to aquaculture, and for FAO to strengthen its assistance to Members, as well as to its normative work, to realize the full potential of aquaculture. Thank you.

The meeting rose at 18:04 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 04

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.04

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
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SÉPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 November 2007

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40.
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2007/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2007/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2007/2)
(continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Austria, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ecuador, Sierra Leone, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Liberia, Swaziland, United Arab Emirates, Holy See, Brazil, Bangladesh, Uruguay, Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cyprus, Belgium, Afghanistan, Greece, Mexico, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Poland, Palestine, Organization of the Islamic Conference, Arab Organization for Agriculture Development, Mauritius

PRESIDENTE

Amigos delegados, quisiera que tomen asiento para poder iniciar la sesión. Tenemos un buen número de intervenciones para tratar de aprovechar en la mañana. Para iniciar la sesión y antes de las intervenciones, voy a pedir a la Secretaría que tiene una información especial para ustedes.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is just to remind you of the High-Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety, which will start at 10.30 in the Green Room. The Keynote speaker will be H.E. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. I would also like to draw your attention to the High-Level Special Event on Aid for Trade and Food Security, which will take place this afternoon from 14.30 to 16.30 in the Green Room. The keynote speaker will be H.E. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of Malawi.

PRESIDENTE

Se agradece a la Secretaría. Vamos a iniciar entonces la continuación del Tema 5.

Ms Hedwig WOGERBAUER (Austria)

First of all, I would like to convey the sincere wishes of Minister Pröll for the success of the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference, which is of great importance to the future of FAO. Due to unforeseen reasons, Minister Pröll is unfortunately not able to attend today. With FAO, we are aware of the fact that the international community will be confronted with enormous challenges in the future. The recently-published Report on the State of Food and Agriculture 2007 reminds us that we have far from reaching our common objective, namely to have poverty and hunger wiped out by 2015. The following political and national framework conditions are indispensable to move forward. Democracy, the rule of law, as well as good transparent governance, the respect of human rights, conflict avoidance, sustainable economic growth in rural areas, investments in jobs and education, as well as preventive health care systems for the poor. Agriculture and the rural development may well be the most crucial components in a number of countries to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's). In pursuing the path of global sustainable development in social, environmental and economic terms, there is a clear interest in

seeing a strong and effective FAO capable of exploiting the opportunities and tackling the new challenges.

Let me take the subject of this year's World Food Day the Right to Adequate Food; as an opportunity to express thanks to FAO for having drawn the international attention to the human-rights approach of global food security. May FAO's 'Right-to-Food Unit' be the source of many other substantial initiatives. In fact, we owe to FAO and its commitment work that the fight against hunger and poverty has been provided with promising strategies and programmes. However, this fight against hunger also requires an unprecedented level of international cooperation. In this context, Austria shares the analysis made by the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) on the present relationship between FAO, WFP and IFAD: there is the necessity to improve the collaboration of the three Rome-based institutions. Further, Austria supports the ongoing reform process of the Organization in the light of the IEE. However, a clearer and more precise response from the Management to the IEE proposal on a new structure reform for the Organization would be still appreciated. In this context, the work between FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should be continued in a proactive and efficient way. It is true that FAO, and other international organizations, are nowadays facing additional serious challenges, due to budgetary bottlenecks. If the new budget of the Organization is adopted at this Conference it should be used for the already-agreed priorities. However, Austria appreciates that climate change and bio-energy have been added as new themes which undoubtedly deserve increasing attention from FAO.

Since the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is crucial in the fight against hunger and poverty, Austria would like to stress the need for having effectively implemented its core elements and therefore urge for an increased contribution from the Regular Programme. Last, but not least, let me take this opportunity to reconfirm Austria's commitment to FAO's work by hosting the Twenty-sixth Regional Conference for Europe in Innsbruck in 2008. The Ministerial segment will be dedicated to two important topics, namely "Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change" and "Promotion of Traditional Regional Agricultural Products and Food, a Further Step Towards Sustainable Rural Development". Maintaining a globally-viable sustainable agriculture as the key in the fight against hunger, must be an important concern to all of us. Therefore we should provide full support to the FAO's activities also in the future. Let me add the deep regret of the Government of Austria to the victims of the cyclone in Bangladesh.

Jorge Valero BRICEÑO (Venezuela)

Señor Jacques Diouf, Director General, transmito a ustedes los saludos del Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías, y el reconocimiento por su importante desempeño al frente de la FAO.

La alimentación ha sido siempre una condición *sine qua non* para la existencia de la especie humana. El hambre ha azotado a los pueblos desde sus orígenes. Los milenarios pueblos indígenas indoamericanos domesticaron numerosos productos agrícolas, entre ellos la papa y el maíz que convirtieron en fundamentos de su cultura. Productos que fueron adaptados a los sistemas y eco-sistemas de Europa y aportaron requerimientos calóricos necesarios a los campesinos y trabajadores urbanos que padecían penurias alimentarias en los albores de la revolución industrial. El colonialismo, Señoras y Señores, trastocó el mundo, y de manera abrupta, los patrones productivos autóctonos, el acceso a las tierras y a los alimentos, y estableció la rentabilidad como fin último de la actividad agrícola, ganancia para unos pocos y sufrimiento para los más. En 1524 llegaron a tierras suramericanas colonizadores y religiosos franciscanos. En un documento, los sacerdotes indígenas asientan y cito: "sabemos que habéis venido por la mar entre las nubes y las nieblas"; y agregan: "camino que nunca supimos". *Presencia colonial, fractura de los mundos*.

Los pueblos dominados y avasallados por el imperialismo en distintas épocas han adelantado luchas liberadoras para conquistar la soberanía y seguridad alimentaria que, en su tiempo

histórico, lograron nuestros antepasados indígenas. En los inicios del siglo XXI, el hambre sigue siendo un flagelo que nulifica otros logros alcanzados por la humanidad. Garantizar la alimentación para todos los seres humanos que pueblan la tierra y abatir el hambre y la pobreza son metas superiores de este tiempo. Señoras y Señores, el Gobierno Bolivariano que preside Hugo Chávez Frías considera que erradicar la pobreza y el hambre, aumentar la productividad agrícola, y elevar la calidad de vida de las poblaciones rurales, son objetivos ineludibles. En ese sentido, brinda su cooperación solidaria a otros países, específicamente del África, en algunos casos en concierto con la FAO. En Venezuela, se instrumentan políticas sociales y ambientales determinantes para cumplir con los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM). Los resultados son reconocidos por organismos internacionales, como el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD); la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO); la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), entre otros. En el marco de un modelo participativo, ampliamente democrático, orientado al socialismo, el Gobierno Bolivariano ejecuta numerosos programas en beneficio de los sectores sociales históricamente excluidos.

Los resultados, Señoras y Señores, son evidentes: para el año 1998, la pobreza era del 49 por ciento y la pobreza extrema del 21 por ciento. Los programas sociales ejecutados por nuestro Gobierno, han reducido sustancialmente el porcentaje de hogares en condiciones de pobreza y de pobreza extrema. En el primer semestre de este año, la pobreza descendió al 28 por ciento y la pobreza extrema descendió al 7.6 por ciento. En ese orden, Señoras y Señores, Venezuela ha cumplido ya con el primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio establecido para el año 2015. Por otra parte, Señoras y Señores, el Gobierno Bolivariano ha rescatado del latifundio cerca de tres millones de hectáreas de tierras ociosas, que han sido incorporadas a la producción nacional. En ocho años ha otorgado 19 veces más créditos agrícolas destinados a los campesinos y productores del campo, que los otorgados en los 20 años anteriores. Las cifras son reveladoras. Sólo este año se han financiado proyectos agrícolas por el orden de los 6 000 millones de dólares. Y para dar cumplimiento al mandato constitucional, a tono con las políticas de inclusión social del Gobierno Revolucionario, las poblaciones indígenas son hoy protagonistas de la gestión agrícola.

Con estas políticas de Estado, se ha duplicado la producción interna de cereales e incrementado la ingesta calórica y proteica de los venezolanos y venezolanas, especialmente de los más pobres. El Plan Batalla por la Soberanía Alimentaria 2006-2015, impulsa un nuevo modelo de producción agrícola, basado en los principios del socialismo agrario. Mediante la misión alimentaria se ha creado una amplia red de mercados populares que se comercializan directamente y a precios solidarios que superan las 130 000 toneladas de alimentos, y esto se complementa con la creación de más de 6 000 casas de alimentación que proveen menús diarios, de manera gratuita, a casi un millón de venezolanos y venezolanas. Consideramos que la FAO debe reafirmar su compromiso con los países del sur para erradicar la pobreza y el hambre. Las ambiciones individualistas, impulsadas por el neoliberalismo, el capitalismo y la globalización salvaje, deben ser sustituidas por políticas solidarias, en aras de crear un mundo multipolar donde imperen la igualdad y la justicia social.

Fausto JORDÁN BUCHELI (Ecuador)

Según los últimos datos publicados por la FAO, la publicación agrícola, ganadera y alimentaria, a nivel mundial, creció menos del uno por ciento en el año 2006, debido principalmente a una drástica disminución en los países desarrollados. Sin embargo, en los países en desarrollo, la tendencia de la producción agrícola y ganadera total y per cápita se orienta hacia el ascenso. Se registran crecimientos en su producción entre el uno y dos por ciento, aunque éstos pueden ser calificados como débiles. Estas tasas de crecimiento son menores a las obtenidas en años anteriores o en la década de los 90, donde fluctuaban alrededor del cinco por ciento.

A pesar de lo notado, en la actualidad la producción mundial de alimentos supera su utilización. Aun cuando en los países desarrollados las superficies agrícolas destinadas hacia la producción de alimentos se reducen en superficie, el desarrollo tecnológico ha permitido elevar la productividad de los cultivos, con lo que se ha conseguido mantener la oferta de alimentos por arriba de la

demanda. Como ya es conocido, el problema de inseguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial, no radica tanto en la disponibilidad de alimentos, cuanto en las dificultades de acceso a los mismos. Como ejemplo de esta situación, que se repite a nivel mundial, podemos analizar el caso del Ecuador, en donde producimos suficientes alimentos para satisfacer la demanda interna. Sin embargo, enfrentamos graves problemas de inseguridad alimentaria, ligada básicamente a complejos problemas socioeconómicos, los cuales impiden que la población acceda adecuadamente a los mismos. Si profundizamos el análisis concerniente al acceso de alimentos a nivel global, no podemos olvidar lo relativo al precio internacional de los productos básicos. La tendencia general de precios se orienta hacia el alza, especialmente en rubros como carne, lácteos, azúcar, grasas y aceites, debido a que su demanda ha crecido, principalmente en países en transición económica como China. La tendencia de los precios de los cereales también se orienta hacia el alza. Esto ocurre por el supuesto de una futura demanda relacionada con la posible fabricación de bio-combustibles y la existencia de reservas limitadas. En los próximos años, el precio en el mercado internacional de los productos alimenticios, estará en función no sólo de la oferta mundial y de las reservas globales de los mismos. Los riesgos que experimenta la producción de alimentos debido a cambios climáticos, producidos por el calentamiento global y la fabricación de bio-combustibles, influirán directamente sobre el precio de los alimentos.

La producción de etanol marcará drásticamente la cantidad de reservas de cereales, por lo cual se impone una óptima distribución de las tierras para la producción de alimentos, con el objetivo de establecer un adecuado balance entre la producción agrícola con fines alimenticios y la producción destinada hacia la fabricación de biocombustibles. Las acciones en este sentido deben fortalecer los servicios ambientales que la agricultura puede proporcionar al planeta, como la producción de bio-combustibles, pero sin afectar la seguridad alimentaria a nivel mundial. En este sentido, la producción de cultivos destinados a la fabricación de bio-combustibles debe ser analizada detenidamente en cada estado. En países con grandes extensiones agrícolas como es el caso de los Estados Unidos o del Brasil, la producción de bio-combustibles competirá en menos medida con la producción de alimentos. No es así en países pequeños como es el caso del Ecuador, donde hemos realizado un estudio detallado de las superficies agrícolas con que cuenta el país, con el objeto de determinar las tierras y superficies aptas que se destinaran para el cultivo de caña de azúcar, palma africana y piñón, cultivos que estarán destinados hacia la producción de etanol y bio-diesel, sin comprometer nuestra seguridad alimentaria.

En el siglo XXI, las políticas para la agricultura y la provisión de alimentos a nivel mundial deben ser actualizadas como consecuencia de los grandes cambios producidos por el uso irresponsable y la agresión a los recursos naturales, identificados ya con las alertas y evidencias de desastres naturales frecuentes y cada vez de mayor magnitud. Además, el análisis y las acciones para la sostenibilidad de la población y del medio ambiente, deben incorporar los conocimientos suficientes para lograr la seguridad alimentaria a nivel global. El acceso, en economías en desarrollo caracterizadas por estructuras agrarias polarizadas en cuanto a la inequitativa tenencia de la tierra, con un alto porcentaje de pequeñas unidades de producción y concentrada población rural de escasos recursos, y además, un inquietante porcentaje de población sin tierras ni trabajo, merecen las intervenciones gubernamentales para conseguir la seguridad alimentaria.

La seguridad alimentaria, como objetivo, ha rebasado sus principios iniciales, Hoy requiere de un enfoque que se vislumbre como multi-sectorial y que incluya a las mayorías sociales. Las exigencias desbordan el concepto circunscrito a los alimentos, la nutrición y la salud. Es la oportunidad de aquello pero de mucho más; ya las sociedades locales lo han comenzado a demostrar. La institucionalidad es el componente ineludible para corresponder al cambio de época.

Joseph Sam SESAY (Sierra Leone)

On behalf of the newly-elected President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Excellency, Ernest Bai Koroma, I bring to you felicitations from his Government and our country. We congratulate the Chair of this Conference for the honour imposed on him to steer the conduct of this important

august body of the FAO. Indeed, Sierra Leone, like the FAO itself is at the cross roads of a turn-around in managing the affairs of State of the Republic.

Sierra Leone went through a brutal and historically-unprecedented war of killing many, raping, wanton destruction and chopping off of limbs and legs for over ten years, that led to the displacement of about 30 to 40 percent of the population. Just after the major 2004 election that followed the declaration of the end of the war in January 2002, the then President made a pledge to ensure food security for all by the year 2007. Unfortunately, the pledge was not backed by empirical evidence of achievement of this goal in 2007. In particular, he did not consider the huge infrastructural damage to recover from. The returning farmers, lacked inputs, food and shelter to restart their lives. In fact, the social and cultural structures have been dismantled and thus there was no proper law and order in the country. First steps taken to prepare the food security programme included a widespread term of consultations among stakeholders. Missions into and out of Sierra Leone, broad definitions for institutions in developing the food security programme for Sierra Leone, a snappy agriculture sector review was also undertaken, which identified the status, gaps, constraints and opportunities that guided the development of a food security road map for Sierra Leone. A mid-sector review undertaken by 16 consultants included the identification of potential areas for emphasis, and noted areas requiring further study, identified collaborating institutions, including donor organizations, for each thematic and support area, and short, medium and long-term measures were recommended. Their great policy of tactics were crop intensification- that is, the use of improved germ planting, fertilizer, agro-chemicals, mechanization of agriculture, pest management and best agronomic practices. The second was crop diversification which entails analysing the crop export base and promoting the production of the country's staples to reduce the dependency on rice.

Our natural resource management, conservation of water catchments and watersheds to generate sustained water yield for agriculture, fisheries, industry and for domestic chores was prioritized. Also included was a food safety net as an insurance premium for natural eventualities in the food production system. Documents prepared for the development of the food security programme were, (1) the medium-term strategical cultural plan, food security, food-aid policy, a seed policy, a food security strategy and a Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute Act 2007 to transform the current National Agricultural Research Coordinating Council into an umbrella research institute with thematic branches. Achievements to date include, but are not limited to (a) cereals, publicity, using over 2 dozen FM stations countrywide; (b) food production, in that area we have about 69 percent self-sufficiency in rice currently, over 100 percent in cassava and sweet potatoes, respectively. Over 40 registered master farmers cultivated between 50 to 3000 acres of rice during the period. Double cropping of Nerica, by the way Nerica was discovered by a Sierra Leone rice scientist called Dr Montidones, increased significantly in the country. Double cropping in developed IVS also increased. Livestock development returned to pre-war levels. In fact, agro-processing of value addition is currently a big issue in Sierra Leone. Nonetheless, Sierra Leone has experienced some areas of weaknesses in the food security drive: (a) high post harvest losses: 35 percent for rice and 50 percent for oil palm; (b) limited processing and value addition problems; limited market access due to poor roads; (c) limited marketing formation; (d) high wastage, especially food and vegetables; (e) limited mechanisation against a backdrop of weak, sick and aging farming population of the country; (f) very limited irrigation facilities, except at the Chinese sugar complex, at the Magbass Complant Company; (g) very limited urban youth involvement and the role of the youth in the population, which is more than half and during the war and especially during the recently conducted elections, must be over-emphasized here.

Small farmers risk passiveness to move from subsistence to commercial agriculture in the absence of an investment incentive is an issue. In terms of FAO support, it has been very crucial in the areas of coordination of humanitarian activities in the agriculture sectors alone, the provision of emergency agricultural inputs. The improvement of farm input quality, the training of the staff of the Ministry, support for participation of the Ministry at statutory meetings, support to its statistician, publicity and support through TCPs and facilitation of main projects. Another critical and potential investors include the Chinese assisting in hybrid rice multiplication and growing

interest in harvesting our forests. The Vietnamese are undertaking feasibility for large-scale rice irrigation. China, Pakistan, India and Iran donated 135 tractors in support of the food security programme. Malaysia is promoting oil palm based on our Federal Land Development Authority called FELDA. There is also a huge interest in bio fuel production by the private sector from especially Europe. Development partners support is very promising in the present political disposition under His Excellency, President Ernest Bai Koroma. The decision of the new Government to promote food security through the commercialisation of agriculture, to establish a system for agricultural sector investment planning coordination and monitoring evaluation, to ensure all stakeholders share a common vision investing resources in one adopted direction shared among colleagues for success and face the challenges accordingly. The Government is also strongly committed to promoting transparent and accountable resource management system to improve partner confidence in the country's image in order to attract renewed and increased external funding, especially in agriculture. But once we plan coordinating and monitoring together as partners transparency accountability, efficient and effective use of resources could be enhanced.

The imperative to hold an extraordinary FAO Conference on the Independent External Evaluation Report 2008 cannot be over-emphasized. Sierra Leone, therefore, endorses the Director-General's proposal in that regard. The Report among others calls for the reform of the FAO, re-organizing its historically-important role in promoting agriculture. It should be noted, however, there is a need to have a small team to translate the recommendations into a prioritized action plan, prior to the proposed Conference. In closing, let me take the opportunity, on behalf of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, to welcome Montenegro and Andorra as well as the Faroe Islands for becoming full and Associate Members of the new 192-Member Organization, called the FAO.

Cedric Roy LIBURD (Saint Kitts and Nevis)

The delegation from Saint Kitts and Nevis is very pleased to participate in the Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference and express our appreciation for the warm hospitality received from the FAO family. In particular, we would like to express our admiration and sincere appreciation to the Director-General for his leadership of this very important international Organization. Your leadership of this Organization for the third six-year term is, no doubt, a reflection of the strong confidence that the international community has in your ability to ensure that the efforts made to defeat hunger in all countries are successful. FAO's programme remains critical as we attempt to reduce the high levels of hunger experienced in many areas of the world. This Organization has been able to provide a forum, where nations from both developed and the developing countries meet to develop policy and agree on the way forward. FAO has been very useful in helping developing countries and countries in transition to modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries, so as to improve nutrition for all.

The Caribbean Region and indeed my small nation of Saint Kitts and Nevis has benefited significantly from the operations of FAO. In my own country, Saint Kitts and Nevis, the sugar industry dominated the economic activities for over three hundred years. During the past two to three decades, the sugar industry experienced severe difficulties due to the falling sugar prices, rising operating costs, ageing equipment and low production efficiency. In 2004, the agricultural sector contributed approximately 5 percent to the GDP, which was only about one third of its contribution twenty years ago. Due to the high financial losses, the sugar industry in Saint Kitts and Nevis was closed on 31 July 2005, resulting in major social and economic consequences, including the loss of direct employment for over 1 200 workers in the sugar industry. This represented about 8 percent of the total workforce and over 50 percent of the agricultural labour force. Loss of output was estimated at 2.7 percent of GDP and rural communities decayed gradually as a result of the loss of wages. My Government is very pleased that in 2006, FAO assisted our country in the form of emergency support for agriculture enterprise development, geared towards the workers displaced through the closure of the sugar industry. This support has assisted the Government in its post-sugar industry rehabilitation programme, through technical assistance and the supply of the necessary inputs for the establishment of crop and livestock production enterprises. The most affected displaced workers have benefited directly from the

support. Significantly, improvements are also evident in the critical support institutions. This support has assisted us to improve the food security situation for the families of the displaced workers, as well as the rural communities in which they live. In fact, the output from the farmers who benefited from the emergency assistance contributed markedly to the 68 percent increase in food crop production, recorded during the first quarter of this year, when compared with 2006. The Caribbean Region has benefited from the implementation of the CARICOM/CARIFORUM Food Security Project, which was funded by the Government of Italy and implemented by the FAO. This project falls under the CARIFORUM Regional Special Programme for Food Security, which is part of the FAO's Special Programme for Food Security. Implementation of the food security project has helped to improve the food security situation of several countries by increasing the availability and access to quality-assured food products. In my own country of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the project has introduced best practices in vegetable production systems. The project has successfully demonstrated how farm productivity can be improved through efficient irrigation, resulting in significant vegetable production improvements. The food security project has also strengthened and deepened relations with regional organizations that are partners in food security.

The broader dimensions of food security, including health, nutrition and education are now on the regional agenda and were discussed in a Special Forum of Ministers of Agriculture and Stakeholders during the October meeting this year. The focus was also observed at a ministers of health and stakeholders' regional summit held in Trinidad and Tobago, and chaired by His Excellency, Denzil L. Douglas, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis. During this Special Forum, the focus was on chronic and non-communicable diseases and other food and diet-related illnesses. We are pleased to learn, that the food security project will have another phase, and we look forward to even greater benefits and impact on safe food at the national level. FAO's support in the CARICOM Region is critical for development. The partnership with the CARICOM Secretariat to host its successful agricultural donors conference in Trinidad and Tobago during June of this year was highly appreciated. As you are aware, resource mobilisation for sustainable agriculture and rural development is one of the regional priorities. Also the support to prepare about 50 investment projects and a national investment programmes for CARICOM countries has enabled the Region to document opportunities for agricultural development. As a small developing country, the FAO's support is critical for the agricultural sector. Over the past 10 years, support has been received for several projects. FAO's support through the Telefood and the TCP facility has greatly assisted my countries agricultural development, including placing focus on vegetable production at the primary school level. My country has also recently started to benefit from the South-South Cooperation Programme in the Caribbean.

In closing, I wish to commend the FAO on the conduct of the recent Independent External Evaluation, which was the first in its sixty-two year history. The Evaluation was charged to provide answers to two pertinent questions, which are: does the world need the FAO and does FAO need to change to be fit for its purposes and challenges in the Twenty-first Century? It is expected that there will be several answers during the course of this Conference and well after its closing. The evaluation has provided some 110 recommendations and about 290 suggested actionable outputs. We wish to urge support for the Decentralization Process and look forward to strengthening of the Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean. In conclusion, if we are to achieve our development objectives by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals, we must appeal to those with the resources to assist those of us who have less to meet our targets. Once again, I want to thank you very much and wish this Conference every success.

Ms Frances JOHNSON MORRIS (Liberia)

Let me first congratulate you Mr. Chairperson on your election as Chair to preside over this distinguished Conference. Liberia's representation by her Minister of Commerce and Industry at this Conference signifies the importance our country attaches to this meeting. This is not surprising due to the fact that as a post-conflict nation, Liberia is seeking to rebuild a settled economy on the foundation of strong trade policies which are driven by the social and economic interest of our citizenry as well as seeking to integrate international best practices into needed

reforms which have been envisaged to attract new investments for the huge task of reconstruction and recovery. The post-war country is also making frantic efforts to enter the global market. In this regard the following initiatives are on the way:

Accession to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) of the United States has been completed and the relevant agencies of Government, namely the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce and Industry are collaborating to develop and empower entrepreneurs to take advantage of the opportunities afforded on AGOA, i.e. assessing markets with some 5000 products from Liberia. Submission of an application for accession to the World Trade Organization has also been made although this process is going to take a long time before it comes to fruition. This submission demonstrates Liberia's commitment to meet its post-war challenge of integrating trade into poverty-reduction strategies for sustainable development. The recent contribution of US\$500,000 to Liberia by the United Nations Development Organization, the UNIDO, for the purpose of re-establishing the Division of Standards at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is a clear manifestation of the importance of quality control to ensure consumer protection. Bridging the gap between food safety policies and implementation is therefore a topic that is altogether relevant and timely for these deliberations as far as Liberia is concerned. Faced with the Herculean task of rebuilding a war-torn country, the health and well-being of the citizenry is of paramount concern to the new Government, as such the Minister of Commerce and Industry is devoting time to its Inspectorate Division to monitor and enforce standards on the Liberian market. This is necessary if the remaining human resources are to contribute to nation-building. Currently, multiple international partners are working with Liberia in particular with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to enhance the capacity of the Ministry to empower the private sector which we deem to be the engine of economic growth in post-war Liberia. In this way, we hope to consentise the private sector about the needs to improve the quality of its service delivery to the public, whether it be in the area of food, pharmaceuticals, or essential commodities.

The Integrated Framework, the IF, the Investment Climate Facility for Africa, the Investment Climate team, are some of the international partners working with our Ministry to assist us through our economic recovery process and make us more competitive, eventually for the world market.

Despite the modest efforts we have made in rebuilding our economy through the mainstreaming of the formal sector, the informal sector of the economy still remains a serious concern because it is the larger of the two sectors, comprising the masses of the people. The informal sector was traditionally made up of the farmers who produced more than 60 percent of our food prior to the civil war. Today, the informal sector is in need of empowerment in order for it to take on its traditional role of feeding the nation. In short, Liberia today is suffering from severe food insecurity due to the vacuum created by the inability of the informal sector, the farmers, to play their role. In this regard, I wish to make an appeal to the FAO to consider looking into and doing something about Liberia's food insecurity to ensure that the hard-won peace of the country will be sustained. I suggest that FAO, Mr. Chairperson, undertake an assessment mission to Liberia to ascertain the kind of assistance needed, to address Liberia's post-war food and security problem.

In conclusion, let me express Liberia's gratitude and appreciation to you, Mr. Chairperson, the Director-General, the Organizers of this important forum for the invitation extended to us to participate in the forum notwithstanding our financial obligation to FAO which was incurred as a result of circumstances which are now history and of which most of you are witnesses. I wish to assure you, Excellencies, that with the re-emergence of Liberia on the international scene under the dynamic leadership of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Liberia intends to discharge her international obligations as a responsible Member of the Community of Nations, as she once was.

Mtiti FAKUDZE (Swaziland)

It is an honour for me to address this important Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of His Majesty's Government. The Conference has come at an opportune time when the

Organization is reforming to meet the millennium challenges affecting our continent and the world at large. We take this opportunity to appreciate the management's willingness to respond to the need to refocus the Organization to meet the challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

The Kingdom of Swaziland benefits from a number of technical cooperation areas from FAO, we hope that this technical cooperation will be strengthened. The Kingdom of Swaziland still falls far short of meeting its requirement for the stable food-crop maze. This is as a result of persistent draught over the past seven years with the worst ever experienced in the 2006-2007 cropping season which affected all the equatorial zones in the country. This means that food insecurity is still a major issue of concern. This situation of food insecurity has been aggravated by the high poverty rate which has increased from 66 percent to 69 percent and is a cause for concern to His Majesty's Government. Moreover, the rate of unemployment is still high at about 29 percent due to the declining economic performance. According to the May 2007 WFP/FAO crop and food supply assessment mission's report, about 110 000 people were identified to be in need of food assistance. These households have been assisted with farm inputs through the Trade Fair Programme. His Majesty's Government has set aside a sum of US\$22 million to complement the efforts of international cooperating partners in the provision of food aid. We believe agriculture must play an active role in turning this situation around. As a result the Kingdom of Swaziland hosted their first-ever National Agricultural Summit from 18-28 July 2007 under the theme "A New Agricultural Approach to Sustainable Development Through Farmer Empowerment". This was His Majesty's Government's direct response to the plight of the Swazi farmers. These farmers have continued to operate under a very harsh environment that is dictating against normal agricultural production as we have known it for decades. This forum accorded all farmers and stakeholders an opportunity to pull their ideas together in search of a meaningful remit to the emerging challenges confronting the agricultural sector in the Twenty-first Century. The reasonable support and active participation of His Majesty King Mswati III, and Her Majesty the Queen Mother, at this Summit was, without doubt, a landmark event in the agricultural calendar of the country. The invaluable comments and contributions provided the much-needed impetus and inspiration that catalyzed the deliberations during the entire duration of the national dialogue. Following the successful completion of the Summit, a task team was commissioned in September 2007 to develop programmes and projects emerging from the Summit recommendations. These are expected to be in line with existing policies and strategies of the country's agricultural sector which embraces the development of education infrastructure. We request the assistance of FAO and other international cooperating partners in making this vision a reality.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government I would like to thank FAO for the invaluable assistance in soliciting donor funding for the relief programme in the country. We further commend your Organization for undertaking the Independent External Evaluation (IEE). We underscore the proposal for a Special Session of the Conference in 2008 to review the recommendations and the implications of the IEE report. We hope the recommendations thereof will make FAO a more focused Organization that will result in improved service delivery to Member Nations. We join other Member Nations in reiterating that the budget for the TCP should never be tampered with because the developing countries are empowered through this programme in alleviating poverty and hunger.

We further note with appreciation the initiatives of the Organization in addressing concerns surrounding the advent of bio-energy. This new development needs to be entered with caution. It should not compromise efforts in improving food security. We further commend the efforts of the Organization in addressing problems caused by climate change which has become a global concern.

In conclusion, it is my hope and prayer that this Conference will lead to the desired result in helping us in refocusing our efforts towards alleviating poverty and hunger.

Mohammed Saeed AL-KINDI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to welcome the efforts deployed by FAO and at its helm, Mr. Jacques Diouf, in order to combat and struggle against hunger and poverty in the different parts of the world. We support

FAO in this humanitarian endeavour. We also would like to thank FAO for the support and follow-up that it has provided in the area of food security and the submission of the various country reports. We also would like to thank FAO for the technical assistance and support that it has provided and continues to provide to its Member Nations to enable them to fight against poverty and increase agricultural production. We also welcome the fruitful cooperation between FAO and the United Arab Emirates in the different areas of agriculture.

The United Arab Emirates attach primary importance to sustainable agriculture which has enabled us to increase agricultural and fisheries production and extend the areas devoted to these activities. Our country is aware of the interaction that exists between agriculture and the environment, and that's why we want to make sure that the fostering of agriculture will mitigate the adverse effects of the extension of agriculture on the environment. This is also why our country has adopted several pieces of legislation to protect the environment, biodiversity, agricultural lands and fisheries resources. For example, several workshops have been organized and guidelines have been prepared for fishermen, and a committee was also established to follow the outcomes and the evolution of Avian Influenza. Also, training seminars were held in this area, and the United Arab Emirates were one of the first countries to sign the Convention on fostering sanitary measures to preserve animal health and human health. We also use fertilizers and pesticides in a very rational manner. In addition to this, in the various courses provided by training institutes, we have included the element of bio-agriculture, and we are doing everything in our power to support agricultural research.

Equally, the Government of our country has decided to consider the preservation of biodiversity and the degradation of land as an important component of our environmental strategy at a national level. Our country has a Saharan environment with limited natural resources and it is for this reason that our Government has opted for modern means of sustainable water preservation. Indeed, water is a fundamental element of our infrastructure and of the strategy adopted by the Federal Government. Its use is based on modern irrigation technologies and these modern means are available on 80 percent of agricultural lands. Dams were also built to nourish the ground waters and a desalination effort has been undertaken in order for us to be able to produce as much as 950 million cubic meters of drinking water. In addition to this, one million cubic meters are used to irrigate forests and woods.

The United Arab Emirates have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the efforts deployed by the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and, therefore, to cut in half the number of people who suffer from poverty and hunger. We have done this through several means, such as through the establishment of a national fund for development and other modes of assistance. One of them, for example, has been the establishment of a fund to support suffering children. Millions of people suffer from famine and malnutrition and this is just not acceptable in a world in which there seems to be a great abundance of food commodities. I think that we need to join forces to make sure that this demand is met throughout the planet and that no one starves any longer.

The world is confronted with a growing demand for food, although we realize that resources on land and in the water are decreasing and we also see that the environment is threatened by climate change. In this context, we feel that we need to do something to counter the numerous natural calamities and disasters like fires and floods that are caused by climate change. All of these phenomena are reducing the surface forests and arable land which obviously have adverse effects on agriculture and food security. One clear example of this is Bangladesh, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the people of Bangladesh. I think that the situation is calling upon the international community to take the environment on as part of its agenda.

We do support the efforts carried out by FAO to bring about a Reform in this institution, as well as the efforts deployed by the Director-General. The Report that was prepared we feel is very positive indeed, and we think that all of this is necessary in order for the work of this Organization to be more effective and in order for FAO to rise to the challenge of this Century.

The world needs this Organization. If it had not existed, it would have to be invented, as was mentioned by the Report produced by the independent evaluators. This was an important initiative, of course, because it provided us with the form to discuss food security and forestry, just to mention a few. We would like to thank the Director-General for taking up this initiative because it does merit out great attention.

Finally we would like to urge countries, especially the richer ones, to help the other nations that are in need and that need support in the area of agriculture because this kind of support would make it possible for poorer nations to further develop. This will definitely help eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Monsignor Renato VOLANTE (Holy See)

The Holy See confirms its appreciation for the meritorious action, which is carried out by the FAO in favour of the food and agriculture development of many countries so that the yearning to set people free from hunger and malnutrition becomes true. The FAO commitment is actually to cope with the world's larger strategies intended to eradicate poverty, as indicated by the Millennium Development Goals and confirmed by each country involved. In the same way, it is also engaged in the evaluation of its own functioning and structure. However, looking at the target of 2015, which is quickly approaching, we cannot rest silent before the growing problem of malnutrition, which instead of stopping is making more and more victims. On account of the experience we have acquired in our proximity to the steady activity of the FAO and its internal Bodies, particularly as a result of the World Food Summit and related commitments, we would like to express some reflections of an ethical nature. We see them more and more necessary for the orientation of a multilateral action, which is meant to be not only technically feasible, but especially possible from a human point of view.

We think that FAO's main effort is to make it possible for technology, new techniques and new resources applied to agriculture, and therefore to food production and distribution, to become fully human. An effort which includes the new Member Nations, whose presence confers still more to FAO the representation of the entire human family, engaged in initiatives in favour of the development of rural people. The revised Programme Implementation Report for the past biennium shows, besides the overall evaluation, the necessity of a steadfast commitment of FAO and of its Member Nations even in the different positions of donors and beneficiaries. This points out the importance of future choices in the Regular Programme related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but especially in view of the major target of world food security. Only those decisions that allow FAO to operate with a far-seeing organizational attitude, but also with the necessary resource availability, will be able to confirm further engagement by the Member Nations, taken since 1996 on the occasion of the World Food Summit, and then confirmed in the recent sessions of the different Bodies of the Organization. The Delegation of the Holy See is well-convinced that hunger and malnutrition not only prevent the full development of each individual's personality, but are clear negation of his fundamental rights. And only solidarity through and adequate appropriation of budget resources will make it possible to look at the future with confidence.

The Conference Agenda offers another hint, which draws immediately the attention of who wants to combine international assistance with a serious policy of cooperation aimed at the total growth of the different countries, of the communities and, at the end, of people. I am referring to the first evaluations about the relationship between crop production – and therefore food availability – as well as its use for a non-nutritional purposes, such as the production of bio-energy. In particular, for the Delegation of the Holy See to make a generic reference to sustainability is not enough if it is not connected to that human universal sustainability, according to which the decision-making right of the rural people depends. We are not merely considering this as an economic issue, even when it is said that such choices are made to the advantage of the environment and of the producers. The need for an ecological choice is coming back again. We need not only that, but also long-term decisions regarding the need for quick food to assist people and the entire population when sudden disasters or emergency situations occur. The responsibility and the attitude that each country is called to take to implement the measures, to face the causes of food

insecurity, require commitment in keeping with the goals that the FAO is called to reach according to its Constitution - a bond that ask the Member Nations to financially contribute but also to set the measures and the tools to pay more attention to the allocation of the resources, which are offered to the Organization and to the advantage of the recipient countries.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brasil)

Permítanme inicialmente reafirmar el compromiso de mi gobierno y el de mi país, con el esfuerzo colectivo para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo. Brasil está haciendo su parte: ha cumplido diez años antes de los establecido por las Naciones Unidas, el primer Objetivo de Desarrollo del Milenio, reducir a la mitad el porcentaje de personas que sufren el hambre y viven en situación de extrema pobreza. En términos absolutos, cerca de 5 millones de personas han superado la condición de extrema pobreza. Ese avance es el resultado de la voluntad política. El Gobierno del Presidente Lula priorizó la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza por medio de una política nacional de seguridad alimentaria articulada por el Programa Hambre Cero.

El que tiene hambre tiene prisa. Al reconocer la urgencia de combatir el hambre y la pobreza, el Programa Hambre Cero permitió el alivio inmediato del hambre a cerca de 11 millones de familias y garantizó el derecho a la alimentación a los 37 millones de niños que estudian en la red de escuelas públicas brasileñas. El tema del combate al hambre no puede estar sujeto a la buena voluntad de los dirigentes políticos, por buenas que sean sus intenciones. Es necesario que el derecho a la alimentación sea parte de un conjunto de políticas públicas permanentes que ataquen los factores estructurales que provocan el hambre. En ese sentido, Brasil aprobó en el año 2006 la Ley Orgánica sobre Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional. Esa ley concretó el proyecto de construir un sistema de políticas públicas de combate al hambre que involucre también a la sociedad civil. Así, la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional dejó de ser una política de Gobierno para transformarse en política de Estado. En Brasil, estamos trabajando para asegurar a todos los brasileños el derecho humano a la alimentación. Esto no es una utopía: es una realidad que se puede construir. Los resultados tangibles del Hambre Cero nos permiten creer que progresos similares sean posibles en el ámbito internacional. En América Latina y el Caribe, por ejemplo, todos los países hemos decidido ir más allá de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Pusimos en marcha la iniciativa "América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre", que tiene el reto de eliminar definitivamente el flagelo del hambre en nuestra Región.

El papel clave de la agricultura como herramienta para el desarrollo sostenible y la reducción de la pobreza fue el principal mensaje del recién publicado informe del Banco Mundial. El informe también reconoció que, con miras a hacer de la agricultura el motor del crecimiento económico, es necesario revolucionar la productividad de la agricultura familiar. Fue ese el camino que eligió Brasil en su búsqueda de un nuevo modelo de desarrollo, que contribuya a la superación de las desigualdades sociales y económicas. Al adoptar políticas que dieran énfasis al desarrollo rural y a la agricultura familiar, Brasil asentó 400 000 familias y destinó 32 millones de hectáreas para la reforma agraria en los últimos 4 años. Nunca tantas familias de campesinos han recibido tanta tierra en tan poco tiempo. Pero además de la tierra, se les garantizó también el acceso al crédito, a la asistencia técnica, a la educación, al seguro rural y a políticas de agro industrialización y comercialización. Como resultado de ese conjunto de políticas públicas, la agricultura familiar es hoy responsable del 10 por ciento del producto interno bruto del país, del 37 por ciento de la producción del sector agropecuario y del 60 por ciento de los alimentos consumidos por los brasileños diariamente. "El estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación" (SOFA) de 2007, sugiere que se deben crear incentivos para que los agricultores ofrezcan "servicios eco-sistémicos" capaces de generar beneficios para el medio ambiente sin dañar su capacidad de producir alimentos. Reconoce, entretanto, que dichos incentivos no son aplicables a todas las situaciones y que es fundamental tener cautela y racionalidad en la formulación de este tipo de política. Como bien destacó el Director General, los pagos por servicios ambientales pueden causar impactos adversos sobre la pobreza y la seguridad alimentaria en cuanto tengan como efecto la reducción de la demanda de empleo en el campo o el aumento de los precios de los alimentos. Hay que estar atentos a la manipulación y distorsión de este tipo de política, para evitar que sirvan de pretexto para el mantenimiento de los subsidios agrícolas. Creemos que la

superación de la pobreza rural empieza por reconocer que son necesarios recursos adicionales para el desarrollo. Por medio de la iniciativa denominada "Mecanismos Financieros Innovadores", estamos buscando instrumentos nuevos y creativos que puedan complementar los flujos tradicionales de ayuda al desarrollo. Eso no disminuye la importancia de un sistema multilateral de comercio justo y equitativo. Hoy, el monto de subsidios agrícolas en los países desarrollados es equivalente a seis veces el valor adicional necesario, a cada año, para el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Hay que cambiar definitivamente esta situación. La extinción de los subsidios que distorsionan el comercio y la apertura de los mercados agrícolas de los países desarrollados son la clave del éxito de la Ronda de Doha. Así se podrán crear oportunidades para que millones de trabajadores rurales se transformen en prósperos agricultores.

Brasil, con el conocimiento y experiencia que acumuló, está impulsando la cooperación entre los países en desarrollo para la producción de fuentes renovables de energía, limpias y accesibles. Los bio-combustibles tienen potencial para generar fuerte impacto social y evitar el empobrecimiento rural en los países en desarrollo. En un mundo preocupado con la degradación ambiental y los altos precios del petróleo, podemos reducir las emisiones de gases causantes del efecto invernadero y la dependencia de los combustibles fósiles. Tendremos así una ecuación energética más democrática, que beneficiará a agricultores en regiones pobres. La promesa de los biocombustibles solo se realizará en un ambiente internacional libre de proteccionismo.

La FAO fue creada para erradicar el hambre por medio de la agricultura. Se le atribuyó a la Organización un comprehensivo y ambicioso mandato. En las últimas décadas, la disminución continua de los recursos para el desarrollo contribuyó a la pérdida de capacidad de actuación de la FAO. En un momento en el cual se reafirma el papel clave de la agricultura para el desarrollo, es como mínimo, contradictorio que la Organización se enfrente a la posibilidad de parálisis o reducción de sus actividades.

Brasil siempre estuvo muy seguro de la importancia del trabajo de la FAO. En ese sentido, no nos asombra para nada que el Informe de la Evaluación Externa Independiente (EEI) haya afirmado lo que nosotros ya sabíamos. Si no existiera la FAO tendríamos que inventarla. Una FAO debilitada crea un vacío irreparable en el mundo y ha llegado el tiempo de renovar. La renovación de la FAO debe rescatar los ideales de sus fundadores y permitir que cumpla íntegramente el mandato para el cual fue creada. Además, es fundamental que se preserven los principios del multilateralismo. La FAO debe seguir siendo un foro democrático para el debate internacional sobre la alimentación y la agricultura.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, menciono que Josué de Castro, un brasileño que fue Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO y pensador sobre la cuestión del hambre, identificó el hambre como el flagelo fabricado por el hombre contra otros hombres, denunció el hambre como resultado de la división. Para combatirla, es pues un necesario imperativo: buscar la convergencia y el consenso. Fueron esos los principios que permitieron la creación de la FAO, y es con ese espíritu que se deberá hacer su renovación.

H. Fazlul KARIM (Bangladesh)

Allow me at the outset to extend our heartiest felicitations to you, Mr Chairperson, and the other members of the Bureau on your well-deserved elections. I also congratulate Montenegro and Andorra on becoming Members and the Faroe Islands, an Associate FAO Member. I take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to FAO Member Nations and especially to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, for the words of sympathy and support for the cyclone-affected people of Bangladesh and also for the expression of solidarity with the Government and the people of Bangladesh at these trying times.

Our Government attaches special significance to this Conference, as it coincides with a paradigm shift in the global agriculture system. We observe with concern that the past achievements of green revolution are now being threatened with the diversion of attention to bio-fuel. While it is important to find out eco-friendly alternative sources of energy, we should not do anything that would negatively affect the global production of grains and food security. It is a matter of concern

that the price of grain is spiralling and that its availability in the export market to meet the demands in countries with a deficit is declining. On top of that, the looming vulnerability of the agriculture sector to climate change would call for the introduction of new varieties of crops and other innovative technological interventions to make the production processes, practices and cultivation cycles responsive to climate change. In this context, our deliberations here and the decisions that you take for the future food security for mankind will be of overwhelming importance. We hope that FAO's future action plans, and especially the reform process that we are undertaking through the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) will be responsive to such priorities and needs. In Bangladesh, the agriculture sector is the single largest contributor to the economy and also accounts for the single largest source of employment. The sector, however, now faces various challenges in the background of a growing population. We are losing agricultural land to alternative uses, such as industries and housing, and also to erosion, at a rate of about 1 percent per annum. Introduction of high-value crops, and their economic popularity with the farmers, is also diverting land from traditional grain production. At the same time, the cost of imports is rising. These factors may in the long run affect our attempts to fight poverty and malnutrition. We recall with great satisfaction the achievements around the globe in food production in the past decades through a global green revolution. We in Bangladesh benefited from the innovations made in different countries in the agriculture sector. In fact, since our independence in 1971, it was possible to increase the production of grains from a level of ten million to more than 30 million tonnes per annum. This was made possible by the hard labour and innovativeness of our resilient farmers. Research and development and the extension agencies also played a role in the process. However, we still have a lot more to do. The risks presented by extreme meteorological events, such as floods, draught, erosion and cyclones, whose incidence are unfortunately becoming more frequent, still remain high. The farmers find it difficult to meet the challenges of augmenting grain production on a sustainable basis. The yield gap between research results, development and the actual situation in the fields remains high, despite efforts made by the extension agencies. We have also been working hard at improving the safety of pesticide application by using safe inputs, organizing regular farmers' field schools to facilitate the introduction of integrated pesticide management. In all the afore-mentioned tasks, we have involved the private sector and NGOs, particularly in the extension works. In these efforts, FAO have also been our partner, also in our efforts to achieve food security through the National Food Policy, which needs the support of all concerned for its full implementation.

In spite of the Government's sincere efforts, the climate vulnerability is not allowing us to achieve food security on a sustainable basis. This year alone, Bangladesh experienced two major floods during the peak paddy cultivation period. After the first one, the rehabilitation programme was proceeding, but the crop land was again inundated by the second flood, after which the season for crop production had expired and the farmers turned to alternative minor crops. Just at that moment came the devastating Cyclone Sidar with a big wind load of about 240 km per hour and the simultaneous tidal surge that hit the southern part of the country on 15 November 2007. This caused colossal destruction of human lives, property, crops, fisheries and livestock, forest plantation, in addition to communication and other infrastructure damage. The extent of damage is being assessed, and the rehabilitation tasks, even if the preliminary information is considered, will be tremendous. The loss of life would have been much greater without the Government's pro-active planning and without the affected population's resilience. I would like to mention that prior to the cyclone, about 3.2 million people were evacuated from low-lying areas to safer places and 0.6 million to cyclone shelters in matters of hours. The components of the rehabilitation package will include, among others, food, seeds, fertilizers and other inputs in the case of agriculture, a forestation for supporting sustainability, nets and boats for the fishermen, feed and vaccination for the livestock and fisheries. The other components include housing, capital for agriculture, rehabilitation of communication network, etc. The Government is trying its best to face the challenges utilizing its own resources. We acknowledge with deep appreciation the solidarity and cooperation extended by the development partners, the many friendly countries and the various international organizations and agencies.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the recent natural disasters should serve as wake-up calls for us all. We need to be proactive in evolving technological and other forms of interventions to help the vulnerable states face the challenges of climate change. This is particularly important for the agriculture sector, where the developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, need external support in capacity-building, information sharing, research in crop production and diversification. We have to work hard, in unison and in a focused manner, so that the posterity cannot question our collective wisdom or lack of timely action.

Ramón Carlos ABIN DE MARÍA (Uruguay)

Ante todo hacemos llegar nuestro saludos a las autoridades de la FAO y a los integrantes de las delegaciones presentes, a la vez a la que agradecemos a la Secretaría el valioso documento objeto de las presentaciones plenarias en esta Conferencia. Queremos recordar, en primer término, la importancia histórica que la agricultura tiene para la economía y el comercio exterior de Uruguay, el dinamismo de la producción y el aumento de las exportaciones agropecuarias, son los pilares fundamentales del crecimiento actual de nuestro país, compartimos la premisa de que el crecimiento de la agricultura contribuye directamente a la seguridad alimentaria y a la reducción de la pobreza y que actúa como motor del desenvolvimiento económico en buena parte del mundo en desarrollo. Todo esto es una verdad comprobada en el Uruguay, abrigamos la expectativa de que las condiciones de los mercados permitan continuar obteniendo recursos que nos facilite la tarea y el compromiso de elevar el nivel de vida de la población, en especial, de la población rural. No debemos olvidar que además de mejores ingresos para analizar una justa distribución se requieren políticas específicas. Uruguay esta empeñado en una reforma tributaria con la reforma del sistema de salud y está aumentando la inversión en educación para lograr esos objetivos que apuntan avanzar en materia de justicia social y a terminar con la pobreza y exclusión. La población rural es un sector fundamental a tener en cuenta la orientación de esta política pues es han sufrido un proceso de marginalización histórica. Mi Gobierno ha venido luchando contra las causas que originan en ese fenómeno a través de un programa denominado Uruguay Rural, cuyo objetivo es mejorar la distribución de la riqueza generada por los procesos productivos iniciados en el campo. Uruguay apuesta la organización de los productores económicamente más desfavorecidos a facilitar su ingreso a las cadenas productivas mediante precios justos y a la promoción en general del trabajador rural. En estas iniciativas la colaboración del Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrícola (FIDA) ha sido fundamental como lo ha sido en innumerables ocasiones la cooperación de la FAO en proyectos tendientes a propiciar el desarrollo productivo primario en mi país.

Luego de la crisis de los años 2000, una de las peores en nuestra historia, el sistema agro-industrial ha dado muestras de considerar el dinamismo con transformaciones significativas en su estructura productiva y empresarial y en el uso de los recursos naturales. Se aceleró el crecimiento de la producción de algunas cadenas como la carne vacuna, la producción de granos, en particular, la soja y el circuito forestal maderero donde se registran altas expectativas de negocios e importantes inversiones. La introducción de innovaciones tecnológicas y de gestión y en algunos casos la expansión de las series cultivadas sobre suelos con usos previos menos intensivos han sido las claves de este proceso. En las dos últimas décadas y en el sentido inverso de la tendencia universal, Uruguay ha aumentado notablemente sus áreas forestales con el cultivo de más de 700 mil hectáreas desarboles que ya comienzan a explotarse industrialmente. Uruguay se ha propuesto a dar un impulso decisivo creciente al sector de la pesca y las industrias asociadas al mismo. En el presente año comenzamos a desarrollar un ambicioso programa financiado con recursos propios que cuenta que el asesoramiento técnico de la FAO para reorganizar los sistemas de pesca existentes y sentar las bases para el establecimiento del explotaciones de acuicultura. En la esfera internacional no puedo dejar de mencionar la preocupación de Uruguay en relación a los lentos avances registrados en las negociaciones de Ronda Doha y sobretodo la incertidumbre existente a este respecto, una Ronda denominada del desarrollo en la que se suponía que los intereses de los países menos desarrollados serían abordados con carácter prioritario. Lamentablemente no ha sido así. En el párrafo 28 del documento se hace referencia solamente al problema de los subsidios a la producción y a la exportación como causantes de la reducción de

los ingresos de los países en desarrollo. No se menciona en cambio la otra gran distorsión vigente en los mercados agrícolas, que es la restricción de acceso a los mercados es justamente el tema acceso a mercados el más complejo a las negociaciones de la Ronda, ya que posee múltiples materias controvertidas que dictan de ser acordadas en plazo breve, entre ellas se destacan la selección de los productos sensibles y la expansión de las cuotas de acceso a mercados desarrollados y el diseño de mecanismo de protección para los mercados en desarrollo como a las salvaguarda especial a los productores especiales. Estimamos, que como resultado ineludible de esta Conferencia correspondería subrayar el papel de las restricciones vigentes en el comercio agrícola mundial como trabas efectivas al desarrollo. Asimismo Uruguay desea resaltar la necesidad de no imponer nuevas barreras al Cooperación Sur-Sur de productos básicos, comercio cuya participación en el contexto mundial es sustancial continúa creciendo y es decisiva para la economía de nuestros países.

Por último, una brevísima referencia a dos temas que entendemos reclama una atención especial. En primer lugar, los bio-combustibles que en cuanto generan una importante demanda de productos agrícolas eventualmente puede constituirse una amenaza para la seguridad alimentaria, creemos que la FAO debería propiciar una serie de discusiones al respecto a fin de evaluar delicadamente las posibles consecuencias de este proceso y la mejor manera de afrontarlas. Sugerimos también y para terminar estimular un debate serio documentado y profundo sobre el tema del equilibrio entre el crecimiento de la agricultura industrial el manejo sustentable de los recursos naturales y los aspectos sociales del desarrollo rural.

Aleksei SKRIPKO (Belarus)

The Republic of Belarus pursues a policy of ecologically-sustainable development of agriculture, which represents one of the basic branches of its economy, satisfying the requirements of population in food products at the level of 85 percent. On the initiative of the Head of State, the Programme on Rural Areas Renewal and Development for the years 2005-2010 has been elaborated and is being currently realized. The implementation of the Programme has already produced substantial results. In the course of recent years, a constant production growth has been ensured, the number of unprofitable farms reduced, the stability of food market restored. In 2007 the growth rate of gross agricultural output in all types of economic entities more than doubled against last year.

Being one of the world leaders in potato cultivation and having a Government-approved Programme on Development of Potato Production for the years 2006-2010, Belarus welcomes the initiative to proclaim 2008 as the International Year of the Potato. At the same time, my country faces a number of challenges that require large-scale investments. Of first priority are rehabilitation of agricultural production in the Chernobyl-affected areas, minimization of the dying forests problem, preparation for the accession to the World Trade Organization and taking full advantage of cooperation with the European Union within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy. We are aware of both local problems and global challenges, among which are the solution of the world hunger problem and distribution of food resources, climate change and rehabilitation of entire regions after national disasters, environment and alternative energy.

With regard to FAO's multilateral interaction framework, our Organization's gathered experience and expert working mechanisms are an indispensable instrument in meeting the above challenges. We are deeply convinced that the FAO technical assistance programme can contribute to the solution of many problems facing Belarus, as well as other countries of the world. We are more than grateful to the FAO Management for having initiated the first TCP project with my country. We hope that this work can be accelerated and stand for strengthening of this valuable mechanism with additional resources. Aware of the need to make the FAO a better functioning organization, we share fundamental conclusions of Independent External Evaluation (IEE) concerning the efficient use of financial resources, and streamlining of its work. We appreciate the FAO management's readiness to implement without delay a number of IEE recommendations, and we would support any reform that seeks to further enhance the Organization's activities. At the same

time, we would like to underline that rationalization of the available funds should not impede the achievement of main tasks before the FAO and should not cost the loss of any single of those unique mechanisms that provide concrete assistance to Member Nations. To meet modern challenges and effectively implement the Reform within our Organization, we surely need the widest possible involvement of Member Nations, their collective knowledge, available best practices, qualified experts and specialists in different subject areas.

If the FAO is the unique world forum on food and agriculture, it cannot objectively do without the Russian language. Adoption of Russian as the FAO official language will make it possible for the entire Russian-speaking regions of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to fully integrate themselves into the FAO, bring on board their experience and national potential to resolve pressing problems directly affecting the majority of our Organization's Membership. The Republic of Belarus therefore stands actively for the adoption of Russian as a language of the Organization and its phased introduction within the FAO system, finally making available to the Membership of our Organization all of the six official languages of the United Nations.

HAN Tae Song (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

This meeting will sum up the two-year successes and experiences gained in the implementation of the objectives of the World Food Summit with a target of halving the number of the malnutrition worldwide by the year 2015. It will also discuss a new biennial programme which will make a substantial contribution to the process of ongoing Reform of the Organization. It can be said that the FAO, through the process of implementing the ongoing two-year programme, has fulfilled its mission with credit as a leading agency in achieving food security and attaining the multi-pronged development of agriculture. Despite the international effort to attain food security in the world, the FAO and other international organizations are still faced with serious challenges in the sphere of their activities. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Delegation feels that priority should be given to increasing its efficiency in the new biannual Programme of Work to be adopted at this meeting. And my delegation acknowledges that practical steps based on the Real Growth Budget for improving quality and security of food and for the sustainable development of agriculture should be reflected in the draft Programme of Work. FAO, beyond anything else, should not weaken but maintain a higher level of implementation of the action plans such as Technical Cooperation Programmes and Special Programmes for Food Security in accordance with the budget reflected in the new Programme of Work. FAO should take relevant steps within its mandate to provide a socio-economic condition and environment code for the increased agricultural production of the developing countries. In connection with this, my delegation maintains that international economic relations should be established on the principles of equality and mutual benefits, and especially, unfair international trade relations in terms of agricultural products should be adjusted by abolishing or drastically cutting the agricultural subsidies in the developed countries. My delegation is of the opinion that an easy access to the international market should be provided for the agricultural products of the developing countries. The developed countries should not remain indifferent to reality but faithfully implement their pledges to allot 0.7 percent of GDP as Official Development Assistance, including the agricultural share in ODA. For the developing countries, they should further develop South-South cooperation.

Finally, FAO should be engaged constructively in the process of the UN Reform in order to make its role more effective as a leading agency for the security in the world. Today, the Korean people have turned out as one in the struggle to restore the agricultural production as soon as possible and build a prosperous powerful nation full of confidence and optimism under the leadership of the Great General Kim Jong Il. The DPRK government has set forth the Agriculture-First policy and has been concentrating all its efforts to increase food production for self-sufficiency in light of limited arable land and continued large-scale natural disasters. The efforts are being made to consolidate the material and technical foundation of the agricultural sector through the huge land transformation and gravity-fed waterway project while continuously improving the management method of the agriculture. The effort for food security in my country is being made with the support of and in close cooperation with FAO and other relevant international organizations. The

DPRK Government will, in the future, too, further strengthen the cooperation with FAO and all its Member Nations, true to its fundamentals of foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship, and make active contributions towards the international effort for the implementation of the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit.

Panikos POUROS (Cyprus)

It gives me great pleasure to address the FAO Conference and to reiterate the firm support of Cyprus to the goals and objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Quite a lot has been achieved during the sixty-two years of the existence of FAO. It is unfortunate that the Right to Food, one of the basic human rights, has not been secured for everyone living on Earth. It is well-known and it has been repeated here on many occasions, that even today more than 850 million human beings cannot secure their basic food needs. None can claim to feel comfortable and live in peace, when such a large number of people concentrated in specific areas do not have enough food on a daily basis. The commitments made at the World Food Summit which was held in this room eleven years ago in 1996 have not been matched by effective action. While important progress has been made in some parts of the world, in many other parts the lack of access to sufficient food is as serious now as ever before, in some regions has become even worse than it was in 1996. At the same time, even greater pressure has been put on food supplies, the prices of staple food items, such as wheat and milk have risen mainly due to lower production caused by weather fluctuations, attributed to climate change. Additional pressure is caused by the switching to biofuels and by the increasing demand for new and emerging markets. It has long been accepted and well documented that hunger is a complex issue and not just the result of inadequate food production. It is, above all, a political problem. To conquer hunger in a globalized world, we need an honest, reliable and partnership-based development policy. Such a policy will have to establish the prerequisites for effective food aid that proposes self-help and avoids aid-dependency in recipient countries. This includes a sound rural development policy, a fair world trade system, greater efforts by countries, and especially the industrialized countries, to protect world climate as well as the prevention of wars and crises. Without rapid progress towards eradicating hunger, global political and economic stability will continue to be threatened together with the natural resources upon which future world food supplies depend. Promises have been given and targets have been set. What needs to be done is to live up to these promises, to revitalize agriculture and to use the natural resources in a sustainable way. Only then will it be possible to achieve the overall goal which is to reduce the number of people who suffer from hunger. What has to remain clear in our minds is combating poverty and hunger means investing in sustainable agriculture and rural development, as agriculture is a driving force for economic development in many countries.

With reference to the Agenda of this Conference, I wish to limit my comments to one item which has to do with the operations and the existence of the Organization, that is the programme work and the level of the budget. Regarding priority-settings by the Organization, we believe that existing priorities and those suggested by the Technical Committees form a sufficient framework for the work of the Organization. New issues like climate change and the issues surrounding bio-fuel must receive the proper attention by the Organization. One issue, however, to which Cyprus would like attention to continue to be given to by the Organization, is the importance of water for agriculture and food production and its significant role in poverty reduction. Increasing water use efficiency should, therefore, receive proper attention.

The fragile financial situation of the Organization is noted with concern. We consider, nevertheless, the proposed maintenance budget which foresees a total increase of 15.7 percent of the budget level for the next biennium to be rather high and difficult to secure the required support. As a Member State of the European Union, we are now implementing the Common Agricultural Policy. In the framework of this policy we implement measures which aim at the creation of economic opportunities and the improvement of living conditions in the rural areas, the introduction of new technologies and the promotion of agricultural research, the education of farmers and the provision of incentives to farmers to accept these technologies in order to improve productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural products and the viability of the agricultural

sector. We are certain that, as a result of the implementation of these measures, our farmers will be in a position to adjust the new environment as easily as possible.

Jan DE BOCK (Belgique)

La 34^{ème} Conférence de la FAO se tient à un moment où beaucoup d'évènements convergent pour nous rappeler l'importance d'investir dans une agriculture durable, respectueuse de l'homme et de son environnement. La question de la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial est une préoccupation majeure dans beaucoup de pays et occupe à nouveau une place centrale de l'agenda internationale. Le combat contre la faim dans le monde est à juste titre le premier des objectifs de développement du millénaire. Mais il est hélas loin d'être gagné comme le souligne le rapport de la FAO sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. L'importance d'investir dans l'agriculture pour atteindre des résultats tangibles dans la lutte contre la pauvreté a toujours été une évidence pour les institutions des Nations Unies basées à Rome. Cependant, les investissements au titre de l'aide publique au développement, dans ce secteur, ont chuté ces dernières années. Cette année la hausse des prix des produits alimentaires, le débat autour des bio-carburants et les conséquences du changement climatique ont redonné une place cruciale aux organisations dont le mandat est de contribuer à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. L'excellent rapport de la Banque Mondiale "L'Agriculture pour le Développement" tire la sonnette d'alarme en rappelant que trois-quarts des pauvres dans le monde vivent dans les zones rurales, et que d'après les projections, cette situation devrait perdurer encore pendant de longues années. Mais tirer la sonnette d'alarme ne signifie pas que la situation est sans espoir. Des solutions existent et pour preuve, de nombreux pays en développement ont obtenus des résultats remarquables en termes de croissance économique basée sur le développement de l'agriculture. Mais la communauté internationale, les Gouvernements nationaux, les organisations multilatérales, le secteur public, le secteur privé, la société civile doivent prendre rapidement, chacun à son niveau, des mesures à la hauteur des défis qui nous attendent. La conclusion est qu'il faut réinvestir dans l'agriculture, mais en tenant compte des leçons du passé. La Belgique a pour sa part, toujours été convaincue du bien fondé d'investir dans l'agriculture et dans le développement rural s'il s'agissait de faire des investissements stratégiques afin de mener une lutte efficace contre la pauvreté. Elle s'est dotée d'outils tel que le Fonds belge de survie qui lui permet, depuis plus de 20 ans, de financer en partenariat avec la FAO, le FIDA, les ONG, des projets de développement dans des zones rurales en Afrique au Sud du Sahara.

Alors que toutes les situations et toutes les statistiques confirment le déclin du secteur de l'agriculture dans l'Aide publique au développement, la Belgique fait exception à la règle. D'après le Comité d'aide au développement de l'OCDE, les dépenses dans le secteur agricole représentent 10,6 pourcent de notre APD en 2006. Un pourcentage nettement plus élevé que la moyenne. La prise de conscience de l'importance des changements qui sont en train de se produire, nous convainc qu'il faut que la communauté internationale redonne à l'agriculture la priorité qui aurait toujours dû être la sienne. Et c'est ici qu'intervient la FAO. Pour reprendre un passage de l'excellent rapport de l'Évaluation externe indépendante, je dirais que, et je cite: "Si la FAO n'existait pas, il faudrait l'inventer. Le monde a besoin de la FAO qui détient, dans certains domaines, une expertise qui n'existe nulle part ailleurs" fin de citation. Ce rapport, qui a retenu toute notre attention depuis quelques semaines, nous dit aussi que pour remplir efficacement son rôle, la FAO doit changer. Les changements nécessaires sont d'importance mais, à notre estime, tout à fait réalisables si, comme le soulignait le rapport, la confiance était rétablie entre toutes les parties en cause qui accepteraient de collaborer à un projet commun. Pour que cette confiance soit rétablie, il me semble essentiel qu'il y ait un consensus sur le mandat stratégique de la FAO. Que son rôle soit redéfini en fonction de sa valeur ajoutée, en partenariat avec les autres organisations, dans le cadre de la réforme des Nations Unies "One UN".

Le rapport met aussi en lumière que la FAO devra changer de culture, la gestion doit devenir transparente, notamment la gestion des ressources humaine. Ceci est à mes yeux le plus complexe des objectifs. Heureusement, à la FAO, il y a énormément de personnes compétentes, motivées, qui n'attendent qu'une chose: que cette réforme tant souhaitée soit mise en place. La Gouvernance de la FAO par ses États Membres ne fonctionne pas de manière optimale. Nous devons aussi

arriver à prendre des décisions dans ce domaine. Le Directeur Général a répondu positivement aux recommandations du Rapport d'Évaluation Externe Indépendante et je l'en félicite. C'est un signal fondamental pour entamer le changement car il n'y a pas de changement sans leadership de ceux qui ont pour mandat de gérer l'Organisation. En 2008, une Session Extraordinaire de la Conférence devra se tenir pour adopter un Plan d'action immédiat. Nous avons peu de temps pour réussir.

Allons donc à l'essentiel. La Belgique est candidate au Conseil de la FAO après une absence de 12 ans. Vous pourrez compter sur notre collaboration active dans les Organes de gestion de notre organisation. Je ne voudrais pas non plus escamoter une question importante que le Rapport d'évaluation a mise en évidence. Elle concerne le budget. Les ressources régulières de la FAO ont enregistré un déclin substantiel depuis quelques années (-22 pourcent). Si la Réforme aboutit, il faudra que la communauté internationale soit conséquente et accepte de refinancer la FAO comme le recommande l'Évaluation Externe Indépendante. La Belgique estime qu'elle peut accepter une croissance raisonnable du budget pour le prochain biennium. Mais je me dois de préciser que ce soutien, dans le futur, dépendra de l'avancement des réformes.

Au début de l'année 2008, la Belgique et la FAO tiendront des consultations pour adopter le programme qui sera financé par la coopération belge pour la période 2008-2011. Ce programme qui concerne nos contributions volontaires répond à la fois aux priorités de notre politique de concentration de l'aide en Afrique et en Afrique centrale, en particulier aux priorités stratégiques que le rapport d'évaluation recommande à la FAO d'adopter. En effet, les programmes qui seront financés par la Belgique, concernent essentiellement le renforcement des capacités des institutions, l'appui aux politiques et la gestion des connaissances.

Nous demandons aussi à la FAO d'être particulièrement attentive à la nécessité de renforcer l'aspect genre dans tous les programmes. La Belgique a fait appel très régulièrement à la FAO pour répondre à des urgences humanitaires et je puis vous annoncer que le Ministre de la Coopération a décidé d'octroyer une aide de 2 millions de dollars au Bangladesh qui vient d'être si cruellement frappé. Je crois pouvoir dire que nous pouvons être fiers de notre très longue collaboration avec la FAO qui a produit d'excellents résultats comme en témoignent les évaluations des projets. La FAO est à la croisée des chemins. Elle devra faire face à des défis extérieurs que sont le changement climatique, la raréfaction des ressources en eau, la hausse tendancielle des prix des produits alimentaires, la croissance de la population mondiale et à des défis intérieurs qui sont la gouvernance interne, le changement de culture de l'organisation, la révision de ses procédures, la décentralisation, la politique de ressources humaines.

La FAO doit aussi pleinement jouer son rôle dans la réforme des Nations Unies qui vise à renforcer l'impact et la crédibilité des organisations multilatérales. La Belgique a toujours défendu un multilatéralisme actif et espère que la FAO deviendra un modèle pour tout le système des Nations Unies.

Mohammed Musa MAROOFI (Afghanistan)

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan expresses its solidarity with the people of Bangladesh. FAO is a unique knowledge-based organization dedicated to the global cause of helping its Members to overcome hunger and rural poverty. The importance of FAO is further enhanced by its potential contributions to the Millennium Development of Goals. That's why the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO states, "If FAO were to disappear tomorrow, it would need to be re-invented". The world food situation is indeed critical, Mr. President. The prices of the basic food commodities are rising and more land is taken away from forest and other crop use and turned into production of bio-fuel feedstock. The Doha Agenda on Agriculture is not moving forward, and there are uncertainties about the effects of climate change on agriculture, fisheries and forestry. The Government of Afghanistan is pleased with the technical and material assistance received from FAO, other UN Agencies, multilateral financial institutions, bilateral sources and NGO's and civil societies. With the assistance received so far agriculture in Afghanistan is reviving quite rapidly. FAO's technical assistance programme in Afghanistan is fairly balanced by sub-sectors, quite robust and is linked to the seven programmes of Master Plan for Agriculture.

The Master Plan envisages investment outlay of approximately of US\$2.3 billion. One of the major pillars of the Master Plan is the launching of the National Programme for Food Security. The programme is primarily the rapid up-scaling of a highly successful FAO Special Programme for Food Security that has been under implementation over the past few years in several pilot areas. We look forward to the assistance of FAO and the donor community in making our national Programme for Food Security a shining success.

The administration of His Excellency President Hamid Karzai is firmly committed to make Afghanistan free from poppy cultivation as soon as possible. However, the international community must realize, that the notorious drug mafia is an active player involved with poppy cultivation and opium production. Putting a stop to their criminal activities is an international obligation. For poor farmers the prime reason for poppy cultivation is to preserve family livelihood. Small farmers and landless farm workers need to be assisted through the improved technology, essential farm services and appropriate incentives to raise project activities. Afghanistan supports the maintenance budget for 2008-2009, as proposed by the Director-General. The 21 per cent increase in 2008-2009 budget is worthy of support by Members. The Report of the IEE is comprehensive and insightful and we fully endorse the prime message that is 'Reform with Growth'. We also appreciate the positive response of the Director General to the findings, conclusions and the recommendations of the IEE Report, but growth means financial solvency and the provision of adequate funds, both from the Regular Budget as well as extra-budgetary resources. We strongly support the Draft Resolution on the Follow-up of the IEE because, in our opinion, it will lead to a road map for the phased implementation of the recommendation that this Conference is expected to approve.

Charalambos ROCANAS (Greece)

I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome for Montenegro and the Principality of Andorra, the new Members of our Organization, as well as for Faroe Islands, the new Associate Member. The FAO Conference is an opportunity to review the world's agricultural situation and to renew the commitment of all Members to support the agricultural and rural development throughout the world as the principal means to combat poverty and reduce the number of hungry people. To this worthy solemn undertaking, Greece is fully committed. The Thirty-fourth Session of the FAO Conference has also a number of very important and closely inter-related issues to review and decide upon. Each of them is likely to affect the life of the Organization in the short, medium and long term. One is the Report of the Independent External Evaluation, to which my country attaches great importance. We consider the report a very solid foundation and a major tool to bring about the necessary reform of the Organization, to meet the needs of the Twenty-first century. My country supports the recommendations and the measures proposed in the Report, as well as the main message "Reform with Growth" which should serve as the basis for action to be taken at all levels. We appreciate the positive reaction of the Secretariat to the Report and we welcome the commitment of the Director General to lead the process of transformation, which should result to a substantially reformed Organization.

Another important issue of this Conference, is the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget. This is a complex issue, complex not only because of the financial situation in many Member Nations, including Greece, but also, because the needs for assistance are ever-increasing and have to be handled within the limited resources which are available available. Therefore, ways must be found enabling an increased response within the budgetary constraints. In this connection, I would like to suggest that the timely payment of contributions would alleviate the Organization from financial costs incurred due to borrowing - a situation which unnecessarily penalizes countries, like mine, who meet their obligations in a timely fashion.

Greece strongly supports the FAO as an irreplaceable international forum on matters concerning food and agriculture, including fisheries, forestry and rural development- a role that has always been central to FAO and should continue to be so, if we wish to achieve the objectives of sustainable agricultural development and availability of food for all. My country, to the extent of

its capabilities, contributes to these efforts by implementing programmes to assist needy countries both multilaterally, in particular through the FAO and the WFP, as well as bilaterally. In addition to the five-year development aid plan for its neighbouring Balkan countries, which are significantly contributing to their European orientation, Greece financially supports programmes of technical assistance in the agricultural sector in Africa and Asia, and also provides scholarships to students from countries of those continents. I am pleased also to note that my Government has continued strengthening its cooperation with the FAO with, *inter alia*, the recent conclusion of the framework agreement on food security, which will form the basis for individual joint projects with the FAO, two of which are already in progress in Armenia. We are also pleased and honoured to host the Headquarters and to contribute to the operational expenses of the FAO EastMed Project, which aims at implementing responsible cooperative management of fishing programmes in the Eastern Mediterranean. Furthermore, the Greek Government, considering the importance of aquaculture in improving food security, has decided to financially support two pilot projects in marine aquaculture in the Regions of North Africa and the Indian Ocean. Finally Greece participates in the reconstruction plan of Sri Lanka's Government, financing projects in various sectors with up to US\$8 million. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the support of my country to all efforts enabling the FAO to respond, in the most efficient way, to the needs of its Members.

Eduardo CHEN CHARPENTIER (México)

En nombre del Gobierno de México expreso a usted mi más cordial felicitación por haber sido electo a la Presidencia del 34^o período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación. Con su elección, América Latina y el Caribe tienen un motivo adicional de orgullo. Nos proponemos desplegar trabajos de la mayor importancia para nuestros países, por lo que se requiere que la Presidencia de esta Conferencia sea encabezada por una persona de su lucidez y de su experiencia. Estoy seguro que sabrá usted conducir a buen puerto nuestras tareas.

Nuestra Organización forma parte sustantiva del sistema general de la Naciones Unidas y, sobre todo, de un programa de reformas que viene desplegando la comunidad internacional para adecuar las instituciones a los grandes requerimientos de la agenda global, en especial los que tienen que ver con una más efectiva promoción al desarrollo y a la igualdad de oportunidades entre las naciones. Las necesidades alimenticias y nutricionales en el mundo son inmensas y reclaman una Organización moderna y eficaz que permita, no sólo una mayor presencia de programas de cooperación entre los Estados Miembros sino, primordialmente, una capacidad institucional de generar ideas y propiciar la creación del conocimiento y la innovación. Así lo exigen, con toda legitimidad, todas aquellas comunidades surgidas en la marginación y en el atraso. Qué duda cabe que el mandato de la FAO es tan vigente hoy como cuando fue creada. La agricultura sigue siendo un asunto crucial en la agenda internacional. La lucha contra el hambre es en verdad urgente. Es también imperiosa la necesidad de desarrollar prácticas agrícolas, forestales y de ganadería que respeten los sistemas ecológicos, promuevan la generación de los hábitats, favorezcan la adopción de prácticas de pesca responsable y encaucen mejores condiciones de desarrollo tecnológico para ofrecer una verdadera seguridad alimentaria a las naciones. La FAO debe superar importantes obstáculos que se han consolidado como viejos problemas, al tiempo que está llamada a evitar la generación de nuevas amenazas y riesgos a la seguridad alimentaria. Sobresalen, entre ellos, el cambio climático y su impacto en la pesca, la agricultura y la ganadería, así como en la vida misma de las personas; el incremento de la demanda y la producción de biocombustibles y la presión que ello genera en los precios y en los cultivos de los productos utilizados para consumo humano y animal y en la aceleración de la deforestación.

Se trata de grandes cuestiones que obligan a establecer mejores métodos para coordinar la acción de la comunidad internacional; poner énfasis en el multilateralismo, no como una frase hecha, sino como un concepto político que nos debe permitir el consenso, la articulación de intereses y la visión integral de los problemas. Así, esta institución recobrará plenitud, su vocación universal y hará a un lado los enfoques fragmentarios y por necesidad parciales. En el caso de México, como en algunas otras Regiones del mundo, los efectos extremos del clima han mostrado ya el peor de

los escenarios. Así ha ocurrido recientemente en Tabasco y Chiapas, cuyas poblaciones han sufrido los estragos de una naturaleza que rebasa, con mucho, las capacidades humanas por sí solas. Por eso agradecemos tanto la solidaridad y la cooperación que la comunidad internacional mostró para ayudarnos a reducir los enormes daños generados por las tormentas. Hemos recibido ayuda financiera y en especie, pero también y de manera subrayada, de intercambio de experiencias y de nuevos conocimientos para enfrentar eficazmente estas calamidades. Expreso en este momento la solidaridad de México con Bangladesh por los enormes daños que ha sufrido su población en los últimos días. El Gobierno de México ha venido desarrollando diversos programas y medidas orientados a promover el desarrollo rural, teniendo presente el nuevo contexto mundial. En el desarrollo de estas políticas y programas, el Gobierno de México se ha apoyado y beneficiado de la asistencia técnica que le brinda la FAO. De la misma manera a través de la FAO, México ha puesto y sigue poniendo a disposición de los demás países sus propias capacidades técnicas. El asunto central que nos convoca y que para México tiene importancia mayúscula, es sin la menor duda, el fortalecimiento de esta Organización; es un profundo deber de todos los Países Miembros. Más que encarar la idea de una Reforma que en sí misma podría ser motivo de arduos debates, es necesario hacer un ejercicio de voluntad política para empezar con medidas concretas que nos permitan adelantar pasos eficientes y seguros. México está dispuesto a participar en el examen del documento de la Evaluación Externa Independiente y analizar cada una de las recomendaciones. Queremos una Organización verdaderamente eficaz, que disponga de los instrumentos necesarios para cumplir sus tareas, que esté a la altura de la obligación de coadyuvar a la eliminación del hambre, avanzar hacia el derecho universal de la alimentación adecuada y que dé acogida a los derechos socialmente exigibles en esta materia por los grandes marginados del planeta.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Bulgaria)

It is a great honour to address for the first time the distinguished audience of FAO's Conference and represent Bulgaria as the newest Member of the European Union. Fully subscribing to the statements that the European Commission and Portugal are making on behalf of the Union, as part of the EU family, Bulgaria is now ever more committed to the high mission and noble cause of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. I would like to congratulate H.E. Mr. Carlos Vallejo López, Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, on the assumption of the Chairpersonship of this Thirty-fourth FAO Conference and wish him success in carrying out this office. I would also like to welcome the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Montenegro, and the Faroe Islands to the FAO family and the Russian Federation to this highest forum of FAO.

This year marks the Fortieth Anniversary of Bulgaria's accession to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We have come a long way thus far and we are proud with what we have achieved in our mutual cooperation that has and is bringing benefit to Bulgaria, to FAO, and to the world of agriculture and development as a whole. It was not that long ago when the first Nobel Laureate in Economics, Jan Tinbergen, in his report to the Club of Rome on "Reshaping the International Order" was quoting Bulgaria as a model for successful development based on agriculture. And that was just a simple recognition of a historic fact. At different times in history Bulgaria and her farmers have brought their skills and indigenous knowledge to Central Europe and Russia, to Latin America, the Near East and Africa. Even today in this solemn Hall, there are people who have studied or specialized in our agricultural colleges, universities and research institutes. And we are all proud of this. Agriculture plays an important role in Bulgaria's economy with a relative share of 8.6 percent of GDP in 2006. A key priority in the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Supply is the development of efficient and competitive agriculture sector and food industry. As a result of the improved investment climate and due to the upgrading of the food industries and the EU aligned legislation, the production of agricultural commodities has increased and trade in farm products has become notably more active in the last few years. However, this year Bulgarian agriculture was badly affected by drought and we had to take urgent measures to deal with the consequences.

The most important factor with greatest impact on our agriculture today is our Membership to the European Union and our effective participation in the reforming Common Agricultural Policy of

the Union. The test is serious but with the wisdom and help from the European Commission we are successfully facing it, and the Bulgarian farmers are already beginning to reap the benefits of integration in a larger and more competitive market. We are confident that our participation in the European Union policies and activities will raise Bulgaria and her agriculture to a higher level of development and thus will help us to better deal with the challenges and opportunities of the globalizing world economy. It will also help us participate more efficiently in the development assistance policies and cooperation.

Through the years FAO has contributed considerably for implementing national and regional projects in the fishing, livestock-breeding and forestry sectors. Now, at the end of this year, a new project dealing with support to capacity-building for agriculture and rural development policy analysis and formulation, to support EU integration of the South-eastern European countries, will start. Though fewer in number today, the Bulgarian experts, who work as FAO staff members and on various FAO projects and programmes, have given and are providing admirable contribution to key functions and activities of FAO as a knowledge and development organization. We expect FAO to make better avail of the opportunities for enhanced collaboration on the basis of the Scientific and the South-South Cooperation Agreements that we have. This can represent valuable addition to the actions that the Bulgarian Government is undertaking on its own for attaining food security worldwide. We see more possibilities opening now with the New Cooperation for Development Policy that the Bulgarian Government has just approved.

This year is a special year for FAO as well. It is the year of the Independent External Evaluation and the new beginning of Reform of the Organization to equip it for the challenges of the new Century and to better serve its Membership, especially in its work in and with the developing countries. We are looking forward to successful completion of the relevant resolution in Commission II and to full and active participation in the work of the future Committee of the FAO Reform. Let me here pay tribute to the Core Team of the IEE who gave us the guiding basis for our work, that is also to be carried with the full participation of FAO Secretariat, as we had it until now, and to two exceptional colleagues - ambassadors Flavio Perri and Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini, under whose wise leadership we found the necessary consensus.

We are conscious of the work and genuine efforts that we'll have to undertake in the next twelve months in order to ensure the success of Reform. As the ancient proverb tells, the most important is the first step. That is why we are ready to welcome early steps by FAO Management that would start IEE-inspired reforms. On our side we have, through the EU common position, committed ourselves to a maintenance budget for the Organization. Among the necessary range-poles in the relevant Conference Resolution we want to see a freeze on any further cuts in FAO personnel and the TCP. Such measures would create the necessary stability in the Organization and will establish an atmosphere propitious for the required culture change. We are ready to spare no effort working together with the rest of the Membership and all the staff of the Organization to achieve the new FAO that we need, an FAO that stands tall among a reformed family of One UN.

Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We are encouraged to note the change of heart to bring agriculture to the central stage of the global agenda. My country has always considered agriculture an important sector because over 75 percent of our people live in rural areas and depend greatly on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture further contributes over 40 percent to GDP and over 80 percent to exports. For this reason my Government has, since 1995, embarked on a strategy of Agricultural Development Leading to Industrialization, otherwise known as ADLI which is rural and smallholder-centred. Following the ADLI strategy, Ethiopia developed first and second Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers: the first one runs from 2002 to 2005 and the second one, known as "*Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development*" or PASDEP runs from 2006 to 2010. The PASDEP is aimed at setting the country towards sustainable development. It identifies poverty reduction, and eventually elimination, as its core objectives and focuses on the following eight elements: a boost to accelerated growth; a geographically-differentiated strategy; addressing population growth

challenges; promoting the potential of Ethiopia's women; strengthening the infrastructure backbone; managing risk and volatility; scaling up to reach the MDGs; and creating jobs.

PASDEP's strategic emphasis is on the growth of the rural sector, industry and export activities, particularly through the promotion of micro-and small-enterprise development, public construction and infrastructure-building. The main development objective of the government is poverty eradication. The countries, policies and strategies are therefore geared towards this end. Ethiopia has been suffering from frequent drought. It is affected like many others by climate change. While I'm on climate change, let me take this opportunity on behalf of my delegation and my Government to express our sympathy to the Government and people of Bangladesh and our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. In regard to climate change allow me, Mr Chairperson, to share an experience which is ongoing currently in my country. While much of the world celebrated the year to 2000, seven years, eight months and eleven days before, Ethiopia welcomed the year 2000 on Wednesday the 12th of September 2007. This is one of the diversities in our culture that Ethiopia has maintained for millennia. The African Union has also in its Summit of January 2007 declared the new millennium as an Africa occasion. The new millennium is considered by its citizens to be a new chapter in the annals of Ethiopian history and they have taken it upon themselves as an opportunity to unite and renew their commitment fight against hunger and poverty. Several projects have been designed that involve the entire citizenry, among which is Two Trees for the Year 2000. Each citizen is committed to plant two trees during the year, by which time millions of trees will be expected to be planted and cared for. I would like to express profound support of the Government of Ethiopia for enabling FAO to be an effective and efficient organization, to fit the changing time and meet needs of its Member Nations. My Government would also like to urge Membership to truly own this Organization, enable it and give it the major sense of direction.

Ryszard WOJTAL (Poland)

I would like to say that Poland fully associates itself with the statement made by the European Commission yearly this year on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. As in past years the FAO Secretariat has prepared an interesting background paper for our discussion in the form of the report on The State of Food and Agriculture: Regrettably, with regard to the overarching aim, the main message remains pessimistic - we are not making any significant progress towards achieving the first MDG of halving the proportion of people suffering from undernourishment, not to talk about achieving the World Food Summit target of reducing the numbers of undernourished people in the world by half. At the same time, the picture is becoming more and more diverse also at the sub-regional level and even from one neighbouring country to another. Paradoxically, this undesirable development is at the same time a signal that success is possible and a strong incentive to intensify efforts in every part of our globe. There is a noteworthy difference between this year's report and its predecessor prepared for the Conference in 2005, which correctly reflects the recent change in the perception of the situation and of the role of agriculture. The current document focuses much stronger - and rightly so - on global developments which two years ago still remained in the hazy background. Today, as they are starting to take a more definite shape, we are in a better position to recognize their potential importance, but we are still not able to predict where they might take us. It is hence not surprising that we prefer to call them somewhat euphemistically "challenges and opportunities" of the future.

Two observations, however, seem substantiated. Firstly in the result of these developments agriculture is returning to the top of world agenda and together with rural development belongs at the very centre of the fight against hunger and poverty. The same message is brought to us by the findings of two very recent and exceptional research endeavours: the 2008 World Bank Report "Agriculture for Development" and the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. This in turn means a revived demand for - as the IEE report puts it - goods and services that only a global organization with the mandate and experience of FAO can provide. We all agree that FAO needs to reform and gain a stronger sense of direction. This process has been started, and in the work which lies ahead let us remember that what is at stake is not just the condition of an

international organization but the future of a vital instrument to shape the world in an area which - probably as no other - directly affects the fate of millions of people. The second observation is that the global phenomena enumerated in The State of Food and Agriculture, such as climate change, water scarcity, development of bio-energy, slowdown in agricultural production growth and rising food prices will have the greatest negative impact on the least developed and the Low-Income, Food-Deficit countries. This reconfirms the compelling need for special attention to the plight of this group and the relevance of focused international development assistance. And again, FAO has an important role to play in this regard.

Poland belongs to the category of countries where the agricultural sector is of great social and economic importance. Polish agriculture and Polish countryside share most of the problems which typically trouble rural and agricultural development. The acuteness and the scale of those problems might be different from that of most developing countries, but the task of dealing with them remains formidable. The needs in this regard lie at the basis of the Rural Development Programme for the years 2007-2013. Poland is in the privileged position of having developed the programme and now implementing it within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU and with the support of its different instruments including the European Fund for Rural Development. In recent years, Poland has become an active partner in international development cooperation. Since 2003, the last year before our accession to the EU, Polish ODA increased more than tenfold, reaching in 2006 the level of US\$300 million. This figure will continue a steep rise in order to reach in 2010 the declared target of 0.17 percent ODA/GNI ratio which at current exchange rates corresponds to about US\$800 million, and naturally, rural and agricultural development will not miss on the list of our cooperation priorities.

Mahmoud AL HABASCH (Palestine) (Original language Arabic)

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to convey to you our congratulations and to greet you and to convey to you the thanks and appreciation of the entire Palestinian people and especially Palestinian farmers who highly value all the positive stances taken by their friends and the help and support provided by their friends, support to them but also support to their agricultural activities and to the agricultural sector in Palestine, especially given the very dire conditions that are witnessed by the Palestinian people first and foremost because of the Israeli occupation and of its oppressive measures such as dilevelling of agricultural land and the uprooting of trees. We, in Palestine, give and take special care of olive groves and olive trees as we all know that olive trees symbolize peace. However the Israeli occupation uproots those trees and destroys them. The Israeli occupation also destroys our irrigation networks, and our agricultural facilities. It confiscates our land and it erects checkpoints that hamper farmers and that delay the transportation of agricultural products.

We have been also suffering from the building of the Separation Wall, from the erection of new settlements and the expansion of existing settlements which swallow up gradually the land of Palestinians and their property. We have been suffering from the effects of all these activities and from the pollution that they create and the degradation to the environment. However, despite all this oppression and despite this very dark picture, Palestinian farmers stand steadfast and they continue to smile to all freedom-loving people in the world - those people who believe in the justice of the Palestinian cause, who believe in the right of Palestinians to produce food for themselves and food for others, and who believe in the right of Palestinians to live in freedom on their land just like any other nation in the world. The very unfortunate and regrettable events which took place in the Gaza Strip recently are events which are strange to Palestinian people and strange to its values. However, these events were brought about certainly by the Israeli occupation and its practices and were brought about because the successive Israeli Governments have shirked their responsibilities towards peace and have participated in a direct manner and the destruction and the weakening of the Palestinian security apparatus. Our hopes have dissipated, our hopes to live in freedom and independence have faded away. We have become disoriented. However, the Palestinians in Gaza are the ones who suffer most because of the situation. They live in despair, they live in suffering and hunger, especially due to the blockade imposed in the Gaza Strip and to the closure of all the boarder crossings which prevent entry into the Gaza Strip of the necessary

agricultural inputs and which also prevents the importation of the agricultural outputs. The Gaza Strip farmers produce flowers., These flowers are bright, these flowers bring hope, these flowers bring joy to the beholder. However, due to the blockade and due to Israeli measures, these flowers continue to fade away on checkpoints and on boarder crossings.

We, in the Palestinian Authority, work hard to provide support to Palestinian farmers. However, the agricultural sector in Palestine has witnessed great losses. During the past seven years, for example, the losses were estimated at more than US\$1.5 billion in addition to the thousands of hectares of lands which were swallowed up or isolated due to the Separation Wall. We, at the Ministry of Agriculture in Palestine, work hard to rehabilitate the agricultural sector and I am pleased to tell you that this morning, the Israeli Minister informed me that the Israeli Government just allowed Palestinian farmers in the Gaza Strip to start exporting their outputs, their agricultural products in freedom and without any barriers. We hope that such situation will prevail in the future. We hope that these new measures will bring us new hopes for the establishment of peace in Palestine. At the Ministry of Agriculture, we give great attention to the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. We work hard to transform the sector into an export-oriented sector. We work hard to increase productivity and to provide the necessary agricultural services. Agriculture in Palestine is one of the priorities of our Ministry, and we would like to thank the Donor States and Donor Bodies who have provided their support to the agricultural sector because it is one of the main job-creating sectors and one of the main sectors which help boost exports in Palestine.

On behalf of Palestinians in general and on behalf of Palestinian farmers in particular, we would like to address our thanks and appreciation to the FAO and to all Donor States and Bodies. We would like to call upon you all to continue providing us with your support and to continue supporting the Palestinian agricultural sector. We wish your Conference all success and at the same time, we look forward to a bright future where all the nations in the world will live in freedom and in peace and where cooperation will prevail so that we will be able to enhance and improve the conditions of humans throughout the world. We hope that we will be able to live in freedom and in stability, and that this stability will replace the hunger and despair. I would like to inform you that I shall distribute this speech in both Arabic and English to you all.

Arvin BOOLELL (Mauritius)³

The three issues being addressed in these Special Events, financing of agriculture, food quality and safety, aid for trade and food security, are of utmost importance to the economic development of developing and least developed countries. We therefore hope that their outcome will contribute towards enhancing investment in agriculture, strengthening the political commitment towards better food safety and consumer protection systems and promoting the Aid for Trade initiative as an important instrument of agricultural development and trade.

The world food situation is still characterized by 854 million people without adequate food for an active and healthy life and more than 153 million of children below five being underweight. And this is being further jeopardized by a worsening international food and agricultural state. In Mauritius, we have historically been ensuring our domestic food security mostly by focusing on a sugar cane monocrop that offered many advantages, such as bio-climatic adaptability, economical marketing and strategic benefits as it was generating enough of foreign currency to import most of our food requirements, including the totality of the staples, rice and flour. However, dramatically- changing circumstances are increasing our vulnerability as a net food-importing country and a SIDS. The worrying global price hikes are already resulting in continuing rises to retail prices of basic foodstuffs, such as milk, meat products and pulses, restricting our choices. All this is being exacerbated by the instability brought by globalisation, international trade, changes in international supply/demand balances, agro-fuels in energy supply, the global climate changes, and domestically in the eroded protection so far given to the sugar and other economic sectors. Other challenges that we shall have to face are land availability, quality preservation,

³ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

water storage, also associated with climate change, which shall be the greatest environmental challenges of this Century.

Climate change is certainly going to impact our life and activities in Mauritius. We expect a higher incidence of more destructive cyclones and droughts and increased prevalence of pests and diseases, which may be worsened by higher international traffic movement including tourist arrivals. We are already living two sore experiences: the recent outbreak of the African Swine Fever, which means the near-total decimation of the pig sector and the spread of snails and white flies. We have in operation already a National Climate Change Committee for a close surveillance and strategic response. In view of the above changing environment, we have embarked into a restructuring of the agro-industrial sector, with the formulation of a Multi-Annual Adaptation Strategy for the sugar hub and strategic options for agro-diversification, both of them being at stages of further refinement and finalisation. The reform package being envisaged for the sugarcane segment includes strategic components, such as regrouping of small planters and their field operations, centralization of sugar mills into flexi-factories with accompanying right sizing and voluntary retirement schemes for the surplus workforce, strategic options for difficult land areas, extension of sugar cane use through bio-fuel and ethanol production and electricity generation. All this should be implemented in as equitable and transparent a manner as possible in respect to the various stakeholders: the consumer as user of the generated electricity, the small planters, workforce of the industry, millers, large estates as partners in the production processes involving multiple products and services. We have also recently produced an Agricultural Diversification Strategy document that aims at re-equilibrating our worsening agricultural trade balance in a competitive and sustainable way, by enhancing levels of self-sufficiency in selected agricultural products, revitalising the livestock sector, empowering agricultural and fishermen communities, improving and democratizing access to land resources, sharpening our competitive edge on the export front and ultimately developing Mauritius into an agri-business hub. A sectorial plan is also being prepared given its specificities.

In the reform programme, technological innovation and good agricultural practices, including in particular the empowerment of the small agriculture sector, will receive priority attention. There is a need not only for new technologies and techniques, but also for strict farming guidelines to ensure food safety, land and soil preservation in order to promote a sustainable food and agricultural system.

The conservation aspect is not neglected. We have already approved for implementation a National Forestry Policy and a National Bio-diversity Strategic Plan. Our Government attaches great importance to the sustainable development of the marine and seafood sector, in our economic zone and on the mainland. We have just produced a draft Master Plan for Aquaculture in Mauritius. The plan covers *inter alia* potential sites and fish species for culture, investment definitions, technical and legal requirements. The groundwork for the establishment of a Land-based Oceanic Industry in Mauritius is completed, where one of the products to be exploited will be deep sea water that will be desalinated for human consumption. We are also ready with an Aquatic Business Activities Bill to provide the legal framework for sustainable marine resources development.

Mauritius, unfortunately, has also become prone to diet-related problems such as non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes and circulatory diseases. Our Ministry of Health has a Nutritional Surveillance Programme in place, including an educational and public awareness campaign. My own Ministry is contributing through the operation of a state-of-the-art food laboratory, which oversees the food safety aspect, be it for domestic consumption or export of fish and other food products.

We very much appreciate the technical support being provided to us for so many years by FAO, and would request its continuation, especially in the context of the implementation of the reform plans I already mentioned for the agro-industrial sector. One area of support we already are

benefiting from relate to the Cross-border Initiative, which aims at reinforcing trade links with Madagascar. FAO already helped in the organization of an Investors' Meeting in Madagascar. Some positive outcomes are that SPS procedures have been harmonized, trade in livestock is being re-initiated, and some Mauritian investors are already operating in Madagascar, e.g. in the potato and fruit sectors.

Mauritius has also been receiving technical help from IAEA in the formulation of a Country Strategy Framework, which includes collaboration in the area of Sustainable Agricultural and Water Management.

Finally, may I mention that I have taken cognizance of the Report of the Independent External Evaluation of the FAO. Let us use its findings as a springboard for improving and strengthening the Organization to enable it to deliver even more effectively its role, for the benefit of all its Members in accordance with its original mandate.

Babacar BA (Organisation de la Conférence Islamique)

Il m'est fort agréable au moment où se tient à Rome cette importante Session de la Conférence de la FAO de vous adresser les vives salutations et les sincères encouragements du Secrétaire général de l'organisation de la Conférence Islamique, le Professeur Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu. À vous Monsieur le Président ainsi qu'aux Membres du Bureau de la conférence, nous adressons nos vives félicitations pour votre élection et votre judicieuse conduite des travaux de cette 34^{ème} Conférence. Au Directeur Général de la FAO, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, nous voulons adresser nos chaleureuses félicitations pour l'œuvre inlassable qu'il ne cesse d'entreprendre avec dynamisme et efficacité pour répondre aux nombreux défis qui interpellent la FAO dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté au niveau mondial.

Beaucoup de délégations l'ont souligné tout à l'heure, votre session se tient dans un contexte international extrêmement difficile, où les efforts qui sont déployés depuis longtemps pour assurer aux populations les plus démunies de meilleures conditions de vie, dans un environnement sain et équilibré, se heurtent à de nombreux phénomènes nouveaux qui menacent notre planète. Ces phénomènes ont pour nom: changements climatiques, catastrophes naturelles, crise énergétique, rareté des terres de culture ainsi que des ressources halieutiques, etc. Les inondations qui viennent de frapper si douloureusement le Bangladesh, nous édifie, hélas, sur l'urgente nécessité d'une vigilance accrue pour préserver notre planète.

L'OCI voudrait saisir ici l'occasion pour exprimer au Gouvernement et au peuple frère meurtri du Bangladesh sa sympathie et sa solidarité agissante face à cette calamité. Il nous faut, Monsieur le Président, définir de nouvelles stratégies de mobilisations concertées et d'actions coordonnées pour faire face à ces nombreux défis. Il nous faut redoubler d'efforts pour renforcer les moyens de la FAO et lui permettre de poursuivre efficacement son action indispensable et cruciale pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial et, en particulier, en faveur des pays en voie de développement. Il s'agit de tout mettre en œuvre pour renforcer les capacités productives agricoles des pays en voie de développement et leur garantir de meilleures conditions d'accès aux marchés extérieurs.

L'Organisation de la Conférence Islamique voudrait, par ma voix, réaffirmer sa disponibilité à contribuer de façon active à l'action de la FAO et de la Communauté internationale pour lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté. C'est dans ce cadre qu'elle a mis en place un Fonds spécial de lutte contre la pauvreté et les maladies endémiques pour financer des programmes spécifiques en faveur des États Membres et les aider à atteindre les objectifs du développement du Millénaire fixé à l'horizon 2015.

Les conclusions de vos travaux sont attendues avec beaucoup d'espoir – une exploitation judicieuse des recommandations du Comité d'experts indépendants ainsi que les réponses pertinentes du Directeur Général de la FAO seront sans aucun doute une bonne base pour mener les réformes nécessaires qui permettront à la FAO de répondre en urgence au défi de l'heure.

Salem AL-LOUZI (Arab Organization for Agriculture Development) (Original language Arabic)

It is my pleasure to address this assembly and to extend to FAO, this sister Organization of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development (AOAD), our thanks and appreciation for their invitation to participate in the Thirty-fourth Session of FAO's Conference, being the assembly of the world's agricultural leaders and the forum for discussing agriculture, water and food security to alleviate poverty and hunger and provide food security, sustainable development and water, particularly in the rural communities.

The Arab Region is suffering from scarcity of water and a technical gap, which are negatively affecting its agriculture and may lead to a chronic gap, reaching the value of US\$18.6 billion in 2006, and a grain production gap of half this value. Moreover, 13 percent of the Arab population suffers from undernutrition. We are concerned with the rising food prices, which may lead to a crisis similar to that in the 1970s. Our concern increases as this crisis results from unprecedented high energy and oil prices. We hope that we will avail ourselves of this opportunity in order to attain food market stability, particularly in the grain sector, to alleviate the burden of suffering citizens, especially in the developed countries and in the least developed countries.

Since its inception in 1972, AOAD has been working to assist its Member Nations to increase their production and face decreasing food supplies and also to help the small farmers improve their rural communities and build their capacities for improving their agriculture production and benefit from available resources. We also try to coordinate the complimentary team in the Arab world at regional and international levels.

I would like to express my appreciation for the coordination and cooperation between AOAD and FAO to serve our countries and give impetus to the agricultural development at all levels of the Arab world in order to face the food gap, which we suffer from, and the other challenges. The Arab agriculture is at a new era of development, and joint work to achieve the complementarity of the Arab agriculture at regional level is a future necessity.

The Arab leaders in the Riyadh Summit in 2007 approved the Strategy of Sustainable Development for the years 2005-2025, elaborated by the AOAD and adopted by the Assembly on the 29 May 2006. This strategy, the first at the Arab level, shows the interest of Arab leaders to promote its culture that is necessary for economic development. This Strategy aims to achieve in the next two decades a complementarity in the field of agriculture and have a common agricultural policy for providing food security and sustainable development and for settling rural communities, for which technologies and agro-business need to be developed, competitiveness of food and agriculture products improved, legislation and policies established and resources managed. This Strategy has multiple dimensions, requiring several partners to develop policies for our Regions, who should cooperate at the regional, Arab and international levels in order to ensure a successful environment.

FAO is a major partner among the Specialised Agencies concerned with the agricultural development of these countries, and we are sure that coordination and cooperation between our two organizations are essential for the implementation of the strategies adopted by the Executive Board of the AOAD. I would like to thank FAO and its Office for the Near East and North Africa for their response and cooperation with the AOAD by preparing for the first meeting to be convened in February 2008, under the auspices of the Arab League. I invite all the organizations and the regional institutions, who wish to participate in this meeting whose objective is to give impetus to the agriculture and development in the Arab world. Finally, I would like to reiterate my thanks to FAO for their invitation to participate in this Conference and for their cooperation with us.

High-Level Special Event on Forests and Energy
Événement spécial de haut niveau sur les Forêts et l'Énergie
Acto Especial de Alto Nivel sobre Bosques y Energía

PRESIDENTE

Señores Delegados, en el día de ayer se desarrollaron dos eventos paralelos a esta reunión, y he pedido para que el Sub-director General del Departamento Forestal y el Asesor Principal de la División del Centro de Inversiones, nos presenten sus informes. Son apenas cinco minutos cada uno.

Jan HEINO (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

The High-Level Special Event on Forests and Energy that took place yesterday in the Green Room was addressed by H.E. Pedro Verona Rodrigues Pires, President of the Republic of Cape Verde, who delivered a keynote speech after the opening by the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf. The Event was chaired by H.E. Henri Djombo, Minister for Forestry of the Republic of Congo and by H.E. Martins Roze, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia.

There were of 275 participants from approximately ninety FAO Member Nations. Let me share with you now the principal key issues that were addressed by the twenty-four delegations, some headed by Ministers, that requested the floor. The High-Level Special Event recognized that bio-energy has become a global strategic issue which increasingly affects economic, social and environmental conditions and has a potential to mitigate climate change; wood is the most important bio-fuel and an economically-and environmentally-efficient substitute for fossil fuels; there is, particularly in developing countries, a lack of information on wood used for fuel which hampers countries' decision-making on the sustainable use of this resource, and thus hinders an opportunity to mitigate climate change and strengthen their energy mix; and with growing population and increasing land allocation for the use of energy, trade-offs between forest, energy and agricultural use of land need to be carefully examined. To cope with the current and future challenges there is a need to assist FAO Members to develop and integrate bio-energy strategies in their national forest programmes and plans through capacity-building; enhance capacities of FAO Members for the use of alternative renewable energy sources, including hydropower, solar energy and bio-gas; increase the energy efficiency of wood combustion at household and industrial levels; make better use of post-consumer wood; consider the value of wood for other end-uses before using it for energy generation; build wood energy strategies based on sustainable forest management concepts; address bio-energy as a cross-sectoral issue and integrate energy in the forest, agriculture and other land use policies; coordinate bio-energy strategies with poverty eradication and poverty reduction policies; effectively disseminate research and development findings, technologies and know-how for the efficient and healthy energy use; avoid market distortions when promoting bio-energy; design systems of continuous check-ups and balances for production of bio-fuels to avoid negative impacts on the environment and well-being of the local communities; and finally, carefully consider food security and negative effects on the other sectors when designing and implementing incentives for the bio-fuel production.

High-Level Special Event on Financing of Agriculture
Événement spécial de haut niveau sur le financement de l'agriculture
Acto especial de alto nivel sobre la financiación de la agricultura

Michael WALES (FAO Staff)

Over two hundred delegates attended the Special Event, including Ministers. The Director-General delivered the welcoming address. He pointed out the lamentable decline in financing for agriculture over the last decade even though Official Development Assistance had increased substantially, and recalled that insufficient investment in agriculture is one of the main constraints

in increasing agricultural production. The Director-General presented figures showing the decline in allocations to agriculture by the main international financing institutions, and drew attention to the fact that although Foreign Direct Investment to developing countries had increased enormously over the last 20 years, agriculture's share of these investments was less than 1 per cent. He also highlighted that farmers themselves are the largest investors in the sector, with US\$18.6 billion invested in 2003.

Mr Tesfai Teclé, Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department, introduced the subject and the first keynote speaker. His Excellency Rupiah Banda, Vice-President of the Republic of Zambia delivered the first keynote address in the name of the President of the Republic, His Excellency Patrick Levy Mwanawasa. His Excellency the Vice-President outlined the constraints to financing agriculture in Zambia, in particular the difficulties of local financing institutions, and also listed some of the country's priorities for the sector, including support for fertilizer and crop marketing. He stated that Zambia had increased its allocation of the national budget to agriculture to 8.5 percent and aimed to meet the 10 percent target set by the Maputo Declaration. He stressed the importance of investment in agriculture in Africa, because this sector provides the livelihoods for the majority of the population. The Vice-President also referred to the importance of private sector initiatives and opportunities for public-private partnerships in the agriculture sector.

Mr Jerzy Bogdan Plewa, Deputy Director-General of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, delivered the second keynote speech. The Deputy Director-General reviewed the different financing channels employed by the European Union, and highlighted the fact that agriculture will receive greater attention under the Tenth European Development Fund, with some €3 billion for the sector, focusing on Africa. He also stated that improving aid effectiveness and donor coordination through mechanisms such as the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development was at the forefront of the European Union's political agenda.

The third keynote address was given by Mr Akinwumi Adesina, Vice President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). Referring to the recent release of the World Bank's World Development Report 2008, which focuses on agriculture, he called for innovative financing mechanisms to be found, especially for Africa. In this context, he gave examples of the impact that smart subsidies could have on agricultural production. Mr Adesina outlined how the AGRA, chaired by Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, with support from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, aims to catalyze a Green Revolution in the continent. He also pointed to the renewed political commitment in revitalizing agriculture in the continent reflected in the Maputo Declaration and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Einar Kristinn Guoðinnsson, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Iceland. The meeting was opened for discussion and representatives of thirteen delegations made interventions. Members thanked FAO for recognising the importance of financing of agriculture and for organizing the Special Event. The interventions emphasised the importance of the agriculture sector and the urgent need to secure increased funding from both domestic and external sources. The importance of investing in agriculture to achieve the Millennium Development Goal Number 1 was stressed. Several delegates raised the issue of the use of subsidies in order to boost agricultural production, and pointed to the positive impact that subsidies could have. Reference was made to the high-level of subsidies that benefit the agriculture sector in many developed countries. The meeting recognised the important role of Ministers of Finance in allocating resources for public investment in the sector. The utilisation of savings from debt relief measures had been allocated predominantly to the social sectors rather than to agriculture. Several delegates were keen to explore the ways in which resources under AGRA could be accessed and appealed for support. The need to be conscious of the environmental impacts of rapid intensification was also raised. Reference was also made to the

importance of ensuring that the cost of financing to farmers themselves was reduced and to enhance accessibility and reliability of loans.

PRESIDENTE

Terminado el "Examen del Estado de la Agricultura y de la Alimentación Mundial", quisiera anunciar que en la tarde de hoy y mañana en la mañana no tenemos sesión plenaria. Reiniciaremos las sesiones plenarias el día de mañana a las 3 de la tarde con temas diferentes que son Informes para aprobación. La Secretaria General quisiera informarles sobre el programa para la Audiencia Papal.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Audience will take place in the "Sala Clementina", in the Vatican, tomorrow at noon, 12:00 hrs. The door to the Sala will be closed at 11:30. Entrance to the Sala will be through the "Portone di Bronzo", on the right-hand side of St. Peter's Square, upon presentation of a Special Access Card. The cards are being distributed upon request at the desk marked "Papal Audience" in the Belgian Lounge, in the Main Entrance to the Plenary Hall, today from 9:00 hrs to 13:00 hrs, and in the afternoon from 14:30 to 17:30 hrs. A bus service will be provided, to and from the Vatican. Buses will leave FAO in front of building A at 10:30 hrs in the morning and will return at 13:00 hrs approximately.

The meeting rose at 12:55 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.55

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**

**EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING
HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

22 November 2007

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.12 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La Huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 12
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Vice-président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava novena sesión plenaria a las 15.12
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Vice-Presidente de la Conferencia

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS

17. Audited Accounts 2004-2005 (Draft Resolution) (C 2007/5 A; C 2007/5 B; C 2007/LIM/3)

17. Comptes vérifiés 2004-2005 (Projet de résolution) (C 2007/5 A; C 2007/5 B; C 2007/LIM/3)

17. Cuotas comprobadas de 2004-2005 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2007/5 A; C 2007/5 B; C 2007/LIM/3)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a continuar con los trabajos programados para esta tarde, durante la Novena Sesión Plenaria de la Conferencia. Vamos a tratar el Tema 17, Cuentas Comprobadas de 2004-05 los documentos relativos al tema son: C 2007/5 A; C 2007/5 B y C 2007/LIM/3.

Doy la bienvenida al Señor Khalid Mehboob, Sub-director General Interino del Departamento de Recursos Humanos, Financieros y Físicos, solicitando en lo presente el Tema de las Cuentas.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General ad interim, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources, AF)

The document C 2007/5 A contains the official financial statements of the Organization for the biennium 2004-2005, with the opinion of the External Auditor on the financial statements. Part B is the Report of the External Auditor, which normally is referred to as his long-form report.

I am pleased to inform distinguished delegates that as in previous biennia the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2004-2005 financial statements of the Organization. The results and official accounts of this biennium were examined by the Finance Committee at its September 2006 Session and by the Council in 2006. The audited accounts of the previous biennium are now before you for adoption by approval of the the Draft Resolutions submitted by the Council in document C 2007/LIM/3.

The recommendations in the report of the External Auditor are in large part implemented and are regularly reported to the Finance Committee. The process is that at every Session of the Finance Committee, we give a status report on the implementation of the recommendations, and that document also contains the comments of the External Auditor on the status we are reporting to the Finance Committee.

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Mr Chairperson, we are here to answer any questions which may arise.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias al Señor Sub-director General del Departamento de Administración y Finanzas. Pongo a consideración de los Señores Miembros de la Conferencia el Informe.

No hay observaciones. Considero entonces, aprobado el informe de Cuentas Comprobadas de 2004-2005. Con esto queda aprobado el Tema 17.

18. Scale of Contributions 2008-2009 (Draft Resolution) (C 2007/INF/11;
C 2007/LIM/5; C 2007/LIM/5-Corr.1)

18. Barème des contributions 2008-2009 (Projet de résolution) (C 2007/INF/11;
C 2007/LIM/5; C 2007/LIM/5-Corr.1)

18. Escala de cuotas para 2008-2009 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2007/INF/11;
C 2007/LIM/5; C 2007/LIM/5-Corr.1)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a pasar al Tema 18: Escala de Cuotas de 2008-2009. Llamo a los Señores Delegados a que los documentos a considerar son el: C 2007/LIM/5; que incluye un Proyecto de Resolución y el C 2007/LIM/5-Corr.1 que incluye la versión revisada de Escala de Cuotas derivadas de ingresos de Andorra y Montenegro como Estados Miembros de la Organización. Doy de nuevo la palabra al Señor Mehboob que nos presentará este Tema.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General ad interim, Department of Human, Financial and Physical Resources, AF)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO scale for the years 2008-2009, which has been derived directly from the UN Scale of Assessments adopted for the years 2007-2009, as established by General Assembly Resolution 61/237 adopted on 22nd December 2006.

The previous 2006-2007 FAO Scale is also set out for comparison purposes. The assessment rates of some Member Nations in the UN Scale are slightly lower than those in the FAO Scale, since there is a difference in Membership which requires a pro-rata increase in UN Assessment rates to arrive at the FAO Scale.

The Finance Committee reviewed the proposed Scale for 2008-2009 for FAO at its May Session this year and submitted it to the Council in June for endorsement.

The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council regarding the Scale of Contributions for 2008-2009 as revised to reflect the admission of new Members Andorra and Montenegro.

Diego SIMANCAS (México)⁴

Mi delegación se ha unido al consenso para continuar utilizando aquí en la FAO, la Escala de Cuotas ajustada que emana de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, a pesar de las reservas de mi país sobre la metodología utilizada para la elaboración de dicha Escala, habida cuenta del compromiso de México con la buena marcha de los trabajos de esta Organización. México presentó, en el marco de las Naciones Unidas, una propuesta de Metodología para la Elaboración de la Escala de Cuotas de los Estados Miembros.

Dadas las deficiencias que todavía muestra el actual sistema, mi país desea que en el futuro se retome la consideración de esta propuesta. Entre otras ventajas, esta fórmula corrige las distorsiones que afectan primordialmente a los países en desarrollo, al tomar en cuenta las diferencias que existen en los niveles de ingreso nacional de los Estados Miembros dentro de los parámetros que la Membresía ha acordado.

En la visión más amplia de nuestros debates, se ha demandado en múltiples ocasiones que las Naciones Unidas se actualicen y reflejen las realidades del mundo actual. Este reclamo no puede dejar de aplicarse a la cuestión de la Escala de Cuotas. Las contribuciones tienen que ser un reflejo nítido de la participación de cada Estado Miembro en el contexto global.

⁴ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Con la aprobación de la Escala de Cuotas para 2008-2009, México se consolida como el décimo mayor contribuyente en la Organización. Asimismo, la aportación de México es la primera en el ámbito de América Latina y el Caribe, participando con más de la mitad del total de las contribuciones de nuestra región.

Nos parece pertinente aportar estos datos para subrayar el alto interés que tiene mi país por asegurar que los programas del sistema se ajusten a prioridades bien definidas, a una funcionalidad evidente y clara en las tareas, con transparencia en el uso de los recursos financieros y que aquellas propuestas que impacten el monto presupuestario de la Organización estén formuladas con la seriedad y la responsabilidad debidas.

19. Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and other Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization (C 2007/LIM/17)

19. Paiement par la Communauté européenne des dépenses administratives et autres découlant de son statut de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2007/LIM/17)

19. Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización (C 2007/LIM/17)

PRESIDENTE

Pasamos al Tema 19. El Tema 19 sobre el Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización, se encuentran en el documento C 2007/LIM/17, Informe del Comité General aprobado el martes 20 de noviembre en la Sesión que tuvimos del Comité General. Creo que deberíamos dar por concluida la consideración del Tema 19, porque ya fue continuación de la reunión del Comité sometido el día martes a este Plenario y fue aprobado.

20. Other Administrative and Financial Matters

20. Autres questions administratives et financières

20. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

PRESIDENTE

Pasamos al Tema 20, relativo a Otros Asuntos Administrativos y Financieros. En vista de la aprobación del Segundo Informe del Comité General, la Conferencia aprobó y permitió a un Representante de los Órganos Representativos del Personal de la FAO que presente una declaración sobre el tema. Invito al Señor David Macfarlane, Presidente de la Asociación del Personal Profesional a subir al pódium a que a nombre de los tres Órganos Representativos del Personal presente una intervención a esta Asamblea.

David MCFARLANE (Président de l' Association Professionnelle des employés de la FAO)

À la fin de la guerre mondiale de nos pères, "The best and the brightest" se sont réunis avec de grands espoirs de construire un monde sans guerre, sans pauvreté et sans faim. Soixante ans plus tard, il y a toujours des guerres, des pauvres et des affamés. Pour cette raison, nous avons une dette aux fondateurs, une obligation de continuer à travailler ensemble et à réaliser la vision de leurs espoirs de mettre fin à la pauvreté et à la faim.

Continues in English

I speak on behalf of the three representative bodies: the Association of Professional Staff, the Field Staff Association and the Union of General Service Staff. We would like to thank the Director-General and yourself, Mr Chairperson, for this opportunity to address the Conference.

We want to make three points: Firstly, staff are committed, we want FAO to work. Secondly, we have a role to play: but, thirdly, there are obstacles to our effective contribution.

End hunger and poverty to make the world a better place – that is why you are here and that is what motivates your staff. The Independent External Evaluation (IEE) team heard from "talented and dedicated" employees, but they also found scepticism, cynicism and low morale. If FAO is going to respond effectively to your needs, it must deal with this. Recently, there was an on-line petition now signed by more than 900 people: Directors and Chiefs, General Service and Professionals, staff, retirees, from over 65 countries, all spontaneously trying to make their voice heard. And, we trust it will be listened to. I'll read just one comment written by one of the people who signed, representative, I think, of the commitment among us. He said: "I have spent 30 years of my life in the service of FAO, drawing inspiration and deep motivation from it. I would like to see FAO regain its role as the leading moral authority on food and agricultural development – and be recognised as such by its Member Nations and financial contributors."

In an organization based on the transfer of knowledge, staff are the most important asset. Because we know the Organization's work and we are neutral, we can be a pivotal resource in planning strategy and its implementation. We are eager to share our knowledge and experience to help shape the future of FAO, to be part of the process, and we individually and collectively already contribute to the objectives of the Organization. We want to be involved, we know we can contribute; too often, we have been ignored or sidelined.

The Report suggested a review of human resources management, which we support, and the Report calls for a change in the culture of the Organization. However good these intentions, there are obstacles to achieving them, and you have seen them in the Report: a lack of trust, risk aversion, little transparency in decision-making. There have to be standards which create the positive environment for improvement, in many areas, all of them based on mutual respect. All of us must be held accountable. Recruitment and promotion procedures have to be unbiased and clear. There has to be real communication both up and down the line. And, let us have a real gender balance target – 50/50. The UN Secretariat aims at that, so should FAO.

If the brave plan, to deliver from places closer to the need, is going to work, our Decentralized Offices have to have enough money and enough people. However, more attention must be given to human resource development outside Headquarters. You read the word Silos several times in the report. This means units which do not integrate their strategies, or do not work together. Your staff wants to work in an inter-disciplinary way, and we look forward to changes, which foster teamwork and learning. To do this, among other suggestions in the Report, easier rotation between Units, between Headquarters and Field and adequate focussed training for all are required.

The last obstacle that I want to mention, no less important, is the decrease in real budgets. What happened? Programmes stayed, but with less staff to do the same work – salami slicing, the evaluators called it but more like the death of thousand cuts, sometimes. Reducing the real budget does not work, if the work to do stays the same. There has to be real prioritization of programmes and sufficient funding for us to implement the programmes that you want. Lack of agreement on the scope and breadth of FAO programmes was highlighted in the Report. This is of great concern to staff, we cannot receive conflicting messages. You will decide the future of the Organization, and staff are ready to play their part in the next steps. But FAO needs resources to carry out your action plan. The Evaluation forcefully pointed out that there cannot be Reform without a budget; there also cannot be Reform without the involvement of everyone.

I hope to have illustrated what we set out to do, which was to convey the message that staff are committed and support Reform. We have an important role to play, but that there are numerous obstacles to overcome. I cannot perhaps finish better than with William Shakespeare who put these words in the mouth of a Roman, who walked the ground beneath our feet here two thousand years ago:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; on such a full sea are we now afloat, and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures".

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Señor Representante de las tres organizaciones del personal que trabaja en la FAO.

Permítanme Señores Delegados un cortísimo comentario, intentando interpretar el sentimiento de los 191 Estados Miembros de la FAO.

Para el personal de la FAO, voy a usar el término burocracia en el buen sentido de la palabra, no en forma despectiva. Las burocracias tienen dos alternativas, o pasar los años hasta jubilarse, o tener mística para trabajar y los obstáculos se superan con mística y con esfuerzo.

Señores Miembros, funcionarios de la FAO, yo quiero recordarles que hay 1 200 millones de pobres que comen una vez al día, que duermen sin cenar y que viven con un dólar. No sólo eso, en los países pobres hay profesionales que no tienen posibilidades de trabajar en su profesión y migran a ser lavadores de pisos en los países desarrollados. Hay burocracias privilegiadas y, por lo tanto, tienen la obligación de trabajar con más mística y con más esfuerzo, porque los 900 millones de hambrientos del mundo también ponen los ojos en estas burocracias que, o funcionan y trabajan para bien de ellos, o son siempre vistos en forma despectiva. Es un desafío que la burocracia haga de la FAO lo que tiene que ser, porque hay muchos, muchos profesionales que viven en condiciones poco humanas en el mundo pobre. Yo espero que no solamente los directivos de la FAO enrumben bien a la institución. Los funcionarios, los empleados y los que están en las delegaciones en los diferentes países, con mística, ayuden a los gobiernos a salir adelante.

High-Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety

Événement spécial de haut niveau sur la qualité et la sécurité sanitaire des aliments

Acto especial de alto nivel sobre calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos

Pasamos al siguiente tema: Eventos Especiales de Alto Nivel.

Ofrezco la palabra al Señor José María Sumpsi, Subdirector General del Departamento de Agricultura y Protección del Consumidor, quien presentará un resumen de los debates del Evento Especial de Alto Nivel, sobre la Calidad y la inocuidad de los alimentos, celebrado el día de ayer en la Sala Verde.

José María SUMPSI (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

This is a Report for High Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety.

I have the pleasure to report to you on the High Level Special Event on Food Quality and Safety that was held yesterday morning, Wednesday 21st of November 2007.

Delegations from fifty-seven countries and three NGOs, including five ministers, attended the event. In his introductory statement the Director-General of FAO highlighted the changing nature of food production and consumption, the increased public awareness of food safety and quality issues and the need for countries to continually improve their food control systems.

He referred to FAO's work in food safety and quality through the FAO/WHO/Codex Alimentarius Commission, the work of the expert bodies and the consultations that provides independent scientific advice and the technical assistance and capacity-building activities in support of developing countries efforts in this field.

His Excellency Mr Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea emphasised the importance of food safety for developing countries and the need to address the issue of low availability of food, along with food safety and quality in a comprehensive manner.

His Excellency highlighted the impact of climate change on food production, as well as the effects of increasing levels of urbanization on food distribution and consumption patterns. He called upon industrialized countries to increase the assistance to developing countries to improve food production and processing techniques and other technical support.

The Special Event was chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Yemen, Mr Ahmed Al-Hawshabi, who relayed the initiative taken by his country to strengthen food safety, including capacity-building efforts, increased information access, training and inclusion of consumers in the food safety decision-making process. The need for developing countries to improve food safety to gain access to food exports markets and thus increase national income levels was highlighted, too.

Mr Stuart Slorach, former Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission, outlined some of the major food safety challenges facing FAO Member Nations, including the changing food safety environment, new chemical assets, nanotechnology and antimicrobial resistance. The need to extend international cooperation in assessing merging food safety risks, as well as between FAO/WHO/Codex and OIE and IPPC was emphasised. He also underlined the need to provide more support for developing countries to accelerate development of their food safety systems for mutual benefit.

I presented the background document entitled "*Bridging the gap between food safety policies and implementation*" and noted that growing global focus on food safety is very important. I also emphasised that improving food safety was a key policy objective, but that translating such policy into practice was a major challenge. Examples of recent trends that exacerbate the challenges faced and experiences in food safety implementation in various countries and sub-sectors were given. Key implementation gaps and recommendations to bridging the gaps were presented. Delegates commended the document prepared by the Secretariat and thanked FAO for the opportunity to discuss this topic, as well as for FAO's ongoing work on food safety, capacity-building and standard-setting. One delegation noted that many Codex Members were facing difficulties to participate in all Codex meetings and stressed the need to enhance the participation of all Codex Members, especially the developing countries. He further proposed that improvements he made to the geographical distribution of Codex Committees to address this problem. Several delegations emphasised the need for continued capacity-building in food safety and quality, as well as strengthening the Codex Trust Fund to facilitate increased active participation of developing countries in the entire standard-setting process.

The need for FAO and WHO to continue to carry out food safety risk assessments on an international level was also underlined, as developing countries often do not have the resources to conduct this on their own. The importance of experts from developing countries participating in such risk assessments, and especially the importance of developing countries supplying that data for such panels was underlined, so that these assessments reflect the conditions in developing countries. Several delegations noted the ongoing activities in their country to improve food safety and quality, particularly those involving FAO. Several other countries made a specific request for FAO's assistance in institutional-building, as well as in capacity-strengthening in this field. The need to extend capacity and food safety at a regional and sub-regional level was also emphasised. Some delegates referred to the growing importance and number of private standards in food trade. It was noted that many food importers enforced much stricter standards than the internationally-agreed Codex standards, making it difficult for developing countries to access the markets. The continuing need for increased collaboration between FAO/WHO/OIE/ILO and UNIDO in standards related to food trade was also noted.

The meeting was informed of Codex work in the area of food derived from modern biotechnology, including the adopted guidelines on the conduct of safety assessment of such food in 2003, that FAO is currently establishing a database to provide access to information on such safety assessments conducted at a national level. The meeting was also informed that all recommendations of the 2002 Joint Evaluation of Codex and FAO/WHO food standard work have mostly been implemented, and that the review of the Codex Committee structure is currently

underway. The FAO Secretariat noted the increasing number of requests for FAO technical assistance, and the need for FAO to also elevate such assistance.

The rising importance of the food safety and quality programme within FAO was also emphasized. The Secretariat noted that countries can request technical assistance from FAO through the Technical Cooperation Programme or by directly seeking support from donor agencies within their countries. It was noted that such projects could be prepared and conducted with the technical advice of FAO through various other funding agencies, such as the Standards and Trade Development Facility. The importance of involving the private sector in improving food safety and quality was underlined.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias por el informe del Señor José María Sumpsi.

High-Level Special Event on Aid for Trade and Food Security Événement spécial de haut niveau sur l'aide au commerce et à la sécurité alimentaire Acto especial de alto nivel sobre ayuda para el comercio y seguridad alimentaria

PRESIDENTE

El Sub-director General del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Social nos presentará un resumen de los debates del Evento Especial de Alto Nivel sobre la Ayuda para el Comercio y la Seguridad Alimentaria. También tuvo lugar el día de ayer en el Salón Verde. La palabra para el Señor Hafez Ghanem. Por favor.

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

The High-Level Special Event on Aid for Trade and Food Security that took place yesterday in the Green Room was addressed by His Excellency Bingu wa Mutharika, President of Malawi, who delivered the keynote speech after the opening of the Director-General of FAO, Mr. Jacques Diouf. The Session was co-chaired by His Excellency Ernest Akobour Debrah, Minister for Food and Agriculture of Ghana and His Excellency Robert Montgomery Persaud, Minister for Agriculture of Guyana. The Event was attended by many participants representing several FAO Member Nations, eight delegations, including seven Ministers made interventions.

I would like just to give you the main conclusions of this High-Level Special Event and they can be summarized in six points. The first point is that all participants agreed that it was an important Symposium and that because Aid for Trade's new initiative that required careful deliberations and planning in order to move the process forward. This Special Event was also very timely in view of the First Global Review of the Aid for Trade initiative that has been taking in place in Geneva this week.

Second, we all agreed that trade liberalization can lead to immense, potential gains in income and welfare. Political analyses that were presented at the High-Level Special Event and discussed showed that global gains from complete trade liberalization are of the order of US\$100 to US\$300 billion every year, of which 64 percent arise from agriculture trade liberalisation, and about 30 percent of those gains would accrue to the developing countries.

The third point made by the Symposium is that those are all potential gains, but many developing countries, and especially the least developed countries, are not in a position to realize those gains, because of lack of supplies and capacity and other binding constraints. Hence, Aid for Trade is critical, as it is not just enough to liberalize trade. We need to instead work together to ensure that developing countries can benefit and seize the opportunities that the trade liberalisation offers.

The fourth point made by the Symposium is that for the vast majority of developing countries, agriculture and the rural sectors are keys to economic growth, poverty alleviation and the reduction of hunger, and therefore agriculture has to be a core component of the Aid for Trade initiative.

The fifth point is that, in view of importance of trade in agricultural products, FAO has a substantive role to play towards implementing the Trade for Aid initiative. The following five areas require priority attention by FAO under the initiative for the agricultural sector: technology transfer and utilization, policies for rural infrastructure development, water banishment strategies, technical standards of products and, finally, trade negotiations and trade policy analysis for the agricultural sector.

Finally, the sixth point is that everyone agreed that the key challenge ahead is delivering on this promise, namely implementing the Aid for Trade programme, which has to be done without any delay and it has to be done in a socially-responsible manner, also taking account of gender implications.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)

NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)

NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

Appointments

Nominations

Nombramientos

23.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 2007/6)

23.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel (C 2007/6)

23.2 Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 2007/6)

PRESIDENTE

Tema 23.2 Nombramiento de los Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal.

Doy la palabra al Señor Tony Alonzi, quien nos presentará el informe sobre las candidaturas.

Tony ALONZI (Director, Human Resources Management Division)

You have before you Document C 2007/6 entitled "*Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*". The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits, for the staff of the United Nations Organizations, such as FAO. It is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and Staff Pension Committees in each of the member Organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose Members and Alternate Members are chosen by the Governing Bodies, the Executive Heads of the Organizations and the participating staff of each Organization.

In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints 3 of the 9 Members and 3 of the 9 Alternate Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee. It is brought to the attention of the Conference, that only the Conference has the authority to appoint its Members and Alternate Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members, representing the FAO Conference, on the Staff Pension Committee. Mr Mario Gustavo Mottin, Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, to replace and complete the term of Mr Saulo Ceolin, Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, which ends on 31 December 2008. Mr Ibrahim Abu Atila, Alternate Permanent Representative of Jordan to FAO, to replace and complete the term of Mr Hassan Abi Akar,

Alternate Permanent Representative of Lebanon to FAO, which ends on 31 December 2008. Mr Kiala Kia Mateva, Alternate Permanent Representative of Angola to FAO, to replace and complete the term of Mr Kabelo Gilbert Mafura, Alternate Permanent Representative of Lesotho to FAO, which ends on 31 December 2009.

Additionally, for the period starting 1 January 2008, to 31 December 2010, the following appointments are being proposed. Mr Leslie deGraffenried, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO, as Member. Ms Natalie Feistritz, Permanent Representative of Austria to FAO, as Alternate Member, and for the period starting 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2011, the following appointments are being proposed. Mr Ibrahim Abu Atila, Alternate Permanent Representative of Jordan to FAO, as Member and Mr Mario Gustavo Mottin, Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO, as Alternate Member.

The Conference may wish to consider these candidatures and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become Members and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

PRESIDENTE

Esté en consideración de los Señores Miembros de la Conferencia, las listas de los candidatos presentadas para ser los representantes del Comité de Pensiones del Personal.

Si no hay observaciones, queda designada la lista que ha sido presentada para principales y suplentes.

Hemos terminado el Tema 23.2.

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a tratar el Tema 25.6 In Memoriam, en el que la Conferencia va a rendir tributo al personal de la Organización que ha fallecido en servicio desde la Conferencia anterior a esta fecha.

La Secretaria, Señora Williams nos presentará la lista de las personas que fallecieron en este período. Por favor.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Staff Members who died while in service since the last Session of the Conference are: Ms. Tanya Alexander, Mr Ika Manase Niuafe Felemi, Ms Florence Kabwa, Mr Antonio Mallozzi, Ms Kitnesh Wolde-Hanna.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Señora Williams. Pido a los Distinguidos Delegados que se pongan de pie y guarden un minuto de silencio por las personas fallecidas.

One minute of silence

Une minute de silence

Un minuto de silencio

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias a los Señores Delegados.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)
AUTRES QUESTIONS (suite)
OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

24. Date and Place of the Thirty-fifth Conference Session
24. Date et lieu de la trente-cinquième session de la Conférence
24. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 35º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Tema 24. Fecha y lugar de la celebración del Trigésimo Quinto período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

Debemos decidir el lugar y la fecha de la próxima Conferencia, la Trigésimo Quinta.

Solicito a la Secretaria General que presente la propuesta correspondiente.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

It is proposed that the next Session of the Conference, which will be a Special Session, be held from Monday, 17 to Saturday, 22 November 2008, at FAO Headquarters.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias a la Secretaría.

La fecha sería entre el 17 y el 22 de noviembre del próximo año, aquí en la Sede de la FAO.

En consideración.

Está aprobada la sede y la fecha.

PRESIDENTE

Señores Delegados, tenemos dos temas complementarios para terminar esta Sesión. Sin embargo, debido al corto tiempo del que disponemos para una y otra reunión, el Comité General se reunió a las 14.30 para aprobar dos temas que tienen que ser puestos a la consideración de ustedes.

Están siendo redactados y traducidos a todos los idiomas, para poder ser repartidos y puestos a consideración de ustedes.

Tomaremos un receso de 20 minutos para reinstalar la Sesión y aprobar esos dos Temas.

The meeting was suspended

La séance est suspendue

Se suspende la sesión

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS (continuación)

20. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
20. Autres questions administratives et financières
20. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

PRESIDENTE

Continuamos con la Sesión de la Asamblea, Señores Delegados.

Antes de los dos últimos puntos que estaban previstos, voy a conceder la palabra a tres países, por lo siguiente: en el Tema 20, otros Asuntos Administrativos y Financieros, un representante de los funcionarios y empleados presentó un informe. Era solamente la presentación de informe sin debate. Sin embargo, creo que un pequeño baño de democracia no está por demás y tres países quieren hacer una corta intervención sobre el tema.

Doy la palabra al Representante de Panamá, luego Gabón y luego Kuwait.

El Representante de Panamá, unos cortos minutos por favor.

Eudoro Jaén ESQUIVEL (Panamá)

Hemos escuchado con mucho interés las declaraciones de los sindicatos del personal de la FAO. En nuestra opinión, el solo hecho de que usted les haya concedido el uso de la palabra, representa, sin lugar a dudas, una prueba tangible de la transparencia y la democracia que existe en esta Organización. Y es que, en efecto, el personal de la FAO siempre ha tenido la posibilidad de dirigirse, a través de este mecanismo, al Órgano más alto y representativo de nuestra Organización, es decir, mediante la Conferencia.

Para nosotros, Señor Presidente, resulta obvio que dicha declaración no es tema de discusión. Sin embargo, hemos considerado oportuno tomar nota, con satisfacción y aprecio, de una contribución tan significativa y positiva. Se refleja así la dedicación del personal, lo mismo que su empeño en la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo.

Como Representantes de los Estados Miembros, también nosotros conocemos cómo funcionan las cosas en nuestra Organización en lo que respecta a la asunción del personal, así como la transparencia con la cual el Director General se empeña siempre para aplicar las decisiones emanadas de la Conferencia. En este contexto, estimamos imprescindible recordar aquí y congratularnos por el hecho de que la politización es un factor extraño en esta Organización.

A manera de conclusión, deseamos recordar también los tres factores que rigen a la FAO, a saber:

1. Que son los Estados Miembros quienes indican las políticas a seguir para alcanzar los objetivos fijados, a través de sus Órganos Rectores.
2. Que la administración es conducida por el Director General, al cual hemos otorgado la responsabilidad y los medios para aplicar las políticas que hemos definido. Aunque estos medios, dicho sea de paso, casi siempre están por debajo de los que se requieren para la lucha contra el hambre en el mundo.
3. Que el personal, bajo la responsabilidad y control del Director General, quien los nombra teniendo en cuenta los criterios que los Estados Miembros han fijado y según el Artículo VIII de los Textos Básicos, considerando también los altos estándares de eficiencia y competencia técnica, asumiendo al personal sobre la base de una equa representación geográfica.

Por último, y por lo que nos concierne, deseamos reiterar nuestro pleno apoyo y confianza al Director General en lo que se refiere a la aplicación de las políticas de asunción del personal.

Noël BAÏOT (Gabon)

Le groupe africain soutien la déclaration, donc du Groupe des 77 qui prendra la parole après le Gabon, mais je voudrais saisir cette occasion pour dire à Monsieur le Président il est toujours plus facile de gérer de l'argent que de gérer le êtres humains. Je profite de cette occasion pour réitérer donc la confiance du Groupe africain et son plein appui au Directeur Général pour la manière dont il s'acquitte des responsabilités et dont il met en œuvre notamment la politique, l'organisation en matière de recrutement du personnel. Tel que défini par la Conférence de 2003, nous demandons de continuer sur cette voix et si des doutes subsistent, Monsieur le Président, ce serait peut-être indiqué ou de bon ton de clarifier cette situation.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Representante de Gabón.

Tiene la palabra el Representante de Kuwait y pasamos a los temas de la Agenda.

Tariq KAZEMI (Kuwait)

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of the G77 and China. We would like to seize this opportunity to support the efforts that FAO has made in implementing the Organization's policy of recruitment.

We would like to stress the importance of fair geographical distribution and gender equality when it comes to recruiting staff in an Organization such as this. However, there is still much to be done. Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Near East have much to offer this Organization, yet the G77 Regional Groups in FAO are still under-represented.

This issue was defined by the Conference in 2003 and the G77 were primary actors at that time, highlighting this sensitive issue and pushing action forward. We congratulate FAO on what has been achieved in this regard, but we urge the Organization to push forward and continue on the path it has set.

Second Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2007/LIM/21-Rev.1)**Deuxième rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2007/LIM/21-Rev.1)****Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2007/LIM/21-Rev.1)****PRESIDENTE**

Gracias por las tres intervenciones que reflejan el pensamiento de una Asamblea apoyando a la estructura de la Institución y a su Director General.

Procedemos a aprobar el Segundo Informe del Comité de Credenciales.

Voy a ofrecer la palabra al Señor Noël Baïot de Gabón, Presidente del Comité de Credenciales para que nos presente el informe. Por favor Sr. Baïot.

Noël BAÏOT (Président de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs)

Je voudrais tout d'abord m'excuser pour les problèmes techniques qui se sont posés pour la mise à disposition des documents, mais je peux vous assurer que le travail a été fait, Monsieur le Président.

Je rappellerai ici les règles de base qui concernent cette Commission de vérification des pouvoirs. La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a été informée de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'organisation concernant les délégations et pouvoirs, ainsi que des usages et critères que respecte l'organisation en matière d'acceptation des pouvoirs, conformément aux usages de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies dans ce domaine. Conformément au paragraphe 2 de l'article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation et aux critères suivis par la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs lors de sa précédente session, la Commission a examiné le pouvoir où les renseignements que le Directeur Général a reçu au sujet de la composition des délégations figurant sur les listes ci-jointes. La Liste A comprend désormais 139 Membres, mais il convient

de souligner, Monsieur le Président, comme vous le disiez tantôt que nous sommes en démocratie, je voudrais rappeler ici que ces Listes ont été dressées à onze heures ce matin et donc, depuis cette heure de clôture des listes, nous avons enregistré à nouveau certains pouvoirs de certains pays dont les noms suivent.

Il s'agit notamment de l'Ethiopie, du Burundi et du Tchad, ce qui fait un compte de 142 Membres, et vous voudrez bien à nouveau nous excuser de ces dossiers de pouvoirs que nous avons reçus après l'heure de clôture.

En ce qui concerne la Liste B, nous avons enregistré 33 Membres, dont le pouvoir a été considéré comme de simples renseignements sur la composition de leurs délégations. 15 Membres ont informé le Directeur Général de leur intention de ne pas assister à la Conférence et 6 autres n'ont fourni aucune indication quant à leur participation ou à leur représentation à la Session de la Conférence.

La Commission recommande à la Conférence que les pouvoirs des délégations des pays figurant sur les deux Listes soient acceptés étant entendu que le pouvoir officiel des délégations figurant sur la Liste B sera communiqué dès que possible au Directeur Général et que toutes les délégations seront autorisées à participer pleinement aux travaux de la Session de la Conférence.

Pour ce faire, Monsieur le Président, avant de terminer mon propos sur ce rapport, afin d'assurer la bonne marche des travaux, je propose une dérogation pour qui aurait des observations à faire sur les pouvoirs ou sur les listes annexées au rapport et de bien vouloir les communiquer directement au Secrétariat.

PRESIDENTE

¿Hay algún comentario al informe de la Comisión de Credenciales?

Queda aprobado el Segundo Informe de la Comisión de Credenciales.

Agradezco al Presidente y a los Miembros de la Comisión.

El Delegado de Etiopía tiene la palabra.

Abreha Gebray ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

My delegation does not have anything against the Credentials Committee but we wish to express our disappointment with the Protocol Department. The Credentials were sent one week ago and they were accepted, but then Protocol asked for some points to be added, and that was done, so they should have requested this information from the very beginning.

PRESIDENTE

A nombre de la Comisión mil disculpas por esta pequeña falla administrativa y operativa. Tiene razón en su reclamo el Representante de Etiopía, pero se le ha ya incorporado en la Lista. Se ha corregido el error. Pedimos mil disculpas al país por el error cometido. Muchas gracias.

Chad tiene la palabra.

Haroun Kabadi (Tchad)

Merci beaucoup Monsieur le Président, je voudrais juste féliciter la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs de réajuster les choses pour nous permettre d'être sur la Liste "A" et cela, je crois c'est une réparation qui nous agrée parfaitement.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias por la comprensión y el agradecimiento.

Fourth Report of the General Committee (C 2007/LIM/20)

Quatrième rapport du Bureau (C 2007/LIM/20)

Cuarto Informe del Comité General (C 2007/LIM/20)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a continuar. Vamos a tomar conocimiento del Cuarto Informe del Comité General. Está expresado en el documento C 2007/LIM/20. Hay un solo tema, la recomendación del Comité General que se restablezcan los derechos de voto de Liberia, con arreglo a lo dispuesto en el Artículo III.4 de la Constitución de la FAO.

Está en consideración la inclusión de Liberia con derecho a voto.

Si no hay ningún comentario queda aprobado.

PRESIDENTE

Señores Delegados, antes de clausurar esta sesión quiero pedirles que el día de mañana que se comienza a las 9:30, seamos lo más puntuales posible. Necesitamos para mañana no menos de 100 delegaciones presentes, porque el primer y segundo puntos del Orden del Día se tratarán de la inclusión del idioma ruso entre los idiomas oficiales de la FAO y para la reforma de los Estatutos se requiere de las dos terceras partes de los presentes y de un quórum mínimo de 96 delegados. Les ruego acompañarnos rindiendo así un homenaje a la Asamblea en sí, a la FAO en sí y al nuevo país que incorporará su idioma, si es que así lo aceptamos, a la Federación Rusa.

Muchas gracias, ha concluido la sesión, agradezco a ustedes y convoco para el día de mañana.

The meeting rose at 16.35 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.35

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-fourth Session Trente-quatrième session 34º período de sesiones
Rome, 17 November – 24 November 20075 Rome, 17 novembre – 24 novembre 2007 Roma, 17 de noviembre – 24 de noviembre de 2007
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE NONA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2007

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:18 hours
Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 18
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la nona sesión plenaria a las 10.18
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

El día de ayer las Comisiones han trabajado hasta las 3.30 horas y 4.00 horas de la mañana, especialmente la Comisión II que tiene que ver con el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto. Es por eso la demora en iniciar la Sesión. Mi costumbre siempre ha sido la puntualidad, pero en este caso debemos respetar el hecho de que hasta la madrugada tenían discusiones sobre el tema de Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto.

Por esa razón esta Comisión II no terminó el trabajo. Hoy, luego de instalada la Sesión Plenaria, pasaré la presidencia a la Comisión II para que en esta misma sala presenten el Informe, lo tramiten y lo aprueben, luego yo retomaré la Sesión Plenaria para someter al pleno la consideración de este tema.

Están terminando una negociación final sobre el tema del presupuesto y por esto pido a los señores delegados un poco de comprensión. No es responsabilidad de esta presidencia, en 15 minutos trataremos de iniciar la Sesión.

The meeting was suspended from 10.18 to 10.52 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10.18 à 10 h 52

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.18 a las 10.52

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, un minuto de atención por favor. Parece que por fin nos acercamos a tener un procedimiento rápido para la sesión. Vamos a tener 10 minutos más antes del próximo llamado. Los presidentes de las cuatro regiones del Grupo G77, GRULAC, Asia, África y Cercano Oriente se reunirán en la sala del G77 en el primer piso por diez minutos para tomar la última decisión. Por este medio se les avisa que, con ellos o sin ellos, la Sesión Plenaria de la Conferencia se abrirá puntualmente a las 11:00 horas.

The meeting was suspended from 10.53 to 11.05 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10.53 à 11 h 05

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.53 a las 11.05

PRESIDENTE

Distinguidos amigos delegados, nuevamente, mil disculpas por esta hora y media de retraso que hemos tenido que esperar en forma no voluntaria por parte de la Presidencia y la Dirección de la Sesión.

Por las razones conocidas y para esperar el final del Informe, hemos hecho una modificación a la Orden del Día, con los siguientes cambios. Trataremos los temas en este orden:

Tema 16.1: Simplificación de las Normas relativas a la Composición de los Comités Abiertos del Consejo de la FAO;

Tema 16.2: Enmiendas a las Normas Generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Tema 13, el que nos ocupa: Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2008-2009.

Tema 15: Adopción del Idioma Ruso en la FAO.

Si no hay observación a la Orden del Día en esa forma, queda aprobado y empezamos con el Tema 16.1.

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS (continuación)

16. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
16. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
16. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

16.1 Streamlining of Membership Rules of the Open Committees of the FAO Council (Amendments to the General Rules of the Organization) (Draft Resolution (C 2007/LIM/1)

16.1 Rationalisation des règles d'adhésion aux comités dits « ouverts » du Conseil de la FAO (Amendements au Règlement général de l'Organisation) (Projet de résolution) (C 2007/LIM/1)

16.1 Simplificación de las normas relativas a la composición de los comités abierto del Consejo de la FAO (Enmiendas del RGO) (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2007/LIM/1)

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, el Tema 16.1 trata la Simplificación de las Normas Relativas a la Composición de los Comités Abiertos del Consejo de la FAO. Pido a los señores delegados de asegurarse de tener el documento C 2007/LIM/1 a mano, el cual contiene un Proyecto de Resolución para modificar el requerimiento de notificación bienal de deseo de formar parte de los Comités Abiertos del Consejo de la FAO del Reglamento General actualmente en vigor. Esta regla ha dado lugar a procedimientos administrativos lentos y engorrosos, que no aportan ningún valor añadido a la labor sustantiva de los Comités.

Voy a invitar al Sr. Asesor Jurídico que nos dé una explicación para que podamos tomar las decisiones correspondientes.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document which is now before this Plenary Meeting of the Conference is, as you said, document C 2007/LIM/ 1, entitled Streamlining of the Membership Rules of the Open Committees of the FAO Council. This document is an extract of the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-first Session of the Council in November 2006. It contains a Draft Resolution amending various rules of the General Rules of the Organization, for adoption by the Conference.

The Open Committees of the Council are the Committee on Commodity Problems, the Committee on Fisheries, the Committee on Forestry, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on World Food Security. Under the current rules of the General Rules of the Organization regarding Membership of these Committees, biennial Notification of Membership is required. Membership expires at the end of each biennium. This is a cumbersome and time-consuming procedure which, as you said, does not seem to offer any added value to the work of the Committees. In order to streamline existing procedures, it has been proposed that Notification of Membership could be made at any time, and that such notification should remain valid either until the Member has notified withdrawal, or if it has not been represented at two consecutive Sessions of the Committee concerned. This matter, which is of a consensual nature, was referred to the Committee on Constitution on Legal Matters at its 80th Session in October 2006. On that occasion, the CCLM reviewed the draft Conference Resolution. The draft Conference Resolution was endorsed by the Council, at its Hundred and Thirty-first Session in November 2006 and is now before you, at this Conference, for approval.

I will now say a few words regarding the procedure to be followed for the amendments of the General Rules. The General Rules of the Organization may be amended by a two-thirds majority

of the votes cast at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference. Under Rule XII, paragraph 7(a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote – that is a vote where the names of the Member Nations are recorded – shall be taken when a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. “Votes cast” means affirmative and negative votes, and shall not include abstentions. When a two-thirds majority of votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Members of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and against must be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

Therefore, the proposed resolution amending Rules XXIX.2, XXX.2, XXXI.2, XXXII.2 and XXXIII.2, which are all the rules dealing with the so-called Open Committees that I mentioned before, is before the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General of the Conference will provide additional information on practical modalities of the vote to be taken.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias por la información proporcionada por el Sr. Asesor Jurídico. A pesar de que ya se nos ha explicado el sistema de votación, por tratarse de un tema delicado ya que se trata de una votación especial en la que tienen que haber 96 votos registrados positivos o negativos, voy a pedir que la Secretaría que ratifique nuevamente el procedimiento.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Under Rule XII, Paragraph 7(a) and Paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote – that is, a vote which records the names of the Member Nations – shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase "votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

Could I ask all delegates present in the room to press the green button on their desk. The green button is the one on the left of the yellow and red buttons. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

The vote is open, please press.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

Una vez constatado el quórum, ruego a la Secretaria continuar con el procedimiento, hasta el final, momento de anunciar los votos obtenidos. Por favour, la Secretaria.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am advised that there are at least 120 delegations present in the hall. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in document C 2007/LIM/1. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them: green, if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. I repeat, green if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. Please vote now. The vote is open.

PRESIDENTE

Hay que votar: verde a favor; rojo en contra; amarillo abstención. Votación.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates, I wish to repeat, green if you wish to vote in favour, red, if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. Please vote.

Distinguished delegates, I shall now read the result sheets. Number of votes cast - 118; majority required - 96; votes for – 118; votes against - zero; abstentions 3. That is the result of the vote.



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DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
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23/11/2007
11:18:09

Vote on: Item 16.1. Streamlining of the Membership Rules of the Open Committees of the FAO Council
Vote sur: Point 16.1. Rationalisation des règles d'adhésion aux comités dits « ouverts » du Conseil de la FAO
Votacion para: Tema 16.1. Simplificación de las normas relativas a la composición de los Comités abiertos del Consejo de la FAO

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	118
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	118
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	3
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	48

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BELARUS REPUBLIC OF, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MOLDOVA REPUBLIC OF, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, TOGO, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: DOMINICA, IRAN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: ANGOLA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BHUTAN, BURKINA FASO, CHILE, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA,
Aulcune Response: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DJIBOUTI, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GAMBIA, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL,
Ninguna Respuesta: KUWAIT, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALI, MAURITIUS, MICRONESIA FEDERATES STATES OF, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PORTUGAL, RWANDA, SAMOA, SEYCHELLES, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, TIMOR LESTE, TUVALU, UNITED KINGDOM, VENEZUELA, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

PRESIDENTE

Con 118 votos a favor, ha sido aprobada la Resolución y hemos terminado el Tema 16.1.

Gracias Señores delegados.

16.2 Amendments to the General Regulations of WFP (C 2007/LIM/16)

16.2 Amendements aux Règles générales du PAM (C 2007/LIM/16)

16.2 Enmiendas a las Normas Generales del PMA (C 2007/LIM/16)

Pasamos a considerar el Tema 16.2. Enmiendas a las Normas Generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos.

Debo señalar que el Consejo durante su 132º Periodo de Sesiones aprobó enmiendas a las Normas Generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, y solicito se enviaran a la Conferencia de la FAO para su aprobación durante este periodo de sesiones. Dichas enmiendas se encuentran en el documento que ustedes tienen en sus manos, C 2007/LIM/16.

Por favor al Asesor Jurídico una explicación del contenido del documento, gracias.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you said Mr. Chairperson, the document which is now before the Plenary Meeting of the Conference is 2007/LIM/16 is an extract of the Report of the Hundred and Thirty-second Session of the Council in June 2007, which contains amendments to Article VI and XIV of the General Regulations of WFP.

At that session, the Council endorsed the proposed amendments and forwarded them to this Session of the Conference, for approval.

On the substance, the proposed amendments recommended by the Executive Board of WFP are intended to reflect the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards at WFP.

Article XV, paragraph 2 of the General Regulations of the Programme provides that the Executive Board may recommend amendments to the General Regulations, through the Economic and Social Council of the UN and the Council of FAO.

Paragraph 1 of Article XV provides that amendments to the General Regulations are approved then by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the FAO Conference.

As the World Food Programme is a joint autonomous subsidiary programme of the United Nations and FAO, there is a need for a parallel process of approval of the amendments by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Conference of FAO.

We understand that next month the General Assembly of the United Nations is also due to approve the amendments that are now before the Conference.

The Plenary Meeting of the Conference is invited to adopt the amendments to the General Regulations of the World Food Programme. These amendments may be adopted by general consent. There is no requirement of a vote. The Conference therefore may adopt them by general consent.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias Sr. Asesor Jurídico. Si algún delegado tiene algún comentario sobre el documento que estamos analizando puede hacer uso de la palabra.

Considero entonces que el documento queda aprobado. Las enmiendas a las normas generales del Programa Mundial de Alimentos del documento C 2007/LIM/16 quedan aprobadas. Queda así aprobado el documento. Felicitaciones.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS
QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET
CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS

13. Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 (Draft Resolution)

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14)

13. Programme de travail et budget 2008-2009 (Projet de résolution)

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14)

13. Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2008-2009 (Proyecto de resolución)

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14)

PRESIDENTE

Ahora vamos a tratar el Tema en Plenaria sobre el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto. Gracias al Embajador Arvelo Caamaño por la rápida conducción de la Sesión de la Comisión II, pero que quede claro que la Comisión II ha trabajado en pleno, y el pleno de la Comisión II ha aprobado, tanto el Programa de Trabajo como el Presupuesto. Lo que nos queda es, en la Sesión Plenaria de esta Conferencia, ratificar esta aprobación y por eso voy a someter a consideración de los señores delegados.

Doy la palabra a la Sra. Williams para que nos pueda explicar cómo vamos a votar esta ratificación, aprobada por la Comisión del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2008-2009. Por favor, Secretaría.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with Article 18, paragraph 5 of the Constitution, the adoption of this Draft Resolution on the Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 requires a vote at the two-thirds majority of the votes cast, under rule 12 of paragraphs 7(a) and 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase "votes cast" means the affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions. When a two thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution of the General Rules of the Organization, the total number of the affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 96. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

I am advised that there are at least ninety-six delegations present in the hall. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them: green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow, if they wish to abstain.

Please vote now.

PRESIDENTE

Antes de comenzar la votación, pediría a la Secretaría que nos informe cuál va a ser el procedimiento y antes de entrar a la votación, a pesar de que por consenso total fue aprobada la Comisión. Portugal tiene la palabra.

Antonio DUARTE DE ALMEIDA PINHO (Portugal)

We have a problem now. In the European Union it is not easy to take decisions but we agreed yesterday, at four o'clock in the morning, a deal with the G77 but some details were not solved this morning, which we tried to solve but we have a problem and we, European Member States, cannot participate in this vote at this moment. We need a half-hour for a coordination meeting, so I ask you to suspend the meeting for half an hour because we need a coordination meeting. We are not prepared to vote at this moment because there is an issue. I should say that maybe we can solve it, but unfortunately we need to have this coordination meeting.

PRESIDENTE

En el entendimiento de que la Comisión II no había terminado el trabajo en la madrugada de hoy, demoramos una hora y media esperando los consensos. Hace diez minutos, un cuarto de hora, se reunió aquí en pleno la Comisión, presidida por el Embajador Arvelo.

Presentó la Comisión II, en pleno, los documentos. No tuvo ninguna observación y fue aprobado por aclamación por lo que pude ver. Si el pleno aprobó por aclamación en la Comisión, yo entiendo que en este momento haya preocupaciones y no tengo ningún inconveniente en suspender la reunión por 15 minutos, para que sea tratado cualquier pequeño desacuerdo en la Unión Europea.

En 15 minutos volveremos a la Sesión en el entendido de que la Comisión en pleno, sin ninguna observación, aprobó tanto el Programa de Trabajo como el Presupuesto, a no ser que en estos minutos de intervalo hubiera nuevos criterios por algunas de las delegaciones. Tomamos quince minutos de receso.

The meeting was suspended from 11.40 to 12.14 hours

La séance est suspendue de 11.40 à 12 h 14

Se suspende la sesión de las 11.40 a las 12.14

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (continuation)**QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET (suite)****CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS (continuación)****13. Programme of Work and Budget 2008-2009 (Draft Resolution)**

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14) (continuation)

13. Programme de travail et budget 2008-2009 (Projet de résolution)

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14) (suite)

13. Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2008-2009 (Proyecto de resolución)

(C 2007/3; C 2007/LIM/14) (continuación)

PRESIDENTE

Creo que democráticamente ampliamos los plazos y entiendo que se ha logrado un consenso sobre temas que estaban pendientes. Quiero recordarles que por unos minutos voy a conceder la palabra si alguien quisiera hacer una intervención. El momento en que se pase la palabra a la Secretaría para que nos indique el procedimiento a seguir, se dará inicio al proceso de votación y, de acuerdo con las normas internacionales, una vez iniciado el proceso de votación, no se puede suspender ni se pueden hacer intervenciones. Ahora doy la palabra si hubiera alguien que deseara hacer una intervención antes de iniciar la votación. Tiene la palabra Portugal.

Antonio DUARTE DE ALMEIDA PINHO (Portugal)

Just a short intervention to say that our break is related with our internal procedures which are not easy, and it was not our intention at all to block the vote on the budget as we have a relation

between the IEE process and the budget. That was why we needed other clarifications, but let me say that we are ready now to vote on the Programme of Work and Budget.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias a Portugal. Yo entiendo perfectamente bien. Estamos aquí para tomarnos el tiempo suficiente porque lo más importante para la FAO y los 192 países es que haya consenso en las decisiones que tomamos. Gracias al Representante de Portugal y como Representante de la Unión Europea. El Representante de los Estados Unidos de América tiene la palabra.

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)

I have just asked for a point of clarification on the statement that was just made that interventions will not be permitted after the vote. Is that correct?

PRESIDENTE

No, Señor delegado. Lo que he dicho es que de acuerdo con norma internacional, el momento de iniciada la votación y hasta que se termine la votación y se anuncien los resultados, no hay manera de hacer uso de la palabra. Una vez terminada la votación y anunciados los resultados, abriré nuevamente el debate y la posibilidad de intervenir. ¿Es clara la explicación? Muchas gracias. Si no hay ninguna intervención, solicito a la Secretaría que ahora provea las últimas instrucciones para la votación, compruebe el quórum y se someta a votación.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Could I respectfully request all delegates present in the room to press the green button on their desk, the green button is the one on the left of the yellow and red buttons. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

PRESIDENTE

Estamos comprobando el quórum pulsando el botón verde. Ciento asistentes, continúe Secretaria.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates are now requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them: green again if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green if you wish to vote in favour, red to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

La Secretaría anunciará los resultados.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The results of the votes are: number of votes cast: 126, majority required: 96, votes for: 122, votes against: 4, abstentions: 2



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Y LA ALIMENTACION

23/11/2007
12:19:27

Vote on: Item 13. Programme of Work and Budget 2008-09
Vote sur: Point 13. Programme de travail et budget 2008-09
Votacion para: Tema 13. Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto para 2008-09

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	126
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	122
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	4
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	2
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	41

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BELARUS REPUBLIC OF, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MOLDOVA REPUBLIC OF, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, RWANDA, SAN MARIÑO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against: CANADA, JAPAN, SWITZERLAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: AUSTRALIA, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: ANGOLA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BHUTAN, BURKINA FASO, CHILE, CROATIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DJIBOUTI, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS,
Aulcune Response: ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MAURITIUS,
Ninguna Respuesta: MICRONESIA FEDERATES STATES OF, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SAMOA, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, TIMOR LESTE, TUVALU, VENEZUELA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

PRESIDENTE

Con 122 votos favorables han sido aprobados el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto 2008-2009. Gracias en nombre de la Organización y de todos los Países Miembros que hacen parte de la Organización por la aprobación del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Como ofrecí anteriormente, si alguno de los países quiere hacer uso de la palabra sobre este tema que ha sido ya aprobado, está abierta la posibilidad de participar. El Delegado de Suiza tiene la palabra.

Hubert POFFET (Suisse)

La Suisse souhaite expliquer les raisons de son vote négatif. La Délégation Suisse a participé à la Conférence de la FAO avec un mandat de négociation stricte qui lui a été confié par son Gouvernement. La Suisse était prête à accepter une Croissance Réelle Zéro basée sur une augmentation de cinq pourcent du budget par rapport à l'exercice précédent. La marge de manœuvre limitée dont nous disposons ne nous a donc pas permis d'accepter le niveau du budget soumis au vote.

Monsieur le Président, la Suisse reste très attachée à la FAO. Elle est convaincue que l'Organisation doit continuer à pouvoir jouer un rôle essentiel dans la lutte contre la faim et pour la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement.

La Délégation Suisse a, en outre, toujours insisté au cours de cette Conférence sur le lien très étroit entre les questions de budget et les questions de réformes. Comme elle a déjà eu souvent l'occasion de le dire, la Suisse considère que l'état actuel de la FAO exige des réformes profondes et rapides. La Suisse adhère pleinement à l'esprit des recommandations des évaluateurs indépendants, en particulier à la notion d'une Réforme accompagnée de Croissance. Le Gouvernement Suisse sera sans doute en mesure d'adopter une position beaucoup plus positive en matière budgétaire lorsque la FAO l'aura convaincu de sa capacité et de sa volonté à mettre en œuvre rapidement les recommandations de l'Evaluation Externe Indépendante.

La Conférence de la FAO vient d'accepter un programme et un budget pour l'exercice 2008-2009. La Suisse respecte cette décision et continuera donc à fournir à la FAO les moyens financiers à la réalisation de son programme de travail.

Gaddi H. VASQUEZ (United States of America)

The United States of America supports a strong and effective FAO. We support the Organization in its mission. Unfortunately, the budget before us is excessive. It authorizes an increase of over 20 percent, which is far above the norm in UN organizations, even though the Organization has only begun to respond to the sweeping reform recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation.

The United States of America worked hard to achieve a consensus budget, and although we continue to promote Zero Nominal Growth in international organizations, we were prepared to accept a budget that would have provided to stability of operations, provided a mechanism to fund

the Immediate Action Plan to implement the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, and supported a review of the budget at a Special Conference in 2008 to consider readjustment.

This year, in particular, it was impossible to discuss the Programme of Work and Budget in isolation. We feel strongly that the Conference decision on the budget had to be tied to FAO's commitment to implement the recommendations contained in the IEE. The United States of America believes there should be no consideration of budget growth without first credibly embarking on Reform.

The poor financial health of FAO is due to its failure to live within its means. Whether measured by the approved budget level or the resources received, we do not believe FAO Members should reward poor financial management by agreeing to a large budget increase.

We regret that the Conference was not able to adopt a budget level that would have maintained stability of operations while creating an incentive for FAO to transform into a more relevant, focussed and effective Organization.

James MELANSON (Canada)

Throughout the discussions that have taken place over the last few days on this Budget Resolution, Canada has been guided by two important principles.

The first is that demonstrated good performance in multilateral organizations should be accompanied by commensurate budget allocations.

The second is that every effort should be made to arrive at consensus. This decision, unfortunately, does not achieve consensus.

Canada has suggested different formulations that might have facilitated such a consensus, but these did not find the necessary agreement. We do believe that the budget construction before us adheres to the principle of clearly linking performance and resources. It provides what, by any yardstick, is a generous increase relative to those received by other UN Organizations, and for a full biennium, when the actual dimensions and content of a reform programme are as yet unknown.

Canada is committed to performance-based funding where resources are linked to results. Because the proposal before us does not meet this principle, we cannot support it.

Canada remains committed to the Independent External Evaluation and impending action plan and strategic planning processes that follow from it. This is an exercise that we believe has had the full engagement and ownership of the Members and Management of this Organization. We will continue to engage constructively in it, and look forward to the kind of concrete results and the real progress on reform that, even if after the fact, would justify the budget decision that is being taken today.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

Our delegation also wishes to provide a statement regarding Australia's decision to abstain from voting on the budget level for 2008-2009.

Australia is currently in a caretaker election period, and will be holding its national election tomorrow. In this situation, our delegation is not able to commit to any new financial proposals that are substantially outside the range that is acceptable under the current Government's position of Zero Nominal Growth for UN Agencies.

Kazuyuki TAKEUCHI (Japan)

It goes without saying that agriculture plays, and will play, a vital role for the rural development of the world, and Japan recognizes that the importance of FAO will never be less because of this fact.

Having said that, I have to point out that FAO has to be truly efficient and effective exactly because of its importance and, thus, we are on the track of reform. In this light, Japan cannot share

the view that the so-called maintenance budget is the right picture of the budget for FAO which has to pursue more efficiency and effectiveness as its highest priority.

I conclude by saying that by the Special Session of next year, FAO, as a whole, should recognize what action should be taken for Reform.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Representante del Japón.

Señores delegados, como pudimos constatar durante la reunión de la Comisión II en pleno, además del Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto aprobaron un addendum del Informe sobre el Tema 13 y no quisiera dejar pasar la aprobación del mismo aquí en la Plenaria. Si no hay observaciones, se trata del Tema relacionado con la reposición de la Cuenta Especial de Reserva que tenía el Informe del Tema 13 el cual fue aprobado en pleno aquí en la Plenaria por la Comisión II. Si no hay observaciones, lo doy por aprobado.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS (continuation)
QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET (suite)
CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS (continuación)

14. Independent External Evaluation of FAO (C 2007/7A.1-Rev.1;
C 2007/7A.1-Corr.1; C 2007/7A.2; C 2007/7B)

14. Évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO (C 2007/7A.1-Rev.1;
C 2007/7A.1-Corr.1; C 2007/7A.2; C 2007/7B)

14. Evaluación externa independiente de la FAO (C 2007/7A.1-Rev.1;
C 2007/7A.1-Corr.1; C 2007/7A.2; C 2007/7B)

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, ha sido aprobado por la Comisión con la presencia de todo el pleno. Nos toca ahora, como Conferencia en pleno, aprobar la resolución relacionada con la Evaluación Externa Independiente de la FAO, en la que se incluye la aprobación de la Comisión de los tres nombres que formarán parte de la misma. Se encuentra en consideración del pleno. No existe ninguna observación y el Tema queda aprobado por la Conferencia. Hemos aprobado el Programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto y el Comité de Trabajo sobre la Evaluación Externa.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Voy a ceder el uso de la palabra al señor Director General para una intervención sobre estos temas que han sido aprobados por la Conferencia. Informo a los señores delegados que a continuación entramos a un tema que no nos llevará mucho tiempo pero que es de fundamental importancia para la FAO, los países que formamos la FAO y especialmente para la Federación Rusa: se trata de la aprobación del idioma para incorporarlo a los idiomas oficiales de la FAO. Tiene la palabra el señor Director General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The outcome of each biennial Conference has a major impact on the conduct of affairs in this Organization. Nevertheless, as I said in my opening statement on Monday, this Conference can be considered particularly critical in FAO's 62-year history.

On the one hand, the Membership had to take initial decisions on the far-reaching findings and recommendations of the first-ever comprehensive Independent External Evaluation (IEE), covering all facets of the work of the Organization.

The Secretariat is bound to carefully act in response to the IEE recommendations on programme focus, administrative procedures and organizational arrangements as it seeks to meet the expectations of Members to operate with maximum effectiveness and efficiency. But the IEE also covers – in a rather candid manner – Governance arrangements, which is the natural province of Members themselves, setting ambitious goals in this regard. On the other hand, the Conference was faced with challenging budget decisions, not only to ensure adequate follow-up to the IEE it had commissioned, but to stabilize the Organization in a period of financial constraints in order to pursue operations in an appropriate manner and serve its constituents without major disruptions during a continued period of renewal.

The proposals for a maintenance budget in the PWB document is something you have had to deal with and take decisions on. I, therefore, express my deep appreciation to delegations for having made great efforts to arrive at a decision for the next biennium. Of course, we will continue to seek vigorously extra-budgetary resources to help with both IEE follow-up and the implementation of the Programme of Work.

The Secretariat has the obligation to implement the decisions you have reached. Everybody in FAO today can feel that the year 2008 will be a hectic one at all levels of the structure, including in the decentralized locations. The Secretariat will heed, in particular, the expectations of significant additional efficiency savings built in the Resolution.

There are major tasks ahead of assisting the new Conference Committee, in particular by providing inputs to the formulation of the Immediate Action Plan and the Draft Strategic Framework, to be reviewed by the Special Session of the Conference in the second half of the year.

FAO is accustomed to change and we spare no efforts to adapt to new challenges. In the Management Response "in Principle", I pledged my full commitment and that of the entire staff of the Secretariat to support the "way forward" process described in the IEE Report. I reiterate this pledge before you today.

At this juncture, we need both serenity and determination, as well as unity of purpose. The Programme of Work and Budget, just adopted, will facilitate the first step towards this process.

While FAO can be proud that agriculture is back on the international agenda, in some measure due to its own patient advocacy work, the world faces a context of significant challenges, both new and old, which will affect agricultural development and hunger-reduction efforts in the immediate to long-term future. This implies further concrete actions on the part of FAO, and starting now.

On behalf of all of us in the Secretariat, I would like to thank you again for all the efforts you have made, in particular for the long negotiations which have taken place and for the outcome. The Organization is the sum of its Members and the Secretariat - a joint commitment from us all will be key to making FAO fit for our Twenty-first Century.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

El Profesor Noori, que ha sido elegido por ustedes Presidente del Consejo, desea hacer una corta intervención. Dr. Noori, por favor.

Mohammad SAEID NOORI NAEINI (Chairperson, Conference Committee)

I sincerely thank all of you for putting your confidence in me and electing me as the Chairperson of the Conference Committee for implementation of the IEE. I have been involved in this process from the very beginning and throughout.

I am not going to take your precious time talking about the importance of the Reform. You are all very well informed. Instead, I appeal to you for a spiritual unity and cooperation for the implementation of the huge work ahead of us. It is the future of our Organization, which is in your able hands, and I am sure very close to your caring hearts. I am confident that you will not disappoint the millions of hungry and poor, which to some extent their future depends on decisions that we make in preparing the Immediate Action Plan during 2008.

In order not to lose momentum, I am proposing a brainstorming meeting this afternoon – to talk to each other about how we shall proceed. This gives us an opportunity to think more deeply and come to our first formal meeting of the Conference Committee in mid-December well prepared.

Once again, I express my thanks and appreciation to you all and will see you this afternoon immediately after conclusion of the last Agenda Item.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS (continuación)

15. Adoption of Russian as a Language of the Organization (Amendment of Article XXII of the Constitution and Rule XLVII of the General Rules of the Organization) (Draft Resolutions) (C 2007/18)

15. Adoption du russe en tant que langue de l'Organisation (amendement de l'Article XXII de la Constitution et Article XLVII du Règlement général de l'Organisation) (Projets de résolutions) (C 2007/18)

15. Adopción del ruso como idioma de la FAO (Enmienda al Artículo XXII de la Constitución y al Artículo XLVII del RGO de la FAO) (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2007/18)

PRESIDENTE

El último Tema es la Adopción del Idioma Ruso Como Idioma de la FAO, contenido en dos reformas, a la Constitución y al Reglamento General. Vamos a votar por separado y voy a pedir al Señor Pucci que nos presente las propuestas de reforma. Por favor, al Asesor Jurídico.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document which is now before this Plenary Meeting of the Conference is C 2007/18. The document describes the steps that need to be taken in order for Russian to become a language of the Organization. As you may know, the matter has been extensively reviewed by the Council on the basis of the work of the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitution and Legal Matters (CCLM).

The Conference is now required to adopt two Resolutions, allowing Russian to become a language of the Organization. Both Resolutions were reviewed, as I said, by the CCLM and endorsed by the Council.

The first of these Resolutions is entitled Amendment of Article XXII of the FAO Constitution. Through this Resolution, the Conference would amend Article XXII of the Constitution, whereby the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of this Constitution shall be equally authoritative. Through this Resolution, an authentic Russian version of the Constitution – as set out in the Annex to the document – would be also approved by the Conference.

I would like to stress that since we are speaking of an amendment of the Constitution, the proposed amendment was circulated to all Members on 20 July 2007, in order to fulfill the requirement of circulation of the amendments 120 days before the opening of the Conference.

The Resolution needs to be adopted by a nominal vote – that is, a vote recording the names of Member Nations – at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. “Votes cast” means affirmative and negative votes, and do not include abstentions.

Insofar as this is an amendment of the Constitution – under Article XX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution – the number of affirmative votes must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. In this particular case, the number of affirmative votes must be at least 96.

The proposed Resolution amending the Constitution and adopting a Russian version of the Constitution is now before the Conference.

Another draft Resolution is before the Conference. This Resolution is intended to approve a consequential amendment to Rule XLVII of the General Rules of the Organization. Revised Rule XLVII of the General Rules of the Organization would make provision for Russian to be a language of the Organization, in addition to Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Spanish.

The General Rules of the Organization may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes casts at the Plenary Meeting of the Conference. Under Rule XII, paragraph 7(a) of the General Rules, a nominal vote – as I said before this is a vote where the names of the Member Nations are recorded – shall be taken whenever a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required. “Votes cast” means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

When a two-thirds majority of votes casts is required, the total number of votes casts should be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for, or against – in this case – must be at least 96.

So, for the amendment of the Constitution, the required majority is two-thirds of the votes cast, provided, however, that more than half of the Members should vote in favour of the amendment, and, therefore, at least 96 Member Nations must vote in favour. For the amendment of the General Rules we need a two thirds majority of the votes cast – which means negative or positive – and the number of votes cast must be at least 96. This is the difference between the Constitution and General Rules.

The proposed Resolution amending Rule XLVII is also before the Conference for approval.

I understand that the Secretary-General of the Conference will provide additional information on practical modalities of the vote. Then we will start with the amendment to the Constitution and then, after hearing the results of this vote, we proceed with the amendment of the General Rules of the Organization.

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias, Asesor Jurídico. Antes de entrar a la votación de la reforma de la Constitución le pediré a la Secretaría que nos vuelva a explicar con precisión la forma en que tenemos que votar o debemos votar. Ofrezco la palabra a los señores delegados.

Andrei LOZOVIK (Belarus) (Original language Belarusian)

The Republic of Belarus would welcome the decision of FAO adopting Russian as an official language. This decision would allow all of the experts of our country, who master the Russian language, to be active in all structures of the Organization, be effective and introduce the potential into settlement of complicated but very urgent tasks facing FAO.

That would help integrate into FAO the potential number of countries of East Europe, Russia and North Caucasus.

PRESIDENTE

No hay más intervenciones. Pido a la Secretaría una explicación concreta sobre la votación para la reforma de la Constitución.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will now proceed to an electronic roll-call vote on the first of the Resolutions mentioned by the Legal Counsel: Amendment of Article XII of the FAO Constitution, an Authentic Russian Text of the FAO Constitution, in order to amend Article XXII of the Constitution whereby the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of this Constitution shall be equally authoritative. Through this Resolution, set out in paragraph IV of document C 2007/18, an authentic Russian Version of the Constitution annexed to the document would be approved by the Conference. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required to approve this Resolution, provided that the number of affirmative votes is at least 96.

We shall now vote on the Draft Resolution set out in paragraph 4 of document C 2007/18. Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them, green if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, green if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if you wish to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now read the result sheet. Number of votes cast – 127; majority required - 96; votes for - 127, votes against – zero; abstentions – one. Thank you.



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23/11/2007
13:02:33

Vote on: Item 15. Amendment of Article XXII of the FAO Constitution - Authentic Russian Text of the FAO Constitution
Vote sur: Point 15. Amendement à l'article XXII de l'Acte Constitutif de la FAO - texte authentique de l'Acte Constitutif de la FAO en langue russe

Votacion para: Tema 15. Enmienda del artículo XXII de la Constitución de la FAO – texto auténtico en ruso de la Constitución de la FAO

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	127
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	127
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	41

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BELARUS REPUBLIC OF, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOLDOVA REPUBLIC OF, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, POLAND, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, RWANDA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BURKINA FASO, CHINA, CROATIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GAMBIA, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LUXEMBOURG, MALAWI, MALDIVES, MICRONESIA FEDERATES STATES OF, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, PORTUGAL, SAMOA, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TUVALU, VENEZUELA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

PRESIDENTE

Ciento veintisiete votos a favor y una abstención.

Señores delegados, hemos aprobado la Resolución sobre la enmienda del Artículo XXII de la Constitución de la FAO, y el Texto Auténtico en Ruso de la misma Constitución contenido en el documento C 2007/18.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Por último, vamos a votar a continuación el segundo Proyecto de Resolución, contenido en el mismo documento que reforma el Artículo 47 del Reglamento General. La Secretaría nos informará el procedimiento.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We shall now vote on the Draft Resolution set out in paragraph 6 of document C 2007/18. For the vote on an amendment to the General Rules, the total number of votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and against must be at least 96.

Delegates are requested to press one of the voting buttons in front of them: green, if they wish to vote in favour, red if they wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. Please vote now.

Vote

Vote

Votación

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Distinguished delegates I shall now read the results. Number of votes cast – 131; majority required – 96; votes for – 131; votes against – zero; abstentions – zero.



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23/11/2007
13:06:19

Vote on: Item 15. Amendment of Rule XLVII of the General Rules of the Organization – Adoption of Russian as a Language of the Organization
Vote sur: Point 15. Amendement à l'article XLVII du Règlement Général de l'Organisation – Adoption du russe en tant que langue de l'Organisation
Votacion para: Tema 15. Enmienda del Artículo XLVII del Reglamento General de la Organización – Adopción del ruso como idioma de la Organización

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	131
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	96
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	131
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	38

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANDORRA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BELARUS REPUBLIC OF, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DENMARK, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REP., EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOLDOVA REPUBLIC OF, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROMANIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, RWANDA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SERBIA, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TAJIKISTAN, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BURKINA FASO, CROATIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DJIBOUTI, ECUADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GAMBIA, GUINEA, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL, LATVIA, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MICRONESIA FEDERATES STATES OF, MONGOLIA, MONTENEGRO, MYANMAR, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, SAMOA, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, SUDAN, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TUVALU, VENEZUELA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

PRESIDENTE

Señores Miembros de la Conferencia, hemos aprobado entonces la incorporación del idioma ruso en la Reforma de la Constitución y el Reglamento. La FAO tiene ya un idioma más: el ruso como idioma oficial. Felicitaciones.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Alexander V. YAKOVENKO (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation would like to sincerely thank all the delegations for their decision to provide the Russian language with the official status of the Organization. Introduction of the Russian language will allow those countries which will consider it appropriate to use Russian language within the FAO, will integrate it into the Organization. That will help FAO to get an adequate response from these countries, and these countries will require the experience of FAO. Thanks also from the 170 million people for whom the Russian language is the mother tongue and the 350 million more people who understand Russian. I would like to express my appreciation to all the delegations for their support in this decision.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Representante de la Federación Rusa, mi felicitación nuevamente.

Señores delegados, quiero llamar vuestra atención sobre las negociaciones que han tenido lugar en estos días en relación a las medidas para aliviar las dificultades de la Organización en cuanto a disponibilidad de liquidez. Esto se encuentra en el documento C 2007/LIM/7, el que contiene esta información más detallada.

Para clausurar, invito a los Miembros del Comité General, a una reunión que vamos a tener a continuación en la Sala Líbano, que se encuentra situada en el segundo piso del Edificio D.

Gracias a los señores delegados, por la comprensión, por haber aceptado las demoras que tuvimos. Creo que hemos cumplido con un mandato de todos nuestros países. Continuaremos con la Sesión esta tarde.

The meeting rose at 13:10 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 10

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10

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
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2007

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 17.28 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La Dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 17 h 28
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la Décima Sesión Plenaria a las 17.28
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López
Presidente de la Conferencia

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, muchas gracias, buenas tardes, parece que conforme pasa el tiempo comenzamos a ser un poco más latinos y demorar las cosas. Mil disculpas por la demora.

Antes de dar inicio a los temas previstos en la Agenda para la tarde de hoy, España me ha pedido hacer una intervención previa, porque tiene que hacer un anuncio que entiendo es de mucha importancia para la Organización de la FAO.

Por favor, España tiene la palabra.

Alberto LÓPEZ GARCÍA-ASENJO (España)

Señor Director General, permítame, en primer lugar, comenzar felicitándole, tanto a usted como a los responsables y participantes de los distintos equipos, y comisiones que han realizado un magnífico trabajo para alcanzar resoluciones de tanta trascendencia. Quisiera agradecer de manera muy especial a la Presidencia Portuguesa del Consejo de la Unión Europea, que ha realizado también una gran labor de concertación en este ámbito.

España quiere reafirmar en este foro su compromiso por establecer una cooperación reforzada multilateral, conscientes de que necesitamos una FAO fuerte, eficaz y eficiente, que aborde el Proceso de Reforma sindicado y en línea con lo aprobado el día de hoy en la Resolución sobre el Tema 13 del Presupuesto, y en particular en su Punto No. 4 por el que se invita a los Estados Miembros a proporcionar contribuciones voluntarias.

Me es grato anunciar, que según lo dispuesto en el escrito que ha dirigido el Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y Cooperación, Don Miguel Ángel Moratinos al Director General, Sr. Diouf la aportación que recibirá FAO en las próximas semanas, con una contribución voluntaria de 12 millones de dólares, parte de esta contribución en concertación y designada a la Representación Permanente para trabajar en esta línea, se podrá dedicar una cantidad equilibrada a fortalecer el Programa Regular de la Organización en coherencia con el Proceso de Reforma y de las orientaciones marcadas en la Evaluación.

España, como Miembro de la Unión Europea, invita a otros Estados Miembros de la FAO a seguir esta iniciativa apuntadas en la Resolución.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias al Representante de España por su contribución, porque esto permitirá a la FAO de trabajar de una mejor manera para los Países Miembros más necesitados. Gracias a España y gracias también por la última parte de su intervención, de ese llamado e invitación a que otros países del Primer Mundo hagan contribuciones similares.

Voy a dar la palabra al Sr. Director General que lo veo bastante entusiasmado para agradecer el gesto español.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

Muchísimas gracias, Señor Presidente. Naturalmente estoy entusiasmado y también emocionado porque ésta es una indicación de que estamos ahora en un nuevo camino. Estoy entusiasmado de saber que en este camino largo sobre la mejora de la Organización y, sobre todo, de una Organización que pueda prestar sus servicios a los Estados Miembros y, en particular, a los hambrientos, no vamos a estar solos. Vamos a tener a nuestro lado a los Países Miembros, que siempre han hecho lo necesario para que esta Organización pueda ser un ejemplo en el ámbito internacional. Por esta razón, quisiera agradecer al Representante de España y también quisiera presentar al Gobierno y al pueblo español el agradecimiento de parte de la Organización, en

particular de la Secretaría. Mi primer libro de España se llamaba "Por el Buen Camino", yo estoy seguro de que la FAO está por el buen camino. Gracias.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Sr. Director General y, nuevamente, gracias a España.

APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

- 22. Election of Council Members (C 2007/11)
- 22. Élection des membres du Conseil (C 2007/11)
- 22. Elección de Miembros del Consejo (C 2007/11)

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a continuar con los trabajos programados para esta Sesión Plenaria de la Conferencia con el Tema 22, relativo a elecciones de Miembros del Consejo.

Solicito a los señores Delegados comprobar que tienen en sus manos el documento C 2007/LIM/18. En ese documento, el número de candidatos para cada período y Región es igual al número de vacantes que deben ocuparse en conformidad con el Artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización. La elección de los Miembros del Consejo podrá decidirse por aclamación cuando el número de Estados Miembros que se presenten como candidatos para una Región determinada sea igual al número de vacantes a ser ocupadas. Si los señores delegados desean hacer algún comentario al respecto del procedimiento, les concederé la palabra.

Solicito a la Secretaría General la explicación del procedimiento que vamos a seguir región por región.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have three candidates: India, Indonesia and Pakistan for the Asia Region for the period 1 January 2009 to November 2011.

PRESIDENTE

Están en consideración los nombres de los candidatos de los países India, Indonesia y Pakistán. ¿Podría considerar que la Conferencia aprueba estas candidaturas?

Approved
Approuvé
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Trataremos ahora de las candidaturas de la Región de Europa. Ofrezco la palabra al Secretario General para que nos informe sobre las candidaturas de esa Región.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have three candidates: Belgium, Russian Federation and Turkey for the Europe Region for the period November 2007 to 31 December 2010.

We have four candidates: France, Italy, Norway and United Kingdom for the Europe Region for the period 1 January 2009 to November 2011.

PRESIDENTE

Serían entonces Bélgica, la Federación Rusa y Turquía desde noviembre 2007 al 31 de diciembre de 2010. A continuación, Francia, Italia, Noruega y Reino Unido para el período 1 de enero de 2009 hasta noviembre de 2011. ¿Podría considerar que la Conferencia aprueba estas candidaturas?

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Trataremos ahora de las candidaturas de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Ofrezco la palabra al Secretario General para que nos informe las candidaturas de esa Región.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have five candidates: Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region for the period November 2007 to 31 December 2010.

We have one candidate, El Salvador, for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region for the period 1 January 2009 to November 2011.

PRESIDENTE

Los candidatos por América Latina y el Caribe son Bolivia, Brasil, Cuba, México y Trinidad y Tabago, desde noviembre de 2007 hasta el 31 de diciembre 2010. Luego, tenemos El Salvador desde 1 de enero 2009 hasta noviembre de 2011. En ausencia de objeciones, ¿podría considerar que la Conferencia aprueba estas candidaturas?

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Trataremos ahora de las candidaturas de la Región del Cercano Oriente. Ofrezco la palabra al Secretario General para que nos informe las candidaturas de esa Región.

Vamos a pasar a la región del Cercano Oriente. La Secretaría nos informará los nombres de los candidatos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have two candidates, Kuwait and Sudan, for the Near East Region for the period November 2007 to 31 December 2010.

We have three candidates, Afghanistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia for the Near East Region for the period 1 January 2009 to November 2011.

PRESIDENTE

Los candidatos son Kuwait y Sudán para noviembre de 2007 hasta 31 de diciembre de 2010 y Afganistán, Egipto y Arabia Saudita para 1 de enero de 2009 a noviembre de 2011. Si no hay observaciones la Presidencia considera aprobados esos candidatos que han sido electos.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a tratar el tema relacionado con la Región de América del Norte. La Secretaría nos informará los candidatos.

SECRETARY GENERAL

We have two candidates, Canada and the United States of America, for the North American Region for the period November 2007 to 31 December 2010.

PRESIDENTE

Canadá y Estados Unidos, noviembre de 2007 hasta 31 de diciembre de 2010. Si no hay observaciones, los dos candidatos han sido designados. Queda aprobado.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Vamos a tratar ahora los candidatos para la Región del Pacífico Sud-occidental. La Secretaría nos informará los candidatos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have one candidate, Australia, for the Southwest Pacific Region for the period 1 January 2009 to November 2010.

PRESIDENTE

Hemos escuchado los nombres de los candidatos para la Región del Pacífico Sud-occidental. Australia está en consideración de los Sres. Miembros de la Conferencia desde 1 de enero de 2009

hasta noviembre de 2010. En ausencia de objeciones, ¿podría considerar que la Conferencia aprueba estas candidaturas?

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

La Presidencia, en nombre de la Conferencia, felicita a los Miembros del Consejo recién electos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

23. Appointments (continued)

23. Nominations (suite)

23. Nombramientos (continuación)

23.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2007/9);
C 2007/LIM/22)

23.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2007/9); C 2007/LIM/22)

23.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2007/9);
C 2007/LIM/22)

PRESIDENTE

De conformidad con el Artículo V.2, de la Constitución de la FAO, la Conferencia nombrará un Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Procederemos a considerar el Tema 23.1 relativo a la Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo. Tenemos un solo candidato para el puesto, tal como se indica en el documento C 2007/9, el Sr. Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini, de la República Islámica del Irán.

Procedemos entonces con la votación para elegir al Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

En virtud del Artículo II.2 de la Constitución de la FAO y de las disposiciones contenidas en el Artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización, el quórum necesario para esta elección es una mayoría de los Estados Miembros. Esto significa que al menos 96 Estados Miembros deberán estar presentes al momento de la votación. Concedo la palabra a la Secretaría General para que exponga los detalles del procedimiento a seguir en esta elección con un único candidato.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will receive a ballot paper with the name of the candidates. Each ballot contains three boxes, with the words: in favour, against and abstention. Delegates are invited to mark the boxes as they so desire. On the basis of the relevant provisions of Rule XII (4) (c) (3), ballot papers deposited in the ballot box as blank ballots shall be recorded as abstentions.

It should also be noted that in conformity with the above-mentioned Rule, paragraph 4 (d) (3), ballot papers shall carry no other notation or mark than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote.

I should also draw the attention of delegates to paragraph 10 (f) of the afore-mentioned Rule XII, which states that "should any delegate invalidate his or her ballot paper, he or she may request a new ballot paper from the Elections Officer before leaving the voting area." The invalidated ballot paper shall remain in the custody of the Elections Officer.

Distinguished delegates, we shall now calculate the number of Member Nations present at this Plenary Session. Please press the green button located at the front of your desk; that is, the third button on your right, so that the electronic voting system can verify the number of delegations present.

Have all the delegates pressed the green button? Please press the green button.

There are 130 delegations present in the hall right now, we can thus proceed to vote.

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, quiero recordarles que de conformidad con el Párrafo 15 del Artículo XII del Reglamento General de la Organización, una vez comenzada la votación ningún delegado representante podrá interrumpirla, salvo para plantear una cuestión de orden relacionada con la misma y exclusivamente.

Asimismo, de conformidad con el párrafo 10 (c) (i) del Reglamento General de la Organización, el Presidente de la Conferencia podrá designar como escrutadores a dos delegados o representantes o a sus suplentes. Ruego a los delegados de El Salvador y de San Marino que se dirijan a las urnas.

Los escrutadores pasen por favor a recibir la votación.

Iniciamos la votación.

El Sr. Secretario irá llamando uno por uno los delegados para que vayan a la urna a votar.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

Sres. Delegados, ha terminado la votación. Solicito a los escrutadores que, en compañía de los oficiales de elecciones, abandonen la Sala para el recuento de los votos.

Fifth Report of the General Committee (C 2007/LIM/22)

Cinquième rapport du Bureau (C 2007/LIM/22)

Quinto informe del Comité General (C 2007/LIM/22)

PRESIDENTE

Mientras que los escrutadores procedan al recuento de los votos vamos a aprovechar el tiempo para tomar en consideración el quinto informe del Comité General, que se encuentra a su disposición como documento C 2007/LIM/22. Hay tres temas en el documento:

- Una resolución sobre el nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.
- Dos borradores sobre medidas para aliviar las dificultades de la Organización en cuanto a disponibilidad de liquidez.
- Una propuesta de añadir un Sub-tema a nuestro programa bajo el Tema 25, Otros Asuntos.

¿Hay algún comentario sobre la Resolución sobre el nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo?

Mientras se procede a traer el Informe Final, vamos a comenzar a conocer, analizar y aceptar los Temas propuestos por el Comité General. El primer tema, como verán en el documento C 2007/LIM/22, es la Resolución sobre el Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente. En consideración de ustedes, con la única aclaración que en el punto 1 se declara que la persona tal ha sido nombrada Presidente. Una vez aprobado, incluiremos el nombre en el momento en que los escrutadores nos traigan el resultado.

El segundo punto son las Medidas para Aliviar las Dificultades de la Organización en cuanto a Disponibilidad de Liquidez. El punto tiene dos anexos que se refieren a medidas que se deberían adoptar para un pago puntual de las contribuciones. Son recomendaciones generales, llamados a la atención, planteamientos para que en el futuro se establezcan ciertas normas básicas para que se pueda recuperar de mejor manera la contribución de los países. Se entiende que algunos Países Miembros tienen dificultades, y se abrirán espacios de negociación para el pago de las cuotas. Se encuentra en vuestra consideración el Anexo A.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVAHLO (Brasil)

Gracias, Sr. Presidente. Esta Resolución, este Proyecto de Resolución es el resultado de amplias negociaciones que las delegaciones interesadas han mantenido. Yo quisiera aquí mencionar dos aspectos, el primero es saludar a los esfuerzos de la delegación de Japón para llegar a alcanzar un texto que pudiera ser consensuado. Segundo, decir que mi delegación está muy preocupada con este Tema., Necesitamos un análisis profundo, un análisis a fondo de todas las situaciones que causan los retrasos y teniendo en cuenta los impactos que esto genera para las finanzas de la Organización. En este sentido, Presidente, creo que el texto de la resolución es aceptable para mi delegación y de nuevo saludo al esfuerzo y al espíritu constructivo y de consideración que ha tenido la delegación de Japón con respecto a esta Resolución. Gracias.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Representante de Brasil por la explicación. Gracias también por la comprensión de Japón.

¿Hay alguna otra observación?

Antonio DUARTE DE ALMEIDA PINHO (Portugal)

We welcome the opportunity to address also in this Conference the issue of late payments and arrears. It gives me the opportunity to repeat our opinion that we expressed already in the Council. Portugal is speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. Considering the critical liquidity situation of the Organization and the urgent need to tackle this matter through timely payment of Assessed Contributions by Member Nations, we welcome the proposals of the Finance Committee which are generally in line with the EU position that we hereby reiterate.

The EU and Membership, in general, are concerned with the issue of the late and repeatedly too late payment of agreed assessments. As you know, your position is that the reform process, following the recommendations of the IEE Final Report, should lead to a reliable and sound system that ensures that FAO will be receiving its Assessed Contributions in a timely fashion. The current situation is undesirable, and the financial implications on extra costs for the Organization could be charged to Members involved and not to the Membership as a whole. In what concerns the Arrears issue, most of them relate to developing countries.

We agree with the proposal of having instalment plans to be reviewed and subsequently approved by the Conference, since this will allow all those countries facing difficulties that are willing to fulfil their obligations, to do so within an appropriate time frame. We also agree with the possibility foreseen in the Draft Resolution as subject to certain conditions, including covering the currency devaluation risks for some countries with limited availability of convertible currencies and within their own currencies. The payments received by FAO, in non-freely-convertible currencies should be used to pay local staff and finance parts of the FAO activities in those countries. As in most of the cases, the expenditure of FAO in these economies is much larger than

their national Assessments. We strongly believe this could solve an outstanding problem to the best interests of all parts involved. I can say that we can go along also with Annex A.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan welcomes the Draft Resolution presented in front of us and thanks those Member Nations which participated in the discussions in the last several weeks, especially Brazil. Perhaps the Resolution in front of us, Annex A, does not necessarily and completely satisfy Member Nations' enthusiasm to tackle this matter. However, I would like to stress the requirements of tackling this matter, comprehensively as reflected in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Annex A. Thus Japan would like to invite all Member Nations to support the Draft Resolution, and to get on board on this matter in the coming period of time following this Session of the Conference.

PRESIDENTE

Bien, ahora vamos a votar si aceptamos est Prohecto de Resolución.

Vote

Vote

Votación

PRESIDENTE

Con 122 votes favorables, este tema ha sido aprobado.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

My delegation takes the floor as participants of the negotiations of this Resolution and looking at it from a point of view of the developing countries, we welcome the efforts to improve the financial situation of this Organization because we are beneficiaries of the Organization and we would like to see a well-resourced Organization.

The realization of the conditions for payment to allow for instalments, for those of us who may be facing difficulties in one form or another, is most welcome and the ability to pay for some of the expenses in non-freely-convertible currencies, we see it as a way that will improve repayments on our part, because there are many of us, in whose countries, where the FAO programmes are running and who will be able to meet part of the expenses in their own currencies. I am sure sure this will go a long way towards improving the performance or the participation of developing countries in meeting the cash provision in FAO.

I wish to thank those who thought of this Resolution.

PRESIDENTE

Quiero resaltar señores Miembros de la Conferencia, que en los Anexos son bastante explicitos en el planteamiento. La Conferencia pide al Consejo que someta en su siguiente Periodo Ordinario de Sesiones un conjunto amplio de incentivos y otras medidas con miras para lograr que todos los Estados Miembros paguen sus Cuotas integras a tiempo.

El Representante de Portugal y también la Representante de Zimbabwe, se han referido, inclusive, a temas que están en el Anexo B "formas de pagos de las contribuciones". Por eso creo que si no hay más intervenciones, han habido ya referencias al Anexo A y B.

Si no hay más observaciones quedaría aceptada la recomendación del Comité Ejecutivo en el Anexo A y sobre el Anexo B, si no existen observaciones quedaría aprobado.

Aprobados los dos anexos, doy la palabra a Canadá, que ha solicitado el uso de la palabra cuando estén aprobados los dos temas.

Kent VACHON (Canada)

Canada notes, with regret, that the Resolutions just adopted are weaker than those which came from the Finance Committee and Council. The Draft Resolutions put to us by the Finance Committee were gentle to begin with, containing no new measures. In fact, the Finance Committee drafts served only as a reminder that recent practice, with respect to Voting Rights, was not in keeping with FAO's Constitution or established UN practice.

At the beginning of Council, the Secretariat presented us with an account of FAO's finances, highlighting cash flow problems and costs to the Organization caused by those Members that pay their Assessments late or not at all. Many delegations took the floor to express alarm about the situation, but eloquent statements do not pay staff salaries or keep this building's lights on. Paid Assessments do.

Many countries have legitimate difficulties due to exceptional economic or political circumstances. This reality is recognized in the Constitution and it was recognized by the General Committee in its Report, which was adopted yesterday by the Conference by consensus. This Conference restored the Voting Rights of all but nine countries.

This demonstrates to those who stated alarm at the Finance Committee's draft Resolutions that they need not fear greater scrutiny of the Arrears situation. The objective of this exercise is not to punish, but to prompt improved payment performance. Everyone wants every Member Nation to play its full role in this Organization, enjoying all rights and fulfilling all obligations.

Canada, however, questions whether the current Resolution takes us much closer to that desirable objective. FAO has a far worse problem with arrears than the UN as a whole, or than many other UN Specialized Agencies. We should ask why. Is it because those countries which respect their obligations to other parts of the UN, but not FAO, do not care about FAO? They have assured us that this is not the case. That leaves us with the conclusion that some pay elsewhere but not here, because for too long there has been no real consequence to non-payment here. There may be cases in which Ministries of Agriculture do want to pay, but Ministries of Finance or Foreign Affairs are not listening. Perhaps the Ministries of Agriculture would get a better hearing if the consequences of arrears were clearer.

Given the budget just approved, Canada has real concerns that the Arrears situation will see further deterioration. The budget should be borne equitably by all owners of this Organization. Given the text before us, we have doubts as to whether this will be the case.

Early payers are currently paying twice. We pay our shares of FAO's programmes, and then we pay the interest on the loans the Organization takes out to compensate for late and non-payers. This situation is untenable. Some are being penalized for the failings of others. This is particularly so with the incentive rate for early payment having been set at zero for years now.

Inevitably, if this situation is not turned around it will negatively impact upon support for this Organization.

PRESIDENTE

Los Anexos A y B fueron aprobados por la Conferencia. Sin embargo, en las actas quedara constancia de la observación de Canadá.

Tiene la palabra Brasil.

José Antônio MARCONDES DE CARVALHO (Brazil)

My delegation wishes to also place on record that it could not support the previous text that came from the Finance Committee, for the reason that it was unbalanced, unfair to the developing countries and it did very little to improve the Organization's cash shortage situation.

The documents provided by the Secretariat and at the disposal of this Conference, showed very clear and unequivocally what side of the equation is putting the Organization at this cash shortage situation. It is far from being the Arrears situation, but the late payment, which is affecting the financial situation of this Organization.

My delegation will be following this issue with the utmost interest and will be working constructively to reach the comprehensive package of measures that will, indeed, change the current situation.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias a Brasil por la precisión en las observaciones realizadas que queremos estarán en las actas.

Señores Miembros de la Conferencia, el Comité recomienda una propuesta de añadir un Sub-tema en el Tema 25 "Otros Asuntos". Es un Tema que ha sido reiteradamente planteado en las intervenciones de los diferentes delegados, que si no tienen observaciones los Miembros de la Conferencia, pasaríamos a esto, "Observación a Incluir el Tema o Observación al Tema"?. Entonces "Observación al Tema o a Incluir el Tema". Malí tiene la palabra.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Si vous permettez, Monsieur le Président, juste un petit mot à propos de l'Annexe que l'on vient d'adopter concernant les paiements, les arriérés, etc. Il ne faut vraiment pas faire prendre aux gens des vessies pour des lanternes car on sait très bien là où le bât blesse au niveau de la FAO. Nous sommes un pays pauvre, mais nous nous faisons le devoir de faire face à nos obligations et nous avons toujours dit qu'on ne peut pas être Pays Membres d'une Organisation et ne pas remplir ses obligations. De même, nous avons toujours défendu, ici, le fait que quelque soit la modicité des contributions, tous les États pour s'approprier la FAO doivent payer leurs contributions à due date.

En réalité ce qui fait mal à la FAO, ce n'est pas que certains Pays Membres ne paient pas, c'est que d'autres, et pas des moindres, ne paient pas à due date. C'est ce qui entraîne les difficultés. Si nous prenons une Résolution de façon unanime ici, il faudra la respecter.

Il ne faut pas culpabiliser les pays pauvres parce qu'ils n'ont pas payé quelques centimes d'euros ou de dollars, ce n'est pas cela qui rend la FAO malade mais les gros contributeurs qui sanctionnent la FAO. Permettez-moi de le dire c'est "une sanction". Il n'y a pas d'autre mot, je veux dire que nous sommes responsables et il faut que les uns et les autres nous le soyons. Cette Résolution est mesurée et pondérée et ce n'est que justice et cela nous donne le temps effectivement pendant un an d'étudier toutes les combinaisons possibles pour que les uns et les autres puissent régler à due date de leurs contributions. C'est là le point qui fait mal et il n'est pas admissible de croire que certains sont pénalisés parce qu'ils paient mais justement si pour ne pas dépénaliser à due date, on pénalise l'Organisation, c'est cela qui nous fait mal.

OTHER MATTERS AUTRES QUESTIONS OTROS ASUNTOS

- 25. Any Other Matters**
- 25. Autres questions**
- 25. Otros asuntos**

PRESIDENTE

Pasamos al punto (c), que es la propuesta de añadir el Tema 25. Primeramente deberíamos aprobar si se acepta o no, y en caso fuera aceptado iniciaríamos a discutir el Tema en sí.

Si no hay objeciones, se acepta incluir el Tema 25.

Se encuentra en consideración el Tema 25.

En las diferentes presentaciones de los Países Miembros se proponía que se tomara en cuenta una Distribución Equitativa, tanto Geográfica como de Género, en la Estructura Organizacional del Personal Técnico y Administrativo de la FAO.

El Comité General recomienda a la Conferencia aceptar esa recomendación, e incluirla en las resoluciones. Se encuentra en consideración el Tema.

Tiene la palabra el Representante de Panamá.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Deseamos aquí expresar nuestro aprecio por los esfuerzos que hace la Organización para rectificar los desequilibrios geográficos entre hombres y mujeres en la estructura del Personal del Cuadro Orgánico, que es un Tema al que mi delegación concede una particular importancia. En consecuencia, pedimos al Director General que siga activamente con dichos esfuerzos de conformidad al Artículo VIII.3, de la Constitución, de la Resolución 1/99 de la Conferencia "Corrección de los Desequilibrios Geográficos y entre Hombres y Mujeres en la estructura de Personal de Categoría Profesional" y con la Resolución 15/2003 de la Conferencia "Metodología para la Determinación de una Distribución Geográfica Equitativa."

Tareq KAZEMI (Kuwait)

I would like to support the comment my colleague from Panama has just made and we also request the Director-General to pursue actively these efforts, in accordance with Article VIII.3 of the Constitution, Conference Resolution 1/99 and Conference Resolution 15/2003.

The G77 and China believe that equitable geographical representation of staff is at the very essence of any organization in the UN System, and that all qualified citizens of its Member Nations must be afforded equal opportunity to join their staff.

There have, however, been serious geographical and gender imbalances in the FAO staff structure. While Kuwait and the G77 recognizes the efforts the Director-General has made to address the balance since 1994, there is still a substantial number of Members who are either non-represented or under-represented in the staff structure. Unfortunately, the criteria and guidance established by the Governing Bodies has not been met as of yet.

It was stated, in the 2003 Conference, that the management was under a strict obligation to ensure equitable geographical distribution of staff. Kuwait wishes this matter to be clarified to Members once again, to ensure that implementation modalities of the decision of Conference do not give rise to any misunderstanding, and so that equitable geographical representation is used fairly and efficiently.

Kuwait recognizes the difficulty, which can sometimes be presented, by the need for geographical representation. Such are the realities of the modern world. However, we firmly believe equitable representation is achievable, and by no means should require a compromise for either competency or qualifications.

Just in case you did not hear me at the beginning of my statement, I would like to support what was just said by my colleague from Panama, requesting the Director-General to pursue actively such efforts in accordance with Article VIII.3 of the Constitution, Conference Resolution 1/99 and Conference Resolution 15/2003.

Mohamed CAMARA (Guinée)

Pour abonder dans le même sens, ma délégation voudrait saisir aussi cette occasion pour réitérer sa confiance et son plein appui au Directeur général de la FAO pour la manière dont il s'acquitte de ses responsabilités et dont il met en œuvre notamment la politique de l'Organisation en matière de recrutement du personnel, tel que défini par la Conférence en 2003. Nous lui demandons donc de continuer sur cette voie. Je vous remercie.

Seiichi YOKOI (Japan)

Japan also has a strong interest in this matter, since Japan and many other countries in Asia and other Regions are extremely under-represented in terms of number of regular staff members.

Japan, understanding the efforts made by the Secretariat, Director-General and the Member Nations, urges that effective measures be taken in order to improve the situation.

Noël BAIOT (Gabon)

Mes prédécesseurs ont déjà tout dit mais je soutiendrai ici, à nouveau, le premier orateur, c'est-à-dire la position qu'a donnée le Panama. Nous demandons au Directeur général de poursuivre activement, effectivement, des efforts, conformément donc à l'Article VIII. Je crois que c'est devenu une redondance et nous sommes tous d'accord sur le principe qu'un effort devrait être fait en matière d'équilibre entre la parité hommes-femmes. Nous soutenons parfaitement cette idée.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Representante de Gabón. ¿Algún otro representante de país quería hacer el uso de la palabra sobre el Tema? No hay más intervenciones. Entiendo entonces que la recomendación del Comité General, de incluir en esta Conferencia una recomendación sobre la distribución de género y la distribución geográfica sea equitativa en la estructura del personal de la FAO, ha sido aprobada. Gracias honorables delegados.

23. Appointments (continued)**23. Nominations** (suite)**23. Nombramientos** (continuación)

*23.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2007/9);
C 2007/LIM/22)*

23.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2007/9); C 2007/LIM/22)

*23.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2007/9);
C 2007/LIM/22)*

PRESIDENTE

Estamos listos señores miembros de la Conferencia. Voy a dar la palabra a la Secretaría General a que proceda a expresar los resultados obtenidos.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Report of ballot election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council 2008-2009. Ballot papers deposited 133; abstentions 6; defective ballots 2; votes for 123; votes against 2; votes cast 125, majority needed 63, Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	Election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council 2008-2009 Election du Président du Conseil 2008-2009 Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo 2008-2009
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	133	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	123
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	2	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	125

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	63
------------------------------------	----

Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council
est nommé président du Conseil
ha sido nombrado Presidente del Consejo

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature
Firma

Mariá Eulalia Jiménez de Mochi Onori
(El Salvador)

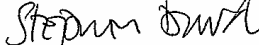
.....

Date 23/11/2007
Fecha

Signature
Firma

Daniela Rotondaro
(San Marino)

.....

Stephen Dowd 

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, el Sr. Noori Naeini ha sido elegido como Presidente Independiente del Consejo. mis más sinceras felicitaciones, y mucho éxito Señor Presidente. Antes de concederle la palabra, tiene la palabra el Representante de Irán.

Javad Shakhs TAVAKOLIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran)

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to thank all the distinguished delegates who have accepted our request and trusted us to give the positive vote regarding the re-election of Mr Mohammed Saeid Noor-Naeini as Independent Chairperson.

I would also like to congratulate him for his re-election and wish him all the success in doing a difficult job in the years to come, particularly next year. Once again, thanks to all distinguished delegates for their confidence.

Tareq KAZEMI (Kuwait)

Kuwait, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, wishes Mr Mohammed Saied Noori-Naeini. He has been the embodiment of integrity and humility in his time here. He has guided us through challenging times, and we know that he is fully capable to help us through the difficult and yet hopeful times ahead.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun voudrait se joindre à l'ensemble des Membres et surtout ces deux personnes qui m'ont précédées, d'abord le pays d'origine du Monsieur Noori et le Groupe des 77. D'abord pour féliciter le Monsieur Noori pour sa brillante élection pour un deuxième mandat en tant que Président indépendant du Conseil.

Monsieur le Président, nous avons eu l'occasion de travailler déjà deux années avec le Président Noori et nous lui avons apporté tout notre soutien. Nous envisageons de travailler les deux prochaines années avec lui et nous savons que nous allons lui apporter également tout notre support au cours de la réalisation de ce mandat qui, pour nous, est essentiel pour le devenir de notre Organisation.

Mohamed Ashraf GAMAL ELDIN RASHED (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Group of the Near East Egypt, I would also like to congratulate Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini on his election.

Antonio DUARTE DE ALMEIDA (Portugal)

Portugal speaks on behalf of the European Community and its 27 Member States. As the representative of the European Group is not in the room at the moment, I would like to congratulate sincerely Mr Noori-Naeini for his re-election. Of course, we count on him and his capacities for the work that is upcoming.

Sra. Geoconda M. GALÁN CASTELO (Ecuador)

A nombre del GRULAC queríamos también felicitar al Profesor Noori por su trabajo, por su buena trayectoria así como lo demuestra y confiamos mucho en él. Su posición será un fortalecimiento para las ideas y para las iniciativas innovadoras que se harán en la FAO.

Ms. Armanda VANSTONE (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific, we congratulate you on your re-election, Mr Noori-Naeini, and we look forward to working constructively with you over the next biennium.

Ms Sharon KOTOK (United States of America)

The North America Region congratulates Mr Noori on his re-appointment as Independent Chairperson of the Council. We respect the leadership he has shown in his many roles here in

FAO and at the WFP. We look forward to working with him as we embark on implementing the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation.

Noël BAIOT (Gabon)

Au nom du Groupe africain, je tiens aussi à associer nos voix à ceux qui nous ont précédé pour féliciter Monsieur Noori. Nous avons toujours su apprécier sa dextérité, sa détermination et surtout l'oreille attentive à nos problèmes. Chaque fois qu'il a été question de débattre sur un sujet, Monsieur Noori a toujours su trouver un consensus et une fois de plus nous le félicitons pour son élection au poste de Président.

Susanto SUTOYO (Indonesia)

I speak on behalf of the Asian Group, and I would like to convey our congratulations to Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his re-election as the Independent Chairperson of the Council.

We look forward to rendering our group support and cooperation in carrying out the tasks ahead.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al delegado de Indonesia.

Si no hay más intervenciones, voy a conceder la palabra al Director General Adjunto.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

On behalf of the Director-General and all of us in the Secretariat and myself personally, I wish to congratulate Mr Noori-Naeini for his re-election I would also like to thank him for the absolutely excellent work that he did in his first term of office, which led to his re-election, Mr Noori-Naeini, you did an outstanding job of cultivating excellent working relationships among the Membership and also with the Secretariat.

I think that relationship has led to consensus position on a number of very complex and difficult issues. We in the Secretariat look forward to working with you during your second term.

Mohammeed Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Independent Chairperson of the Council)

I am pleased and indeed honoured to express to all of you my sincere thanks and appreciation for your vote of confidence.

Two years ago when you elected me as your representative to serve our Organization as the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I promised to stay independent and to try to live up to your expectations. I have tried hard to keep my promises. Today, on the one hand, I am pleased to see that, with your strong support, you have expressed your satisfaction with my humble services. On the other hand, your support brings me a much stronger sense of responsibility and commitment. The two coming years will not be ordinary times on two major counts.

Agriculture is back at the top of the world's agenda as a major contributor to overall sustainable development and an important economic sector in reducing poverty and hunger, not to mention new challenges like climate change and environmental and natural resource protection. In addition, we have embarked on the most comprehensive Independent Evaluation ever undertaken of an international organization. These new elements need unprecedented work and endeavour, and necessitate drastic changes which need adoption and implementation.

I once again renew my promise and commitment to live up to my responsibilities independently, and to live up to your expectations with my humble but sincere abilities.

Last, but not least, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for presenting my candidacy to the post of Independent Chair of FAO Council.

I shall very much rely on your support as in the past, and will be grateful if you will kindly bring to my attention any shortcomings in carrying out my duties. I look forward to receiving your valuable advice and guidance on all issues related to my responsibilities in general and to how we

can have a more efficient FAO that will respond effectively to the particular challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Sr. Nouri y felicitaciones nuevamente.

La Secretaría tiene que hacernos alguna indicación para el día de mañana.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Please be reminded that the brainstorming session of the Conference Committee on proposals for an Immediate Plan of Action on FAO renewal, chaired by Mr Mohammed Saeid Noori-Naeini, will meet in the Red Room directly at the end of this Plenary Session.

PRESIDENTE

Hemos terminado el trabajo del día, clausuro la reunión del día de hoy y convoco para mañana a las 10:00 horas para la última reunión de la Conferencia.

Muchas gracias a todos.

The meeting rose at 18.56 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 56

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.56

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-fourth Session Trente-quatrième session 34º período de sesiones
Rome, 17 November – 24 November 20075 Rome, 17 novembre – 24 novembre 2007 Roma, 17 de noviembre – 24 de noviembre de 2007
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 November 2007

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 10:30 hours
Mr Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 30
sous la présidence de M. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 10.30
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Carlos Danilo Vallejo López,
Presidente de la Conferencia

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

PRESIDENTE

Gracias señores delegados. Vamos a iniciar la última Sesión de la Trigésimo Cuarta Conferencia de la FAO. Ha sido una semana de trabajo muy fructífera, y espero que esta sea la culminación de esta.

Señores delegados, los informes de la Comisión II no pudieron ser presentados el día de ayer por la intensa labor que tuvieron los Amigos del Presidente. Por esta razón, igual que el día de ayer, voy a invitar al Embajador Arvelo para que asuma por unos minutos la Presidencia de la Comisión II en este podium, para poder aprobar en pleno la Comisión, y luego pasar a la aprobación de la Asamblea.

Invito al Embajador Arvelo Caamaño, Presidente de la Comisión II y también al Embajador Zohrab V. Malek, Presidente del Comité de Redacción a tomar posición en la mesa directiva.

Mario Arvelo Caamaño (Presidente de la Comisión II)

Muchas gracias y muy buenos días, yo me voy a limitar en este momento para acelerar los procedimientos y ceder el uso de la palabra al distinguido Embajador Zohrab Malek de Armenia, quien ha sido nuestro Presidente del Comité de Redacción y quien tiene amplia experiencia en estos menesteres, ya que fue Presidente de la Comisión II de la pasada Conferencia, así que nuestro querido amigo. Embajador Malek tiene la palabra.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Chairperson, Drafting Committee, Commision II)

I am going to give you a messag.; This time, perhaps, what you have on your desks, the Report of the Drafting Committee, – you have read. Some of you may not have read it yet. This morning, as I was coming here I thought I would jot down a few things to emphasize and reaffirm my determination, as well as on behalf of the Drafting Committee, which took about four hours. We did not quarrel about many issues. We came to agreements, but there was a message. Let me take you back to where I was this summer. I am not trying to take more time from this Conference, I am just trying to make a point.

This summer I was in Quebec City; Quebec City is where FAO was born. I was sitting with my granddaughter and I saw a lot of flags – United Nations flags. I asked the waiter what they were for I also asked the restaurant owner, but nobody knew that those flags were there because the first meeting was held in Quebec City to establish FAO. Silently, I talked to my granddaughter who is six months old, and I told her 'this is where you granddad works now'.

Let me go to the next step of my association with FAO. I was an idealist. I was recruited to be in the International Conference on Nutrition as the Senior Officer to build that Conference because there were so many malnourished people in this world. The Conference was held, followed by the World Food Summit, followed by the World Food Summit: five years later, and there was a re-evaluation of ourselves as to what we were not doing yet.

This summer, I was in Armenia celebrating World Food Day with FAO and the Minister of Agriculture. FAO was well represented; and we went through a whole-day Conference. We spoke about the farmers, we spoke about women, the micro-credits that they do not have or for which are having difficulty in paying 14 percent of interest from the bankers who are sitting in the audience, and I reminded them to open their ears and listen to the cries of the farmers.

Now is the time for us to rebuild again – I am not here to give lectures – I am just telling you what I feel about this Organization. I think this is the right moment for our leaders, such as Professor

Noori and the two Vice-chairs from the Netherlands and Tanzania, to come together and say we are starting today, not in 2008, and I saw them conferring yesterday on that issue.

We have to build on the IEE, which is the Independent External Evaluation Report, we have to open our minds, our borders, to be closer to the minds of the poor people, the undernourished. There is a race from now until next November to have something on paper, to put something into action already. Everybody is supporting it, the management here, as well as the Drafting Committee, which met and quickly, efficiently, effectively delivered to you what we agreed on. There was no disagreement on issues except some deviations of thoughts here and there, but then there was agreement that we put everybody's opinions in that Report. It does not hurt, that is why we come here to confer.

The message from us then is, and I speak on behalf of all the Drafting Committee, to let you revive this Organization, to improve on it. There is already a Reform going on by the Management of this Organization; let's call it renaissance. Let's not talk about Reform for the sake of saying that we are improving things here. Let's act on it, and expect to have a different acronym to this place, still called the IEE, but I suggest we consider and reflect on the following IEE, to talk about an IEE that is 'increasingly efficient and effective'. The new IEE acronym; let's move on it.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Zohrab V. MALEK (Chairperson, Drafting Committee, Commission II)

Let me go back to the routine of the adoption of the Report of the Drafting Committee of Commission II. I am presenting it to the Chairperson of Commission II, and I am asking him to adopt this report *en bloc*.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mario Arvelo Caamaño (Presidente de la Comisión II)

Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción de la Segunda Comisión de esta Conferencia, Sr. Zohrab Malek, Embajador de la Republica de Armenia.

Si no hay intervenciones desde la Plenaria, estaríamos entonces aprobando en bloque el Reporte de la Comisión II, según ha sido presentado por nuestro Comité de Redacción. En ese caso haría solamente dos comentarios muy breves. El primero, para asociarme con los pensamientos expresados por nuestro querido amigo, el Embajador Zohrab Malek, en cuanto a la misión de ésta: nuestra Organización. El segundo comentario es, para concluir los trabajos de esta Comisión II y pasar nuevamente la palabra al Presidente de la Conferencia para continuar nuestros trabajos de hoy, es que me consta que todas las discusiones, los debates, las conversaciones que tuvimos a lo largo de la semana en la Comisión II, no fueron posiciones individuales de Países Miembros, no fueron posiciones regionales, dogmáticas en modo alguno o radicales. Por lo contrario, todas las intervenciones (esto me consta y le consta a ustedes) fueron orientadas a buscar las mejores maneras, de acuerdo con la visión de cada uno, para el fortalecimiento, la renovación y la continua evolución de esta Organización como bien común de todos. Ese fue el interés que pude ver en todo momento, en todas las intervenciones y las conversaciones bilaterales en los pasillos,

en grupos pequeños y grandes y entre los Grupos de Amigos. Durante toda la semana, he visto este interés, este espíritu colectivo y colegial de renovar esta Organización, que es nuestro patrimonio común, para que pueda cumplir su mandato con eficiencia y eficacia.

Recordaré, para terminar, algunas palabras que pronuncié desde este podio en ocasión de la Trigésima Tercera Conferencia en 2005. En aquel momento, en que la Organización había llegado a su Sexagésimo Cumpleaños, dije que yo esperaba (y hablaba en esa oportunidad a nombre del Gobierno de República Dominicana), que esta Organización no llegará a cumplir otros 60 años. Ahora hago lo propio y lo digo nuevamente desde lo más profundo de mi corazón, que espero que de aquí a cuando esta Organización debiera cumplir 120 y, mucho antes de cumplir 120 años de fundada, esta Organización haya quedado disuelta porque ya para entonces habremos vencido el hambre, habremos acabado con la malnutrición y espero que para aquel momento no haya ya necesidad de reunirnos para combatir la pobreza, que esto sea una cosa del pasado y que sólo quede el estudio de la pobreza, el estudio y las causas de la malnutrición y del hambre como tema para los historiadores, y no como tema para Representantes en una Organización Inter-gubernamental.

Con esto terminamos el trabajo de la Comisión II y volvemos a la Conferencia General.

Sr. Presidente, muchas gracias. A partir de este momento, terminado el trabajo de la Comisión II, le ruego que tome en sus manos las riendas de la Reunión.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 2007/REP/11; C 2007/REP/12;
C 2007/REP/13; C 2007/REP/14)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 2007/REP/11;
C 2007/REP/12; C 2007/REP/13; C 2007/REP/14)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 2007/REP/11;
C 2007/REP/12; C 2007/REP/13; C 2007/REP/14)

PRESIDENTE

Gracias al Embajador Arvelo y al Embajador Malek por el trabajo realizado en estos días y por haber logrado esta aprobación, por aclamación diría yo, por parte de los Miembros de la Comisión II.

Volvemos a trabajar como Asamblea.

Procedemos entonces a considerar que están en manos de ustedes los documentos aprobados por la Comisión II, espero que esos borradores sean sometidos a consideración y aprobación. Si alguno de los Miembros de la Conferencia tiene algún comentario sobre los documentos presentados por la Comisión II, le concedo la palabra.

Ante la ausencia de comentarios, considero aprobados los Informes C 2007/REP/11, C 2007/REP/12, C 2007/REP/13 y C 2007/REP/14 que fueron aprobados por la Comisión y que ahora aprueba el Plenario.

Hemos concluido entonces la aprobación de los Temas tratados por la Comisión II.

Reitero nuestro agradecimiento a la Comisión en pleno y especialmente al Presidente de la Comisión, Embajador Arvelo y al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, el Embajador Malek.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I (C 2007/REP/6; C 2007/REP/7; C 2007/REP/8; C 2007/REP/9; C 2007/REP/10; C 2007/REP/25.7)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I (C 2007/REP/6; C 2007/REP/7; C 2007/REP/8; C 2007/REP/9; C 2007/REP/10; C 2007/REP/25.7)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I (C 2007/REP/6; C 2007/REP/7; C 2007/REP/8; C 2007/REP/9; C 2007/REP/10; C 2007/REP/25.7)

PRESIDENTE

A continuación vamos a considerar la aprobación de los Informes de la Comisión I, que se encuentran en los documentos C 2007/REP/6, C 2007/REP/7, C 2007/REP/8, C 2007/REP/9, C 2007/REP/10 y C 2007/REP/25.7.

Voy a ofrecer la palabra al Embajador Christen Wretborn, quien presidió los trabajos de la Comisión I, para presentar un Informe.

Christen WRETBORN (Chairperson, Commission I)

In addition to the Chair, there are also two Vice-Chairs in Commission I: From Algeria, Mr Abdelmalek Tinta and from Austria, Mrs Hedwig Wögerbauer.

The Chair of the Drafting Committee – who is on the podium, to the right of me – is from Sri Lanka, Mrs Hasanthi Dissanayake.

Commission I met three times and the Drafting Committee met twice. Commission I adopted its Report, which is now before the Conference, with six separate Reports – I mention them to include them in the final Report from this meeting: C 2007/REP/6 Progress Report on Implementation of FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action; C 2007/REP/7 Interim Report on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System; C 2007/REP/8 United Nations FAO World Food Programme; C 2007/REP/9 International Year of the Potato 2008; C 2007/REP/10 International Year of Natural Fibres 2009; and C 2007/REP/25.7 Report on the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Interlaken, Switzerland, 3-7 September 2007 and of the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Rome, 11-15 June 2007.

We believe that this is a very balanced Report and an accurate summary of the proceedings of Commission I, for which I thank the Chair, the Members of the Drafting Committee and delegates who participated.

Finally, just a private remark, but I think there is an imbalance in work between Commission I and Commission II. We know that there are a lot of substantive issues in FAO that should be discussed during this Conference, but they are not. It could have been possible to organize the work in another way, and I hope that the Conference Committee of the IEE and its Working Groups will attach great importance also to the work of the Conference.

PRESIDENTE

Si así lo desean, los Representantes de los países pueden ahora hacer sus comentarios sobre el informe presentado de los documentos C 2007/REP/9; C 2007/REP/7; C 2007/REP/8; C 2007/REP/9; C 2007/REP/10 y C 2007/REP/25.7.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Gracias Sr. Presidente. Primero permítame felicitar al Presidente de la Comisión I y a la Presidenta del Comité de Redacción en la cual tuve la ocasión de trabajar, como se informó de manera eficiente en dos reuniones.

Sin embargo, tengo una pregunta para la Secretaría. Fue un tema que surgió en el trabajo de la Comisión. Se nos dieron las explicaciones de parte de la Secretaría y sin embargo en este punto tengo una duda específica acerca del punto 8 del documento C 2007/REP/25.7 referido a la

Conferencia Técnica Internacional sobre los Recursos Zoogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura.

En la Comisión, cuando trabajamos, el encabezado de cada uno de los párrafos decía en una de sus ocasiones "la Conferencia" y en otras ocasiones "la Comisión". Se nos informó que el trabajo saldría de la Comisión a la Conferencia y tan pronto la Comisión adoptara el reporte, el lenguaje cambiaba, a decir "la Conferencia recomienda lo examinado".

Sin embargo, en el punto ocho dice: "la Conferencia recomendó que se aprobara la Resolución siguiente" y siguió una resolución que yo entendería que está adaptada, pero ahí tengo duda porque me parecería y solicito luces de la Secretaría desde ese punto, si al estarnos refiriendo a otro documento debería decir acá: "la Comisión recomendó, para que la Conferencia aprobara, la Resolución que sigue".

El fondo de la pregunta es: si la Resolución que está ahí la estamos aprobando o no, o sólo estamos aprobando una recomendación que viene de la Comisión.

PRESIDENTE

Estamos aprobando la Recomendación hecha por la Comisión I, pero voy a darle la palabra al Dr. Wretborn.

Tiene la palabra la Secretaría de la Comisión.

SECRETARY (Commission I)

As was mentioned by the delegate from Colombia, this was a matter that was addressed by the Reports Office – they gave us an explanation. It is a little bit of an irregularity and will be corrected in the Final Report. It is a small matter for the Reports Office to deal with. They know about it and will address it.

PRESIDENTE

Esta información espero que satisfaga así la pregunta del delegado de Colombia. Alguna otra intervención?

Se concluye entonces la aprobación de los informes presentados por la Comisión I. Agradezco al Sr. Wretborn por el trabajo realizado y a toda la Comisión. Quedan aprobados los Temas.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF PLENARY (C 2007/REP/1; C 2007/REP/2; C 2007/REP/3; C 2007/REP/4; C 2007/REP/5; C 2007/REP/15; C 2007/REP/16.1; C 2007/REP/16.2; C 2007/REP/17; C 2007/REP/18; C 2007/REP/19; C 2007/REP/20; C 2007/REP/21; C 2007/REP/22; C 2007/REP/23.1; C 2007/REP/23.2; C 2007/REP/24; C 2007/REP/25.1; C 2007/REP/25.2; C 2007/REP/25.3; C 2007/REP/25.4; C 2007/REP/25.5; C 2007/REP/25.6; C 2007/REP/25.8; C 2007/REP/25.9)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA SEANCE PLENIERE (C 2007/REP/1; C 2007/REP/2; C 2007/REP/3; C 2007/REP/4; C 2007/REP/5; C 2007/REP/15; C 2007/REP/16.1; C 2007/REP/16.2; C 2007/REP/17; C 2007/REP/18; C 2007/REP/19; C 2007/REP/20; C 2007/REP/21; C 2007/REP/22; C 2007/REP/23.1; C 2007/REP/23.2; C 2007/REP/24; C 2007/REP/25.1; C 2007/REP/25.2; C 2007/REP/25.3; C 2007/REP/25.4; C 2007/REP/25.5; C 2007/REP/25.6; C 2007/REP/25.8; C 2007/REP/25.9)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (C 2007/REP/1; C 2007/REP/2; C 2007/REP/3; C 2007/REP/4; C 2007/REP/5; C 2007/REP/15; C 2007/REP/16.1; C 2007/REP/16.2; C 2007/REP/17; C 2007/REP/18; C 2007/REP/19; C 2007/REP/20; C 2007/REP/21; C 2007/REP/22; C 2007/REP/23.1; C 2007/REP/23.2; C 2007/REP/24; C 2007/REP/25.1; C 2007/REP/25.2; C 2007/REP/25.3; C 2007/REP/25.4; C 2007/REP/25.5; C 2007/REP/25.6; C 2007/REP/25.8; C 2007/REP/25.9)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

In Report 22, Election of Council Members, there is a mistake on pages 2 and 3 of the English version – and I suppose it is the same in the other language versions.

On page 2, there is a mention of Asia: three Members, India, Indonesia and Pakistan. This, actually, is on page 3 for the following period: January 2009-November 2011.

On page 2, under Asia it is “0”. Similarly, on the bottom of page 2, Southwest Pacific should read “0” and that is actually for the following period: January 2009-November 2011.

On the bottom of page 3, it should read Southwest Pacific: 1 Australia.

Also a mistake is in the Journal of the Conference of today, on page 4, at the bottom of the table under Southwest Pacific, the period should read January 2009-November 2011 for Australia. This is my mistake, for which I do apologize.

PRESIDENTE

Dicen que reconocer el error es humano, así que gracias señor Secretario, por esa aclaración. Algunas observaciones y comentarios a los informes que fueron tratados. Es que mi vista es la mala no logro leer el letrero, Mauritania tiene la palabra.

Limam OULD ABDAWA (Mauritanie)

Notre remarque et observation par rapport à deux points de l'Ordre du jour que nous n'avons pas pu voir dans le Rapport global. Ces deux points concernent un évènement sur les forêts et l'énergie et un autre évènement aussi sur la sécurité alimentaire, c'est la sécurité des produits alimentaires. Donc, ces deux évènements là ne sont pas apparus tels qu'ils devaient apparaître dans le Rapport global que l'on nous a remis ce matin.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

En effet, il y a eu cinq Évènements Spéciaux de haut niveau au cours de la Conférence y compris les deux évènements qui ont été mentionnés par le délégué de la Mauritanie. Il y a eu des Rapports qui ont été présentés à la Conférence, en Plénière, sur les travaux de ces différents évènements et ceci est reflété dans le C 2007/REP/3 3 à la page 5 de la version anglaise (je n'ai pas la version française sous les yeux) au paragraphe 16 qui dit ceci: "Reports on the High-Level

Special Events were presented, to the Plenary and are given in Appendixes so and so to this Report".

PRESIDENTE

Gracias señor Secretario, entiendo que el delegado de Mauritania queda satisfecho con la explicación porque serán incorporados en el Informe Final. Si no existen observaciones, si no hay comentarios considero, perdón, El Salvador tiene la palabra.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI (El Salvador)

Muchas gracias señor Presidente, disculpen, no se si este asunto ya ha sido solicitado, en todo caso mi delegación quería en consideración a la importancia del mensaje que su Santidad Benedicto XVI pronunció en Audiencia especial para los participantes a esta 34mo Período de Sesiones, solicitarle que dicho mensaje forme parte de los documentos oficiales de esta Conferencia. Gracias señor Presidente.

PRESIDENTE

Gracias a la delegada de El Salvador, se acepta la recomendación y se sugiere entonces a la Administración de la FAO a incorporar el mensaje del Sumo Pontífice en los Informes de esta Conferencia.⁵

Alguna otra intervención? Doy por aprobado entonces los Informes.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Señores delegados, hemos concluido los debates y hemos concluido la Aprobación de los Informes. Como sesión de clausura quisiera esperar unos minutos, ya que he invitado al Señor Director General de la FAO que venga a la Sala y ustedes me permitirán al final hacer un pequeñísimo mensaje de agradecimiento para todos. Esperemos unos minutos que baje el Señor Director General. Aprovecho para recordarles que el día lunes 26 de noviembre iniciarán los trabajos de la 134^a Sesión del Consejo en la Sala Roja, a las 10:00 de la mañana.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PRESIDENTE

Amigos delegados de todos los Países Miembros que forman parte de la FAO, cuando hace unos seis meses algún amigo agrarista se le ocurrió decir que podría el Ecuador presentar mi candidatura para presidir esta Trigésima Cuarta Asamblea, me pareció una novelería de un amigo, pero siempre pensé con modestia que el GRULAC analizaría otras posibilidades entre los delegados de los países más importantes en la estructura geopolítica de América Latina y el Caribe. Gracias al GRULAC, gracias a los países latino-americanos que consideraron que el

⁵ The Address by the His Holiness Bendict XVI to the participants in the 34th Session of the FAO Conference is reproduced as an Annex to this Verbatim Record.

nombre de un ecuatoriano podría presidir la Conferencia, pero volví a pensarlo. Hay otros continentes, hay 192 Países, hay países grandes, están los ricos, están representantes de los continentes en donde también hay hambre hay hombres ilustres y siempre pensé que no sería una realidad.

Gracias a todos ustedes, gracias a sus países, gracias por haber confiado en mi. Quiero comenzar por agradecer a mi delegación, quienes me han acompañado, me han guiado y me han aconsejado. Gracias al personal escondido de mi Secretaría que hubiera querido estuviese aquí presente y si alguien pudiese invitarles, por favor quisiera que estén aquí. Gracias a ellos, que como decimos en el Ecuador me han pastoreado, o sea como cuando seguía un rebaño para que haya una buena conducción por parte de esta Presidencia. Gracias a la FAO, gracias Sr. Director General, muchas gracias, su apoyo ha sido para mi fundamental, el apoyo de la Secretaría de esta Conferencia. Gracias a ustedes, en el Ecuador decimos que Dios les pague, porque hicieron posible conducir esta Asamblea en forma eficiente.

Si puedo voy a decir algo y no está presente mi esposa, y si le pueden invitar por favor yo cuento. Hay unos versos de los poetas del Sur de la música de protesta que dicen, "*a veces sigo a mi sombra y a veces viene detrás, pobrecita si me muero con quien va a andar.*" En los términos más positivos gracias a mi esposa. Ella me acompaña siempre como mi sombra, claro que a veces me quita el puesto, normalmente yo presido las sesiones y ella me dice en la casa que debo hacer en las Sesiones, pero gracias a ella, y perdónenme delegados que haya salido de la formalidad a la informalidad, ella es como mi sombra. Pero ahora nos queda lo difícil, hemos deliberado, hemos avanzado, hemos profundizado ideas, hemos compartido criterios. Ha estado presente en nuestros pensamientos el problema del hambre y el problema de la paz, y estamos lejos de alcanzar los dos objetivos: eliminar el hambre y lograr la paz en el mundo.

Hay graves problemas en la humanidad, el terrorismo es uno de ellos, pero hay algo mucho más grave que ese terrorismo físico, es el terrorismo económico, ese que subyuga, ese que condiciona, ese que esclaviza, ese que empobrece, ese que hace más ricos a los ricos y más pobres a los pobres. No hay que hacer llamados a los pobres para trabajar por sus países, hay que hacer un llamado a los ricos para que nos dejen trabajar y nos ayuden, tratándonos de igual a igual, pagando bien por nuestros productos, sin recibir caridad, para que con nuestros recursos logremos desarrollar a nuestros pueblos. En manos de ustedes está conducir el mundo. Muchas Gracias.

Invito al Sr. Director General a que nos dirija unas palabras, antes de la clausura de la Sesión.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Après votre intervention, Monsieur le Président, nous ne pouvons pas manquer d'être émus parce que nous avons senti que vos propos venaient du cœur et étaient un appel pour un monde plus juste, un monde de solidarité, un monde de partage et cela est le fondement même des Nations Unies, le fondement de l'ensemble des relations qui rassemblent de 192 pays du monde ici au sein d'une même Organisation.

Tant que nous agissons en gardant à l'esprit que nous faisons partie d'une même humanité et que cette humanité ne sera en paix que si c'est une humanité de justice et qui empêche que 300 millions d'enfants se couchent le ventre creux et qu'à travers le monde 854 millions d'hommes, de femmes et d'enfants se couchent le ventre creux. Tant que nous serons convaincus que nous pouvons, avec la volonté politique, avec la force morale de la justice, de régler les problèmes du monde, je pense que l'humanité a un avenir radieux puisque c'est seulement dans ce cadre que la paix pourra exister.

Je voudrais aussi vous remercier pour le travail très important que vous avez accompli ici. Je sais que vous êtes restés tard, parfois jusqu'à trois heures et demie du matin, pour négocier, pour discuter, pour dialoguer et pour donner une vraie impulsion à cette FAO que nous appelons de nos vœux: la FAO du 21^{ème} Siècle qui répond aux défis, au combien nombreux, qui se présentent à nous. Les défis d'une population mondiale croissante face à des ressources naturelles en péril, le défi des demandes nouvelles sur les productions agricoles de bioénergie; le défi des changements climatiques qui sont le résultat de notre mauvaise utilisation des ressources que Dieu a mises à notre disposition; et naturellement le grand défi des problèmes liés à la mondialisation, notamment à travers les mouvements de personnes, de biens, de services mais aussi de maladies, des animaux comme des plantes, qui souvent se répercutent au niveau humain.

Je voudrais donc vous remercier pour ces efforts et je voudrais aussi vous remercier d'avoir pris vos responsabilités en tant qu'États Membres pour discuter des problèmes de l'Organisation et pour prendre les décisions qui nous donnent la possibilité d'un nouvel élan dans les activités de l'Organisation.

Je peux vous assurer que, de notre côté, nous essaierons cette confiance et cette possibilité que vous nous offrez de travailler avec vous pour une FAO qui soit un exemple au sein du système des Nations Unies.

Donc à vous tous, je voudrais souhaiter un bon retour dans vos foyers et surtout de fêter dans un cadre oecuménique l'Eid Al Adha qui va venir bientôt, Noël qui va suivre et les fêtes de fin d'année.

Et avant de terminer, je voudrais saisir l'occasion, puisque c'est seulement maintenant que j'ai cette possibilité, de féliciter le Président du Conseil pour la confiance qui lui a été renouvelée par les États Membres pour une seconde fois. C'est la preuve qu'il a su convaincre et c'est Miguel de Unamuno, grand poète et écrivain espagnol qui disait que "le problème ce n'est pas de vaincre, mais de convaincre".

Et je voudrais aussi remercier le Président pour avoir dirigé avec une maestria inégalée nos travaux avec la fermeté doublée de gentillesse et d'amabilité que nous avons pu apprécier. Je voudrais également après les États Membres, remercier le Secrétariat, mes collègues, mes collaborateurs qui travaillent avec moi pour répondre aux demandes des États Membres, et naturellement aussi les interprètes et traducteurs, les responsables de la sécurité, les membres des services, tous ceux qui, d'une manière ou d'une autre, nous ont permis d'avoir une Conférence qui restera mémorable et qui restera dans l'histoire.

PRESIDENTE

Sres. Delegados, voy a clausurar la Trigésimo Cuarta Conferencia.

Antes de hacerlo quiero decirles que ha sido un éxito, gracias a la presencia de todos ustedes que han permitido que la Conferencia vaya por el mejor de los caminos.

Queda clausurada la Trigésimo Cuarta Conferencia de la FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 11:15 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15

ANNEX

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN
THE THIRTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION**

*Clementine Hall
Thursday, 22 November 2007*

Mr President,
Mr Director General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you gather for the Thirty-fourth Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, I am pleased to welcome you to the Vatican. Our meeting today is part of a tradition reaching back to the time when your Organization first set up its Headquarters in Rome. I am happy to have yet another occasion to express appreciation for your work to eliminate the scourge of global hunger.

As you know, the Holy See has always maintained a keen interest in every effort made to rid the human family of famine and malnutrition, in the awareness that resolving these problems requires not only extraordinary dedication and highly-refined technical training, but above all a genuine spirit of cooperation uniting all men and women of good will.

This noble goal calls for unwavering acknowledgement of the inherent dignity of the human person at every stage of life. All forms of discrimination, and particularly those that thwart agricultural development, must be rejected since they constitute a violation of the basic right of every person to be “free from hunger”. These convictions are, in fact, demanded by the very nature of your work on behalf of the common good of humanity, as expressed so eloquently by your motto - *fiat panis* - words that are also at the heart of the Gospel which the Church is called to proclaim.

The data gathered through your research and the extent of your programmes for supporting the global endeavour to develop the world’s natural resources clearly testify to one of the most troubling paradoxes of our time: the relentless spread of poverty in a world that is also experiencing unprecedented prosperity, not only in the economic sphere but also in the rapidly developing fields of science and technology.

The obstacles standing in the way of overcoming this tragic situation can at times be discouraging. Armed conflicts, outbreaks of disease, adverse atmospheric and environmental conditions and the massive forced displacement of peoples: all these obstacles should serve as a motivation to redouble our efforts to provide each person with his or her daily bread. For her part, the Church is convinced that the quest for more effective technical solutions in an ever-changing and expanding world calls for far-sighted programmes embodying enduring values grounded in the inalienable dignity and rights of the human person.

FAO continues to play an essential role in relieving world hunger, while reminding the international community of the pressing need constantly to update methods and to design strategies that are adequate to today’s challenges. I express my appreciation for the generous efforts made in this regard by all associated with your Organization. The Holy See has closely followed the activities of FAO over the last sixty years, and is confident that the significant results already achieved will continue. FAO was one of the first international organizations with which the Holy See established regular diplomatic relations. On 23 November 1948, during the Fourth Session of your Conference, the Holy See was granted the unique status of “Permanent

Observer”, thus ensuring its right to participate in the activities of FAO’s various departments and affiliated agencies in a way consonant with the Church’s religious and moral mission.

The united effort of the international community to eliminate malnutrition and promote genuine development necessarily calls for clear structures of management and oversight, and a realistic assessment of the resources needed to address a wide range of different situations. It requires the contribution of every member of society - individuals, volunteer organizations, businesses, and local and national governments - always with due regard for those ethical and moral principles which are the common patrimony of all people and which are the foundation of all social life. The international community must always avail itself of this precious treasure of common values, since genuine and lasting development can only be furthered in a spirit of cooperation and a willingness to share professional and technical resources.

Indeed, today more than ever, the human family needs to find the tools and strategies capable of overcoming the conflicts caused by social differences, ethnic rivalries, and the gross disparity in levels of economic development. Mankind is thirsting for true and lasting peace - a peace that can only come about if individuals, groups at every level, and Government leaders cultivate habits of responsible decision-making rooted firmly in the fundamental principles of justice. It is, therefore, essential that societies dedicate their energies to educating authentic peacemakers: this is a task which falls in a particular way to Organizations like your own, which cannot fail to recognize as the foundation of authentic justice the universal destination of the goods of creation.

Religion, as a potent spiritual force for healing the wounds of conflict and division, has its own distinctive contribution to make in this regard, especially through the work of forming minds and hearts in accordance with a vision of the human person.

Ladies and Gentlemen, technical progress, important as it is, is not everything. Such progress must be placed within the wider context of the integral good of the human person. It must constantly draw nourishment from the common patrimony of values which can inspire concrete initiatives aimed at a more equitable distribution of spiritual and material goods. As I wrote in my encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, “those who are in a position to help others will realize that, in doing so, they themselves receive help; being able to help others is no merit or achievement of their own” (No. 35). This principle has a special application to the world of agriculture, in which the work of those who are often considered the “lowliest” members of society should be duly acknowledged and esteemed.

FAO’s outstanding activity on behalf of development and food security clearly points to the correlation between the spread of poverty and the denial of basic human rights, beginning with the fundamental right to adequate nutrition. Peace, prosperity, and respect for human rights are inseparably linked. The time has come to ensure, for the sake of peace, that no man, woman or child will ever be hungry again!

Dear friends, in renewing my esteem for your work, I assure you of my prayers that Almighty God will enlighten and guide your deliberations, so that the activity of FAO will respond ever more fully to the human family’s yearning for solidarity, justice and peace.

