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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session • Trente-troisième session • 33° período de sesiones

**Rome, 19-26 November 2005
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 19-26 novembre 2005
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES
DE LA CONFÉRENCE**

**Roma, 19-26 de noviembre de 2005
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
FIRST PLENARY MEETING PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 November 2005

**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 2005/LIM/9)

1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents

1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee

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

2. Nomenclamiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

I have the honour to welcome you to the FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference.

I am glad to welcome you to your Organization, especially the delegates who are here for the first time.

I should like to welcome the Representative of Belarus, which has applied for membership in the Organization and whose application will be placed before the Conference this afternoon.

The first Item on the Agenda is the election of the Chairperson of the Conference. The Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session in June 2005, designated Viet Nam as the country which would provide the Chairperson for the Conference.

At its Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session, which concluded yesterday, the Council proposed that His Excellency, Cao Duc Phat, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, preside over this Session.

May I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and, if so, can it confirm by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

May I now invite His Excellency, Cao Duc Phat, to come forward and take the Chair?

CHAIRMAN

It is indeed an honour for me and my country to have been elected as Chairperson of this Conference and I wish to thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

As you all know, we have an Agenda before us that calls for decisions that will have an impact on the future of our Organization. Given that we have only seven days to do this, I call on your cooperation and understanding to ensure we make the very best use of our time to make wise, confident and forward-looking decisions.

Let us turn straight away to the first Item on the Agenda.

Rule VII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the Report of the Council, shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the seven members of the General Committee of the Conference and confirm the nine Members of the Credentials Committee, nominated by the Council at its Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session.

May I read the proposal of the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of the Council, regarding the nominations of the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference? They are as follows: His

Excellency Arefaine Berhe from Eritrea; His Excellency Romualdo Bettini from Italy; and His Excellency Abubakr Mabrouk El-Mansoury from the Lybian Arab Jamahiriya.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just heard the proposal of the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of the Council concerning the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference. Can I take it that there are no objections and that the Conference approves these names?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, this completes Item 1 on our Agenda.

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda; the Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee, as submitted by the recently-concluded Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of the Council. They are as follows: Canada; China; Costa Rica; Kuwait; Mali; New Zealand; and the United Kingdom.

You have heard the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

CHAIRMAN

The seven Member Nations proposed by the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of the Council have been duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee, made by the Council at its Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session in June this year: Bulgaria; Croatia; El Salvador; Indonesia; Morocco; San Marino; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; and Yemen.

You have heard the list of nine Member Nations, which have started serving in the Credentials Committee. Do you wish to endorse this list?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I consider these nine countries duly endorsed as Members of the Credentials Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this completes Item 2 on our Agenda.

We now turn to Item 25.1 on our Agenda. The Conference will now listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank L. McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization, and is delivered at each biennial Conference Session.

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

**OTHER MATTERS
QUESTIONS DIVERSES
OTROS ASUNTOS**

25. Any Other Matters

25. Autres questions

25. Otros asuntos

25.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture

25.1 Conférence McDougall

25.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to introduce Reverend David Beckmann, President of one of the world's top charitable organizations, Bread for the World, and one of the founding members of the International Alliance Against Hunger, who has kindly agreed to deliver the Twenty-fourth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

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

Reverend David Beckmann is an economist as well as a Lutheran clergyman. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale and then went on to earn his Master of Science in Economics from the London School of Economics, and additionally he received a Master of Divinity in St. Louis University.

Preceding his work at Bread for the World, Reverend Beckmann worked in Bangladesh for a church-related relief and development agency from 1975–1976, along with 15 years as a World Bank economist. Reverend Beckmann has played a prominent role in the Bank's heightened focus on poverty reduction and fostered greater collaboration between the Bank and private voluntary organizations serving poor people. Reverend Beckmann has also published several works focusing on Christian faith and economics. Of his most recent works, we can mention *Grace at the Table: Ending Hunger in God's World*, co-authored by former Bread for the World President, Art Simon, and also *Transforming the Politics of Hunger*.

Since 1991, Reverend David Beckmann has served as President of Bread for the World, after having worked for several years on the Board. Bread for the World is a nationwide Christian citizens' movement against hunger, seeking justice for hungry people by engaging in research and education on policies related to hunger and development.

Bread for the World is leading the US National Alliance Against Hunger and is lobbying on behalf of its members for the Government, mobilizing about a quarter of a million letters per year to Congress, to increase its support for programmes, both at home and abroad, aimed at reducing hunger and poverty.

Bread for the World, or "Bread", as it is commonly known, is teaming up with FAO and other partners in national alliances, which are emerging in many developing countries to help make human hunger and poverty a thing of the past.

I now have the pleasure of inviting him to deliver his Address.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Reverend David BECKMANN

You represent the world's concerns about hunger, food and agriculture. You come from the governments of the world, from NGOs, from UN agencies, and so it is indeed a great honour to me to be able to speak to you. This lecture is an extraordinary opportunity. Prior lectures in this series have included pioneers, such as, Joyeus Nureri, President of Tanzania, John D. Rockefeller from the Rockefeller Foundation, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary-General of the United Nations. I am humbled to be counted among their number. I want to thank the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, for inviting me to give this year's McDougall Lecture. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the leadership and staff of the three Rome agencies, FAO, the WFP and IFAD for all that they do to help the world to reduce hunger and poverty. I want to thank the officials of my own Government who work to reduce hunger in our country and around the world, and I would like to pay special tribute to two people from my country who are personal mentors: Ambassador Tony Hall and Assistant Director-General, Eva Clayton. Before I get started with the lecture, I just want to make sure that you all know that I am not David Beckham. He is a young, handsome football player. I am a middle-aged clergyman, so I do not think there is a big chance of a mix up, but I do want to be clear.

My lecture is about building the political will that we need to overcome hunger, and it will be in three parts. First, I would like to take some time to explain to you about bread for the world. I think you will be interested in this grassroots citizen's movement that has been effective over and over again in getting the US Government to do some things that are important to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. So, I want to talk about what bread for the world is, give you an example of how it works, and then talk about some of the things that we have been doing recently. Then, I will talk in a more general way about building the political will that we need to end hunger. We know that it is feasible to end hunger, but how is it that we are going to create the will, the commitment to make it happen? Finally, I would like to make some specific recommendations to you. The group of officials gathered here are going to be making important decisions in the next few days, and so I do not want to miss these opportunities to suggest some ways that you could help to build political will to overcome hunger and poverty.

Bread for the World got started back in 1974 when Pastor Arthur Simon and some other church leaders in the US read news reports from the first World Food Conference. They read that it was possible to end hunger in the world, and that really what we needed was more political will. So they invited religious people and congregations all over the United States to become part of a network that would put pressure on our Government officials to do their part to end hunger in the world. Bread for the World now has 57 000 members that includes 2 500 local congregations. We mobilize more than a quarter of a million constituent letters and contacts with members of Congress every year. We educate people about policies that are important to hungry people, and then we run big campaigns to pass anti-hunger legislation through the US Congress. We share our name with Brot für die Welt in Germany, but the two organizations are entirely separate.

I think the best way to introduce you to Bread for the World is to tell you about some of our members in Birmingham, Alabama. About ten years ago, a young mother named Pat Pelham, as part of her prayer life, felt called to do something about hunger and poverty in Africa. Her husband has a job in Birmingham. She has little children, but she and her friend, Elaine Van Cleeve learned from a Catholic priest, Father Martin Moeller, about Bread for the World, and so they started to organize in Birmingham. They engaged their own representative in the US Congress. His name is Spencer Bacchus, and Mr Bacchus is now very honest in saying that he knew almost nothing about poverty around the world. He certainly did not know anything about the international debt issue.

Bread for the World chaired the US legislative coalition that was part of the big Jubilee campaign in 1998/1999/2000, and at the beginning of 1999, we were ready to introduce legislation in the US Congress, and just at that time, Spencer Bacchus was named to chair the relevant sub-committee. So, I called Pat Pelham. She and Elaine brought hundredths of letters to him, and they came up to

Washington with some friends. They shared their concern with him, and they convinced him so that he became one of the most persistent and effective advocates for international debt relief within the US Congress. He was a very unlikely supporter, and I think one reason why he was so effective is that everybody was surprised that he was so passionate about this issue. They did not just have one meeting with him, they kept meeting with him. They convened big meetings back home in Birmingham to celebrate his leadership on this issue. They got the Birmingham News, the local newspaper, to editorialize about debt relief for poor countries. If you know something Alabama, this is not a sort of a mainstream issue in Alabama politics. They recruited 20 other churches in Birmingham, so there was a big stream of letters from back home to this one politician encouraging him to continue to provide leadership on the debt issue. There were similar things happening all over the United States. Tens of thousands of people were working on their own members of Congress in their own districts and states.

Bread for the World, the Organization, has a staff. We have about 90 people, and we use that staff to coordinate this campaign, to provide support to active citizens, to provide them with attractive materials so that they could go in to their congregations or other groups in their community and get more and people excited about debt relief for the poorest countries of the world. We were part of the Jubilee campaign which engaged hundreds of thousands of people all over the world in pushing in the same general direction.

When President Clinton signed the legislation that funded the US participation in the international debt relief deal, I was invited to introduce him. President Clinton looked at Spencer Bacchus, who was sitting in the front row and he gave Representative Bacchus credit. He said this would not be happening if it were not for the vigorous leadership of this one Representative, and I have used my minutes to give credit to Pat Pelham and Elaine Van Cleeve and Father Moeller because I am convinced that, except for the work that they did to build political commitment, the international debt relief would not have gone through in the way that it did.

Since then, Bread for the World has focused on poverty focused development assistance. We are trying to get increased funding from the US Government for effective programmes that are focused on development among poor people, and in fact, US financing for poverty focused development assistance has doubled over the last five years. That did not happen just because of us, but it would not have happened without what Bread for the World members have done to build the political will around that issue. Now, we are getting a lot of help from Bono of the Irish rock group, U2. Bono, last year proposed that Bread for the World would join together with him and lots of other groups in one campaign. We call it the One Campaign. It is the US Millennium Development Goal's campaign, and we now have one and a half million people, mostly young people, receiving emails from the One Campaign. When the One Campaign website asked them to, half a million of those people sent emails to President Bush urging him to provide strong leadership at this year's G8 Summit.

Bono and Bob Geldof managed to pull together the Live 8 concerts in July. There was one concert very close to this building. Those Live 8 concerts helped to get the G8 Heads of State to commit themselves to deeper debt reduction for the poorest countries, and to further and substantial increases in development assistance to reduce poverty.

Now, some people are surprised, but we still have quite a bit of hunger in the United States. Thirty Eight million people live in households that are food insecure within the United States, so they are not hungry like people in Ethiopia are hungry, but there are lots of low income families in our richly blessed country that sometimes go without food, and so Bread for the World members also work on hunger in our own country. The Bush administration has, in fact, increased nutrition assistance for hungry people in our country, but hunger has been increasing over the last five years in America nevertheless, and right now, our President and many members of Congress are pushing to cut the food stamp programme, to cut other programmes of assistance to low income people. So Bread for the World members are campaigning to stop those cuts. What we want instead is for them to pass a bill called the Hunger-Free Communities Act which would reaffirm the US commitment to cut hunger and food insecurity in our own country in half by 2010

and provide help to community groups around the country, our country, who are trying to solve the problem of hunger in their own communities.

Bread for the World has had the opportunity to be part of the US alliance to end hunger. I am grateful to the Rome agencies and to all of you for launching the International Alliance against Hunger. In the US, the Alliance to end hunger is bringing together diverse religious groups, lots of charities, corporations, unions, farm associations, universities. We are trying to help all of these institutions work together to create the political will we need to make progress against hunger in our own country and around the world. I am grateful that the US Department of Agriculture participates in the US Alliance to end Hunger as an observer.

One of the most interesting things that the US Alliance has done is a series of polls to learn how US voters think about hunger, and what we have learned is that a large majority of people in our country support effective actions by our Government to reduce hunger in our country and around the world, and so the members of the US Alliance have been going to likely candidates for President of the United States. We started before the last election. We are starting now on the next election. We are going to those possible candidates for President, to show them that there are ways that they can talk about hunger that will help them get elected.

Now I have talked at length about my own experience and I recognize that there are lots of other ways to build political commitment to overcoming hunger. In other countries, the context is different, the strategies would be completely different, but I do think that Bread for the World is a clear example of the kind of work that needs to happen all over the world on a much larger scale. We need to build the political commitment that can achieve the progress against hunger and poverty that we know is possible. It has been decades now since the world first recognized that it is possible in our time to virtually end hunger. We know that it would not cost all that much.

It has been decades now since the world first recognized that it is possible in our time to virtually end hunger. We know that it wouldn't cost all that much. We know that the technical difficulties are surmountable. It has probably been said in this room, more than a thousand times, that the binding constraints on progress against hunger is lack of political will. Lots of reports and conferences have ended with a list of recommendations and then a plea for political will. No report, no conference, should ever end that way again. Rather the analysis needs to proceed, how is it that we are going to build the political will we need to achieve those recommendations.

Now the main location of political will is governments. Governments make decisions that affect many many hungry people, sometimes for good, sometimes for ill. Governments also frame policies that allow families, civil society or the private sector to make the contributions that they can make to overcoming hunger and poverty. So officials of government, including some of you, have extraordinary opportunities to help make progress against hunger. But it is not just a question of individuals in government. Individuals in government are limited in what they can do, and so what we need to do is build institutions of government that embody the political commitment to reduce hunger and poverty. So, for example, a strong nutrition division, in an agriculture ministry; or a strong programme of extension that reaches out to some of the poorest farmers in a country – those are institutionalizations of political commitment. Some of the political work that needs to be done is done outside government. Political parties, organizations of farmers, community organizations, some religious bodies, the media, some businesses, and some individuals, all of these actors work to push government to do what it ought to do to help reduce, to provide help and opportunity, to hungry families. Again it is not just a question of what is happening right now, we need to build institutions outside government that will push on a consistent basis over a period of decades to get the progress that we need against hunger and poverty.

International institutions can also play a role in building political will. Their reports and conferences make a difference. I am struck that Bread for the World was started after the First World Food Conference. Over the years our ideas have been shaped by the ideas that have come out of meetings like this; that have come out of studies from FAO, and that is true of like-minded people all over the world.

Building political will is a project, it is a project, it is not just a hope. It requires know-how. Now most of what I know about how to build political will comes from the experience of Bread for the World over 32 years. We have tried to look for literature on how to build political will to overcome hunger and poverty and I am surprised at how little there is. So we need more case studies, we need more analysis of how this kind of work is done in different political contexts.

Building political will also requires money. Let me be clear that Bread for the World doesn't get any money from the US Government, but routinely every one dollar in our budgets gets more than a hundred dollars in public funding for effective programmes that help to reduce hunger. So if you take that as some kind of rule of thumb, what it suggests is that if you invest in political commitment building you get a very high return. It also suggests that we need a lot more money for commitment building. By a conservative estimate, we are not going to reach the Millennium Development Goals unless we get an additional US\$50 billion a year in development assistance. If the US Government is going to provide say US\$13 billion of that increase, divide US\$13 billion by one hundred and you get a sense that we need tens of millions of dollars in additional funding for advocacy and related education just in the United States of America.

Now I am pleased to report that in fact we are getting more funding. Several big foundations are helping and also the US public is contributing more as they become more engaged. They are contributing more, not just to Bread for the World but to other organizations that are pushing in the same direction.

It is also true in other countries that it seems to me that if you are planning a development programme, a development activity, you need to make specific plans: how is the commitment going to be created and sustained and money needs to be allocated for that commitment building work. In some cases, it cannot be government money; it cannot be official development assistance, so we are going to need new sources, new channels of funding to encourage this kind of commitment building work.

Commitment building work that is among poor people is especially important. It is not just work that happens in the US. A couple of my colleagues just went to visit your country, Mr. Director-General, and they were most impressed by a little NGO in Meke, Senegal; it is 120 kms from Dakar. This little NGO is part of a big network of NGOs, but its 15 people in Meke – mostly they are university graduates from that area who have returned home to help farmers, to help farmers become more productive and also to help farmers learn better how to defend their own interests. When I heard about your countrymen in Meke they reminded me of Bread for the World members in Birmingham, Alabama, and that kind of commitment building work at the grassroots level also has implications at the national level eventually. Right now, it seems like the progress that has been made in Ethiopia over the last ten years is at grave risk, and my understanding is that a lot of the groups that are working directly with poor people across Ethiopia are now speaking out at the national level to try to keep Ethiopia on a path to progress.

Now allow me to make some suggestions to you, this gathering of officials. I have four suggestions. First, some of you are in positions of authority in your governments and so I urge you to use that authority to open up opportunities to provide help for poor and hungry people. You have opportunities to make programmes work, to increase the productivity of poor farmers, to make effective nutrition programmes happen in your countries, and one of the things that you can do that I think is especially powerful is simply to work with institutions of civil society; institutions that represent farmers, that speak for them; just by opening your doors to them, starting to work with them you help them grow in strength. I have been impressed, for example, that Brazil's Zero Hunger Initiative is not just a programme of government assistance; it is much a programme in which the government is helping to mobilize all of Brazilian society to overcome hunger and poverty. Governments do not last forever and this mobilization of Brazilian society may well outlast this particular government.

My second recommendation is that in these days when you are gathered here that you deal with international issues that are important to hungry people. I know that you are going to be considering ways to make FAO more effective; that is tremendously important. This institution

needs to be more effective. I hope you will also address the broader issues of development finance and trade. The world has a deal on development finance. Industrialized countries have agreed to increase development assistance and the developing countries, as a group, have agreed to improve governance and the use of resources within their countries. And so as you gather here you have a chance to share with each other what is happening on both sides of that deal. My sense is that good things are happening on both sides of the deal; that in fact we are seeing increases in development assistance and we are seeing improvements in governance in many countries.

I am really saddened, however, that in the United States of America, we have just lost an opportunity. President Bush asked Congress to increase US funding for poverty-focussed by US\$2.3 billion for next year, and he has just recently agreed with his own party in Congress to let them cut that by more than half. The increase in US development assistance will still be US\$1 billion dollars, but I ask my own President to remain involved in these issues, to make sure that our country indeed keeps the commitments that he has made on our behalf to the world's poorest people. Just next month the trade ministers are going to be gathering in Hong Kong. The Doha Development Round is tremendously important to all of our countries and especially to hungry and poor people. The issues that are probably most important to hungry people, in my judgement, are the reduction in trade distorting subsidies and agriculture, opening the markets of other countries to products from the low income countries and an aid for trade deal – that is capacity building assistance that can help low income countries really take advantage of trade opportunities. But the Doha Round does not seem to be going very well and it seems to be blocked by a log jam, specifically on issues of agriculture. So I hope that as you gather here over the coming days, that in the formal sessions and inside conversations, that some of you may be able to find ways to loosen up that log jam around agriculture. On international development issues Europe is usually more progressive than my own country. On this issue, in my judgement, it is Europe that is now less progressive and it is really important to all of us that you, and your colleagues in the trade ministries, find way to move Doha forward.

My third recommendation is that you strengthen the International Alliance Against Hunger, and I have some specific suggestions: That you create more national alliances and give civil society a stronger role in the national alliances; that you approve Mr. Diouf's suggestion to strengthen the staffing for the International Alliance and to cluster it with some of the related functions in FAO; that you encourage FAO and World Food Programme and IFAD in the activities that they carry out that are important for commitment building so that some of their reports, their conferences, the International Alliance Against Hunger, World Food Day, Walk the World, the forthcoming initiative on Child Hunger, and IFAD's very important work to strengthen organizations of poor people. I also encourage you to try to get the three Agencies to continue working together on these matters. It is a lot easier for civil society to rally around their leadership when they are working together in the International Alliance Against Hunger, for example. Finally, I think it is important that the International Alliance help people make the connection to related networks; so there is the More and Better Campaign – that is NGOs from 25 countries that are campaigning for more and better funding for agriculture, rural development and nutrition. There are also now Millennium Campaigns in many countries. They go by different names in different countries, and some countries it is a Millennium Project or in the industrialized it maybe called 2015: No Excuse or Make Poverty History, or The One Campaign, but the International Alliance Against Hunger should help people who are energized about the hunger issues, connect with people who are working on the other Millennium Development Goals.

My final recommendation to you is that you make next September's Special Forum indeed special. It has been ten years since the World Food Summit. This will be the first year after the UN World Summit so it might be appropriate to focus 2006 on the first Millennium Development Goal – reducing hunger and poverty. I know that we all wonder sometimes whether big international meetings really achieve as much as they cost a lot and they take a lot of energy. We need to do some fresh thinking so that that September meeting has an impact, so that it helps to build political will toward reducing hunger and poverty. I think it would certainly be worthwhile to bring the national alliances against hunger together. We do not know each other now; we read a

little bit about each other on a website, but if we could bring those national alliances together maybe the diverse institutions in some of those alliances, bring them to a meeting, so that we could actually talk to each other.

The international alliance against hunger would come alive if it would be pushed in a more effective way collectively at the national level and at the global level, and I think all of us could learn a lot from these diverse institutions around the world that are committed to overcoming hunger.

I also think it would be money well worth spending to invest in a sophisticated powerful media outreach to project for all the world the message that a lot is happening to reduce hunger and poverty and disease in the world. I am not quite sure how that would happen, I have a fancy that maybe we could request an audience with Pope Benedict, my idea is that we could get Mr Bono and Mr Bill Gates and President Lula and Wangari Maathai Kenya to go together to see Pope Benedict. All five of these people communicate powerfully about poverty in the world and so if they are seen together globally, they could together encourage the world to believe that we can indeed rouse ourselves to reduce hunger, poverty and disease.

I also think Heads of State should be involved next September, I know that is controversial, but we saw this year in the United States, that when President Bush went to the G8 on Africa, when he went to the UN Summit, our Government became more engaged in Africa and global poverty issues. When Heads of State come to a summit, it makes things happen in the country, so it is not just pomp. And I do not think it is too much to ask that Heads of State might gather once a year to look together at how the world is doing in reducing hunger, poverty and disease. What business do they have that is more important.

I am a person of faith, so I would ask you to allow me a few closing words about God.

I believe that God is in love with human kind. That God is moving in the history of our time to liberate hundreds of millions of people from hunger, poverty and disease and that God uses people, even people like us, to achieve this great liberation. We come from all over the world, lots of different cultures and traditions, but everybody here knows that taking action to allow hungry children to be fed is the right thing to do. All of our traditions teach us that allowing the persistence of under nutrition among 850 million people is just wrong. Ending hunger is sacred work. There is no more important business.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I wish to thank Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World for delivering the twenty-fourth McDougall Lecture.

As you know, Frank McDougall came from Australia, hence I now call upon Mr Peter McGauran, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of Australia to take the floor.

Peter McGAURAN (Australia)

As an Australian I am privileged to respond to Rev. Beckmann's twenty-fourth McDougall Memorial Lecture.

Frank McDougall was one of the visionary founding fathers of FAO, which this year, celebrates an impressive 60 years. Frank McDougall is an icon of Australian history and is remembered and honoured to this day with great respect and affection.

I thank FAO for its enduring recognition of Frank McDougall through this biennial lecture.

It is an opportunity for the ideals and principles of FAO in trying from its first days to be restated and reaffirmed, our mission is as important as it is challenging. Whatever pride we may rightly feel in our achievements to date, we can and must do more, we can never falter. It is a blight on

our individual and collective consciousness that starvation today afflicts mankind and malnutrition is endemic. The most basic human right of all is to be fed, it is an entitlement of every soul of this earth. Rev. Beckmann has challenged us afresh to embrace the responsibility of helping to build a world without hunger, his thought provoking and inspiring address was a call to action, I am sure you will join with me in welcoming and endorsing his presentation. Rev. Beckmann made it clear that to tackle hunger affectively, we must have a common mission and combine the strengths of many diverse groups. We must involve local, national and international governments, NGOs, religious organizations, the private sector and concern individuals.

The examples Rev. Beckmann sited of individuals and small groups influencing both government policy and providing local relief are unforgettable. There is always a way forward if there is political will, as Rev. Beckmann stressed. Political will is the answer to alleviating world hunger.

It was timely of Rev. Beckmann to highlight the importance of the impending Doha negotiations a major challenge for us all is to make it possible for developing countries to enjoy equitable and sustainable benefits from free trade, and that is why I am encouraged by the increased participation and influence of developing countries in the WTO.

We need to move urgently to make sure that we do not lose the opportunities next month offers. This is our change to make serious inroads into eliminating poverty and hunger in developing countries.

FAO must continue to strive to deliver the goals its pioneers and founding fathers set, they are more relevant today than ever before. FAO must also maintain its broader membership in a rapidly changing and demanding international environment. Together we must continue to build on the foundations laid by the FAO's founders and keep the FAO forward-looking, innovative and responsive. Rev. Beckmann and the hungry of the world would expect, indeed demand, nothing less.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Thank you Mr McGauran. This concludes item 25.1. Rev. David Beckmann will now take his leave.

We have come to the end of our Agenda for the first Plenary Meeting. I should like to ask the General Committee Members, that is the three Vice-chairpersons, His Excellency Arefaine Berhe from Eritrea, His Excellency Romualdo Bettini from Italy and His Excellency Abubaker El-Mansury from Lybian Arab Jamahiriya and the representatives of the following seven countries, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Mali, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, to join me immediately in the Mexico Room Building D Room 211 for our first meeting. I repeat, Building D, Room 211 now.

The Credentials Committee will be meeting at 13.00 hours today. Its nine members are invited to meet in the Lebanon Room, Building D Room 209 at 13.00 hours.

Plenary now stands adjourned until 14.30 hours, when the General Committee will make its first report and the vote on the applications for membership and appointment the Director-General for the period 2006–2011 will take place.

The meeting rose at 11.20 hours
La séance est levée à 11 h 20
Se levanta la sesión a las 11.20 horas.

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
19 November 2005

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)

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session

3. Aprobación del programa y organización del período de sesiones

4. Admission of Observers

4. Admission d'observateurs

4. Admisión de observadores

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the second plenary meeting of the Thirty-third FAO Conference to order.

In the interest of the safety of all of us, I would now like to request your attention for just a few minutes to view a short audio visual presentation on fire safety.

Video Presentation on FAO Security Measures

Présentation vidéo des mesures de sécurité de la FAO

Videopresentación sobre las Medidas de Seguridad de la FAO

CHAIRMAN

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

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Merci Monsieur le Président. La Communauté européenne participe à cette session conformément aux dispositions des paragraphes 8 et 9 de l'Article II de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

J'ai été prié de vous informer que les déclarations relatives aux compétences et au droit de vote de la Communauté européenne et de ses États Membres figurent dans le document d'information C 2005/INF/4 qui a été distribué à tous les Membres de la Conférence. J'attire votre attention sur ces déclarations. Merci.

CHAIRMAN

Regarding Item 3, "Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session" and Item 4, "Admission of Observers", as instructed by the Conference this morning, the General Committee has met and prepared its First Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and allocation of Agenda items, Admission of Observers, Admission of New Member Nations as well as other related arrangements.

I would like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure you have the report of the First Meeting of the General Committee before you. The report is set out in document C 2005/LIM/10.

I will now proceed to read the title of each section. Agenda for the Session. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section adopted. And so we proceed to the following sections.

Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session, Appointment of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Two Commissions, Resolutions Committee, Admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership, Admission of Observers from Non-Member Nations, Admission of the New Member Nation, Contributions of the New Member

Nation, Appointment of the Director-General, Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Election of Members of the Council, Right to Vote, Right to Reply, Verbatim Records, Statements by Heads of Delegation, Admission of Observers from Intergovernmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations, Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations Having Consultative Status, Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations, Attendance by Liberation Movements, Conclusion,.

Are there any comments on these sections? If there are none, I declare the Report adopted.

Before moving on the Item 20 we shall have to adopt the First Report of the Credentials Committee. I should like to give the floor to Mr Krassimir Kostov, Chairperson of the Credentials Committee, who will present the Report.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Chairperson, Credentials Committee)

The Credentials Committee held two meetings, on November 9 and 19, to examine the credentials of the delegations of Members of the Organization to the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference.

The Committee elected Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria as its Chairperson and Mr Ahmed Faouzi of Morocco as its Vice-Chairperson. The Credentials Committee was informed of Rule 3 of the General Rules of the Organization on delegations and credentials as well as the practice and criteria followed by the Organization with respect to the acceptance of credentials in line with the practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the matter.

In accordance with Rule 3, paragraph 2, of the General Rules of the Organization, and the criteria followed by the Credentials Committee at its previous sessions, the Credentials Committee reviewed the credentials or information received by the Director-General regarding the composition of delegations shown in the attached list which I will read out later on.

List A includes 90 Members which submitted formal credentials in the form required by Rule 3, paragraph 2, of the General Rules of the Organization.

List B includes 88 Members whose credentials have been considered as information on the composition of their delegations.

Seven members informed the Director-General of their intention not to attend the Conference and three members have not provided any information on their participation or representation in the Conference Session.

The Committee recommends to the Conference that the credentials of the delegations on both lists be accepted on the understanding that formal credentials of delegations referred to in List B will be communicated to the Director-General as soon as possible.

In addition, in accordance with the practice both of FAO and the United Nations, the Committee recommends that, pending the final report of the Credentials Committee, all delegations be authorized to participate fully in the work of the Conference sessions.

The Report which I have just read is not yet available as a Conference document. For the sake of expediency, I invite any delegation having specification observations or queries now concerning the lists presented in the attachment, to make any such observations either directly to me or to the Secretariat. I would like to underline that the countries that have passed from List B to List A after the Session of the Committee, and there are such countries, will be announced with the Second Report of the Committee.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any comments on the Report?

If there are none, I declare the Report adopted.

My thanks to the Chairperson and other members of the Credential Committee for the work carried out before and during this section of the Conference.

**APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS
NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS
NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES**

**20. Applications for Membership in the Organization
20. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation
20. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización**

CHAIRMAN

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Conference will now examine Item 20 on applications for membership. There is one applicant: Belarus. Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution states that "the Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional Member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an application for membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the obligations of the constitution as in force at the time of admission." The document giving details of this application is C 2005/10-Rev.1.

In accordance with Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution, and the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 94 Member Nations must be represented at this time. I shall now call on the Assistant Secretary-General to give details of the voting procedure and to ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Les délégués recevront un bulletin portant le nom du pays candidat. Chaque bulletin de vote comporte trois cases où sont indiquées les mentions pour, contre et abstention. Le représentant devra cocher la case correspondant à son choix. Il faut noter que conformément à l'Article XII alinéa 4 (c) du Règlement général de l'Organisation les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme l'expression d'une abstention.

Veillez noter également que conformément au paragraphe 4 (d) (i) du même Article les bulletins de vote ne doivent comporter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que ceux par lesquels s'exprime le suffrage.

Je voudrais ajouter pour l'information des délégués, que l'alinéa 10 (f) de l'Article XII en question prévoit la substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin vierge. L'échange devant impérativement être effectué avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne. Puis-je demander maintenant, à chaque délégation présente, d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite de façon à ce que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes.

Est-ce que toutes les délégations présentes ont activé le bouton vert s'il vous plaît?

Donc, dans ce cas là, je vous remercie. Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a cent cinquante et une délégations présentes dans la salle, nous pouvons donc procéder au scrutin.

CHAIRMAN

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

In accordance with paragraph 10 (c)(i) of rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representatives or their alternates. May I therefore ask the Delegates of India and Finland to proceed to the voting area.

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

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN

Voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the Officers in Charge of the election will count the votes. While the counting takes place, we will proceed with the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards, the A.H. Boerma Award and Edouard Saouma Award and the Margarita Lizárraza Medal for 2004–2005. Let us begin with item 25.2 on the Agenda, the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards for 2004 and 2005. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of US\$5 000 and a round trip for the winner and spouse to attend the Conference session in Rome during which the awards are assigned.

I should like to ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the B.R. Sen Awards.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

25.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards

25.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen

25.2 Entrega de los Premios B. R. Sen

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The prestigious B.R. Sen Award is presented at each session of the Conference in honour of the former Director-General, Mr B.R. Sen. As agreed by the FAO Conference in 1967, a 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 fields of sustainable agricultural and rural development or food security. On this occasion, I shall be presenting the Awards for the years 2004 and 2005 to two very deserving winners.

The B.R. Sen Award for 2004 goes to Mr Heiko Bammann, a national of Germany. It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the development of innovative project designs to promote farming as a business among small farmers in several South Pacific Island countries, while serving as Farming Systems Development and Marketing Officer in the Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands.

The project type was implemented through TCP projects with the common objective of improving the livelihoods of small farmers through the application of sustainable agriculture techniques, sound farm management, and good planning and marketing decisions. Mr Bammann's leadership and perseverance were key factors in the realization of these achievements. The concepts introduced by the projects have led to wider adoption in the region, and projects have since been launched by several regional and international agencies based on Mr Bammann's project design template.

The Award for 2005 is conferred on Mr Patrick T. Evans, a national of the United States. It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the development of community-based natural resource management on the Tonle Sap Great Lake in Cambodia, while serving as Team Leader for several phases of a Belgian-funded project in that country. Through his advocacy and demonstrated success, community-based natural resource management has been popularly accepted as a norm for pursuing sustainable development. It is now also pursued by many other donors through their projects. This has resulted in the protection and better management of forest and fisheries resources, the reduction of illicit logging and fishing, and at the same time, in the improvement in the livelihoods and food security of the communities in Siem Reap Province.

CHAIRMAN

I would like now to invite Mr Heiko Bammann to take the floor.

Heiko BAMMANN

Small Island Development States (SIDS) are amongst the most vulnerable countries on this globe. Due to their smallness, declining natural resources, remoteness and the remoteness of villages, efforts to work with countries in the Pacific to support small farmers' economic and social development come at high costs. Population growth and the need to create employment opportunities for rural youth have been a growing concern of FAO Member Countries in the Pacific.

I am pleased to have been in the position to assist in the development of project approaches and training material aiming also at rural youth. To create a lasting impact, there is a need for frequent exchanges of ideas, training, learning by doing, farmer to farmer extension and a better interaction between farmers and advisory staff. "Be there for the long term, be patient" is a key message from a Malaysian Non-Governmental Organization.

In the end, however, if success is achieved in making a difference to the lives of the people being served, improved marketing and farm management will not only result in higher enterprise profitability and flourishing farm businesses but there will be the potential to improve incomes of rural people and contribute to employment creation as well as to greater availability of nutritious domestically produced food for urban people. FAO assistance in the Pacific is therefore carefully focused towards reduction of poverty and elimination of hunger, as a joint contribution to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

I am truly humbled to be standing here today to receive the B.R Sen Award for the year 2004. While the award is conferred to an individual, I would like to emphasize that this nomination is primarily a recognition of the achievements made by Pacific people and nations, and that these achievements were only possible because of a strong team effort involving all the staff of the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands under the leadership of the Subregional Representative Vili Fuavao.

Furthermore, we worked closely with and received outstanding support from the Agriculture Support Systems Division at FAO headquarters. FAO has the privilege to work with excellent and devoted national, regional and international consultants. My sincere thanks also go to counterparts and colleagues from governments, civil society and organizations from Pacific Island countries working with FAO to improve the livelihoods of small farmers and the youth.

Finally, allow me to thank my spouse, without Chantal's continued support my work would be far more difficult.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I would now like to invite Mr Patrick Evans to the podium to receive his award.

Patrick T. EVANS

It is with great pride and humility that I stand before you here today to accept the B.R. Sen Award for 2005. Receiving this award is truly a great honour, and I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all who have been involved in making this happen.

I have also been privileged and honoured to have worked with FAO since 1988. Over the past 17 years, I have worked in Nepal, Jamaica, Tonga, Bhutan and most recently, in Cambodia. This award today recognizes the work that we did in Cambodia over the past eight years, where I served as the Team Leader for a project called *Participatory natural resource management in the*

Tonle Sap region. This was a project funded by the Government of Belgium, implemented by FAO through the Government of Cambodia. Our work involved the pioneering and development of community based natural resource management, more specifically community forestry and community fisheries. We worked with local communities to help them develop responsible, productive and sustainable management of natural resources to meet their needs and to stimulate local development. We achieved what we set out to do, and today our work is continuing with new support from the Asian Development Bank in the fisheries sector and New Zealand Aid in the forestry sector, both with FAO technical assistance.

It was a real pleasure to have worked in Cambodia, I am very happy with what we were able to accomplish over the years. Although I am here today accepting this award, so many other people deserve credit for what we were able to accomplish in the field. I owe a deep debt of gratitude to all my colleagues in Cambodia and especially the Government counterpart staff. This award really recognizes their hard work and a job well done.

Finally, I would like to say that all of you here this week are very fortunate, as you are the distinguished delegates representing your respective countries here to help and guide and govern FAO. Many challenges and much work lie ahead. This is what you are here to address this week. I hope everyone has a good week and we are counting on you to do a good job.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

25.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award

25.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma

25.3 Entrega del Premio A. H. Boerma

CHAIRMAN

We now proceed to item 25.3, the Presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, which is a biennial prize given to a writer or journalist whose writing or work on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of world food problems and measures to resolve them.

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

In the multimedia information age in which we live, journalists are vital partners for FAO as we seek to fulfil our mandate to inform and to raise public awareness. A great privilege of being Director-General of FAO is to be able to present the A.H. Boerma Award to a journalist whose work has helped FAO to carry out this mandate.

It is my pleasure to recall that this Award was established by the FAO Conference in 1975 as a continuing tribute to the leadership of Dr Addeke Boerma, who served as FAO Director-General from 1968 to 1975.

With this Award, we recognize the crucial role of the media in the fight against hunger. Journalists are key allies who can assist us in communicating complex agricultural and economic issues to a wide public. In covering development issues they help focus public attention on the problem of hunger and malnutrition in the world.

I am pleased to announce that the Boerma Award winners for 2004–2005 are Mr Giampaolo Cadalanu, a foreign correspondent for the Italian daily newspaper *La Repubblica*; Mr Roger Thurow and Mr Scott Kilman, two reporters with the *Wall Street Journal*.

Mr Giampaolo Cadalanu is a journalist and field reporter for one of the largest selling daily newspapers in Italy.

A native of Nuoro, in Sardinia, Giampaolo Cadalanu studied law and political science before deciding to dedicate himself to giving a voice to the silent and forgotten people of the earth.

For the past ten years, he has reported regularly on development issues, as can be seen from his impressive portfolio of articles written from all over the world. Indeed, his interest in development has taken him to several African countries as well as to Afghanistan, Iraq and Croatia.

On many occasions he has drawn attention to issues that usually do not find space in major daily newspapers, including the right to food. His well documented and in-depth articles, his good faith and intellectual honesty, as well as his sensitivity towards development issues, underline his standing as one of the country's leading journalists.

Mr Cadalanu's reporting on a range of complex topics has played an important role in making FAO's scope and activities a great deal better known in Italy.

Mr Roger Thurow and Mr Scott Kilman are veteran reporters with *The Wall Street Journal*. Roger Thurow has been a foreign correspondent for 20 years, specializing in covering humanitarian and development issues. His reporting has taken him to more than 60 countries.

Scott Kilman has written about everything from retailing and airlines to biotechnology and agriculture over the past 21 years, and he was 3 times named the Agricultural Journalist of the Year by the North American Agricultural Journalists.

In 2002, the two journalists combined their interests and expertise to begin writing about global agriculture, food security and hunger. Through their reports, readers gain information and insights into issues related to agriculture, agricultural economics, food security, hunger and poverty. It is rare for journalists to succeed in achieving a balance between positive human interest stories and factual commodity/economics-based report.

Mr Thurow and Mr Kilman achieve such a balance and prove that writing about development and agricultural issues can be not only entertaining but also thought-provoking.

The perspectives they bring to their journalism are original and well researched. In 2004, their series of stories on the *Anatomy of Famine* made an important contribution to development-related reporting in the North and the South and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting.

I am confident that you, the delegates and all the participants to this Conference will join me in expressing our greatest appreciation to Messrs Cadalanu, Thurow and Kilman, dedicated journalists who highlight the vital role that the media can play in raising public awareness and harnessing public opinion in support of issues related to world hunger.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to invite Mr Cadalanu to take the floor.

Giampaolo CADALANU (Original language Italian)

I wanted to wholeheartedly thank those of you who followed my work and decided that it was worthy enough to merit the awarding of the Boerma award.

My contribution obviously is only the last link in a rather complex chain which very many people contributed to. So I would like to dedicate this award, first of all, to those who shared in the labour but didn't have the rather boastful satisfaction of seeing it so publicly crowned with success; to my newspaper, *La Repubblica*, that gave me the space and the freedom to write these stories about hunger and underdevelopment, these stories which are so often labelled as sad, and which are, therefore, wrongly deemed to be lacking in interest; to those who were close to me personally, even in those moments of exhaustion and disillusionment with the role of the press; to the readers of the newspapers with real curiosity about understanding the world and its most difficult facets and don't simply limit their interest to the frivolous press; to those who work on a daily basis to ensure that the problem of hunger is truly tackled I want to believe this will be

solved in the future; to all United Nations Agency staff; to people in international organizations, in Non-governmental Organizations, people who decide to spend their days at the vanguard edge of the fight against poverty. These are people who get their hands dirty every day a long way from home, in difficult countries, risking their health, if not their lives. They are driven by the duty to help other human beings, in general, perfect strangers.

I would like to thank them all, and it is important to remember this, because of their work fighting against hunger, is work that they do in my name, in our name, in the name of the whole of humanity and they are flag carriers for the United Nations.

Of course, it is a system which often works poorly, as is said, a flawed tool, but it is the only one we have, the alternative to a world which is, at least, in part led by international institutions is a world with no apparent rules which nobody can call a truly free world, because it is a world where the law of the survival of the fittest prevails, where the greediest prevail, where there is no mediation.

And finally, I wanted to dedicate this award to all those people who, sitting in this Plenary Hall, will take the commitment to do something specific, something real, maybe something small, but not insignificant to make sure that this scandal which is world hunger truly ends. I wanted to dedicate it to all those people who are able to say maybe I can make a modest contribution but it is a useful one and I will do my bit.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Roger THUROW

Mr Kilman and I would like to thank you all very much for honouring our work with the Boerma Award. We and our editors at the *Wall Street Journal* are deeply humbled to be recognized by FAO which, along with the World Food Programme, nobly mans the front line in the global fight against hunger.

During the course of our reporting, we have met and interviewed many of the workers here in Rome and your workers in field offices throughout Africa, and we greatly appreciate your time, your information and analysis that have helped us to better understand and interpret the mighty challenges facing the world in assuring food security for all and eliminating hunger.

We would like to say, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

Quite often in our reporting, it seems, we aroused the curiosity of many of those we spoke to. Why, they wondered, is the *Wall Street Journal*, writing about hunger and starvation. The *Wall Street Journal*, after all, is the chronicle of international business, of corporate America, of stocks, of bonds, of wealth and privilege. Why is the *Wall Street Journal* writing about hunger and starvation.

Even at lunch, today, Eva Clayton asked me the same question. So I know that Eva is waiting for an answer.

First we write about hunger because we are human. Eating is the most basic human need along with breathing. Chief Executive Officers and titans of business have to eat. Yet so many of us take it for granted that we will have enough to eat and that there will always be enough food for us.

On my very first trip to Ethiopia in 2003, Voli Carucci of the World Food Programme Office in Addis Ababa jolted me with a profound observation. Starvation, he told me, is an ancient emotion. It is something people in Europe and America have forgotten about. For Scott and I this was a call to action.

For if we fail to remind those who are blessed with enough to eat that there are hundreds of millions of fellow global citizens that are constantly chronically hungry, if we fail to make this ancient emotion a current reality, then we fail our own humanity.

Second, it is precisely those CEOs and business titans and decision-makers who read the *Wall Street Journal* who can do something about hunger and food security. They have the talent, they have the resources and they have the power. What they don't have sometimes is awareness and as you all know, awareness is essential to leadership. We need to put these issues in front of them as often as possible.

Third, the elimination of global hunger is a crucial matter of our national security in America. It always has been so, of course, but 9/11 put an even bolder, sharper relief for us. As Nobel Laureate John Boyd Orr, former Director-General of FAO, famously said once: You can't build peace on empty stomachs.

Above all, hunger is not only a tragic human story. It is, at its essence, a business story. That global hunger is on the rise again while the world is able to produce enough for everyone is a failure of markets. It is a failure of economic and political planning. It is a failure of entrepreneurial and business innovation. The same generation that has given the world the internet and amazing communications capabilities has also failed to feed all of its people.

As you all know so well, famine and chronic hunger are not solely acts of God; they are almost always also acts of man. In Ethiopia's epic famine of 2003, when 13 million people were on the doorstep of starvation, the markets failed before the rains did. Economic policy failed. Business models failed. The surplus of 2002, the falling prices which led to falling yields the next year, the rain came, the matter was complicated and exacerbated. Amazingly, it was nearly 20 years after Ethiopia's previous epic famine of 1984. In that time, in those two decades, the internet blossomed. But so too did famine, time and time again. The number of people connected to worldwide web soared in those 20 years. Good for us. But so too has the number of hungry people. Shame on us.

Way back in 1970, another Nobel Laureate, Norman Borlaug, issued a haunting prophecy. This is what Dr. Borlaug said: "Man can and must prevent the tragedy of famine in the future, instead of merely trying with pious regret to salvage the human wreckage of the famine, as we have so often done in the past. We will be guilty of criminal negligence, without extenuation, if we permit future famines. Humanity cannot tolerate that guilt".

So, finally, we write about hunger and famine because it is also a crime story. The biggest crime of our generation. In fact, 25 000 people die of hunger and malnutrition every day. This is what our readers need to know about.

We will continue to write about this, Scott and I, we will continue to prod this intolerable guilt, as Dr. Borlaug called it. Your decision to recognize our work thus far, fire is our passion and inspires and compels us to continue. For this, above all, we thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

25.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award

25.4 Remise du prix Édouard Saouma

25.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma

CHAIRMAN

We now proceed to Item 25.4, the presentation of the Edouard Saouma Award for 2004–2005. The Edouard Saouma Award which was established by the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session in honour of FAO's Director-General from 1976 – 1993, is awarded every biennium to an institution which has successfully implemented a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll and a cash prize for a total of

US\$25 000. I should like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the Edouard Saouma Award for 2004–2005.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) is a longstanding instrument designed to make FAO's specialized competence more readily available to Member Nations for the solution of their most pressing problems in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors.

In honour of my predecessor, the Twenty-seventh Session of the Conference established the Edouard Saouma Award for presentation to a national or regional institution which has implemented a TCP project with particular efficiency.

Among the many and high quality nominations received this biennium, the Tropical Fruit Culture Research Institute of Cuba (IIFT) stands out for the exceptional results in terms of project impact and the catalytic effect achieved in implementing with very little resources a TCP project on tropical fruit production.

The Institute is represented here today by its Technical Director, Mr Emilio Farrés Armenteros. The dedication and professionalism of the staff, its outstanding coordination and organizational capacities and its strategic use of project resources have been vital for the successful implementation of field activities, despite the losses caused by Hurricane Michelle. The staff's exceptional motivation and enthusiasm led to quick and widespread adoption by farmers of the new production and propagation technologies. As a result of the sustained commitment of the Institute in assuring the integration of project activities and recommendations within government policies and strategies for tropical fruit production, the project has contributed to the reactivation of the Cuban fruit industry. The Institute continues to be the key player for implementing government funded follow-up activities. I believe that this is an excellent example of a project that, thanks to the dedication of counterpart staff and sustained government commitment, has produced the desired impact at the farm level, leading to increased production capacities and has triggered significant catalytic effects, contributing to improved food security and livelihoods of farmers.

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Fanés ARMENTEROS

Ante todo quisiera expresar, en nombre de los campesinos, trabajadores, técnicos e investigadores vinculados a la fruticultura cubana, el agradecimiento a la FAO por el otorgamiento de tan prestigioso premio, el cual constituye, además del reconocimiento de su labor, un estímulo para continuar colaborando con la FAO en la noble tarea de lograr la seguridad alimentaria de toda la población de nuestro hermoso planeta.

El proyecto PCT/0065, Recuperación de los Frutales Tropicales, fue aprobado por el Director General de la FAO el 7 de julio de 2000. Originalmente fue diseñado para un término de 18 meses con una asignación presupuestaria de 200 mil dólares EE.UU. Debido a la afectación provocada por el huracán Mitchel, la FAO y el Gobierno de Cuba acordaron una extensión de seis meses para recuperar los daños provocados en algunas de las plantaciones y ver donde se ejecutaba el proyecto, que concluyó satisfactoriamente en octubre de 2002.

Los resultados más relevantes fueron: se proyectó crear o asistir siete viveros y se logró alcanzar 16. Durante la ejecución del proyecto se entregaron a los productores 2 millones de plantas de frutales procedentes de los mismos. Se rehabilitaron 725 hectáreas de plantaciones de un programa inicial de 400 hectáreas. Los seis huertos pilotos proyectados se fomentaron mucho y, como resultado, estos huertos aportaron 1500 toneladas de fruta para el consumo de la población y constituyen en la actualidad áreas demostrativas y de suministro de material de propagación. Se

proyectó crear seis colecciones de frutales y se lograron nueve. Además se colaboró con los trabajos de rehabilitación de tres colecciones más por un total de 12. Se programaron cinco cursos para los productores pero se impartieron realmente nueve. Para los profesionales se programó un curso y se impartieron cuatro. De dos viajes de estudio planificados se hicieron cuatro. En total, como resultado del proyecto, se capacitaron 333 personas entre productores y especialistas.

El Gobierno de Cuba concede una alta prioridad al Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria y, dentro de ese contexto, al desarrollo de la industria frutícola nacional. El proyecto de Recuperación de Frutales Tropicales contribuyó significativamente a la elaboración e implementación de la estrategia de desarrollo de los frutales tropicales en el país, mediante la cual se han logrado los resultados siguientes: producir 435 000 toneladas en el año 2003, lo que representa, con relación al año 2001, un incremento de 88 000 toneladas, lo cual ha permitido, deduciendo el 30 por ciento que no se destina al consumo local, elevar la oferta per cápita anual a la población en 5,4 kilogramos. El fomento de 7 682 hectáreas de nuevas plantaciones con tecnología más avanzada. La introducción de frutales exóticos hasta ahora casi desconocidos en el país, como la cocona y la pitaya. La creación de 3 800 empleos con el consiguiente mejoramiento del nivel de vida de la población en general, y en particular de los agricultores del sector frutícola.

Permítanme reiterar nuestro agradecimiento a los colaboradores de este prestigioso organismo internacional y, en particular, a la División de Producción y Protección de Plantas por su orientación, ayuda y apoyo.

25.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal

25.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga

25.5 Entrega de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr Farrés Armenteros and congratulations.

We now proceed with Item 25.5, “The Margarita Lizárraga Medal”. I would like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winner for 2004–2005, The Agreement of the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP).

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga 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 Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and also for all she did for forty years, especially in developing countries.

It is my pleasure to announce that the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program (AIDCP) was selected as the recipient of the Award for the biennium 2004–2005. The AIDCP is an international agreement whose objective is to reduce dolphin mortality in the tuna purse-seine fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and to ensure the sustainability of tuna stocks and associated species in the ecosystem. The AIDCP has been an unqualified success and has diligently applied the relevant principles set forth in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, in particular those aspects relating to the precautionary approach and the utilization of fishing gear and techniques which minimize the catch of non-target species and allowed for the enormous reduction in dolphin mortality that was achieved. AIDCP was also commended for its active involvement with the fishing industry and environmental Non-governmental Organizations, which constituted a successful and exemplary interaction among the various stakeholders.

May I now call on the Representatives of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, Dr Robin Allen, Dr Guillermo Compeán and Dr Carlos Giménez, and the Representatives of the Government of Mexico to receive the Award.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Robin ALLEN

On behalf of the Parties to the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, we are very pleased and honoured to receive the Margarita Lizárraga Medal recognizing the contribution of the Agreement to responsible fishing.

The Agreement was inspired by the wish of the Parties to implement the principles and standards of the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries, adopted by the FAO Conference in 1995.

The operation of the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program involves close cooperation between governments, the owners, captains and crews of purse-seine fishing vessels, and Non-governmental Environmental Organizations. This cooperation includes a high level of information and experience exchanging, and the Award is recognition of the contribution of all of those stakeholders who are working together to conserve and protect dolphins and to promote responsible fishing by in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

While the Agreement primarily is concerned with the impact of the fishery on dolphin stocks, it also has more general environmental and conservation objectives which are to be achieved within the framework of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission.

I know that all of those involved in the work of the AIDCP are very proud of the ground-breaking achievements of the Agreement, particularly in dramatically reducing the incidental mortality of dolphins in the tuna fishery, and in forging new and effective working relationships among fishermen, governments, and environmental Non-governmental Organizations. The recognition of the Agreement's achievements and its contribution to responsible fishing by FAO is a very important affirmation of its value, and I believe that this award will encourage all concerned to continue to work hard to fulfil the goals of the AIDCP and to strengthen the Agreement.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Rafael TOVAR Y DE TERESA (México)

La entrega de este premio tiene un especial significado, por el compromiso que ha representado para el gobierno, las instituciones y los pescadores mexicanos, su participación en el acuerdo sobre el Programa Internacional para la Conservación de los Delfines, el APICD.

La Organización concedió esta distinción por los logros significativos en la reducción progresiva de la mortalidad incidental de delfines durante las actividades de pesca del atún y en la promoción de una pesca sustentable de dicho producto. Hay que recordar que gracias a la implementación del citado acuerdo, se ha logrado una disminución en la captura incidental de delfines en más de un 98 por ciento en los últimos quince años. En sus acciones el APICD ha seguido escrupulosamente las indicaciones que en materia de pesca señala el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable de la Organización.

Y el segundo motivo de orgullo es que la creación de este código fundamentalmente se debió a la incansable y entregada labor de una mexicana ilustre, la Doctora Margarita Lizárraga, de quien lleva el nombre el premio que se concedió esta tarde. Los mexicanos nos sentimos muy orgullosos porque se reconozca a esta mexicana por una tarea que es de orgullo también para la FAO.

Tony HALL (United States of America)

The United States also want to join with all of our colleagues today in congratulating all of the award winners. So many people in the world today, that do this most amazing work – working with hungry, hurting and poor people – go unrecognized. They never see their name in the paper.

Hardly anybody knows them, and so it is wonderful when there are these kinds of awards that we can all celebrate their achievements in helping other people that are hurting in the world.

We especially want to complement Mr Patrick Evans of the United States, for his work in community forestries and fisheries. It is a great work, especially his work in Cambodia; Mr Roger Thurow and Mr Scott Kilman for the reporting on hunger development and hunger-related stories – their stories are able to bring the attention of the world to this issue that so many of us in this room deal with every day. We thank them and congratulate them.

Lastly, the United States would like to add its voice to those who have spoken in the recognition of the awarding of the Medal to the Agreement on International Dolphin Conservation Programme. It is just an amazing programme that the mortality of dolphins in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, tuna purse-seine fisheries have been reduced by 98 percent since its inception.

We congratulate all of the award winners.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

20. Applications for Membership in the Organization (continued)

20. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de membre de l'Organisation (suite)

20. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

We now return to item 20, Application for Membership in the Organization.

The votes have been counted and the Assistant Secretary-General will now read the result.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Merci Monsieur le Président. Résultats du scrutin admission des Membres. Bulletins déposés: 164, abstention: 1, bulletins nuls: 0, votes pour: 161, votes contre: 2, suffrage exprimé: 163, majorité des deux tiers du suffrage exprimé: 109. Bélarus ayant obtenu la majorité est admis comme Membre.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	164	4. Votes for Votes pour Votos emitidos	161
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	163

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrages exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	109
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Belarus

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership

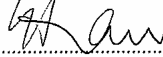
ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis comme Membre

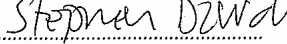
habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature 
Firma
Sara Pannanpää (Finland)

Date
Fecha 19. 11. 2005

Signature 
Firma
Govindan Nair (India)

Stephen Dowd 
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN

Belarus is now a Member of FAO and its delegation will take its place among us.

May I take this opportunity to add my personal welcome to the new Member Nation to the Organization?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Allow me to extend a very warm welcome to Belarus, the newly-elected Member Nation of FAO.

This new Member has expressed its firm belief in the spirit of universalism of the United Nations system and a clear desire to participate in this international forum. By joining our Organization, Belarus has expressed its faith in multilateralism, which more than ever is at the heart of our joint efforts to resolve the many complex problems faced by the global community.

I welcome it to an Organization in which, regardless of geographical location and size, we all work together to forge a mutually beneficial relationship.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mrs Nadezhda KOTKOVETS (Belarus) (Original language Belarusian)

May I start with expressing words of gratitude to Mr Jacques Diouf, the delegates at the Conference and everybody who participated in the voting that gave Belarus the honour of becoming a Member of FAO.

As a new FAO entrant, Belarus stands ready to provide its active input toward FAO worldwide endeavours aimed at assisting agricultural development, better nourishment and combating hunger.

About 2.8 million people in Belarus – that is, 30 percent of the overall population – live in rural areas. The agricultural sector employs over 400 000 people. The country preserved most of its big state-owned farms, while extending equal treatment to farms of all ownership types.

Belarus maintains the highest output per capita level of milk, eggs, potato and flax in the ex-Soviet Union, which is the result of successful agro-industrial reforms and increasingly efficient production.

Nutrition, welfare and living standards of the rural population are high on the national Government's agenda.

Following President Lukashenko's initiative, the Government adopted the Rural Development Programme for the years 2005–2010. The Programme foresees a 45 percent increase of gross agricultural output by 2010 and an 18 to 20 percent increase of agricultural profitability. The document seeks to secure higher living standards for rural residents and to shape a competitive agricultural sector as a basis for sustainable development of rural zones. This would contribute to a better demographic situation in the rural areas and bring our agriculture up to European standards.

The Belarusian Government invests considerable effort in post-Chernobyl damage control, particularly in view of the growing international emphasis on ecologically sustainable development and tightening of food safety standards.

It is common knowledge that Belarus absorbed over 70 percent of the overall radioactive fallout after the disaster that polluted 1.8 million hectares of our farmland. The efficiency of these measures is, however, undermined by shortage of funds and access to relevant international technologies and experience.

I would, therefore, like to count on FAO support in addressing the challenges of agricultural development and food security in Belarus and invite all member countries to mutually advantageous cooperation.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

This concludes item 20 of the Agenda and brings the membership of the Organization up to 188 Member Nations and one Member Organization.

The traditional flag raising ceremony for the new Member Nation will be held at the side of building A, where the flags of all Member Nations are flown, on Monday morning at 09:00 a.m.

We now move on to item 21, that is the Appointment of the Director-General. We have one candidate for the post, as mentioned in document C 2005/18, Mr Jacques Diouf, the present incumbent.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

21. Appointment of the Director-General
21. Nomination du Directeur général
21. Nombramiento del Director General

CHAIRMAN

In accordance with Article VII-1 of the Constitution and Rule XXXVI GRO, the Conference appoints the Director-General. Notwithstanding the fact that only one candidate has been nominated, a secret ballot is still required, in accordance with Rule XII-10(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, whereby the Appointment of the Director-General is decided by secret ballot.

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

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Les délégués vont être appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote portant le nom du candidat. Les délégués devront exprimer leur vote en marquant d'une croix l'une des cases: pour, contre ou abstention. Aux termes de l'Article XII, alinéa 4(c), du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme exprimant une abstention. Aux termes de l'Article 4(d) du même Article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication, ni aucun signe autre que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage sous peine d'invalider le bulletin de vote. Je voudrais ajouter pour l'information des délégués, que l'alinéa 9(f) de l'Article XII en question, prévoit la possibilité de substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin vierge. L'échange ne pouvant être effectué qu'avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne. Conformément à l'Article XXXVI, paragraphe 1 alinéa (b) du Règlement général de l'Organisation, le Directeur général est élu à la majorité des suffrages exprimés. L'expression suffrage exprimé s'entend des votes pour et contre à l'exclusion des abstentions ou des bulletins nuls. Je vous remercie Monsieur le Président.

CHAIRMAN

In accordance with paragraph 15 of Rules XII of the General Rules of the Organization. Once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting, except to raise a point of order in connection with the vote.

In accordance with the provisions of Rules XII-(2)(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 95 Member Nations must be represented at this time. I shall now call on the Assistant Secretary-General to give details regarding the vote and to determine whether we have a quorum.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon à ce que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes. Est-ce que toutes les délégations présentes ont activé le bouton vert de présence? Dans ce cas, je vous remercie. Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a cent soixante-quatre délégations présentes dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder au scrutin.

CHAIRMAN

In accordance with paragraph 10 (c) (i) of Rules XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representatives or their alternates. May I, therefore, ask the delegates India and Finland to proceed to the voting area. The Assistant Secretary-General will call the voters to their voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN

Voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will count the votes. We will now temporarily suspend this session while the vote is being counted.

The meeting was suspended from 17.50 to 18.15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 50 à 18 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.50 a las 18.15 horas

CHAIRMAN

Please return to your seats. We will now continue with item 21 "Appointment of the Director-General". The Assistant Secretary-General will read the result of the vote.

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Voici les résultats du scrutin pour la nomination du Directeur général pour la période 2006-2011.

Bulletins déposés: 165, abstentions: 19, bulletins nuls: 0, votes pour: 137, votes contre: 9, suffrage exprimé: 146, la majorité: 74.

Monsieur Jacques Diouf est nommé Directeur général de la FAO.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No.	APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL- 2006-2011 NOMINATION DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL – 2006-2011 NOMBRAMIENTO DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL – 2006-2011
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	165	4. Votes for Votes pour Votos emitidos	137
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	19	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	9
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	146

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	74
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Jacques Diouf

is accordingly appointed Director-General

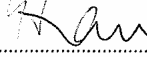
est nommé Directeur general


ha sido nombrado Director general

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature 
Firma
Sara Rannanpää (Finland).

Date 19. 11. 2005
Fecha

Signature 
Firma
Govindan Nair (India)

Stephen Dowd 
.....
Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRMAN

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Diouf on his re-election to the post of the Director-General for the period 2006-2011. Congratulations.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Cheikh Tidiane GADIO (Sénégal)

Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Monsieur le Directeur général, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs, Mesdames, Messieurs les Participants,

La trente-troisième session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture vient de réélire en la personne de mon compatriote, le Docteur Jacques Diouf, son Directeur général pour un autre mandat.

Notre Organisation, par cet acte, vient de renouveler sa confiance au continent africain. En effet, le Docteur Jacques Diouf n'était pas le candidat du Sénégal, mais bien celui de l'Afrique toute entière. C'est pourquoi je voudrais m'excuser auprès de mon frère et ami, le Ministre Alhaji Adamu Bello, Chef de la délégation du Nigéria, pour avoir pris la parole au nom de l'Afrique, avec bien sûr, sa bienveillante permission.

Je voudrais donc, au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur Abdoulaye Wade, Président de la République du Sénégal, et au nom du Président Olusegun Obasanjo, du Nigéria, Président de l'Union africaine, vous adresser nos sincères remerciements.

Je voudrais remercier les États africains, qui se sont fortement mobilisés pour la promotion de notre candidature commune et unique. Mais je voudrais surtout remercier les groupes des autres continents, qui ont apporté leur appui. Je voudrais citer nos frères de l'Organisation de la Conférence islamique, de la Ligue des États arabes, nos amis des États de l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes, du CARICOM, des États des Petites îles du Pacifique, qui en tant que groupes ont apporté leur soutien à l'Afrique. Je confonds dans ces remerciements tous les pays amis qui individuellement nous ont soutenu.

La FAO a pour raison d'être la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde, c'est pourquoi, il me plaît de rappeler que la lutte contre la faim et l'extrême pauvreté figure en bonne place sur la liste des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, que pays développés et pays en développement, dans un partenariat admirable, se sont engagés à atteindre à l'horizon 2015. Je dis partenariat, ce concept devrait pouvoir être, de notre point de vue, le maître mot de l'action de la FAO. Or, dans un partenariat bien compris, chaque partie s'acquitte de ses obligations. Il me semble en effet inconcevable que les pays en développement, grands bénéficiaires des programmes de la FAO, ne versent pas leurs contributions au budget de l'Organisation. Je comprends les contingences particulières que nos États peuvent traverser, mais je voudrais lancer un appel à tous les pays en développement et notamment à ceux d'Afrique, pour qu'ils fassent de la FAO une priorité absolue et fassent l'effort de résorber les arriérés de leurs contributions.

Je ne voudrais terminer sans aborder la question des réformes. La FAO, à l'instar de toutes les Organisations du Système des Nations Unies, doit opérer sa mue. Je me félicite de ce que le Directeur général ait anticipé sur le mouvement et proposé un plan de restructuration et de rénovation de notre Organisation. Je voudrais toutefois insister sur la nécessité pour les États Membres de pouvoir examiner en profondeur cette réforme. Dans ce processus, les États africains ne doivent pas jouer un rôle de simples observateurs. Les principaux bénéficiaires doivent être les locomotives de la réforme. Nous devons nous atteler à rendre notre Organisation la plus efficiente possible pour que ses programmes bénéficient pleinement à nos populations.

Nous devons enfin donner à la FAO tous les moyens et toutes les ressources nécessaires pour accomplir son mandat si noble au service de l'humanité.

En vous renouvelant la reconnaissance de l'Afrique pour votre confiance et votre appui, en souhaitant au Docteur Jacques Diouf, bonne chance et grand succès pour ce nouveau mandat, je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

Edgard-Yves MOMMOU (Bénin)

Je voudrais vous remercier Monsieur le Président de cette séance et, par la même occasion, reconnaître le doigté avec lequel vous avez dirigé les débats de cette trente-troisième Conférence de la FAO.

Compte tenu de l'engagement personnel pris par le Président de la République de mon pays, le Général Mathieu Kérékou, dans le renouvellement de la candidature du Docteur Jacques Diouf, je ne peux en cette circonstance solennelle, ne pas mélanger ma voix à celle du Sénégal et celle des pays africains.

J'aimerais transmettre en cette solennelle circonstance, à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, les vives et chaleureuses félicitations et le soutien indéfectible de tout le peuple béninois et de son Président, Son Excellence Monsieur Mathieu Kérékou, et de son Gouvernement, pour votre brillante réélection à la plus haute fonction de la plus prestigieuse Organisation des Nations Unies qu'est la FAO.

Cette réélection est la conséquence logique des conditions méritoires que vous-même et le personnel de la FAO avez bâties depuis plus d'une décennie et qui ont permis à cette institution de contribuer sûrement et progressivement à l'atteinte des objectifs décrits dans le préambule de l'Acte constitutif de l'Organisation, à savoir notamment, contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale, libérer l'humanité de la faim et de la pauvreté.

Ces dernières années, Monsieur le Directeur général, vous avez pris l'heureuse et courageuse initiative de proposer les nécessaires et incontournables réformes de notre Organisation commune. Ces mutations visent à renforcer l'efficacité et la réactivité de la FAO, qui doit dorénavant tenir compte du caractère dynamique, du processus d'adaptation à des contextes sans cesse changeants, et à de nouvelles demandes et opportunités.

Vous avez déjà en cela, Monsieur le Directeur général, su anticiper quelques-uns des défis majeurs de ce vingt-et-unième siècle, et pour la FAO l'éradication de l'extrême pauvreté, de la faim, le renforcement des systèmes de production et de distribution en même temps que leurs conséquences pour notre Organisation, pour davantage justifier cette réforme opportune et qui en toute bonne intelligence s'intègre dans la réforme plus globale de toutes les Organisations du système des Nations Unies.

Monsieur le Directeur général, vous venez une fois encore, et ce à la face du monde, de marquer votre sens exceptionnel élevé de responsabilité, votre vision futuriste, et votre esprit d'anticipation plus large et très dynamique des maux fondamentaux et des principaux défis auxquels l'humanité en général, et la FAO en particulier, sont confrontés.

Tous les États Membres de la FAO viennent au cours des présentes assises de montrer au monde qu'ils ont su et qu'ils ont vu juste en vous renouvelant une fois encore leur totale confiance, en votre capacité à continuer à diriger avec vos collaborateurs les destinées de notre chère et belle Organisation la FAO.

Le Bénin, par ma voix, son gouvernement et le peuple de mon pays, vous souhaitent au cours de ce nouveau mandat une robuste santé, une volonté inébranlable pour les épreuves qui vous attendent, une clairvoyance toujours plus grande et un esprit d'initiative plus élevé pour conduire à bon port les réformes nécessaires pour le bonheur de toutes nos populations.

Abdel Mohsen Hussain AL-GALLAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Kuwait takes the floor. On behalf the Near East Group, we would like to congratulate Dr Diouf for his re-election as Head of FAO for the period 2006-2011. We wish him all success in his task in the coming time.

Romualdo BETTINI (Italie)

Permettez-moi, même si je n'ai pas l'éloquence de mes prédécesseurs, de vous demander la permission m'adresser au Directeur général, après cette élection plébiscitaire, afin qu'il reçoive de la part du pays hôte de la FAO, de cette belle Organisation, les meilleures félicitations.

Nous sommes heureux que vous puissiez continuer votre travail avec l'appui de tous ceux qui vous témoignent leur confiance et avec l'apport de toute cette grande famille de la FAO qui vous entoure. Nos meilleurs souhaits Monsieur le Directeur général.

Christian ESTROSI (France)

Je voudrais, au nom du Président de la République, Monsieur Jacques Chirac, d'abord vous féliciter, de la manière et de la qualité avec lesquelles vous avez administré nos travaux. Je voudrais dire à Jacques Diouf, notre Directeur général, combien nous sommes heureux de ce nouveau succès, de ce nouveau mandat qui lui est confié. Les Etats Membres de l'Organisation pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation ont décidé, Monsieur le Directeur général, en une grande majorité, de vous reconduire dans vos fonctions pour un troisième mandat. Je tiens à vous exprimer mes plus vives félicitations pour cette brillante réélection et ce, avec d'autant plus de plaisir, que vous représentez un pays et un continent chers à la France.

Je tiens également à vous faire part, de la détermination de mon pays, à soutenir pleinement l'action de la FAO et à promouvoir son adaptation aux défis et aux exigences de notre temps. Plus que jamais, la FAO est appelée à jouer un rôle essentiel pour permettre à la communauté internationale de répondre efficacement à des défis majeurs pour l'humanité. Qu'il s'agisse de la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim, de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, ou encore de la participation à l'effort collectif contre les menaces de pandémies, comme aujourd'hui pour la grippe aviaire, le monde a besoin d'une FAO forte et respectée.

La France sait que vous partagez ces objectifs et apprécie votre engagement en faveur de la FAO. Vous pourrez compter sur son appui, notamment pour engager votre Organisation dans la voie de nécessaires réformes, qui doivent être conduites avec l'appui du plus grand nombre d'Etats Membres et en pleine concertation avec eux. Nous savons que c'est pour vous, Monsieur le Directeur général, un défi majeur. Soyez assuré de notre amitié, de notre fidélité et du plus total soutien de la France et du Président de la République Jacques Chirac.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

Tengo el honor de dirigirme a Usted en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe para hacer llegar al Sr. Director General, Jacques Diouf, nuestras muy sinceras felicitaciones por su reelección al frente de la FAO durante el período 2006-2011.

Hacemos llegar también nuestra felicitación al Gobierno de Senegal. Estamos decididos a apoyar los objetivos para el desarrollo que impulsa la FAO por la importancia que representan para nuestro continente. Estamos apoyando el desarrollo y la capacidad que necesita la FAO para salir adelante con los objetivos para el 2006-2011.

AbuBakr EL MABROUK EL MANSOURI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to take this opportunity to greet Dr Jacques Diouf, and congratulate him. He is a superb representative – our family represented here in FAO. On behalf of the Libyan people and our President, Muammar al-Gaddafi, we wish to congratulate him and we wish him every success in the efforts he engages in, in order to achieve the lofty goals of our Organization.

Libya is one of the founding members of the African Union and as a member of the African Union we are particularly proud that a son of Africa is at the head of this Organization. You are a cause of great pride; you are a son of Africa in whom we are particularly proud.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Alhaji Adamu BELLO (Nigeria)

Africa has spoken through Senegal, Benin and Libya and it is only because of my position as the representative of Nigeria, who today, occupied the Chair of African Union that I feel compelled to speak.

Dr Jacques Diouf has worked very closely with Nigeria – and indeed with the African Union – recently to develop the comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme, which is to cater for the development of Africa and the NEPAD initiative. It is great work done by Dr Jacques Diouf.

Indeed, Africa has benefited tremendously from the Programme which is pursued vigorously by Dr Jacques Diouf – the Special Programme for Food Security.

Dr Jacques Diouf, we have seen, from these particular elections the fact that he was the sole candidate is an acceptance globally, that he is fit for this particular job; because it is very rare to have a job that is not challenged. In the course of our work for this particular position we have spoken to quite a number of countries in terms of propositions, but it was unanimous, virtually unanimous, that the role of Dr Jacques Diouf at FAO in the past nearly ten years have been tremendous.

Dr Jacques Diouf, we salute you for this wonderful job, but this renewal of mandate is a challenge. We want you to believe it is more of a challenge, than acknowledgment of your performance in the past. It is a challenge because Africa still has a disproportionate number of undernourished people. We are still struggling with the issues of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. We are still afraid that after the Summit we had, the number of people who go hungry by 2015 is still a very far challenge for us to work hard on to achieve. These are the challenges facing you: with the challenges of HIV Aids ravaging Africa; with the challenges of the Millennium Development Goals. Dr Jacques Diouf, I feel you should double your efforts, we know that you are equal to the task. We salute the Government of Senegal for the unwavering support they have given you and for the fact that they gave you to us to serve the globe.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

J. Michael CLEVERLEY (United States of America)

On behalf of the North America Group, Canada and the United States I congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as Director-General.

FAO has essential and related missions to make sure people have regular access to high quality food to lead active, healthy lives; to raise the levels of nutrition; improve agricultural productivity; reap the benefits of new technologies; protect the environment; better the lives of rural populations; help countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Dr Diouf brings to the Organization broad expertise, experience and a fervent commitment to FAO's mission. We wish him well as he begins his new term as Director-General and look forward to working with him in the years ahead.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

Je voudrais, au nom de Son Excellence Monsieur Denis Sassou Nguesso, Président de la République du Congo, réitérer les paroles chaleureuses et d'appui que mon Président exprimait à l'occasion de la célébration du soixantième anniversaire de la FAO, au Directeur général Jacques Diouf.

Félicitations Monsieur le Directeur général. Vous êtes à présent le nouveau Directeur général de la FAO, de tous les Etats Membres, et jusque là votre attachement aux idéaux nobles de la FAO n'a pas trahi la confiance que la Communauté internationale avait placée en vous. Et cette confiance s'est exprimée encore aujourd'hui à travers le fait que vous ayez été le seul candidat à votre propre succession. Si votre action n'avait pas emporté la conviction des Etats Membres sur l'efficacité et l'efficience avec lesquelles vous avez conduit notre Organisation, vous auriez eu face à vous des concurrents. Soyez une fois de plus félicité.

A présent, Monsieur le Directeur général, votre nouvel engagement est de frayer des pistes nouvelles pour notre marche commune vers un monde sans faim, sans famine, sans malnutrition, que vous proposez déjà d'ailleurs dans les réformes de la FAO.

Comptez sur le soutien du Congo pour ce troisième mandat car les défis à relever sont immenses et vous avez besoin de l'intelligence de tous les Etats Membres, de notre totale solidarité. L'aptitude que vous avez à négocier les parcours les plus difficiles, nous rassure quant à la manière que vous allez utiliser pour nous proposer des réformes utiles et nécessaires, capables de conduire la Communauté internationale à vaincre la pauvreté.

Plein succès Monsieur le Directeur général.

Je voudrais terminer mon propos en félicitant le Président de la Conférence, de notre Conférence, pour sa brillante élection et pour la qualité excellente de sa présidence de nos travaux.

Matthew S. S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 25 Member States and I would like to join previous speakers in extending our congratulations to the Director-General on his re-election.

The European Union is deeply committed to FAO and to supporting FAO to discharge its important mandate.

Dr Diouf, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you during your next term. We wish you well and we will do everything we can to support you in your noble and challenging task.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

On behalf of the European Regional Group, I want to congratulate you, Dr Diouf, to have been elected to a third term as Director-General for FAO.

The European Regional Group will continue to cooperate with you and FAO in a constructive and proactive way in order to achieve our common goals in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

May I begin my words by congratulating you, Sir? I congratulate the Chairman on his wisdom, and I am sure he will ensure the success of our Conference.

I would also wish to turn to the Director-General, Jacques Diouf, to congratulate him on his re-election for the period from 2006–2011.

I would also like to congratulate Senegal and the whole African continent, a continent to which I am proud to belong.

I am speaking on behalf of Africa. I am also the Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO.

The results of the elections we have just witnessed today are a very clear sign of the support we give to the Director-General. These elections also speak of our trust in the Organization and its Director-General. We are confident that he will bring us safely to our harbour as regards the struggle against hunger and malnutrition and the satisfaction of the Millennium Development Goals. These are efforts which involve developed and developing countries, because we share a noble aim, which is to protect mankind and develop it – to preserve it.

The elections are also important because they are bringing us into a new mandate and a new period – a period of reform within the UN system as a whole and within FAO.

We have all taken careful note of the Director-General's reform proposals. These proposals speak of the determination of countries to change the Organization for the better. These represent the work of the Director-General to improve the efficiency of the Organization, to ensure it is in a better position to serve the interests of Member States.

I think I was fortunate in being one of the last speakers, here and now. This enables me to speak on behalf of the African Group, within FAO. It also enables me express my thanks to all those countries who have given their support to the Director-General in his new mandate.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

E. Rodney M. PERERA (Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Asia Group, of which I am the Chairman, on behalf of Sri Lanka, an active member of the FAO family, and on my own behalf, a warm and heartfelt congratulation is offered to the newly re-elected Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf.

We look forward to working even more closely with the Director-General in addressing the key issues that are before us, now and in the years to come. We are confident and hopeful that the reform process that you have initiated, along with the Member Nations, will become the cornerstone of your next tenure.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

TUITA (Tonga)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, I would like to extend our congratulations to you, Dr Diouf, on your re-election as Director-General. We note that we look forward to continuing to work closely with FAO.

Our region has benefited a lot under your leadership of FAO, and we thank you very much for all of your support. We look forward to welcoming you when you next visit our region and to continue the excellent relationship existing between FAO and the islands of the Pacific.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Al Amin Eissa KABBASHI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

First and foremost, we wish to express our delight, as people of Africa, on the results of the election we would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf. We are grateful to everyone here. We

are grateful to everyone for having placed their trust in the African continent, represented by Jacques Diouf.

Our President, the President of Sudan, also congratulates you, Sir.

You won roughly 80 percent of the votes. This is the result of the wise and skilful way in which you have managed the Organization during your past mandates, and we wish you every success in the coming mandate.

Mohamed SHARIF (Afghanistan)

On behalf of my country and my President, His Excellency Mr Hamid Karzai, I would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to a second term.

Afghanistan is a war-ravaged country with a need to reduce poverty and hunger. I think within ten years of work under the leadership of Mr Jacques Diouf, Afghanistan has benefited from FAO very much. We have more than 16 big projects in Afghanistan under FAO.

I hope in the next term of the job, which we have re-elected Mr Jacques Diouf today, we will reduce the hunger, especially in Central Asia. According to the FAO mandate and the Millennium Development Goals, we have to reduce 850 million hungry to at least 400 million throughout the world.

Again, I want to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf and wish great success and triumph.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Dato'Lily ZACHARIAH (Malaysia)

On behalf of the Group of 77 Member Nations, I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations on the re-election of the Director-General.

We, the members of the G77 Group, have worked very closely with FAO, and we look forward to working together with you in partnership to meet the challenges facing us in the years ahead.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Peter WOOLCOTT (Australia)

As Chairman of the Southwest Pacific Group, I congratulate you, Director-General, on your re-election and wish you well in your important work.

Australia looks forward to cooperating closely with you in meeting the challenges that we all face.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

En nombre del Gobierno de la República de Panamá, quiero presentar las felicitaciones a la merecida reelección del Señor Director General. Ya la distinguida Representante de Costa Rica, Presidente de nuestro Grupo, lo hizo en nombre del GRULAC, y nuestra estimada Embajadora de Malasia, también lo hizo en nombre del Grupo G77.

Yo, sin embargo, que he estado siempre involucrado e identificado con los intereses de los países en desarrollo, quisiera también manifestarle que siempre nos hemos sentido representados por usted, hemos trabajado con usted activa y pro-activamente, y tengo la certeza que continuaremos haciéndolo así, sobretodo en estos momentos en que la Organización más lo necesita.

Satyadeow SAWH (Guyana)

On behalf of the Caribbean countries, and on my own behalf, I wish to expend warmest congratulations to Dr Diouf for his re-election to this very important post.

Dr Diouf brings a track record of service that is very impressive. We are aware of his simplicity, humility and ability, and he will need all of that in the next five years, as he goes about with partnership with the countries of this world to tackle the problems of hunger and poverty, which is still so much with us. We have achieved a lot, but there is still a long way to go. We pray to God to give Dr Diouf good health, strength and happiness as he continues to lead us in this noble struggle.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ernesto RÍOS LÓPEZ (España)

Querido Director General, en nombre de los países de la OECD, a los que me honra representar durante este semestre, reciba nuestra más emotiva, sincera y cordial felicitación por su reelección. Estos próximos seis años serán decisivos para la Organización y para el mandato tan importante con el mundo de hoy. Tenga la seguridad, que los países desarrollados trabajaremos más que nunca a su lado para contribuir a erradicar el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, siguiendo el mandato tan sublime de esta Organización.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

I am not speaking on behalf of Cameroon as my Minister is here. I am not speaking on behalf of, but I am speaking as the Dean of all the Permanent Representatives and all the Ambassadors accredited to the FAO.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I will tell you a little story which I was told before somewhere and it is very pertinent for our new Director-General. This is about an old man who sat under a tree in his garden and he was reading when his grandson ran towards him and said, Grandpa, I have something in my two hands. It is a butterfly. Tell me whether this butterfly is dead or it is alive, and the old man thought seriously and he said, if I tell my boy that the butterfly is dead, he will open his hands and say it is alive, but if I tell him that this butterfly is alive, the boy will squeeze it and kill and say Grandpa, you have not got it, and so he thought twice and he told his little grandson. So well my boy, you have it all in your hands. Mr Director-General, it is now all in your hands.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres et Chefs de délégation, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ambassadeurs et les Représentants permanents, Monsieur l'Observateur permanent du Saint-Siège, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Il vous a plu de m'élire pour un troisième mandat au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de rendre grâce à Dieu tout Puissant qui seul peut faire et défaire le cours de nos humbles vies sur terre.

Permettez-moi, ensuite, d'avoir une pensée pieuse pour mes parents. Ils reposent en paix dans l'au-delà mais leurs prières ferventes continuent encore aujourd'hui de me protéger.

Permettez-moi aussi d'exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance à mon épouse pour son amour, sa tendresse et sa patience, ainsi qu'à ma famille pour son soutien sans faille. C'est dans la profondeur du regard affectueux de mes enfants et petits enfants que je puise la force et le courage d'assumer mes lourdes responsabilités internationales.

Je voudrais maintenant rendre hommage à ceux qui ont œuvré au résultat du vote, qui vient de se dérouler à bulletin secret dans une totale transparence démocratique. Je souhaiterais commencer par remercier son Excellence, Monsieur Abdoulaye Wade, le Président de la République de mon pays, qui a bien voulu présenter et soutenir ma candidature auprès de ses pairs et dans les différentes enceintes internationales.

La présence à cette Trente-troisième session de la Conférence, d'une forte délégation sénégalaise, de deux ministres d'État et de onze Membres, est la manifestation la plus récente, mais surtout, la plus symbolique de son engagement en faveur de ma réélection.

Je voudrais associer à ces remerciements le Président Amadou Toumani Touré, qui, conscient des liens étroits que l'histoire et la géographie ont tissé entre le Sénégal et le Mali, a eu l'élégance de co-parrainer ma candidature.

Mon continent, en décidant à la Réunion ministérielle de l'Union africaine en mars 2004 et au Sommet des Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements de l'Union africaine en juillet 2004 à Adis Abeba, de présenter une candidature africaine unique au poste de Directeur général de la FAO, a été au commencement du processus qui devait aboutir à votre décision d'aujourd'hui.

Je voudrais donc exprimer ma gratitude aux Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements africains, notamment aux Présidents de l'Union africaine, Son Excellence, Monsieur Joachim Albert Chisano, et à Son Excellence, Monsieur Olosegun Obasanjo, qui ont mené des initiatives diplomatiques multiples et efficaces pour obtenir des différents continents, le soutien à l'Afrique.

Dans ce cadre, je voudrais aussi remercier le Président de la Commission de l'Union africaine, Son Excellence, Monsieur Alfa Oumar Konaré, pour son action méthodique auprès des Institutions internationales et régionales.

L'Organisation de la Conférence islamique en juin 2004 à Istanbul, les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements de la Communauté des Caraïbes en juillet 2004 à Grande Anse de Grenade, les Ministres du Conseil de coopération du Golfe en octobre 2004 à Koweït City, le Groupe Amérique latine et Caraïbes en novembre 2004 à Rome et les Ministres des petits États insulaires du Pacifique en juin 2005 à Rarotonga, aux îles Cook, ont, tour à tour, apporté leur soutien à la candidature africaine.

Que leurs Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements, leurs Ministres et les Secrétaires généraux de leurs Organisations régionales, trouvent ici l'expression de ma profonde gratitude pour leur confiance.

Mes remerciements vont également aux Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements, ainsi qu'aux Ministres des autres continents, qui ont bien voulu apporter leur appui à ma candidature. Les Ministres de l'agriculture, avec lesquels je travaille au quotidien, et qui ne m'ont jamais privé de leur franche collaboration, méritent aussi ma reconnaissance.

Je voudrais aussi remercier bien sincèrement les Représentants permanents auprès de la FAO, qui ont joué un rôle important dans la discussion des Textes de base de l'Organisation et ont déployé des efforts méritoires pour obtenir le soutien de leurs collègues au renouvellement de mon mandat.

Je voudrais aussi dire que sans la collaboration des agents de l'Organisation, et donc sans leur compétence de travailleurs motivés, il ne serait pas possible d'atteindre les performances qui valent à l'Organisation le respect et la considération dans laquelle elle est tenue. Ce personnel a besoin de votre encouragement et, notamment d'un cadre et de condition qui soit propices à son épanouissement familial et à l'efficacité de son action.

Enfin, comme toujours, je vais m'efforcer de respecter le principe d'universalisme de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et de collaborer loyalement et

franchement avec les représentants de tous les États Membres pour remplir mon mandat. La FAO traverse une période de turbulence, engendrée par une forte demande internationale de changements et de justice. La réponse de l'Organisation doit être à la mesure des attentes et des espérances des plus pauvres et des plus démunis.

Pour cela, il convient d'entreprendre les réformes indispensables afin d'introduire plus d'efficacité dans la mise en œuvre des activités globales, régionales, sous-régionales et nationales. C'est pourquoi, j'ai cru qu'il était de mon devoir de vous présenter des propositions de programmes, d'organisation et de méthodes de nature à mettre le patrimoine de connaissances et d'expériences de notre Institution au service des États Membres. L'enjeu réel de cette entreprise c'est surtout l'amélioration des conditions de vie des pasteurs, des pêcheurs et des éleveurs. Dans le monde, 852 millions de personnes n'ont pas un accès adéquat à la nourriture. Cinq millions d'enfants meurent chaque année pour des causes liées à la faim et à la malnutrition. Nous devons et pouvons améliorer le cours sinueux et lent des événements pour atteindre en 2015 les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, comme ceux du Millénaire.

Le Directeur général auquel vous venez de marquer votre confiance, sollicite donc de vous les décisions qui vont lui permettre d'avoir l'autorité et les moyens de faire le travail que vous attendez de lui. Mais l'action de la FAO va dépendre aussi de la volonté politique en faveur de l'émergence d'un monde plus juste, plus équitable et plus solidaire.

Si l'on doit, en effet, se féliciter de l'engagement des États Membres au profit de la coopération internationale et le louer pour les ressources importantes qu'il apporte au fonctionnement de la FAO, il faut avoir le courage de dire que leur politique n'a pas toujours facilité la tâche de l'Organisation.

Entre 1994-1995 et 2004-2005, il y a eu une diminution du personnel de l'Organisation de trente pour cent alors que les besoins pour ses services augmentaient et le nombre de ses Membres passait de cent soixante-neuf à cent quatre-vingt neuf.

Les expériences du criquet pèlerin et de la grippe aviaire, des sécheresses dans le Sahel, en Afrique australe, des ouragans et typhons dans les Caraïbes, en Amérique latine et en Asie, attestent de la propension de la communauté internationale, pourtant très généreuse, à mobiliser tardivement les ressources nécessaires pour faire face aux urgences. C'est seulement lorsque les écrans de télévision montrent des scènes de famines et de détresse que l'on commence à réagir et à envoyer précipitamment de l'aide alimentaire. Ensuite, on attend la crise suivante pour refaire les mêmes choses. L'histoire est ainsi un éternel recommencement. Des comportements plus responsables dans le cadre d'un développement durable éviteraient les atteintes dangereuses à notre écosystème. Pourquoi ne pas attaquer les causes au lieu d'essayer, souvent tardivement, de faire face à leurs conséquences? Des investissements dans la maîtrise de l'eau et les infrastructures rurales sont la voie incontournable d'une agriculture moins aléatoire, plus productive et compétitive qui procure des emplois et des revenus permettant de sortir durablement les pauvres et les affamés de l'exclusion et de la marginalisation. Je suis sûr qu'au cours de ce mandat, qui pour moi sera le dernier, vous m'aidez à poursuivre et à redoubler nos efforts pour faire disparaître à jamais le spectacle d'enfants affamés et mourants parce qu'ils ont eu le seul tort de naître au mauvais endroit.

Je vous remercie de votre attention.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

Mr Director-General please accept our sincere congratulations again.

This concludes item 21 of our Agenda.

Now we proceed to the last item of today. It is my pleasure to remind you that World Food Day, 16 October, this year was the Organization's 60th Anniversary. To mark this important milestone in FAO's long history, since its founding in the aftermath of the Second World War, a regionally balanced group of Permanent Representatives has drawn up a 60th Anniversary Declaration entitled: *The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations – A Declaration on its 60th Anniversary: Ensuring Humanity's Freedom from Hunger* which you have before you in document C 2005/LIM/20.

I would now like to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Dato Lily Zachariah, Permanent Representative of Malaysia, who chaired the Working Group on the Declaration before us. Ms Zachariah, you have the floor.

Ms Dato' Lily ZACHARIAH (Malaysia)

A Working Group under the Chair of the Group of 77 was asked to draft a declaration to mark the 60th Anniversary of FAO. The Ad Hoc Committee comprising of representatives from all the Regional Groups in FAO met and drafted the declaration which was agreed to by consensus by the Member Nations.

I would like now to request all Member Nations to adopt document C 2005/LIM/20 en bloc.

CHAIRMAN

May I propose to Conference that the Declaration be adopted by applause?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

That concludes our business for today. I wish you a pleasant evening and day off tomorrow. I look forward to seeing you all at 9.30 hours on Monday morning. The Plenary now stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 19.20 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.20 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 November 2005

CHAIRMAN

I call the Third Plenary meeting to order

Let me start our Third Plenary meeting and now the Director-General will deliver his statement to the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

FAO and the whole of the United Nations system have been sorely tested during the course of this closing biennium. On the one hand, we have had to meet the demands of emergency assistance and the more long-term threats over food security while, on the other, we have had to face the challenges of a world undergoing rapid change, in which everything is being called into question.

It is comforting that donors responded so generously to the United Nations appeal to provide assistance to the many victims of the tsunami. A total of 59.4 million US dollars was approved for activities led by FAO, with a further 18 million pledged. By way of example, in Sri Lanka, 2 800 fishing boats and 2 720 engines have been repaired and fishing gear worth 3.2 million US dollars has been supplied.

Before the devastation of the tsunami, the Caribbean region had been hit by the worst hurricane in the last ten years. FAO mobilized more than 7 million US dollars to help the affected countries, including 2.4 million from its own resources. More recently, following the earthquake that hit northern Pakistan, FAO launched an appeal for 25 million US dollars to help farmers resume their activities, and provided 440 000 dollars from its own funds.

In Africa, several regions have yet again been affected by drought and poor harvests. FAO has stepped up post-conflict rehabilitation activities in Africa and the Near East, including the Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq.

The year 2004 was also marked by a serious Desert Locust upsurge in North and West Africa which, despite FAO's early warnings in October 2003, had severe repercussions on the harvests of some countries. However, thanks to stronger mobilization during the summer of 2004 and donor support, FAO was able to help 18 countries affected by desert locust invasion to implement control campaigns. This resulted in the treatment of 13 million hectares. Some 600 experts participated in a training programme on locust control. Altogether, since the beginning of the locust crisis, 74.8 million US dollars have been mobilized, including 6.3 million from FAO's own funds.

Since February 2004, FAO has been at the forefront of efforts to halt the spread of highly pathogenic Avian influenza. FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health consider that the most effective way of preventing a pandemic is to control outbreaks of bird flu at its source in the poultry farms. In follow-up to the recent meeting held in Geneva at WHO headquarters, a three-year comprehensive programme costing an estimated 500 million US dollars is being prepared to implement measures to halt the spread of the disease.

Besides the need to respond to emergencies, special attention has been paid this year to FAO's role as a knowledge organization in the areas of its mandate. A study was conducted to determine the best way of strengthening this role and its conclusions have been taken up in my proposals for reform of the Organization. The idea is to make rational use of the accumulated knowledge of experts and technicians in each department, in the decentralized offices and in the academic institutions and research centres of the Member Nations, by compiling and processing the information so that it can be easily accessed.

Further, with better coordination of the production and dissemination of information through the World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT), access to FAO's statistics and technical data has significantly improved over the last two years. FAO's website now posts an average of 85 million hits each month with 16 million pages downloaded. It will soon become an instrument of exchange on best agricultural practices.

In the meantime, FAO's activities in its main technical fields have been pursued, including on transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases in the framework of EMPRES and integrated pest management, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Pesticides, the Global Information and Early Warning System and the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food which were approved by the Council in June 2004.

(continua en español)

Señor Presidente, Excelencias, Señoras y Señores, por lo que respecta al Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT), las aprobaciones alcanzaron 77,6 millones de dólares EE.UU. en 2004, con un nivel de ejecución por valor de 70,3 millones de dólares, que representa el nivel más elevado desde que se estableció el Programa. Además, las propuestas de la Secretaría destinadas a reforzar el marco operativo y de políticas del PCT acaban de ser aprobadas por el Consejo. Ha quedado así definido de forma clara y formal el objetivo estratégico del Programa: contribuir directamente a la consecución de la meta fijada por la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y los objetivos de desarrollo del Milenio de reducir a la mitad el hambre y la pobreza para a más tardar el año 2015. Por esta razón, se prestará una atención particular a la asignación de recursos del PCT en favor de los países más necesitados, los países más afectados por el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la pobreza.

También en el marco de los mismos objetivos, sigue desarrollándose el Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA), con programas nacionales y regionales. Está funcionando ya en 105 países y se halla en proceso de ser elevado a la categoría de programa nacional en más de 40 países. El Programa ha movilizado fondos por un valor superior a los 770 millones de dólares EE.UU., más de la mitad de los cuales provienen de presupuestos nacionales de los propios países en desarrollo. Recibe el apoyo del Programa de Cooperación Sur-Sur, en el marco del cual se han concluido 36 acuerdos de cooperación Sur-Sur y 625 expertos y técnicos se encuentran ya sobre el terreno.

La Organización ha realizado un esfuerzo particular para apoyar el Programa general para el desarrollo de la agricultura en África de la NEPAD, aprobado por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno africanos en Maputo, en junio de 2003. En esta ocasión se asumió el compromiso de aumentar al 10 por ciento, en el plazo de cinco años, la parte del presupuesto que se destina a la agricultura y el desarrollo rural. La FAO colabora en la elaboración de un sistema de seguimiento presupuestario que permita evaluar los progresos realizados por los países en este campo y también ha prestado asistencia a 51 países africanos que la solicitaron para formular sus planes nacionales de inversión a medio plazo y elaborar documentos de proyectos de inversión financiables. Hasta la fecha se han preparado tales planes a plazo medio para 30 países y se han elaborado 123 documentos de proyectos. Del mismo modo, la ejecución de los Programas Regionales para la Seguridad Alimentaria en el Caribe y el Pacífico se acelera con el paso próximo de la fase piloto a la fase de expansión.

El Programa TeleFood ha permitido emprender más de 2 000 pequeños proyectos de un presupuesto medio de 7 000 dólares EE.UU. en 127 países.

A pesar de las limitaciones presupuestarias del presente bienio, la Organización ha continuado invirtiendo en las nuevas tecnologías de información y en las aplicaciones informáticas en el sector de las finanzas y de los recursos humanos. Hay que señalar asimismo las inversiones efectuadas por el Gobierno italiano para modernizar la biblioteca, que ascienden a 20 millones de euros, y aprovecho esta ocasión para agradecer a las autoridades de nuestro país anfitrión, que se ha mostrado siempre muy generoso para con la Organización.

La FAO ha continuado reforzando su cooperación con las demás instituciones del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, de modo particular con el FIDA, el PMA, la OMC y la OMS, en programas como el Sistema de Información y Cartografía sobre la Inseguridad Alimentaria y la Vulnerabilidad; el Sistema mundial de información y alerta sobre la alimentación y la agricultura; la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius o la asistencia a los países en desarrollo y los países en

transición, con objeto de permitirles participar plenamente en las negociaciones sobre la agricultura de la Organización Mundial del Comercio. Por último, entre los sectores de cooperación en que se ha forjado un compromiso auténtico, no solamente con nuestros asociados, aquí en Roma, sino también con gran número de ONG que se ocupan de la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, figura la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre, en la que se basan las 22 alianzas nacionales ya constituidas, mientras que análogos alianzas se encuentran en las primeras fases de desarrollo en otros 21 países.

Los comités técnicos del Consejo se han reunido también durante este año. Sus informes han sido estudiados por el Consejo. Por tanto no trataré este tema.

(continue en français)

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, une des principales tâches de la Conférence est d'adopter un Programme de travail et un budget pour le prochain exercice biennal. Mes propositions sont contenues dans un document en deux volumes. Le document principal suit la voie classique, sans modifications majeures des programmes et des structures. Comme demandé par les organes directeurs, ce document développe trois scénarios: une croissance réelle zéro qui maintient le pouvoir d'achat, une proposition de croissance réelle d'environ 2,5 pour cent par an et un scénario de croissance nominale zéro, correspondant à une réduction réelle de 5,7 pour cent.

Dans le second volume qui vous est présenté (le Supplément au Programme de travail et budget), je propose des réformes de grande envergure visant à renforcer l'Organisation, pour qu'elle puisse faire face aux défis auxquels elle est confrontée et mieux répondre aux demandes de ses Membres. Le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier ont été les premiers à examiner les propositions de réforme. Ils ont demandé que des précisions supplémentaires soient apportées, ce qui a fait l'objet d'un Addendum.

Le Supplément, mais aussi le document d'information « La réforme de la FAO – Une vision pour le XXIème siècle », expliquent pourquoi un changement était nécessaire à ce tournant décisif de la vie de l'Organisation. J'ai saisi toutes les occasions qui se sont présentées pour expliquer aux représentants des Membres ainsi qu'au personnel pourquoi la FAO se devait d'agir sans plus tarder pour renforcer son efficacité.

Tout d'abord il fallait tenir compte de l'évolution au sein du système des Nations Unies et de la demande pressante, réitérée au Sommet mondial de 2005, d'aller plus loin dans le processus de réforme engagé depuis plusieurs années. Le FAO ne pouvait pas rester spectateur de ce processus. Elle devait aussi tenir compte des mesures de coordination et d'harmonisation qui font l'objet de la Déclaration de Paris sur l'efficacité de l'aide au développement adoptée en mars 2005.

Il était tout aussi indispensable de recentrer les programmes et les activités autour des priorités identifiées par les Etats Membres, en particulier des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, à commencer par le premier d'entre eux de réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté.

J'avais, le 22 novembre 2004 il convient de le rappeler, annoncé au Conseil que nous avions décidé «de procéder à une étude exhaustive des conditions de fonctionnement de l'Organisation en vue d'assurer une meilleure coordination et intégration avec nos partenaires du système des Nations Unies», notamment au niveau national et j'ajoutais, je cite que nous étions en train de «revoir l'ensemble de nos programmes et de nos structures pour mieux les intégrer dans le cadre des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement» - fin de citation. L'étude sur la FAO et le défi des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, celle portant sur le rôle de la FAO en tant qu'organisation de connaissances, ainsi que l'évaluation indépendante de la décentralisation constituent les trois piliers de la réforme de la FAO. Elles ont toutes été présentées aux Etats Membres. En particulier, le document sur la FAO et le défi des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement et un questionnaire portant sur le rôle de l'Organisation ont été distribués aux Membres dans le courant du mois de mai 2005. Un rappel a été envoyé en août et la date limite pour les réponses au questionnaire a été reportée au 15 septembre. Les propositions du personnel sur « La FAO dans le futur », transmises en juin 2005 sous couvert des Sous-directeurs généraux,

ont complété ces éléments de base. S'il a fallu au début du mois d'août accélérer le processus, c'est pour respecter les textes de l'Organisation qui exigent une soumission au Conseil et à la Conférence à travers les Comités financier et du Programme, et non directement comme je l'avais envisagé.

Ainsi donc, la FAO devrait elle raffermir son rôle en tant que conseiller des gouvernements et apporter sa contribution aux mécanismes de coordination au niveau national, notamment les bilans communs des pays et les Plans cadres des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement, ainsi qu'au système des Coordonnateurs résidents des Nations Unies.

Elle devrait aussi renforcer ses partenariats avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies en développant des programmes conjoints sur l'exemple du Codex Alimentarius, de la Division mixte FAO/AIEA ou du Programme de coopération avec la Banque mondiale.

Il fallait aussi refléter dans les méthodes de travail, les résultats de l'enquête approfondie sur le rôle de la FAO en tant qu'Organisation chargée de recueillir, d'analyser, de traiter, de diffuser, de transférer et d'appliquer les connaissances.

Il fallait tenir compte des conclusions d'une série d'études et d'évaluations, et en particulier de l'Evaluation indépendante de la décentralisation, qui montrèrent que le processus de décentralisation mis en œuvre depuis 1994 n'avait pas encore produit tous les avantages escomptés.

Il fallait enfin tenir compte des différentes recommandations faites par le Commissaire aux comptes ou l'Inspecteur général pour améliorer l'efficacité et réduire les coûts d'intervention.

L'objectif primordial de la réforme est de recentrer les programmes et les activités sur les domaines dans lesquels l'Organisation a un avantage comparatif.

La réforme doit aussi faciliter et accroître le travail interdisciplinaire sur des sujets et programmes horizontaux tels que le renforcement des capacités, la parité hommes-femmes, les ressources naturelles, les changements climatiques, le développement durable, la recherche et la vulgarisation. Les priorités reconnues par les Membres doivent bien entendu être protégées et consolidées.

Un autre objectif de la réforme est de mieux faire correspondre les structures du siège avec les principaux programmes, de mieux répartir les activités en créant deux départements sans augmenter le nombre des sous-directeurs généraux et de renforcer la décentralisation pour rapprocher encore davantage les compétences et les services de la FAO des pays membres.

La simplification et l'informatisation des procédures, une plus grande délégation d'autorité et la réduction des contrôles préalables devraient permettre à l'Organisation d'être plus efficace. La structure hiérarchique devrait être aplanie avec une réduction de 37 postes de directeurs dont les titulaires seraient redéployés.

Enfin, comme les Etats Membres l'ont demandé à différentes occasions, il convenait aussi de mettre fin aux déséquilibres souvent hérités du passé dans la répartition des ressources du Programme ordinaire, pour améliorer la capacité opérationnelle et la flexibilité de l'Organisation. Par exemple, il n'était pas normal de maintenir 70 pour cent des postes du cadre organique au siège. Ce pourcentage sera réduit à 60 pour cent, permettant à 40 pour cent des agents du cadre organique d'être plus proches des Etats Membres.

Pour de nombreux experts, les réformes sont une caractéristique incontournable de la vie des institutions. Cependant, il est parfois nécessaire d'en accélérer le rythme afin de mieux s'adapter à un environnement en pleine évolution. Je suis convaincu que les propositions de réforme qui vous sont soumises sont indispensables à la vie de l'Organisation et qu'elles doivent être mises en œuvre sans délai et dans leur ensemble, comme un tout cohérent. Je suis également convaincu que l'Evaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, qui a été décidée par le Conseil, sera complémentaire aux réformes que j'ai proposées. Ses analyses permettront notamment d'avoir un impact dans la durée, sur le moyen et long terme. C'est pourquoi j'accueillerai les résultats de

cette Evaluation avec la plus grande ouverture d'esprit et la meilleure volonté de coopération et de collaboration pour la mise en œuvre des recommandations.

J'ai indiqué que ces propositions de réforme pourraient être mises en œuvre quel que soit le montant approuvé pour le budget. Mais de toute évidence, si ces réformes sont approuvées, la décision que prendra la Conférence concernant le budget aura une incidence sur le rythme et l'efficacité de leur mise en œuvre. J'en appelle donc à votre sagesse collective et à votre engagement afin que vous dotiez la FAO des ressources dont elle a besoin pour satisfaire vos attentes et contribuer de manière substantielle à l'objectif de réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté. Chaque année, cinq millions d'enfants meurent de causes liées à la sous-alimentation. Il est plus que temps de mettre fin à cette tragédie. La FAO peut et doit y contribuer.

Aziz MEKOUAR (Président indépendant du Conseil)

Je serai très bref. J'ai eu l'honneur de présider notre Conseil pendant quatre ans et plusieurs événements importants ont eu lieu pendant ces quatre ans: le sommet mondial de l'alimentation plus cinq, le traité des ressources phyto-génétiques, l'alliance contre la faim et d'autres événements ont eu lieu, et nous avons fait avancer les choses. Mais le monde a devant lui encore des défis majeurs dont le plus important est d'éradiquer la faim, pour cela il faudra réorganiser le monde de l'agriculture: améliorer la production, procéder au transfert des technologies et j'en passe. Depuis quatre ans j'ai eu l'occasion de me rendre compte des potentialités extraordinaires de notre Organisation, de la qualité des femmes et des hommes qui y travaillent. Beaucoup disent aujourd'hui, que la FAO doit s'adapter aux réalités actuelles, qui sont bien entendu différentes de celles d'il y a 60 ans et même de celles d'il y a 15 ans. Il s'agira peut-être donc, de modifier le mode d'action de l'Organisation, peut-être penser à son mandat, voir comment elle peut être plus efficace. Nous avons aujourd'hui un projet de réforme et une évaluation externe qui doit être entreprise dans les prochains mois. La FAO doit être et redevenir l'Organisation centrale mondiale en ce qui concerne l'agriculture. Avec elle tout le monde se réfère, il faudra donc convaincre le monde que notre Organisation, par son capital de connaissance mais aussi par sa créativité, et surtout sa créativité, son efficacité et sa rapidité d'action est l'organisation à laquelle on doit faire appel lorsqu'il s'agit d'agriculture. Monsieur Jacques Diouf a été réélu par notre Conférence avec une majorité remarquable, il connaît les forces et les faiblesses de l'Organisation. Il connaît également ce que les membres de notre Organisation souhaitent, je lui souhaite plein succès pour son nouveau mandat et je suis certain qu'il le remplira avec la plus grande sagesse et la plus grande capacité. Monsieur Jacques Diouf, tous mes vœux et je souhaite à notre Conférence un plein succès dans ses travaux, je vous remercie.

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

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

CHAIRMAN

We will now continue with Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. Now I give the floor to Mr De Haen (Assistant Director General of the Economic and Social Department) who will introduce this item. Mr De Haen you have the floor.

Hartwig DE HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the agenda items the State of Food and Agriculture.

As the Director-General has just stated, there were 852 million people chronically undernourished in the world in the years 2000-2002. Of these 815 million were living in the developing countries. As the chart shows, the largest number of hungry still live in Asia and the Pacific. However, expressed as a percent of the population, the prevalence is by far highest in Sub-Saharan Africa around one-third of the population.

Progress has been made towards reducing hunger. This is illustrated for the developing countries by the full line in this graphic, which shows the declining number of undernourished people from 1980 to the years 2000-2002.

However, progress is far too slow. Two international targets for hunger reduction have been established. The World Food Summit target, which aims to halve the absolute number by the year 2015 and this would mean reaching a number of about 400 million in 2015. The required progress is shown by the dotted red line.

The Millennium Summit in 2000 set a somewhat less ambitious target of halving the percentage of hungry by 2015 at the expected rate of world population growth this would correspond to an absolute number of 580 million by 2015. The progress required to reach that target is shown by the dotted green line. In conclusion, the target date is drawing nearer, but the targets themselves are not as is evident from this slide.

Hunger reduction is vital for achieving most of the MDG's. It is recalled that there are eight MDG's and progress is monitored through eighteen targets. This slide illustrates progress towards the MDG's for various sub-regions. The bars show the number of MDG targets for which these sub-regions are on track according to the monitoring.

On the left in green are sub-regions which are on track to achieving the Millennium Development hunger reduction target. And these are North Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia. They are on track for hunger reduction and are also making progress on the highest number of other MDG targets as the green bar shows.

The situation is quite different for Western Asia, South Asia, Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa. These are the red bars. The sub-regions are not on track to the MDG hunger target, and they are also making progress on the smaller number of other MDG targets, and in the case of Sub-Saharan Africa – on none of these MDG targets.

In conclusion, without rapid progress in reducing hunger, reaching the other MDG targets will be difficult if not impossible. Let me illustrate this point with just one example. Hunger and malnutrition are the main cause as was just said of 5 - 6 million child deaths every year.

The slide shows changes in child mortality, this being one of the MDG targets for two groups of countries. They are grouped according to the progress they have made in reducing hunger. The left bar in green is for countries that are making rapid progress on hunger, and it shows that these countries over the last 13 years have managed to reduce child mortality by 30 percent. The right hand bar is the change in child mortalities in countries that have seen a worsening of hunger and as shown there, this country group has even seen a slight increase in child mortality. In addition to the persistence of chronic hunger, food emergencies also continue to be far too frequent. As of October 2005, the number of countries facing serious food shortages throughout the world, stood at 39, with 25 of them in Africa, 11 in Asia and the Near East, two in Latin America and one in Europe. The causes for these food emergencies are varied and include both conflict and natural disasters of various types. I think the map speaks for itself.

Let me now turn to some of the more recent developments in global agriculture. Global crop and livestock production increased over the past two years at rates above the average of the previous four decades. In 2004, global output growth accelerated further and reached almost four percent.

Fisheries production, not shown on this graph, has also increased, mainly through growth in aquaculture production. World wood production as well shows an increasing trend over the last years for which data are available. This is also shown in the document.

At the global level, per caput food production has been increasing steadily over the last 30 years. This is shown by the green line. Over the last decade, the annual growth rate has reached 1.2 percent. Per caput food production has been expanding more rapidly in the developing countries, shown here in the red line, than in the developed countries, which is shown in yellow at the bottom. Almost all the developing country regions have shared, but to a different degree, the long-term progress in per caput food production. Only in Sub-Saharan Africa, which is shown in red here, has food production failed to keep up with population growth. Today per caput food production in the region remains well below the levels attained in the 1970s. I should add that fortunately rising food imports and food aid have enabled the African region to increase per caput food consumption in spite of stagnating per caput food production.

Cereals provide close to 50 percent of global calorie intake. After several years of stagnation as is shown here, global cereal output, shown in yellow, grew strongly in 2004 to reach a record level of two million and some tonnes. In the marketing year 2004 and 2005, as you can see, production has thus exceeded utilization which is the red line, for the first time since 1998 and 1999.

The latest information points to a likely reduction in global cereal production this year. Production levels would remain above those of two years ago but would again fall below utilization in the marketing year 2005-2006. It is worth noting that the global stock-to-use ratio, which is not shown here, has declined during that peak. Thanks, inter alia, to better communication and better transportation systems, the globalizing world grain economy has nevertheless managed to avoid excessive price volatility. This is perhaps worth noting in this context.

I now turn briefly to agricultural trade. We note that an ever larger share of agricultural output is traded internationally. To highlight just one aspect: since the beginning of the 1990s, the developing countries have seen their agricultural trade surplus shrink. FAO projects that as a group the developing countries will move further into a rising net agricultural trade deficit. In this graph here, it gives evidence for just one group – the least developed countries - where this trend is even more pronounced. The current graphic shows agricultural exports (in yellow) and imports (in red) of the LDCs. They have moved from a position of net agricultural exporters to one of net agricultural importers, and the gap is rapidly widening. This deficit represents a major challenge for the poorest countries indeed. They need to either reduce this gap by increasing the competitiveness of their domestic agriculture or be able to finance the deficit through export earnings from non-agricultural exports. Focusing on the first option, on increased domestic food production, can also contribute decisively to poverty reduction since most of the poor live in the rural areas of these countries. Many of the LDCs face severe supply constraints. FAO has, therefore, always emphasized that freer trade alone is not a sufficient condition for these countries to participate more fully in international trade. To become more competitive; they also need to build capacity and invest in rural infrastructure and agricultural productivity growth, especially for the domestic food markets.

Finally with regard to trade, FAO has been assisting the developing countries in getting well prepared for the forthcoming Sixth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Hong Kong and, of course, we hope that the Ministerial will become a success because failure would be very expensive for the world.

I would like to close my presentation by reverting to the positive link between agricultural and rural development, on the one hand, and food security on the other. We note that this link has been given explicit recognition in the outcome document of the recent World Summit in New York, where paragraph 46 makes a reference to this positive link. The importance of agricultural growth for food security is illustrated by this slide here. It shows average rates of agricultural growth over the 1990s for countries which we have grouped according to progress they are making towards the MDG hunger target. The red column on the left represents countries with

worsening levels of hunger and under nourishment. These are countries that have also seen a declining agricultural GDP. I think the graph speaks for itself. The green column on the right shows the positive growth of agricultural GDP in countries that have progressed towards the MDG hunger target. This slide is on investment and agriculture which is essential to promote agricultural growth. It shows FAO's estimates of capital stock in agriculture in US\$ per worker. In yellow for 1975 to 1977, that is 30 years ago, and in red for 1998 to 2000. The countries are grouped according to the prevalence of hunger in the population. Countries with the lowest levels of undernourishment are shown on the left. They have by far the highest level of capital stock per worker and they have even seen the capital stock increase, which you see has been significant. The countries with the highest problems of undernourishment are shown on the right. They only have a much lower level of capitalization in agriculture but they also have seen even a decline of the capital stock per worker.

This is the penultimate slide which shows that external assistance to agriculture does not seem to target the most food insecure countries. The bars show the amount of external assistance to agriculture in US\$ per agricultural worker. At the bottom are the countries with a very low level of hunger, low prevalence of undernourishment, external assistance to agriculture per worker in this group of countries is far higher as you can see than in the group of countries that have the highest level of undernourishment, 35% or more. So something is wrong with the targeting of the food insecure countries through external assistance to agriculture.

In conclusion, we have seen that agricultural production is growing strongly in the developing countries and agricultural trade is again expanding. There is progress in hunger reduction but it must be clearly accelerated to meet the two main targets of the World Food Summit and the MDG number one. Hunger reduction is needed also to reach other MDG targets. In fact it may be essential as a precondition for success of the MDGs. More resources to agriculture and rural development are required, particularly for the most needy countries; and the LDCs in particular face a rapidly growing net agricultural trade deficit. They need to increase their competitiveness and overcome supply side constraints if they want to manage to meet the growing food demand without becoming ever more indebted. So far the introduction to this item, I thank you for your attention.

CHAIRMAN

Before proceeding to Heads of Delegation statement, I have an announcement to make regarding the Working Group on Reform which the journal mentioned at the meeting at 11.00 hrs this morning but this meeting has been postponed to 14.30 hrs today at the request of some members of the Working Group. I repeat, the Working Group on Reform will reconvene at 14.30 hrs today in the Malaysia Room.

I shall now give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who requested speaking time in advance. In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to respect the five-minute limit. I will now give the floor to His Excellency, the Head of the Delegation of China.

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

China, Guyana, Italy, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, India, Chile, Iran (Islamic Republic of), South Africa, United Kingdom, European Community, Netherlands, Sweden, Tunisia, Jamaica, Australia

Du QINGLIN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I am very glad to lead the Chinese delegation to attend this Conference. At the outset please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Government, to extend our warmest congratulations to Dr Diouf on

his reappointment as the Director-General of FAO. We highly appreciate the tremendous achievements that FAO has made in the past 60 years. Since the UN Millennium Summit held in the year 2000, governments of all member countries and international community have made unremitting efforts to honor their commitments to boost food and agriculture production and reduce poverty. Encouraging results have been made to improve the state of the world food security. However, we must keep a clear mind that we are still confronted with a number of pressing issues including hunger and malnutrition, depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, insufficient investment and incomplete international trade systems.

It has been fully recognized, with concern, the slow progress that we have made with the first MDG made by the Millennium Summit, which is to halve the number of the hungry and the poor by 2015. It is imperative for us to double our efforts to meet challenges and to realize these established goals. To this end, I would like to put forward the following proposals:

First, we should intensify support to agricultural development. Developing countries should make greater endeavours to increase support and investment in the agricultural sector. On the other hand, it is necessary for developed countries to work out practical programmes to honour their commitments on financial aid, debt relief and the market access, especially on the goal of increasing their official development assistance for developing countries to 0.7% of their gross national income.

Secondly, we should work together to create a favourable environment for agricultural trade. The Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference is to be held in Hong Kong. We should seize this opportunity to settle disputes with commitment and sincerity, expand our consensus, and take a flexible and practical approach in order to jointly push forward the negotiation process, with the full consideration of different development levels and the tolerance capacities of developing Member Nations. Special considerations should also be given to the demands of developing countries for food security, farmers' livelihood and rural development. We believe that it will benefit all parties to establish an open, fair, transparent and unbiased international multilateral trade system.

Thirdly, we should promote mutually beneficial cooperation for a win-win solution. We have come to realize how important it is to have extensive international cooperation in order to address pressing issues and challenges, such as poverty, plant pests and animal diseases. Developed countries should play a greater role in financial and technological support, while developing countries should actively take part in the South-South Cooperation in agricultural sector and create new types of partnerships. All FAO member countries should adopt the flexible and pragmatic approach to have dialogues and cooperation programs on the basis of equality and mutual benefit for a win-win solution.

China is a large agricultural country with a big population; therefore, issues related to agriculture, farmers and rural affairs have always been our top priority in our national development strategy. After more than two decades of reform and opening-up, China has greatly improved its food security with tremendous rural economic growth and great improvement of farmers' livelihood. However, we know clearly that there are still many challenges ahead of us, such as our inferior infrastructure, limited scientific and technological innovation, and deteriorating natural resources and environment.

In recent years, Chinese Government has increased its support to agriculture by releasing a number of preferential policies and measures to coordinate the development in both rural and urban areas. As a result, China has witnessed stable growth of food and agricultural production, continuous increase of farmers' income and coordinated development among all sectors of agriculture and rural economy. We will continue to persist in working for a sustained, secure and sound growth of agriculture and rural economy.

The Government of China would like to express our heartfelt thanks to FAO for the great support and assistance to China in support of our agricultural and rural economic development. Meanwhile, as one of the developing countries, China has, to the best of its ability, provided support and assistance to other developing countries through bilateral and multilateral channels,

including the South-South Cooperation program. At the UN Summit held in September this year, our President Hu Jintao solemnly pledged Five Commitments on Assistance that China is always ready to do its utmost to help and support other developing countries to accelerate their development. We will act on the instructions of President Hu Jintao to continuously strengthen agricultural cooperation for common development.

This session of the Conference is a very important one and the Ministry of Agriculture of China will fully implement all the resolutions adopted by the conference and intensify cooperation with FAO and member countries in the field of food and agriculture.

60 years ago, we established this Organization with a common objective and today, after 60 years, we still share this common objective and China will, together with all member countries of FAO, make concerted efforts to build a world of food security, long-lasting peace and prosperity.

Satyadeow SAWH (Guyana)

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Government of the Republic and people of Guyana, and wish to extend special congratulations to the Food and Agriculture Organization on reaching its Sixtieth Anniversary. It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to speak at the Thirty-third Session of the Conference of the FAO, an Organization which has taken the vanguard in the battle against hunger.

My country Guyana, is relatively small with a population of three-quarters of a million people occupying 83,000 square miles of land on the north-eastern corner of South America. The agriculture sector is a fundamental sector of the economy, creating employment for 70 percent of the population and accounting for 30 percent of the gross domestic product annually. It makes an even stronger contribution to export earnings, contributing over 50 percent of export earnings at a figure of about approximately US\$ 241 million. Although Guyana is a producer and exporter of primary agricultural products, the agriculture sector is dynamic, growing at a faster rate than the rest of the economy. While total GDP grew at an average rate of 3 percent for the past ten years, the agricultural sector grew at an average of 3.6 percent per year.

Due to the primary nature of agricultural production activities, transformation of the sector is required to facilitate the creation of an agricultural sector that is both internationally competitive and sustainable. In recognition of the need to support agricultural diversification as a fundamental step in developing the full potential of the sector, both the National Development strategy - a Policy Framework - and the Poverty Reduction Strategy, have outlined a programme of agricultural diversification as one of the primary means of economic development. The strategy emphasizes production of non-traditional commodities for local and export markets, thus expanding the agricultural base of our economy.

Transformation of the sector does not merely include the development of the non-traditional crops and livestock, and agro-processing sub-sectors, but requires the support of related links such as appropriate research, technical training, improved production and post-harvest technologies and marketing. Recently, my President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana, as Lead Head on Agriculture in the CARICOM region, spearheaded what is now known as the "Jagdeo Initiative" which visualizes an agricultural sector that is significantly transformed in its process and products and has stimulated the innovative entrepreneurial capacity of Caribbean agricultural and rural communities.

The Jagdeo Initiative notes that there are a number of constraints to achieving this goal for a modernized and diversified agriculture. These include: limited financing and inadequate levels of new investment; fragmented and disorganized private sector; inadequate research and development; outdated and inefficient agricultural health and food safety systems; weak land and water distribution schemes; weak and non-integrated information and intelligence systems; weak linkages and participation of producers in growth market segments; and the lack of skilled and quality human resources.

The process involves the crafting of programmes and strategies for the alleviation of the key critical constraints identified through the Jagdeo Initiative.

Guyana as an agricultural nation is proud to be a part of these activities in Rome which put agriculture on the forefront and highlight the need for this sector to be recognized as the foundation for reducing malnutrition and increasing food security nationally, regionally and worldwide.

I must express my appreciation for the invaluable support my country has received over the past years from the FAO. We look forward for your continued cooperation and are confident that with the help of God and your support we will be successful in this fight against hunger and poverty.

Giovanni ALEMANNO (Italy) (Original language Italian)

In this brief statement I would like to express our satisfaction on the re-election of our friend, Jacques Diouf, as Director-General of this Organization. This is something that we have strongly believed in and supported and I think that is very clear in the light of the majority vote that he received. We believe that the role of the Director-General is very important to build the future of this Organization which has, as its main task, that of encouraging international cooperation at the global level.

The second thing that I would like to express is enlist support to the reform of this Organization which the Director-General has undertaken. This is a reform we feel must begin now, and that can grow stronger and stronger so that this Organization can become an even more effective tool for its great mission. Italy believes in FAO and I think that it is the best way of ensuring cooperation between the north and south of the world.

Italy feels that agriculture is not something that can be simply left aside and dealt with only by the World Trade Organization (WTO). We will never tire of saying that if we are to overcome hunger in the world, liberalization will not be enough, but it is even more necessary to ensure international cooperation. The aim should be that of true rural development of all peoples throughout the world and that is why Italy believes in a growth in FAO's budget.

We believe that we need more resources if we are to reach the great objectives that we have established for ourselves. We need resources, but we also need the involvement of all men and women of goodwill, and that is why Italy believes that in the FAO Reform we must also leave room for a greater involvement of non-governmental organizations, so that we will be able to use all the ideas and all the creative resources that are available to us.

We believe that in the future of FAO there is an important role to maintain the relations between the north and south of the world. We think that the use of the Trust Funds can give excellent results like those achieved in the Caribbean and the Pacific where our commitment has made it possible to achieve excellent results. Therefore, we believe that from this Conference must begin a new phase of the development of FAO and that this new phase should help us re-launch the role of FAO as the meeting point between the north and south. Without this effort it would be difficult to establish globalization with a human face and to reach the higher ideals of growth for the world today.

Saeed Bin Mohammed AL-RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

I would like first of all, and speaking on behalf of my whole delegation, to congratulate you, on your election to preside over this general conference. I am sure that under your guidance we shall achieve the best results whilst we are together here and I would like to congratulate also the vice chairman of the conference. I would also like to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to lead this organization for a further period, this is a word in his favour that has been repeated, showing the trust that we all have in him.

Your re-election, sir, is a proof of the high esteem that the international community has for you and the task we place in you in order to achieve the purpose of the organization dealing away with hunger poverty and under nourishment.

We should like to stress the important role played by FAO in the world and the support that all the Arab countries give FAO, all united to support the ideas for reform that the Director-General is

trying to introduce to improve the work of the organization strengthen its ability to assist the countries everywhere so that the cultural development food security in the world maybe thoroughly improved and so this organization may achieve these noble targets in the struggle against poverty and hunger.

The United Arab Emirates have achieved a lot in the field agricultural development in these recent years and has given great support to activities to improve agriculture and his royal highness also is devoting considerable efforts to this guidance and thanks to these wise policies the areas under cultivation have been increased, the crop production has improved in spite of the climate conditions in our country, which are not very favourable, so we are achieving quite a degree of self-sufficiency as we have a lot of agriculture production and a live-stock also fish, red meat, white meat and vegetables and this has also helped us to improve the struggle against desertification and the protection of the environment, we have also set up the devices to improve the water table situation in the country and we have an irrigation system which covers a large proportion of our agricultural land.

The United Arab Emirates have taken part in the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of this organization and the special day observation under the slogan of achievement of the scopes everywhere, but there is still a lot to be done.

There are over 800 million people in the world still suffering from hunger and the summit on food production committed us all to halve this number and we must all make an effort and show that the international community gives necessary aid to poor countries and that have appropriate plans to struggle against hunger and poverty and we support the points made by Mr David Beckman who stressed an inform mobilizing political will and for the developing of government projects and joint efforts of international organization and in particular the three United Nations agencies that are particularly focused on struggling against hunger in the world.

The United Arab Emirates have provided support for this purpose with credits and giving support to a number of states and through also various charity organizations in our country particularly the Red Crescent and Abu Dhabi development fund.

We have made efforts and in this way we will go on developing agricultural projects to fight poverty and under nourishment, let alone hunger to help all countries achieve a suitable level.

We look forward to better world with peace and security for everyone.

Mike JOHANNNS (United States of America)

It is an honour and it is a pleasure to be here in the Eternal City, and to join my colleagues from all over the world. I am proud to represent the United States of America as we review the state of food and agriculture and the mission of this important organization. This conference comes at a very crucial time. In little more than two weeks, we will meet in Hong Kong for the World Trade Organization's 6th Ministerial.

We've not made the progress that we had hoped to enable us to set forth a balanced package on agriculture because our ambitious offer has not been matched. But our commitment to the Doha Round is as strong as ever. Hong Kong is an important milestone along the way but it is not the end of this process. The United States is pushing hard for a successful meeting, and over the next few days we're going to be pushing to build a consensus in order for us to have a successful Ministerial and negotiations throughout 2006. The stakes are enormously high; the Doha Round is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. It will determine whether developing countries will gain the opportunity to share in the benefits of expanded global trade, the primary engine for more robust economic development and all eyes now are on agriculture. We cannot afford to miss out on an opportunity to significantly stimulate the global economy and provide millions of impoverished people some hope for a better future.

About 70 percent of the population of developing countries are on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal for poverty reduction. However, more must be done. Progress around the world is uneven as we have seen half of humanity still lives on less than 2 dollars a day. At the

2002 Monterrey Summit of Financing for Development, developing countries agreed to take responsibility for their own economic progress through good governance, sound policies, and the rule of law and developed countries agreed to support those efforts.

To help realize this partnership between developed and developing countries, President Bush established the Millennium Challenge Account and pledged to increase US core development assistance by 50 percent over three years. The United States has actually gone beyond the President's pledge; official development assistance has increased from 10 billion in 2002 to 19 billion in 2004.

Over the past four years, the United States has tripled its assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa. In June, President Bush announced an additional 647 million dollars to respond to humanitarian emergencies. Despite these records amounts of assistance, even more will be required to grow the economies of developing countries. Private sector involvement is essential in generating the additional assistance.

Several recent highly credible studies have affirmed that the developing world stands to gain enormously from the Doha Round. One such study, from the Institute of International Economics and the Center for Global Development reports that more open trade would increase the income of developing countries by 200 billion dollars annually. The United Nations MDG report estimates that deep liberalization could decrease the number of people living on 1 dollar a day or less by 61 million and the number of people living on 2 dollar a day by 144 million, by the year 2015. Achieving fundamental reform of agricultural trade is a critical component to these negotiations. That is why the United States unveiled a bold ambitious proposal to increase market access, reduce trade-distorting domestic support, and to eliminate export subsidies. This proposal broke the stalemate and dramatically changed the dynamics of the negotiations. Now, it is the responsibility of others to be equally as bold.

The United States remains committed to helping countries participate in liberalizing trading regime by promoting worldwide science-based standards. We appreciate that FAO's proposed budget protects both Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention. The Work of these standards-setting bodies is imperative. The United States deeply appreciates the important role FAO plays in other sectors of agricultural capacity building, such as biotechnology and disease eradication. At the UN General Assembly in September President Bush announced a new international partnership on Avian and pandemic influenza. We will continue to coordinate our emergency response efforts.

Given the importance of achieving all these goals we are concerned with some aspects of the Director-General's reform proposal, especially any shift in FAO's focus away from its traditional standards-setting activities, data collection and analysis. We also need to view the reform proposal in the broader context of the Independent External Evaluation of FAO. At the same time reforms must be placed within the budget. FAO should closely examine its budget to ensure that it is disciplined, accountable and efficient. The United States supports a zero nominal growth budget for 2006-2007. The United States places a great deal of importance on this mission. Working together, we can bring developing countries into an ever-expanding circle of trade and development. That is what developing countries seek, a chance to earn their way out of poverty by participating in the world economy. We look forward to pursuing these worthy goals with you.

Sharad PAWAR (India)

It is my privilege to represent India, the nation where more than 650 million people draw sustenance from farming and allied sectors, at this premier forum devoted to the state of global agriculture and rural development.

At the very outset, I would like to place on record our deep satisfaction that we shall have the benefit of the leadership of the Director-General for a fresh term of six years. I have occasion to congratulate Dr Diouf informally during his visit to Delhi this September. Through you, Mr Chairman, I do so formally today.

The Indian saga of overcoming chronic food production deficits has been recounted time and again. This has served as an example for most of the developing world. Our strategy sought to expand irrigation coverage and concentrated on irrigated areas for higher production and productivity. We have been able to withstand severe droughts, without their occurrence making it to the headlines of even our national media.

Public policy in India is now shifting its attention to rainfed areas, where extension of conventional irrigation has its limits. Approaches like rain-water harvesting watershed development and on-farm water management are being tried on a large scale to let the benefits of green revolution percolate to rainfed areas of our country. Promotion of crop diversification, reforming market systems and more affordable credit regimes are also being pursued to augment the income of farmers.

We do recognize that pockets where rural poverty and consequent food insecurity persist deserve special attention. India has initiated a massive rural employment guarantee programme creating a legal right for 100 days of assured work at fair wages to all the rural adults who ask for manual work. This initiative follows the successful pilot-testing of the food-for work approach during periods of testing of seasonal employment and in the aftermath of major natural calamities. These will meet the commitments of the Millennium Development Goals, namely reducing the extreme poverty and food insecurity by half by 2015.

We will be very happy if members in this distinguished gathering see these major initiatives themselves as they hold promise and scope for replication wherever similar problems exist. It will be very helpful if FAO could also document these efforts and practices for better understanding of its members.

Through this forum, we repeat our resolve to do all in our power to help the poor of the world to make themselves to be heard at for a where issues of relevance to them are discussed.

I do not wish to take this forum's valuable time by dealing with the various agenda items. We repeat our resolve to do all in our power to help the poor of the world to make themselves be heard at the for a where issues of relevance to them are discussed. I do not wish to take this forum's valuable time by dealing with the various agenda items, as these will be discussed in the appropriate commissions. I would like however, to record India's strong support to the proposed conference on agrarian reforms particularly as it now extends to cover rural development.

This is in line with our submissions in the Committee in Agriculture and the Council. Our sincere thanks go to Brazil for taking up this initiative. I also hope that the deliberations in Commission II on the reform proposals will generate useful thought and implement able proposals. India believes that FAO should have the liberty to take suitable decisions as long as there is a broad consensus on the general principles and acceptance regarding the pace of implementations.

We are watching with interest the progress of external evaluation of the Organization. We are confident that a multi-disciplinary appraisal will pave the way to more effective discharge of its mandate. We trust that in the event of the reforms being undertaken enough flexibility will be left to carry out required adjustments.

FAO has rendered a signal service to the World's poor in the last six decades in the important areas of removal of distress, bringing peace and harmony to rural communities. We need to give careful thought to how we can better enable FAO to achieve still more. Through you, I would like to appeal for making conscious efforts to make the Organization deliver even more and reaching out to the poor and vulnerable.

I must also refer to the general perception that the expertise and knowledge of FAO is not being fully availed of by the International Agricultural Research system. We believe that there is much scope for synergies between FAO and the CGIAR. I would urge very strongly that we initiate a dialogue with the CGIAR so that the two Organizations set up a common platform. We should also like a more robust and assertive FAO presence in the Science Council of the CGIAR.

Countries like India have an impressive track record of promoting research and delivery systems for sustainable growth of agriculture, fishery, forestry and all other related sectors. We strongly feel that developing countries like us, have a special responsibility to work together to provide models for growth for other developing countries according to their felt needs. Under the IBSA initiative, India, Brazil and South Africa are considering how the three of us can work together to make things better for our respective regions.

India is committed to engage more actively with FAO in its mission to enhance food security in some of the most resistant poverty infested areas. As I have already noted, we are confident of removing pockets of distress in our rain fed areas in the very near future. It is our resolve to work with multilateral Organizations and bilaterally to share our resources and experiences towards these goals. Within our constraints we are determined to play a more active role in letting other countries benefit from our achievements and to share the story of our development so that our successes are adapted with necessary adjustments. I am sure that FAO will draw upon our assets for the common good of all.

Jaime Carlos QUIROGA CAMPOS (Chile)

Cuando restan cuatro meses para que se concluya el Gobierno del Presidente Lagos, deseo agradecer en nombre del gobierno y de mi país Chile, la cooperación que la FAO nos ha brindado durante los seis años de gobierno.

En los últimos quince años, Chile recuperó la democracia, la consolidó, y se reinsertó internacionalmente dentro de las naciones civilizadas de la tierra, restableciendo el pleno respeto de los derechos humanos. Además, ha implementado claras políticas de crecimiento económico y ha dado una dura batalla para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza. En todos esos aspectos, el sector silvoagropecuario nacional ha jugado un rol decisivo.

En el ámbito del crecimiento por sexto año consecutivo, la agricultura chilena sigue creciendo más que el resto de la economía nacional. Somos el primer sector generador de mano de obra en Chile sobre un 14 por ciento de la población nacional, tenemos los niveles de desempleo más bajos del país. En los últimos años prácticamente hemos duplicado las exportaciones silvoagropecuarias. Hoy más del 40 por ciento de las exportaciones agrícolas lo son con valor agregado, y a pesar de que somos un país pequeño hemos aumentado considerablemente la producción y los rendimientos. Ello lo hemos logrado puesto que hemos asumido la economía de mercado y la globalización. Por tal motivo, unilateralmente en los últimos años, abrimos nuestra economía para dar la seguridad jurídica que ese modelo requiere. Hemos ido suscribiendo tratados de libre comercio con los Estados Unidos, la Unión Europea, México, Canadá, Centroamérica, MERCOSUR, Corea, Nueva Zelanda, Singapur y Brunei, y estos días concluimos las negociaciones con China y mañana esperamos hacerlo también con Japón y la India. Desde el punto de vista productivo, tratamos de aprovechar y potenciar lo que son nuestras ventajas comparativas de manera que no producimos lo que queremos producir, sino sólo aquello en los que tenemos algún elemento que nos puede diferenciar de los demás.

En el ámbito de la pobreza y de acuerdo con los estudios del PNUD (Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo), en los últimos años la hemos reducido a menos de la mitad. Y lo más notable es que la reducción de la pobreza en el mundo rural ha sido más sustantiva que en el mundo urbano. A nuestro entender, esto lo estamos logrando gracias a que focalizamos los recursos del Estado en los sectores más vulnerables, a través de infraestructuras, caminos, escuelas rurales, salud rural, electrificación rural, vivienda rural, agua potable rural y telefonía.

Desde el punto de vista del Ministerio de Agricultura que dirijo, nos hemos dedicado fundamentalmente al fomento productivo agrícola y no a la asistencialidad o al subsidio al ingreso. Es por ello, que el 60 por ciento de los recursos de mi Ministerio, se invierten en los sectores más pobres, en lo que nosotros denominamos la agricultura familiar campesina. Lo anteriormente dicho, nos ha motivado a tratar de avanzar con más fuerza en el ámbito de la cooperación internacional. Hemos visto con mucho interés la iniciativa Sur-Sur que promueve el Señor Director General y particularmente hemos tratado de focalizar la cooperación dentro de

nuestras posibilidades en América Latina, el Caribe y particularmente en el Cono Sur en el que vivimos.

Sin embargo, cuando prácticamente concluya el Gobierno del Presidente Lagos, no puedo ocultarles que nos angustia el hecho que la humanidad esté perdiendo la lucha y el combate contra el hambre y la pobreza, más aun en los tiempos en que vivimos, cuando la humanidad actualmente produce más alimentos que nunca. Luego, si persisten 800 u 850 millones de hambrientos y por otro lado la humanidad produce más alimentos que nunca, ello a nuestro entender quiere decir que este no es un problema de producción, sino un problema de distribución; y en el mundo de hoy, la distribución de los alimentos pasa necesariamente por los temas de comercio. A nuestro entender distribución, comercio y desarrollo económico son temas de la FAO como lo dice el Preámbulo de la Constitución de esta Institución. Aquí está el nudo gordiano que produce el hambre y la pobreza puesto que la mayoría de nuestros países pobres son esencialmente agrícolas y la mayoría de los ciudadanos pobres de la humanidad son también agricultores. Mientras esos países y personas pobres no puedan acceder a los mercados por las distorsiones agrícolas, irremediamente estamos condenando a esos países y a esos ciudadanos, a una eterna pobreza. Los países pobres y los campesinos pobres, más que ayudas caritativas o fondos solidarios, necesitan la posibilidad de competir y de acceder con igualdad de oportunidades a los mercados internacionales. Mientras no eliminemos los subsidios y mientras no generemos un acceso a los mercados, todo desgraciadamente seguirá igual. Por eso, vemos con preocupación la próxima ronda de dos. Si no resolvemos este problema estructural, van a pasar muchas conferencias como esta discutiendo exactamente lo mismo.

Por tanto, para concluir, asumamos con realismo y con pragmatismo el mundo en que vivimos. Si lo hacemos, vamos a avanzar seria y realmente erradicando el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo y aumentando los niveles de felicidad de todos los seres humanos. Muchas gracias.

Mohammad Reza ESKANDARI (Islamic Republic of Iran) (Original language Arabic)

First and foremost I should like to seize this moment to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his deserved re-election as Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and I wish him the best achievement in his tenure. And I also would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chair of this General Conference. I truly believe that under your Chairmanship this conference will successfully achieve its purposes.

Food security and relief from want of food for all of humankind which are the foremost concerns of FAO have been constantly emphasized by the policymakers of all nations and of the international community.

Nowadays in the light of progress made in the areas of science and modern technologies public wealth has indeed increased, but regretfully a large proportion of people of the world about one-seventh of the world population are still suffering from hunger and poverty. In other words, food security has not yet been established on this earth.

Provision of adequate and safe food and suitable nourishment has undoubtedly proven to be the prerequisite for the development and health of all communities. At the same time, it may be regarded as the key element of stability, welfare, peace and security at the international level.

Whenever access to basic food needs has been denied, or fair distribution of food has not taken place, there have been revolts and hostilities and troubles of all kinds amongst the development goals therefore achieving food security is a matter of particular importance.

That is why the eradication of hunger and poverty has been clearly stated as the main purpose of the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs, in which the role of agriculture and achieving world wide food security has been doubled.

Thanks to the farsightedness of FAO's member nations and their striving aspirations about ten years ago, there was a World Food Summit and there the heads of state and government solemnly pledged to reduce the number of undernourished people in the world to half their number as they

had then by the year 2015. It is with great regret however that although we've already got more than halfway to a deadline, we have not made enough progress towards that objective.

What is the problem there? Hasn't the world enough capacity or resources to fulfill its obligations, to reduce its commitment to reduce the number of hungry people by 20 million people per year? Isn't there a political will to carry out such an objective? There seems to be evidence which shows that responses to these questions are in fact negative.

The convening of the World Food Summit and the next gathering, the follow-up waiting for the World Food Summit, five years later as well as the approval of voluntary guidelines on the right to food by all the honourable representatives of States represented in the FAO's Council – all of that shows that there is a solid will to achieve this target.

And I would like to declare at this point that we after all are here – the world agricultural authorities, and we should pull together all our efforts to develop agriculture and to boost agricultural production while paving the way for a fair distribution of foodstuffs and preventing any unfairness distorting the food supply system.

Sustainable agriculture can efficiently guarantee global stability and play a fundamental crucial role in social and economic development and improvement of living standards. However, there are some natural limitations as well as other economic, social and political factors which have led to an uneven agricultural development along with serious challenges and difficulties in the world. Solving agricultural problems requires that all sorts of efforts are made to streamline an all inclusive agricultural development at the same time incessant action should not be neglected to strengthen the rural economy for the empowerment of farmers and the alleviation of poverty.

We also should make necessary arrangements for exchange of information, close collaboration, learning from one another and deriving mutual benefits for the sake of global improvement of agriculture.

I take pleasure now in trying to explain briefly what the ongoing plans in our country are and what the agricultural status is. Agriculture in the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most successful sectors with a pivotal function in the economy of the country, providing fifteen percent of the GDP one-fourth of total employment and one-fifth of non-oil exports, and at the same time, it is considered as the most significant sector in food security, providing over 80 percent of the national demand to food from domestic products.

We deeply believe that solving the problems faced by the agricultural development in Iran is vital to our social stability and economic development. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches significance to agricultural development in the establishing of the economy. For this reason, a series of positive regulations have been approved to upgrade and promote agricultural development.

The outcome of our plans and efforts in the agricultural arena has culminated in self sufficiency in wheat production, the strategic crop that once was the main imported commodity in Iran up to two years ago. Our current development plan includes increasing food security through attaining self-sufficiency in other crops such as barley, maize, sugarcane and oil seeds.

To this end, a substantial and electoral development of farmers and the solving of their problems and difficulties and eliminating any impediments relating to agriculture and life in all areas, and further strengthening of the infrastructures are among our main priorities in the agricultural field.

In conclusion, I wish a world free from poverty and under-nourishment to prevail everywhere in the world, and I thank you all for your attention. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Ms Angela Thoko DIDIZA (South Africa)

On behalf of the South African government, I would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, the newly elected FAO Director-General, for his re-election to the third term of office in his absentia. We acknowledge, with thanks, the role that he has played in leading this institution for the past terms he has served. The work program that has been implemented with the support of his

technical staff over the years has made us as member states to see value in the work of the organization. His election, therefore, serves as an affirmation of the confidence we have as its members in him as a person.

As a member of the African Union, I would like to thank him and the Organization for the work and support that has been given to us as African Ministers of Agriculture and the NEPAD secretariat, when we developed the comprehensive African agricultural development program. What was of value was that the Director-General challenged us as a continent to look at specific interventions that were required in order to improve our capacity to feed ourselves. The special program for food security is one such program, which has enabled us as countries in the region to re-look at our own national policies, with regard to this matter and mobilize resources within government, as well as the private sector.

I'm happy to acknowledge the role that the FAO has played also in the SADEC region in the past few years working with the World Food Program in addressing the issues of rehabilitation after the drought.

It has been acknowledged that while food aid is necessary for countries that face shortages as result of disasters, rehabilitation work is equally important if such countries have to go back into production again. Were it not for the proposal for the restructuring as applied by the Director-General and the need for doing so, we understand that this in line with restructuring of the entire UN family as well as its specialized agencies. This restructuring we believe is necessary and must produce results in the Organization that will see us working better and being served better as member states.

It is, however, important that we take into consideration the decisions of Council on the independent external evaluation. I raise this, honourable members, because it has a bearing on the proposed restructuring. Sequencing in the implementation would be crucial, so that we do not find ourselves not being sure what the true process is to be achieved. It is clear that any restructuring process will have a bearing on the outlook of the Organization. This may require a re-look into the role of the FAO head office, regional offices and country offices. This process, therefore, will require input from member states given their own experiences of how these offices have served them in the past in their new roles and what their new roles should be going forward.

Chairperson, it would also be necessary for us to look at how we manage the impact of restructuring on our human resource capacity. As we would appreciate, any reorganization does have an impact on the staff. It is therefore critical that they understand the rationale for undertaking for such a restructuring, so that they themselves can take part in making proposal that will work in the interest of the Organization.

While left with ten years to achieving the Millennium Development Goals of having the proportion of people suffering from hunger and those living in extreme poverty by half in 2015. We applaud parts of the world such as East and South Asia where progress has been made towards the achievement of this goal. However, it is with concern that we note this low progress in Sub-Saharan Africa with regard to meeting this challenge.

Clearly this will require, in my view, that Africa in partnership with other member states of this family move with speed in implementing the programs as we have outlined in the new partnership for Africa's development, NEPAD. My own sense is that we know what the challenges are that we face. We also know what needs to be done. We also have at our disposal a programmatic intervention that can help us remove these blockages.

But it also true that one of the challenges that we face as a region is the issue of mobilizing both human and financial resources. It is also true that issues such as infrastructure are indeed a problem that we have to transcend. It is equally true though that the issues of market access, particularly as it relates to World Trade Organization, are matters that we have to face.

And it is in this regard that I would like to call all the member states that are part of the WTO, that in the negotiations that are upcoming in December in Hong Kong, we do everything possible that

we meet the challenges of ensuring that we can deliver the DOHA Development Round as we have said.

South Africa government has complied with some of the issues that we have raised on how we could meet the challenges of poverty, particularly by increasing our contribution to 10 percent of our GDP in agriculture and rural development. We will seek FAO to work with us in measurement of how this can be done, so that when we come back years after, we can say what it is that we have done.

We would like to also applaud the work of the G-8 in ensuring that they would commit some resources towards Africa to ensure that Africa can pull itself out of the poverty that it has. Once again, if we have to deal with the issues of poverty in the world, it is important that we must work in partnership, those that are affected and those who have already transcended the challenge of poverty. I thank you sir.

Baroness Valerie AMOS (United Kingdom)

It is an honor for me to speak today as the current Presidency of the European Union and as the Representative of the United Kingdom.

This year's report on the State of Food and Agriculture amply demonstrates the massive task we all face if the international community is to meet the goals we have set ourselves to halve hunger and absolute poverty by 2015.

It is unacceptable that in this world of plenty there are more than 800 million people who do not have enough to eat. Agriculture, on which more than a third of the people on our planet depend for their livelihoods, must be central to our efforts to address this problem. Growth in agriculture can help drive wider economic growth and provide opportunities for poor people to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

FAO can make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Its status as a United Nations Body gives it a unique legitimacy and FAO'S staff are a rich source of knowledge and experience and I would like to pay tribute to the work that FAO does in many areas. For example, its standards setting and statistical work and its contributions to post-crisis rehabilitation are world class.

FAO must maintain its capacity in these areas even as it seeks to address the new and growing challenges arising from globalization. But FAO also needs to improve its performance if it is to make a major impact in the fight against poverty and hunger.

To do so it must become better at identifying what it should do itself and what it should leave to others. At present, the Organization spreads itself much too thinly. For example, FAO's human and operational resources are insufficiently focused on those countries where there are large numbers of poor and hungry people, and its internal management systems need to be modernized and bureaucratic processes streamlined. The Organization also needs to participate much more actively in wider initiatives to harness the efforts of the international development system, including the UN system, in a coherent way behind developing countries' own strategies to reduce poverty and hunger.

The European Union is deeply committed to FAO, providing some 40% of its core budget and some 50% of its total resources, and we have called repeatedly for reforms in FAO that would enable it to address its shortcomings and to achieve its full potential. We therefore strongly supported the decision of the November 2004 Council to carry out an Independent External Evaluation of FAO. This evaluation will assess the impact of FAO's work, it will provide the evidence the membership needs to take the right decisions on FAO's strategic priorities and on how FAO should be structured, staffed and financed to meet them. I am pleased that there is now a wide consensus that FAO must change.

The Director-General has made very clear over the past year that he believes this strongly himself. I congratulate him on his re-election and welcome the initiative he has taken to table reform

proposals for the consideration of this Conference. The membership will need to study these very carefully. In particular, I urge Conference to ensure that its decisions on the Director-General's new proposals enable full account to be taken of the forthcoming evaluation. Looking ahead, I encourage the Director-General to work closely with the Secretary-General as he takes UN integration at country level further. With a greater role for the resident Senior UN Official and a common management programming and monitoring framework.

2005 has seen an unprecedented focus around the world on the challenges we face in reaching the MDGs. The international community has made several important commitments so far this year. We must keep these promises and be held to account for doing so, but 2005 is not over yet. The talks in Hong Kong next month must make the progress necessary for a successful conclusion to the Doha Trade Round. It is the moral duty of the richer countries to meet their commitments, just as it is in our long-term interest to do so but, ultimately, the prospects for reducing the number of poor people rest with developing country Governments. They must deliver on their promises on better governance.

Can I say finally, as the Representative of the United Kingdom, that we have contributed 26 thousand dollars to the preparatory work for the evaluation and we stand ready to make a further contribution once a satisfactory inception report has been received. I hope that other members of FAO will join us in contributing to this important exercise.

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL (European Community)

I am really very grateful for the opportunity to address the FAO Conference for the first time as the European Union's Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development.

Let me also start by offering my congratulations to Director-General, Jacques Diouf, for his re-election to his post. He can rely on the full support of my colleges and myself in his ongoing work of fighting hunger around the world as well as he can rely on my support in the difficult task to reform the Organization.

Hunger and poverty has often been in the headlines over the last few years, whether in connection with natural disasters, civil conflicts or multilateral trade talks. The latest figures published by the FAO leave us no room to be complacent. Although there are fewer people now than in 1990 who have too little to eat and who live under the breadline, our progress in improving living standard has not been as quick as we would have liked, especially in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

These problems and the challenges of finding a remedy, that have not been forgotten in the European Union and, I would like to assure you of this today, the Strategic Partnership Agreement with the European Union and the FAO, signed last year, will strengthen our long-standing cooperation in attacking poverty and hunger head-on. And, when it comes to financial support for development work, the European Union will continue to back up on its words with cool cash or with money.

In 2004, the European Commission became the largest donor to the FAO's extra-budgetary fund, contributing 47 million euros. More generally, the Commission and the EU Member States together form the world's largest provider of development aid and we intend to raise our total contribution to 0.7% of our economic output by 2015 and that would mean an annual aid budget of 90 billion euros by that year.

Aid is one ingredient of the recipe for lifting countries out of poverty. Another, of course, is trade. And here also, the European Union's credentials are much stronger than anybody actually want to admit. We import more agricultural commodities from the developing world, from the developing countries than do actually United States, Canada, Australia, Japan and New Zealand all put together. And no developed country outside the European Union matches actually our Everything but Arms Commitment, which provides for access for all non-military goods into the European Market from the Least Developed Countries in the world.

Awareness of the needs of weaker economies is a principle that we wish to keep at the heart of the WTO Round, which has of course been taking up much of the time that we have spent recently. I

believe that the Doha Round can genuinely be a tool for giving poorer countries a bigger stake in global trade, for making trade work for them. But that can happen only if we keep it clearly in our minds that the Doha Round is a "development" round.

Among other things, that means that developed countries must follow the European Union's lead in allowing special and differential treatment for less prosperous countries whose agricultural economies would be harmed if they they are opened too quickly.

It also means that indirect forms of export subsidy such as food aid in kind should come under the microscope. We think such aid is appropriate only as an exception, not as a rule.

Our fundamental shake-up of the Common Agricultural Policy has also allowed us to abolish totally our export refunds and this will remove lots of the obstacles that hinder developing countries from being present with their products on the world market. We wait for our trading partners to be as ambitious on their special export instruments.

We also await more realism and balance in the agricultural talks. Some of the demands made by the European Union over market access has been stuffed with political fantasy. Let's work in the world of the possible.

My colleagues and I are working hard to bring the Doha Development Round to a successful conclusion, but we should not deceive ourselves that this would wave a magic wand to eradicate hunger and poverty from this planet.

To benefit from trade, a country must have sound infrastructure, strong institutions and stable governments. Developing these, where they are not already in place, takes general and generous financial assistance, expertise, persistence and time; and the struggle to help the poor and hungry of the world will continue long after the WTO round. But you can rely on the European Union's ongoing full commitment to that struggle.

Cees VEERMAN (Netherlands)

I am very pleased to address the FAO Conference again and, first of all, I do congratulate the FAO on its 60th anniversary. The Netherlands has always shown a strong commitment to the FAO and will certainly continue to do so.

We are, ladies and gentlemen, at a crucial phase for the implementation of Millennium Development Goals and fight against poverty. We have to break with the past.

I share the concern and disappointment about the lack of progress in reducing by half the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition by 2015, and the only way to reverse this trend is investment in sustainable agriculture and rural development.

During the summit in New York, we all made a clear statement on increasing support for agricultural development through productive investment and trade capacity building in developing countries. We have to capitalize on this now for the future of the FAO.

FAO plays a crucial role in facilitating a coherent and coordinated response to the summit. Agriculture, as a driving force for economic development, can only flourish in a national and international enabling environment. International trade is an essential cornerstone and the WTO negotiations have to be successful therefore. The Netherlands remains a supporter substantive trade liberalization in agricultural products. It's striking, however, that almost every study carried out recently has revealed that the wealthy countries will profit most from trade liberalization. That should not be our only objective. It's vital that products from developing countries get greater access to Western markets and the competitive ability of farmers in countries in the developing world should be strengthened.

The latest EU contribution common WTO negotiations is promoting that enabling environment. Trade-distorting subsidies on agricultural production will be substantially reduced or phased-out and the working of market forces will be encouraged, increasing market access for third countries

to Europe; that already, by far, is the largest importer of agricultural products from developing countries.

Developing countries also stand to profit considerably from South-South trade, with the dismantling of market protection between developing countries themselves.

However, we can do more. Results can and should be shown. Industrialized countries have a serious responsibility here. That is why partnerships are important. In Europe, we rightly place high amounts on the safety and quality of imported products and the way they are produced and it is precisely those poorest, developing countries that are not capable of meeting these demands and we therefore have to work to help strengthen the production and trade capacity of the agricultural sector in these countries.

The Netherlands initiated partnerships with several developing countries, to improve market access for agricultural products from developing countries and these involve technical and institutional cooperation and capacity building.

After the New York summit in September, financial means directed towards agricultural and rural development are expected to increase and should be increased. FAO has to capitalize on this; its work is related to almost all of the Millennium targets that at the present rate of progress, 2015 targets will not be realized. This can only be done with a higher prestige of the FAO within the UN system and developing countries and donor countries will have to put their shoulders to the wheel to achieve this.

The need for reform within the FAO is greater now than ever and the Director-General has addressed this on his reform proposal and we support direction and guiding principles.

To sum up, the Netherlands is, and will be, very closely-involved in the issue of development cooperation. We continue to devote .8% of our GDP to development cooperation. For more than 20 years, the Netherlands has been a large and reliable donor of FAO and in addition to this contribution, we also support the work of the FAO through the Associate Professional Officer's programme, emergency aide and extra budgetary contributions.

For the future of the FAO, broad ownership of developing and developed countries is desirable. Our mutual engagement should be reflected by the governor's position of the FAO.

I therefore recommend for your consideration that the position of the independent Chairman of the FAO Council is at times rotated and should now be occupied by someone from an OECD country and as you know, the Netherlands has put forward an excellent candidate.

Ms Ann-Christin NYKVIST (Sweden)

This year, FAO celebrates its Sixtieth Anniversary. Since its foundation, the external environment where both FAO and the UN system are operating, has drastically changed. Among the most recent areas given attention are the discussion on the UN Reform process, the UN Millennium Project, the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In spite of many positive global developments, there are still major pockets of poverty and misery for too many people – men, women and children in our world.

Most developing countries are still heavily dependent on agriculture for the provision of food, income and employment for the majority of their citizens. MDGs give a central role to agriculture in the development agenda. FAO being a global knowledge Organization and the key international organization in the field of food, agriculture and rural development, has a great role to play in combating hunger and poverty, and to achieve these goals.

A development process that serves to improve food security and eliminate hunger and poverty also means a development firmly based on gender equality, sustainability in social and economic terms and respect for the environment – a development that builds on national capacity and firmly based on human rights.

Agriculture and rural development are key areas for FAO. Increased focus on rural development and agriculture in the developing countries is essential if the international community is to achieve the goal of halving poverty by 2015. A range of important areas can be identified as priorities in future initiatives geared towards rural development and agriculture. People's access to land and water must be protected and this is especially crucial for women.

However, without recognizing the importance of gender equality the fight against hunger and poverty will have no success. It is likewise essential that people in rural areas in developing countries will be given access to local, regional and global markets, to well-functioning credit systems, to non-corrupt and legitimate national institutions as well as to effective political representation. It is also crucial to make the benefits of modern technology and farming methods known and available also to small-scale farmers in developing countries.

Even if agriculture and rural development are the basis in combating hunger and poverty, several hundred million people, mainly in developing countries, are directly or indirectly depending on fishing for their livelihood. An even greater number depends on fish as their main source of protein. The economic and social importance of sustainable global fisheries management, in particular the restoration of overexploited fish stocks, cannot be overestimated. In accordance with the conclusions from the Johannesburg summit, FAO should play a leading role in multilateral and regional efforts in this area.

In this context, I would like to stress that Sweden believes that trade in agriculture is crucial for developing countries and is an essential component of economic and social development. But free trade and less trade distortion policies alone is not enough. The agricultural sector must also develop to the benefit of free trade. This demands increased productivity of agriculture and improved infrastructure in rural areas.

We were very pleased to recognize the decision of the Director-General last autumn to embark upon a process to more explicitly consider the MDGs as a part of the future operations of FAO.

My Government commends his decision and is pleased to note that FAO is actively involved in the coordinated efforts towards reaching the MDGs. I will also recall the valuable discussion we had on this issue in Stockholm last June.

FAO has made considerable progress over the last years and we should complement FAO for the results, but we should also request for more. In this context, my Government sees the reform proposal by the Director-General as a step in preparing the Organization for its future role as a pro-active player within the UN system. We see the proposal as a follow-up of the FAO strategy on the MDGs in changing the description of FAO's work from normative and operational to that of global knowledge organization. My Government encourages this move. It is critical for a vibrant and efficient Organization that can take on the huge challenges and tasks ahead. The result of the reform may lead to a more transparent system of FAO's various activities.

Furthermore, we note with satisfaction that the Director-General has met our wishes in shifting focus and allocation towards, for instance, plant genetic resources, nutrition, consumer protection, Codex alimentarius, food safety, fisheries, forestry, sustainable livelihood and gender issues. In the forthcoming elaboration of the reform proposal, it is important that the crucial role of the normative work of FAO will be maintained.

The reform proposal can be seen as a first step in a necessary reform of FAO. The reform process must continue, and in this context the Independent External Evaluation has a crucial role. It is important that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO and the reform proposals are mutually supportive.

Finally, using the suggested conceptual framework of the reform proposals of the Director-General, we expect the Organization to move ahead with its internal examination of various issues in order to formulate adequate strategic policies in the new context of development thinking.

We encourage FAO to be pro-active rather than reactive by clarifying its own tentative position within a reformed UN system.

Habib HADDAD (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe)

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter, Monsieur le Président, à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de cette 33^{ème} session de la Conférence générale de la FAO. C'est un rendez-vous où nous nous retrouvons une fois tous les deux ans pour faire le bilan du progrès réalisé dans le domaine des objectifs que nous nous sommes assignés, à savoir réaliser le développement agricole et la lutte contre la faim, et pour déterminer les programmes qui permettent de répondre aux attentes des Etats Membres, notamment les Etats en voie de développement, au vu des événements internationaux et défis auxquels nous faisons face. Nous voudrions également remercier les responsables de l'Organisation pour la bonne organisation et pour les rapports complets qui nous ont été soumis. Je salue également l'initiative d'organiser les tables rondes en marge de cette Conférence et qui seront l'occasion d'enrichir le dialogue, l'échange des expériences entre les Etats sur des sujets importants qui ont une relation avec la sécurité alimentaire et le développement.

L'Organisation a récemment célébré son 60^{ème} anniversaire et nous voudrions la féliciter et lui rendre hommage pour le rôle qu'elle a joué en tant que centre international d'expertise et de coordination des politiques agricoles, d'aides techniques et de conseil aux Etats Membres. Elle a, en effet, contribué à l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire en renforçant la production alimentaire et en développant et en diversifiant les méthodes de production agricole dans le monde. L'Organisation a également joué un rôle important en apportant une aide aux Etats Membres pour leur permettre de faire face aux catastrophes naturelles et aux fléaux, notamment les vagues de criquets pèlerins dans la région de l'Afrique du nord, de l'Afrique de l'ouest en 2003-2004. Ainsi, l'Organisation a joué un rôle important dans la lutte contre ce fléau par les opérations d'alerte précoce, de détection, de coordination, et en apportant une aide technique et financière aux états qui ont fait l'objet de ces vagues. Etant donné les dangers qui persistent, nous appelons l'Organisation à une surveillance et à une détection précoce en prévision d'un retour d'une telle vague.

A cette occasion, nous saluons les efforts de la FAO en vue de lutter contre la grippe aviaire, virus très dangereux et qui se répand très rapidement, virus qui a eu les plus grands dégâts sur un certain nombre de régions du monde, dégâts sur le plan économique, mais aussi sur le plan de la sécurité alimentaire du fait des pertes, notamment dans le domaine de la volaille, source importante de protéines pour l'être humain. Cela nécessite que la communauté internationale déploie tous les efforts en vue d'une évaluation précise et urgente de la situation actuelle et en vue d'une coordination entre les Etats, et de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour lutter contre ce fléau et se prémunir des dangers qui pourraient en découler sur la santé de l'homme. Nous devons également mettre l'accent sur la nécessité d'une surveillance accrue dans les zones traversées par les oiseaux migrateurs, source de transmission de ce virus.

Nous saluons également la conférence qui s'est tenue à Genève récemment et ses résultats, notamment la création d'un fond mondial pour fournir les ressources financières nécessaires à la lutte contre ce fléau.

La Tunisie, depuis le début, a pris les mesures nécessaires en vue de lutter contre ce fléau, et ce sur la base d'un plan de surveillance vétérinaire. Nous avons ainsi, et en vertu d'une décision présidentielle, créé une commission nationale qui se compose de responsables du Ministère de l'agriculture, du Ministère de la santé, d'acteurs de la communauté civile pour suivre la situation. Nous avons aussi créé un réseau de vigilance pour surveiller cette maladie. Nous avons aussi mis en place un programme de sensibilisation et d'information destiné aux exploitants de la volaille en vue que toutes les mesures préventives soient prises dans les fermes et en vue d'organiser des stages de formation dans le domaine de la surveillance et de la prévention. Nous suivons de très près les développements sur le plan international et nous oeuvrons avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale sur le plan régional et international.

Le programme et budget de l'exercice 2006-2007 reflète, et très clairement, des efforts et un esprit de renouveau et d'initiative au sein de l'Organisation en vue de rendre plus efficace son action et ses méthodes de travail. Ce document énonce un certain nombre de questions liées à la mise en œuvre des programmes et plans de l'Organisation. Mais, à notre avis, la poursuite des efforts en

vue de lutter contre l'insécurité alimentaire, en vue d'un développement rural, reste parmi les préoccupations et les défis les plus importants, notamment en vue des catastrophes et des fléaux auxquels doivent faire face un certain nombre de régions dans le monde. Nous soulignons ici l'importance des résultats de la conférence au sommet, qui s'est tenue à New York en septembre 2005, notamment dans le domaine du développement rural et agricole, et son importance pour le développement, la sécurité et la paix. Pour cela, nous en appelons aux responsables en vue de la mise en œuvre du programme d'action élaboré par le Directeur général de l'Organisation et pour que l'Organisation ait les moyens nécessaires à son application.

Le continent africain est l'un des continents les plus en proie à la sous-alimentation et à l'insécurité alimentaire. À cet égard, je voudrais souligner l'importance du programme NEPAD, programme qui permet d'améliorer la situation économique du continent africain et qui lui permet de s'intégrer dans l'économie mondiale. Je voudrais également saluer le progrès dans les négociations en vue de développer le secteur agricole en Afrique, efforts qui ressortent de la déclaration de Maputo sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. Ainsi les Présidents et Chefs de Gouvernement africains se sont engagés à consacrer dix pour cent de leur budget à la promotion du secteur agricole sur les cinq années à venir. À ce propos, je voudrais saluer les efforts des Organisations régionales et internationales, notamment la FAO, qui ont contribué à l'élaboration du document qui comporte le programme sur le développement agricole de l'Afrique. Je lui rends hommage également pour l'intérêt qu'elle porte aux rencontres de coordination sur le plan régional et international en vue de l'application de ce programme.

La Tunisie de l'ère nouvelle a placé à la tête de ses préoccupations le développement agricole et ce, grâce aux réformes engagées par le Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Notre politique est axée sur les deux éléments économique et social et, grâce à cette politique, nous avons pu mettre en œuvre un certain nombre de projets dans le domaine du renforcement de l'infrastructure, la protection des ressources naturelles, et la diversité de la production agricole. Nous avons également axé notre politique sur le développement rural des régions internes, la participation de la femme et l'amélioration des conditions de vie. Nous avons ainsi mis en œuvre un certain nombre de programmes privés et avons exploité un certain nombre de mécanismes tels que le Fonds national de solidarité, la Banque tunisienne de solidarité, et le Fonds national de l'emploi. Nous avons ainsi pu obtenir de très bons résultats et le rapport sur les Objectifs du Millénaire a reflété très clairement les efforts déployés par la Tunisie et les résultats obtenus. Ainsi, la croissance de notre PIB a atteint cinq pour cent et la pauvreté a baissé à quatre pour cent en 2004 alors qu'il était de douze pour cent pendant les années 80. La classe moyenne s'est élargie grâce à un meilleur partage des bénéfices de la croissance entre les diverses catégories sociales. Nous avons aussi enregistré des développements importants sur le plan de la production et la productivité alimentaire, ce qui a eu les meilleurs résultats dans le renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire.

Je voudrais également souligner que l'effort international dans le domaine du développement a été soutenu par les Organisations internationales et par les États frères et amis, qui croient au sérieux de la Tunisie, à la justesse de ses options ou de ses choix politiques, économiques et sociaux, et à sa bonne gestion pour le bienfait de ses citoyens.

La Tunisie tente également de renforcer les liens de coopération et de solidarité internationale dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire. Ainsi le Président Ben Ali a-t-il appelé, et depuis 1998, à la création d'un fonds mondial de solidarité en tant que mécanisme pour alléger la pauvreté et renforcer le développement global pour les pays pauvres. La décision qui a émané des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement lors de la réunion qui s'est tenue récemment à New York a donné une dimension pratique à cette institution humanitaire. La Tunisie a également organisé un certain nombre de rencontres régionales et internationales, notamment en ce qui concerne l'accord sur les ressources phyto-génétiques dans le cadre de la convention internationale des ressources phyto-génétiques et leur utilisation dans l'alimentation et l'agriculture. En juillet 2005, il y a eu également la treizième session de la Commission africaine de la Fédération internationale des producteurs agricoles. En Tunisie, nous avons également eu l'honneur d'organiser la deuxième étape du Sommet de l'information, Sommet qui s'est tenu en vertu de l'appel de son Excellence le

Président Ben Ali, en vue de rétrécir la fracture numérique entre les pays du nord et les pays du sud à cause de ses effets, des effets de la fracture numérique donc sur le développement. Je voudrais à cette occasion remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué à la réussite de ce Sommet et j'espère que des efforts seront déployés en vue de mettre en œuvre les décisions qui en ont émané, en vue de créer une société de l'information au service du développement et de la sécurité dans le monde. La Tunisie s'engage à contribuer à la réalisation du plan de la sécurité alimentaire et souligne l'importance d'un dialogue et d'une coopération internationale en vue de lutter contre la pauvreté et de réaliser un monde meilleur.

Roger CLARKE (Jamaica)

I would like to start by extending congratulations to the Director-General, for his re-election to the third term in this prestigious Organization. As we begin our deliberations, at this 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, it is time to review the state of food and agriculture since we last met in this structure. The number of undernourished people in developing countries remains stubbornly high and progressing reducing these numbers has been unacceptably slow and even across regions. A large number of countries worldwide continue to be affected by food emergencies. Some of them caused by human induced disasters. At this background, there is cause for concern to lower their total external assistance to agriculture has virtually remained

These agreements have been drafted with specific reference to SIDs and rightly indicate the international community's understanding of their need for differential treatment. There have been a number of important debates: the Maputo Declaration of 2004, the Monterrey Consensus in Financing and Development, 2002 and the Brussels Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries, 2001. These culminated in the International Meeting on further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Sustainable Development in SIDs, held in January 2005 at which the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation were issued. The strategy recommends that countries incorporate indicators of sustainable development into all sectoral policies and strategies. It also calls upon the United Nations and its specialized agencies to strengthen support to the Mauritius Strategy through enhanced coherence and coordination.

My country, Jamaica, has given high priority to the formulation and implementation of a strategy compatible with that recommended by the Mauritius Declaration. This strategy seeks to place the initiatives being taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and the wider farming community within the context of the current level of development of the agricultural sector. It also outlines the medium term objectives, necessary to achieve the broader goals envisioned by 2020 and aims at transforming the agricultural sector to make it more responsive to global imperatives.

While my Government has committed budgetary support to the implementation of the strategy, its successful implementation will definitely require assistance from the international community. We believe that FAO, because of its emphasis on food security, development and sustainability, is still best able to play a lead role in mobilizing that support.

If FAO is to make the kind of contribution to increasing food security and to the development of sustainable agriculture, that my delegation thinks it is capable of, then rigorous attention has to be given to the principles and procedures which guide the development of the Programme of Work and Budget. We are, therefore, pleased to note that the Programme of Work and Budget for the 2006-2007 biennium has been developed within the ambit of the reform proposals being advanced by the Director-General. We agree with the Director-General that FAO must now seize the opportunity to target its efforts even more specifically towards helping our developing members formulate strategies and policies to address their most pressing problems of poverty and food insecurity and to mobilize resources internally and externally to implement programmes on a sustainable scale.

We note also the initial conclusion of the review of FAO's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals within the context of discussions in the UN Chief Executive Board on the Millennium Goals and the reform of the system. This indicated that FAO needed to critically re-

examine its own role within the system and articulate clearly how it will adapt to face the challenges ahead.

My delegation welcomes the urgency which is being attached to the reform process particularly in light of the finding of the Independent Evaluation of FAO's Decentralization; that the decentralization which began in 1994 had still not produced the full benefits expected. We therefore endorse the position put forward by the Director-General, that the recommendations made by the Independent Evaluation need to be reinforced by simultaneous changes in the Headquarters structure and by actions to bring about what the Council describes as a "major shift in organizational culture".

We welcome also the issuance of the Supplement to the Director-General's Programme of Work and Budget which sets out additional information, critical to the undertaking of the reform process and the new Programme thrusts and priorities. We also strongly support, as an integral part of the process, the Independent External Evaluation of the FAO approved by the FAO Council.

My delegation is satisfied that the implementation of the reform process will greatly advance FAO's capacity to exercise its mandate with both vision and vigour.

Finally, we are confident that Member Countries and FAO are about to enter a new era in which a revitalized partnership will emerge and which will focus resources, both human and financial, on policies and actions which will redound to the benefit of all mankind.

Peter MC GAURAN (Australia)

We have come a long way in sixty years, the prevalence of under-nourishment in developing countries has declined in both absolute and relative terms and each person's global average calorie supply has risen. But, more than 850 million people still do not have enough to eat daily. Each death from starvation is avoidable. That is our challenge, that is our responsibility.

Delegates do not need reminding of the crucial importance of a successful conclusion of the Doha Round. It is a rare opportunity once in a generation even, to secure a genuine trade liberalizing result in agriculture. We must use the opportunity to resolve some key differences.

Research shows that the more open trade raises living standards and stimulates economic growth. Trade distorting measures, on the other hand, hinder growth and keep people in poverty.

Through the Doha Round, we have an opportunity to address some of the main factors that cause and continue, in perpetually even, poverty in developing countries.

WTO members must agree to an ambitious outcome, one that opens markets and reduces the trade distortions that fall hardest on developing countries and the world's poor. FAO priorities and policies must be set in a way that complements and enhances what we can achieve through the Doha Round.

Please allow me to address briefly two other issues: Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Genetic Resources. Australia believes strongly that work needs to continue on combating illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. Fish are a vital source of food and protein for the world's disadvantaged as the Swedish delegate impressed upon us a short while ago.

In our own region, illegal fishing is seriously threatening the community wellbeing of Pacific island states. We risk in endangering future fish food supplies if we do not work together, as a global community to counter this threat. In March this year, Australia presented its National Action Plan for Illegal Fishing to the FAO. It is an ambitious plan that reflects Australia's determination. We so many gathered here, to address this problem through all available means. The FAO Work Programme to combat illegal fishing will need to be equally ambitious if we are to succeed, and to be successful we must work together.

Turning now to the issue of Genetic Resources, effective conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources are central to improve the world's agricultural productivity. This is true for all countries but especially so for developing countries. They cannot be locked out

of technological advances. Australia is dedicated to promoting international cooperation to achieve the objectives of technology transfer and we are doing it through conservation, information exchange, access and benefit sharing and capacity building. We are undertaking several initiatives to help achieve the objectives on genetic resources for food and agriculture. Australia will ratify the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Australia believes the Treaty will have many far reaching benefits, among them, it will establish the basis for access to plant genetic resources and fair and equitable shared benefits from using them.

Australia will continue as a major donor to the Global Crop Diversity Trust. We also intend to play an active role in establishing the Trust which is a key element of the international treaties funding strategy. Australia will facilitate and support consultation from the Southwest Pacific region on plant and animal genetic resources.

The consultations will relate to work of the Commission on Genetic Resources.

Finally, as I draw my contribution to a close, can I again stress that our efforts to alleviate poverty and achieve food security, through the FAO, would largely be in vain if we do not complement them with global trade reform.

WTO members have a chance to act here and now, we cannot and must not lose this opportunity to make a substantial difference to the world's poor. History will judge us harshly if we do, but more important, our consciences will judge us more harshly.

CHAIRMAN

Plenary now stands adjourned until 14.30 hours. The first speaker for the afternoon session will be Finland.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
21 November 2005

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 (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

I call to order the Fourth sitting of the Review of the State of Food Agriculture, and I have the pleasure of giving the floor to His Excellency the Representative of Finland.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Finland, Germany, Iraq, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Mali, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Mauritius, Lithuania, Cuba, Luxembourg, Jordan, Ireland, Sudan, Philippines, Slovakia, Mongolia, Morocco, Iceland, Namibia, Romania, Japan, Hungary, Niger, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Bulgaria, Pakistan

Juha KORKEAOJA (Finland)

It is a great pleasure for me to address this Conference on the 60th Anniversary year of FAO and also congratulate the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his re-election.

We are meeting here to make important decisions concerning the future work of the Organization. Finland is concerned about the slow progress made in reducing the number of people suffering from hunger. At the same time, we do recognize the declining trend in the proportion of hunger-affected people in total population of the world.

The increase in food production and people's access to food have more or less managed to keep up with the pace of population growth. Yet, in order to achieve the targets we ourselves set 10 years ago, and which were reiterated in the Millennium Development Goals, much more needs to be done.

We can align ourselves with many of the recommendations of the hunger task force which prepared a report for the New York Summit. For example, investments in the agricultural productivity and increasing the rural people's income by developing their livelihoods are essential for fighting hunger.

In this connection, Finland emphasizes the role of the government in the enhancement of democracy, rule of law and fight against corruption as corner stones for creating a conducive environment for promoting food security.

Finland puts special emphasis on sustainable forest management and recognizes the complementarities of agriculture and forestry in many countries and regions. Forests play a vital role in providing income, maintaining biodiversity and contributing to the fight against global warming, land degradation and desertification.

As the energy prices are rising, the biomass-based fuels have become more attractive and a more important target for research and development. Finland expresses a strong support to the continuation of the international forestry processes despite the problems encountered at the

UNFF5 Session earlier this year. Yet, even though the desired outcome that UNFF5 Conference brought nations and civil societies together to discuss issues relevant to sustainable global forest management, the FAO Forestry Committee meeting and the Ministerial meeting in March this year were other important elements in the global forestry debate. We must focus ourselves to a successful outcome of the UNFF6, in February 2006, in its task of deciding of the future of the international arrangements on forests under the UN ECOSOC.

We also want to express our support to the continuation of the FAO-led work of the collaborative partnership of forests and the development of national forest programs. We believe they are essential policy frameworks for implementing international and national forest related commitments.

As providers of food and income both forest and fish resources are vital in the fight against hunger. We believe that a small holder or a family perspective of forestry, fisheries, as well as agriculture, is often most appropriate for sustainable improvement of food security.

We all know that women play a vital role in reducing hunger and poverty and achieving food security in the world, therefore we strongly urge FAO and its member states to work towards the improvement of women's access to productive resources such as land and credit. Finland believes that real development can be achieved only if both women and men have an equal chance to participate and contribute towards common goals.

The deteriorating effects of HIV/AIDS in rural communities are alarming. We encourage FAO to continue integrating HIV/AIDS as a cross-sectorial issue in its work program.

Eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition is crucial for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, therefore rural and agricultural development should be integral parts of national and international development policies.

The responsibility for combating hunger rests mainly with national governments. A better integration of agricultural issues and food security into the national poverty reduction strategies is important in this regard. In this connection, the voluntary guidelines on the right to adequate food are an important tool. FAO has an important role in this process and it should coordinate its activities with national policies and priorities.

Finland considers the harmonization and simplification agent for UN agencies of utmost importance. Therefore, we encourage FAO to continue increasing its cooperation and coordination with other international actors to enhance the coherence of the UN system and the whole development community. We also understand that in order for FAO to better perform its tasks it needs to review its structures and operations. We believe that this should be done on the basis of an evaluation and with the full cooperation of the membership and other stakeholders.

Alexander MÜLLER (Germany)

First of all, may I congratulate Director-General Diouf for his re-election. The Director-General has made it quite clear this morning, once again, that he will make every effort possible in order to meet the very high expectations that have been put to the FAO this very important Organization that we are here with.

We need a strong FAO, in a strong United Nations system. We need an FAO that has a high profile and, in this respect, we would like to contribute and work together in order to make this possible. The decisions of the important conferences of the United Nations in Monterrey and Johannesburg, as well as the Millennium Summit in September this year, are clearly pointing us in the right direction.

As the other member nations of the United Nations, Germany is also aware of the importance of the Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, it is also important for us that we try and do everything possible to adopt the Tri-Annual Conference of Policy Review of 2004, as approved at the General Assembly, because this clearly points to the position that the FAO occupies within the UN reform process.

Germany is very pleased with the matter that the FAO and the Director-General have accepted the independent review of the FAO. The results of this evaluation will be decisive and essential for the reform of the FAO itself. As far as we are concerned our responsibility for this important process needs the cooperation of all the member states, as well as FAO staff. Therefore, Germany will be contributing €100,000 for the independent evaluation to take place, and that will happen before this year ends.

Aside from that, we will be making further contribution of €300 000 and this will take place as soon as the German parliament approves its budget. In total this makes a contribution of €400 000 for this independent evaluation. We suppose, ladies and gentlemen, that there are sectors within the FAO where the process of reform could start tomorrow, but the decisive aspect is that this evaluation should not be undermined and made more complicated.

We also see that it would be possible for interim reports to be a very important basis for debate and for the reform process itself.

We're also going to be discussing the program of work and budget for the next two years. It must be possible for the FAO to work out its participation as clearly as possible. For that we believe it is important that all its comparative advantages are used as best as possible as far as standards are concerned. And there are five important aspects. First of all, the Codex Alimentarius and its work; second, the work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); third, adoption of the International Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources; and fourth place, work and animal disease matters; and fifth, the adopting of independent directors by individual countries as an important document in order to achieve nourishment for all within the MDGs. And we welcome the fact that the FAO has created a new program line for that.

These tasks, have to be carried out within a zero nominal growth budget from the ordinary budget. Germany, as the third largest contributor, supports every aspect of the FAO work. We are going to be making additional voluntary contributions, and we have been doing this since 2002 supporting a whole variety of projects and, within the next half hour, Germany and the FAO will sign an agreement to combat the virulent bird flu in Southeast Asia.

In the next three years, Germany will be contributing another five million euros fighting against this highly pathogenic influenza, which will give us an opportunity to work in cooperation with the entire international community. This is, of course, important that we do not lose sight of human health as well as animal health. The FAO in this respect plays a very important role.

Combating hunger and malnourishment is very important for German policy. The FAO is a very important partner for Germany in this respect. And, to conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO for the blue side of human health as well as animal health. The FAO in this respect plays a very important role. The converting hunger and malnourishment is very important for German policy. The FAO is a very important partner for Germany in this respect and to conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the FAO for the high level of cooperation that has existed and I do hope that in the future we will also be able to continue working in this constructive manner.

Ali AL-BAHADILI (Iraq)

Allow me, at the outset, to express my congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf on the occasion of his re-election as Director-General of this Organization. I would like to express to the President of the Conference, and the Vice President, our warmest congratulations on their election.

I would like to give you a quick and brief review of the outline of the agricultural development strategy in Iraq, following the long years of backwardness and deterioration. We have started to establish an overall agricultural and rural development plan, to improve the rate of production of the various agricultural products with a view to approaching them to world production rates, which should enable us to achieve self-sufficiency in the main strategic crops. We are seeking to develop date palm orchards and the production of date, which is one of our main agricultural outputs. Iraq is also developing several activities such as to continue to provide farmers micro

credits, which would help them to improve their agricultural activities, such as the provisions of loans to acquire agriculture tools and machines and to purchase improved seeds. We are also seeking to provide the seeds for the production of bulk weed and agricultural inputs. We are also attempting to provide the various requirements of agricultural machinery and supplying them in the market at reasonable prices.

The Ministry of Agriculture cooperates with the other ministries in the Government involved with agriculture production, such as the Ministries of Trade and Interior and Water Resources. We are also seeking to encourage agricultural research and extension activities. We have sought to set up centres for agricultural extension and research in various parts of the Iraq, with the view to reducing the use of chemical pesticides in combating animal, plant pests and diseases, we have established an international centre for the integrated control of agricultural pests. Veterinary services are being further enhanced by the rehabilitation of veterinary centres and dispensaries. In cooperation with other Ministries in Iraq, we are seeking to revive the marshlands of Iraq, which were dried out in the past.

We sincerely hope that we shall also be able to revive fisheries in those regions as it was the main source of livelihood of the inhabitants of those marshland areas. Funds are also being allocated to combat desertification and the desert encroachment in the agricultural regions. A further attempt is being made to reduce rents of agricultural land. The law on rent of agricultural lands is being reviewed for individuals and companies.

The Ministry of Agriculture has also attempted to provide retraining of most of its staff through the organization of special training programmes in many countries of the world. From Australia, the United States, Britain and France, Russia, the Netherlands, we have also set up further training opportunities and, this year, I would like to express our special word of thanks to FAO, for the assistance and aid provided to our country in the field of the implementation of different projects such as animal husbandry, the rehabilitation of veterinary services, as well as the rehabilitation of the rural irrigation projects.

FAO has also assisted in training specialized staff in the field of agriculture and provided information and statistics and has provided Iraq with scientific expertise in the various fields of agriculture. Many other projects are being undertaken in Iraq, such as development of fisheries and rehabilitation of the seed production and integrated control of agricultural pests.

I would like to address an appeal to all donor countries to help in the financing of these various projects to strengthen the promotion of agriculture in Iraq. We would like to draw your attention to the question of the arrears in contributions of Iraq due to the unavoidable and dire financial situation facing Iraq and which we have encountered since the 1990s. In addition to the limited financial resources available to the agriculture sector, and its inability to provide the necessary inputs, we have requested the Director-General of FAO to relieve us of our arrears in contributions. We have been informed by the Director-General that the Conference of the Organization, as the supreme governing body of this organization, is the only authority that can decide this matter and that the matter would be put to the Conference. So we in turn, are submitting an appeal to the Conference to consider relieving us of payment of this year, as a gesture of good will. Iraq has in fact paid up its contribution for 2005 amounting to 456 thousand dollars. At the end of my statement, allow me to wish this Conference success.

Tan Sri Dató Hj. MUHYIDDIN B.HJ. MOHD YASSIN (Malaysia)

I join the other delegates in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on being elected to Chair this Conference. I would like also to congratulate the Vice Chairpersons who will be assisting you in our deliberations during these sessions. My delegation and I would also like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. We believe that under his renewed leadership, FAO will continue to serve the world's most needy community in its quest to eradicate hunger and poverty.

It is sad to note that we are still far off from reaching the target that we have ourselves set to halve the number of undernourished people by the year 2015. Two years ago, this Conference was told

that the number of hungry and undernourished people in the world was 840 million. We hear again in this session, that the number in 2000 to 2002 stands at 852 million, an increase of 12 million people. This is indeed a disturbing development, as it reflects a serious deterioration in the performance of countries in the fight against hunger. But what is equally disturbing is that the reduction in the number of undernourished people is about 9.2 million over the last decade. It is true that we have another ten years to take remedial measures and drastic actions to meet the target but given the slow past progress it will require greater commitment and conserve purposeful plan to achieve the target which we have unanimously set for ourselves. We know that the consequences of natural and human-induced disasters, as well as economic constraints, contribute the rebellion of undernourishment and hunger.

We also know that poverty is a common feature among the undernourished and the hungry. The marginalized poor has no means to own land or to adequate themselves or even to secure employment. This can as we have seen in the recent past, led to crippling social unrest and threaten people's stability and this can happen even in developed societies. Therefore, combating hunger and food insecurity on a sustainable basis will require providing undernourished people with the opportunities to earn in adequate level of income and to ensure sufficient availability and supply of food.

With more than 70 percent of the world's extremely poor and food insecure people living in rural areas, the role of agriculture as the predominant economic activity in these areas, is crucial in the eradications of poverty and food insecurity. However, we also know that only ten percent of the total land area of 150 million square kilometres is arable land. And it is a formidable challenge to provide an adequate supply of food to feed the world's increasing population, especially in developing countries.

There is also the issue of poor food distribution due to income disparities or lack of adequate logistics and infrastructure that will limit access to food among the global population. It is, without doubt that policies that raise incomes and improve the livelihood of the poor and show a fair distribution of the benefits of growth, accelerate agricultural productivity and food production and enhance the ability of the country to import food by strengthening its export earning capabilities are crucial for addressing food insecurity in many developing countries. This means that any plan to fight hunger and undernourishment so as to ensure accessibility to food to all requires an effective combination of practical, simple and cost effective measures. And policy reforms to spur progress and development in rural economies.

We must not also forget the necessity for natural resources, mobilizations of more resources toward rural agricultural development is very crucial. Governments should continue to concentrate the use of the resources toward delivering indispensable public goods and services and to providing an environment that encourages private initiative with complement efforts of the government in developing the rural and agricultural sectors.

Malaysia has been successful in its fight against hunger and poverty because rural development in Malaysia not only addresses poverty problems but also agriculture development, rural industrialization, infrastructure development and welfare programs. Appropriate strategies and programmes have been implemented to uplift the standard of living and increasing quality of life of rural people. Efforts have also been undertaken to diversify the sources of incidence of poverty of 0.5 percent by 2009. Given our achievement thus far, it is not impossible for us to achieve this target as our approach to poverty eradication is the empowerment of the people. Malaysia has also embarked on a massive programme to transform the agriculture sector into a modern, dynamic and competitive sector with the aim of maximizing the income of farmers, improving the living standards, increasing productivity and providing new value added activities. The development of small farmers is crucial in encouraging large-scale commercial farming that will not only meet national demands but also the stringent demands of the export market.

The Malaysian Government will continue to improve the quality of life and livelihood of rural community and also the Government's aspiration provide a balanced and comprehensive development to benefit its population. In this regard, for the fiscal year 2006, the Government has

announced an allocation of 5.7 billion ringgit to boost rural economy and this will include providing rural infrastructure as well as water and electricity supply. Of this amount, 2.8 billion ringgit is allocated to the agriculture sector that will see further development in fishery, agriculture and animal husbandry subsectors.

The Malaysian Government will continue to improve the quality of life and livelihood of rural communities, and also the Government's aspiration is also to provide a balanced and comprehensive development for the benefit of its population. In this regard, for the fiscal year of 2006, the Government recently announced an allocation of 5.7 billion ringgit to boost rural economy. This would include providing rural infrastructure, as well as water and electricity supply. Of this amount, 2.8 billion ringgit is allocated to the agricultural sector that will see further development in the fishery, agriculture and animal husbandry sub-sectors.

We have a lot more to do to improve the agricultural sector of member countries and in this respect we welcome the reform proposals made by the Director-General as they are both timely and relevant. It is our hope that the reform process would enable FAO to become more effective and efficient in creating projects and providing services to help developing communities. It is our collective responsibility to raise the levels of income and standard of living. We have to show our commitment by achieving what we have pledged. We have to mobilize our resources, and most of all, we have to work together to reach our common goal.

Alhaji Adamu BELLO (Nigeria)

Let me start my brief address by joining others in congratulating the Chairman and other members of the Bureau for your election to steer the proceedings of this Conference. My delegation wishes you every success. Let me also warmly congratulate the Director-General for his re-election for another period of six years.

Africa, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, is today the only region in which average per capita food production has been declining in the last two decades. The prospects for sub-Saharan Africa, meeting the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goals are very extreme by 2015. The region poses the greatest challenge to the international development community. As observed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his address to the World Food Summit – Five Years Later, in 2002 - in this very room – nowhere are strategies for sustainable agricultural development more critical than in Africa where nearly 200 million people are chronically hungry. The factors responsible for this sorry state of affairs are legion.

I must reiterate that as members of the international community, we must bring out all our thinking and resourcefulness to bear on helping Africa fight hunger. On our part, the political will which used to be the problem is no longer an issue. In 2002, Africa's Heads of States and Governments formally adopted the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which provides a strategic framework for intervention and aligned by three guiding principles: re-thinking the development process in Africa to provide strategic directions for interventions; re-taking ownership of the development process; regaining the leadership of the development process in Africa.

This distinguished audience is no doubt already fully aware that as part of the NEPAD framework, African Heads of States and Governments in 2002 set up a comprehensive Africa's Agricultural Development Programme. The commitment by our political leaders is enshrined in the Maputo Declaration to allocate 10 percent of national budgets to agriculture for the next five years. It is the boldest and most far-reaching political commitment made on agricultural development at the continental level.

Africa is already striving at these imperatives to meet the problems of poverty and hunger.

Nigeria for instance has formulated and put in place a home-grown, holistic, socio-economic reform agenda which is designed to enhance the ability, growth, development, transparency, accountability, and democracy. This is in line with the new Africa development programme, and it is called, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy Needs. This programme

has been taken up to the States and Local Government levels. The intent is to decentralize the strategy to engender popular participation and ownership with adequate attention paid to local specificities.

Of course, the national economic empowerment development strategy, at the national level, is harmonized and aligned with approaches formulated by, or in conjunction with major multilateral development partners, notably the Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. This strategic reform agenda has already started yielding fruit. I am aware that most of our sister-African countries have put similar strategies in place.

The essence of what I have tried to capture in this address is the twin problem of poverty and hunger in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, constitutes a major challenge to the entire global community, but the African countries have themselves taken a bold step to tackle this problem. The political will is there, but we need the support and understanding of the more developed parts of the world, the richer parts of the world.

In this connection, I use this opportunity to pay tribute to the G-8 Leaders for the decision to write-off the debt of fourteen African countries. I wish in particular, to pay special tribute to the British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, for successfully spearheading the debt cancellation campaign which culminated in the historic decision of the G-8 Leaders at Gleneagles.

I would also wish to pay special tribute to the Paris Club of Creditors who are agreeing to cancel a substantial part of Nigeria's debt, owing to those countries – all of whom are represented here today. Our greatest creditors and development partners should see the debt cancellation as part of their overall investment in world peace, security and stability.

Permit me now to turn briefly to the major issues presented to this Conference for consideration, the Programme of Work and Budget and the DG's Reform proposals.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Programme of Work and Budget proposals are substantially in conformity with the Medium Term Plan and Strategic Framework. The higher priority accorded the Technical Cooperation Programme, Commodity and Trade Policy Support, and Policy Assistance to Developing Countries is appreciated.

With regard to the planning issue of budget, we support that the budget should be increased in real term by 2.5 percent as proposed by the DG. We feel that it is a part of the continued sacrifice we need to make. We appreciate that we are putting more burden on our supporters, but we think we need this support.

As regards the Independent External Evaluation, Nigeria places great importance to this exercise and looks forward to a credible and truly independent evaluation that will ultimately assist the governing bodies in repositioning FAO to face the development challenges of the future.

We therefore expect the evaluation to clearly bring up the strength and weaknesses of the Organization; areas of its core competences; as well as the impact that the FAO programme has had in the previous years. The outcome should guide the Organization on the appropriateness of its interventions as well as its future programme focusing, formulation and implementation of strategies. To us the evaluation could not have come at a more opportune time.

Terje RIIS-JOHANSEN (Norway)

Five years have passed since the Summit in New York gave us the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In September this year, the world's leaders gathered again in New York and reconfirmed their commitment to fighting hunger and poverty, guided by the MDGs. But the September Summit also confirmed that, despite a reduction in poverty at the global level, progress is too slow in too many regions.

The adoption of the Millennium Development Goals led to an increased awareness and understanding of the importance of agriculture and sustainable rural livelihoods in the fight against poverty. FAO ought to be a key player in these efforts. Regrettably, FAO has not been in the frontline among the UN agencies. We have repeatedly called for reforms. We have repeatedly

called for a more focused FAO. We have repeatedly encouraged FAO to further develop and refine its comparative advantages. We have repeatedly stressed that these comparative advantages are its position as a global knowledge organization and that its focus should primarily be on its normative role. We have repeatedly urged FAO to align itself with the general reform processes within the UN system, both at country level and within the overall system.

Let there be no doubt, Norway is a firm supporter of FAO, and the UN as a whole. Our political and financial investment in the UN has been and will continue to be significant. Therefore, we are confident that our criticism and expressions of concern will be understood as advice from a well-meaning friend.

That said, we are encouraged by recent developments in FAO. This year, FAO published the report, *The Road Ahead*, on its role as regards the MDGs. The Independent External Evaluation is now on track, and we urge Member States to assist in keeping up the momentum of the evaluation process.

Finally, the Director-General has presented us with his reform proposal. Much can be said about the timing, process and details, but Norway would like to stress that the proposal is generally in line with what we have been advocating. The Summit in September reaffirmed the necessity of UN reform, and the Director-General's proposal should be seen as part of this broader process. Norway strongly encourages the Director-General and the Organization as a whole to continue their work for a more focused, efficient and relevant FAO, and we urge the Member States to support these efforts.

The Treaty on Plant genetic Resources has now entered into force. Norway would recommend that the Governing Body decides in consultation with the Director-General on the process for setting up a secretariat that will meet the functional requirements of this new instrument.

The establishment of the Global Crop Diversity Trust is well underway. Norway is pleased to be playing a role in facilitating, both politically and financially, the realization of this important project. I would also like to mention a very important initiative that will help to secure critical gene bank collections, the Svalbard Arctic Seed Depository. This will function as the ultimate safety net for the protection and conservation of crop genetic resources. Norway has decided to continue to develop the plans for the Svalbard Arctic Seed Depository. We invite the FAO member countries to support this exciting and important venture.

Norway is committed to the agricultural reform process as defined in the Doha Mandate. For Norway, it is important to reach a result, but it must also be a result we can live with. We are prepared to work towards full modalities for agricultural products in 2006.

Trade in agricultural products holds considerable potential for some developing countries. Norway is one of the few countries that have fully opened their markets to all least developed countries. However, imports from LDCs have not increased significantly since we did this in 2002. This clearly demonstrates the need for capacity building in LDCs if they are to benefit fully from trade preferences. In this context, I would also like to point out, as was recently underlined by the ACP-countries in the WTO negotiation, that continuing of long-standing preferences is important for many developing countries.

FAO's normative role is particularly important. One vital norm is gender equality. Women play a crucial role in agriculture in developing countries and gender equality should be mainstreamed into all FAO activities. Furthermore, we know that the spread of HIV/AIDS is closely linked to lack of gender equality. We urge the Director-General to redouble his efforts in this regard. Norway would also like to point out, that for FAO to have credibility in these issues; it must look more carefully at how they are dealt with internally. We are concerned about the small number of female professionals in FAO. We suggest that FAO set goals for improvements and gives the membership an update on the gender balance of professional staff at subsequent conferences.

FAO has had a number of successes in the field of normative work. I have already mentioned the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Other, equally important instruments are Code of Conduct for

Responsible Fisheries, Codex Alimentarius, and others. Norway calls on the member countries to adopt the voluntary guidelines and welcomes FAO initiative to create a new entity to implement them.

We are deeply concerned about the alarming situation in forestry. Internationally binding instruments are much needed if we are to reverse the negative trend. FAO has been asked to take a lead among the international organizations in our efforts to achieve this. Norway welcomes the priority FAO gives to developing normative instruments and we hope to see continued and intensified efforts in this field.

Seydou TRAORÉ (Mali)

Je voudrais saisir l'occasion de cette 33^{ème} Conférence de notre Organisation pour tout d'abord saluer et féliciter en mon nom propre et au nom des membres de la délégation qui m'accompagnent, les éminentes personnalités investies de la confiance unanime de la Conférence, pour présider nos travaux. Nous sommes certains que sous leur conduite avisée, nous aboutirons à des résultats satisfaisants pour le futur de notre Organisation.

Je voudrais ensuite m'associer à tous ceux qui sont intervenus avant moi, pour adresser tout notre compassion et renouveler la solidarité entière du peuple malien à l'endroit du gouvernement et de la population du Guatemala, du Honduras, El Salvador, des Etats Unis d'Amérique et du Pakistan, qui ont été durement touchés par des catastrophes de grande envergure que le monde a malheureusement encore enregistrées récemment et qui ont anéanti quantités de biens et de moyens de subsistance et endeuillé nombres de familles comme à la suite du Tsunami en Asie du Sud-Est en fin 2004 et de l'invasion de criquet pèlerin dans un nombre de pays du Sahel. Ce tableau déjà très alarmant continue malheureusement de s'assombrir avec l'avènement de la grippe aviaire qui, faute d'action solidaire, conjuguée à travers le monde pourrait se révéler particulièrement catastrophique notamment pour la population du sud au regard de son impact sur la santé des personnes et sur le revenu des producteurs notamment celui des femmes, dont l'agriculture constitue le fondement des activités génératrices de revenus.

Au nom du Chef de l'Etat et du Gouvernement du Mali, j'adresse mes salutations et mes félicitations les plus chaleureuses à l'endroit du Dr Jacques Diouf, pour sa brillante réélection en qualité de Directeur général de la FAO, preuve de la confiance des membres de l'Organisation et de leur reconnaissance pour le travail remarquable qu'il a su mener avec compétence, clairvoyance, un engagement résolu et une conviction à toute épreuve depuis sa nomination à la tête de notre Organisation. Ce sont toutes ces qualités et les sincères relations d'amitié et de profonde estime le liant au Président de la République du Mali, Amadou Toumani Touré, qui ont amené notre pays, la République du Mali, à co-parrainer sa candidature et lui conférer la haute distinction de Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mali. L'adhésion du nouveau membre à la FAO est un signe évident de son importance et sa renommée. Je voudrais ici féliciter et souhaiter la bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de l'Organisation.

La troisième Conférence se tient au lendemain de la célébration du 60^{ème} Anniversaire de notre Organisation, soixante années durant lesquelles la FAO de façon inlassable et avec le savoir faire, la compétence et l'autorité requises sur la base de stratégies bien pensées s'est investie avec grande énergie à hauteur des ressources mises à sa disposition dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté pour réduire l'inégalité entre les peuples face à l'accès d'une alimentation saine et équilibrée.

Dans ce combat, elle a su mettre l'accent sur la dimension environnementale et sur la portée de la nécessité du maintien de l'équilibre biologique et la biodiversité. Il ne me paraît pas superflu de rappeler et de saluer en cette occasion, sans vouloir être objectif quand la présente déclaration ne suffirait pour se faire certains des acquis et à émailler ce long parcours comme le Codex Alimentarius, l'instauration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le Programme spécial pour la Sécurité alimentaire, PSSA, le Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'Agriculture en Afrique, le système de prévention et réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies transvies des animaux et des plantes.

C'est tout aussi le lieu de saluer le rôle déterminant joué par la FAO pour l'avènement de la coopération Sud-Sud, et le renforcement de la coopération sous régionale africaine, pour la consolidation de la sécurité alimentaire à travers les grands chantiers du NEPAD, du PDDA et de la CEN-SAD. Dans le cadre de cette coopération le Président de la République du Mali a offert aux pays africains membres de la CEN-SAD, 100 000 hectares de terre irrigables dont la FAO a bien voulu assurer l'étude de la faisabilité technique; qu'elle en soit remerciée.

Il est fondamental que notre rencontre puisse contribuer de la manière la plus conséquente à travers ces résolutions et recommandations à la consolidation des atouts dont devra disposer la FAO pour s'engager dans la mise en œuvre des nouvelles orientations que nous lui fixerons afin d'aboutir avec assurance à la réalisation de l'ambition d'un monde libéré de la faim et de la pauvreté. Face à cette exercice, il me plaît de confirmer notre soutien total à la proposition de réformes faite par le Directeur général et approuvée par le Conseil de l'Organisation lors de sa 121^{ème} Session. Nous sommes certains que sa mise en œuvre se poursuivra toujours sur la base du processus de concertation déjà initié par le Directeur général et en limitant au mieux les retombées négatives qui pourraient en découler pour le personnel de l'Organisation auquel nous rendons ici un vibrant hommage pour le travail remarquable accompli et les immenses sacrifices consentis. Cette réforme est ambitieuse et innovante, pertinente et cohérente avec les recommandations et orientations ici des grandes rencontres internationales tenues ces dernières années autour du développement agricole et rural. La réforme globale du système des Nations Unies et les besoins, attentes et priorités exprimés par les Membres.

Notre délégation félicite le groupe de travail intersession mise en place par le Conseil pour élaborer des propositions sur la mise en œuvre de l'évaluation externe indépendante de la FAO et approuve le rapport soumis. Notre souhait serait que la réforme de l'Organisation soit en synergie avec cette évaluation, qui devra contribuer à son enrichissement et à son affinement. En outre, la réforme impose, si nous souhaitons lui donner des chances de succès, que des ressources adéquates soient mises à la disposition de l'Organisation. Aussi, estimons-nous que le budget de croissance réelle, voire de croissance réelle élevée, qui nous a été soumis, doit être adopté. Ce serait le signal fort que nous pourrions lancer au Directeur général pour témoigner concrètement de notre engagement à ses côtés, pour conforter sa brillante réélection.

La République de Mali, pays où règne une véritable démocratie depuis 1991, est résolument engagée dans la lutte contre la pauvreté par la mise en œuvre de son cas stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté et une politique volontariste de sécurité alimentaire durable à travers la maîtrise de l'eau, dans le renforcement de la gouvernance démocratique, une loi d'orientation agricole est en cours d'adoption pour conférer aux producteurs et aux investisseurs les garanties et les conditions idoines de gestion et d'exploitation agricole tant familiale qu'industrielle. Ce cadre institutionnel règlementaire est conforté par l'affectation de 14 pour cent du budget national au développement de l'agriculture, plus que le dix pour cent de l'engagement de Maputo 2003. Le Mali entend ainsi contribuer à l'atteinte des Objectifs du développement du Millénaire et ramener l'incidence de la pauvreté au Mali de 64 pour cent à 47,5 pour cent sur la base d'un effort endogène en premier lieu et compter ensuite sur l'appui des pays partenaires. Aussi, saluons-nous les contribuables des pays riches à travers les retards et gouvernements pour leur geste soutenu en faveur de la réduction de la faim et de la misère dans le monde et particulièrement pour la décision prise d'annuler une partie de la dette extérieure du Mali. Cependant, les contribuables des pays développés doivent savoir que les efforts consentis par le Mali et l'impact de leur aide dans le cadre de la solidarité internationale seront vains si les pays développés maintiennent des pratiques injustes et contraires aux règles fixées en matière de commerce international de produits agricoles. Dans le cas du Mali, ces pratiques exposent la filière cotonnière à une extinction et corollairement le pays à une insécurité alimentaire du fait que plus de la moitié de la production céréalière actuelle du Mali est liée au système coton. C'est pourquoi nous fondons un bon espoir sur l'aboutissement heureux des négociations du cycle de Doha et l'application de mesures plus propices à l'accès de nos produits agricoles au marché international lors de la prochaine conférence de l'OMC à Hongkong.

L'occasion est bonne pour remercier la FAO pour son appui inestimable à l'Union africaine et aux organisations économiques sous-régionales. Nous encourageons la FAO à renforcer sa

coopération avec l'Union africaine et ses membres à travers l'organisation des rencontres dédiées à la sécurité alimentaire et au développement agricole.

Je ne saurais terminer mon propos sans remercier la FAO pour ses quatre décennies de présence au Mali, de souligner les défis d'aujourd'hui en un nom "sécurité alimentaire durable" à travers un financement durable et conséquent des activités de la FAO. La reconduction de Monsieur Jacques Diouf et ses propositions de réforme sont des gages de succès face à ses défis. A l'inverse, le retard dans le paiement des cotisations constitue un très mauvais signal à l'endroit des contribuables des pays développés et rend difficile les conditions d'exercice du Directeur général que nous avons largement élu. L'humanité entière garde espoir avec la FAO, concrétisant cela par plus de nourriture riche disponible à travers la planète, plus d'eau potable, plus de terres préservées ou restaurées et par conséquent moins de pauvres et moins d'affamés. Aujourd'hui encore plus qu'hier cela est faisable, entendons-nous sur les conditions de sa faisabilité.

AbuBakr EL MABROUK EL MANSOURI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

We are all aware of the fact that in the world today, under-nourishment, poverty and hunger continue to increase due to natural as well as human disasters and all the efforts made at the world level in order to face these challenges are not enough to reduce famine and human disasters such as those that affected Africa, Asia after the Tsunami, and Pakistan after the earthquakes.

The Jamahiriya has not spared any effort at all to try to assist the populations affected. Therefore, we adopted a programme in common with the Organization in order to ensure that there is food security in all the countries in the Continent.

Our country has also contributed to the fight against locusts. We also adopted food security projects within the Sahel and Sahara countries and, having done it to the tune of US\$ 35 million, we intend to increase these figures in order to benefit all the people affected.

The Jamahiriya has also adopted policies in order to encourage citizens to invest in agricultural production to improve food security in the region and in bordering countries so as to make our contribution to food security policies in Africa by creating more jobs and increasing individual revenues.

Our people have been affected by poverty and hunger after colonization, and it is thanks to the Revolution of 1979 that we were able to initiate a large, intensive agricultural development project which has provided food security in order to bring an end to hunger in our country. We have adopted quite a number of policies, such as full support to farmers by offering them high yielding seed as well as providing agricultural production techniques, information on using fertilizers and pesticides. As for fishing they have also been given assistance. We have also assisted Libyan citizens making it easier for them to acquire properties. This has helped us improve their situation. Then, there has been aid to food security for commodities such as fruit, vegetable oil and other products.

We would also like to add the following: regarding natural resources, the Jamahiriya is in the northern part of the African Continent. We have 5 billion 7 hundred thousand inhabitants, most of them living on the coast. The area of our country is 1 million seven hundred thousand square kilometres. However, the area suitable for cattle raising and agriculture is only 2 percent of the total area, so 3 million hectares only yield 200 millilitres per year and the area of irrigated land is only 400 thousand hectares.

Furthermore, our country has suffered from different armed conflicts; therefore arable land has become now land covered by land mines. We have lost most of that land really for agricultural purposes. Regarding water resources, we are trying to concentrate mainly on irrigated agriculture which uses 80 percent of the water available.

Thirdly, food security, thanks to the enormous progress made in Libya as far as social security for our population is concerned, we have been able to solve in part the problem of under-nourishment. At present they are consuming more than 3000 calories per day and they are also

able to consume other nutrients which prevent them from suffering from under-nourishment. Previous generations were under-nourished but that will not be the case with the next generation.

Fourth point, developing Human Resources: We are trying to make sure that we have equal opportunities for men and women. Men and women are now working side by side in agricultural activities. We have also made efforts in order to ensure that women have access to education. May I point out something that affects poor and developing countries, and I refer to the large multinationals working in biotechnology which control and have a monopoly over seed and their marketing, and they also control genetically modified seed and that, of course, does away with local species. For that reason we would like to thank the Organization for its efforts to fight against poverty and try to attain the Millennium Development Goals with an aim to reduce by half the number of hungry people. We also support the initiatives for reform that the Director-General has proposed and we believe that this reform has adopted the right approach.

We also believe that it is essential to support local production in those countries that are threatened by hunger and under-nourishment. We think we should adopt regulations which have some control on surpluses. These surpluses should be used to combat hunger.

Finally, we approve the improvements made in FAO and in the Regional Offices regarding the use of information technology. We are also in favour of approving a programme that will protect local genetic content. We would also like to thank the Organization for the efforts it has made in order to struggle against hunger and under-nourishment.

Estansilau ALEXIO DA SILVA (Timor-Leste)

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, on behalf of the Government of Timor-Leste for his re-election as Director-General of FAO and also to express Timor-Leste's support for the proposed reform of FAO.

Timor-Leste became a member of this Organization since 2003. It was a great honour for us to be accepted into FAO and joining the community of nations in their efforts to develop agriculture as part of the overall strategy to achieve food security and the eradication of poverty in the world.

The Government of Timor-Leste adopted a national development plan and, in addition, the Millennium Development Goals as an integral part of our overall development objectives. We are as a nation three years behind in the terms of Millennium Goals implementation. However, the Government of Timor-Leste has since developed and adopted various mechanisms and policy framework such as: a road map; agricultural forestry and fisheries policy and strategy; sector investment programme and lately, last week, a national food security policy to enable effective use of the existing economic and natural resources to eradicate malnutrition and poverty in Timor-Leste.

We are facing the challenge of developing our agriculture industry, from predominantly subsistence farming into a market oriented production to enable us to follow the trend of integrated global economy. It is indeed a mammoth task given the state of agricultural development and the know-how of East Timorese farmers. Nonetheless, agriculture is currently the main source of food and employment for the vast majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas. In addition, it is important to note that 21 percent of our GDP is generated by the agricultural sector.

Despite moderate increase in rice and maize yields recently in some areas of the country, the overall household production remains low and consequently translates into low volume of aggregate food production at the national level. In the meantime, changes in the weather pattern also influence the outcome of food production. For instance, the 2004-2005 harvest of rice and maize was seriously affected by drought and erratic rainfall.

The combined national requirements for the main staple food crops (rice, maize and cassava) have been estimated at 182 000 tonnes for 2003/2004 but production only reached 122 000, which is only two-thirds of the national requirement. Therefore, we need to import approximately one-third

of food grain to fill the deficit of the staple food requirement. We do believe Timor-Leste has the potential to become self-sufficient in food production.

The policy and strategic framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, approved by the Government last year, has outlined the necessity to significantly increase agriculture production in order to meet our staple food requirement through an increase in farm productivity by: increasing the areas under production; promoting improved farming system technology; promoting diversified farming systems and especially high-value crops and improved livestock production with the application of improved practices in crop-livestock integration; promoting basic agro-processing industries and promoting private sector development and establishment in agriculture and agro-related industries.

We are reviewing functional structure of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in order to enable us to accomplish our policy objectives by establishing regional extension services at sub-district levels to assist farmers, including provision of training, more effectively. In addition, we are implementing improved seed multiplication programme to better assist farmers with new and more productive varieties.

In the meantime, as a result of the approval by the Government of Timor-Leste of the National Food Security Policy, a National Food Security Committee comprised of relevant Government Agencies, representatives from the private sector, cooperatives, civil society and NGOs will soon be established and chaired by the Minister of Agriculture. An operational structure – a food security unit – will also be created to coordinate all food security related activities of the various departments of the Ministry as well as of other Government institutions, civil society, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. We are also working at the same time towards the establishment of an early warning system to enable us to monitor the food security situation in the country.

The Government of Timor-Leste is very concerned with the degree of forest degradation not only for the implication on biodiversity but also on soil erosion, due to the geophysical feature of the country that is very mountainous. Forest degradation, like in other countries, is linked with problems of food security, poverty and unemployment both in the lowland and highland communities. On the other hand, protection of biodiversity, including economically important timber species and sandalwood, is one important focal issue for sustainable management of forest resources in Timor-Leste.

We have been implementing a reforestation programme all over the country, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, using predominantly native species. However, expertise is needed to put the programme into proper perspective.

The Ministry of Agriculture, with the assistance of FAO, has prepared a draft forest policy that expresses the intention to allow partnership with local Government and communities in some aspects of forest management. Also, with the assistance of FAO, a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework is expected to be in place by next year.

In Timor-Leste, more than 10 000 fishing families in more than 60 coastal communities are dependant on fishing alone as their source of livelihood. However, the condition of the coastal habitat along the 650 kilometre shoreline varies, affecting the abundance and diversity of local fish stocks. The extent and importance of each of these habitats are not well documented for Timor-Leste. An assessment of inshore fish and detailed coastal habitat mapping and environmental study is to be carried out in order to undertake coastal zone mapping, planning for sustainable livelihood of the target communities.

We are re-starting licensing for off-shore fishing, within our Exclusive Economic Zone of each of these habitats are not well documented for Timor Leste. Assessment of inshore fish and detailed course of habitat mapping and the environmental study is to be carried out in order to undertake coastal zone mapping, planning for sustainable livelihood of the target communities.

We are starting licensing for the offshore fishing within our Exclusive Economic Zone, but continual illegal fishing that occurs with high frequency within our Economic Exclusive zone in the Timor Sea, is a serious threat to the shared fish stock in that area.

I would like to finalize my statement by emphasizing the importance that Timor-Leste's government gives to the quality and services in order to protect the flow of agricultural products in and out of Timor-Leste. In the light of various threats to animal health, including the highly pathogenic Avian influenza, the Minister of Agriculture in coordination with the Minister of Health, has taken specific measure to stop seeking imports from the affected areas and create a working committee to closely monitor the situation in the country. With the help of Australian Quarantine, we can now monitor and carry out a regular survey across East Timor. However, the Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries still urgently needs assistance to develop adequate facilities for undertaking standard quarantine procedures, especially for live plants and animal imports and diagnosis and surveillance of related diseases.

Peauafi HAUKINIMA (Tonga)

During the past two years, Tonga has been blessed by favourable weather for the production of traditional root crops, fruits and vegetables. However, low international prices of export commodities, increasing oil prices, higher freight rates and lower currencies, have severe negative impacts on returns of our exports. Despite these, we consider ourselves quite fortunate as compared to those affected by severe and devastating natural disasters throughout the world. On that vein, I would like to extend our most sincere sympathies to those affected and pray for their rapid recovery. Further, our Ministry of Agriculture and Food continues to support our private sector in seeking new market niches in London, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

Tonga is a higher importer of meat, and through the FAO Regional Program on Food Security we undertake a new breeding and multiplication project on sheep and poultry production with view of import substitution. Our sheep project is progressing very well and we are grateful to the assistance by the Fiji government, Italian Government, SPC and FAO.

As part of our Public Service Reform, a separate Ministry of Forests was established with view of enhancing the importance of trees and forest species through increased plantings of economic species, such as bamboo, coconuts, sandalwood and fruit trees. Milling of coconut wood for housing continues to be an important part of our forestry activities.

Our tuna industry continues to suffer from low catch rates and compounded by increasing costs of production and stagnant prices. Our deep water fishing industry is performing a bit better due to higher catch rates and better international market prices. Our inshore fisheries are suffering from over fishing and our Ministry of Fisheries is taking mitigation action through implementing our Fisheries Management Act and Regulation and the introduction of Coastal Community Management Plans, while aquaculture species introduction and multiplication is being continued. On the brighter side, our Angel Hair Seaweed industry is showing good profits due to record harvests and higher market prices in the past years.

Finally, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Director-General and FAO experts here in Rome, the regional office and sub-regional office for Asia and Pacific for their continuing support and assistance to Tonga. It helped us greatly in our efforts to maintain sustainable food security in Tonga.

Lastly, I would like to indicate our full support of the Director-General budget and reform proposals. I believe that they are good approaches to getting assistance down to the needy at the grass root levels.

Arvin BOOLELL (Mauritius)

On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Mauritius, I congratulate Dr Diouf on his re-election for referred mandate. My country supports the Director-General's plan to restructure the FAO to make it more responsive to the needs of its member states.

FAO has to raise its profile constantly to be prompt, to be active and proactive. If the objective set by the FAO to halve malnutrition by year 2015 is to be achieved the world needs a fair trading system - fair trade within a fair multilateral system.

The 33rd Conference is being held as a backdrop to the World Trade Organization Hong Kong Conference. Agriculture remains high on the agenda of the DOHA Development Round. If you want each country to have its own breadbasket, we have to empower people by putting people first. To put our people first, we have to democratize. We have to say "yes" to market forces, but "no" to a market society. Otherwise, benefits will not accrue to the population at large.

Access to land and entitlements to an Exclusive Economic Zone should be the rights of our people. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in the Indian Ocean have deprived countries in the region of more than 2 billion USD. Mr Chairman, the very essence of globalization is fair trade.

The World Trade Organization is more survived to the rich and wealthy nations, to the huge countries which have vast internal markets, to subsidize directly or indirectly their exports. They very often use non-trade concern to consolidate their comparative advantage even if it means denying poor countries life saving drugs at an affordable cost. Small economies cannot constantly wait for the crumbs to fall from the masters table. We need our dough to bake our bread to fill our breadbasket.

Mauritius, like any other small or big economy, is a mover of the process of the DOHA Development Round and the World Trade Organization, cannot or should not, be indifferent, or elusive, to our needs and specificity if the very objective set by the G-8 world leaders to reach Millennium Development Goals are to be attained.

Besides, the Barbados Declaration of 1994, and the Mauritius Declaration of January 2005, highlights the legitimate political demands of small island developing states on the issue of special and differential treatment. There cannot be a personalization of the DOHA Development Round unless special and differential treatment of small island developing states become an integral part of the World Trade Organization.

Millennium Development Goals are not only about debt cancellation, but also of empowerment – empowerment to wage war on want, hunger, unemployment and poverty. But to empower, Mr Chairman, we want fair trade, the maintenance and consolidation of long standing trade aggregate. What is the point of cancelling debt and then threatening to do away with trade and development mechanism which is bringing stable export earnings to SIDS & ACP - earnings which has enabled us to widen our economic base and to diversify our economy?

If the commodity sugar protocol is not maintained and the price cut becomes too deep and too steep, the knock-on effects on our environment, on our social and economic stability will spell disaster. There is no better commodity than sugar and if energy is to be harnessed from this reliable source, the sector has to be clustered. If the price cut is too steep, where will get the bankable guarantee to modernize and restructure?

The Sugar Protocol should be bound in the provisions of the World Trade Organization because of its legal, political and historical dimensions. The undertaking of the July framework agreement of 2004 highlights the importance of long standing trade agreements for ACP and small island developing states.

No government will fight terrorism, or the scourge of illicit drugs, if the political will to make poverty history is lacking. International trade, therefore, has to respond the specific needs of small economies. And if there are no stable export earnings, where will we find the financial resources to pay for massive increases in fuel import bills, for the massive increase in our world food bill, for the massive increase in respect of live saving drugs? How many others have been able to stockpile, Tamiflu, the Avian flu drugs?

We acknowledge that FAO has been first to give visibility to the vulnerability of small island developing states, and the decision to establish a regional program for food security highlights its total commitments.

Finally, since as a group has not been given its due status in many international fora, even with multiple efforts and many representations. So, I request that this conference, and those in the lead, to set up its service within FAO to serve the specific needs of SIDS and pave the way for SIDS to be recognized as a group in many other international organizations.

Kazimira DANUTÉ PRUNSKIENÉ (Lithuania)

Allow me to congratulate you, Your Excellency Jacques Diouf, and in your person all FAO on the 60th anniversary of foundation of the organization commemorated on 17 October 2005. For decades FAO has endeavoured to achieve an important goal – to ensure the mankind the provision of food, to raise the effectiveness of agriculture and the entire food sector, and to promote the growth of world economy.

I am greatly honoured and privileged as a representative of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Minister of Agriculture of Lithuania to have this opportunity to congratulate his Excellency Director General Jacques Diouf on his re-election for a third term in office.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the organizers for their organizational work carried out when organizing the Conference.

The World Food Summit clearly established the goals to be achieved – that by 2015 the number of the hungry be reduced by half and that this primary Millennium Development goal be achieved. Even though since 1960 the number of the hungry has decreased from 35 percent to 13 percent, 852 million people in the world still suffer from hunger and may not meet their most important need for sufficient nourishment. Therefore, the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security is greatly welcomed. This document serves as a practical instrument for countries struggling to overcome famine and poverty in their countries. Another great achievement of FAO is the approval of the International treaty on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. We must make a commitment in order to preserve the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for future generations, and to achieve the goals enshrined in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and sustainable agricultural development.

The Conference encourages the countries to urge the implementation progress of the Millennium Development goals in the entire world. The recent commitment of the EU to increase the level of foreign donor support proves the importance that the EU and its Member States attach to this important goal.

Lithuania, as a new donor country, entirely agrees with these obligations. Of course, we who still find ourselves in the phase of solving numerous internal problems will need time before we reach the general level of support granted by donors. However, the progress is taking place quite rapidly, and we already provide consultations in the areas of food safety and veterinary medicine for our closest neighbouring countries. From a geographical point of view and due to limited resources, the support priorities focus on Eastern Europe and Caucasus. When continuing this work, we do not forget how valuable the support we received was when we most needed it; therefore we deem it our duty to help the others.

Rapid and consistent development of the country shows that Lithuania has essential advantages by contributing to the implementation of the Millennium Development goals in the region and the entire world. Rapid social-economic progress, the transition period experience and the cumulated reformative knowledge – all this could and should contribute to the development in the entire world.

Lithuania, as a member of the global community, realizes and pursues the implementation of the Millennium Development goals. We agree that the means ensuring the sustainable use of soil,

forests and water bodies should be promoted, scientifically based innovations that would increase food production should be urged, and consumption of healthy and quality food should be encouraged. We also express our concern that the pursuit of the quantitative effect by developing the production and consumption of genetically modified products should not violate the qualitative food safety requirements essential for the future of the individual and the mankind.

One of the main strategic goals of the Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania is to form an integrated food economy oriented towards production of quality safe and asserted products – a process ranging from field to table, in other words until the final product is created and presented to the consumer. When independence was re-established in 1990, as a result of the restoration of land ownership rights, in Lithuania small farms were established; therefore, it was difficult to ensure and implement the requirements in the area of food safety and quality in those farms. However, with EU aid this problem is being solved successfully. The farms are growing; they are being specialized and modernized by implementing the EU requirements at the same time.

During the years of independence all the companies of the food industry, milk, meat and grain processing have been modernized. Their equipment and technological level meet the world standards. The companies have a right to supply products to the EU market and other markets. A growing demand for products made in Lithuania attests an impeccable quality of our production and competitiveness, and this encourages farmers, processors and rural businessmen to master the innovations in the area of technology and quality.

In the modern stage of the development of mankind, the food sector and its final product, besides their primary mission – the provision of qualitative, safe and assorted food to people, also performs other parallel functions: it helps to save leisure time because consumers are offered products that are deeply processed and ready for consumption, to preserve the ethnic culinary and nourishment traditions of the region or nation, to represent and reveal the individuality of countries and nations, to raise interest in one another, and to enrich the treasury of culinary, cultural and general experience of mankind.

Our state policy in the area of rural and agricultural development is directed to sustainable development in terms of economical, environment protection and social standpoint. Major attention is given to regional development policy aiming at ensuring the opportunities of stable high living standards to all communities of the country and at reducing the economic, social, cultural, educational and administrative capability differences in the country's regions.

The Republic of Lithuania implements social support development and tackling of poverty and social exclusion through the National Action Plan for Fight Against Poverty and Social Exclusion for the years 2004-2006. This National Action Plan lists state obligations to take comprehensive actions covering different areas (employment, education, social and health protection, etc.) designed to improve the situation of weakest population groups, to increase their capabilities and to reduce their poverty and social exclusion. By 2010 we expect to achieve a remarkable progress by concerted and better-coordinated efforts of state and non-governmental institutions, social partners and by involving all the civil society and the very vulnerable. Lithuania undertakes to take measures that would help to coordinate policy and actions to fight against poverty and reduce social exclusion in the country.

Lithuania, as well as other countries, hopes that we will put concerted efforts to work together with FAO with a view to achieving noble goals that are also important for world safety. People can change the world for the better only by working in solidarity, devotion and by using scientific knowledge.

Let me once again thank the organizers of the Conference and wish FAO to continue to successfully consolidate the efforts of countries and effectively address global agriculture and food problems.

Sra. Maria del Carmen PÉREZ HERNÁNDEZ (Cuba)

Ante todo permítame expresarle nuestro reconocimiento por su elección para conducir las labores de este trigésimo tercer período de sesiones del cual hago extensivo al resto de los distinguidos integrantes de la mesa. Igualmente deseo hacer patente nuestra más sincera felicitación en nombre del gobierno de Cuba al excelentísimo señor Jacques Diouf por su reelección para continuar al frente de esta prestigiosa Organización, quien ha dirigido la misma de forma certera, haciendo aportes reconocidos a la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo, un ejemplo de esto es el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA). Estamos seguros que en el futuro continuará realizando esfuerzos por aumentar la eficiencia de la Organización, el apoyo a los países miembros en su lucha contra el hambre, la destrucción del medio ambiente, la pobreza y el escaso aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales. Le reiteramos en nombre del Gobierno Cubano la disposición de continuar apoyando su mandato para el cumplimiento de estos objetivos en beneficio de la humanidad.

Hace exactamente dos años nos reunimos en esta sala en ocasión del anterior período de sesiones de esta Conferencia, en la que se analizaron los retos que teníamos para avanzar con celeridad en el cumplimiento de las metas acordadas en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, a las que se le unieron posteriormente los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio acordados en la Cumbre del año 2000. A pesar de que en varios foros internacionales hemos pasado revista al estado del cumplimiento de estas metas. Las realidades del mundo de hoy nos muestran que no hemos avanzado lo suficiente para sentirnos satisfechos y poder decir que cumpliremos con los propósitos que nos habíamos planteado, de reducir a la mitad el número de hambrientos para el año 2015.

Según el informe sobre el estado de la agricultura y la alimentación de la FAO del año 2003, el número de hambrientos ascendía a 842 millones de personas y 38 países se encontraban afectados por emergencias alimentarias. Sin embargo, después de dos años el número de hambrientos está lejos de disminuir, más bien se ha incrementado en 10 millones lo que refleja el lento e insuficiente avance en los objetivos trazados. Al mismo tiempo muestra los impresionantes retos a los cuales nos enfrentamos y ante esta situación acogemos con satisfacción la decisión de algunos países donantes de aumentar la asistencia para el desarrollo. Por esto, deseamos llamar la atención sobre los compromisos de este tipo que vienen reiterándose en los últimos años que hasta el momento los mismos no han sido efectivos, como el comprometido 0,7% del producto interno bruto (PIB) para la asistencia a los países en desarrollo que hasta hoy todavía constituye una quimera.

Esta conferencia tiene lugar en circunstancias de especial significado para la FAO, por una parte celebramos el 60° aniversario de su fundación y por otra, hemos iniciado un proceso de evaluación y reformas que deben contribuir al fortalecimiento de la labor realizada en esos años y a mejorar su eficiencia y eficacia. No obstante, para alcanzar estos y otros objetivos propuestos, la Organización requiere un nivel presupuestario ajustado a sus necesidades, que le permita revertir el decrecimiento de los últimos 12 años, en los cuáles la financiación proporcionada por sus Estados miembros, ha disminuido en un 24% en cifras reales, mientras los servicios que demandamos de ellas se incrementan cada día.

Nuestra delegación apoya la propuesta de un crecimiento real de los recursos del programa ordinario para el próximo bienio como la forma más viable de otorgar la financiación necesaria a los programas fundamentales de la FAO. Igualmente, apoyamos los principios en los cuales se basa la reforma presentada por el Director General, y nos sumamos al diálogo abierto y constructivo entre todos los Estados miembros para que él mismo nos permita tener en el futuro una Organización más eficiente y en mejores condiciones de cumplir su mandato.

Para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria de la población cubana, la agricultura desempeña un papel fundamental. El sector agrario cubano contribuye en gran medida a satisfacer las necesidades nutricionales del país y genera una parte importante de los ingresos externos de nuestra economía.

Cuba da prioridad al logro de una completa seguridad alimentaria para toda su población, y en este sentido, en los últimos años se han puesto en práctica programas de desarrollo social que tienen como objetivo central aumentar la equidad social favoreciendo especialmente a los ancianos, las mujeres embarazadas, discapacitados, enfermos y niños a los que se les garantiza de forma gratuita la merienda escolar.

En el 2004, se alcanzó un consumo de nutrientes estimado de unas 3,305 kilocalorías y 85,5 gramos de proteínas diarias, que se encuentra por encima de las normas mínimas necesarias validadas por expertos de la FAO, que representa un crecimiento del 6,5 y 5,9% respectivamente en relación a lo logrado en el año precedente. En este esfuerzo merece mención especial el Programa Nacional de Agricultura Urbana, que aprovechando de los espacios cultivables dentro de las ciudades y de sus periferias, que aplicando métodos intensivos basados en prácticas agroecológicas sostenibles, permiten el reciclaje de los desechos, en armonía con el medio ambiente y generando casi 300 mil nuevos empleos. Esto ha permitido en los últimos años la producción de más de 4 millones de toneladas de hortalizas y condimentos frescos al año. Todo este esfuerzo se realiza por miles de hombres y mujeres en medio de una difícil situación económica que nuestro país ha tenido que enfrentar, debido al injusto y criminal bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial al que hemos estado sometidos por más de 4 décadas a pesar del rechazo reiterado de la comunidad internacional. A estos se unen en los últimos años, las adversas condiciones climáticas motivadas por una intensa sequía y los frecuentes huracanes que nos han afectado. Las relaciones que mantenemos con la FAO han continuado fortaleciéndose en los últimos años, la reciente visita efectuada por el Director General a nuestro país, confirmó el estado de estas relaciones y las intenciones de ambas partes de emprender acciones que las fortalezcan aun más.

Como muestra de lo anterior, a lo que se ha hecho en el pasado, se une ahora la firma de un acuerdo tripartito de ofrecer 44 expertos y técnicos para apoyar la implementación del programa sub-regional de seguridad alimentaria para el Caribe. El compromiso del Gobierno Cubano es de poner a disposición de dicho programa a sus profesionales universitarios y técnicos de distintas especialidades, que laboran en el sector agrario, contribuyendo con sus experiencias al desarrollo y bienestar económico social y cultural de cualquier país que lo necesite. Así lo están haciendo actualmente miles de médicos, técnicos de la salud, instructores deportivos y otros especialistas cubanos, en decenas de países como expresión de la solidaridad que ha caracterizado a todo nuestro pueblo por la construcción de un mundo mejor.

Fernand BODEN (Luxembourg)

Permettez moi tout d'abord de féliciter très sincèrement notre Directeur général pour sa réélection à la tête de notre Organisation. Nous avons bien co-opéré avec la FAO et son Directeur général par le passé, notamment par la réalisation de projets concrets et nous vous assurons que nous comptons continuer cette coopération à l'avenir.

En 1996 lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation ici à Rome, la communauté internationale s'est fixée l'objectif de réduire de moitié jusqu'en 2015 le nombre d'enfants, de femmes et d'hommes souffrant de la faim. Cet engagement a été réaffirmé lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation : cinq ans après en 2002 et constitue par ailleurs l'objectif numéro un des Objectifs du Millénaire adoptés par les dirigeants mondiaux en l'an 2000.

Il faut malheureusement constater que nous sommes loin d'atteindre ce but et je regrette ce manque de progrès. Plus de 800 millions de personnes dans le monde continuent à souffrir de la faim. En Afrique, notamment selon les dernières affirmations près d'un Africain sur trois souffre de sous- ou de malnutrition. 70 pour cent de ceux qui souffrent de la faim et de la pauvreté, vivent dans des régions rurales. Beaucoup d'entre eux pratiquent l'agriculture de subsistance ou sont des paysans sans terre.

Afin de lutter efficacement contre les fléaux de la faim et de la pauvreté dans les pays en développement, il faut améliorer la productivité agricole et le niveau de vie dans les campagnes, il faut aider les petits agriculteurs et les collectivités rurales à accroître leur revenu et à améliorer la

quantité et la qualité des aliments disponibles localement. Il faut enfin les aider à sécuriser leur production contre les aléas climatiques en assurant notamment une meilleure distribution de l'eau.

Pour ce faire, nous devons leur donner un plus grand accès aux outils de production indispensables: terre, crédit et formation. Des stratégies de développement agricole et rurale durable doivent être élaborées. Par ailleurs, une attention particulière doit être accordée aux femmes, qui jouent un rôle crucial dans l'agriculture des pays en développement. Des progrès sont également nécessaires dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la santé, de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'infrastructure rurale.

Dans tous les domaines précités, qui ont trait à l'agriculture, à l'alimentation et à la nutrition, la FAO, en tant qu'institution spécialisée des Nations Unies, a un rôle primordial à jouer d'une part grâce à ses activités normatives, l'Organisation étant le centre mondial d'informations et de connaissances sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture, et d'autre part, grâce à ses activités opérationnelles.

Je salue la contribution importante de la FAO à la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde dans le cadre de sa mission telle que définie dans le préambule de son acte constitutif. Beaucoup reste cependant à faire.

Dans ce contexte, je voudrais souligner l'importance des efforts entrepris par le Directeur général pour rendre l'action de la FAO plus ciblée et plus efficace afin de lui permettre de mieux affronter les nouveaux défis qu'apportera le 21^{ème} siècle. Dans un souci de voir l'action de notre Organisation atteindre ses objectifs, il convient également de relever la nécessité d'une bonne coordination avec les autres organisations et organismes de l'ONU.

Mon pays, le Grand Duché de Luxembourg, essaie, dans la mesure de ses moyens, d'apporter sa contribution au développement afin de réaliser les ODM. Ainsi, en 2004, l'aide publique au développement luxembourgeoise s'est élevée à 0.84 pour cent du RNB et les efforts en vue d'atteindre le chiffre d'un pour cent du RNB se poursuivent. Une grande partie de notre aide publique au développement est consacrée à l'agriculture, les autres secteurs étant l'éducation et la formation, l'eau et l'assainissement, la santé et le développement rural intégré.

La coopération au développement du Luxembourg se concentre principalement sur dix pays cibles. Dans la plupart des pays cibles, nous soutenons des projets qui contribuent de manière directe ou indirecte à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Au-delà de notre effort national, j'aimerais mentionner l'accord obtenu, sous présidence luxembourgeoise, de porter l'aide publique au développement des pays de l'Union européenne à 0.56 pour cent du PIB en 2010 et à 0.7 pour cent en 2015.

Je rappelle aussi la politique de mon gouvernement dans le cadre des négociations commerciales multilatérales de veiller à ce que le cycle de Doha devienne vraiment un cycle de développement. Ceci implique, plutôt qu'une libéralisation à outrance, essentiellement un traitement spécial et différencié pour les pays en voie de développement, aussi bien en ce qui concerne l'articulation de leur politique interne, notamment en matière de politique agricole, qu'en ce qui concerne l'ouverture des marchés.

Je voudrais terminer mon discours en souhaitant à notre Organisation, la FAO, plein de succès dans l'accomplissement de son importante mission, en espérant que tous ensemble nous pourrions faire un pas important vers la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire.

Mzahem MUHAISSEN (Jordan)

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, to address such an august assembly at the Thirty-third Session of the FAO's general Conference.

This Conference is especially important at this stage because the agricultural sector continues to be extremely important because it provides subsistence for more than six billion people who represent 42 percent of humanity. More than 850 million people in the world are suffering from hunger and malnourishment, most of them living in rural areas. In spite of an increase in food

provision, there are many obstacles in the way of increasing this production, especially differences in household income, more demand, national disasters, wars, armed conflict, as well as population explosion. All of these factors which are an obstacle to fulfilling food needs.

Hunger and food security have gained world dimensions and this situation might continue and might even get worse in some areas, if we do not take immediate action in a decisive and coordinated manner. This means that there has to be a high level of political will and collective and national effort in order to assure that there is food security for all. This means a sustained effort in order to eradicate poverty in every country with an aim to reduce by half the people that suffer from hunger between now and 2015 by the latest. In order to put into effect the resolution of the World Food Summits of 1996 and 2002, Jordan with its limited resources especially, water resources, has given priority to food security in its national policies. The structural reform programmes have had a positive impact on the economic situation in our Kingdom and this has not really been reflected clearly in the agricultural sector because support for commodities has been reduced. We have had problems with draught and population increases. The result being that the agricultural areas available have been reduced because of climate changes. These figures been reflected now forest management and agriculture are now considered to be at risk sectors and they do not make any contribution to improving the standards of living of farmers. The Jordanian Government, has adopted an agricultural policy based on knowledge and competencies based on recognizing the importance of the environment, improving resources be it land resources or water resources, and that cannot be achieved unless it is through cooperation with local, regional and international institutions, and by an efficient type of cooperation in order to put into effect agriculture development projects. FAO is the main organization in this respect and in Jordan we have continued making our efforts in order to improve strategic products by improving agricultural research and improving techniques used. Peace and world stability especially in the Near East are the main condition in order to improve standards of living of people as well as fighting poverty.

May I briefly mention some very important matters which I would like to point out to you so that we all understand what measures have been adopted in order to improve living conditions for humanity. First of all, the fact that the United Nations and its agencies have to be supported in their efforts to maintain peace and security at an international level and that there is a more open economy worldwide and that food security for all is made available. We also would like to stress that there has to be a world alliance against poverty and hunger; otherwise we would be in a very insecure environment. The political environment and social environment are also important, in order to ensure peace and stability which really are at the basis of being able to eradicate poverty and hunger in all these countries. Democracy, human rights, the importance of fundamental freedoms, the full participation of men and women in this process, all these are essential factors to ensure food security for all. In the fourth place, we need plans to eradicate poverty which is the main cause for food insecurity. We have to ensure that we do something about conflicts, corruption, deterioration of the environment all these elements are obstacles to food security and to increasing food production in a sustainable manner. We have to cooperate with each other and we should not use food products as a means of adopting unilateral decisions and positions which are against the United Nations Charter.

To conclude, we have to appeal to the international community and donor countries in order to strengthen the agricultural sector and especially Palestinian agriculture which has suffered a lot because of the conflicts in that area, which has resulted in a great loss economically and socially and which are also a threat to food security, increasing the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Brendan SMITH T.D. (Ireland)

I am delighted to be here today to represent Ireland on the occasion of the Thirty-third FAO Conference and at the outset I wish to compliment the Director-General on his re-election and wish him well in his important work.

Ireland greatly values and appreciates the work of the United Nations multilateral system and we demonstrate our support for the values of the multilateral system through our committed engagement with many UN Organizations including FAO.

FAO has a central role to play within the UN system and is an acknowledged centre of excellence for agriculture, forestry and fisheries. There have been many achievements here in FAO since we last met in 2003. Some have been headline makers, such as the agreement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food. Others may be less dramatic, but no less important in continuing the ongoing fight against hunger.

We must congratulate FAO on its continuing efforts to focus on the problem of hunger and the role agriculture can play as an essential part of the solution. Throughout the UN system, there have been ongoing efforts and programmes for reform. It is vital for the reinvigoration of the multilateral system that every organization plays its part in this process. We are all striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to fight hunger. We should commit ourselves to greater efficiency and effectiveness, because in so doing, we can save more. Agriculture can play an essential part of the solution. Throughout the UN system, there have been an ongoing efforts and programme for reform. It is vital for the re-invigoration of the multilateral system that every organization plays its part in this process. We are all striving to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to fight hunger. We should commit ourselves to greater efficiency and effectiveness because in so doing, we can save more lives. Here at FAO, an open and transparent process of external evaluation is underway and I welcome that. This is an approach based on solid analysis which can support real and lasting change. In Ireland, the agri-food sector is an important part of the economy. Ireland is firmly committed to a European vision of agriculture with an emphasis on the important role of the family farm, food safety and quality, the multi-functional role of agriculture and the preservation of the rural environment as the basis of a thriving rural economy. European and national support for agriculture underpins that vision. The Irish agri-food sector accounts around for 9.4 percent of gross domestic product at factor cost. 8.5 percent of total employment and 8.4 percent of our exports. After the recent changes in the common agricultural policy, Irish agriculture is entering a new phase with its own challenges. We will meet those challenges and we look forward to a successful outcome of the World Trade Organization negotiations in Hong Kong, one that meets the needs of developed and developing countries alike.

Now I would like to say a few words about our official development assistance programme. Over the last five years we have more than doubled Ireland's official development assistance and this year, it will be around 550 million euro. The over arching objectives remain the reduction of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. However, in light of the continuing expansion of the programme, Ireland has embarked on a process of national consultation, including a series of public information meetings for a white paper on development cooperation which would be published in 2006. This will help lay down concrete policy foundations as we take stock and move forward with increased official development assistance levels. Ireland is resolutely committed to achieving the United Nations' target of 0.7 percent of both national product for official development assistance. Last September, at the UN Summit in New York, our Head of Government, Bertie Ahern, stated that we will meet this target by 2012, three years before the agreed European Union date of 2015. Notably, we have set clear benchmarks in order to measure progress towards its achievement. In 2007, official development assistance will be 0.5 percent of GNP. In 2010 it would reach 0.6 percent of GNP and as I have just mentioned in 2012 official development assistance will be at the UN target of 0.7 percent.

New money will require new actions and we have outlined four key focus areas for expanding this programme of official development assistance. We will support the strengthening of governance and the promotion of democratic values. We will double spending on HIV Aids and other communicable diseases. In partnership, we will help develop the role of the private sector and we will support improved responses to major human emergencies, bringing relief and combating the causes of food insecurity. Early preventative of humanitarian actions before situations of food insecurity reach famine proportions are vital. Last month, Ireland pledged 10 million euro to the proposed central emergency response revolving fund. We hope this fund will enable the UN to

respond to emergencies earlier, quicker, and therefore reach more beneficiaries sooner. Put simply, it has the potential to save lives. We all know that ODA for agriculture and indeed the other productive sectors has declined over time. This must be reversed. As engaging in agriculture is crucial to achieving the overall goal of poverty and hunger reduction. Although it is a major challenge to put and place sustainable policies and structures for agriculture, it is a challenge we have to face together. Our role is to be an active partner with developing countries and not to impose solutions or conditionalities. We are steadfast in our support of local ownership of programmes. But, as we all know, it is the quality, of actions that gives real benefits and therefore we are pleased that the quality, focus and effectiveness of the Irish approach to development cooperation has been recognized. Ireland maintains a focus on sub-Saharan Africa in its choice of programme countries, whereas FAO figures show 33 percent of the population is under-nourished. Our ODA is provided completely untied. This is the most effective way in which aid can be provided and Ireland is justifiably proud of its approach. This Conference has a significant agenda. Success in our work this week will be another crucial step in meeting the targets set out in the 1996 World Food Summit and the First Millennium Development Goal. Therefore, I will conclude by assuring you that Ireland looks forward to a productive and practical meeting and pledges its support, cooperation and constructive input.

Mohamed Al Amin Eissa KABBASHI (Sudan)

It gives me great pleasure to address you at this 33rd Session of the general Conference of FAO. It is a pleasure for me to bring to you the greetings of the Government and people of Sudan. I wish to greet all the various representatives attending this Conference. I am sure that thanks to your skill and wisdom, we shall be able to complete the work before us at this meeting and we can assure you that we are determined to cooperate with you. May I take this opportunity to once again congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the post of Director-General of FAO. It is not at random that he was re-elected. His election is the fruit of all that has been done since the last general Conference and even more arduous tasks are before you in the coming biennium to overcome the threefold scourge of poverty, hunger and disease.

I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate FAO and its leaders at its 60th anniversary which we celebrated a short while ago. Once again, we should like to tell you how much we appreciate the work of the Organization, and its many activities in which it is engaged ever since its birth, despite the many changes that have been taken place in the world. It is these changes which have imposed, caused all the reform and restructuring of the Organization and we believe that we are on the right path which will organize the Organization to adapt itself to these changes.

Peace, as you know, has once again returned to Sudan following the conclusion of the global peace agreement in Nairobi, with our brethren in Sudan. Following that agreement, journals have committed themselves at the Oslo Conference to give greater support and financial assistance for Sudan in order to finance peace today. From this whole we call for assistance in all provinces of Sudan but especially those which suffered during civil strife. We trust that the Organization, in its turn, will help us by organizing at Headquarters, a Conference of donors assisting Sudan.

As you know, Sudan is a very large country. Seventy percent of the inhabitants are working on the farmland. We cannot have development, stability, security, unity and peace; sustainable peace, that is, without support and development for the agricultural sector in Sudan. In order to achieve these, we trust the Organization will play an additional role, a role which will enable Sudan to achieve the objectives for 2015. Sudan has vast areas of agricultural land. The Nile flows from north to south through our country and it is bound to become the bread basket of Africa and neighbouring countries.

We realize full well that we are a long way from achieving these development goals, that is the reduction of poverty by the year 2015. In developing countries we call upon FAO to help us achieve those Millennium Development Goals. We know of course, that this calls for the reforming and restructuring of the Organization and this is an initiative which we have now before

us, which is evidence that you are fully aware of your role and that you are moving determinedly with a firm step towards the future.

In Sudan, as far as we are concerned, we have taken important measures as regards the adopting of new appropriate strategies and policies. We have a long-term agricultural strategy, we adopted a strategy to reduce poverty, a strategy for food security and one for the sustainable use of natural resources. Similarly, we prepared the required documents for the joint evaluation mission from the European Union.

Despite this insecurity in the Darfur province, rather Sudan has registered ongoing growth in all sectors, especially in the agricultural sector because gross agricultural production increased by 6.4 percent in 2001 and to 7.5 percent in the year 2005. As regards monetary policies and funding, we have drawn on the capital from the Agriculture Bank of Sudan. We have restructured this Bank as a rural funding institution. We have reduced the cost of money which fell to ten percent in 2004. As regards institutional policies, we amended the investment laws in order to draw outside investment and we likewise restored economic relations with the major world financing institutions.

We restructured this bank as a rural funding institution; we have reduced the cost of money which fell to 10 percent in the year 2004. As regard institutional policies, we amended investment laws in order to draw outside investment and we likewise restored economic relations with the major World Financing Institution, we would also like to thank you for all of the efforts that you have supported in helping us combat the scourge of desert locusts which has such a serious impact on agricultural production in our neighbouring countries.

Similarly, we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the aid that country has provided for us to combat desert locusts. We have also, in our turn, helped neighbouring countries in their combat against desert locusts. We appreciate the work of the organization its on-going activities in Sudan and we trust that FAO will continue to provide even more assistance now that peace reigns once more and the displaced people are coming back home after long absences and they now need to be assisted in enjoying a new life in their region. Thank you.

Domingo F. PANGANIBAN (Philippines)

Allow me first to congratulate our colleague, Director General Jacques Diouf, upon his re-election. The Filipino people assure him of their support for FAO and for his leadership.

I would also like to congratulate Minister Cao Duc Phat, who was elected Chairman of this Conference and the members of his bureau.

I speak today on behalf of the Filipino farmer.

Like most farmers in the developing world, the Filipino farmer is poor with little means to modernize his endeavour. He lives in times of rapid technological advances but has been left behind in this race and he is, even now, threatened by a deadly crisis.

The Philippines is free of Avian influenza. Our government is carrying out massive efforts to deny the virus a path to our shores.

We have banned entry of poultry and poultry products from all bird flu-infected nations. We are carrying out strict bio-security and surveillance measure over our poultry farms, our nature reserves and our watersheds.

Our defence strategies have been successful. There has been no incidence of the dreaded sickness in our country.

And as I speak, all logistics, policy structures and legal measures at the Filipino people's disposal are employed to keep the Philippines free of the virus.

Avian Influenza, however, knows no boundaries. It is a winged and cunning enemy that recognizes no race, no geographical boundary, and so its prevention and eradication must be a

global undertaking. The disease not only poses a threat to the farmers of the world, it imperils the whole of mankind.

My government and my countrymen thus convey an urgent plea to the FAO. This organization must ensure strict adherence to the Regional Framework for Control and Eradication of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

The Philippines likewise supports the establishment of the Animal Health Trust Fund. To combat this world wide menace, we need a financial pool which is not only adequate but also easy and quick to access.

To go back to the State of Philippine agriculture, our goal is to promote food security and alleviate poverty in the rural areas through productivity enhancement and employment generating measures.

We aim to develop two million hectares of new farmland over the next four years. By the end of that period, I am confident that we would have provided two million jobs for our farmers and fisherfolk.

But, as in all nations, land resources are quickly dwindling. We are among the 12 countries in the world, where over 80 percent of the land is already used for agriculture, housing and industry.

Meantime, the Philippine population continues to swell. As at the last count we were about 85 million Filipinos.

To make full use of our limited resources, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has directed the Philippine Department of Agriculture to promote the use of biotechnology in our farms and fishponds.

Technology based and responsible agriculture is among the crucial imperatives of our national agenda. Our research endeavours in this field are intense and extensive.

The Department of Agriculture experience with the Integrated Pest Management Program, for example, has been very encouraging. Farmers using IPM have reported substantial reductions in their cost of production, even as they realized increase in their yields.

As an organization mandated to facilitate the utilization of modern farm technology, the FAO has a big role to play to strengthen biotechnology research collaborations among member-nations and to ensure that products of biotechnology research reach and are put to good use by farmers in the fields, we urge the FAO to support the Asians' bid to secure funds for farmer education in the developing world.

The fundamental test of our organization is its ability to build collaborative mechanisms through which we meet the needs of our countrymen. This requires us to share new knowledge and ensure an equitable distribution of opportunities as well.

This brings me to yet another important task for the organization.

The FAO must participate more directly in finding compromise solutions to the many issues obstructing current negotiations in the World Trade Organization.

Let me state here and now that it must, by all means necessary, ensure the reduction of domestic support and the elimination of farm export subsidies in all WTO member countries.

The governments of the developing world cannot and will not, tolerate protectionist policies in the WTO, no matter how ingeniously disguised.

My people assented to the GATT-WTO because we believed that a comprehensive, transparent free trade covenant would serve the good of all.

World Trade today is far from being totally free or fair and thus far, the FAO has been unable to do much about it.

In the new order of world trade, the FAO must require parity and generous consideration for the interest of developing worlds, which are losing out on the deal. If this organization is unable to deliver, then it risks losing its relevance.

On the FAO reform agenda, we believe that the needed reforms should be carefully designed. They should not hamper in any way the delivery of the FAO's services to its member nations.

They should be undertaken in phases in order to minimize negative effects. Lastly, they should be done in open consultation among the stakeholders of the reform to ensure that the reforms are acceptable and can be implemented smoothly.

The prime consideration in our reform efforts should be the organization's contribution to each member-nation's food security and in attempting to attain this objective; we recognize the important role the rural communities play as the hotbed of agricultural development in many countries.

We also believe in the premise that true, just and meaningful growth can be attained only through equitable apportioning of resources.

It is in this connection that we fully support the holding of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Brazil next year.

Further, we would like to express my country's endorsement of the proposed International Year of Natural Fibres in 2009. The FAO must participate more actively and we anticipate that the experience we have had will be put to full use.

Jan GOLIAN (Slovakia)

It is a great honour for me, that on behalf of my homeland, the Slovak Republic, I have the opportunity to address the participants of the 33rd FAO Conference, which is held in the year when this significant specialized agency of the UN Organization, celebrates the 60th anniversary of its foundation and intensive work for the benefit of starving and undernourished people worldwide. At the same time, I would like to congratulate his Excellency Jacques Diouf on his appointment into office of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and also to the chairman of the Conference and also to the chairman of the Conference.

The Slovak Republic, as a member of the European Union located in the sub-region of Central and Eastern Europe, appreciates the professional level and activities to which the FAO permanently contributes in cooperation with Member Nations and the International Alliance against Hunger, and looks for solutions for the most efficient implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, relative to the eradication of hunger, undernourishment and poverty with the purpose of improving the quality of life, particularly in less developed countries.

I consider the effort for FAO reform and the Independent External Evaluation of the FAO to be another step towards strengthening the purposeful orientation of the Programme of Work and Budget, which should finally lead to the solution of supporting programmes in the development of agriculture, nutrition, forestry, fishery and related socio-economic and environmental issues, which could increase national, regional, as well as global knowledge and strategies towards the creation of better consideration of life for future generations.

I'm glad that after discussions at the last FAO council sessions, the delegates of the 33rd Conference will again have the opportunity to discuss further recommendations and opinion, related to adapting the subject needs of the biennial FAO Programme to the actual possibilities supported by mobilization efforts, upon gaining the resources for budget creation.

The Slovak Republic is ready to actively participate in cooperation with the FAO in the future, support its development and technical programmes through its experts, not only the sub-region of Central and Eastern Europe, but also in other inter-regional and inter-disciplinary programmes, which contribute to the best possible implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the creation of a forum for the discussion of further solutions within the special, evaluating,

international event with the participation of all stakeholders, prepared in the FAO Programme in 2006. In this connection, I also consider the global discussion of agricultural policy reforms prepared in coordination with the FAO, to be expedient for sustainable development in agriculture. I believe that the aims declared at the national level in the programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic, which supports the availability of quality and safe food in the Slovak Republic and solutions to open agricultural problems, including animal and plant diseases that often endanger not only certain countries, but every region of the world, require us to pay permanent attention and strengthen the multilateral cooperation between the FAO Member Nations and complete support in the FAO Programme, at present and in the future.

In accordance with the membership of the Slovak Republic in the European Union aims in agriculture and the focus of our country, we will mainly support the following key priorities of the FAO Programme:

The first the International programmes of transboundary cooperation related to the prevention and protection of animal health and the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention; the second, works in the Codex Alimentarius, in the field of food safety and quality control and its reference to the moving of agro-food products in international trade and efforts for the effective development of relationship with consumers; the third, sustainable development of rural and mountain areas in reference to the involvement of all stakeholders, looking for the solution of problems related to the equality of women and the younger population in rural areas; the fourth, the development of projects within the Technical Cooperation Programme and other programme elements oriented towards education, communication and the building of capacities in nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fishery; the fifth, programmes protecting natural resources, wider cooperation with the public and non-governmental organizations, as well as the raising of public awareness concerning the importance of the sustainable development of forestry in reference to programmes solved by the FAO and in the whole system of United Nations Organization and other international cooperation; the sixth, the strengthening of all types of information provision and also the FAO library services.

I consider being necessary, and one of the most significant priorities of this millennium, that increased attention is paid by all nations, regions and worldwide to the fight against hunger and undernourishment.

I believe that our common goal is that the FAO BIENNIUM Programme and Medium Term Plan toward 2001, take into account all the substantial priorities and adapt the possibilities of budget to it, so we may approach together the commitments adopted by the World Food Summit held in Rome 1996 and its evaluation session, five years later held in Rome 2002 and that way the FAO could run its programmes and projects, which are necessary for international cooperation for the fulfillment of FAO mandate.

I wish the discussions at this 33rd FAO Conference to be creative, professional and strategic and contribute to such final excellent resolutions which will allow the reforms in the Organization and that they will be carried out to the benefit of the millions of dependent poor and starving people on the earth.

Tsendorj GANKHUAYG (Mongolia)

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, a renowned international organization. Please, permit me to use this opportunity to address the current situation of food and agricultural development in Mongolia, the largest component of our country.

Since 1990, Mongolia has started its transition from Socialist planned economy to market orientated democratic economy. Today, private enterprise is dominating Mongolia's agricultural sector as a result of our policy of transferring major economical and infrastructure sectors to a market oriented economy, and the successful implementation of privatization that has created a sound environment for increasing production and output. There is now legislation allowing for family land ownership and the use of land for business purposes. Also, arable land leasing

activities have taken place extensively. Although some crop production levels are indicating decreased performance as compared to 2004 levels, this sector plays a very important role in Mongolian population's food supply.

Mongolia's livestock sector is basically a pasture grazing livestock. We have witnessed positive achievements in the livestock sector. By the end of 2004, there was almost a 10 percent increase in livestock over the previous year. A policy for supporting an intensified and settled livestock production has been developed and implemented within the framework of land policy reform.

However, the food and agriculture sectors have required introduction of new management approaches, with intensified production based on scientific and technological advances. This will increase capacity to be able to withstand negative natural factors having adverse effects in this area.

In this regard, many important measures have been proposed in the new action plan of the Mongolian Government established subsequent to last year's election. The main objective of our Government's four-year action plan is to increase employment in all economic sectors and decrease Mongolia's poverty level. Subsequently, the food and agriculture sector must play an important role in the achievement of these objectives. Some examples here are:

- increasing the production in the livestock sector by successful breeding of local thoroughbred livestock breeds that are adopted to the country's climate conditions, as well as using high quality breeds from abroad while introducing modern biotechnological techniques;
- supporting livestock and crop production business, encouraging the development of settled farming, to increase pastureland and hay production by expanding land ownership and utilization, and to increase capacity to protect agricultural production from natural disasters such as drought and driest winters based on the increased production of fodder for livestock; and
- measures and efforts which require large investments must be taken urgently to improve water supply for pastureland and to combat pasture rodents and pests, such as locusts and rodents.

We have not yet achieved sufficient results, even though in past years measures such as using locally adapted seed varieties, and the introduction of modern soil tillage and fertilizing systems have been taken to rehabilitate and strengthen the crop production sector. Current results show that it is necessary to increase irrigated crop production in the dry climate that is Mongolia's. At present, Mongolia produces only 30 percent of domestic wheat needs. Here, our country urgently needs support from donors especially from the FAO for increased wheat assistance to Mongolia.

In the world of global climate change, issues concerning the preservation of our natural environment, the rehabilitation of damaged areas, combating desertification, eradicating food shortages and poverty have become not only Mongolia's problem but also the problems of the world. We are working to prevent sudden changes and environment disasters while preparing to withstand unforeseen occurrences to minimize the impact if and when they occur.

I would like to congratulate the FAO for the proposed implementation of the FAO reform policy and state that our Government will work actively providing cooperation in the future. I wish you success for this Conference.

Mohamed MOHATTANE (Maroc)

Il m'échoit l'insigne honneur d'exprimer au nom du Royaume du Maroc mes vives félicitations à Son Excellence Cao Duc Phat et au vice Président à l'occasion de leur élection pour diriger les travaux de cette session. Je voudrais également féliciter la FAO à l'occasion de son 60ème anniversaire. Il m'est aussi agréable de joindre ma voix à celle de tous les distingués délégués qui m'ont précédé à cette tribune pour rendre un vibrant hommage à Son Excellence le Directeur général M. Jacques Diouf pour sa clairvoyance et ses efforts inlassables pour améliorer les performances de notre Organisation afin de mieux répondre aux besoins et attentes des Etats membres. De même, je tiens à lui présenter les félicitations du gouvernement du Maroc pour sa réélection à la tête de la FAO en lui souhaitant plein succès dans la réalisation des objectifs de

notre Organisation. Née dans un contexte de crise alimentaire aigue et généralisée il y a 60 ans, la FAO recevait pour mission d'éradiquer la faim sur notre planète, par une action concertée dans un monde où le progrès technique allié à une solidarité plus grande des nations, autorisaient tous les espoirs. Incontestablement, le bilan du travail achevé depuis par la FAO et par la communauté internationale est positif comme en témoigne l'augmentation remarquable de la production agricole mondiale. Mais en dépit des progrès énormes réalisés dans l'amélioration de la capacité de production des systèmes agricoles, nous devons reconnaître que la mission n'est pas encore totalement accomplie. Les diagnostics qui nous sont présentés, notamment par la FAO sur les réalisations des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement, nous donnent l'impression que nous sommes encore loin des objectifs tracés, en particulier dans les régions les plus défavorisées. La situation de l'Afrique est particulièrement préoccupante. Elle est la seule région du monde qui durant les dernières années a connu une régression en matière d'offre alimentaire par habitant. Plus de deux cents millions de personnes sont exposées à l'insécurité alimentaire et à la malnutrition. Les exportations agricoles de l'Afrique sont aujourd'hui beaucoup plus faibles qu'elles ne l'étaient il y a 30 ans. Seul un pour cent du flux d'investissements étrangers vers les pays en voie de développement va à l'Afrique sub-saharienne. La pauvreté et le retard de l'Afrique contrastent vivement avec la prospérité du monde développé. La marginalisation continue de l'Afrique du processus de la mondialisation et l'exclusion sociale de la vaste majorité de ses peuples constituent une grave menace pour la stabilité mondiale. Pour de nombreux Africains, le mirage est celui de l'immigration, notamment vers l'Europe. Le fléau de l'immigration clandestine fait apparaître les fêlures dans les édifices sociaux et les constructions politiques, engendrant insécurité, violence et instabilité.

Avec les Objectifs de développement pour le Millénaire, la communauté internationale s'est assignée une grande ambition. Nous pouvons légitimement penser que, si nous parvenons à être au rendez-vous de cette ambition, c'est un autre monde que nous aurons su créer. En revanche, quelle lourde responsabilité sera la nôtre, si en dépit des diagnostics partagés, des objectifs définis, des moyens nécessaires sagement quantifiés, nous devons reconnaître d'ici à quelques années, nous être bercés de paroles et d'illusions. Quelle démission constituerait un tel échec au regard des enjeux auxquels nous faisons face et alors que chacun a clairement le sentiment que le premier défi est de réduire la fracture nord/sud avant qu'elle ne devienne irrésistible. Or, force est de constater que le chemin parcouru et les résultats obtenus jusqu'à maintenant sont loin de conforter la crédibilité de nos ambitions. Si les tendances actuelles se poursuivent, il y aura encore 600 millions de personnes qui souffriront de la faim en 2015, soit 200 millions de plus que l'objectif. Durant la dernière décennie la réduction de la pauvreté n'a été que minimale et si rien ne change, pratiquement un milliard de personnes continueront à vivre avec moins de un dollar par jour en 2015.

Je ne voudrais pas revenir sur les nombreuses recommandations contenues dans le rapport soumis à Monsieur le Secrétaire général Kofi Annan dans le cadre des préparatifs du Sommet du Millénaire plus cinq des Nations Unies. J'en retiens seulement que si on désire réellement réaliser les Objectifs du Millénaire, il devient nécessaire et urgent de réviser nos paradigmes, nos stratégies et nos actions de développement. Nous devons faire plus et mieux. Faire mieux c'est d'abord s'assurer que des flux d'aide notamment au profit de l'Afrique soient effectivement augmentés comme annoncé dans le communiqué de Gleeneagles de juillet 2005 et qu'ils soient orientés en priorité vers les investissements dans l'agriculture, le développement rural et la sécurité alimentaire. Nous nous félicitons du rôle joué par la FAO pour l'élaboration du programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine du NEPAD; elle devra s'attacher maintenant à aider les pays à élaborer des stratégies, à engager des réformes de politique, et à se doter de programmes nationaux, afin d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire d'ici 2015. Faire mieux c'est aussi un emploi rigoureux des ressources mobilisées et des politiques appropriées, de nature à assurer le décollage économique, la sécurité alimentaire et l'éradication de la pauvreté. L'expérience du Royaume du Maroc révèle que la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire ne peut se faire d'une façon parcellaire et nécessite dans les zones rurales en particulier, une politique d'envergure de développement rural intégré. Notre engagement fort dans ce sens est conforté par l'initiative nationale pour le développement humain, lancé par sa Majesté le Roi

Mohammed VI en mai 2005. Cette initiative s'inscrit parfaitement dans la vision d'ensemble qui constitue le projet Societa du pays, bâti sur les principes de la démocratie politique, de l'efficacité économique et de la cohésion sociale. Faire mieux appelle enfin un nouveau sursaut encore plus engagé que celui qui a animé les fondateurs de la FAO, il y a 60 ans. Ce sursaut doit s'appuyer sur un sens fort de la solidarité, cette solidarité doit s'exprimer en premier lieu dans l'appui que nous devons apporter au projet de réforme que nous a soumis Son Excellence Le Directeur général. Le Royaume du Maroc se félicite des efforts faits pour un meilleur ciblage des programmes. Il appelle cependant à un engagement beaucoup plus structuré en faveur des politiques de développement rural intégré. En renforçant le rôle de la FAO dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire, la réforme de la structure de l'Organisation et le train de mesures qui l'accompagne concernant la gestion des ressources humaines et les processus et procédures internes, contribueront sans nul doute à améliorer son efficacité opérationnelle mais ne pourront certainement produire leurs effets que si elles sont accompagnées d'autonomie et de pouvoir décisionnel accrus octroyés aux différentes structures, notamment au niveau des représentations dans les pays. J'insiste enfin sur le fait que la réussite de la réforme restera tributaire des ressources financières qui seront mobilisées, sachant que la FAO fait face depuis pratiquement 1993 à une austérité budgétaire marquée. Nous devons, en particulier, veiller à ce que les modalités préconisées pour l'allocation des ressources aux Représentants dans les pays n'aboutissent pas à ce paradoxe qu'elles bloqueront leur action au moment même où il leur est demandé de faire plus et de faire mieux.

Einar Kristinn GUDFINNSSON (Iceland)

Allow me, Mr Chairman and Mr Vice-Chairman, to congratulate you upon your election to chair this Conference. It is also a great pleasure for me to welcome the people of Belarus to the FAO family. Last but not least, I would like to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his third term in office as Director-General of our Organization.

On its 60th Anniversary, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is at crossroads, confronted with achieving the Millennium Development Goals of halving before the year 2015, the number of people suffering from hunger and extreme poverty. The Member Countries will have to jointly make a more concentrated effort to bring this number down.

In order to do so, the Organization needs to go through a process of reform and modernization, advocated by several Member States, including my country. Iceland welcomes the Director-General's reform proposals and considers it as a positive step. However, we would like to state clearly that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO is to be taken equally seriously by FAO. We sincerely believe that these two formidable efforts will lead to the strengthening of our Organization making it more effective and vigorous in carrying out its important work.

In the fight against hunger in the world, all countries have a role to play. First of all, to maintain and secure sustainable food security for their own people and secondly to participate in the world market of foodstuffs. Iceland wishes to see the developing countries as more active participants in the global food markets.

Being a Minister of Fisheries in my country, I would like to emphasize the importance of fisheries. Fisheries are of great significance to both developed and developing countries around the world making a contribution to food security and economic well-being. Fish products provide 15 percent of animal proteins consumed in the world. Of the 30 countries most dependent on fish proteins, all but four are in the developing world. Fish is a great potential source for protein consumption in several developing countries, as well as being potential quality product for the export to world markets.

One of the main pillars of Iceland's developing cooperation is to build-up capacity in the field of fisheries in order to enable countries to sustainably utilize the living resources of the ocean. We are host to the United Nations University Fisheries Training Programme, and we take pride in having invited professionals from numerous developing countries to come to Iceland to train in fishing, processing and marketing of fish products.

My country attaches great importance to the work of FAO's Fisheries Department and we want to support its work. Our latest effort was an agreement on supporting the FAO's Fisheries Department to the tune of US\$1 million in assisting developing countries in capacity building in fisheries. We are also active partners in the recently established World Bank Global Program on Fisheries, PROFISH.

I would like to emphasize the role of FAO as the appropriate forum for addressing global issues in fisheries, which makes our Organization very important for fisheries around the world. Having said that, it should be stressed that the responsible management of living marine resources is best carried out at the national and regional levels, 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, built on the best available scientific information, is the only solution to secure sustainable utilization of the fish stocks and the economic wellbeing of the people involved. It should be our aim to fully utilize our living marine resources, which should not be confused with over-utilizing fish stocks.

Iceland shares many of the concerns expressed over the states of the oceans and the fish stocks in some regions. While these concerns make it incumbent on states to work together, they are not best addressed with additional global instruments or solution. On the contrary, certain approaches would, in fact, be counterproductive and harmful. There are no global fish stocks. The necessary legal framework for the management of the living marine resources is in place in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. What needs to be done is to implement effectively existing instruments.

My Government has made a concentrated effort to strengthen our development cooperation. Iceland's policy on development cooperation entails more than a doubling of current levels of Icelandic Official Development Assistance. It is our wish to work together with Member States of our Organization for the promotion of sustainable use of natural resources including the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries. In this endeavour, we are guided by, among other things, the Reykjavik Declaration of Responsible Fisheries in the marine ecosystem. By working together in this way, we contribute to the food security and economic wellbeing of humankind.

Nickey IYAMBO (Namibia)

Allow me on behalf of my delegation and the Government of the Republic of Namibia to congratulate you and your assistants for being elected to chair the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference.

I wish to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the post of Director-General, for the period of 2006 to 2011. I place my country's confidence in him to continue improving the efficiency and effectiveness in the service delivery of FAO as an organization, in addressing the issues of food security, hunger, poverty agriculture in the respective Member Countries.

Overall the status of the world food and agriculture production has continued to improve in recent years, especially in light of technological advancement, improvement of transportation and marketing networks. Unfortunately, many of these improvements have not been realized in most of the developing countries. I am especially concerned about the situation in Africa, more particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, since the current report on the status of food and agriculture paint a gloomy picture for the African continent. No other country has received such a gloomy review in this report than Africa, and in particular, Sub-Saharan Africa.

I therefore urge this Conference to adopt a specific resolution aimed at reviewing and redoubling efforts to increasing investment flows into the agricultural and agro-food processing industries on the African continent.

Specific resolutions such as: firstly, the donor communities and corporate organizations should increase their assistance to our countries in the area of direct investment in agriculture,

development of appropriate irrigation technologies including skills and technology transfers in order to boost agricultural production, especially the small-scale farmers in the rural areas.

There should be enhanced capital flows to diversify the agricultural production base in Africa, so as to broaden the agricultural income base and thus reduce dependence on single commodities for agricultural production and exports. This would also lead to the reduction of risks associated with complete production failures.

The Member Countries should welcome the reform proposal of FAO since it provides an opportunity for this Organization to effectively respond to the many challenges faced by the Organization and for the needs of Member Countries. This is a unique opportunity to send a strong signal to the millions out there, who are affected by hunger and undernourishment that the FAO seeks to reform itself, so as to respond positively to their plight.

Pursuant to the letter and spirit of the DOHA Development Agenda negotiations, developed countries should substantially reduce their trade distortions and for the domestic support measures since these support provisions undermine efforts made by our producers. In view of the upcoming World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, China, I wish to call upon World Trade Organization members to seek an outcome which will be pro-development. Failure to reach an outcome that is development friendly can have a negative impact on the food security, rural development and livelihood in most African countries.

Finally, let me touch on the issue of HIV/AIDS pandemic, which causing so much loss and suffering on the African continent. This syndrome has serious consequences for many economic activities in Africa and possesses great challenges in the fight against poverty reduction and the enhancement of food security. It has the potential of undoing the gains made so far, especially since it strikes the most productive workforce of the rural areas in the urban centres. As a result, productivity and efficiency is greatly reduced, which is further compounded by the fact that the resources have to be diverted away from economic activities toward addressing the gap placed before us by HIV/AIDS.

We once again call on the continued assistance to deal with the many challenges faced by our countries in the fight against hunger and poverty.

Mugur CRACIUN (Roumanie)

J'ai l'honneur de vous adresser au nom du gouvernement de Roumanie, nos sincères félicitations pour votre mobilisation en cette haute fonction pour la 33^{ème} Conférence FAO, et de souhaiter plein succès aux travaux de la Conférence. Permettez-moi de féliciter, au nom du gouvernement de mon pays, le Docteur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection. Nous l'assurons de toute la disponibilité de la Roumanie à l'appuyer dans ses fonctions, notamment dans son projet de réformer la FAO, tâche difficile mais absolument nécessaire pour le bon fonctionnement de ses structures. Je souhaitais également remercier le gouvernement et le peuple italien pour sa disponibilité à héberger et à soutenir la FAO, cette prestigieuse institution de l'ONU. Nous saluons la prochaine entrée de la Fédération russe en début 2006 au sein de l'Organisation, également la République de Biélorussie.

Dans les perspectives de la prochaine entrée sur le marché libre de l'Union européenne, les préoccupations prioritaires de la Roumanie s'orientent vers la consolidation des fermes familiales produisant efficacement. En vue d'atteindre cet objectif, en plus de la finalisation de la réforme foncière, le gouvernement roumain envisage de faciliter l'accès des exploitations agricoles, petites et moyennes, au crédit bancaire. Ce processus sera soutenu par un tiers du budget du Ministère de l'agriculture. De cette manière, la Roumanie considère qu'elle contribuera non seulement à la réduction de la pauvreté en milieu rural mais aussi à la création du cadre nécessaire pour que les exploitations familiales puissent profiter des opportunités du marché libre. La Roumanie considère l'agriculture comme un complexe d'activités qui touchent la population rurale dans son ensemble. Pour cette raison, la Roumanie considère essentiel de soutenir un programme de développement rural durable ainsi que la gestion efficace des ressources génétiques, végétales et animales, de l'eau et du sol également. Une autre priorité de la Roumanie, dans le contexte de la

globalisation des échanges commerciaux et de la mise en place du Doha Round est l'organisation et la gestion des marchés agricoles. Nous accompagnons ce processus d'une politique d'élaboration et mise en œuvre des standards des normes de sécurité alimentaire phytosanitaire et protection de l'environnement. D'ailleurs, récemment la Roumanie a géré d'une manière efficace la grippe aviaire, action qui a coûté à l'économie roumaine jusqu'à présent plus de cinq millions d'euro. A ce problème s'est ajoutée au cours de l'année 2005 une série d'inondations, ayant produit des dégâts d'environ un million et demi d'euro, l'infrastructure rurale et la production agricole ayant été fortement affectées. Je remercie à cette occasion la communauté internationale pour l'appui moral et financier.

La Roumanie a bénéficié de façon consistante de l'appui de la FAO tant financier qu'au niveau de l'expertise en sa qualité de membre de cette prestigieuse Organisation. Dans la perspective de l'adhésion à l'Union européenne au 1^{er} janvier 2007, la Roumanie envisage d'apporter une contribution plus active à l'augmentation du rôle de la FAO pour le développement durable de l'activité agricole mondiale, pour la réduction de la pauvreté et de la famine. Dans ce contexte nous encourageons et soutenons le processus de réformes ainsi que l'évaluation externe et indépendante suite auxquelles la FAO doit devenir une institution internationale moderne adaptée aux enjeux auxquels l'agriculture et l'espace rural sont confrontés au XXI^e siècle.

Mitsuhiro MIYAKOSHI (Japan)

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt condolences for all who perished in the earthquake that struck Pakistan and India last month. And my deepest sympathies go out to the many thousands who continue to suffer in the aftermath of this terrible disaster. It is my honour to represent the government of Japan at this FAO Conference, which is indeed a landmark conference, signalling the 60th anniversary of the founding of FAO. And I take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Mr Cao Duc Phat, Acting Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, and Chairman of this Session. And I would also like to express my appreciation to Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf and all staff members of the Secretariat involved in organizing and running this session.

As the second largest contributor to FAO, and the source of roughly one-fifth of its budget, Japan has a strong interest in ensuring the effective and efficient management of FAO. Today the UN is moving in the direction of general organizational reform. In light of this development, we believe it is vitally important for FAO to clearly identify the areas of its competitive advantage in the overall UN structure, and to undertake substantive reforms within the framework of its current budget level. As for the future, we earnestly hope that FAO will reduce its budget by continuing to implement necessary reforms.

The World Food Summit adopted the goal of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015. Japan is deeply concerned that sufficient progress has not been made towards achievement of this goal. Japan is committed to eliminating poverty and undernourishment and to ensuring the food security of all countries. For this purpose, Japan provides assistance for sustainable agriculture and rural development predicated on the, self-helping efforts of developing countries.

We are very pleased to see that FAO has chosen agriculture and intercultural dialogue as a theme for this year's World Food Day. We feel it is very important to respect and honour the agricultural activities of the countries of the world as part of their cultural heritage, and to ensure the continued co-existence of a diversity of agricultural activities suited to the circumstances of individual countries.

We believe these to be the essential value in preserving food security in the world. Indeed, Japan has adopted these as its basic principles for its participation in the ongoing series of WTO agricultural negotiations. We are firmly convinced that it is vitally important for the countries of the world to cooperate towards achieving sustained agricultural development, while ensuring the co-existence of agriculture of each country.

The international transmission of infectious diseases affecting both humans and livestock has, in recent years, emerged as an extremely serious issue. Immediate examples include BSE and Avian

influenza, and in particular, stopping the spread of Avian influenza stands before us as a challenge of utmost urgency. For the achievement of this objective over the past year, Japan has provided technical assistance, including contribution to FAO. We are committed to further strengthening our international partnership efforts in this critical area.

In Japan, we have identified the achievement of food safety as one of the essential features of our agricultural and food policies. We expect that food distribution will become increasingly internationalized in the future. As the world's largest importer of food, Japan has a vital interest in ensuring food safety on global scale. For this reason, among the various normative activities undertaken by FAO, Japan assigns particular importance to the establishment of standards for food and agricultural chemicals, risk analysis and the development of good agricultural practices.

In the Gleneagles Summit held in July of this year, Japan strongly advocated the strengthening of agriculture and rural development programmes in the African countries most seriously affected by poverty. As a result, an agreement was reached on providing assistance for comprehensive programs designed to improve agricultural productivity and to strengthen partnership ties between rural and urban areas.

Agriculture, forestry and fishery industries occupy a very important place in developing countries. In light of this fact, Japan is committed to continued international cooperation in these fields.

At the Ministerial meeting on Forestry held here at FAO in March of this year, Japan emphasized the need to develop an international framework for the realization of the sustainable forestry management. In particular, we expressed our intent to cooperate with the relevant countries, international organizations and civil societies in dealing with the problem of illegal logging.

Similarly, at the Ministerial meeting on Fisheries, Japan emphasized the need to rigorously implement the code of conduct for responsible fisheries, in order to resolve the problems of illegal, unreported and unrestricted fishing. I take this opportunity, once again, to urge all countries to recognize the importance of programs and initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable forestry management and fishery resource management on a global scale. As a member country, Japan stands committed to promoting such programs and initiatives.

I wish to conclude my statement with an expression of a strongly held hope that Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf will pursue FAO reform aimed at effective and efficient utilization of the finite resources available to this organization.

Fülöp BENEDEK (Hungary)

It is my privilege to address the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the government of the Republic of Hungary. I would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and also Vice-Chairman, on their election. It is a special honour to greet the Republic of Belarus as a new member state. It is an honour for me to convey my government's welcome to Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Organization on his re-election. I wish him good health and every success in continuing his activities.

A number of excellent documents have been prepared for the Conference, their quality and concise presentation of problems deserve commending. I would like to refer to the FAO reform proposals by the Director-General that we highly appreciate. We found the reform package ambitious. We hope it will bring positive changes in the structure of FAO and place stronger emphasis on decentralized offices. We welcome the intention to fit FAO reforms into the UN reform process. We trust that a closer cooperation among UN agencies and better coordination with NGO's, as it was suggested by the Italian Minister Alemanno in his speech on the occasion of the World Food Day Celebration and during the Conference this morning, will further increase the efficiency of FAO field operations.

2004 and was year of major importance for the Hungarian agro-business. Hungary's accession to the European Union of the first of May 2004, sealed the end of an era also for the country's agro-economic sector.

Allow me to say some words about the cooperation between FAO and Hungary. I would like to express my sincere thanks to FAO headquarters for the technical support that FAO has given to Hungary in the form of TCP projects in the field of development of innovative forest management, upgrading fishing technology in the Lake Balaton and the development of a strategy for sustainable land management. There is also in process the successful regional project entitled Integrated Pest Management for Western Corn Rootworm in Central and Eastern Europe that has an important role in the spread of this dangerous disease.

As it is known, the FAO Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe has been working in Budapest since 1996. The Office executes its tasks with great efficiency. The well-based and active cooperation of the Office with our Ministry, as well as with the Hungarian Institutional System, is highly appreciated. The whole four-story villa was entirely allocated to the disposal of FAO that could host not only the sub-regional office, but offers adequate location to the FAO Regional Office for Europe.

In compliance with the reform proposals concerning the operation of FAO, I would like to confirm that the government of Hungary is ready to host the FAO Regional Office for Europe in Budapest.

In the course of the past nearly one decade, the activity of the SEUR Office has greatly contributed to the effective cooperation between FAO and the member states of the sub-region and has achieved appreciation and excellent reputation. It provides a good reference for the relocation of REU to Budapest.

There is an excellent academic and educational background in Hungary, of which the Office as well as the Region can benefit. It also provides a good basis for recruiting experts from the new EU member states to assist CIS countries.

The Hungarian government offers an adequate office building with excellent electronic communication, meeting rooms and library with no rental and maintenance costs for FAO. Personnel services and procurement possibilities are available at relatively low costs.

Our capital has a geographically central position in Europe with good air-contacts with all countries of the region.

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If the REU were to be located in Budapest, the Hungarian Government would cover the transfer costs.

I would like to confirm that Hungary's intention is to go ahead with the mutually active co-operation we have with FAO. Hungary supports the reform purposes of the Organization and we are going to be continuously at the disposal of FAO with our experience, knowledge and expertise. My country is ready to participate in the realisation of the new objectives of the Organization, offering its experience and knowledge in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishery and food industry.

Labo MOUSSA (Niger)

Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celle des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous adresser mes vives félicitations à la suite de votre brillante élection à la présidence de la troisième session de la Conférence de notre prestigieuse Organisation. Mes félicitations et tous mes encouragements s'adressent également aux autres membres du bureau.

Permettez-moi de saluer l'admission de la République biélorusse au sein de notre Organisation. A Monsieur le Directeur général que nous venons de réélire il y a à peine 48 heures, je voudrais adresser toutes les félicitations du gouvernement nigérien. Par cette réélection, le comité des Etats Membres de la FAO vient une fois encore confirmer la confiance qu'elle a placée en vous, témoin de votre engagement et de votre dévouement personnel depuis que vous êtes à la tête de la FAO. Monsieur le Président, au sortir de la campagne agro-pastorale de 2004, le Niger a arrêté un important déficit céréalier de 223 487 tonnes et un déficit fourrager de 4 642 219 tonnes du fait des effets conjugués de la sécheresse et de l'invasion acridienne. Ainsi ce sont au total 2 988 villages totalisant 3 293 488 habitants soit 32 pour cent de la population totale qui étaient en situation d'insécurité alimentaire. En dépit des efforts déployés par le gouvernement, cette situation s'est transformée en une crise alimentaire qui a entraîné une détérioration très sensible de l'état nutritionnel de la population particulièrement celui des couches les plus vulnérables en l'occurrence les femmes et les enfants. Monsieur le Président, l'économie du Niger porte essentiellement sur le secteur de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts et de la pêche qui représentent 41 pour cent du PIB, fournissant 44 pour cent des ressources totales d'exportation occupant 84 pour cent des populations actives. Le secteur primaire demeure le facteur déterminant de la croissance économique du pays et présente des potentialités non encore valorisées face au principal défi de lutte contre la sécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté. En effet, la pauvreté est plus prégnante en milieu rural où vivent 85 pour cent des pauvres. Sur le plan alimentaire le Niger se caractérise par des chutes chroniques dans l'apport énergétique moyen en même temps que dans l'apport protéinique; ce qui se traduit par une insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle structurelle. Face à cette situation, le Niger a adopté en 2002 une stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté SRP dont l'ambition est de réduire l'incidence globale de la pauvreté de 63 à moins de 50 pour cent à l'automne 2015.

La stratégie des rapports ruraux SDR adoptée en novembre 2003 constitue une déclinaison de la SRP et l'unique cadre de référence en matière de rapport rural. L'objectif assigné à la SDR est de réduire l'incidence de la pauvreté rurale de 66 pour cent à 52 pour cent à l'hiver 2015 en créant des conditions de développement économique et social durable, garantissant la sécurité alimentaire des populations et une gestion durable des ressources naturelles. La mise en œuvre de cette stratégie s'appuie sur quatorze programmes dont dix programmes structurant et quatre programmes prioritaires, parmi lesquels le programme de développement de l'irrigation pour sortir le Niger définitivement des conséquences désastreuses des aléas climatiques. Cette option est soutenue par le programme spécial du Président de la République Mamadou Tandja. Elle fait l'objet d'une attention particulière de la politique générale du gouvernement notamment par la conception du programme de lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire par le développement de l'irrigation. Ce programme prévoit une période de cinq ans, l'aménagement de 80 000 hectares sous forme de fermes agro-pastorales modernes dans le but d'accroître la disponibilité alimentaire, accroître le volume des exportations agricoles, contribuer à l'émergence d'une nouvelle exploitation agricole mécanisée.

Par ailleurs, plusieurs initiatives et projets sont mis en œuvre dans ce cadre. Au titre de la FAO nous saluons la mise en œuvre du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, PSSA, et nous fondons beaucoup de foi sur sa phase de généralisation. En outre, nous accueillons favorablement l'initiative de la FAO du projet relatif à la productivité des cultures vivrières sur les aménagements hydro-agricoles dont l'objectif vise à améliorer durablement la sécurité alimentaire nationale et contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté par une meilleure valorisation des investissements existants, la création des conditions favorables à l'extension des superficies irriguées, la diversification des productions et le développement des activités en aval de la production. Dans cette optique, l'appui combiné appréciable de la FAO sera encore déterminant. Je saisis cette heureuse occasion pour réitérer toute notre appréciation des efforts déployés par l'Organisation et son Directeur général pour la mise en œuvre de ce programme.

La crise alimentaire que notre pays vient de traverser nous a convaincu plus que jamais, de la nécessité de développer une agriculture durable; c'est pourquoi le soutien de la FAO et des

partenaires au développement, est plus que jamais indispensable pour permettre au Niger de transcender les séquelles de cette crise alimentaire et développer des programmes structurels.

Les populations du Niger viennent de passer une période difficile, atténuée fort heureusement grâce au concours combien précieux de la communauté internationale et aux résultats globalement satisfaisant des productions agro-pastorales de la campagne d'hivernage 2005. Au nom de Son Excellence Mamadou Tandja, Président de la République, Chef de l'Etat, au nom du gouvernement, je me fais porte-parole de toute la population nigérienne, pour adresser nos remerciements et notre profonde gratitude à tous les peuples amis et institutions qui ont participé à cet élan de solidarité internationale pour venir en aide au Niger.

A l'endroit de l'ONU, 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 ont apporté au Niger pour soulager les populations éprouvées. C'est le lieu de souligner les contributions importantes de la FAO qui ont permis de réduire significativement les effets des attaques acridiennes au cours de la campagne agricole 2004.

Nous félicitons particulièrement le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, Son Excellence Monsieur Kofi Annan et le Directeur général de la FAO, Son Excellence Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour leur mobilisation, la préoccupation affichée et leur clairvoyance face aux risques graves encourus par les populations rurales du Niger. Afin de prévenir ce genre de situation, je lance un appel à tous nos partenaires au développement pour une assistance soutenue aux programmes nationaux de développement de l'irrigation et de développement durable de l'agriculture, ainsi que le soutien à toutes les initiatives régionales de sécurité alimentaire et du programme détaillé du développement de l'agriculture africaine du NEPAD. A cet égard, ma délégation voudrait souligner l'importance de l'appui que la FAO apporte à l'Organisation de l'Unité africaine et à ses états membres dans la mise en œuvre des programmes agricoles de sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. Dans ce contexte, nous demandons la pleine coopération de la FAO en vue de l'organisation des réunions appropriées pour faire le point des projets accomplis et des plans élaborés pour la réalisation de ces programmes sur le continent africain.

À la lumière de l'étude dont la FAO fait l'objet, ma délégation est d'avis qu'il est indispensable de la doter d'une structure adaptée et de la modifier en conséquence afin qu'elle puisse répondre efficacement aux attentes légitimes des pays en voie de développement dont le Niger pour vaincre la faim et la pauvreté.

Munacho T. A. MUTEZO (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman, and the three Vice Chairpersons who have been elected to steer the important deliberations of this Conference.

We also would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Republic of Belarus who has just been admitted into the FAO.

My delegation would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Dr Diouf on his re-election as Director-General of FAO with an overwhelming majority. That he has been nominated and contested is historic and demonstrates the confidence that the Membership has in him and his staff.

Winning with such an overwhelming margin is a clear sign that the majority of the membership has embraced both the candidate and the programme he proposes to implement. We too, want to commend the Director-General for having circulated his ideas on the future of FAO to the Membership before the Conference and that he has been ready to respond to queries raised by the Members at all times.

We are appealing to those Members who may have had initial reservations on the reform proposals to come aboard with everybody else now and support the Director-General and not continue to fetter him with undue demands.

We draw solace from the McDougall Lecture by Rev. David Beckam of the "Bread of the World" on the need to recall that while hunger is a thing of the past in the developed world, it is still a real problem in the developing world. We hope that such wise counsel will guide our minds as we deliberate and take decisions that will affect the lives of many in the next two years.

Regarding the way forward, it is pertinent that Member States should seek assurance to remain part of the reform process. Such assurance can only come through a sustainable mechanism that will see through and regularly evaluate the changes. My Delegation therefore strongly recommends that the checks and balances for the reform process be provided for through the standing governing body structures of the Organization, i.e., Programme and Finance Committees. We believe that reforms are a process and not an event hence they require a sustainable arrangement. We accept that the IEE and the reform should be mutually supportive.

We would like to see this Conference authorizing the Director-General to embark on the process forthwith and come up with an implementation plan to be effected with the effort of the Programme and Finance Committees.

We realize that the Organization has been financially constrained in the last biennium due to the zero real growth budget which necessitated a net resource reduction totalling US 51.2 million or 6.4% of the real growth scenario. Other factors affecting the financial health of FAO include late payments of assessed contributions and increasing contributions in arrears, necessitating the Organization to resort to external borrowing. There is no doubt that these have affected Regular Programme delivery. We appeal to the Membership to prioritise paying assessed contributions as opposed to the current situation where some Members who are in arrears are up to date with extra-budgetary provisions.

Financial challenges for the next biennium include financing the new chapters on security, after service medical liability which the Membership endorsed without exception. If the Organization is to fully meet these obligations it will necessitate an increase in assessed contributions of no less than 2.5%. We have all endorsed these new responsibilities in the Programme and Work Budget. We should therefore be prepared to dig deeper into our pockets. In light of all these additions, Zimbabwe recommends that the Conference should adopt a real growth budget level of 2.5% and also meet the one-time cost of transition to enable us to meet the Organization's historical obligations to its staff, improve security and bring about better implementation of programmes.

In pursuit of further efficiency savings, Zimbabwe looks forward to the operationalisation of the implementation plan drawn up by management from the findings of the Independent Evaluation of Decentralisation. We also see this process contributing to issues of proximity and better response to national and regional needs. We also see this process improving normative support to programmes at operational level and this will be complemented by the multi-disciplinary teams.

As the entire UN family is focusing on the achievement of the MDGs, FAO should pay particular attention to MDG I and II that fall within its purview. We cannot achieve the two objectives by continuing on the path of a series of negative growth budgets. Any increase in assessed contributions should go towards the core business of this Organization FAO, i.e., operative and normative functions, not to administrative activities or other cosmetic changes at HQ.

In Zimbabwe, our efforts to achieve food security, we are working hard to reap tangible benefits from the land reform programme through full utilization of the land. To this end we have undertaken and in depth land use audit to assure beneficiaries of the land reform programme, put it to maximum use. In addition, we have recently launched the accelerated irrigation.

In Zimbabwe our efforts to achieve food security, we are working hard to reap tangible benefits from the Land Reform Programme, through full utilization of the land. To this end we have undertaken an in-depth land use audit, to ensure beneficiaries of the Land Reform Programme put it to maximum use. In addition, we have recently launched the accelerated irrigation rehabilitation and development programme, AIDP, which we are requesting and asking FAO to partner with us as we implement it. The Government is also in the process of making sure that we secure our food reserves and assist the population and farmers with procurement of inputs. We are hoping, if we

have a decent rainfall this season we should be able to get back to a situation of food self sufficiency.

Lastly, one of the corner stones of our policy is equitable access to food and rural development and central to this is the participation and involvement of women and also gender equity in all our programmes.

We are grateful to FAO for enabling us to host the African Regional Conference on Food Security and risk analysis in Harare which was held last month. It is very well appreciated and we hope we will continue to participate with you.

My delegation would like to commend FAO and other international organizations for conscientising the world over the challenges related to Avian influenza outbreak.

The government of Zimbabwe has put in place contingency plans to deal with this issue should it affect us.

Elie BUZOYA (Burundi)

Qu'il soit permis à la délégation de la République du Burundi à cette 33^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO, de transmettre à l'auguste assemblée les salutations du gouvernement et du peuple burundais. Auguste assemblée, le Burundi est un pays à vocation agricole et plus de 90 pour cent de la population sont occupés par l'agriculture et l'élevage. La guerre, la pandémie du Sida, les aléas climatiques ont augmenté la vulnérabilité de la population qui dépend essentiellement de l'agriculture et vit par conséquent dans des conditions précaires.

Le VIH/Sida qui était, au début répandu dans les centres urbains a gagné aussi les campagnes, entraînant ainsi des morts dans la population productive de l'agriculture et créé de plus en plus d'orphelins. Les personnes atteintes par la maladie vivant avec le VIH, ont sans doute besoin d'une alimentation équilibrée, certes riche en protéines, afin de renforcer leur système immunitaire. La guerre a eu des impacts négatifs sur les ménages et, par conséquent, sur la vulnérabilité de la population. Des veuves, veufs et orphelins sont particulièrement vulnérables car ils disposent de moins de moyens de production tels que les terres fertiles de grandeur insuffisante, de la main d'œuvre familiale, des intrants agricoles, du bétail, du petit matériel agricole ou des revenus monétaires. De plus, beaucoup de maisons ayant été détruites et pillées, une bonne part du cheptel ayant été volée ou tuée, les conditions de vie et de productivité des ménages s'en trouvent d'autant appauvries. Notre pays, faute de ressources financières, ne dispose pratiquement pas d'infrastructures d'irrigation malgré la densité de son réseau hydrologique.

C'est pour cela que les aléas climatiques, particulièrement la sécheresse prolongée observée depuis les années 2000, ont accentué le déficit des productions agricoles déjà important depuis le déclenchement de la crise socio-politique en octobre 1993. En guise d'adaptation à cette situation, la population avait fait recours à des cultures de soudure moins exigeantes et plus productives par unité de surface, comme par exemple les tubercules. Mais malheureusement les efforts de la population sont anéantis par des attaques de maladies dévastatrices comme la mosaïque sévère du manioc. Bref, la population rurale, qui tire son revenu essentiellement de l'agriculture et de l'élevage, n'a pas d'alimentation suffisante. L'agriculture demeure de subsistance et ne permet donc pas de dégager un surplus de consommation qui peut être vendu sans affecter négativement le niveau nutritionnel des ménages. Les agriculteurs n'ont pas d'une façon générale de fumier organique, ce qui entraîne la dégradation continuelle des sols et, par conséquent, la production diminue sans cesse.

Auguste assemblée, face à cette situation, le nouveau gouvernement voudrait profiter du retour progressif de la paix et de la sécurité sur tout le territoire national pour réhabiliter la production agricole et rurale, combattre la faim et la malnutrition pour relancer la croissance économique et lutter ainsi contre l'extrême pauvreté de la majorité de notre population. Pour lancer ce pari et permettre à la population burundaise de récolter le plus rapidement possible les dividendes de la paix, le Burundi et ses nouvelles institutions issues des récentes élections libres, démocratiques et

transparentes ont plus que jamais besoin d'un soutien financier plus engagé de la part de la communauté internationale.

Nous profitons de cette occasion pour remercier la FAO, qui a certes jusqu'ici contribué à la mobilisation des ressources nécessaires, à l'appui aux populations sinistrées grâce à la distribution des semences et du matériel agricole à environ 150 000 ménages par saison agricole, et elle a également mis en œuvre, en collaboration avec l'OCNID, l'OPAM et la Banque mondiale, un certain nombre de projets dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'environnement. Nous devons toutefois souligner que les réalisations et les sources budgétaires mobilisées restent relativement modestes par rapport aux besoins d'un pays comme le Burundi qui vit une période de forts conflits, qui doit réhabiliter et réinsérer socialement et économiquement des centaines de milliers de rapatriés, de déplacés intérieurs, de démobilisés et autres sinistrés de guerre.

C'est ainsi que le gouvernement du Burundi demande à la FAO, en sa qualité d'organisme spécialisé dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'aider à faire le plaidoyer et mobiliser, en collaboration avec les autres partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux, les ressources nécessaires pour la mise en œuvre des actions prioritaires suivantes: premièrement la généralisation de l'itinéraire d'intégration agro-silvo-zoo-technique et du système de crédit rotatif sous forme d'une chaîne de solidarité communautaire efficace, de l'amélioration de la fertilité des sols grâce à la production de fumier organique, de la protection de l'environnement grâce aux aménagements des bassins versants et de l'augmentation des revenus grâce à l'amélioration de la productivité. Deuxièmement, la maîtrise de l'eau, et d'autant plus que le Burundi a une quantité suffisante d'eau, cette maîtrise viendrait appuyer l'agriculture en cas de sécheresse prolongée. Troisièmement, la réhabilitation de la filière de production et de diffusion des semences et plantes de qualité aussi bien vivrières qu'industrielles. Dans cette optique, l'intervention dans la multiplication des boutures de manioc résistantes à la mosaïque à travers tout le pays doit être renforcée. Enfin, la poursuite de l'assistance agricole, d'urgence et de réhabilitation en faveur des populations structurellement ou conjoncturellement vulnérables.

Dans ces projets, et dans le cadre de la collaboration avec l'OCNID, l'OPAM et la Banque mondiale, la FAO pourrait couvrir ces interventions sur toute l'étendue du Burundi, d'autant plus que tout le pays est relativement sécurisé.

Auguste assemblée, pour terminer, notre délégation tient à remercier très sincèrement les organisateurs de cette conférence pour avoir eu l'amabilité d'inviter le Burundi et pour avoir accepté de rendre le séjour de la délégation agréable. La délégation burundaise espère fermement et avec conviction que la présente conférence nous donne de nouveaux espoirs pour le développement de l'agriculture et l'amélioration de l'alimentation et nous rende encore plus déterminés à agir.

Dimitar PEYCHEV (Bulgaria)

It is a great honor for me to present on behalf of the Bulgarian Government our most cordial congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election as Director-General of FAO and to wish him success in achieving the goals that unite us.

Let me introduce in a few words the state of food and agriculture in my country.

Agriculture has an important role in Bulgaria's economy with a relative share of 9.4 percent in GDP in 2004.

This traditional sector covers all regions of the country, thanks to the favourable natural environment and climate. Agricultural output is 100 percent private and the relations among the farmers and the processing industry are developed under the conditions of market economy. The current policy in the field of agriculture is in line with the key priorities related to Bulgaria's accession to the European Union.

A key priority in the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the development of efficient and competitive agriculture sector and food industry.

In order to reach this objective, there are numerous activities in alignment of the legislation in the sphere of food safety and the creation of preconditions for the successful adaptation of the Bulgarian industries to the demanding European standards. Enormous efforts are being made for setting up and consolidating a viable business sector and in the rural areas. The improvement in the employment situation in the country and the continuing reform of social services are other key priorities of the Bulgarian Government.

The FAO has contributed considerably for the elaboration of a strategy for agriculture development in Bulgaria, by implementing national and regional projects in fishing, livestock-breeding and forestry sectors.

FAO's policy is successful in implementing the objectives of the World Food Summit to provide food for everyone.

We appreciate the measures, taken by the FAO, to solve the problems of hunger world-wide, by means of implementing programs and projects and setting up of special funds for meeting the objectives of the World Food Summit. There is a positive effect of the studies and analyses of food safety and all the activities carried out so far drawing up measures to implement projects and strengthen the regional FAO structures. Unfortunately, despite the efforts of the FAO, and the member countries, the number of hungry people throughout the world is not decreasing as fast as we would wish.

Aiming at improvement of the state of food in Bulgaria, as well as considering a regional and global scale, I would like to reiterate the Bulgarian Government's support for achieving the objectives of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. We confirm our wish and readiness to participate actively in the common action to attain food security for all. We are of the view that this requires from all governments the redoubling of efforts, to involve actively the non-governmental organization, and to contribute to enhancing international cooperation, including through FAO and the United Nations system.

In this context, I would like to express our support for the reform proposal on the agenda of this Conference and to state once again our readiness to labour hard to insure its success.

Mirza QAMAR BEG (Pakistan)

We face serious challenges. There are also exciting opportunities. We have bold new initiatives on the agenda but there is also the fear of the unknown. As Chairman, there will be a lot to say for and against these initiatives but this is certain: status-quo is not an option.

We face troubling questions. Might the first and foremost MDG elude us? Will Hong Kong succeed where Cancun failed? Will the promise of Monterrey, Johannesburg and Glen Eagles be remembered more in breach than in observance? Is the developing world ready to maximize whatever gains come its way and minimize the dependency syndrome?

The state of Food and Agriculture Report alerts us to several areas of concern but there is a lot in it that is reassuring.

Speaking of Pakistan we are glad to report several positive developments. GDP grew by 8.4%, Agriculture by 7.5%. Much of this has been possible due to a wide array of Agricultural reforms. Minimizing role of state, removal of quantitative restrictions and non-tariff barriers, significant lowering of tariffs, rollback of export subsidies, dismantling the support price mechanism, all these have been the essential ingredients. No, it has not been easy. Especially managing change. Bureaucratic mind-sets and rentier habits have been no mean obstacles. We are satisfied with the results but not complacent. We know very well we still have a long way to go.

Also, reforms have thrown up new questions. Does agricultural growth by itself reduce poverty? How do we strike the growth-equity equilibrium? Where exactly do we reign in market forces? How far do we open our own markets without global reciprocity?

And this is where FAO, with its storehouse of knowledge supplemented with operational interventions, comes in. We need FAO and FAO with a stronger normative – operational nexus.

We are concerned at the diminution of resources being made available to FAO. We find parsimony in providing budgetary resources and generosity in extra budgetary anomalous. Does it suggest that the FAO per se is an acceptable vehicle? But there are other issues. We trust the Independent External Evaluation will address these. Meanwhile, there is immediacy to FAO's financial health. Here we cannot wait for IEE lest it should become a case of "surgery successful but the patient died". We strongly support the Conference to approve adequate real growth levels.

Likewise, there is urgency to Governance aspects. We feel the current instruments are not responsive enough. Again, we cannot wait until IEE. We therefore propose the setting up a working group for Governance reforms.

Pakistan finds the Director-General's Reform proposals timely, entirely consistent with the spirit of the Independent External Evaluation and responsive to the issues of more efficacious field presence, decentralization, and checks and balances that the earlier Conferences have repeatedly expounded. We urge consensus but we have to be mindful, postponement will not all go well. For aspects which require greater clarification we ought to put in place a mechanism which does not require referral back to the Conference.

To conclude, we reiterate there are challenges and opportunities. To transcend the challenge and consummate the opportunity will require our collective resolve, minimize differences, eschew narrow self interest, and ensure the triumph of reason over rhetoric.

Frederick PITCHER (Nauru)¹

I have just a brief statement to make on behalf of my country Nauru, a small island developing state in the central Pacific.

FAO has been and continues to be a key international development agency. FAO plays a particularly important role in reducing poverty and hunger and has rightfully taken its place as a lead agency in achieving Millennium Development Goal 1. Having said that I believe that the Organization needs to evolve. As with the United Nations, key reforms are needed to make the delivery of its services more effective and more responsive.

The case of Small Island Developing States, particularly those in the Pacific that are faced with immense economic and geographic constraints, points to a dire need for FAO and other development agencies to build and strengthen their field presence at the subregional level.

I am pleased to note that the FAO-SAPA office in the Pacific has grown steadily in terms of resources and staff to meet the needs of the sub-regions of the Pacific. Through this strong field presence and with the increasing devolution of project design and decision-making authority away from Rome headquarters, SAPA is leading the way in making FAO a more germane development partner. SAPA's innovative programmes have generated wide interest and support in Pacific SIDS and its creative project officers, one of whom this conference honoured last week with the prestigious B. R. Sen Award, are engendering projects that move beyond simply dealing with food security and endeavor to tackle the chronic poverty of opportunity prevalent in underdeveloped communities throughout the Pacific. Creating sustainable livelihoods is and should be the main modality in reducing poverty and hunger in the developing world.

FAO is poised to make itself a more relevant agency and the reforms being planned are, in my country's view, the appropriate means to achieve this. Unlike others who deem further analysis and caution is warranted, Nauru wishes these reforms to proceed sooner rather than later. The SAPA office should be viewed an example of what can and should be achieved in reforming the Organization.

The reforms should also stimulate greater collaboration and integration between and within agencies, as well as with Governments and targeted communities to improve delivery and responsiveness.

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

Programmes such as the 'Green Growth Initiative' recently launched in Seoul, South Korea, offer excellent opportunities for the sharing of ideas and resources and my delegation would encourage FAO to explore every opportunity for the enrichment of strategic partnerships in the fight against poverty and hunger.

Finally, let me join others in congratulating the Director-General on his recent re-election. He is faced with a momentous task. The year 2015 is fast approaching and in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 1, the Director-General will need to ensure that FAO is appropriately positioned to do its part.

Chairman

Before I adjourn this meeting, I would like to add that a "Round Table for Agriculture in Africa, the Near East and the Small Island Development Estates", will take place tomorrow from 9.30 to 12.30 in the Green Room and from 14.30 to 17.30 in the Iran Room.

The meeting rose at 18.55 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.55 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
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FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
22 November 2005

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 (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

I call this Plenary meeting to order. We will continue this morning with Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I give the floor the His Excellency the Head of the Delegation of Vietnam.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Viet Nam, Turkey, Dominica, Rwanda, Syrian Arab Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Lesotho, Myanmar, Albania, Guinea, Trinidad and Tobago, Congo, Ukraine, Uganda, Ghana, Bangladesh, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Brazil, Thailand, Croatia, Holy See, Austria, Oman

Kinh Tan DIEP (Viet Nam)

First of all, allow me on behalf of the government of Viet Nam to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the Chairmanship of the 33rd Session of the FAO Conference and to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to his post of Director-General.

The Vietnamese Delegation would also like to congratulate the Republic of Belarus on her full membership of FAO in this Conference.

In its 60 years of existence and development, FAO has been playing an important role as an international organization. In initiatives to address global food security and agricultural issues, the least developed countries and developing countries always receive active policy and technical support from FAO in increasing productivity and deficiency of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Agricultural development and food security are an important foundation for their national, political and social stability and the prerequisite for their socio-economic development.

We are of the view that given the great challenges ahead, FAO should continue its reform efforts to meet the requirements of the international community. Given the financial constraints and difficulties in dealing with diseases, national disasters and so on, the reform process of FAO should focus on the following priorities: further improvement of the institution's efficiency, reviewing budget allocation to the Headquarters human resources, setting up an appropriate decentralization policy and improvement of TCP projects, the ceiling, monitoring and evaluation.

The Vietnamese Delegation considers that the reform proposal made by the Director-General reflects the responsibility and the determination of the Organization to move forward towards the successful accomplishment of its mission. The Director-General should be entrusted with a full mandate to proceed with concrete reform measures. Under the leadership of Mr Jacques Diouf, we believe that the Organization will reach its overall goals and objectives.

Regarding the Programme of Work and the Budget for 2006 - 2007, we think that any scenario approved by the Conference should ensure the good implementation of the prioritized programmes and activities of the Organization. Concerning TCP projects, attention should be

given to the following areas: 1) fighting the Avian influenza epidemic; 2) an emergency response to natural disasters such as drought, flood, earthquake cases and Tsunami, including rapid supply of agricultural inputs to the affected areas; 3) strengthening cooperation in the field of biotechnology, biochemical diversity and bio-safety; 4) enhancing the South – South Cooperation Programmes within the framework of the Special Food Security Programme.

2005 is the 60th anniversary of FAO and it is also an important milestone marking 30 years of cooperation between Vietnam and the Organization. In the past 30 years, this cooperation has contributed significantly to food and agricultural production in Vietnam. With our constant efforts to implement the Doi moi policy in Vietnam, together with the valuable support from the international community including FAO, Vietnam has moved from a food-importing country to the second largest rice exporter in the world.

Vietnam has been acknowledged by the international community as effectively fulfilling its commitment to the UN Millennium Development Goals, particularly MDG 1 on poverty alleviation and the commitments made at the World Food Summit. Since 2004, Vietnam's agriculture has been faced with considerable difficulties owing to natural disasters - the most severe drought in the past 50 years, the highest flood levels in the past 10 years, and Avian influenza. Yet, the Vietnamese agricultural sector is determined to maintain annual growth rates of 3 – 3.5 percent and ensure food security, effectively fight Avian influenza, continue to improve rural livelihoods, and improve the environment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to FAO, and its member countries, other international organizations, the donor community also, for their support and assistance to the Vietnamese agricultural and rural development.

Mehmet Mehdi EKER (Turkey)

Turkey has been firmly committed to FAO and I would like to assure you of my continued commitment in this respect.

At the outset, allow me to take this opportunity to present my personal, and my government's, sincere congratulations for the re-election of Dr Jacques Diouf as Director-General of FAO. And I wish him all the success in such a challenging assignment to lead our organization to accomplish its noble mission and mandate.

The International community is still facing today one of the greatest challenges to fight jointly, against hunger and to improve the food security. The implementation and realization of the Millennium Development Goals, the decisions adopted at the World Food Summit on sustainable development, and many similar calls in other fora, are unfortunately far from a satisfactory level to address this problem. Therefore, we are all obliged to strengthen our collective efforts to realize long overdue measures in the fields of sustainable food security and food safety.

Today, problems facing us are many, and multifaceted, in our fight to eradicate hunger and improve food security. Conflicts, climate change, challenge of globalism, problems of international trade, natural disasters, also add to this grave problem.

To cite an example among these problems, I want to draw your attention to natural disasters. The Tsunami in Southeast Asia, recent hurricanes in the United States and Central America, drought and desert locusts in Africa, and the recent devastating earthquake in Pakistan, showed us that the natural disasters are becoming major sources of not only hunger, but grave agricultural problems.

Allow me to express my deep sorrow for the victims and extend our sympathies to those who lost their loved ones as a result of these natural disasters. Unfortunately, humankind is still not capable of overcoming them; however we can mitigate the impact of these disasters by means of cooperation and by taking appropriate measures before. Keeping in mind, that such disasters may occur in every country, at any time, and their long-term effect, we should collaborate not only when they occur, but also develop effective measures to address them.

Unfortunately, today there are still about 850 million undernourished people worldwide, most of whom live in rural areas of underdeveloped and developing countries. All these problems and challenges associate a comprehensive and holistic approach to address this human tragedy. We cannot show moral indifference to this violation of a basic human right which is to reach food and have enough to eat.

We welcome and strongly support FAO's effort in fighting against hunger through agricultural development as its main remedy. However, it is very sad to note that FAO has limited means and is not receiving enough support.

We believe that FAO should have necessary means and tools to address the hunger problem. The Director-General's new proposal of reform is a good step forward to enhance the capability and capacity of FAO.

One of the elements of the reform, which is decentralization, will further enhance the presence of the Organization in the field, next to where the actions are required. This will certainly improve the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness, however this reform process needs further elaboration in order to achieve the most practical and feasible structure to serve the needs of this century. Therefore, instead of quick decisions, we should rather make a comparative analysis of alternatives before reaching conclusions.

Distinguished delegates, I believe that each and every country in the world shares the responsibility of hunger, directly or indirectly. There are many ways of eliminating hunger. One of them is to reduce food waste in all countries, and particularly in developed countries. Another method is the involvement of civil society. We have many non-governmental organizations aiming to help the hungry, poor and undernourished people at national and international levels.

In Turkey, among the traditional methods to remedy poverty and hunger there is a tradition of Waqf. The Waqf is a private foundation, created by individuals from all walks of life, to meet the basic needs of the people. Individuals establish a foundation with some donated property or income with the specific purposes of meeting the needs of people.

Such a foundation would generally enjoy some legal and financial privileges granted by local and state authorities. Today, in our country we have centuries of foundations functioning along the principles set by their founders. I believe, as in the example of Waqf, our past can guide us to find solutions to today's problems.

Distinguished delegates, my country has achieved great progress over the issues of diversified and sufficient agriculture production and food safety. Within the framework of harmonization of legislation with the European Union, several laws and legislations on food safety and veterinary services have come to force. Sustainability of natural resources is our priority, while preparing agricultural policies and strategies.

In the context of our efforts in the field of food safety and veterinary services, I would like to draw your attention to an important issue concerning economic situations and human health worldwide. We managed to overcome the effects of recent case of Avian influenza, in a considerably short time, by using active quarantine and combat techniques. Our measures are still underway.

Our main targets should be to prevent further abuse of essential national resources, such as water and soil and to eliminate negative effects of global warming which is irreversible. It is our responsibility to hand down adequate amounts of oxygen, water and land for agriculture and living to our future generations. Last but not least, I would like to add a few words as regards the international trade and food sector, which is regarded as a strategic sector through political and economic point of view, rather than humanitarian concerns, has become an instrument of power struggle. For instance, agriculture sector is the most protected sector in international trade. Despite the fact that the technological level that we have achieved creates a potential much greater than today's actual figure. Countries regard food as a strategic commodity and jealously compete with each other to protect their food sector. We have a traditional principle saying that who sleeps

with full stomach while his neighbour is hungry is not one of us. This has been a basic philosophy of life in Turkish society for ages. It frames in a nut shell, hunger and undernourishment is unacceptable. Not only from the more moral standpoint but from the social standpoint as well. The sense of moral and social obligation and the social solidarity stemming from this principle have been so deep. I would like to take this opportunity to wish FAO well and assure the Director-General of Turkey's continued support to the Organization in achieving its notable objectives for increasing global food and nutritional security.

Colin McINTYRE (Dominica)

The Commonwealth of Dominica is a small island developing state with a vulnerable agriculturally-based economy, essentially dependent on regional and on international trade. Dominica is therefore also equally vulnerable to trade liberalization challenges and fall-out. Nature has blessed our country with an abundance of fresh water resources and a natural physical environment possessing a great diversity of plant genetic resources. However, Dominica is practically prone to natural as well as environmental disasters and has a limited capacity to respond to and recover from such disasters.

While small island developing states like ours are among those that contribute least to global climate change and sea level rise, we are among those that would suffer most from the adverse effects of such phenomena, and could become uninhabitable in the future if climate change patterns and trends continue. Thus, small island developing states like Dominica, which face the threat of land loss and erosion, due to climate change and rising sea levels, coupled with all the ill effects of globalization has thrust upon us, have their own particular requirements for sustainable development.

As economic development in Dominica continues apace, great stresses will be placed on the pristine but rather fragile environment that defines our nation as the nature isle of the Caribbean. Emphasis will have to be placed on safeguarding our genetic resources and a rich bio-diversity with which nature has endowed us while at the same time allowing for sustainable exploitation of these natural resources to provide for the ever-increasing needs of our people. There are areas in which international cooperation can assist in safeguarding our unique range of natural and agriculture resources to meet our needs.

Agriculture remains an important contributor and is a key determinant to the performance of the economy of Dominica. Agriculture today is challenged by issues of food safety, food and nutrition security, competitiveness, sustainability of the environment and the international trade agreements. In our quest to reposition agriculture, the support of the international donor community, as well as international organizations such as FAO, is of great importance. Indeed, Dominica continues to benefit from key programmes and initiatives of the FAO. This includes Telefood projects from which several of our farmers groups and organizations have been beneficiaries. The programme for food security, put a critical component on irrigation and crop intensification have been implemented on pilot scales.

We also continue to benefit from FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, which addresses issues related to food security, poverty and hunger reduction. As a country with a small but growing tourism sector, there is a need to satisfy the dietary needs of our own people and to provide for the ever-increasing needs of the tourist sector as well. This recurs that we use to the best advantage total land resource of our country, create more lucrative agricultural linkages and that we advance our research capabilities. To these ends, we will welcome external assistance.

The Commonwealth of Dominica therefore expects that new and additional resources will be allocated for research and development in food production, especially in the area of technological adaptation to make our land resource and production systems more productive on a sustainable basis. In this regard, assistance is urgently required in crops such as citrus, coffee, root crops and selected fruits and vegetables. This will have social as well as economic benefits since we are well aware of the ill effects of urbanization and the associated rural/urban drift.

Assistance is also being sought from the international community to strengthen our product development capabilities, with specific regards to small and medium level industries, so as to add value to agricultural product. Our aim is to forge and join partnerships between the private and the public to ensure sustainability of all our efforts. Specific areas include primary processing of agriculture commodities using new and appropriate technologies. Product development on marketing – we welcome assistance to improve the capabilities of the produced chemist laboratory within the Ministry of Agriculture to transform it into an agricultural development centre, providing training and technical assistance to agro-processors in Dominica.

In closing, I wish to turn the FAO and its member countries for the very valuable assistance provided to Dominica over many years. I must mention our profound appreciation for the assistance after the damage caused to the agricultural sector by the earthquake and flood in October of 2004. As we move forward to achieve the millennium development goals to reduce extreme poverty and hunger by half by 2015, the support of organizations like FAO is of paramount importance. It is my hope that member countries and FAO can all work collaboratively to attain these worthwhile and lofty goals.

Anastase MUREKEZI (Rwanda)

Permettez moi d'abord de féliciter Dr. Jacques Diouf pour sa brillante réélection en qualité de Directeur général de la FAO.

Le Rwanda, pays dirigé par Son Excellence le Président Paul Kagame, est habité par 8 millions d'habitants, avec une des densités parmi les plus fortes d'Afrique, soit environ 310 habitants au km².

Dans son contexte macro-économique, le Rwanda est un des pays les plus pauvres du monde avec un revenu annuel par habitant de 250 dollars américains. Plus de 60 pour cent de la population vit en dessous du seuil de pauvreté. L'agriculture qui contribue à 45 pour cent du PIB est la principale source de devises du Rwanda.

Le document de la Stratégie Nationale de Réduction de la Pauvreté au Rwanda s'inscrit dans le cadre de la vision de développement à long terme de notre pays (la Vision 2020). Ce document fournit un cadre de référence pour l'ensemble des acteurs engagés dans les programmes de développement.

La réforme du système foncier récemment adoptée par le gouvernement du Rwanda en collaboration avec tous ses partenaires, le développement des technologies et l'investissement pour une plus grande valeur ajoutée constituent la base de la sécurité alimentaire au Rwanda.

La FAO, dont le Rwanda est membre depuis 1963, a pour mandat d'améliorer la disponibilité des aliments et, par cet impact de contribuer à l'essor de l'économie et du commerce mondial. Je ne doute pas que notre Organisation, la FAO, sera capable de relever le défi de réduire de moitié la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde d'ici à 2015 tout en contribuant à la réalisation des autres Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

Nous soutenons donc les réformes proposées par le Directeur général de la FAO pour renforcer l'efficacité de l'Organisation dans l'assistance technique spécialisée et de haut niveau aux pays membres, spécialement dans les domaines de la gestion durable des terres et des eaux, la biotechnologie, la santé animale et la gestion de l'information sur la production et le marché des produits du secteur agricole, de l'élevage, de la pêche et de la pisciculture.

Nous souhaitons aussi que la FAO puisse jouer un rôle plus important dans les négociations internationales touchant à l'alimentation et à l'agriculture.

Enfin, avant de terminer et en ma qualité de Président en exercice de la Conférence des Ministres chargés des ressources animales dans les pays de l'Union Africaine, je voudrais lancer par cette tribune, un appel à la communauté internationale pour une plus grande mobilisation des ressources pour lutter contre la grippe aviaire, la peste bovine, la trypanosomiase et les autres maladies animales transfrontalières.

Adel SAFAR (Syrian Arab Republic)

I should like to express our pleasure, the pleasure of the people and Government of Syria when we see that Mr Diouf is re-elected as Director-General of FAO. FAO is focussing on important issues which, when translated into tangible activities, secure the access of all to food to secure the conservation of natural resources and also the priorities setting activities in the short and medium-term. It is also an auspicious opportunity to thank the Director-General for having invited us to attend this session. FAO has made outstanding efforts in order to promote living standards and to increase agricultural productivity in poverty alleviation and combating hunger through agriculture development, food security and the conservation of natural resources. This with the aim of securing the access of all to food in order to lead to healthy lives. One of the priorities of the organization is the achievement of rural and sustainable development. This is done through a long-term strategy in order to promote food security and the increase in agricultural productivity. This is done also in line with the requirements of the conservation of natural resources in order to meet the needs of the present generation and the future ones. This is done through an environmentally sound development which is technically, economically, and socially acceptable. Water resources are at the forefront of our interest and the Organization is the achievement of rural and sustainable development.

This is done through a long-term strategy, in order to promote food security and the increase in agricultural productivity. This is also done in line with the requirements of the conservation of natural resources in order to meet the needs of the present and the future generations. This done through an environmentally sound development which is technically, economically and socially acceptable.

Water resources are at the forefront of our interest and we attach a great deal of importance to water resources, particularly in the arid and the semi-arid areas.

Indicators show that the world population is increasing, and this applies to Syria. While we witness increasing trends in population growth, our natural resources are decreasing. This is particularly true when it comes to water resources, drinking water resources and fresh water resources. Thus, we need to manage water resources on a sustainable basis in order to secure the best conditions for the present and future generations in a fair and equitable manner.

The agricultural sector in the Syrian Arab Republic has been given a prominent status within our development strategies. We believe that this is so because we attach a great deal of importance to agriculture, since agriculture is the mainstay of our economy and it does secure one of the basic pillars for food security and the production of food commodities. Thus, Syria has made tremendous efforts in applying modern techniques in promoting productivity, in securing self-sufficiency, while achieving surplus as well.

We have adopted a number of approaches which secure a sustainable agricultural development, on a scientific basis, while we conserve our natural resources. However, because of the strong pressure on our natural resources, and bearing in mind the fact that water resources are the mainstay of any economic or social development, our Government, with the guidance of our President, Bashar Al Assad, we attached a prominent importance to the investment in water resources and the encouragement of our farmers to adopt modern techniques when farming, adopting modern techniques which secure the best use of water resources.

May I here refer to the outstanding relationship that we have with this Organization. FAO did, throughout these years, give us a great deal of support - technical support in promoting agriculture, in helping rural communities in achieving food security and enhancing our development activities. Despite all these achievements in the agricultural sector, more particularly in the sustainable use of natural resources - in particular water resources, soil resources and genetic resources - we still need further solidarity in securing the best sustainable use of water resources and also in alleviating poverty and securing food security.

Finally, may I express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Government of Italy for the support it has been giving to this Organization and I wish you every success in your endeavours.

Sra. Pelagia ABESO TOMO (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Tomo la palabra en esta sesión en calidad de viceministro de agricultura y bosques de mi país, Guinea Ecuatorial.

Comenzamos nuestra intervención con las felicitaciones al Director señor Jaques Diouf por su reelección como Director General de la FAO. Así mismo agradecemos a los funcionarios que tanto en la sede como aquellos que prestan sus servicios en todo el mundo, por el trabajo que realizan diariamente en la planificación y buena gestión de esta Organización. Deseamos que siga cumpliendo con los principios que proporcionaron su creación, como es el logro de una alimentación suficiente y sana para todo el mundo. Nuestras felicitaciones van dirigidas también al Presidente y a los miembros de la Mesa, por su elección para dirigir nuestros trabajos, a los cuales deseamos todo éxito por la conducción y conclusión de ellos. .

La delegación de Guinea Ecuatorial, expresa su total solidaridad con los puntos aprobados por esta sesión, dando el consenso para que esto proporcione un mejor progreso y un buen funcionamiento de los programas de esta Organización. Por esto, mi país procura estar siempre a la altura de las obligaciones que nos correspondan para así mantener la vida de esta Organización.

La situación alimentaria a nuestro juicio es muy desigual entre los países del norte que son ricos y equipados, con los del sur que son pobres y carentes de tecnologías adecuadas para entrar en el mundo de la globalización. Mientras los países del norte se habla de excedentes alimentarios, en los países del hemisferio meridional se deplora la insuficiencia alimentaria. En algunas regiones se padece de hambre y desnutrición crónica, donde a menudo se recurre a las ayudas alimentarias de emergencia. Esta situación, solicita la responsabilidad de cada uno de nosotros, en trabajar para que el excesivo desequilibrio vaya disminuyéndose. Tenemos que acercarnos cada vez más a nuestros principales objetivos de que todos los seres humanos tengan para comer y vivir cada día. Como bien sabemos no existe derecho humano superior al de la alimentación, todos los demás derechos no tienen sentido para aquellos que sienten hambre y ese es el reto de esta Organización y de nuestros respectivos países.

Afortunadamente en mi país, las condiciones agroclimáticas son favorables para el desarrollo de la actividad agropecuaria, lo cuál permite que el agricultor en subsistencia produzca alimentos para el autoconsumo, pero aquello no abastece la demanda nacional. Esta situación de insatisfacción global de nuestras necesidades alimentarias se debe a varios factores, en particular, la insuficiencia de la formación de nuestros agricultores y de los medios que se han dado a disposición de la agricultura. Esto es una consecuencia de la debilidad de nuestra investigación científica del sector, y a la utilización de técnicas de producción obsoletas y de poca rentabilidad, también el utilizo de herramientas inadecuadas, semillas con bajo potencial germinativo, especies animales de bajas aptitudes productivas y la mala utilización de los métodos de protección fitosanitaria de nuestros cultivos y animales de granja.

Con todo lo anteriormente expuesto se llega a la conclusión que tenemos un largo camino que recorrer para alcanzar la completa autosuficiencia alimentaria y que ya empezamos a recorrerlo.

Durante la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación organizada por la FAO en Roma en el año 1996, el gobierno de mi país que tengo el honor de representar, se adhirió al plan de acción propuesto por dicha Cumbre de erradicar el hambre y la pobreza antes del año 2015. En la materialización de este plan de acción, se preparó con el apoyo de la FAO, el Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria de Guinea Ecuatorial (PESA), que en la actualidad está en ejecución y en cuyo proceso se han obtenido importantes resultados tangibles. El gobierno ha construido recientemente una planta de conservación de alimentos que compra el producto de los agricultores para su posterior distribución y venta en los mercados nacionales.

En materia de cooperación, el gobierno de mi país suscribió un acuerdo tripartito con el gobierno Cubano y la FAO en el intercambio de tecnologías. Por esto, actualmente se encuentran en nuestro país algunos técnicos Cubanos en el sector agropecuario. Expresamos nuestra gratitud y simpatía a la FAO y al gobierno de Cuba por esta cooperación y por los resultados que se están obteniendo. Una reunión de revisión de dicho Acuerdo Tripartito se ha llevado a cabo

recientemente en mi país el pasado 17 de Noviembre y como conclusión general de dicha revisión, resalta el consenso de las partes que la cooperación Sur-Sur es indeterminada y el gobierno está dispuesto a hacer todos los esfuerzos necesarios para que esta se mantenga.

La estrategia adoptada para la materialización y el éxito de la cooperación, ha sido la creación de una red de comercialización de los productos agropecuarios que cuentan con un centro de almacenamiento, centro de provisión y de comercialización, como medida de motivación y promoción a los esfuerzos de los campesinos. La población pesquera de las zonas marginales y de difícil acceso también se ha beneficiado de este Programa mediante la instalación de ahumaderos colectivos para la conservación del pescado.

Pensamos que con una buena conducción de este Programa y con la ayuda y el apoyo permanente de la FAO y del gobierno de Cuba, podremos lograr nuestros objetivos, es decir, una disponibilidad, estabilidad, accesibilidad e inocuidad de los alimentos, hacia una seguridad alimentaria sostenible que permita a todo ciudadano de Guinea Ecuatorial de comer con satisfacción de aquí al año 2015.

Deseamos pleno éxito a esta Conferencia y a la Organización que lucha por el mejor asentamiento de la Humanidad. A todos les agradezco sinceramente.

Dominique BUSSEREAU (France)

Je voudrais d'abord vous demander de bien vouloir transmettre au Directeur général les félicitations de la France pour son élection, qui témoigne de la confiance que les pays de notre Organisation place à son égard et également qui constitue un gage de reconnaissance de son rôle à la tête de la FAO.

Aujourd'hui, alors que plus de 850 millions d'êtres humains débutent chaque journée sans savoir s'ils pourront se nourrir, nous sommes devant l'obligation de faire ce constat insupportable que le mur de la faim est toujours debout. Même si notre action commune a contribué à diminuer le poids de ce fardeau, notamment depuis la création de la FAO il y a 60 ans, et grâce à son action, à laquelle je rends hommage, il faut redoubler nos efforts pour lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté. Il faut rendre hommage à la FAO et à son Directeur général, qui ne ménagent pas leur peine pour appeler sans relâche l'attention de la communauté internationale sur ce fléau. Au plan international, la plupart des experts considèrent que les ressources alimentaires sont globalement suffisantes mais que les principales causes de sous-alimentation sont liées à la très grande pauvreté, aux conflits et aux pandémies. Il est donc très urgent de relever le défi de réduction par deux du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim avant l'année 2015.

Dans cette perspective, cette Organisation est le principal outil d'intervention de la communauté internationale, et son rôle doit être soutenu et son rôle doit être renforcé. La France sera à vos côtés pour vous aider dans cette tâche.

L'accès à l'eau, l'exploitation des ressources naturelles renouvelables, notamment la forêt et les produits de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, l'augmentation de la productivité agricole et la lutte contre les maladies des animaux et des végétaux sont des thèmes majeurs au cœur de votre action. Au-delà de sa fonction normative, pour laquelle chacun reconnaît désormais la place prééminente de la FAO, l'Organisation dispose d'un formidable capital de savoir et d'expertise, fruit de son histoire, de son expérience inestimable et de la qualité des femmes et des hommes qui y travaillent. Nous pensons donc que la FAO doit conforter sa place sur la scène internationale comme centre de référence en matière d'information et d'expertise agricole. Cette expertise unique doit être mise au service de tous: les autres organisations internationales ou intergouvernementales, les administrations des pays, les collectivités locales, les entreprises et la société civile dans son ensemble. Au-delà des aspects techniques et scientifiques, c'est à la FAO que revient le rôle d'appuyer les pays qui le demandent dans la conception de stratégies et de politiques agricoles sectorielles. Nous devons collectivement veiller à ce que la dimension agricole et rurale de l'aide publique au développement ne soit pas oubliée dans les financements bilatéraux et multilatéraux. A cet égard, votre action se doit d'être coordonnée du mieux possible, en premier lieu avec celle des autres institutions du système des Nations Unies, en particulier le

PAM, le FIDA, l'OMS et le PNUD, comme l'a rappelé à plusieurs reprises notre Président de la République, M. Jacques Chirac.

La lutte contre la grippe aviaire, qui est un enjeu planétaire, constitue un excellent exemple de bonne coordination; il convient ici de rendre hommage au rôle de la FAO en la matière. Cet outil précieux que constitue la FAO doit être aussi modernisé et adapté aux nouvelles contraintes du monde qui l'entourent. Pour franchir cette étape déterminante, vous avez notre confiance et notre soutien, nous souhaitons qu'elle soit mise en œuvre en concertation avec tous les Pays membres, en s'appuyant sur la mobilisation de tout les personnels dont nous connaissons la compétence et le dévouement. Il nous paraît judicieux de nous appuyer sur le résultat des évaluations et des audits pour engager définitivement les réformes qui permettront à la FAO d'augmenter son efficacité et ce, afin d'atteindre les objectifs du millénaire.

Un meilleur partage des ressources passe aussi par un commerce plus équitable des produits agricoles, et les travaux qui vont se dérouler à Hong-Kong dans quelques semaines pèseront lourds sur les équilibres alimentaires des populations qui souffrent. La France sera particulièrement vigilante pour que le développement soit bien la vraie et la seule priorité de cette négociation commerciale multilatérale. A cet égard, nous sommes déterminés à faire prévaloir la reconnaissance d'un traitement spécial et différencié au bénéfice des pays les plus pauvres, plus particulièrement, nous souhaitons que l'initiative européenne "Tout sauf les armes" pour tous les pays les moins avancés soit reprise par tous les membres de l'OMC qui le pourront, et bien entendu au minimum par l'ensemble des pays développés, comme cela était prévu par la déclaration de Doha de décembre 2002. La France entend aussi concourir à l'indispensable réflexion sur les moyens de protéger les producteurs pauvres des conséquences de la volatilité des marchés de matières premières.

En conclusion, la France, qui est un des pays fondateurs de la FAO, réaffirme par ma voix sa confiance dans cette Organisation, comme le principal acteur de la lutte contre la faim. A Rome, il y a quelque temps, ici même pour le 60^{ème} anniversaire, j'avais eu l'honneur de représenter notre Président de la République, M. Jacques Chirac. Pour cette Conférence, nous aurons été deux Ministres français à vos côtés pour témoigner de notre attachement à l'œuvre de la FAO, œuvre à laquelle notre pays souhaite être associé au travers de missions ou de fonctions de responsabilité.

L'agriculture n'est pas une activité banale, elle contribue à la vie ou à la survie des populations et elle est le socle du développement économique. Elle touche à la fois aux équilibres biologiques, aux traditions culturelles de nos pays. La FAO, par son action normative, par son expérience et par son action stratégique est essentielle dans la lutte contre la faim et elle l'est tout autant pour le développement des pays dans lesquels elle intervient. Elle peut donc compter sur l'engagement de la France à ses côtés.

Daniel Rakoro PHORORO (Lesotho)

We are holding our 33rd Conference against a background of two significant events.

First, the 60th Anniversary of FAO existence and secondly, the election of our Director-General for the third term in office. My delegation joined the other delegations in extending our congratulations and support to Dr Jacques Diouf. His election is a testimony of our confidence in his diligent manner in which he has managed FAO business and its programmes. What do these two events mean to us?

First, let me briefly address FAO 60th Anniversary. The 60th Anniversary, should remind us of our failure to uphold the vision of the perceptive founding fathers in their resolve to free the world from want of food. We have failed these founding fathers by not working the professional task of eliminating hunger and poverty. Our failure is demonstrated by the escalating food insecurity, hunger and poverty over the past 60 years. Our resolve to honour the legacy left by the FAO founding fathers, has been feeble, shown by the fact that flow of resources has either been sluggish, or not forthcoming, to realize the lofty ideals embraced in the global and regional agendas of Millennium Development Goals and NEPADS Comprehensive African Agricultural

Development Programme . All international poverty reduction strategies and national food security policies.

Now I turn to the second significant issue and that is the election of Dr Jacques Diouf. We have done so against the gloomy financial picture that I have just painted and we, in this 33rd conference, expect the Director-General to perform miracles in a financial vacuum. Least prepared to walk the talk of erasing hunger are the very member countries of this organization who are perpetually in arrears with our contributions. That is a cause for introspection and reflection, for charity should begin at home. Notwithstanding these financial impediments, and on the positive side of the equation, the Director-General has pioneered a precise reform process in tender to render FAOs delivery of services to have an impact at country level, through empowerment of subregional offices. However, decentralization should be conscious, not to be self-defeating, by creating, unwieldy, many bureaucracies at subregional level.

Likewise, capacity building should not ignore the importance of capacity utilization. With this regard, in-country capacity exists, aid development agents care to search for it, identify and build into development stream, instead of being preoccupied with stereotypic capacity building. While my delegation, fully endorses and supports the restructuring initiative through decentralization, we are in concern in the likely root of undermining the reform process from lack of adequate resources expected from internal and external sources. With regard to the internal sources, the member countries arrears, in the magnitude of 30 million US dollars, would fund about 100 TCP projects. On the other hand, incremental budget allocations of agriculture up to 10 percent of national budgets, which is NEPADS requirement, would make a big impact in fighting hunger, especially if the wealthy nations and international financial institutions provide matching funds.

Lesotho is one of the poorest member countries of FAO has always honoured the obligation with respect to paying our contributions. We are managing to do so, even as we are faced with multiple challenges, this includes 30 percent HIV/AIDS prevalence, food insecurity due to returning draughts, though abandoned water resources exist. Low years and declining servatality and this productivity progressively damaged by widespread and inappropriate use of tractors and degraded rangeland resources, resulting in low list of productivity. In order to make this challenge, the Lesotho Ministry of Agriculture and food security is adopting a two-pronged strategy.

The strategy focuses on household food production as a priority and a study in HIV/AIDS and improved homestead food production for better nutrition from vegetables and from short cycle animal products.

In this regard, we thank FAO for the special programme for Food Security and other donors support interventions.

The Second component is commercialized production to medium scale irrigation in order to make the full use of the available water resources and also conservation agriculture to restore the productivity of our degraded soils. For implementation of this strategy, partnerships are vigorously forced out and use our key cooperating partners in household food security production, while entrepreneurs in irrigation, tractor contractors in conservation agriculture and raising associations in the rain fed producing are key partners.

Allow me a minute to match the red light you free carrying for me to step down with my own three flashing red lights:

First, isn't it scandalous that the developing nations should be wallowing in poverty when there is so much wealth in the country, but failing to raise incomes of the under-privileged above 2 dollars per day?

Secondly, isn't it scandalous that we have to wait for the magic 2015 before hunger can be halved, when technologies, experience and accomplished expertise are not wanting?

Thirdly, if we are sincere about actualizing our lofty ideals, the wealthy must genuinely share their wealth in the agricultural sector. Channelled through organizations such as FAO and IFAD. Agriculture is basic in leveling the playing field of global economic growth. Not least imperative

is the humanitarianism expressed more in empowering the hungry to produce their own food, than staffing them with food aid, other than the vulnerable in times of disaster.

U Htay OO (Myanmar)

On behalf of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure and honour to briefly present, to the 33rd FAO Conference, a short statement on Myanmar's food, agriculture and rural development efforts.

First, I wish to convey the felicitations of the Head of State of the Union of Myanmar to FAO, on the completion of sixty years of its remarkable existence. FAO's committed efforts to address the burning issue of hunger and malnutrition, in accordance with the pledges made by the world leaders at the World Food Summit, have shaped a better future for the 850 million people around the world who remain hungry.

The task of achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by 2015, while ensuring environmental sustainability, is a mammoth one. However, despite the realization that food sufficiency and poverty are largely concentrated in the agriculture and rural sectors, ODA to these sectors had been declining.

At a time when broad discussions on the UN reforms are under way, the Myanmar delegation, on its part, welcomes the Director-General's reform proposals of FAO to become a more effective and efficient organization and to enhance its role as a knowledge, learning and capacity building organization. It is our wish that the proposed reforms will entrust and empower the Regional Representatives, the Sub-Regional Coordinators and the FAO Country Representatives, to provide pertinent and timely inputs to meeting requests from member countries and in harmony with the other UN system partners.

May I now, in brief, outline the state of food and agriculture in my country. The average annual agriculture sector growth of 9% was achieved during the first four years of the current third, five-year plan.

The area under paddy cultivation, the principle staple food, increased from 4.78 million hectares in 1988 to 7 billion hectares in 2005, with an increase of 148%, and its production attained 25 million metric tons, with the increase of 192%, during the same period. Fish and livestock production also registered significant achievements, with an increase of over 6 million metric tons. Then Land utilization and irrigation had made tangible advances to achieving net sown area, increase of over 2.16 million hectares and irrigated area increase of 1.3 million hectares during the period between 1988 to 2005. Since 1988, altogether 179 irrigation projects have been added and are operating, bringing irrigation coverage to about 2.16 million hectares.

Irrigation has increased cropping intensity up to 153%, has raised crop yields, significantly and has benefited farmers. High priority given to investments in this sector, despite the high energy bills and financial constraints, has clearly indicated the Governments strong determination towards food security for all.

The Myanmar Government has spared no efforts in its endeavour for the improvement in the living conditions of the rural populace including those in the border areas. It has implemented integrated rural development programmes to meet the basic needs, not only in terms of food, clothing and shelter, but also education, health care and infrastructure all over the country.

For lasting improvement in the standard of living of the under-privileged, particularly those residing in the rural areas of the developing countries, sustainable rise in agriculture sector's output is a necessity. Both political will and financial resources have to be raised to ensure the achievement of MDGs that we all have fully and whole-heartedly committed.

FAO has achieved much in the past sixty years in fighting against all hunger and poverty. With our sustained and united efforts, we believe FAO can spur greater accomplishments in the future.

Jemin GJANA (Albania)

I would like to address my best wishes and success to His Excellency Jacques Diouf, to his re-election as Director-General, appreciating his commitment and personal engagement to fulfil the challenges of FAO in the new century, to achieve a rapid eradication of hunger and reduction of poverty in the world.

I would like to present the objectives of the commitment of the programme of the new Government of Albania after the election on July 2005.

Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Albanian economy, accounting for about a quarter of the GDP in 2004, employing more than half of the labour force and making the living of about 80% of rural poor, mainly in small subsistence farming.

In these conditions, the sustainable development of agriculture sector is considered by the Albanian Government as a very important factor for ensuring food security, reducing the poverty level and improving the rural livelihoods.

In this context, I would like to take the opportunity, to express my gratitude to FAO, and all other donors, for their assistance provided during those years. In addition, I would like to appreciate the contribution and the engagement of the FAO in the fight against the hunger and the poverty in the whole world.

We are conscious that the achievement of these objectives is very challenging and it is a priority for today, and for the future, of all members of our Organization, nobody can neglect it.

In light of these global objectives, the Albanian Government remains strongly committed to reducing poverty, ensuring sustainable agricultural development and improving rural livelihoods. In order to achieve these objectives, we are focusing on developing policies for integrated interventions including introduction of new approaches and technologies, increasing agricultural productivity, improving marketing and enhancing agriculture competitiveness in local and foreign markets and fostering diversification of rural activities.

Food safety is a priority of our agri-food sector. The main target is to secure an effective protection of consumers' health by providing controlled and quality food in compliance with the international standards. This urges us to: speed up the process for approximation of the legal framework with EU; strengthen the veterinary and phytosanitary service; foster introduction of modern agro-processing technologies and develop technical support and extension services. In order to do this, we would like to further strengthen the mutual and international collaboration with FAO, European Union, the World Health Organization and Commission of Codex Alimentarius etc. et

In addition, due to the latest events related with food security, as poultry flu, we think that it is necessary to establish a regional system of exchange of rapid information, expertise and experience. FAO has the capacity to provide such support to its member countries.

I am convinced that for monitoring of the challenges that Albanian agriculture faces, we will have the full support of FAO for a fruitful cooperation in order to realize our ambitious objectives, set in the programme of Albanian Government, in the field of Agriculture and food sector.

Also I would like to appeal to all member countries participating in this Conference to support and assisting us with projects and programmes of integrated rural development, for investment in the marketing of agriculture products, food security and consumer protection, training of experts and the exchange of experience and information.

I am convinced the proceedings of this Conference will strengthen the cooperation between the member countries for an active sharing of experience and support in agriculture and food sector, developing concrete initiatives to fulfill the commitments and objectives of World Food Summit of the goals of Millennium Summit.

Jean Paul SARR (Guinée)

Permettez moi tout d'abord de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour le choix porté sur votre personne pour diriger les travaux de notre Conférence.

Je suis convaincu qu'avec votre expérience, nos débats seront conduits avec tout le talent qu'on vous connaît.

Je voudrais aussi adresser à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, le Directeur général de notre Organisation, mes félicitations fraternelles et amicales pour sa brillante réélection pour un nouveau mandat à la tête de la FAO.

Pour ma délégation, il n'y avait aucun doute sur l'issue du scrutin étant donné la compétence, le sens du dialogue, le souci de servir les objectifs majeurs de notre Organisation, à savoir lutter contre la faim et la pauvreté, avec lesquels Monsieur Jacques Diouf s'est toujours acquitté de sa mission.

Comme par le passé, il bénéficiera du soutien du gouvernement guinéen, et en particulier de son Président, le Général Lansana Conte, qui m'a chargé de lui transmettre, ainsi qu'à vous tous, ses chaleureuses salutations et ses vœux de succès à nos travaux.

A la FAO, à son Directeur général, à tous ses membres qui font vivre l'Organisation, j'ai été chargé d'exprimer la profonde gratitude du peuple et du gouvernement guinéen pour l'assistance précieuse qu'ils apportent à la Guinée.

Pour la République de Guinée, c'est en effet l'occasion de louer les efforts importants que déploie la FAO pour aider la Guinée dans les domaines de la recherche, de la formation et d'un développement rural durable permettant d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations.

Vous me permettrez de citer quelques unes des actions majeures que nous conduisons avec l'appui de notre organisation:

- l'élaboration de la Lettre de Politique de Développement Agricole (LPDA) en 1991, réactualisée en 1998 et en cours de reformulation sous l'appellation de la nouvelle politique;
- l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de la phase pilote du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire (PSSA) qui a connu un grand succès dans la mesure où les populations concernées se sont appropriées des démarches que ce projet pilote leur a enseigné;
- l'initiation d'un nombre important de TCP et de projets Telefood;
- la formulation et la législation sur les semences et les ressources phytogénétiques;
- l'appui à la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin;
- le développement de l'horticulture urbaine et périurbaine ;
- l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'un projet pilote de pisciculture en milieu rural.

L'énumération de ces quelques appuis de la FAO, parmi tant d'autres, démontre à suffisance le rôle combien important que joue cette institution au profit de notre pays.

En Guinée, tout comme dans les autres pays d'Afrique, l'agriculture joue un rôle de premier ordre et constitue la composante déterminante de la croissance économique globale; elle est un maillon essentiel pour la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire de nos populations.

Le concept de sécurité alimentaire découle du droit inaliénable pour tous d'être libérés de la faim et de la malnutrition. Il constitue par conséquent un outil essentiel pour l'élaboration des politiques et des stratégies permettant de garantir la disponibilité de denrées alimentaires saines, la stabilité des approvisionnements et l'accès pour tous. Ce principe avait été réaffirmé lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, et une série de mesures a été prise durant les dernières décennies pour le traduire dans les faits.

Pour la concrétisation de ces mesures au plan national, le gouvernement guinéen a institutionnalisé l'Alliance nationale contre la faim, adopté et mis en œuvre une stratégie de

sécurité alimentaire ainsi que son plan d'action, qui tiennent compte des spécificités du pays en vue d'atteindre des résultats efficaces et durables.

Le Département de l'agriculture pour sa part, s'est engagé dans:

- la poursuite de la mise en œuvre aux politiques favorables, participatives, adaptées à l'évolution de nouvelles données;
- l'encouragement du développement durable;
- l'intéressement des paysans et leur participation active, équitable à la prise des décisions et à la mise en œuvre des actions permettant l'atteinte de la sécurité alimentaire.

Il importe certes de prendre des mesures pertinentes et réalistes, mais au-delà, il est nécessaire que leur mise en œuvre se réalise avec volonté, vigueur et foi si nous voulons atteindre les objectifs escomptés.

Les potentialités agricoles de la Guinée sont énormes (6200.000 ha de terres cultivables, 75 pour cent de la population sont occupés par l'agriculture, un nombre important de cours d'eau, des conditions édapho-climatiques favorables). Elles demandent cependant à être exploitées avec professionnalisme pour produire suffisamment de denrées alimentaires, en vue de satisfaire la consommation nationale et envisager l'exportation dans la sous-région et au niveau international.

En plus de ces mesures spécifiques, la Guinée a souscrit au NEPAD et œuvre inlassablement au côté des autres pays africains pour sa mise en œuvre.

La Guinée a subi ces dernières années et continue de supporter la pression de centaines de milliers de réfugiés des pays voisins qui n'ont pas encore regagné leurs pays respectifs.

Elle a également subi une invasion de criquets pèlerins au cours de la campagne agricole écoulée, avec des dégâts importants sur les cultures fruitières, maraîchères et sur les pâturages.

Ce sont là autant de facteurs qui agissent négativement sur la réalisation de nos objectifs de développement.

Ma délégation voudrait saluer un certain nombre d'innovations qui apparaissent dans le programme de travail et budget qui nous est proposé, ainsi que les propositions de réforme qui nous sont soumises par le Directeur général.

Il s'agit dans le Programme de travail et budget de la proposition tendant à relever le plafond des ressources du Programme de coopération technique et à lui donner l'opportunité de s'exécuter sur une période plus longue.

Nous appuyons fermement cette proposition, car au-delà du fait que le Programme de coopération technique s'est révélé un instrument efficace pour la résolution rapide de problèmes spécifiques, il va maintenant être aussi un instrument efficace de renforcement de capacités et donner l'opportunité de servir comme fonds de préparation de ce projet.

Pour ce qui est du programme de réformes, entre autres orientations positives, la volonté de rapprocher davantage l'organisation des pays et populations bénéficiaires est pour nous, un gage de plus grande efficacité, sans compter que le recours plus important à des consultants donnera plus de flexibilité à l'action de la FAO, en lui donnant la possibilité d'utiliser les spécialistes pointus et de très haut niveau, qui ne peuvent être disponibles que pendant de très courtes périodes.

Je ne saurais terminer mon intervention, sans remercier la FAO et en particulier son Directeur général pour les appuis considérables appropriés, apportés à mon pays et par la même occasion lancer un appel pour la poursuite des actions entreprises tant au plan national qu'international.

Ces actions au niveau de la Guinée devront prendre toujours en compte l'élargissement du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire fondé sur les intérêts des nombreuses organisations paysannes: groupements, unions, fédérations qui naissent sans cesse, et qui sont les structures

d'ancrage de notre politique de développement socio-économique et de notre politique de décentralisation.

Pour que notre Organisation continue à rendre les services qu'on attend d'elle, je voudrais exprimer le souhait que nos travaux aboutissent à un consensus permettant à l'Organisation de bénéficier des ressources nécessaires à son action, en se départissant du concept de croissance nominale zéro du budget que nous traînons depuis près d'une décennie et en appuyant les propositions de réforme qui nous sont soumises.

Jarrette NARINE (Trinidad and Tobago)

Thank you very much Mr Chairman, and my congratulations on the way in which you have conducted these Sessions. Congratulations to the FAO on its 60th anniversary. Congratulations to the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, on his re-election, from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide some comments on the issue of the State of Food and Agriculture. My thoughts and the focus of these comments are influenced by the position of Trinidad & Tobago and the other Caribbean nations as Small Island Developing States.

We should recognize that the situation on the ground, the national context within which the State of Food and Agriculture is assessed is varied and complex. In the groups of developing countries, we find that:

- 1) Economic profiles differ across countries. In effect there are wide disparities in per capita GDP, income distribution, urbanization and levels of economic developments, which relates to the importance of agriculture in the socio-economy.
- 2) The characteristics of the agricultural sector differ across countries. For instance, there is wide variation in the extent of dependence on domestic production as against imports in the use of technology in production and marketing, land resources, the capacity to produce competitively in the global environment.
- 3) Consumption patterns differ across countries. In some countries, there is high dependence on production, while in others there is a high dependence on trade. Differences also exist in the capacity to import food.

In some, the analysis of the policy prescriptions for dealing with food insecurity require careful consideration of the conditions within, the challenges and opportunities facing individual countries, and even among regions within countries. For instance, the Caribbean island states do not have high dependence on domestic harvests for food insecurity. In consequence, action in the Caribbean context would differ significantly from, say, the context of Sub-Saharan Africa.

On the issue of under-nourishment, Caribbean countries as Small Island Developing States are particularly concerned with changes in international food markets. Our small land area and relatively high input costs makes it difficult to competitively produce many of the staple commodities, for example, cereals and many meats. Therefore, we are very concerned about changes that affect international food prices or trade flow patterns.

Changes in food prices have a disproportionate effect on the poor, who spend relatively more of their income on food. We are concerned with those vulnerable to the spread of animal diseases such as the Avian influenza, which can lead to higher prices, disruption and trade flow and affect national levels of availability of food and household access.

We are concerned also with trade policies that make unnecessarily difficult in progression from commodity exports to production of export of processed products. We, therefore, see the need for greater intensity in our efforts to negotiate reduction in tariff escalation and to encourage use of domestic production in processed products.

We are very concerned about changes in consumption patterns within our countries that are biased against indigenous products and in favour of commodities that cannot be profitably produced

under tropical conditions. Action on our part will require strong positions in trade negotiations, in respect of reducing trade distorting policies. Also important is action on our part in respect of innovative ways of encouraging consumption of indigenous foods.

Important issues towards this strategy surely must include: ensuring that food safety standards are supportive of the production and consumption of indigenous foods, and increasing world consumption of processed products from developing countries.

On the issue of reducing poverty and under-nourishment, fundamental aspects of corrective action must be involved, assisting countries to higher levels of economic development and lower levels of dependence of the harvest of a single year.

I thank you for this opportunity to highlight some points that deserve the attention of this gathering and some of the knowledge and financial resource of this great institution, The Food and Agriculture Organization.

Finally, Trinidad and Tobago is convinced that together with an unfettered trading environment for all of our Caribbean states, the reform proposals recommended by the Director-General will contribute significantly to the improvement of the agriculture and food sector in our small island developing economies and states.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (Congo)

Je voudrais, au nom de son Excellence Monsieur Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Président de la République du Congo, Chef de l'Etat, et en mon nom propre, présenter mes vives félicitations à Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. Ce choix traduit, il convient de le souligner, une juste reconnaissance des Etats Membres face aux efforts que ne cesse de déployer Monsieur le Directeur général en vue de la réalisation de l'objectif global de notre institution commune exprimé dans le préambule de l'Acte Constitutif de celle-ci, à savoir contribuer à l'expansion de l'économie mondiale et libérer l'humanité de la faim.

Le premier des huit Objectifs de développement pour le Millénaire consiste à réduire de moitié, à l'horizon 2015, l'extrême pauvreté et la faim, qui, à ce jour, frappe 852 millions de personnes. Une décennie nous sépare de cette échéance tandis que la sous-alimentation continue de prendre de l'envol à travers le monde, ce qui interpelle aussi bien l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture que les Etats Membres. Au moment où notre Organisation connaît une augmentation de ses Membres, la République du Congo soutient d'une part les réformes préconisées par le Directeur général et, d'autre part, le redéploiement du personnel sur le terrain afin que l'action de la FAO soit plus efficace et que son rôle de conseiller des Etats Membres plus pertinent, réaliste et direct. En outre, les bureaux des pays devront être renforcés par un accroissement de leur capacité à travers la formation de consultants nationaux, ce qui permettra de prendre en compte les priorités des Etats pour leur meilleure intégration dans leur politique. C'est à ce titre que nous soutenons une croissance réelle significative du budget, qui permettra à notre Organisation de remplir son mandat. Concernant les priorités de l'Organisation, le Congo appuie celles qui ont toujours été reconnues par la FAO, la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux, le Codex Alimentarius, la Convention de Rotterdam sur les pesticides, la pêche responsable, la lutte contre les ravageurs et toutes les maladies qui contribue à la baisse des résultats, ainsi que tous les nouveaux défis auxquels le monde est confronté tels que la grippe aviaire, la recrudescence de la peste porcine et bovine, etc. Nous tenons également les politiques d'irrigation, de conservation de la biodiversité et de l'environnement.

La situation de l'agriculture au Congo n'est pas sans relation avec le précieux travail qu'abat la FAO en vue d'aider à construire un monde à l'abri de la faim. C'est ainsi que le gouvernement de la République a décidé de formuler et de mettre en œuvre des stratégies de développement agricole couvrant la période décennale 2004-2013 devant aboutir à la relance de la production agricole, à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et à la réduction de la pauvreté. Force est de noter que le processus tendant à redonner au secteur agricole toute sa place dans l'économie nationale, réduire la pauvreté et atteindre la sécurité alimentaire connaît l'assistance multiforme des partenaires au développement, parmi lesquels la FAO, le FIDA, le PAM, le BIT, la BAD et la

Banque mondiale. Les actions y afférant concernent entre autres: le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire, fruit de la coopération du sud-sud avec le Vietnam, la FAO et le Congo, la production et la protection intégrée du manioc, base de l'alimentation de nos populations, en vue de la maîtrise des maladies et des ravageurs de cette culture; le projet de développement rural avec le FIDA, dans des départements de la cuvette, des plateaux de la cuvette ouest, qui permettra d'augmenter de façon durable les revenus et la sécurité alimentaire des populations cibles; le projet Métayage bovin afin d'assurer la multiplication des reproducteurs dans l'optique de la relance du métayage en milieu paysan, etc.

La relance de l'agriculture congolaise constitue un véritable chantier qui exige des ressources financières et matérielles stables sûres et suffisantes. C'est à ce titre et en raison de la priorité accordée au secteur agricole que le gouvernement a procédé à la création d'un fonds de soutien à l'agriculture, alimenté dès l'année 2006 par l'affectation de 10 pour cent du budget d'investissement, donnant ainsi la preuve qu'il est question d'aller au-delà des mots.

Ma délégation voudrait souligner l'importance de l'appui que la FAO apporte à l'Union africaine et ses Etats membres dans la mise en œuvre des programmes agricoles et de sécurité alimentaire en Afrique. Dans ce contexte, nous demandons à la FAO de coopérer avec l'Union africaine, le NEPAD et les pays africains à leur demande dans l'organisation des réunions. L'adage qui dit "Un homme, une mission, des moyens" paraît plus qu'actuel. Le vote plébiscite que les Etats vient d'accorder au nouveau Directeur général doit s'accompagner d'une réelle volonté de l'aider par la mobilisation de moyens plus subséquents et une solidarité plus forte du Nord vis-à-vis des pays du Sud. La faim, on ne saurait le dire assez, est la honte pour notre siècle qui dispose de ressources immenses souvent affectées à des enjeux moins utiles à l'humanité. Relevons ensemble les défis du Millénaire, éradiquons la famine afin de permettre à ces milliers d'enfants, victimes innocentes du déficit alimentaire insupportable, d'échapper à des déséquilibres de croissance, et enfin de contribuer eux aussi au développement harmonieux de l'humanité. C'est ici l'occasion pour mon pays de féliciter et d'encourager toutes les individualités, les associations qui ont initié, mené et réalisé des actions multiformes tendant à soutenir vigoureusement la lutte contre la faim et redonner la dignité à la personne humaine.

Avant de terminer mon propos, qu'il me soit permis de réitérer au nom de son Excellence, Monsieur Denis Sassou-N'guesso, Président de la République, et en mon nom propre, notre soutien à l'action du Directeur général de la FAO, de présenter nos sincères remerciements à tous les pays qui ne cessent d'apporter leur soutien multiforme à notre pays, plein succès aux travaux de 33^{ème} session de notre Conférence.

Oleksandr BARANIVSKYI (Ukraine)

First of all, let me congratulate Dr Diouf, on his re-election to the post of Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Marking its 60th anniversary, the FAO and the UN in general, is undergoing a test of reform. We support the need for reform aimed at strengthening the Organization and enabling it better respond to current challenges in Members' expectations. In this regard, we stress the importance of the Independent External Evaluation of the FAO, launched by the FAO Council a year ago. We believe that ongoing deliberations on this issue will result in an outcome which will be in the best interests of the membership of the Organization.

The World Summit 2005 held last September in New York reaffirmed the collective will of our leaders to reinforce our efforts in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. For most of these is the eradication of poverty and hunger. As a Member of the FAO, Ukraine is ready to contribute actively to this end. Cooperation with FAO in the field of agriculture is amongst the priority areas for the Ukrainian Government. That is the reason for the decision to put forward the candidature of Ukraine for the FAO Council for the term 2007 to 2009, during the elections to be held at this session of the Conference.

During the last few years, we have witnessed significant economic growth in our country, particularly because of growth in agricultural production and foodstuff processing. As was noted

in the World Review of Food and Agriculture, prepared by the FAO, and including European countries with transition economies, production volumes for agriculture and food in the Ukraine have increased by 17.5 percent. Thus, according to this indicator, Ukraine takes third place in the afore mentioned group of countries.

The food industry is one of the most important areas of agriculture and the national economy, in general. The share of food and agriculture produce as a total of marketed produce in Ukraine for the year 2004 was 15.1 percent. Based on this indicator, this branch takes second place after metallurgy and metal works. Amongst other branches of the Ukrainian economy, it thus provides a stable and guaranteed source of income. Food stuffs can price over 60 percent of a personal consumption of material benefits amongst the population. The food industry is capable of supplying the domestic consumer market with foodstuffs. It has a significant export potential and a positive balance in foreign trade. Industrial production of foodstuffs in Ukraine is conducted by over 22 000 enterprises, which employ a work force of over one million. Over recent years, Ukraine has adopted a number of acts aimed at increasing competitiveness in domestic production. The new concept of state policy in the area of product quality control has been developed. Where, harmonization of the national regular documentation in the field of the food industry, harmonization with international and European standards is underway. In the field of a quality and safety improvement of produce, the Ministry of Agricultural Policy of Ukraine, actively cooperates with Non-Governmental Organizations. Work is conducted in order to organize traditional European quality weeks in Ukraine. Ukrainian national quality competitions and all Ukrainian quality air competition, named the hundred top commodities of Ukraine. The World Food Day initiated after Ukraine's accession to the FAO, is also observed.

Ukraine is traditionally an agricultural state. The total land area of Ukraine is 60.3 million hectares. Agricultural lands comprises above 37 million hectares, including over 31 million hectares of arable land. At that, 15 million hectares of virtually each second hectare of arable land is especially valuable and highly productive; 15.3 million people live in rural areas or 33 percent of the total population of the country. Four million or one-fifth of all the population in employment is working in agriculture. Grain production accounts for nearly 39 million tonnes, constituting a stabilizing factor for the grain market in the current agricultural year and ensuring food security for the State.

I want to emphasize that the agriculture and food industry of our country, not only fully satisfies our domestic demand for food, but also provides an opportunity for the export of agrarian produce. Despite some existing problems in this field, the produce of the Ukrainian agro-industrial sector is competitive on grounds of price and quality.

This year we celebrate an outstanding date in the history of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - the 60th anniversary of its establishment. It is an important date not only in the history of the FAO and the United Nations but also in the history of the centuries old struggle of people against the most dangerous enemies of mankind – hunger and poverty. The Ukrainian people know the price of such a struggle. They were subjected to a terrible disaster - the man-made great famine – in Holdomor in the years 1932 to 1933. This took the lives of up to ten million innocent men, women and children. I wish to stress that this tragedy was not caused by natural causes such as drought, flood or poor harvest. It was a result of a pre-meditated and cruel policy of the totalitarian Stalinist regime against the Ukrainian people, which we should call by its proper name – genocide. We are sure that the whole world, present and future generations should know and remember this tragedy of our Ukrainian people in order to prevent such tragedies from happening ever again. I would like to invite the participants of this Conference to visit the patio exhibition devoted to the Holdomor which is held up in the Atrium.

Ms Janat MUKWAYA (Uganda)

The Uganda delegation congratulates you upon your election to chair this Conference. In the same vein, on behalf of the President and people of the Republic of Uganda, the delegation congratulates Dr Diouf for being overwhelmingly re-elected as the Director-General of FAO for a third term, for the period 2006 to 2011. This is indeed a clear demonstration of the global trust in

him to deliver in the context of the FAO mandate. Dr Diouf, you have done Africa proud in your devotion in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. There are challenges that lie ahead, that must be overcome in the next five years of your ten year, in the global fight against hunger and poverty. Although these challenges appear daunting, they are by no means insurmountable. Given your tested leadership, and track record of diligence and efficiency, we are indeed confident that you have what it takes to overcome the challenges, we wish you good health in your crusade.

Regarding the topic under discussion, my delegation wishes to make specific comments on the issues raised in the State of Food and Agriculture, and then provide some of Uganda's experience in addressing food security and poverty concerns.

From the onset, the Uganda delegation notes with hope that more than 40 countries in the developing region have made progress in reducing hunger. At the same time, we are concerned that 90 percent of the 18 countries experiencing under-nourishment world-wide are from Sub-Saharan Africa compared to other continents where people are suffering from over-consumption. Boldly put, the level of under-nourishment of up to 33 percent experienced in my continent, is totally unacceptable, considering the abundance in natural resources. My delegation also notes that the number of chronically hungry people in the developing world has fallen by only 9.2 million since the World Food Summit – below the set target of over 20 million per annum. We therefore hope that the deliberations of this Conference will reflect on concrete strategies to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit and those of the Millennium Development within the set time frames.

The causes of food insecurity are many and diverse, some of which are clearly articulated in the document under discussion. My delegation would like however, to stress the following constraints wreaking havoc in the poor countries.

Poorly developed infrastructure for production, value addition and marketing;
 Rainfed agriculture on which farmers mostly depend, exposing them to high risks of crop failure;
 Declining soil fertility leading to declined food and cash crop production;
 Pest and disease attacks and other natural disasters;
 Pandemic human diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria which claim many lives;
 Lack of ready markets for our products; internal, regional and international;
 Limited market access for our products due to high transport costs, inadequate systems to guarantee quality and safety and other forms of barriers to trade;
 Ineffective policies, institutions and processes to revolutionise agriculture and predominant use of low input low output technologies.

Regarding food emergencies and food aid, my delegation would like to highlight the following: We welcome the immediacy with which the international community has been responding in cases where unfortunate countries experienced calamities, notably the Tsunami in the Asian and some parts of East African regions, hurricanes in Southern and Latin America, Earthquakes in Asia and locust invasion in the Saharan region. We sincerely hope that this kind of assistance will continue to prevail when such unfortunate incidences occur. We also hope that the interventions will have a clear linkage from emergency to sustainable development.

We also note that Africa still ranks highest recipient of food aid. In this connection, we would like to implore that the future aid should be non-market distorting and should have a precise exit strategy for the affected people.

These facts attest to the enormous challenges at our hands of FAO to assist developing countries reverse this deplorable trend, it is in this light that indeed Uganda applauds the efforts of the Director-General to initiate reforms of the Organization so that it becomes more efficient and effective in executing its mandate. We are pretty confident that we overcome these challenges.

Ernest Akobour DEBRAH (Ghana)

I bring to your felicitations from the Government and People of Ghana. I am personally also very happy to be attending this Conference, my first as Ghana's Minister responsible for Food and

Agriculture. Ghana is indeed proud to identify with the Food and Agriculture Organization for all the good work done so far. Over a month ago on 16th October 2005, FAO celebrated its 60th birthday. Please permit me to wish the Organization a belated happy birthday. May I take this opportunity also to congratulate the chairman on his appointment and also to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the position of Director-General of this organization for another 6 year term.

My intervention is only to update member states on what my country is doing to achieve food security. I recall the World Food Summit, organized by the FAO in 1996, during which time we, as members of the Organization, resolved to cut hunger by half by year 2015. At the time, it was estimated that 800 million people world wide were hungry. Let me congratulate the Organizers of the Summit for bringing to the fore the plight of the several millions of our brothers and sisters who go to bed, daily, on empty stomachs.

Agriculture is quite important for the economy of Ghana, just as it is for several other developing nations, I believe. The sector employs up to about 60 percent of the labour force, contributes some 40 percent to the GDP and is also the lead foreign exchange earner in my country. The sector is however dominated by several resource poor small farmers on average of less than one hectare. On their own, these farmers cannot do much without the support of Government, in terms of creating the enabling environment to enhance agricultural productivity and production.

The ruling Government in Ghana came into office in January 2001. A major policy thrust of the Government is the modernization of agriculture through appropriate mechanization, irrigation and good economic practices. We believe this is the way to go to enhance agricultural productivity; commercialize agriculture; create wealth in the sector; and by so doing, fight poverty in rural Ghana. In line with the Government's policy thrust, our Ministry has developed the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy (FASDEP).

The objectives of the FASDEP are to achieve food security, produce agricultural raw materials for industry, produce agricultural commodities for export and increase agriculture's contribution to GDP.

A number of strategies are being pursued for the achievement of these objectives. First, Government has increased its investment in the provision of public goods like irrigation, rural roads, rural electrification and cold chain storage facilities.

Second, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has developed a stronger relationship with research and farmers through the establishment of Research Extension Liaison Committees (RELCs) across the country. Through the RELCs, research agenda is set by the farmers themselves, making research more demand driven and relevant to the farmer.

Third, the Ministry is facilitating and promoting farmer based organizations to help improve their access to credit and other services.

We believe we need to concentrate our efforts on specific crops and animals in which Ghana has a comparative advantage; although, other crops will not be necessarily ignored. Accordingly, we are focusing on crops like cashew, maize, soybean, sorghum, cowpea, cassava, mango, cotton in addition to our traditional crop like cocoa, roots and tubers. For livestock, our focus is on rural poultry and small ruminants. In the case of fish, we are actively promoting aquaculture.

As we improve in productivity, we expect production to go up and possibly experience surpluses. Government has approved of a plan to buy the marketed surpluses off the farmers to create National Food Strategic Stocks as to provide a ready market for the farmers.

Ghana has made progress since the World Food Summit. The future even looks brighter and we intend to pursue policies that will enable us to do even better in the achievement of our targets. We will however, need support from our development partners, and it is my hope that we can continue to count on the FAO.

M.K. ANWAR (Bangladesh)

Please allow me to join other speakers in congratulating you and the Bureau on your election in the high officers. I on behalf of my country also congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as DG, FAO and reiterate our support in fulfilling his mission of realising the objectives of the FAO.

During the last four decades, globally we have experienced enormous positive changes in terms of economic growth, food production and a gradual decrease in poverty and malnutrition. Food production in Bangladesh has increased significantly over the last four decades. Rice production has increased from 9.5 to 26.19 million tons; although the area under rice has remained steady at around 10 to 10.5 million hectares.

Our past success in achieving higher food production was the combined outcome of efforts at three levels: at the Global Level, financial and technical support from the donor community for agricultural development efforts; at the International Level, agricultural research carried out at international agricultural research institutes and most importantly, at the National Level, governments were highly proactive and successful in gearing their national institutes for agricultural technology generation and dissemination. FAO has supported the international and national efforts in planning, implementation and capacity building activities. We hope that FAO will play a more important role in future to the benefit of our countries.

The most important issue before us is how countries can meet the Millennium Development Goals and their commitments made in accordance with the World Food Summit Declaration, and to formulate future course of action. Food security challenges and pathways to deal with the situation are different in the current context when compared with the past. We are in the era of gene-revolution, ICT revolution and globalization. Development in these three areas as well as our capabilities to utilize these in favour of agricultural production, trade and distribution of food would largely determine food security of countries, particularly developing and least developed countries.

Increased crop production in the past was mainly due to the Green Revolution while the future increase in crop production will largely depend on the Gene Revolution. Success of incorporation of biotechnology for crop varietal development is crucial in this regard. Countries which will not be able to make use of the advantage of gene technology will lag behind specially countries like Bangladesh, who was very limited capability in biotechnology research.

FAO must play a critical role in helping Bangladesh and other countries in developing necessary infrastructure facilities for bio-technology, research and development of human resources. You would be happy to know that Bangladesh has already adopted a Biotechnology Policy and a Bio-safety Regulation, which satisfy the requirements of Cartagena protocol now in place.

Globalization and trade liberalization have tremendous impact on our agriculture. Bangladesh has embraced the idea of self reliance instead of self sufficiency and therefore, we have liberalized our agriculture sector. We have comparative advantage in production of various types of vegetables and some fruits. But we have not been able to realize our export potentials of agricultural exports due to market distortion in the developed countries as a result of high domestic and export subsidy and also because of domestic supply constraint. These constraints include limited infrastructure facilities, SPS compliant packaging and certification system. To overcome the market distortions in the developed countries, Bangladesh and other developing countries have been engaged in negotiations at the WTO. Hopefully, we shall be able to get some positive results by the Hong Kong Ministerial. However, our main challenges are in the area of removing supply side constraints. We urge FAO to take the initiative to develop an appropriate system of support to increase our production. As you know, trade is an effective means of reducing poverty and hunger and ensuring food security.

Inspired by a belief that freer trade within the framework of a rule-based multilateral trading system would accelerate the pace of their economic development, many developing countries and

the least-developed countries had signed the Uruguay Round Agreement. However, the post-Uruguay Round period has witnessed an almost inexorable process of marginalization of LDCs from the mainstream of global prosperity. Presently, the share of LCDs in the world trade hit the rock-bottom of a mere 0.4 percent, which was 0.7 percent in the 1980's and about 2.5 percent in the 1960's. This is an evidence of their failure to benefit from the leapfrogging growth of global trade which had taken place during the decade of the 1990's.

Bangladesh welcomes the supports the proposal for organizing an International Year of Natural Fibres. We believe that it would raise the profile of all natural fibres and their positive contribution in terms of environmental benefits, income generation, improved food security in developing countries. We expect that this conference resolution would endorse the proposals and request FAO Secretariat to come up with a specific programme and plan in this regard. We are also supportive of the Director General's reform proposals aimed at a stronger and more responsive FAO.

Hunger and food insecurity can only be fought with the combined efforts of all development stakeholders towards the shared goal of food for all. Lasting solutions will require an integrated approach that addresses causal linkages. Most importantly, country level actions would require technical and financial help from the international community and particularly international institutions, which unfortunately, have been on a declining trend over the years.

It is of utmost importance that international help for agriculture in the developing countries is increased to ensure the achievements of MDGs and thereby ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.

Martin PUTA TOFINGA (Kiribati)

On behalf of my Kiribati delegation, I would like to join the speakers who have spoken before me to congratulate you in your appointment as a chairman. I would like also to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the very comprehensive documents on the "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture" which is very informative.

In the interest of time, my statement would focus mainly on certain parts of the report in reference to our case in Kiribati.

Vitamin A deficiency, (VAD) is now a serious problem in Kiribati, causing increased morbidity, mortality and night blindness, particularly among children. This problem erupted in the wake of the shift away from traditional foods and is thought to be related to the decreased consumption of pandanus food crop and other local sources of vitamin A. There is also concern about the decreased planting of pandanus fruit trees and the loss of cultivars. Despite the knowledge that pandanus fruits contains provitamin A, carotenoids, there is little documented information on differences among cultivars. The pandanus therefore, is a very important local fruit crop that would help protect against vitamin A related deficiencies such as night blindness, anaemia, diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers.

We would like to thank the institutions (SPC) and the donors that have provided funding for the initial survey and analysis on the pandanus food crop. Despite that, further work is needed on the awareness programmes concerning the importance of the pandanus crop as well as the establishment of gene banks for the distribution of planting materials to the farmers.

Analysis to confirm the initial result on the nutritional value would also be required.

It is interesting to note that there is an increase in crop and livestock production in some countries while poor progress is noted in other countries. The local fruit crops that have survived for many years in the small island coral atolls include coconut, pandanus, breadfruit, fig trees and others. Such crops will continue to be the major source of food on the islands hence the need enhance their production.

Recently, we have experience the drop in the coconut and copra production and the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture has been tasked to find ways to boost production to ensure

that the farmers continue to benefit from the export of copra. There are also plans to establish the Coconut Authority with the objective to diversify the benefit from the important single crop. The use of coconut oil in automobiles and vessels replacing fossil fuel in some Pacific Island countries is an important breakthrough as countries in the region would be less dependent on imported fuel, but more demand on copra.

The introduction of other exotic food crops to Kiribati through the development of sustainable agriculture programme, financed by the European Union would greatly contribute to food production, hence food security on the islands. We are very thankful to the EU for their assistance and to the Government of Italy for their technical support on crop production.

FAO programme on the South South Cooperation would provide technical assistance in the field of crop production, livestock, fisheries and water and we are very thankful for such assistance. Livestock development in small coral islands countries is currently limited to piggery and poultry farming and we have been advised that production could be increased with the establishment of feed mills that would utilize local ingredients. At present, feed is imported and production is usually affected when the shipment does not arrive in time. Besides, imported feed is considered expensive. There are plans to introduce the hair sheep to Kiribati with the aim to provide an alternative protein food for the islands. The Feed Mill idea is a practical one in Kiribati given the availability of the main materials of fish and copra meal and FAO's assistance is further sought, the establishment of the mill would facilitate effective development of livestock in the country.

Kiribati has an exclusive economic zone of 3.5 million square kilometres as compared to the total land area of only 810 square kilometres. For this reason, Kiribati has been and will continue to benefit from the harvesting of the fisheries resources including tuna species, lagoon fish and farming seaweed.

With its limited harvesting capacity, Kiribati will continue to enter into fishing agreements with the distant water fishing nations on tuna harvesting. Tuna landing records have reached over 100 thousand metric tonnes in the past years and out of this, only a very small percentage of the catch value is received by the Government. To maximize returns from the tuna resource, FAO assistance would be required in fishing processing/canning, quality control assurance and access to the international market. FAO is also urged to ensure compliance by the DWFNS to the FAO Code of Conduct on Fishing.

Kiribati made up of small coral atoll islands, lacks proper forests except coconut, which has for many years provided a major source of construction materials for housing and for furniture making, food as well as cash crop. Due to its importance and being abundant on most of the Pacific Island Countries, the South West Pacific Agricultural Ministers have agreed a Communiqué during their meeting in late 2004 held in Fiji to encourage FAO to include coconut in the statistical analysis of the forestry resources. For this 33rd session of the FAO Conference, we would like to put this on record. A big concern however in the coconut is the existence of ship rats that eat the fruits preventing high yields and returns to the farmers.

Providing assistance to the coconut rehabilitation and replanting programmes and tackling the rat problem would undoubtedly generate benefit in the small atoll island countries. Recent studies had confirmed that there is great potential to market coconut timber and products overseas.

Mangroves are also abundant in certain coastal areas of the Pacific Island countries and since they play important roles in supporting the marine life as well as the protection of coastal shorelines, particularly in the low-lying atoll island countries, my delegation would like to request FAO to provide assistance to complement the new and ongoing replanting programmes in Kiribati.

Kiribati has benefited from the FAO various programmes including Telefood projects. Regional food security programmes, South South Cooperation Development of Sustainable Agricultural Programme, assistance in fisheries sectors and others, we would like to thank the donors and regional bodies involved in these programmes. We endorse the report " Review of the State of Food and Agriculture" , that public investment in infrastructure, machinery and equipment,

agricultural research, education and extension are essential for stimulating private investment, agricultural production and resource conservation.

Water, is an important resource for agriculture and for life at large. Small island atoll countries are very scarce, poor in terms of water and the people rely mainly on rain water and more so on groundwater. Groundwater, however, is very vulnerable and susceptible to problems of pollution. Therefore investment in water development related programmes on the islands are highly necessary.

In summary, in order to improve the State of food agriculture on the small atoll island like Kiribati, my delegation would like to request FAO to assist in the following areas: further analytical work on the Pandanus fruit; processing and the establishment of gene banks and their effective distribution; coconut rehabilitation, replanting programmes and rat eradication programmes; establishment of coconut timber mill as a component of the rehabilitation programme to utilize the felled mature senile coconut trees; research work on the use of coconut oil as fuel for vehicles; livestock development and the supporting feed mill establishment and veterinary assistance; and value-adding for fish and seaweed, and improvement to water problems on the islands.

As a closing remark, let me share with you and emotional concern of my country over the negative impacts of climate change, and not only have our FAO's initiatives to uplift us all from undesirable status of food and agriculture but also on the important impact of human existence. Yes, we are thinking the question is: What is our and FAO's purposes without addressing the important issue of " climate change"? In particular for the small low lying island coral and atoll countries of the world like Kiribati, with the highest point only of 3 metres above the water and this includes Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tokelau and many others.

Sea level rise is a reality and the tides are eating away our shores at an alarming rate. We are indeed engulfed in the fear that the basis of our agriculture and food, which is groundwater, is now getting saltier than ever.

I wish to grasp this opportunity and seek international help and the support of this FAO Conference to help us convince all, and especially major contributors to the global warning, to realize the needs of smaller and vulnerable island countries that have the least capacity to withstand the effects of global warning.

These are the kind of issues that greatly worry us for food security concerns and, moreover, for our existence. We want to exist in this world and we really do not want to sink. I believe that you all will help me find a solution, if not in this Conference, perhaps in other international arenas.

Siene SAPHANGTHONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic)

First of all, on behalf of the Lao Delegation, please allow me to present my sincere congratulations to the elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman. May I take also this opportunity to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf, for his third re-election as Director-General of the FAO. Please allow me to present some details on the state of food security in Lao PDR with a particular emphasis on the implementation of the National Poverty Eradication Strategy, which is the Government and the people of Lao PDR's long-term development framework. The strategy focuses on the improvement of the poverty situation has a dual objective: first enhancing growth and development and second, reducing poverty by the year 2020.

The agriculture and forestry sector in Lao PDR remains the pillar of the economy, accounting for almost half of the GDP. It is even more significant when it comes to employment. Approximately 80 percent of people depend for their livelihood on agriculture, on rearing of livestock and non wood forest product.

The Government of Lao PDR has already laid down favourable policy and framework and regulatory systems to support the realization of poverty alleviation programmes. Among these are the policies of decentralization and empowerment of provincial, district and village administrations to have greater participation in planning and management of development and

investment projects. The Ministry of Agriculture has contributed in implementing the said decentralization policy, through its efforts in establishing decentralized and integrated extension systems that is farmer-driven and holistic in its approach to deliver technology and information, and to respond better to the needs of the local communities.

Cross sector priorities in the National Poverty Eradication Strategy encompass environment, gender, information and culture, population and social security. An overall cross-cutting issue is capacity building. Gender equality is an important national goal which is reflected in the Lao Constitution; in our international commitments and the establishment of the National Commission for Advancement of Women. Ensuring equal access for women to basic services and productive resources is a matter of equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

Despite the relatively severe natural calamities in the last few years encountered by Lao PDR, food and agriculture and fisheries production has recorded satisfactory which is reflected in Lao Constitution, in our international commitments and in the establishment of the National Commission for Advancement of Women, ensuring equal access for women to basic services and productive resources is a matter of equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

Chairman, despite of the relatively severe natural calamities in the last few years encountered by Lao PDR, food and agriculture and food fisheries production has recorded satisfactory performance. This is a great extent due to gradually increasing the well-programmed investments in agriculture and in rural development sector. The agriculture sector has increased by about 3.5 – 4 percent per annum, which represents about 46% of the GDP.

Many Lao agricultural products are now becoming competitive. Unfortunately this year the wet season rice production is suffering from flooding. This year's flood caused considerable damage to the irrigation infrastructure, killed a sizeable number of animals. We are also controlling and preventing the Avian influenza disease in the country.

FAO responds without delay, in providing effective assistance by establishing and strengthening diagnosis laboratory together with the provision of the basic equipment and training programmes.

Uladi Basikolo MUSSA (Malawi)

I would like, on the behalf of the President of Malawi, His Excellency, Dr. Bingu Wa Muthalika and the people of Malawi, and indeed, on my own behalf to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, for his re-election as Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization. This demonstrates the confidence and trust that the United Nations member states have in him and appreciation of his leadership of FAO for the past ten years.

The government of Malawi is committed to the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), however unless we ensure growth in food production, especially in the developing countries, the achievements of the MDGs will be difficult. It is, therefore, critical that whatever we do we should ensure increased food production.

For the past decade, many African countries have been experiencing the problems of hunger and malnutrition. Malawi is one of such countries. During the 2004 - 2005 season, Malawi experienced low maize production following the erratic rains the country experienced in some of the areas. This resulted in a food shortfall of approximately 400,000 metric tons. Approximately 4.6 million people are expected to be affected by this food shortfall, and the required food aid amounting to 300,000 metric tons from June 2005 to March 2006.

As a result of this food shortfall, the President, His Excellency Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika, declared a state of disaster on 14 October 2005 and appealed to all well wishers to assist. The government of Malawi and its cooperating partners are importing maize for humanitarian food aid, which is being distributed through World Food Program and government agencies. However, the country still has a food shortfall of about 100,000 metric tons of which I would like to appeal to sympathetic partners to come forward and assist to the government of Malawi in addressing this remaining food shortage for both humanitarian food aid and commercial sales to the population in the country.

In addition, Malawi would like to promote and expand the school feeding program, which is currently being championed by the World Food Program, would like to go beyond just provision of food under this program to production of food by school communities. This we believe will address the problem of school dropouts especially that of the girl child. Malawi, therefore, would appreciate assistance in this area.

It is abundantly clear that for Malawi to ensure food sufficiency, it cannot depend on rain-fed agriculture alone. Over the years, the weather patterns that have been changing and the droughts have become more frequent than in the past. To address this problem and considering the vast water resources that the country has, the government of Malawi in collaboration with its cooperating partners, which include FAO, has intensified efforts involving intensive irrigation programs as part of increasing production of the cereal crops, especially maize and rice, which are the main staple foods in Malawi. However, our efforts are negatively affected by the lack of adequate technical and financial resources. I, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to appeal to countries and organizations to consider seriously assisting Malawi government in the areas of irrigation, so that we can put more land to crop production and increase food security at both household and national level.

One reason that has contributed to food insecurity in Malawi, and I believe in other Sub-Saharan African countries, is the inability of most of the farmers to access agriculture imports, such as fertilizers and improved seeds. This has led to poor harvests, even during years that rains have been good. To ensure that agriculture imports are accessible to most of the farmers, the government of Malawi is currently subsidizing the critical inputs to the smallholder farmers this season and will continue doing so in the near future.

The cost of subsidy is much less than the cost of providing food aid. In this regard, the government of Malawi would also like to appeal to the countries and organizations to assist Malawi with resources to ensure that this program reaches all smallholder farmers and can continue for the next five years or so.

As part of reducing the problem of malnutrition, the government is planning to improve livestock development programs targeting smallholder farmers. This is in the wake of the dwindling of livestock numbers in Malawi, which has threatened the availability of proteins to Malawians, especially children.

On the part of marketing and trade the government of Malawi is also participating in the discussions on improving marketing of agricultural commodities both at regional and international levels. Therefore, Malawi looks forward to the outcome of the discussions of the Hong Kong meeting to benefit developing countries in the areas of trade and marketing of the agricultural commodities.

Lastly, we strongly support the reform process that FAO has initiated, as this process will revitalize the vigor with which FAO has been implementing its programs and activities. My prayer, is that the benefits of these reforms will ultimately trickle to the smallholder farmers, who are the targets of the initiatives of the Organization.

It is high time that FAO should finally find means and ways of breaking through hunger and malnutrition, but not to break down.

Second Report of the General Committee (C 2005/LIM/13)

Deuxième rapport du bureau (C 2005/LIM/13)

Segundo Informe del Comité General (C 2005/LIM/13)

CHAIRMAN

I now propose a short interruption to tackle the problem of the adoption of the Second Report of the General Committee. I think you have all received the document distributed or put into your pigeon holes. I would like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure that they have this report of the Second Meeting, and the report is set out in Document C2005/LIM/13.

I will now proceed to read the titles of each section.

A. Appointment of the Director-General Draft Resolution.

Are there any comments on this section? If none, I declare the section including the resolution adopted. And so we proceed to the following sections.

B. Payments by the European Community to Cover Expenses Arising out of its Membership in the Organization.

Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section adopted.

C. Statement by Representative of Staff Bodies.

Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare this section adopted.

So, we have adopted the Second Report of the General Committee.

We go back now to the Review of State of Food Agriculture. I give the floor to His Excellency, the Head of Delegation of Brazil.

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

5. Examen de la situación de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Guilherme CASSEL (Brazil)

Hace un mes el Presidente de Brasil, Su Excelencia Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, participó en las conmemoraciones de los sesenta años de la FAO, en aquella ocasión el Presidente Lula afirmó que las políticas públicas de su gobierno están basadas en la percepción de que en el Brasil no existe un problema de producción de alimentos, pero sí, un problema de acceso a los alimentos.

El examen anual de la FAO sobre el Estado de la Alimentación y la Agricultura llega a una conclusión parecida: informa sobre el reciente aumento de la producción agrícola y ganadera en los países en desarrollo y desarrollados, al tiempo que confirma que el número de personas subnutridas en los países en desarrollo sigue pertinazmente elevado, por encima de los 800 millones.

En Brasil, la respuesta que hemos dado a esta paradoja aparente es el conjunto de programas y políticas públicas que llamamos "Hambre Cero", este programa, reconoce el carácter apremiante de la lucha contra el hambre y, simultáneamente la importancia del cambio de los elementos estructurales que conducen al hambre.

El hambre es el resultado más extremo y terrible de un proceso desequilibrado de desarrollo, es por esto que nuestras acciones gubernamentales ponen énfasis en la reforma agraria, en el apoyo a la agricultura familiar, en la democratización del acceso a la tierra, en los créditos, en la seguridad agrícola, en la asistencia técnica y en la comercialización de los productos agrícolas.

El presupuesto global del programa "Hambre Cero" llegó en 2005 a 5 millones de dólares, jamás un gobierno en Brasil invirtió tanto para luchar contra el flagelo del hambre, garantizamos ingresos mínimos a 7 millones y 700 mil familias. Para finales de 2006, alcanzaremos a todas las familias que viven bajo la línea de pobreza en nuestro país.

El Programa Nacional de Alimentación Escolar distribuye hoy 36 millones de comidas al día. El Programa Nacional de Financiamiento de la Agricultura Familiar ha recibido solo este año, nueve mil millones de reales (casi 4 mil millones de dólares norteamericanos), beneficiando así a dos millones de familias en este año.

La lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza es parte fundamental de un proceso de desarrollo durable y equilibrado, y esta lucha es central en el trabajo de la FAO. En apoyo a la Organización, en nuestra tarea reforzar la importancia política de esta lucha en la agenda internacional.

Hay que trabajar en todos los sentidos y niveles. En el ámbito regional, Brasil y los gobiernos del sistema de integración centroamericana propusieron recientemente en Guatemala en septiembre una iniciativa por una América Latina sin hambre.

Juntamente con Francia, Chile, España, Alemania y Argelia, colaboramos en iniciativa de la acción contra el hambre y la pobreza estableciendo por objetivo, buscar recursos adicionales para el financiamiento del desarrollo y la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza.

Desde la reunión de Nueva York en el 2004, donde estuvieron presentes cerca de 60 jefes de Estado y más de 100 delegaciones, hemos trabajado por instrumentos novedosos y creativos para el financiamiento al desarrollo. Buscamos soluciones que puedan, de modo estable y previsible, complementar los flujos tradicionales de asistencia oficial al desarrollo. El descenso global de los recursos asistenciales destinados a la agricultura y a la zonas rurales, conforme verificado por el informe de la FAO sobre el estado de la alimentación y de la agricultura, es preocupante.

Bajo el Ministro Miguel Rossetto, el Ministerio del Desarrollo Agrario de Brasil es el principal encargado, de la parte brasilera, para la organización de la Conferencia Internacional de la FAO sobre la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural (ICARRD) que tendrá lugar en marzo del 2006, en Porto Alegre. En esta ciudad, les recuerdo, ya se ha realizado por tres veces el Forum Social Mundial, que simboliza la idea de que "otro mundo es posible". El ofrecimiento del gobierno de Brasil de hospedar esta Conferencia Internacional es también una demostración de nuestra labor por traer la reforma agraria y los problemas del desarrollo rural a ser partes integrales de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional en el corazón de la agenda mundial.

El Presidente Lula recordó hace un mes en la audiencia en esta misma sala, que el importe de recursos empleados para los subsidios agrícolas corresponde a seis veces el valor adicional necesario, por cada año, para hacer viable el cumplimiento de las metas del Milenio. Una tal situación no es aceptable. Si la comunidad internacional se preocupa seriamente por la cuestión del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, debe hacer frente seriamente al reto de construir un sistema de comercio internacional más justo y equilibrado.

Este es el espíritu con el cual debemos llegar todos próximamente a Hong Kong, para las negociaciones de la OMC sobre comercio agrícola en el contexto de la Ronda de Doha. El mundo no tendrá paz ni seguridad mientras tantos millones de personas sigan sin tener lo suficiente para comer.

El Brasil, como miembro fundador de la FAO, está plenamente comprometido con sus fundamentos y objetivos, queremos hacerla una Organización creciente, fuerte, destacada y eficiente. Por esto, apoyamos la concretización tan pronta cuanto posible de las reformas propuestas por el Director General. Vamos a apoyar activamente el proceso de evaluación independiente, que acreditamos puede contribuir a cada paso, para la más eficaz aplicación de las reformas de la FAO, como parte de un esfuerzo sistémico que involucra a toda la familia de Naciones Unidas.

Creemos también en la necesidad de atribuir a la FAO los recursos suficientes para desempeñar sus importantes funciones, razón por la cual apoyamos la propuesta del crecimiento real del presupuesto.

Sin embargo, a Brasil preocupa resguardar la naturaleza multilateral de esta institución. Por esto, es importante fortalecer la transparencia y la participación de todos los países miembros en sus procesos. Hablo específicamente de dos cosas: la presencia de observadores de los Estados Miembros en reuniones de todos los órganos rectores, incluso de los subsidiarios, y la utilización de recursos extra-presupuestarios. En este sentido, nos preocupa la posibilidad muy concreta de que el prestigio y la credibilidad de la FAO se utilicen en detrimento de los intereses más universales del conjunto de sus Miembros, especialmente contra intereses de los países en desarrollo.

Dos casos evidentes son estudios recientes, que llevaron el nombre de la FAO.

El primero fueron estudios sobre el comercio de algodón, financiados con recursos extra-presupuestarios y publicados en contra del interés de los países productores mientras se desarrollaba una disputa importante en el ámbito de la OMC. La FAO debe cuidar para que esto no vuelva a acontecer en el futuro. Una solución inmediata es la adopción de descargos de responsabilidades ("disclaimers") visibles y más claros en las publicaciones, acompañados por informaciones suficientes sobre el origen de la financiación de estudios en temas políticamente delicados, para permitir que lectores valoren su neutralidad.

El segundo es aún más sutil y fue objeto de discusiones, todavía "a posteriori", en foros de la FAO y de la OMS. Está relacionado con la producción de azúcar: tratase de la publicación del "Informe de un Conjunto de Expertos OMS/FAO sobre Dieta, Nutrición y Prevención de Enfermedades Crónicas". No estamos seguros de la propiedad de sus consideraciones.

Finalmente, quisiera reiterar que Brasil apoya sumamente la propuesta del uso del portugués como idioma de trabajo en la próxima Conferencia Regional para África en 2006.

Charal TRINVUTHIPONG (Thailand)

May I take this opportunity to inform the meeting about Thailand's experience in the field of food and agriculture over the past few years. Thailand is fully committed to poverty eradication. Please allow me to share with you Thailand's experience in poverty alleviation. Apart from the programme, which have already been implemented *inter-alia* to reduce interest burden on indebted farmers and to provide one million baht Revolving Fund for every village in the country.

The Government has recently drawn national plans to assist the rural poor who are heavily in debt by negotiating with the creditors, such as banks, financial institutions and cooperate to hand-cut small-scale, nonperforming loans by as much as fifty percent and to forego interest payments.

Thailand continues to undertake a number of surveillance and control measures to combat Avian influenza. May I inform the meeting that Thailand is ready to share experiences with other member countries. Earlier this month, leaders of five countries, comprising Thailand and her neighbours, agreed to launch a joint cooperation programme to combat the Avian influenza through capacity-building and other measures. In order to implement this programme, Thailand has pledged to contribute US Dollars 2.5 million for such endeavour.

Another point of which I am very concerned is bio-energy. As an alternative to fossil oil, bio-fuel is renewable and can be sustainable in the long run; at the same time, it offers a much cleaner environment. In Thailand, several industrial plans have been, and are being established, to produce ethanol and bio-diesel using molasses, sugar-cane, cassava and oil palm.

Other crops are being experimented for commercial purposes. Greater efforts in research and development, ranging from developing high yielding varieties, to more efficient conversion from crops to bio-fuel are needed and I urge the FAO take a lead in this very important development.

With regard to the proposal on the FAO reform, Thailand agrees that the FAO needs to restructure itself, in order to expedite its resources to eradicate poverty and hunger throughout the world. However, I would like to commend that the re-organizational efforts should occur without stress on its valuable resources, in terms of staffing and financial availability. Thailand is looking forward to the results of the Working Group on Reform and the Independent External Evaluation.

Lastly, I would like to inform the Meeting that Thailand will host an International Horticultural Exposition called "Royal Flora Ratchaphruek 2006". The Exposition will be held from 1 November 2006 to 31 January 2007 in Chiang Mai Province. I wish to take this opportunity to invite all of you to this auspicious event, which aims to commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary or Diamond Jubilee of our beloved, His Majesty the King's accession to the throne and His Majesty's eightieth birthday.

In closing, I would like to express my personal appreciation to the FAO and its staff for their devotion to world agriculture. I can assure you that Thailand will continue to cooperate with the FAO, and member countries, for the betterment of the Thais and people around the world.

Dragan KOVACEVIC (Croatia)

As an open, democratic country, Croatia is firmly committed to joining European and Atlantic integration. Its years' long efforts directed toward EU membership produced results, as the European Council decided to promote Croatia to the status of an official candidate for EU membership and to open accession negotiations in October 2005.

By joining the Action Plan for NATO membership, Croatia acquired a frame, enabling it to carry out its political reforms. We are determined to carry out all reforms and adopt all standards of the associations we are joining because this will, first of all, contribute to the economic growth and increase the standard of living of Croatian citizens.

Regardless of the formal course of the EU enlargement, our own unilateral activity, and determination, will constitute the crucial factors in implementing adjustment programmes. As a small, and open, transition country with a small market, Croatia has liberalized its trade with thirty-seven European countries, by signing a number of free trade agreements. More than eighty percent of the Croatian foreign trade is based on free trade principles. The global trend in market liberalization, and agricultural policy reforms in Europe, as well as ever growing consumer demands, imposed a need for a comprehensive reform of the Croatian agricultural policy. Being a country rich in tradition, with diverse climatic conditions and soil, Croatia has all the preconditions needed for the development of agriculture.

Its special importance arises from its close connection with one of Croatia's most important economic activities: Tourism. By a realized GDP growth of 3.8 percent (amounting to US Dollars seven thousand seven hundred per capita, in 2004), inflation at 2 percent is the lowest in transition countries. With a drop in unemployment rate, and an increase in export, Croatia maintains its macroeconomic stability at this moment.

By a realized GDP growth of 3.8 percent (amounting to US Dollars seven thousand seven hundred per capita in 2004), inflation at 2 percent - the lowest in transition countries – a drop in the unemployment rate and an increase in exports, Croatia maintains its macroeconomic stability at this moment.

The Republic of Croatia shares with other countries its concern about the slowness in solving global problems humanity is faced with such as poverty, famine, natural disasters, under-development and epidemics.

I would like to stress here the outbreak of Avian influenza all over the world and recent cases of this disease in wild birds in Croatia. However, thanks to measures that were taken in order to prevent the spread of the disease, and to the monitoring over the entire territory of Croatia, we succeeded in preventing the spread of the Avian influenza to domestic poultry, so that no new cases have been detected to far.

Faced with another important task of adjustment and development of the agricultural and food sector, we attach special importance to the exchange of experience with our partners – countries willing to cooperate with us on technical and professional levels and to prepare together with us joint development programmes.

I take this opportunity to express gratitude to FAO, whose experts have been helping us for many years to draw up key documents necessary to prepare Croatia to join the European Union.

The Right Reverend Monsignor Renato VOLANTE (Holy See)

The Delegation of the Holy See wants to address its congratulations to the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, on his re-election together with its sincere appreciation for his engagement in the meritorious, and untiring, action aimed at improving food and agriculture development.

The Holy See would like to convey her message in her position within this Organization, that was decided in a Conference dating back fifty-five years ago. A position which allows her to follow up the Organization's activities, and that of its internal bodies, but also to put forward some ethical

reflections, which are more and more essential nowadays, in view of a multilateral action orientation.

We think in this way to foster the engagement of all governments, civil society organizations, and single individuals, and to support the efforts that have been made so far for an appropriate and sustainable management of the resources of creation. In such a way, we hope that the food security, to which the FAO aims, will meet the dignity of the human being in every part of the earth.

The examination of what has been achieved in relation to the Working Plan for the past two years, beyond a general evaluation, shows the validity of the commitment which FAO has continuously shown, similarly to its Member States, both in positions as donors and as beneficiaries.

This observation points out that the choices that will be made with the future programmes are very important, not only in relation to their contribution necessary to the different sectors, but especially in view of the necessary objective of world food security. Only a decision allowing the FAO to operate with far-sighted management, and also with the necessary resources, will we be able to reaffirm what previously emerged from the engagements taken by Member States in 1996, on the occasion of the World Food Summit and reiterated in the recent Sessions of the different internal Bodies of the Organization.

The Delegation of the Holy See is convinced that food security depends on actions inspired by a strong solidarity, rather than being limited to forms of assistance and intervention, that do not always reach the goal for which an accurate and particular strategy had been decided. So, any action to really grant appropriate nutrition must not limit itself to a technical collection of data, but must be considered as the basic element of that right belonging to every person, nation and people as proclaimed by the international community.

In this respect, the Delegation of the Holy See warmly wishes to provide for adequate ways of support of the activities and practices of the rural population, where families occupy an outstanding position and which build up the basic economic reality of most developing countries.

The experience of the Catholic Church, gained through her different forms of presence in the rural areas, causes us to consider this objective as necessary. In particular, the FAO could help in defining the criteria to create forms of partnerships between farmers, fishermen and craftsmen, employed in land cultivation and in post-production processing. The individual countries will have to translate those criteria into localized internal rules and in their domestic institutional practice, thus contributing to a structured development of the rural world.

These are some considerations that the Delegation of the Holy See offers to this 33rd Session of the FAO Conference, particularly moved by the will to contribute in a perspective which is essentially ethical to the political, economic and financial decision-making that will characterize the FAO activity, as well as the broader intergovernmental activities related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Werner WUTSCHER (Austria)

I would like to submit the greetings of the Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Federal Republic of Austria.

With FAO, whose Sixtieth Anniversary we are celebrating this year, we are aware of the fact that the international community will be confronted with enormous challenges also in the future. Together we must face the problem on chronic hunger in the world to improve food security, more decidedly than ever. Having enough to eat and to be able to take one's life into one's own hands, to care for those who depend on one's care, is a fundamental right of humans. We all have to take the task to secure this basis for everybody's existence and to provide access to food, land, water and seeds as well as to information and to education.

In the light of the growing political, economic and social tensions of our times, as well as facing the dramatic challenges of climate change, we realize the urgency of implementing the long

overdue measures in the fields of sustainable development and food security. The global community, each and every country, but also the civil society, are called upon to continue to take all efforts to make it possible to realize the objective of the World Summit and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. It is evident that it is a moral, ethical and political, task of utmost priority.

The following political and national framework conditions are indispensable in this context. Democracy, the rule of law and good governance, the respect for human rights, especially the right to adequate food, sustainable economic growth in rural areas, investments in jobs and education - especially as chances for young people - as well as preventive health care systems for the poor.

Without the FAO and its committed work, the fight against hunger and poverty has not only become an issue - which people are aware of worldwide – but has also been provided with promising strategies and programmes, that can be used at national and international level. The ongoing reform process of the Organization, in connection with Independent External Evaluation is, therefore, an important concern for us, as with the combined effect of each individual component of the reform. It promises an even more efficient procedure in the fight against hunger. For example, I consider the idea of decentralization to be highly valuable. In this context, a localization of the Regional Office of FAO for Europe in Budapest would be very desirable.

As hunger and poverty are certainly not only, but first and foremost, problems of rural areas, the point must be to secure agriculture as a key sector and, with it, rural development, especially in the crisis areas, and to improve local production and the distribution of food in a sustainable manner.

Women are playing a major role in global food security. Their rights, living, working and economic situation must be substantially improved. In the field of gender issues, the Working Party on Women and Families in Rural Areas has performed excellent work within the European framework, and should be continued.

This is closely linked also with the supply of clean drinking water, and water for industrial purposes, a key topic of sustainable food security. Practical approaches like those carried out within the framework of the FAO Special Programme for Food Security, which we support, are as important as the provision of legal security with respect to access to water. Rightly, today's Roundtable on Water and Agriculture in Africa, Near East and Small-Islands is dedicated to one of these critical factors of global food security, for in the discussion of good and just water management, food security goes hand in hand with peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

I think that maintaining a globally viable, sustainable agriculture is the key for food security for the fight against hunger in the world. It must, therefore, be an important concern to all of us to provide full support to the work and activities of FAO also in the future and, thereby, to make a vital contribution to the improvement of the world food situation, which means poverty reduction and eventually to global peace.

Khalfan AL NAABI (Oman)

Firstly, I should like to express the gratitude of the Sultanate of Oman to the FAO for its endeavours in order to produce food security. We would also like to congratulate Dr. Jacques Diouf on his re election and wish him every success.

The Sultanate of Oman realized very early how important it is to meet the food needs of our people and to look at natural resources and we have established a series of five-year plans looking at agriculture and fishing resources. We have improved our fishing resources and our water resources; and our endeavours are ongoing in order to help people in our country; to provide studies and knowhow to institutes, training and the backup and moral support that can lead to development in economic and social terms thus improving living conditions.

These achievements would have been impossible without the special interest of the Government of his Majesty the Sultan Said, in the agriculture and fishing sectors and with investment in the

public sector in these extremely important areas. Investment has indeed been of vital importance in achieving a level of agricultural and fishing development. We have played an increasing part in contributing to the GDP of our country, and in our plant growing sector, we have increased produce to 1 200 tonnes in 2004 with an annual growth rate of 5.5 percent. We also have to consider the limitations on arable land in our country so we realized that achievements here have been thanks to the implementation of modern methods and the intensification in the agricultural sector. We must also acknowledge that our farmers had been able to leave more traditional methods behind and move to more modern farming methods. In the livestock sector, production has increased by 7.8 tonnes in 2005 to 24 thousand, 37 thousand of an average increase of 209 percent. We also have seen an increase in investment and an increase in milk production of 7.3 thousand tonnes.

Looking at the high production indices in the livestock production we have seen an increase to 1.3 percent of the participation of the agricultural sector in our GDP. We have been able to meet nearly a third of the requirements of the Sultanate from 2003 to date. We have been able to increase crop production on an average of 43 percent. The participation of the agriculture sector in exports has increased to 27.7 percent and we have been able to improve income in these sectors moving from 24.8 to 37.3 percent.

Looking at the participation of the agriculture sector in the social economy of our country in 2004-05 we saw 141 thousand workers working in that sector, and in the fishing sector there has been an increase from 95 to 140 thousand tonnes, so an increase of about 40 percent in that period. The value of this increase has moved from 25 million rials to 65.5 millions in 2004, an increase fair of 62 odd percent. This has been a very significant contribution to food security levels with modern methods being employed. This increase has also been reflected in increasing percentages looking at the fishing resources of our country, 22.1 percent million rials in 75.5 rials. If we look at the labour force employed in the fishing sector in this alternate, work is being done to increase the number of fishermen employed in this sector from 11 785, the figures have risen to 311 587.

So, we very much cherish the role of FAO and the endeavours of the Director-General enabling our Ministry to improve agricultural and fishing resources and to follow a cooperation programme.

So we can continue to lend our support to this Organization and we call on the international community to help us to meet our objectives and the MDGs, so that by means of all these programmes we can flourish.

CHAIRMAN

This brings us to the end of our work for this morning. Before recess I would like to remind if you could kindly check your delegation boxes at the document desk and pick up any messages which may have been left for you. I would like also to remind you that the Chairperson of the Conference is hosting a reception this evening for all delegations which will be held in the FAO cafeteria on the 8th floor, building B at 6.30 p.m.

We will meet again at 14.30 hours. Please make an effort to be here on time, because we have many speakers.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13.05 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.05 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-third Session
Trente-troisième session
33º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 19 November – 26 November 2005
Rome, 19 novembre – 26 novembre 2005
Roma, 19 de noviembre – 26 de noviembre de 2005**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

22 November 2005

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 (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

I call this Plenary meeting to order. We will continue this afternoon with Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Lebanon, Samoa, Maldives, Cameroon, Mozambique, Nepal, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Comores, Swaziland, Chad, Afghanistan, Republic of Korea, Canada, Botswana, Algeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Kuwait, Cyprus, Kenya, Benin, Belize, Indonesia

Talal EL SAHILI (Liban)

Je suis très heureux, au nom de mon pays le Liban, de participer à la Conférence générale de la FAO. Je voudrais féliciter le Docteur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection à la tête de l'Organisation. Nous lui rendons hommage et nous le remercions pour les efforts qu'il déploie pour réaliser les objectifs nobles de cette Organisation. Nous félicitons le Ministre de l'agriculture du Vietnam pour son élection comme Président de cette Conférence.

Notre réunion aujourd'hui vient à un moment important dans l'histoire du développement, surtout pour la sécurité alimentaire, la réduction de la pauvreté et la malnutrition, ce qui met sur nos épaules des responsabilités importantes. Nous devons en effet trouver des solutions qui nous permettront de surmonter les chocs et les crises dans le domaine du développement rural, de garantir le développement durable des ressources et de rationaliser leur utilisation dans les environnements riches et pauvres. Au cours des dernières années, les pays du monde, après le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, avaient organisé le "Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, cinq ans après", où les Chefs d'Etats et de gouvernement se sont engagés à réduire de moitié le nombre des personnes souffrant de sous-alimentation dans le monde et je voudrais rappeler cette importante recommandation et féliciter cette Organisation pour les efforts entrepris afin de réaliser cet objectif. Mais je voudrais souligner que l'an 2005 n'est pas très éloigné de nous et que l'échéance non plus n'est pas très éloignée, et que nous n'avons guère que peu de chance de réaliser cet objectif sans intervenir de façon extrêmement vigoureuse dans le domaine de l'agriculture et dans le domaine rural. Nous devons opter pour des solutions scientifiques qui soient transparentes, radicales et en même temps visionnaires. C'est une responsabilité qui nous incombe à tous pour l'évaluation, la planification et l'exécution. Je voudrais maintenant m'entretenir de quelques défis auxquels sont confrontées nos sociétés, surtout du fait des conflits qui sévissent dans de nombreuses parties du monde, ce qui a un impact négatif sur la vie rurale en général.

Les agriculteurs au Liban, pendant plus de 25 ans, ont souffert de l'occupation israélienne, une partie du Sud Liban est encore occupée à l'heure actuelle. En outre, les habitants des zones libérées souffrent encore du danger des mines anti-personnel posées par Israël. Israël, jusqu'à présent, a refusé de donner les cartes de ces zones minées aux Nations Unies et je voudrais

exprimer mon appréciation ici aux pays amis et aux Organisations internationales qui nous ont aidé au déminage. Le développement rural et agricole fait partie intégrante des politiques de développement national que nous avons entreprises au Liban et nous nous efforçons d'instaurer une plus grande croissance dans le secteur agricole, ce qui, d'ailleurs, va au bénéfice d'une grande partie de notre population. Nous avons accordé une grande importance à ce secteur, surtout du point de vue stratégique et au niveau national. Nous essayons de convertir ce secteur pour que ce soit non seulement un secteur productif mais un secteur compétitif aussi sur la scène internationale. Nous accordons une grande importance à l'assistance technique de la FAO dans le cadre du PCT, dans le cadre des différents programmes de terrain financés par cette Organisation. Nous soulignons l'importance du PCT comme outil efficace de transfert des technologies de l'Organisation aux Pays Membres. C'est un moyen important pour lier les opérations normatives avec les opérations de terrain et il faut pouvoir doser ces deux éléments avec suffisamment de souplesse. La FAO est confrontée à une réduction continue de ses ressources, qui a un impact négatif sur sa capacité à répondre aux besoins des Pays Membres et ce qui influe négativement sur ses performances et ses engagements, surtout dans le domaine des ODM. Les mesures prises par le Directeur général, pour soumettre des propositions de réformes radicales, représenteront une nouvelle étape vers la construction d'une Organisation plus active et responsable, répondant mieux aux besoins des Pays Membres et, dans ce contexte, nous souhaitons exprimer notre soutien au lancement de ce processus de réforme, qui doit être un processus évolutif, fondé sur le travail actif au niveau national. Les Pays Membres sont le point de départ pour la planification de ce type de réforme stratégique. Ils peuvent faire de la FAO un centre d'excellence et une source de savoir et cette tendance doit être accompagnée d'efforts pour veiller au transfert de ce savoir vers les pays en développement et vers les groupes cibles. Ceci demande également un renforcement des bureaux régionaux et des bureaux sous-régionaux en fournissant les ressources financières et humaines nécessaires.

Le monde assiste aujourd'hui à un changement radical dans la gestion des ressources et dans la prise de décision. Les Nations Unies traversent, elles aussi, un processus radical de réforme et de restructuration. Les Pays Membres doivent tenir compte du fait que les réformes, qui ne tiennent pas compte des intérêts des pays en développement, créeront un déséquilibre des forces dans le monde et affaibliront encore les plus faibles. La coopération internationale, fondée sur des partenariats authentiques, est à la base des initiatives des organisations multilatérales et des programmes bilatéraux. Nous nous tournons vers la FAO en tant que source et en tant qu'instrument efficace de ces mesures.

To'omata Alapati TO'OMATA (Samoa)

First of all, let me express Samoa's appreciation for the invitation to be here and participate at this 33rd Session of the FAO Conference. Samoa also wishes to congratulate Dr Diouf on your re-appointment as Director-General and continue to offer our support throughout your next new term in office.

We are pleased to note the admission of the Republic of Belarus into our FAO family, an indication of the importance of food as a basic necessity for all humanity.

Samoa would like to make reference to the Communiqué on the "Sixth meeting of the South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture" in June this year, in which we noted, with appreciation, the increasing level of FAO assistance to the region since the inauguration of the sub-regional office of the Pacific in 1996 in Apia, Samoa.

The Ministers endorsed the broad areas of focus of FAO in the region, particularly in the area of trade facilitation, and expressed strong support for continued assistance in strengthening national capacities through technical assistance, advice and training. We also expressed the need for increased assistance, and involvement of FAO, in the development of the fisheries sector as it is a very important source of food and livelihood for all island countries of our region.

Samoa remains committed to our global objective of fighting hunger, through whatever means feasible to alleviate poverty at the national, regional and international level. We are an active

participant in this fight and will continue to play our part, and contribute our share of responsibilities, to reduce hunger by beginning in our own back yard, home island of Samoa.

Having access to quality plant genetic information is a positive step forward to guaranteeing food security on the long term and is an asset to the poverty eradication campaign. The revitalization of our Taro industry, one of our main food crops, from the leaf blight disease for example, was the outcome of intensive research and breeding programmes, using a collection of genetic materials from within Samoa and other countries from the Asia-Pacific region. Today, there is now an ample supply of Taro for local consumption in our country.

The new strategy for the development of Samoa 2005-2007 is focused on a vision "Improved Quality of Life for all Samoans" and one of the six goals to achieve this is " Accelerated Agricultural Growth" through enhancing agriculture activity, promoting commercial investment and institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture and other related agricultural sectors. With two-thirds of households engaged in some form of agricultural activity, and its links to the manufacturing business and tourism sectors of Samoa, the importance of agriculture to our rural communities and to our economy cannot be over-emphasized.

The critical role of quarantine to agriculture and to the country's biosecurity has been addressed by upgrading border protection standards, as well as improving and facilitating external market access through the legislation of the Ministry's new Biosecurity Act 2005, made possible through the contribution of FAO and AUSAID Australia.

Fishery remains a major contributor for local consumption and export earning. The optimum and ecologically sustainable use of Samoa's fishery resources is one of our priorities. At the community level, the establishment of village by-laws for the conservation, protection and management of inshore marine resources by the villagers themselves have been very successful.

There have been some significant areas of growth over the last two years in our agricultural and fisheries sectors, but there have also been some difficulties. There is more pressure than ever on our farmers and our fishers and on our resources. We have to trade in a global market that is increasingly competitive. This is not only for our exports, but also for some of our local industries that face competition from cheaply produced imported products.

The World Food Day this year, which was commemorated together with Coconut Day and the Farmer's Agricultural Show in Samoa, in a combined theme on "Food Security and Agricultural Exports", was a success. Samoa also declared World Food Day as "Samoan Day", where our people are encouraged to plant, produce and consume locally grown foods as well as promoting our culture in donning our national dress.

Samoa is most appreciative of the valuable contributions and assistance from FAO and other international and regional partners, who have one way or another assisted directly or indirectly in improving our agricultural and fisheries activities. The financial and technical assistance provided, and made available to various local organizations as well as to farmers and fishermen in the villages, have undoubtedly helped our nation in our efforts to increase and enhance food production.

Abdulla KAMALUDEEN (Maldives)

I would like to begin by congratulating Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. Diouf's re-election is an unequivocal signal of support from the international community in favour of his vision and his pursuit to defeat hunger from the world. Dr Diouf's success speaks loudly and clearly to the accomplishments of FAO under his leadership. It is indeed an added pleasure for my government to see such a distinguished personality to be re-elected to lead FAO during this important time. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Honorable Cao Duc Phat on his re-election as the Chairperson of this Conference. To the people and government of Belarus, I extend on behalf of my country warmest congratulations for obtaining membership of FAO.

We are approaching the first anniversary of the worst natural disaster which my country has ever experienced - a disaster that turned back the clock of our development, a disaster that had an enormous impact on all fabrics of our society. On 26 December this year, we will marking the first anniversary of the Tsunami disaster that hit the Maldives, along with a number of other countries in the Indian Ocean. Immediately after the Tsunami last year, I was able to travel to most affected areas of the country, and I was able to witness the devastation.

Standing here today, it is impossible to describe the devastation I saw. In some areas of the country, entire islands were turned into rubble. And with almost no infrastructure standing – even the entire populations of these islands exposed to consequences. The past eleven months have not been easy for Maldivians, especially thousands of displaced people who are continuing to live in temporary shelters.

All Maldivians of varying degrees have encountered hardships because of the Tsunami, and many continue to experience hardships. Tourism, which is the biggest contributor to our economy, had to experience real hardship as the result of the Tsunami, and for the first time during the last two and a half decades, our economy is forecasted to register negative growth.

The Fisheries sector, which is the second pillar of our economy, also was hit severely by the Tsunami. Within the fisheries sector, the pole and line tuna harvesting sub-sector, and the small scale fish processing sub-sector were the ones most effected by the Tsunami. Several fishing communities were displaced from their islands. Fishery infrastructures such as fishery island harbours and safe anchorage and boat sheds have been damaged in several islands. Traditional processors, mainly women, in the most affected atolls in the central region lost their productive assets and production stocks. The agriculture sector is among the worst hit sectors as soil and water, which are the basic natural resources of agriculture, are affected by Tsunami waves causing temporary, semi-permanent, or even permanent damage to these resources. The damage to crops was significant in islands which were inundated by seawater for a considerable period. The destruction of standing crops and those around homesteads are substantial. Large portions of arable land was damaged. Substantial number of farming equipment was lost, and damaged agriculture and crop structure are substantial. The damage caused by seawater on productive soil and ground water, which is the only source of irrigation on these islands are of serious concern for any future agricultural activities.

The process of recovery and rebuilding our nation and our economy from the Tsunami disaster continues amidst many limitations and constraints and in this process we have made some notable strides, but there is still a long way to go. And we will not be able to continue the process of reconstruction without support and assistance from the international community.

I am happy to note that the international community has provided and is continuing to provide assistance to the Maldives in our efforts to recover. And on behalf of my government I would like to thank each and every one of these countries and organizations for the work they are doing.

I am also happy to note that the fisheries and agriculture sector of the Maldives have received generous assistance from the international community to cope with the losses from the Tsunami disaster, however there is still exist a funding debt for vital recovery programs within both these sectors.

In the fisheries sector, there is a funding gap of about 10.5 million dollars, and in the agriculture sector, there is a funding gap of 4.7 million dollars. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to obtain assistance to fill these funding gaps.

Before I conclude, I would like to briefly touch on a subject of great concern to the Maldives. Everyday we are constantly reminded of the grave dangers of Avian and pandemic influenza. If there is an outbreak, Maldives will neither have the technical nor the financial capacity to deal with it. And I would not even like to contemplate on the consequences of such an incident. As a country, we need to be prepared for an outbreak, and we need both technical and financial assistance to prepare the country to deal with such a crisis.

The government of Maldives is grateful to the international community for their assistance to the Maldives in our efforts to recover from the Tsunami disaster. In this regard, I would like to offer our gratitude to FAO for the excellent work, which they are doing in the Maldives to assist the fisheries and agriculture sectors.

I am also happy to note, that immediately after the Tsunami, FAO established an office in the Maldives to deal with Tsunami emergencies. The FAO office has done, and is doing excellent work in assisting the Fisheries and Agriculture Sector Recovery Program.

Apart from direct assistance, FAO office has also played a phenomenal role coordinating assistance from other donors. It is our hope that the fisheries and agriculture sectors of the Maldives can continue to benefit from the FAO office in the Maldives.

Clobert TCHATAT (Cameroun)

Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de vous féliciter chaleureusement pour votre brillante élection et de vous assurer du soutien inconditionnel du Cameroun à l'exercice de votre mandat en tant que Président de la Conférence. Il en est de même pour les Vice-présidents qui ont été élus avec vous.

Les membres ont décidé de renouveler leur confiance à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, conformément aux nouvelles dispositions sur la durée et le nombre de mandats du Directeur général, en le réélisant pour une durée de six ans. Il est donc de ce fait à son troisième mandat à la tête de la FAO, ce qui le place, mieux que quiconque, dans une position privilégiée pour connaître les problèmes de l'Organisation. Ma délégation se réjouit d'avoir participé à cette réélection et c'est l'occasion pour moi de lui présenter, au nom du Chef de l'Etat, le Président Paul Biya, les vives félicitations du Cameroun. Le Cameroun reste déterminé à lui apporter son soutien dans le fonctionnement de notre institution. D'ailleurs l'une des preuves, la plus visible, de ce soutien est le fait que le Cameroun est sans doute parmi les rares pays à être en avance sur les contributions dues pour le biennium 2006-2007.

Nous allons, au cours de cette session, nous pencher sur une question qui, depuis le mois d'août de cette année, est l'un des centres d'intérêt des discussions entre le Secrétariat de la FAO, le staff et les groupes régionaux. Il s'agit des propositions de la réforme soumises par le Directeur général. L'initiative, mais surtout la volonté d'engager la réforme est, à n'en point douter, un acte de grand courage à mettre à l'actif du Directeur général qui, au moment de sa publication, était encore en période préélectorale, cherchant encore le suffrage des Membres. Au-delà de toute considération partisane, nous devons d'abord saluer ce courage. Le Cameroun reste convaincu que l'approbation, par la Conférence, de ses propositions de réforme, contribuera à renforcer l'autorité du Directeur général, et nous oeuvrerons, de toutes nos forces, et dans le cadre des négociations entre les groupes régionaux, pour donner au Directeur général la confiance dont il a besoin pour adapter notre institution, au travers de cette réforme, à la grande mouvance des réformes au sein du système des Nations Unies.

Le processus de la mise en œuvre de l'Evaluation externe indépendante de la FAO, approuvée lors de la 127^{ème} Session du Conseil, est, si l'on s'en tient au rapport qui en a été fait régulièrement aux sessions suivantes du Conseil, définitivement lancé. Nous devons comprendre que le lancement de ce processus, bien qu'antérieur aux propositions de réformes ne doit pas leur faire ombre. Certes tous les Membres en attendent beaucoup. Il est donc important que les fonds nécessaires à sa réalisation soient le plus rapidement possible mobilisés.

L'examen du document sur le programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation pour les deux prochaines années fera également l'objet, j'en suis convaincu, de négociations très serrées. Le Cameroun, à l'instar de la majorité des pays en développement a toujours plaidé une augmentation substantielle des programmes de terrain. C'est à ce stade que nous restons interrogatifs sur le niveau acceptable du budget de l'Organisation. Il devient de plus en plus clair que les Etats membres demandent davantage de travail à la FAO, sans pour autant envisager l'augmentation de l'enveloppe globale. Ceci est une contradiction patente. Il faut rester consistant et conséquent envers nous-même, il nous est difficile de plaider pour un niveau de budget autre que celui de la croissance réelle, étant entendu que cela aboutirait à plus de programmes de coopération

technique, un financement adéquat du programme EMPRES, un soutien plus accru au Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire et un nombre plus élevé de programmes de terrain dans les domaines prioritaires d'actions intégrées ayant des considérations multidisciplinaires.

Nous sommes rendus aujourd'hui au terme du premier biennium de la mise en œuvre de la politique de recouvrement fractionné de contributions en deux monnaies. Le rapport qui a été soumis à cet effet montre que les arguments qui ont conduit à l'adoption du nouveau barème restent valides. Nous soutenons par conséquent la poursuite de ce mode de recouvrement, avec les propositions de correction contenues dans le rapport.

La célébration du 60^{ème} anniversaire de la FAO le 17 octobre dernier sous le thème "libérer l'humanité de la faim", a été un succès mais elle nous a laissé comme un sentiment d'éternel recommencement dans la lutte contre la faim. Il vous souvient probablement qu'en 1985, lors de sa 23^{ème} session, célébrant le 40^{ème} anniversaire de la FAO, la Conférence avait adopté un "Pacte mondial de la sécurité alimentaire". Qu'en est-il advenu aujourd'hui ? L'Organisation a décidé depuis 2002 de créer une association volontaire connue sous le nom de l'Alliance internationale contre la faim. Est-ce là une nouvelle étape ? A-t-on besoin de jouer sur les mots pour faire entendre la même rhétorique ? La réponse est non, car nous avons besoin d'actions qui portent.

Toujours en 1985, la Conférence avait pris une résolution pour résoudre définitivement les problèmes structurels de l'agriculture africaine. En évaluant la mise en œuvre de cette résolution après vingt ans, on fait le constat amer que rien n'a changé dans le sens souhaité, bien au contraire : la faim en Afrique, au lieu de reculer, continue de sévir de manière pernicieuse.

La faim est une arme redoutable qui peut être utilisée par les pays, à la recherche d'une certaine hégémonie, pour en asservir d'autres. Aujourd'hui, le monde n'a plus besoin de cela, mais plutôt d'un autre équilibre basé sur la solidarité internationale et sur un partenariat franc et sincère, car voyez-vous, un monde totalement libéré de la faim peut être porteur des germes de la paix et de la sécurité.

L'examen par la présente Conférence, de la situation alimentaire et de l'agriculture, va, j'en suis convaincu, mettre un accent particulier sur la situation en Afrique et l'inquiétude que la mauvaise performance de l'agriculture africaine fait naître au sein de la communauté internationale. La FAO va-t-elle prendre à son compte le momentum généré par les déclarations d'intention et les perspectives louables contenues dans le Rapport du Projet du millénaire de Jeffrey Sachs, la déclaration de l'initiative de Paris sur l'aide au développement, le recentrage de la lutte contre la pauvreté et la faim à la 60^{ème} Assemblée générale des Nations Unies ou alors la déclaration du G8 au sommet de Gleneagles ? Nous le souhaitons vivement.

Bien que l'Afrique soit aujourd'hui au centre des préoccupations mondiales par rapport à la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire, notamment celui de réduire de moitié la pauvreté et la faim dans le monde d'ici à 2015, la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans l'ensemble des pays en développement reste fragile, en raison des difficultés que rencontrent ces pays dans les échanges commerciaux. Nous portons par conséquent beaucoup d'espoir sur les décisions qui seront prises lors de la sixième Conférence ministérielle de Hong Kong, dans le cadre de l'OMC pour faire avancer les négociations du cycle de Doha, qui sont en cours depuis quatre ans déjà.

Pour ce qui est du Cameroun, la situation n'est pas éloignée de celle de l'Afrique sur un plan général. Mon pays continue à jouir d'une autosuffisance alimentaire. Toutefois, il est victime, de temps en temps, des calamités naturelles qui fragilisent certaines régions et leur impose une dépendance ponctuelle sur l'aide alimentaire. Je tiens à affirmer que l'ensemble des programmes de tout le secteur rural contribue à l'amélioration de la situation de la sécurité alimentaire sur le plan national et les réflexions sont en cours pour juguler durablement la fragilité, sur le plan alimentaire, des régions affectées à partir d'un programme à long terme.

Le Cameroun jouit d'une longue et fructueuse collaboration avec la FAO. Pour le biennium qui se termine, 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. Plus d'une dizaine de PCT ont été mis en œuvre pour un montant dépassant deux millions de dollars.

En outre, le financement du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire qui est à la fin de sa phase pilote, a connu un important appui de la part de la FAO, qui continue à œuvrer avec le Cameroun et d'autres bailleurs de fonds comme la Banque africaine de développement, au passage à une phase supérieure. C'est donc le lieu pour moi, de remercier la FAO pour les efforts consentis.

Le Cameroun, qui a souscrit à la Déclaration de Maputo, par laquelle les Chefs d'Etat africains consentent à consacrer dix pour cent des budgets nationaux à l'agriculture, a commencé à réaliser cet engagement, et nous entendons mieux faire dans les années à venir.

En début 2006, l'Afrique se retrouvera à Bamako au Mali dans le cadre de la 24^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique. Celle-ci traitera sûrement des problèmes structurels de l'agriculture africaine et discutera longuement de la question de la sécurité alimentaire dans le continent. En anticipant sur les probables conclusions de ladite Conférence, il nous paraît judicieux, d'envisager d'ores et déjà, des actions de suivi dans le cadre de l'Union africaine, du NEPAD, à travers son Programme détaillé de développement de l'agriculture. La FAO pourrait participer à ce suivi par le financement, à la demande de l'Union africaine, des consultations de haut niveau qui sont prévues à cet égard.

Tomas MANDLATE (Mozambique)

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to lead the FAO destined. We are confident that under his enlightened and skilful guidance this organization will be more effective in addressing present and future challenges.

We have just celebrated last October the World Food Day with the theme selected for this year being "Agricultural and Intercultural Dialogue". This theme reminds all of us to the critical contribution of different cultures to agricultural development over the years and encourages countries to have a more intense intercultural dialogue among people as a way to fight hunger and malnutrition, while minimizing environmental degradation in our countries.

Mozambique is blessed with a large agricultural potential, with an estimated 36 million hectares of arable land of which 9 million hectares are presently being cultivated. The main challenge, however, is to translate this potential into development and create a conducive environment in which agriculture contribute more effectively to poverty eradication.

While accelerating agricultural growth through commercial private investments, the development of the smallholder sector, remains a high priority and an important objective.

Eradication of poverty has become the main development objective. To achieve this objective, Mozambique has designed the Poverty Reduction Strategy which is an umbrella of Mozambique's medium term planning instruments, and its objectives drive the instruments lower down the hierarchy, including sector programmes such as the Agriculture Sector Development Program.

This Programme aims to support both small-scale farmers and commercial agriculture through provision or facilitation of access to essential services such as technology generation and dissemination, access to market and financial services for both inputs and outputs.

In fact, access to financial services, particularly credit facilities, remains one of the major challenges for agricultural development in Mozambique.

Mozambique still faces severe regional food shortages associated with cyclic natural disasters. The geographic location of the country and its yet fragile economic development make the country structurally vulnerable to natural hazards, resulting in cyclic food crisis.

As I speak now, more than 800 000 people are in a situation of extreme food insecurity, which needs food assistance as a result of the drought experienced during the last agricultural season.

In spite of this adversity, which has continually challenged the life of our people, Mozambique has made a tremendous effort to transit from emergency to sustainable development through the implementation of policies and strategies that are conducive for the reduction of hunger and poverty.

Cognizant of the need to address poverty and food insecurity in a more structured manner, the Government of Mozambique is undertaking several initiatives as part of its rural development strategy, namely improvement of rural infrastructure and access to water supply, education and health services.

In the agriculture sector, rural households are being encouraged to diversify their activities according to the potential of each agro-climate zone. In this regard, livestock production and aquaculture are becoming important sectors for food security and income earning.

A key factor is a closer cooperation between Government, civil society, and international agencies as a way to improve service delivery and promote community participation in the fight against hunger and poverty.

In this regard, the Government of Mozambique has embarked on a decentralization process, in which districts are the basis for economic, social and cultural development. This approach assures closer ties between public administration and the rural communities as well as their leaders to participate effectively in the process of rural development.

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Government of Mozambique to the MDG. In this context, we have made some progress by reducing the proportion of the population living below the poverty line from 69 to 54 percent.

In fact, this struggle requires all nations to join efforts in all directions including development relief, market access, nutrition education, prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS, access to financing for agricultural and improvement of rural infrastructure.

FAO support has been instrumental for the Government intervention in Mozambique. The special programme for food security, the rehabilitation of small scale irrigation schemes, the agricultural input trade fairs, the community based forest and wildlife management, the implementation of land legislation and support for the national food security information system, are just examples of FAO valuable support.

The Government of Mozambique is very much in favour of FAO reforms. We believe this reform will result in the improvement of FAO efficiency and effectiveness in providing more technical assistance to member countries.

As I conclude, I wish to reiterate the commitment of my Government to the millennium development goals to halve food insecurity by 2015. In the context of Africa, I believe that the NEPAD vision, the implementation of the CAADP and its flagship projects, under the wise guidance of FAO, constitute the important tools to face the hunger and poverty.

Badri Prasad MANDAL (Nepal)

I feel it a pleasure and privilege to be here in Rome to attend this 33rd session of FAO Conference and to convey greetings and best wishes from His Majesty, the King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev for the success of this Conference. Please allow me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your well-deserved election to the Chair of this Conference. I would also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as the Director-General of FAO. Our Organization has the benefit of having one of our old and experienced friends to live the organization in a challenging time of history.

The world community undertook to set humanity free from hunger and poverty with the establishment of FAO some sixty years ago. The commitment we placed during the World Food Summit and the goals we set during the UN Millennium Summit are the recent milestones. Notwithstanding, it is disappointing to note that with the current pace of progress, the world seems still destined to be having as many as 600 million hungry people in 2015. Ironically, such failure occurs in the world where there exist ample technical and financial capacities to feed its population.

Moreover, new dimensions and intricacies are constantly rapidly emerging to threaten our ability to feed all people at all times everywhere. Natural calamities, man-made violence and alarming

diseases on plants and animals have been recurring more frequently and in larger scales. These events render all societies vulnerable to food insecurity in the immediate, short, medium and long terms.

We have witnessed the major advances in science and technology to find scientific solutions to the problems as they unfold. It is testified by the remarkable achievements made in the past in the productivity frontiers and remarkable progress presently being made in areas of biotechnology and genetic engineering. It is time that we political leaders and policy-makers rise up to our promises to put our economic power and more regional matter service of humanity. We need to intensify global partnership in the realm of aid, trade and technology transfer so as to ensure a just access of all people to the increased products and of all times.

With respect to aid, we reiterate our urge to developed countries to come closer to the agreed targets of Official Development Assistance in a more purposefully focused manner. As we prepare to meet in Hong Kong next month, the developing and least developed countries like Nepal are placing high hopes on the conclusion of the Doha Development Round of Trade Negotiations in their favour with regard to trade technology transfer. We call upon the developed countries to come up with realistic compromises to pave the way for the gainful integration of agriculture and food sectors of the developing and least developed countries into the global economy youth expanded access to markets and technology and enhance capacity to benefit from the enlarged opportunity.

Please allow me now to share our recent experience in our combat against hunger and poverty at the national level. We have launched our Tenth Five Year Plan (2002 to 2007) with the sole objective of reducing poverty. In fact the plan has been packaged as a country's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and has been aligned to the goals of the Millennium Development Declaration. Our plan is thus premised on four pillars and their high sustainable and broad based growth, social sector and infrastructure development, social inclusion and targeted programmes and good governance. In agriculture, the 20 Year Agriculture Perspective plan, APP launched since 1997 provides the basic framework for boosting agricultural production through new technology and market orientation. The recent National Agriculture Policy 2004 outlines policy framework for achieving APP growth targets and for expediting the bigger and broader trickle of the growth dividend to the poor and subsistence sections of the farming community. Gradual decentralization of service delivery, promotion of private sector and public private partnership in agricultural investment, enterprise and research accompanied by focused safety net programs will be the hallmarks of agricultural development policy in the years to come.

I am delighted to see some achievements Nepal has been able to make in the sphere of poverty reduction in the decade following World Food Summit. We have experienced remarkable reduction in poverty by 11 percentage points from 42 percent in 1996 to 31 percent in 2004, though there remains much to be done to bridge the disparity in incidence of poverty between rural and urban communities and disparity among various social groups.

Unfortunately, the ongoing terrorist activities have been undermining the growth in the agriculture sector. The present Government therefore accords utmost priority to restoring peace in the country. It is against this background that His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev took the compulsive step on February 1 this year, to restore peace, order and stability in the country and put back on track the derailed democratic and development processes. Ever since then, peace and security have been gradually improving in the country under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty, the King. We appreciate firm support and understanding from the international community who translate this opportunity to lasting peace and stability in the country.

Even as we are striving to ensure the right of our citizens to be free from hunger, we are compelled to commit scarce resources in our fight against terrorism. We are equally feeling pressure on our resources to the areas of rehabilitation of victims and of terror and internally displaced people as well as rebuild destroyed infrastructures. We need firm international support

in the two pronged war, we have been launching at a time today – war on hunger and war on terror.

Moreover, the recent needs assessment has estimated the financial resources requirement for implementing hunger/agriculture intervention package of the MDGs to amount considerably higher than the government current budgetary allocations. This gap implies there needs a considerable increase in present level of financial support by our external development partners.

These are some of the areas which outlined the broad framework for the cooperation between us, the FAO and the cooperating member countries in the two pronged war we have been launching at a time today – war on hunger, war on terror. Moreover, the recent needs assessment has estimated the financial resources requirement, for implementing hunger/agriculture intervention package of the MDGs, to amount considerably higher than the government current budgetary allocations. This gap implies that there needs a considerable increase in present level of financial support by our external development partners.

These are some of the areas which outline the broad framework for the cooperation between us, the FAO and the cooperating member countries. Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Director-General's initiatives towards reforming the Organization to cope with the emerging challenges. We hope the initiative gets concrete shape sooner than later.

Ely OULD AHMEDOU (Mauritanie)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord, Monsieur le Président, de vous adresser mes très sincères félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection unanime pour diriger les travaux de notre présente session. Vos qualités personnelles et votre engagement pour la réalisation des nobles idéaux de notre Organisation, sont un gage de la réussite de cette 33^{ème} Conférence générale. Monsieur le Directeur général, votre réélection pour un nouveau mandat à la tête de la FAO nous honore et nous réjouit, en ce sens que c'est là une confiance renouvelée à un frère du Sénégal mais également et surtout, une reconnaissance des compétences, du sérieux et du dévouement d'un homme qui aura consacré son action au combat contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Aussi, je vous adresse les chaleureuses félicitations de mon pays, la Mauritanie, de son peuple, son Président et son gouvernement, ainsi que nos vœux de succès et notre entier soutien à votre action.

Permettez-moi de transmettre à Monsieur le Directeur général, ainsi qu'à la FAO, la haute considération et les salutations du gouvernement et du peuple mauritanien pour l'importance de l'appui accordé à notre pays. En effet, la coopération entre mon pays et la FAO est ancienne et multiforme. Elle est d'autant plus importante pendant cette période particulière, durant laquelle, après le changement intervenu le 3 août 2005, les hautes autorités nationales se sont fermement engagées à réhabiliter l'état de droit, à assurer une bonne gouvernance et à organiser des élections transparentes pendant une période de transition, initialement prévue pour un maximum de 24 mois et qui a été raccourcie de cinq mois, soit 19 mois au total. Cela permettra d'assurer une alternance au pouvoir et la sécurité et la stabilité auxquelles nous aspirons. La coopération de mon pays avec la FAO touche plusieurs domaines, allant de l'appui aux agriculteurs et éleveurs, au renforcement des capacités nationales, à la sécurité alimentaire et à la lutte anti-acridienne. Pour cette dernière, le peuple mauritanien se souvient toujours de l'action rapide, vigoureuse et coordonnée de la FAO lors de l'invasion qu'a connu le pays en 2004.

Nous sommes également reconnaissants au Directeur général de la FAO pour la rapidité avec laquelle il a agi pour faire bénéficier notre pays du projet de lutte contre la grippe aviaire dans six pays d'Afrique du nord face à une pandémie potentielle particulièrement préoccupante pour la communauté internationale en général et les pays en voie de développement qui demeurent particulièrement exposés à cette pandémie.

Nous voici réunis une fois de plus pour réfléchir sur un sujet d'une extrême importance portant sur l'avenir de notre Organisation commune. Le gouvernement de mon pays apprécie positivement les réalisations de la FAO sous l'impulsion particulièrement dynamique du Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et appuie sans réserve ses propositions de réformes intitulées "Une

vision pour le 21^{ème} siècle". Ces réformes nous permettront de réaliser à l'avenir des économies qui pourront être réorientées vers des activités opérationnelles sur le terrain. Elles s'inscrivent également avec pertinence dans le contexte global de celles de toutes les organisations du système des Nations Unies et permettront sans aucun doute d'atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, notamment celui tant attendu de réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées pour 2015 au plus tard, tel est l'objectif auquel nous aspirons tous.

Le programme de réforme qui nous est soumis tombe à point et nous espérons qu'il sera adopté sans attendre et que des moyens substantiels seront mis à la disposition du Directeur général afin d'en assurer la mise en œuvre. Notre soutien à la FAO devra être à la hauteur des immenses espoirs que les populations laborieuses des pays pauvres et en voie de développement fondent sur notre Organisation du fait qu'elles sont les premières à bénéficier de l'aide de cette Organisation.

Ms Maria DE BRITO NEVES (Cape Verde)

Rest assured that we will do everything we can to contribute to a smooth development of our work, which I do hope will be quite a success. Might I also say how happy I am to be able to congratulate His Excellency, Jacques Diouf, and his country Senegal, on his brilliant re-election. I am very happy to know that, once again, our Organization will be guided by him. His wisdom and skills, which he has demonstrated to us, are going to be major trumps in the transformation and consolidation of FAO.

The Government of my country has a strategic objective, which is to eradicate poverty. We have begun a transformation process in the country, to improve our competitiveness and to ensure that we have sustainable development. We have adopted a national environment action plan. We have developed a Strategic Agricultural Development Plan for a ten year period. We also have a fisheries resources management plan.

What we want to do is deal with the problems of poverty on a holistic basis. Look at environmental deterioration, rural community development and do all of this in line with the considerations that have been put forward in the African Union in this sector. The Strategic Agricultural Development Plan is a strategic document intended to provide a framework of action for those intervening.

We are encouraging development in this sector in the medium and long term – looking at sustainable development based on integrated planning and management of water basins, making proper use of natural resources and making proper use of socio-economic resources. We want to ensure that we give small farmers greater responsibility. These are the fundamental elements for the sustainability of development.

First of all, we must restructure agricultural practices, and adapt them to climatic conditions, to be able to make sustainable use of resources and have an integrated approach to the development of rural communities, making those communities responsible, and making populations responsible, in all phases and levels of development. And we also want to adopt a vision to ensure that we promote socio-economic and gender equality.

In a strategic plan, we also want to strengthen the network of production support services, on the basis of an extension of rural services and capacity building for communities, and associations, in their interventions.

Cape Verde wants to take up the challenge to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness by developing multi-functionality, increasing food production, improving food security, creating jobs, territorial planning, protecting and defending the environment, and having a balanced integration of the process and promotion of sustainable development.

In this context, my delegation would like to highlight the importance of the support given by FAO to the African Union and its member states. We would ask FAO to continue cooperating with the African Union, NEPAD and African countries in the Organization, by ensuring that we can have follow up to progress that has already been achieved, and to the plans that have been developed, for the implementation of agriculture programs for the continent.

Despite all the efforts that have been made, and the results that have been achieved, Cape Verde, as an island and vulnerable country, must deal with constraints of all type. We have obstacles that we have to take up as quickly as possible, in order to achieve the goals that have been laid out within the framework of the strategic agriculture development plan and the national action plan.

We want to make sure that we can meet these within the timeline provided for, thus contributing to the use of our natural resources, growth of agricultural production, and protection of the environment.

We would like to pay a particular thanks to FAO, and launch appeal to friends and partners in development of Cape Verde, to mobilize the necessary political will to ensure we have the necessary resources, at the right time, in order to implement our strategic agricultural development plan and the action plan.

This Conference is an excellent opportunity to define, and approve, the action items and to adopt the instruments, which will guide us in our future actions, bearing in mind the need to ensure that our Organization has the resources needed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to seek an adequate response to the decisions of the World Food Summit plus five *inter alia*.

We have matters such as the IEE of FAO, and the necessary form of our organization, which will be analyzed and all of these matters are closely linked to the 2006-2007 Program of Work and Budget. My delegation feels that the time has come to make commitments, which regard our action in the future.

Cape Verde, as I've said, is a developing island country and welcomes the results of the recent Ministerial Meeting on Food Security on Sustainable Development for Small Island States. This was held on 18 November last and this meeting, once again, recognized the small island country's great vulnerability to external factors. We have matters such as the year of FAO and necessary forum of the organization, which will be analysed and all of these matters are closely linked to the 2006-07 programme of work and budget. My delegation feels that the time has come to make commitments which will guide our action in the future.

Cape Verde as already said is a developing island country and welcomes the results of the recent Ministerial meeting on food security and sustainable development for a small island state. This was held on 18 November last and this meeting once again recognized a great vulnerability of small island countries' vulnerability to external factors and also recognized the structure weakness and specific limitations.

We wish to join others who have asked that the plan be implemented. We want to ensure that we can work better in the regional conferences for Africa, and therefore my delegation would like to appear to the Secretariat to create the conditions from a technical and working point of view that are needed to ensure that Portuguese is included in the conference as a working language.

Mohamed ABDOULHAMID (Comores)

C'est pour moi un réel plaisir de prendre la parole pour m'adresser à cette auguste assemblée au nom de mon pays l'Union des Comores.

Que son Excellence Monsieur le Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, me permette de lui présenter mes remerciements les plus sereins pour m'avoir offert cette opportunité, tout comme je lui adresse au nom de mon Gouvernement et au mien propre, toutes mes félicitations et encouragements pour être reconduit à la tête de la FAO, institution aux nobles missions.

La situation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde est extrêmement préoccupante; des milliers et des milliers de personnes, en particulier celles des pays les moins avancés, souffrent encore de la malnutrition, de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire en général.

Des cas graves et aussi flagrants sont parfois vécus dans certaines régions et tout ceci en dépit de nombreux efforts inlassables déployés ici et là par les institutions et organisations internationales, en particulier la FAO. D'ailleurs, permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de saisir cette opportunité

pour rendre à notre chère institution, la FAO, un hommage assez vibrant pour le succès qu'elle ne cesse de remporter dans son combat contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Un diagnostic rapide révèle que cette situation alarmante est le résultat d'un déclin notoire de l'aide au développement et surtout des investissements en faveur du secteur agricole. Ce qui est paradoxale, voir même contradictoire dans tout cela, c'est que les montants faramineux sont incongrument déversés dans des guerres, la lutte contre le terrorisme et l'immigration. On oublie souvent que ces phénomènes sont les conséquences d'un fait et non pas le fait lui-même.

Et ce fait c'est la pauvreté; il faut donc attaquer le mal par sa racine, prendre le bœuf par les cornes. Car dois-je aussi le rappeler le phénomène de mondialisation ne se limite pas uniquement aux seuls échanges commerciaux. Il traduit également l'unicité géographique de ce monde qui fait qu'aucun coin du monde ne peut être épargné par un mal ressenti dans un autre coin. J'en appelle ainsi les pays lotis à plus de solidarité, de sympathie et de sacrifice envers les autres pays démunis. Ils ont des devoirs et une responsabilité morale envers eux.

S'agissant du cas spécifique des Comores, la situation de la sécurité alimentaire n'est pas épargnée par les difficultés et contraintes diverses qui l'entravent. Et cela en dépit aussi des accompagnements conséquents dont le pays a fait l'objet quelques années après son indépendance.

Selon le rapport mondial sur le développement humain 2004, l'indice de développement des Comores est de 0,53 correspondant à une espérance de vie à la naissance de 60,8, un taux d'alphabétisation des adultes de 56,2.

Il faudra reconnaître aussi, Monsieur le Président, que le pays a longtemps vécu des moments d'instabilité et d'impasse qui ont constitué des facteurs majeurs de blocage aux initiatives de développement.

La manifestation la plus frappante est la crise séparatiste qui a terni l'image du pays pendant plus de sept ans et qui, grâce à l'appui et au soutien de la communauté internationale et de certains pays amis a qui je rends ici hommage, s'est présentement résorbée.

C'est pourquoi je saisis cette opportunité pour porter à la connaissance de cette assemblée la tenue le 8 décembre prochain à l'île sœur de Maurice, la Conférence des partenaires de l'Union des Comores.

Cette conférence qui rentre dans le cadre du processus de réconciliation nationale et de mise en place des institutions a pour objectif de sensibiliser tous les partenaires des Comores sur les préjudices que cette crise a causé au pays sur le plan économique, ainsi que la nécessité impérieuse de soutenir le décollage et la relance de la croissance du pays.

Je lance donc un appel à toutes les bonnes volontés ici présentes, de se joindre aux autres partenaires en vue de concrétiser cette ambition.

Nous espérons que ces assises permettront à l'Union des Comores, grâce aux propositions des participants, de réussir son pari, celui de la réduction de la pauvreté et l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire de la population.

Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi d'inviter l'honorable assistance à une séance d'information demain, mercredi, 23 novembre 2005, sur cette Conférence des bailleurs de fonds au siège de la FAO dans la salle de l'Iran, entre 18 et 19 heures.

Mtiti FAKUDZE (Swaziland)

Allow me on behalf of his Majesty King Mswati III, the Government and the People of the Kingdom of Swaziland to join my colleagues in congratulating the Director-General for his re-election in the eternal city of this very important organization.

As a Minister responsible for Agriculture, I feel very honoured and privileged to address this caucus meeting. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the secretariat and the Italian authorities for the excellent reception accorded to my delegation since we arrived in this historic and beautiful city of Rome.

We are participating in this meeting being mindful of the very serious and devastating disasters that have befallen several regions of the membership of FAO. I have in mind, the tsunami in Asia, hurricane Katrina in the southern United States of America and recent earthquakes in the southern Asia Peninsula. These are just a few of the many calamities facing our countries and have resulted in phenomenal miseries in the form of losses in human life and property as well as serious deterioration of our environment. My country wishes to express our condolences and solidarity with all affected countries. We also believe that such adverse occurrences will definitely impact on the state of food and agriculture for all our peoples.

The Kingdom of Swaziland attaches a lot of importance to the development of agriculture as a vehicle for the transformation of economies in developing countries. We believe that agriculture offers better opportunities to achieve food security, reduction of rampant poverty and promotion of better welfare for the majority of our people. Currently, the Swaziland economy is anchored on agriculture in areas such as the growing and processing of major commodities including sugar cane, citrus, cotton, maize, beef and dairy production as well as forest development. Our landlocked position dictates that we aggressively develop aquaculture to improve human nutrition and the general welfare of our people.

It has, however, been disheartening to observe that the international trading environment appears to be deteriorating for most of our agricultural commodities. In the case of Swaziland we are threatened by the sharp decline in sugar prices as a result of the EU sugar reforms, low cotton prices as a result of over production in some countries and huge subsidies in others. As if this is not enough, some trading blocks have instituted very stringent trading requirements which to us appear to be nothing other than non- trade barriers. We submit that such arrangement will stifle agricultural and economic leading to more food insecurity and poverty. My delegation therefore calls for the speedy removal of these subsidies and all those stringent regulations which retard trade in commodities from developing countries.

In the last five years, most countries in southern Africa have been experiencing serious droughts which have led to the depletion of ground and surface water resources. This has led to widespread hunger and poverty. The high prevalence of HIV and AIDS has also complicated our situation.

We wish to express Swaziland's appreciation to local and international donors such as the FAO and WFP for assisting us with food aid and basic agricultural inputs. We also wish to express our gratitude to those countries contributing to the global fund for the amelioration of the effects of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS. This fund is also assisting in food production and nutrition for the proportion of orphans and other vulnerable groups.

Agricultural development and food security be achieved in a poor policy environment. It is for this reason that my delegation is pleased to report to this meeting that in July of this year Swaziland adopted an inclusive and home grown constitution with the active assistance of friendly countries and international institutions such as the UNDP, European Union and the Commonwealth secretariat. We believe that this constitution will provide a conducive political and socio-economic environment for agricultural development.

We also just completed the preparation of a comprehensive agricultural sector policy and food security policy. We would like to express our appreciation to the FAO and the UNDP who have facilitated the preparation processes. It is our conviction that adoption of the new constitution and progressive agricultural policies will guarantee economic advancement through agriculture. Ultimately we as a country hope that such an environment will help us achieve the World Food Summit's and Millennium Development Goals of reducing by half the number of hungry people by 2015.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, I wish to congratulate you and members of your Bureau on your election, my delegation is convinced that you will guide the deliberations of this important meeting to a successful conclusion.

Ultimately, we as a country hope that such an environment will help us achieve the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goals of reducing by half the number of hungry people by 2015.

Lastly, I wish to congratulate you and members of your bureau on your election. My delegation is convinced that you will guide the deliberations of this important meeting to a successful conclusion.

Padacke Albert PAHIMI (Tchad)

La délégation tchadienne est heureuse et honorée de s'adresser à la 33^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je voudrais, avant tout propos, vous féliciter Monsieur le Directeur général pour votre brillante réélection à un nouveau mandat et pour vos actions multiformes contre la faim, surtout dans les pays les plus pauvres comme le mien.

La pertinence des thèmes de la 33^{ème} session montre que la FAO réaffirme sa mission première qui consiste à donner aux ruraux les plus pauvres les moyens de se libérer de la faim mais également marque sa détermination à œuvrer efficacement pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire, cela nous rassure.

Pour traduire dans les faits les Objectifs du Millénaire, le gouvernement du Tchad a défini quelques axes prioritaires pour le secteur rural. Il s'agit, entre autres, de la modernisation de la production agricole, de la maîtrise de l'eau et de la lutte contre les ennemis des cultures, de la promotion de la recherche, de la vulgarisation, de la fourniture des équipements et des intrants agricoles sans oublier la dimension sanitaire des aliments. Bref, il s'agit d'améliorer la qualité de vie du monde rural.

Tous ces axes prioritaires ont été consignés dans un vaste programme de sécurité alimentaire avec l'appui de la FAO. Ce programme a, d'ailleurs, été adopté en votre présence à N'Djaména, Monsieur le Directeur général, par son Excellence, Monsieur Idriss Deby, Président de la République du Tchad, Chef de l'Etat.

En effet, l'objectif de ce programme est de contribuer à vaincre la faim et combattre l'insécurité alimentaire dans mon pays à l'horizon 2015. Ceci, par l'augmentation durable de la productivité et de la production. Il s'agit de combiner les mesures susceptibles de garantir l'accessibilité des populations aux denrées alimentaires, tant en termes de quantité que de qualité, tout en conservant durablement les ressources naturelles de base.

Il me plaît de rappeler ici pour confirmer les engagements du gouvernement du Tchad quant à sa part de financement de ce vaste programme. A ce niveau, mon pays sait qu'il peut compter sur la FAO, qui permet de faciliter la mise en œuvre de cet immense programme pour rappeler à nos partenaires les bonnes intentions naguère manifestées à ce propos. Qu'ils reçoivent ici nos remerciements anticipés.

Monsieur le Directeur général, les grandes réformes que vous avez initiées, visent à mieux promouvoir l'agriculture, à mieux combattre la faim, donc à mieux réduire la pauvreté. Vous relèveriez ces défis avec plus de succès si les Pays Membres de la FAO, surtout les plus riches, s'engageaient davantage à vos côtés, en cessant de subventionner la pauvreté dans les pays les plus pauvres. En effet, à l'heure où nous parlons, plus de 20 millions de planteurs de cotons africains ne peuvent vendre au juste prix les fruits de leur labeur du fait de subventions massives des pays riches qui stimulent ainsi la pauvreté au lieu de la réduire comme affirmé dans les discours.

Le drame qui se joue actuellement à l'OMC doit nous interpeller individuellement et collectivement. La lutte contre la pauvreté ne doit pas demeurer un vain mot. Pour finir, je voudrais exprimer le soutien de mon pays aux réformes envisagées par Monsieur Jacques Diouf, pour plus de production, pour moins de faim et pour moins de pauvreté dans le monde.

Mohammed SHARIF (Afghanistan)

FAO, which we own as Member Nations, is a unique inter-governmental organization, dedicated to a very noble cause of major concern to humanity, namely, the eradication of hunger and poverty, the two main aims of the Millennium Declaration. FAO is also a knowledge base and the source of impartial advice to all its Member Nations, rich and poor alike, in times of need. This makes FAO an indispensable organization.

The Director-General, who was elected by Member Nations to lead this Organization for another six years, has proposed a reform package for re-structuring the FAO, so it can face up to the challenge of the 21st century. My Government wishes him well and supports the thrust of his reform package, with details to be worked out through further consultation with membership and in the light of the findings that may emerge from the forthcoming Independent External Evaluation of the Organization. However, we representatives of Member Nations must be cognizant of one very essential fact, namely, to make sure that this worthy Organization remains solvent in pursuit of the goals that we Member Nations decide and which we expect FAO to fulfill. If solvency is not assured, priorities do not carry much weight.

The budget level of FAO in 2004-2005 was less than the budget of ten years ago. How can FAO fulfill its responsibilities to Member Nations with its finances in disarray? My Government, therefore, strongly supports the real growth budget as proposed by the Director-General for the biennium 2006-2007 and which is essential for the implementation for his reform package. We also wish to underline that the real growth budget is consistent with the enabling international environment, in which the reduction of hunger and eradication of rural poverty is on the top of the development agenda. There is another factor which also needs to be emphasized and that is that an incremental increase in the Regular Budget of FAO has a multiplier effect, by opening promising opportunities for attracting extra-budgetary resources for FAOs field operations. This factor should not be overlooked.

The Government of Afghanistan is grateful for the assistance it is receiving from FAO and other friendly nations. FAOs programme in Afghanistan is robust and we are eager to make it even more attuned to our needs. However, I must add a qualifier; the success of FAOs programme in Afghanistan is heavily dependent on the resources it receives through Trust Funds that are made available by friendly nations, financing institutions and NGOs. Thus far, such assistance has been forthcoming and we trust that its flow will remain unhindered.

The Government of Afghanistan is committed to promotion of a market economy, in which the public sector provides the necessary supplementary growth and services in support of the private sector. The Master Plan for Agriculture, which was completed this month, underscores public sector commitment in support of a market orientated agriculture with food security, capacity building, development of horticulture, livestock, irrigation, agro-industry, forestry and capacity building, including the reform of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food as its major pillars.

The Master Plan will soon be submitted to our newly democratically elected Parliament for its approval, after which, we intend to invite FAO, other UN Agencies and the Donor Community to a workshop in Kabul, to discuss the priorities of the Master Plan and to seek financial support for its implementation.

Allow me to say that the up-scaling of the FAO assisted National Programme for Food Security will be given special attention in the Master Plan for Agriculture. We also look forward to assistance by FAO and other Aid Agencies for the rapid rehabilitation and development of irrigation, horticulture, livestock, forestry and agro-industry.

Poppy cultivation is a social disease, endangering the lives of my people and is a serious threat to the international community. President Hamid Karzai has said, again and again, that his Government is determined to eradicate poppy cultivation from all parts of Afghanistan. In this struggle, we are making steady progress. However, we require long-term, external, financial

commitment to eradicate the root causes of this social cancer. Basically, the key factor in the elimination of poppy cultivation is to improve the livelihoods of the rural population. This not only calls for a rapidly advancing agriculture, but also an expanding non-farm economy. Occasions may even arise where short-term income support to farmers may become essential to facilitate the switch from poppy cultivation to other high value crops.

We are convinced that with this two thronged strategy we can solve this question in the coming few years. The road ahead is indeed troublesome and difficult, but the determination of the Government, and the people of Afghanistan, is much stronger.

Myung-Soo LEE (Republic of Korea)

Taking this opportunity, I would first like to congratulate Mr. Jacques Diouf on his third election as the Director-General of FAO. At the World Food Summit and also at the UN Millennium Summit, we set an ambitious goal to halve the number of under-nourished people in the world by year 2015, and confirmed to exit our common efforts to achieve this goal. Even though we have made many progresses so far, it is true that we still have a long way to go to reach the targeted goal, especially the recent disasters such as Asian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the earthquake in India and Pakistan have caused many casualties, destroyed rural infrastructure, decreased the farming capabilities, and led to an increase in rural poverty.

Considering this situation, I would like to point out that the world is waiting for the possible roles of FAO, which has plenty of experiences and expertise in the relevant areas.

Let me further touch upon the roles of FAO in food safety and sustainable agriculture. Food safety is emerging as one of the hot issues among consumers, especially public concerns over food safety are ever increasing along with the spread devastating animal diseases, such as Avian influenza and BSE, and the sharp increase of food products produced with the new biotechnology.

Furthermore, the increasing number of natural disasters, lack of water resources, and reducing biodiversity are also threatening sustainable agriculture. The current practices of farming around the world may have contributed significantly to boost productivity, but also has caused serious concerns on the possible damages on environments.

To cope with these challenges, it is our view that FAO needs to make far-reaching efforts to secure food safety and sustainable agriculture. Avian influenza needs the urgent and particular attention of the globe today. Bearing this in mind, I would like to ask FAO to lead the world in exerting the joint efforts in this regard.

Please allow me to make some more remarks on the issue of food security and international trade. Food security can be achieved only through the efficient combination of domestic production and international trade. Maintaining a certain level of local production is vital when it comes to dealing with the risks threatening food security, such as instability of international food markets, and price fluctuations.

However, at the ongoing WTO negotiation on agriculture, which is approaching to critical stage now, I'm afraid that the importance of global food security, as well as other types of non-trade concerns are not duly recognized and reflected.

Furthermore, we see the argument strongly advocated the introduction of tariff capping and strict limitation on defining the concept of sensitive and special products. However, we need to be reminded that different situations in individual member's agriculture and the characteristics of agriculture itself should be considered in a manner to ensure the global food security more efficiently.

Therefore, it is crucial to allow flexibility to maintain a certain level of local production and the interests of importing members as well as the exported ones should be reflected in a much more balanced manner. In line with this, I believe FAO needs to make a more active contribution to the process of the WTO negotiation.

Finally, as we are commemorating the 60th anniversary, and beginning the third term of Director-General's leadership, I would like to express my expectation to see more efficiency and effectiveness within FAO, so that this organization can live up to the expectations of all member nations.

Andrew MARSLAND (Canada)

I'd like to begin my comments today with some observations on the WTO process. Much is at stake in the DOHA Development Round, not least of which is a chance to better integrate developing countries into the global marketplace under a framework of rules designed to let members compete on an even ground.

In agriculture, we have the unique opportunity to eliminate export subsidies, substantially reduce trade distorting domestic support, provide real improvements in market access and address other trade-distorting practices such as the provision of certain forms of food aid, which can be damaging to producers in developing countries.

Given the heightened importance of agriculture to developing countries, Canada has placed the highest priority on reaching an ambitious outcome to this development round in the belief that this constitutes one of the most effective ways of addressing development and poverty alleviation goals.

Canada also recognizes and is committed to the need for appropriate special and differential measures to assist developing countries in taking steps to better integrate themselves into the global trading system. With so much at stake, Canada continues to push for progress in global trade talks with the goal of concluding the round in 2006 and urges other WTO members to do the same.

Turning to the FAO, this 60th anniversary of the founding of the Organization in Quebec City in Canada is an occasion in which all of us can look back with satisfaction on its achievements.

From its origin as a technical agricultural organization, it now plays key roles in emergency relief, standard setting, policy analysis and a wide range of other substantive and operational areas that make a difference in the daily lives of people in developed and developing countries around the world.

An important milestone like the 60th anniversary is an opportunity for reflection, and it is clear to us in Canada that both FAO and its member countries are keen to seize this opportunity. Canada has long supported reform to the UN System, and we are convinced that for the UN System to be well equipped to address the major global challenges which we face, it must evolve its management structures and practices on an ongoing basis.

In that regard, we've been pleased with the way in which the FAO has sought to improve the quality and transparency of its program and financial reporting. Interventions from Canada and many other countries now consistently compliment the planning documents produced by the FAO Secretariat for use in the governing bodies of this organization.

Let me now turn to reform issues targeted at the mandate and activities of the FAO itself. At the meeting of the FAO Council in November 2004, Canada co-sponsored with the United States a proposal to launch an independent external evaluation of the FAO. The intersessional working group, which was created by the Council last year, has made very good progress in developing terms of reference for the evaluation. We thank in particular His Excellency, Flavio Perri, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the FAO for his skilful work in chairing this working group. It is now for this Conference to take the next step and initiate the work.

Canada urges all members to approve the initiation of the evaluation. We are convinced that this is a key tool in ensuring that FAO is delivering on its mandate as effectively and as efficiently as possible.

In August of this year, the Director-General of the FAO also tabled proposals for reform of the Organization. Without going into detail on these reforms, we see many things in the substance of

these proposals that will be positive. We believe that a continuing process, with clear reference to the Independent External Evaluation, will be necessary to analyze and decide on these proposals, so that we can in the end adopt a package that has support and buy-in from all members. And importantly, a package that continues to prioritize FAO standard setting work, including the critically important work of Codex and IPPC.

Lastly, I must comment on an important international agricultural issue, in which the FAO is heavily implicated, Avian influenza. Canada believes that the FAO, because of its presence on the ground in all regions of the world, has a critical role to play in the global control of this disease. We welcome the FAO's continued collaboration with the World Organization for Animal Health, and the World Health Organization. And we encourage even greater collaboration in the fight against Avian and pandemic influenza.

Canada is prepared to provide veterinary and technical support to affected and risk-prone countries under the guidance of the FAO and OIE needs assessments.

We have many challenges ahead of us. More than 850 million people around the world are still facing hunger. We all gathered here three years ago to renew our commitment to cut world hunger in half by the year 2015. Canada more than ever is committed to reaching that target, and I'm optimistic that through the good work being done here we will meet our objectives.

Peter SIELE (Botswana)

Allow me from the onset to congratulate the Director-General of the FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, for his re-election to lead FAO for the next six years. Botswana had the rare occasion of participating in the events of marking the 60th celebration of the birth of FAO in which His Excellency, President Mogae, the President of the Republic of Botswana, reassures Botswana's commitment to FAO.

We are all aware that the noble object of the World Food Summit to reduce the number of the hungry people by half 2015 remains elusive, especially in the Sub-Saharan African countries, and south Asian countries. This is a challenge, not only to African and Asian leaders and their regional groupings, but also for the rest of the world. Botswana notes with great concern that although the issue of poverty eradication has been on the world agenda for so long and despite the great advances that we have made in the field of science and technology, poverty continues to escalate in most developing countries.

Although the African continent remains the center of food insecurity, it is worth noting that there are clear indications that African leaders recognize poverty reductions and food security as a matter of great importance and concern. The new Partnership for African Development bears testimony to this. The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program, which is the agricultural arm of NEPAD, provides framework, that should help us better target our investment, so as to avoid the mistakes of the past and to deliver on our commitment and promises.

As a country with large rural population, Botswana recognizes the fact that agriculture is one of the critical sectors in our effort to alleviate hunger and poverty. However, the country faces a number of challenges that militate against its efforts to eradicate poverty. These challenges include: current droughts, outbreak of trans-boundary diseases of economic importance, such as foot and mouth disease, unfavourable trade environment and lack of farm inputs and credit facilities for producers.

Despite all these challenges, however the country is determined to improve the performance of the agriculture sector by exploiting whatever possible exists. My country's commitment towards the World Food Summit objective of fighting hunger and malnutrition is reflected through a number of government interventions. This include: the school feeding and destitution programs, the old age pension scheme and the feeding program for the under 5 children and orphans and drought relief programs.

In 2000, Botswana adopted the revised national food security with the target to reduce by two percentage points per year until 2015. The proportion of households that are currently food

insecurity and below the poverty line to reduce the proportion of the underweight children from an estimated 15 percent in 1995 to 7 percent by 2015, as well as to reduce the remote area dwellers' poverty rates by 3 – 4 percentage points per year by the target year.

As a food-deficit country, Botswana recognizes that the role of food trade and promoting food security. In this respect the country is committed to the World Trade Organization's long-term objective of establishing a fair market orientated system.

Before I conclude, allow me to express my country's support for the reform proposals that have been put before by the Director-General. These reforms are a clear indication of visionary leadership. A lot has changed since the establishment of these organizations six years ago, particularly in the areas of information, communication and technology.

In conclusion, I am pleased to note that Botswana is making steady progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit plan of action. I am convinced that the renewed political will, international efforts and employment of necessary resources, the 1996 World Food Summit target will be achieved. This is a matter of vital importance to all who will deal with the challenges of eradicating hunger and poverty. Lastly, let me reaffirm Botswana's commitment to do whatever we can to help to support this organization to achieve its mandate.

Abdesselam CHELGHOUM (Algérie)

Je souhaite avant toute chose vous exprimer tout le plaisir que j'ai à me retrouver parmi vous, à l'occasion de la 33^{ème} session de la Conférence de notre Organisation. Elle nous donne l'occasion d'évaluer tous ensemble les progrès accomplis dans notre œuvre commune de lutte contre la faim et de renforcer notre démarche collective construite autour des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, et des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

Cette session m'offre aujourd'hui l'occasion de vous saluer, en mon nom personnel et au nom de mon pays, pour vous dire tous nos sentiments d'amitié et de rappeler notre engagement résolu et notre solidarité entière dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Je voudrais particulièrement exprimer mes félicitations à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, à l'occasion de sa réélection ainsi que mes vifs remerciements pour l'ouvrage de qualité qu'il a accompli si efficacement à la tête de notre Institution.

Je lui rends un hommage fraternel tant pour la créativité qui est sienne dans l'exercice de ses fonctions que pour les efforts persévérants qu'il déploie pour hisser la FAO à la hauteur des défis complexes de notre temps.

Permettez moi aussi d'exprimer mes félicitations à Messieurs le Président et les vice-Présidents pour leur élection au bureau de la Conférence en étant convaincu de la réussite de nos travaux sous leur direction éclairée tout en attribuant une mention spéciale au secrétariat pour tous les efforts consentis, sans ménagement aucun, pour l'organisation de cet important événement et pour la qualité et la pertinence de la documentation qu'il a mise à notre disposition.

Des progrès ont certes été enregistrés, çà et là, dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire et le nombre de personnes mal nourries s'est légèrement replié. La situation alimentaire reste cependant extrêmement préoccupante particulièrement en Afrique subsaharienne et dans d'autres régions affectées notamment par des phénomènes naturels.

Je cite l'année 2004-2005 caractérisée par une importante invasion acridienne qui a sérieusement menacé les économies agricoles locales de la région occidentale et donc leur sécurité alimentaire.

La contribution de l'Algérie dans l'éradication bien sûr en coordination avec la FAO, de ce phénomène au titre d'une intervention sur le terrain au niveau de neufs pays de l'Afrique subsaharienne a été judicieuse et a permis de juguler ce fléau et de préserver un temps soit peu les productions agricoles dans cette région.

A la cadence actuelle, l'objectif commun que nous nous sommes fixé de réduire de moitié le nombre de mal nourris à l'horizon 2015 ne sera pas atteint avec toutes les conséquences dramatiques que cela engendrerait.

Devant cette gravissime situation, il est on ne peut plus urgent de multiplier les efforts par une mobilisation accrue de la communauté internationale pour l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et pour aider les pays en développement à adapter leurs programmes de développement respectifs et à renforcer leurs capacités nécessaires à la concrétisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement ainsi que ceux fixés par le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

Dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique, la situation alimentaire extrêmement difficile se conjugue aux effets dévastateurs du SIDA qui est à l'origine du déclin de l'espérance de vie des populations de ces pays. Lorsque l'on sait que la majorité des personnes victimes de cette maladie sont des citoyens de ces pays et que ses effets sur le développement économique sont désastreux, le problème de la sécurité alimentaire ne peut prendre, en l'occurrence, qu'une dimension encore plus dramatique.

Cette situation insoutenable vécue par les populations africaines, tout particulièrement en Afrique australe et en Afrique subsaharienne, conjuguée aux risques latents de son aggravation, a projeté sous les feux de l'actualité la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire dans notre continent et donne tout leur sens aux objectifs que s'est fixé le Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD).

L'objectif fondamental vise à éradiquer la pauvreté en Afrique et réunir ainsi les conditions d'une croissance et d'un développement durables à même de permettre à notre continent de faire face aux défis multiples de la mondialisation des échanges et de la globalisation des économies, qui doivent être appréhendées non pas comme une fatalité mais comme un facteur de dynamisation de nos économies valorisant au mieux nos nombreux atouts.

Pour ce qui est de mon pays, le défi relatif à la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté prend un relief particulier et constitue, dans tous les cas, une préoccupation constante et la source de nos actions.

Parallèlement à la mise en place d'un cadre politique assaini et stable, l'Etat algérien a engagé, dans une conjoncture pas toujours favorable, des efforts soutenus en matière de développement économique et social. Avec les moyens dont il dispose, il a assumé et continue d'assumer ses fonctions sociales avec responsabilité, en inscrivant son action en faveur des populations dévalorisées dans une vision qui dépasse la simple assistance à des personnes démunies, pour intégrer ou réhabiliter les notions de travail et d'initiative et lier les aides à des actions de promotion sociale.

Nous avons, pour ce faire, lancé un ambitieux programme de soutien à la relance économique qui est actuellement dans sa deuxième phase d'exécution. Il concerne l'ensemble du territoire national et vise à asseoir les bases pour un développement durable. Ce programme accorde une place importante au développement agricole et rural et vient consolider la dynamique suscitée par le Plan national de développement agricole et rural lancé depuis 2000.

Les résultats jusque là capitalisés sont encourageants à plus d'un titre que ce soit en termes de créations d'emplois, d'extension de patrimoines productifs et protection des ressources naturelles.

La mondialisation de l'économie et la globalisation des échanges nous contraignent tous: gouvernements, institutions et organisations, à nous adapter à ces changements profonds qui doivent être appréhendés comme un facteur de dynamisation de nos économies valorisant au mieux de nombreux atouts.

Dans ce cadre, je tiens à saluer l'heureuse initiative que le Docteur Jacques Diouf a prise pour engager une profonde réforme de notre Organisation pour qu'elle puisse jouer un rôle plus efficace dans l'aide qu'elle apporte à ses membres en matière de lutte contre la faim.

Des actions projetées pour faciliter la réalisation des objectifs précités nous semblent tout à fait pertinentes, qu'il s'agisse de restructuration des départements du siège et du réseau des structures décentralisées avec le redéploiement du personnel que cela implique, de décentralisation des décisions, accompagnée d'une plus grande souplesse dans l'affectation des ressources.

Le défi que nous devons tous relever pour éradiquer la faim et lutter contre la pauvreté exige une solidarité réelle de la part de la communauté internationale, ainsi qu'un partenariat efficace avec les gouvernements et la société civile et une coopération étroite avec les organisations internationales et agences spécialisées afin de permettre la mise en synergie de tous les efforts.

Wilfred NGIRWA (United Republic of Tanzania)

On behalf of the Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania and my delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to address this Thirty-third session of the FAO Conference.

Foremost, I congratulate you and your bureau upon your election to preside over this Conference. I would also like, through you, to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for his re-election to the post of FAO Director-General for another term.

There are still indications of inadequate achievement of the goals of reducing hunger and poverty especially in the developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa. I would like to highlight on the state of food and agriculture in my country.

In Tanzania, agriculture is the leading sector of the economy and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. Between the year 2000 and 2004, growth of agriculture averaged 4.8 percent, which is more than one percent higher than the previous decade in which growth averaged 3.7 percent. During the current year, food production increased and the country will be food self sufficient by about 103 percent. Similarly, during the same period production of the major export crops increased ranging between 25 percent and 180 percent.

The successes in the agricultural sector growth are a result of Government's strategic interventions and partnerships with the private sector and other stakeholders. These interventions have been designed to improve the availability of production enhancing inputs, expanding use of draft animals and agricultural machinery, expanding area under irrigated agriculture, control of migratory pests and diseases, ongoing product promotion campaigns, increased the public budgetary allocation to agriculture and the private investments.

The Government through policy and legislative frameworks has enabled the improvement of management, conservation and sustainable utilization of all types of forests in particular through adoption of community involvement in their management. Similarly, in the fisheries sub sector, there have been improvements in conservation of territorial marine and inland fishing grounds to allow recruitment to the fishery, reduction of illegal, unprotected and unregulated fishery and growth of fish farming.

Despite an overall improved performance of the sector, the country continues to have variations of production between years. This has led some households to be food insecure. Currently about 18.7 percent of the population is considered to be food poor. The target is to reduce the food poor to 14.5 percent by 2015.

Tanzania is part and parcel of the campaign to reduce global hunger and poverty. To achieve this, the Government is implementing the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP), which aims at growth and reduction of income poverty, improvement of quality of life and social wellbeing, good governance and accountability. The Strategy has well been mainstreamed into the agricultural development programmes.

Tanzania is committed to implementing the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) initiative. In this context, my delegation would like to underline the importance of FAO's support to the African Union and its Member States in this undertaking. We would, therefore, request

FAO to cooperate with the African Union, NEPAD and African countries, at their request, in the organization of appropriate meetings to review progress in, and plans for, the implementation of the agriculture and food security programmes on the continent.

We are all aware of the threat posed by the outbreaks of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza. Tanzania is collaborating with subregional, regional and international organizations such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization and FAO in the prevention of the pandemic. We are grateful to FAO for agreeing to provide us with a TCP for preparedness in the event of an outbreak.

Tanzania is in support of the proposed FAO reforms. We congratulate FAO through the Director-General for taking such a bold decision to introduce the reforms in the Organization. The reforms augur well with the agreed Independent External Evaluation of FAO. Tanzania will continue to work closely with FAO and provide the necessary support.

While Tanzania remains committed to the attainment of MDGs, it will require additional resources and cooperation of all stakeholders in the fight against hunger and poverty. We thank our development partners for their continued support in the implementation of the Tanzanian Agricultural Sector Development Strategy from year 2001.

Abdel Mohsen Hussain AL-GALLAF (Kuwait)

It gives me great honour on behalf of Sheik Fahd Salem Al-Ali Al-Sabah, the Chairman of the Board and Director-General of the General Commission of Fisheries and Agriculture in the State of Kuwait, as well as his wishes for the success of this Conference. I would like to express our thanks to the Italian Republic for its hospitality. We congratulate the Chairman of the Conference and the Vice-Chairman on their election as helmsmen of this Thirty-third Conference of FAO.

We would also like welcome the new Members of the Organization. We trust that their membership will enable them to achieve the aims of their populations.

We trust that the problem of Avian Influenza will be one of the subjects to be dealt with at this Conference because of the developments that have occurred in a good number of countries of the world, and in order to implement the decisions and recommendations of the International Conference held recently in Geneva under the Chairmanship of the Director-General of the WHO, with the participation of FAO and more than 700 experts in health and animal health and representatives of most countries of the world. This Conference discussed the forms of cooperation we need to set up at a national, regional and international level in order to ensure an effective and speedy engagement in efforts in order to combat this disease and prevent its expansion and its becoming a pandemic which would have millions of victims.

This Conference discussed the forms of cooperation we need to set up at a national, regional and international level in order to ensure an effective and speedy engagement in efforts in order to combat this disease and prevent its expansion. It is becoming a pandemic which would have millions of victims.

It is necessary here and now to look at the question of the reform of the Organization and the increase in the efficacy of all its Governing Bodies by giving a further boost to its role and its capacity to render the services expected of it for the Member States of the Organization. The reform proposals are aimed at increasing the efficacy of the Organization and strengthening its role in expanding the world economy, will enable it to participate more actively in the struggle against hunger. This reform should enable the Organization to respond better to the requirements of Member States and their aspirations throughout the world which is undergoing so many changes.

We should acknowledge that the challenges before us as regards the Millennium Development Goals will have repercussions, not only in the achievement of world objectives, but on our capacity to provide assistance and aid to member countries in the same context of the reform. The Organization for this reason, should be able to adapt to change and introduce the necessary reform measures in its structures and Governing Bodies so as to ensure that it can channel more

investment to developing countries in the context of increasing and assisting agriculture and food security. We should give greater importance to the situation of developing countries. They need to be given assistance in the implementation of their strategy, in order to reduce poverty, and this in its turn means that we have to look at the cause effect relationship between hunger and poverty. For this, it is essential that we design national food security programmes in order to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit and reduce poverty between now and the year 2015. Despite the declaration adopted by Member States during the World Food Summit, four years ago, as a result of which countries reasserted their commitment to reduce poverty and hunger. Poverty and hunger have, nevertheless, continued to expand throughout the world. This is a very worrying phenomenon that we are witnessing and this means that we have to accept further responsibilities in our Organization, involving millions of people.

One of the key issues of the Conference is an examination of the world situation of food and agriculture, in the light of available information on world food security and the trends that exist in food production, trade in basic commodities and the foreign aid system proposed for agriculture. We simply have to look at the situation throughout the world to realize the scale of the tragedy witnessed in developing countries which are constantly suffering from hunger and poverty, and the instability of their own development process. There is no denying that this Conference will enable us to realize the seriousness of this situation, which continues to increase and this gives us our Organization even more responsibilities despite the reduction in its funding, its financial resources. As the Organization is unable to harness more resources, it is necessary that we redefine its priorities, take all the measures that are required to improve the management and use of available resources within the framework of cooperation with other specialized agencies within the UN system.

In conclusion, I should like to wish our Conference every success and let us hope it is able to adopt resolutions and recommendations which will respond to the hopes of all peoples throughout the world.

Panikos POUROS (Cyprus)

A little more than a month ago, FAO celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary. While a lot has been achieved during the sixty years of the existence of FAO, it is unfortunate that the right to food, one of the basic human rights has not been secure for each and every one of us.

Nine years after the World Food Summit of 1996, the commitments made then have not been transformed into 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 before, and in some regions, it has become even worse than it was in 1996.

There is indeed cause for concern that hunger and malnutrition proceeds at nearly the same level as 1996. With all rapid progress towards eradicating hunger, global political and economic stability together with natural resources upon which future world food supplies depend will continue to be threatened. The existence of hunger and malnutrition is in clear conflict with the world order envisaged after the Second World War with human rights and with human development. Evidence clearly shows that in societies where hunger is widespread, sustainable economic growth is impossible to be achieved.

Promises have been given and targets have been set. What is needed, therefore, is to live up to these promises to revitalize agriculture and to use the natural resources in a sustainable way. Only then, it will be possible to achieve the overall goal to halve the number of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015.

We should make every effort required to achieve this goal. What should remain clear in our mind is that combating poverty and hunger means investing in sustainable agriculture and rural development, as agriculture is a driving source for economic development in many countries.

Referring to the agenda of this Conference, I wish to limit my comments to one item which has to do with the operations of the existence of this Organization. That is the Programme of Work and

the level of the budget. My country is in favour of a budget level that will enable FAO to carry out its mandate in the most effective way. At the same time, the ability of member countries to pay their assessed contributions must be taken into consideration when deciding the level of the budget. One source of serious concern for us is, the delay in the payment of assessed contributions by many Member nations which results in the need of the Organization to borrow funds. Such borrowing, however, not only weakens the overall financial situation of the Organization, but represents an additional cost. Let us all work in a constructive spirit to achieve the appropriate level of the budget by consensus.

On 1 May 2004, Cyprus with nine other countries has acceded to the European Union. The process of preparing the agricultural circle of Cyprus to face the new situation has not been easy. As a member of the European Union, we are now implementing the Common Agricultural Policy. In the framework of this general policy, we implement measures which aim at: the creation of economic opportunities and the improvement of the 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 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 to the new environment.

In conclusion, in looking to the future rule of FAO, I wish to state that it is easy to criticize either FAO or the broader UN system on grounds of effectiveness and efficiency. I believe, however, it is up to us, the Member Nations to create the right conditions for FAO to become more effective and more efficient. Such an Organization will help us all to achieve our targets in combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

Wilson SONGA (Kenya)

On behalf of the Kenya Delegation, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to address this important FAO forum. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating you on your election to chair the Thirty-third FAO Conference. It is my sincere hope that you will guide this Conference to deliberate on useful issues that are of benefit to global agriculture.

Allow me, on behalf of the Kenyan Head of State and Government, His Excellency, President Mwai Kibaki, my delegation and the people of Kenya to congratulate the Director-General for being re-elected for another six-year term.

Though Kenya has been broadly self sufficient in food, it is important to state one unique situation in Kenya – only 20 percent of the country is suitable for rain fed agriculture. The rest of the country lies in the arid and semi-arid zones. The people who live in these zones are food insecure for most of the year. To address this food insecurity, the Government is now investing in provision of irrigation, water harvesting and other appropriate technologies.

In the meantime, the Government of Kenya jointly with FAO and the World Food Programme, have provided famine relief to the 1.1 million people who are food insecure in the semi-arid regions. On behalf of the people of Kenya, I would like to thank FAO, the World Food Programme and the international donor community for this noble support.

As a nation, we do not take pride in getting food relief. In order to get out of this situation, my country is constantly reflecting on the 1996 and the 2002 World Food Summit commitments.

In this regard, the Kenya Government has launched a new strategy, The Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture, which is expected to run until 2014. The strategy themes is to transform agriculture into a viable and vibrant sector that is commercially oriented and internationally competitive. The sector contribution will enhance the objectives of the economic recovery strategy for wealth and employment creation. As we refocus our efforts to revitalize agriculture, we welcome our development partners for support through collaboration and partnerships in order to fast track the achievements of our set objectives.

Being aware of its primary responsibility to reduce hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the Government of Kenya initiated a special programme, the Njaa Marafuko Kenya, which is eradication of hunger in Kenya. The programme's objectives are to eradicate hunger in Kenya through active participation by all the stakeholders. The programme demonstrates the Government's political commitment to combat hunger.

In our endeavours to achieve food security, FAO has been very supportive. The Organization has initiated many successful programmes to enhance food production. Two notable programmes that require mention, include the Special Programme for Food Security and the Farmer Field School's initiatives. These initiatives have greatly supported our efforts to increase food production and we urge our development partners to assist in up-scaling these initiatives.

Market access is now rightly considered as an important aspect for increasing food security. Kenya, as a nation, has been in the forefront in promoting regional integration through establishment of trading blocks. We have joined others in our region to form a free market economy of twenty Member States. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The three East African countries, (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) have accelerated the establishment of a Common Customs Union. In addition, these countries are also harmonizing other regional activities, such as control of transboundary diseases, migratory pests and phytosanitary measures.

We believe this regional integration will facilitate movement of food from food surplus areas to the food deficit areas in order to help our people attain food security.

We are aware that the Horn of Africa, with a population of about 160 million people is the most food insecure region in the world. We continue to face many challenges in our endeavour to attain food security and food nutrition for our people. These challenges include weak farmers' organizations, high cost of production, more frequent and long lasting droughts, influx of refugees, conflicts, and HIV/AIDS among others. These are the same challenges we faced when we met in 1996. We in Kenya would like to see a change in this scenario.

In this regard, Kenya hosted a meeting under the auspices of the FAO, in September this year, to draw up recommendations to address food security in the region. We again call upon our development partners to give our region the necessary support to implement the useful recommendations of the meeting that will help the region to enhance food security.

Turning to the proposed reforms for FAO, which were discussed during the Council meeting last week, it is our view that they are aimed at making the Organization efficient and more responsive to the needs of Member Countries. As a country, Kenya fully supports these reforms.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address the 33rd FAO Conference. I believe the outcome of this Session will contribute to alleviating global hunger.

CHAIRMAN

Before giving the floor to our next speaker, I wish to inform that the Head of the Delegation of Bahamas, chose to present its Statement in writing. So it will appear in the Conference Proceedings.

Mme Madina SEPHOU (Bénin)

L'agriculture reste le socle de l'économie béninoise et la principale activité de la majorité de la population. Elle est caractérisée par des exploitations de type familial et occupe environ 70 pour cent de la population active.

Mon pays le Bénin, est globalement autosuffisant sur le plan alimentaire. Cependant, des poches d'insécurité alimentaire existent dans quelques zones et sont liées aux facteurs majeurs ci-après:

- les aléas climatiques notamment les perturbations pluviométriques et les poches de sécheresse;

- l'enclavement ou l'éloignement de certaines zones, ce qui ne facilite pas le flux physique des produits agricoles ;
- des pertes post récolte élevées dues à l'inadéquation et à l'insuffisance des infrastructures de stockage.

A ces facteurs, il faut ajouter l'énorme ponction qui s'opère sur la production agricole du Bénin par les pays voisins qui ont été envahis par les criquets pèlerins et ont connu de rudes sécheresses.

La pénurie alimentaire très sévère que le Bénin a connue cette année, s'explique donc par le péril acridien doublé d'une sécheresse vécue par les pays sahélien voisins. Les conséquences sont énormes et multiples notamment:

- la rareté du pâturage et des réserves d'eau pour l'alimentation humaine et le bétail;
- la transhumance plus précoce avec ses corollaires dans les pays côtiers comme le nôtre;
- la nécessité de reconstituer les stocks nationaux céréaliers dans les pays du Sahel;
- le renchérissement des prix des céréales.

Face à cette situation d'urgence alimentaire, les actions immédiates ci-après ont été menées:

- l'identification de tous les foyers vulnérables;
- l'assistance de la France pour l'acquisition et la mise en place de produits vivriers au profit des populations sérieusement touchées par la crise;
- la mise en place par le gouvernement d'une assistance alimentaire dans les communes à risque;
- le lancement d'une vaste campagne d'information et de sensibilisation sur la gestion du disponible vivrier par:
 - la constitution de stocks familiaux;
 - la reconstitution des banques de céréales par les organisations de femmes, les associations villageoises de commercialisation;
 - la constitution des stocks décentralisés sous gestion communautaire par les ONG, les associations de développement, les organisations de producteurs, etc.
 - la constitution de stocks commerciaux par les opérateurs économiques;
 - la connaissance par les acteurs commerciaux à la base des informations sur les opportunités d'affaires au Bénin et avec les pays limitrophes et même ceux de l'espace CEDEAO, pourrait favoriser une fluidité des échanges et une incitation à la constitution de stocks commerciaux;
 - la constitution de stocks tampon à travers le pays par l'Office national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire évitera une probable détérioration de la situation d'insécurité alimentaire en 2006 et permettra au gouvernement de réguler les prix des denrées de base.

Les perspectives alimentaires en 2006 s'annoncent bonnes mais ce confort demeure théorique car elles peuvent basculer d'un moment à l'autre à cause des situations critiques évoquées plus haut.

Pour juguler les crises alimentaires, il importe prioritairement:

- d'attaquer les causes structurelles de l'insécurité en mettant en œuvre des programmes et projets susceptibles de donner une réponse idoine à ces dernières;
- d'instituer et de systématiser la constitution de stocks de sécurité pour les pays non membres du CILSS comme le Bénin et leur apporter l'appui financier nécessaire.

C'est le lieu et l'occasion de souligner le rôle combien important qu'a joué le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire financé par la FAO dans mon pays. Le Bénin reste fondamentalement attaché à l'extension de ce programme dont les objectifs s'intègrent parfaitement aux grandes orientations stratégiques de la politique nationale agricole notamment:

- le maintien de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans le contexte de forte croissance démographique de mon pays;
- l'intensification et la diversification agricole;
- la mécanisation progressive de l'agriculture et la maîtrise de l'eau à des fins agricoles;
- la promotion de la modernisation de l'agriculture familiale et des grandes exploitations agricoles.

Le Plan d'Action du gouvernement entend également mettre un accent particulier sur l'amélioration des revenus du producteur agricole; mais ce souci est déjà handicapé par l'inéquité de l'accès de tous les producteurs au commerce mondial.

Enfin, mon pays à l'instar des autres pays membres de la FAO, estime qu'aucun développement, fût-il durable, ne peut être réalisé sans la paix et la stabilité politique, toutes choses fondamentales que le Bénin s'efforce de bâtir et de consolider à tout prix et en bonne sagesse depuis plus d'une décennie.

David BURGOS (Belize)

Please allow me to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you on your appointment as chairman and also for your wise guidance of this 33rd Session of the Conference. I also bring warm greetings from Belize's large and small producers, the Belizean people and my Government to this FAO Conference, the FAO staff, Excellencies, Heads of Delegations and the different Organizations. I also wish to personally congratulate the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his re-election with a strong mandate.

The agriculture and food sector remains the most important pillar of the Belizean economy, accounting for most of the GDP and generating about 75 percent of foreign exchange in the country. Agriculture is the sector which employs 55 percent of the Belizean labour force. In our country we have established a small farmer's bank to assist the small farmers, to enhance agriculture and food productivity by inviting and by investing in their irrigation system, equipment, improved seeds, fertilizers and other appropriate input. There are favourable policies, frameworks and regulatory systems in place that aim to modernize and upgrade key services and practices that are indispensable for transforming our agricultural sectors. These include, for example, applied research and extension, land administration and tenure systems, skill development for farmers, fishermen and processors, agricultural health and food safety, marketing and promoting non-traditional exports.

Through all these efforts, our main goal is to reduce rural poverty, eliminate food insecurity for all Belizeans and to generate enterprises, income and employment, especially for small people. Only so can rural communities be empowered, through their direct and greater participation in planning and implementation, to get themselves out of poverty, prosper and to live in peace and harmony and thus achieve all the Millennium Development Goals in its true name.

It is in this context that Belize welcomes the South South Programme and the FAO reform process which aims to decentralize its services to Member States and to upscale and energize its regional partners and programmes towards the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States.

I also congratulate FAO, in particular, for its proposed plan to upscale irrigation programmes, livestock improvement, adaptation to climate change through disaster risk management, value adding chain in agriculture and fisheries, developing agri-tourism linkages, improving land tenure security and credit availability.

The challenges of poverty reduction are great but not insurmountable, especially with all the Organizations' strategies and technologies at our disposal. I have taken note of the critical importance of political will, the many organizational challenges and the various options to address this vast humanitarian need. What I draw from all this is the urgency for action, the need to

continue to push forward until we eradicate this dreadful sin from our planet. With the commitment of all and the help of all, we will overcome.

Jointly with the Central America and the CARICOM, Belize will continue to support and participate in the regional strategies to adapt policies that enable the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development, the producers' organizations, the private sector, the NGOs and the markets to work together for the upliftment of our rural communities.

In this spirit of mutual cooperation I urge all Members of the FAO family to work together to seek innovative and effective ways of revitalizing and fortifying the main objectives we are adopting at this forum. Finally I want to say that Belize remains committed to the FAO family.

Kaman NAINGGOLAN (Indonesia)

Allow me at the outset to convey warm greetings of the Government and the people of Indonesia, especially farmers, to all of the Conference participants.

I would also would like to share the floor in congratulating you for your election as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this very important meeting. I would also like to congratulate Mr Diouf for his reappointment as the FAO Director-General for the next term.

Indonesia is fully committed to continue its strong efforts in strengthening the national food security. This commitment is reflected in our agriculture revitalization as declared by the President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono recently. The President has committed to halve hunger and poverty during his tenure 2004–2009.

May I take this opportunity to report to you that Indonesia has achieved self sufficiency in rice since last year and I hope to sustain the achievement in the coming years.

Food security cannot be achieved only by increasing production, a more open and fair international trade is one of the many important factors that also affects food security. Therefore, we want to encourage FAO to play an active role in supporting further reform in the international trade in agriculture, dealing with international bodies, such as WTO for ensuring increased market access for agriculture products in developed countries, and removal of trade distorting practices, while giving flexibility to developing countries to achieve food security and poverty reduction. This is in line with the Doha Development Agreement.

Most of the third world countries started with the existence of their indigenous technology. The indigenous technology has so far developed through their own wisdom to cope with their own local problems, preserving local resources, and building balances between socioculture, community and resources dynamic. We feel, that we should also put high respect on their wisdom in relation with the newly development technology.

We are pleased that FAO reform will also focus on the exchange and dissemination of knowledge of best practices. Therefore, we would like to request FAO to further elaborate ethics in using indigenous technology in a more formal terms, such as elaboration of community right as part of an international culture, parallel to the newly established intellectual right.

Accessibility to natural resources, especially land and water, are important for the community to build their food security. Increasing access to land should be facilitated through a proper agrarian reform, while local wisdom is still respected.

In line with this, we would like to request FAO to hold a series of consultations with different countries to identify those local wisdoms to minimize possible social and economic cost in implementing the agrarian reform.

Preventing land and forest degradation, as well as fisheries and marine resources degradation, are also important. Indonesia has been concentrating on the restructuring and revitalizing its wood industries and fisheries sector. We continue to prioritize on several focuses, namely combating illegal logging, illegal fishing, and illegal trade, preventing and controlling forest fire and

rehabilitating degraded forest land. We request FAO to formulate guidelines in combating such illegal practices.

Another issue that captures international attention is the outbreak of the Avian Influenza. Indonesia is taking it very seriously, and has a strong commitment to eliminate the disease. Indonesia appreciates all the assistance for the control of Avian Influenza rendered by a multinational donor agencies as well as individual donor countries. Special thanks go to the FAO for its continuous support and assistance.

We are pleased that FAO still facilitates member's interest and priorities in handling such problems in its reform plan. We therefore, support FAO budget allocation for emergency purposes.

I would like to express our support for the FAO reforms. Indeed, this is a proper time to pursue such effort.

Finally, allow me on behalf of the Government and the people of Indonesia to extend our thanks and sincere appreciation to all individuals and international organizations, particularly FAO for quick response in rescuing Aceh in Sumatra and other regions of Indonesia from Tsunami disaster last year.

Jake WILKINSON (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

I have chosen to give a presentation from the view of a farmer instead of reading a prepared text so late in the day

I am the President of the International Federation of Agricultural, a Canadian farmer and for those who do not know we are both celebrating our birthdays together, IFAP and FAO were started 60 years ago with many of the same policy objectives in mind, to eliminate poverty, hunger and to improve the life of farmers and rural people.

I must say, I am going give my points of view as a farmer sees the most recent years of activity, and so we may differ somewhat from Heads of State in this regard.

I think it is extremely disappointing for a farmer to see the state of affairs that exists in the world, instead of celebrating the elimination of poverty, we are still talking about the desire to halve poverty by 2015, that is a serious situation. From the farmer in the countryside, he sees national governments pulling back in many countries the support of agriculture. We see the numbers and that is 30,000 people dying each day of hunger, 1.3 billion people in extreme poverty. In 1988 there was US\$21.8 billion that was targeted for agricultural support, that has been more than halved, and now we are still talking about and renewing our commitment to increase to 0.7 percent from our point of view, it seems that is much overtime to move and to move quickly.

Farm income in many countries is extremely poor and decreasing, and this is a issue not only in developing countries, but in many developed countries in recent years, farm income has dropped substantially.

I would like to ask you a question. How is a farmer supposed to increase the productivity, when many commodities today are below the cost of production? These are fundamental issues that governments at national and international levels have to deal with and most of them are in the power of governments to deal with them.

We are weakening the farm sector, we are taking mechanisms away from them that empower them in the market place. Multinationals have grown in strength internationally they are not paying a fair price for raw produce, and so the result is inevitable, farmers are disappointed in agriculture and they are moving in millions and millions and tens of millions to urban areas.

We need people on the land, there are first line defence to deal with issues like Avian Influenza, to deal with issues as desertification to deal with environmental issues, the list of demands we have asked our farmers to do is big and we have reduced the resources dramatically at every level to deal with these issues.

Farm income is more than just a subsidy issue as well, it requires legislation to empower cooperatives, empower farm organizations, put some strength back into marketing structures so that farmers can get their rewards out of the market place, and then development money can develop. We are using foreign aid in develop assistance to deal with disasters around the world, we are not moving ahead because we are trying to replace income that is lost in a market place. Consequently the limited donors we have, I think, must be in addition to a market that works, and I think then we will make progress.

There is a better way, and the better way is to put the farmer and their organization as a centre point of the development system. We are just not one of the civil society, when it comes to reducing poverty in nutritional needs around the world, the farmer and the farm organization should be the centre point of activity, because they can make the largest difference with the least amount of resources. So we implore you to move ahead to move past conversation to move to real commitment and we insist that FAO must reform in a dramatic way, we saw the package in 1997 of the reform of FAO, we saw another package in the year 2000 the further reform of FAO, and we have at this convention an additional reform of FAO. I think it is time to move ahead dramatically and put it place the words we have spoken so often.

CHAIRMAN

I think we have come to the end of this evening's session. Before closing the meeting I have a few announcements to make. Please note that the Special Event on Avian Influenza will take place from 12.45 to 14.15 tomorrow in the Green Room.

Delegates are reminded that they are invited to the reception hosted by the Chairperson of the Conference this evening in the FAO Cafeteria on the eighth floor of Building B, at 18.30 pm.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
23 November 2005

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours
Mr Arefaine Berhe,

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de M. Arefaine Behre,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la séptima sesión plenaria a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Arefaine Behre,
Vicepresidente 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 (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the Seventh Plenary meeting to order. We will continue this morning with Item 5, that's the "Review of the State of Food and Agriculture". I now give the floor to His Excellency, the Head of Delegation of Somalia.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉ LÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LES JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Somalia, Guinea Bissau, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Angola, Zambia, Czech Republica, Sri Lanka, Denmark, Poland, Krygyzstan, Egypt, Guatemala, Senegal, Fiji, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Colombia, Belgium, Dominican Republica, Greece, Uruguay, Republic of Moldova, Israel, New Zealand, Switzerland

Ibrahim Mohamed ISSAQ (Somalia)

It is a great honour for me to be here today at this important, well-attended FAO Conference. I wish to take this opportunity to send on behalf of my government and people of Somalia, heartfelt congratulations, Director-General for his election.

After a long absence resulting from fifteen years of civil war, the Republic of Somalia is pleased to re-assume its place in the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. We welcome the opportunity to meet FAO staff from Headquarters, including our knowledge and understanding, both technically and institutionally.

We also welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss with other delegates from other Member States. In this regard we see FAO and this Conference as a meeting point, a concept that is so important in many traditional cultures and equally important within this global community.

Somalia is pleased to see here the commitment by FAO to address the Millennium Development Goals as these directly relate to the condition in Somalia. Reconstruction efforts performed in collaboration between the Somali people and international community must strive to address, for example, placing four of the Millennium Development Goals in a Somali context, the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, through increased agriculture production and income generation, reduction of child mortality through improved food security, health and nutrition, enhancing environment, sustainable through natural resource management, and development in partnership with development through enhancement of Somali capacity and input from a wider range of FAO experts.

After fifteen years of destruction, Somalia is rebuilding. Transitional Federal Government structures are at a formative stage, so we are looking for guidelines from FAO and its Member States as we develop Ministerial administrative and policy instruments, expected to be completed in early 2006. We see that there is much to learn from other Conference Member States and from FAO, and we welcome your support.

FAO is also looking to reform and reshape. This presents a wonderful opportunity for FAO and Somalia to explore the future together, taking the advantage, in the case of Somalia, to avoid any previous restrictive structures. In this way, both FAO and Somalia can learn lessons and reshape to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with clear comparative advantages in certain sectors. Somalia welcomes the support of FAO in translating such institutional capacity through field level intervention for national support. This can build on FAO's long history in Somalia, with its extensive programme prior to the last fifteen years. There is even a major irrigation structure that is still known today as the FAO Canal, which we are seeking to rehabilitate as both flood relief and especially pertinent to FAO, opportunity for increased cropping and fish production.

Immediate and future project activities should target food security and nutrition at household level, income generation at household and community level, rebuilding infrastructure, irrigation and capacity enhancement. We must also recognize here the important role of the private sector in Somalia, looking to build existing market vitality. In particular interest – livestock marketing, including export to neighbouring countries and more distant Member States, where the FAO role is improving quality control and income generation at household and national levels, must be drawn upon.

I want to say three things – issues related to Somalia. We should like to inform Member States the following three.

First the Joint Needs Assessment process is underway with its Inception Workshop in Nairobi this week. The TFG is committed to the JNA process and is working with partners, looking to the development of a five year vision, through the Reconstruction and Development Programme. The specialities and comparative advantage for FAO can have a major impact. The JNA will conclude the donor's conference will likely take place in Rome next year, where we will be looking toward constructive, discussion with donor partners, both with traditional and non-traditional.

Second, conflict in previous years has resulted in United Nations Agency, being relocated to Nairobi. FAO is not an exception. We note with appreciation the recent employment of a full time Officer in Charge for FAO Somalia, and look forward to the time when FAO will relocate to a full Representative in Somalia. In the interim, we need to explore already what can be done to strengthen the linkages of FAO Somalia with Governmental and in-country activities.

Finally, also as a result of the previous situation, there has been no central Government of Somalia authority to address the issue of membership dues with organizations such as FAO. The Republic of Somalia has expressed its willingness to honour prior obligations, for example the issue of outstanding debts. We know that similar approach was adopted as fair and reasonable at the IFAD annual meeting, also here in Rome.

In conclusion, we return again to our physical presence here in Rome at the FAO Conference, as an indicator of our appreciation and vision for the future. The opportunities this presents to Somalia are well appreciated as are the recent and current efforts of FAO and Member Nations in order to return Somalia to the international arena. May we join together with FAO in further enhancement of capacity and outputs, thereby ensuring Somalia's active participation in FAO Conferences for years to come.

Sola Nankilin NABITCHITA (Guinée-Bissau)

Je reprends les paroles de mes prédécesseurs qui ont félicité le Président pour son élection à la tête de cette 33^{ème} session de la Conférence qu'il conduit avec beaucoup de sagesse et puis, félicitations également à Monsieur Jacques Diouf au nom du Président de la République de mon pays et en mon nom personnel pour sa réélection à un autre mandat de six ans à la tête de cette Organisation, c'est là une preuve de la sagesse que nous lui connaissons tous.

Mon pays est un pays essentiellement agricole où 75 pour cent de la population est rurale. L'agriculture est la base de notre économie, nous tirons de l'agriculture 50 pour cent de notre PIB,

80 pour cent de la population active du pays travaille dans ce secteur. L'agriculture est en outre responsable de 90 pour cent de nos exportations. Le gouvernement de Guinée-Bissau a comme objectif primaire de réduire la pauvreté. Nous avons donc élaboré une initiative de politique de développement agricole et un plan d'action. Cette initiative et le plan d'action y afférant sont contenus dans un document stratégique qui va orienter les activités du pays pour satisfaire aux nécessités fondamentales de la population, pour avoir une meilleure redistribution des revenus et utiliser de façon rationnelle les ressources agro-sylvo-pastorales. Ce document présente de façon cohérente les différentes politiques sous sectorielles en agriculture, pêches, forêts ainsi que les interactions entre ces secteurs et d'autres, notamment les travaux publics, les pêches, les ressources naturelles, l'environnement, la promotion de la femme et le commerce. Nous sommes membres de plein droit de l'ONU et donc de la FAO et nous avons reçu en tant que tel de nombreuses aides dans le secteur agricole et social afin de réduire la faim et d'augmenter la sécurité alimentaire de la population. Malheureusement, le manque de stabilité politique de ces dernières années n'a pas permis à notre pays de se lancer dans des politiques stratégiques pour éradiquer la faim et la pauvreté.

Je ne pourrais terminer mon intervention sans remercier la FAO au nom du gouvernement de mon pays et en mon nom personnel pour la rapidité avec laquelle cette Organisation a accepté un projet de coopération technique pour mon pays, projet contre la grippe aviaire, puisque mon pays, chaque année, voit arriver plus d'un million d'oiseaux migrateurs qui pourraient être porteurs de cette zoonose. Et mon pays n'a pas de moyen, comme je le disais, du point de vue technique ou financier, pour diagnostiquer cette maladie ou pour lutter contre un foyer, c'est pourquoi la prévention est la façon la plus adéquate de nous prémunir.

En guise de conclusion, je voudrais former des vœux de succès pour la FAO, pour son Directeur général et surtout pour les réformes prévues pour cette Organisation. Nous espérons que les résultats de celles-ci auront un impact positif sur les populations les plus nécessiteuses.

Choe Taek SAN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's of Korea, I would like to congratulate Dr Cao Duc Phat, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam, on his election as Chairman of the 33rd Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, which is opening the year of 60th anniversary of the establishment of the FAO. Let me also express thanks to the FAO Secretariat and the Italian Government for their sincere efforts to make this Conference successful. At the same time, may I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election as Director-General.

Achieving food security at global level is an urgent task in attaining the MGDs of reducing by half the hunger and poverty in the world by the year 2015. In the last biennium FAO has made great efforts to implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action in conformity with its purpose to liberate people from hunger.

The adoption of the voluntary guidelines, to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, the effectuation of the Rotterdam Convention and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, etc. clearly demonstrates the achievements of this Organization.

FAO is effectively responding to global emergencies, in particular, FAO took joint measures with the WHO and World Organization for Animal Health to cope with the outbreak of birds' flu in Asia and other regions and to mobilize the emergency fund for Tsunami damage rehabilitation. The Organization has actively conducted its regular technical cooperation and the work of Special Programme for Food Security of the Organization in conformity with the realities of given regions and countries, and the purpose of given projects. In this process, good experiences have been gained in different sectors such as soil and crop nutrition management, IPM and water management to be eventually realized as an important follow-up.

My delegation appreciates the efforts of the Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, to reform the FAO effectively, in keeping with these new realities.

Eight hundred and fifty million people in the world still suffer under-nourishment and 5 million children are dying of hunger every year.

My delegation would like to touch upon some issues of importance, for the successful implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action to eradicate poverty and hunger, and to reduce world under-nutrition by a factor of half.

First of all, we understand that it is indispensable for every Member government to formulate agricultural policy and strategy, in conformity with the real situation of its own surroundings, and mobilize every possible potential to maximize food production.

To this end, it is necessary for every country to increase its governmental investment in agricultural enhancement and rural development and, upgrade the level of science and technology for production activities such as: seed improvement, effective use of water, soil and crop management and disease and pest damage protection, which are main elements for production increase.

Next, we consider it important to make Food For All and provide the socio-economic conditions favourable for increasing the agricultural production capacity.

Member states should exert joint efforts to establish the fair international economic relationship based on the principle of equality and mutual benefits and, especially the developed countries should take measures to minimize or abolish agricultural subsidies, so that the agricultural product of developing countries can have access to the international markets and, should carry out their pledge to share out a 0.7 percent of the GNP to Official Development Assistance. At the same time, the developing countries should continue to develop the South-South cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

It is crucial for FAO to decisively enhance its role in eradicating poverty and achieving food security.

We recognize the need for the reform of the Organization's work in line with the new situations and circumstances, for instance, by increasing the amount of technical assistance to the developing countries which play an important role in agricultural development and, the need to generalize the good experience of the Member States in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Our delegation recognizes that the Programme of Work and Budget 2006-07, based on real budgetary growth, presented by the Director-General, fully reflects the present situation and the opinions of Member States and we support to it.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader of our people, General Kim Jong II, our country has been concentrating all its efforts to solve the food problem. The DPRK Government constantly enhances the management of the rural economy in conformity with the need of realities and takes measures to increase agricultural production by stimulating farmers for increased production. Active efforts are being made to put main emphasis on seed improvement, potato farming, double cropping, abiding by the principle of the right crop in the right soil and at right time, and to introduce the modern agricultural methods.

Progress is also being made in the work to strengthen the material and technical bases of the rural economy, including, the rapid development of the inland and maritime aquaculture, re-zoning of the country's arable land and completion of the gravity fed Kaechon-Teasong Waterway and Paekma-Cholsan Waterway. Our country's struggle to solve food problem in carried on in close cooperation and collaboration with the FAO and other international organizations.

In this regard, I take this opportunity to express thanks to FAO, the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and other international organizations of the same nature, as well as the governments of the Member States for their assistance to the areas of food and agriculture of the DPRK. Our Government will continue to enhance its own agricultural

production capacity and develop collaboration with the FAO and its Member States to contribute to the agreed implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Manuel Pedro PACAVIRA (Angola)

Je m'exprime au nom de mon Ministre qui, pour des raisons de calendrier, n'a pu rester parmi nous plus longtemps, ici à la Conférence.

C'est un grand honneur pour moi et pour la délégation qui m'accompagne, de prendre la parole à cette 33^{ème} session de la Conférence et c'est avec beaucoup de plaisir que je m'associe aux orateurs précédents pour exprimer ma satisfaction après votre élection Monsieur le Président à la tête de cette Conférence pour nous conduire. Et de la même façon, je profite de cette occasion, au nom du gouvernement de l'Angola, pour féliciter Monsieur Jacques Diouf pour sa réélection au poste de Directeur général de la FAO. C'est un signe de reconnaissance des Etats Membres, reconnaissance du dévouement avec lequel vous assumez vos responsabilités, de l'appui que vous avez toujours cherché à fournir aux Etats Membres et en particulier aux pays en développement.

Je formule des vœux de succès pour ce nouveau mandat, à vous-même, Monsieur le Directeur général et à toute l'équipe qui est à vos côtés.

En ce qui concerne le thème qui nous occupe, la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, que le Secrétariat nous a présenté, je voudrais à mon tour présenter un certain nombre de commentaires.

Malgré l'augmentation de la production agricole, la situation dans de nombreux pays reste stationnaire, parfois elle est même en régression.

Il est préoccupant et lamentable de constater que le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées, dans les pays en développement, a augmenté, et que l'Afrique au sud du Sahara est la seule région qui n'a pas enregistré la croissance minimum de production alimentaire souhaitée, et cette situation regrettable est bien illustrée au paragraphe 8 à la figure 2 qui nous donne les projections des indicateurs de l'alimentation et de la faim par région.

Comme on peut le constater, si l'on ne met pas en œuvre des mesures et des investissements spécifiques, nous n'atteindrons jamais d'ici 2015 les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement et ni même en 2030. La situation en Afrique sub-saharienne restera la même.

Pour minimiser ces effets négatifs, plusieurs programmes sont en cours d'exécution en Afrique mais également au niveau national, je cite simplement le NEPAD.

Les efforts qui sont en cours actuellement dans les pays en développement doivent être appuyés par la communauté internationale. Malheureusement, nous constatons que l'aide internationale, malgré les promesses qui ont été faites, a chuté et qu'elle n'est pas toujours canalisée vers les pays qui en ont le plus besoin.

Nous sollicitons de la part de la FAO la poursuite de sa coopération avec le NEPAD et avec chacun des pays africains. J'aimerais suggérer qu'une rencontre, sous les auspices de l'Union Africaine et de la FAO soit organisée avec les pays membres; l'objectif principal de cette réunion serait de faire le bilan des progrès réalisés et d'établir des plans de mise en œuvre de politique agricole et de sécurité alimentaire au niveau du continent.

Ma délégation profite de cette occasion pour remercier la FAO de tout l'appui qu'elle a fourni à l'Unité africaine et à ses Etats Membres dans l'exécution des programmes agricoles et de sécurité alimentaire dans notre continent.

L'Angola a terminé sa troisième année de paix et nous pouvons affirmer que le potentiel agricole du pays, associé à la libre circulation des biens et des personnes, avec le retour des familles paysannes dans leurs terres d'origine, ont créé les prémisses essentielles d'une amélioration de la situation alimentaire. Depuis 2002, nous avons enregistré dans le pays une augmentation significative de la production agricole. La dernière campagne a connu un accroissement de 28 pour cent.

Actuellement, l'Angola produit environ 60 pour cent de ses besoins alimentaires et le déficit céréalier est couvert par des importations commerciales et par l'aide alimentaire. La contribution totale de l'agriculture, de l'élevage, des forêts et de la pêche au PIB est actuellement de 9 pour cent, environ.

Malgré les bons résultats obtenus au cours de la dernière campagne agricole dans tout le pays, il existe encore des foyers d'insécurité alimentaire. Plusieurs familles n'ont pas réussi à augmenter leurs surfaces de production à cause de différents facteurs, par exemple le manque de facteurs de production et le manque d'accès aux marchés pour les produits.

La sécurité alimentaire s'améliore chaque année, mais les foyers d'insécurité alimentaire qui persistent encore, principalement dans le plateau central, indiquent clairement le besoin urgent de mettre en œuvre des programmes de développement rural en faveur des populations vulnérables.

La FAO a toujours été, depuis notre indépendance en 1975, un partenaire privilégié, qui a toujours fait ses efforts pour nous aider en particulier dans les moments les plus difficiles.

Au Directeur général, Monsieur Jacques Diouf, et à son équipe, nous adressons la gratitude du peuple et du gouvernement angolais.

Permettez-moi de formuler quelques considérations sur les points de l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence.

Nous nous félicitons de la réalisation de la deuxième Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural. Nous estimons opportun et louable de faire le bilan, positif ou négatif, de ce qui a été adopté en 1979. Permettez-moi ici de faire une parenthèse, pour vous dire que le Ministre de l'Agriculture de l'Angola, et l'Angola en tant que pays, a eu l'honneur de recevoir une médaille de la FAO pour les efforts techniques et d'organisation lancés pour le relancement de l'agriculture dans un pays comme le nôtre et ce, malgré la situation de guerre que nous avons connue.

La réforme agraire et le développement rural constituent un instrument social légitime pour l'accès à la terre, l'augmentation de la production, la gestion de l'emploi et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des êtres humains dans le milieu rural.

Il faut souligner que, malgré l'approbation unanime de la Déclaration de principe à la fin de la Première Conférence sur la Réforme agraire en 1979, il faut reconnaître que les résultats escomptés n'ont pas été atteints parce que dans beaucoup de pays en voie de développement, cette question est encore d'actualité et dans d'autres, il se pose encore avec la même acuité comme en 1979.

C'est la raison pour laquelle ce thème a été retenu dans le Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996 et dans la Déclaration du Millénaire pour le développement.

La FAO réussira, avec difficulté, à atteindre ses objectifs si elle n'a pas un budget digne et adéquat. Au moment où nous célébrons le 60^{ème} anniversaire de la FAO, le monde fait face à plusieurs calamités naturelles: les ouragans, les typhons, les inondations, les sécheresses qui dévastent presque tous les continents, en plus du VIH/Sida, des conflits civils et militaires qui tuent des milliers de personnes, qui provoquent un grand nombre de blessés, de sans abris et qui ont pour conséquence l'augmentation de la faim, de la pauvreté et de la misère.

Par le biais de la mondialisation, de nouveaux défis se posent à la FAO qui doivent être préparés pour pouvoir répondre convenablement. Mais nous considérons que c'est pour cette raison que les réformes de l'Organisation et de la structure et de la gestion de l'Organisation sont nécessaires. C'est ainsi que nous encourageons Monsieur le Directeur général à aller de l'avant avec les propositions présentées dans le document sur la Réforme de la FAO qui mérite tout notre appui.

Suite à l'intervention du Chef de la délégation du Cap Vert, le gouvernement de l'Angola considère également important que cette Conférence approuve la recommandation de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique selon laquelle le portugais serait utilisé comme

langue de travail. L'approbation de cette recommandation permettrait une participation plus active de ces cinq pays africains qui s'expriment dans cette langue.

Et nous ne pouvons pas terminer sans féliciter la Biélorussie pour son intégration dans cette grande famille de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture.

Richard M. CHIZYUKA (Zambia)

Let me congratulate you Mr Chairman and your Bureau for being elected to steer the affairs of this Conference. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf for being re-elected to the position of Director-General of FAO.

On behalf of His Excellency, President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, State Counsel, and the people of Zambia, my delegation wishes the Director-General success as he continues to serve humanity through this important Organization. I also wish to reaffirm my delegation's support to the proposed FAO Reforms and call upon the Director-General to forge ahead with implementing them since he now has a fresh mandate and the support of Member States.

Zambia, like most countries in the Southern African region, experienced below normal rainfall during the last agricultural season. The result of this was a decline by 28 percent in the production of maize – our major staple food. From a surplus position of 190 000 metric tonnes last year, Zambia recorded a deficit of about 90 000 metric tonnes of maize this year. Preliminary indications are that a food deficit problem has affected some 1.7 million people in 34 of our 72 districts, with a cereal requirement estimated at 150 000 tonnes.

I wish to take this opportunity to echo the appeal that my President made to the international community to come to our assistance and to complement our efforts in addressing the situation until the next harvest in April 2006.

To deal with the recurring food deficits and to promote increased production and improve sector performance, we are implementing both short and medium to long-term measures. The short-term interventions include:

1. the provision of subsidized inputs such as fertilizer and seed, to a targeted number of viable but vulnerable small-scale farmers at about 50 percent subsidy for a limited period;
2. promoting cultivation of two crop cycles of maize in a year among farmers that the means to do so; and
3. promoting conservation farming and crop diversification, here, emphasis is on food crops other than maize – notably cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum and millet.

In the medium to long-term, the following programmes are considered a priority for the agricultural sector:

Increased Food, Cash and High-value crop production: Government is promoting sustainable methods of food production as well as enhancing food crop diversification. Out-grower schemes and contract farming are enhancing private sector provision of inputs, extension services and offer ready markets for agricultural produce among small-scale farmers. Government is providing support to the production of high value crops such as coffee, cotton, paprika and vegetables. Other high value crops targeted for increased production include oil palm, cashew nuts, pineapples, soyabeans, jatropha and castor beans. Increased production of these crops will put more money in the pockets of farmers and help the country to earn foreign exchange.

We are grateful for FAO's support in promoting the production of oil palm in one of our provinces.

Development of irrigation. Zambia has abundant underground and surface water. This is currently under-utilized. To help tap this abundant resource, Government has come up with a National Irrigation Plan that will be implemented over a period of five years, with a financial resource requirement of about US Dollars 30 million a year. This will bring an additional 80 000 hectares of farmland under irrigation over the period. The Plan encompasses the construction and

rehabilitation of various irrigation sources like dams, canals, and tapping of water for irrigation from the many rivers and lakes across the country. This will require irrigation technologies and methods that will enable our small and medium-scale farmers to produce multiple crops. We are appealing to cooperating partners to supplement our efforts in mobilizing both the technical and financial resources required for the development of our irrigation potential.

Livestock development The contribution of the livestock sub-sector to agricultural growth has been greatly hampered by incidences of livestock diseases, poor animal husbandry practices and poor marketing infrastructure. We are working jointly with FAO in addressing some of these impediments. On our part, to help combat livestock diseases, we plan to set up an Emergency Disease Control Fund. The Fund will help in developing a sustainable animal disease control programme that will lead to increased livestock population. The other livestock related programme is restocking. Under this, efforts are underway to restock depleted livestock areas in partnership with the private sector.

Development of the Fisheries sub-sector. 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 waters. We have also formulated an Aquaculture Development Strategy with technical support from FAO. The strategy will guide investment in the fishing industry.

Development of Farm Blocks. The Government's policy on land development is to ensure that land is readily available for agricultural purposes. To this effect, we have revised our Land Policy in order to put in place a sustainable land utilization system that will benefit Zambians and others willing to invest in agriculture. To bring an additional one million hectares of land under agricultural production, we have embarked on a development of farm blocks in all our nine Provinces through the provision of basic infrastructure such as roads and electricity. The farm blocks are being zoned into large, medium and small-scale lots for both local and foreign investors.

Increased financial resources from Government, complemented by those from co-operating partners and the private sector will lead to increased sector growth and food security. We now have a strong political will and good policies to ensure that this is achieved. I am happy to conclude by placing on record our appreciation for the good work that FAO is doing in providing leadership in marshalling support for its Member States in addressing the issues of agricultural development and food security at household, national, regional and global levels. Zambia will continue to support the work of this important Organization.

Ms Helena BAMBASOVÁ (Czech Republic)

From the Report on the State of Food and Agriculture which was recently presented by the Secretariat, it results that the goal to halve the number of chronically undernourished people by 2015 is not possible to be fully reached under the existing pace of progress. However, there are some significant regional differences.

It is quite clear that sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas is closely connected with successful or unsuccessful activities of international community to eradicate hunger and malnutrition all over the world. In this respect, the Czech Republic calls especially for the necessity of increasing agricultural investments, increasing agricultural productivity, balanced market access, and for their mutual connection with actions aimed at a long-term economic and social development of the poorest countries.

In light of the approaching Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December this year, we are also highlighting the necessity of a fair agricultural trade among all nations. Agricultural sector in countries where the highest occurrence of malnutrition is the least integrated one in international markets, which is unfortunate since trade can significantly influence the level of poverty and hunger.

Thus, the Czech Republic considers further liberalization of agricultural trade as a fundamental prerequisite of improving nutrition in developing countries. We call, therefore, upon all our partners to contribute in their way to the common effort to make the negotiations in Hong Kong a success; not only from the view of developed countries, but also from the point of view of developing countries. A balance in the outcome is much more needed than it was any time before.

With the expansion of new technologies and introduction of much more productive breeds and varieties in agriculture, unification of breed and variety composition, an alarming decrease in biodiversity and genetic erosion can be observed. With regard to elimination of hunger and poverty, we consider protection of biological diversity as an important element of sustainable agricultural development.

Within protection of genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Czech Republic has a sound technical, professional and information background. Protection of agri-biodiversity, development of new protection methods, etc., are a part of priorities of the Czech research programmes in agriculture. As biological diversity has an international dimension – because its conservation is in the interest of all, with no regard to political, cultural and economic barriers – practical assistance in the field is crucial for all who need it in order to stop genetic erosion, and the disappearance of genetic resources on earth. The Czech Republic can offer, even through FAO, a co-operation in transfer of technologies for protection of genetic resources for food and agriculture. We can also offer our assistance to help developing countries build their own capacities, including required information systems, and also a direct assistance in expert training and other educational activities.

In our opinion, a revised approach toward Genetically Modified Organisms could also alleviate hunger in the world. Our country has both scientific and practical experience with GMOs, and we would like to extend a mutual cooperation with FAO in that field. For instance, we have already announced the interest to financially support an international workshop on biotechnology management in plant protection, to be primarily focused on production of genetically modified maize, to be held next year in Prague, our capital.

For this reason, the Czech Republic recommends to pay greater attention to biotechnologies and renewable energy resources that can represent a significant potential for developing countries and thus, another possible solution to poverty.

Within the official development assistance the Czech Republic supports, *inter-alia*, integration of developing countries into global agricultural research; not only by means of close cooperation with developing countries in common projects, but also by several researches in the field that are extremely essential for hunger eradication. At the same time, we try to develop conditions that would prevent brain-drain of the newly trained experts from given countries.

We are fully aware of the importance FAO gives to ensure food security for all people. For this reason, the Czech Republic presents itself as the largest donor for the extra-budgetary FAO activities, among the countries of the former Eastern block. Systematically, for a period of almost 10 years, we have been providing our voluntary contributions to support a variety of FAO activities.

We aim our support at educational activities that establish a link to improvement of production processes in agriculture and we also provide financial contribution to special FAO's development projects in a number of developing countries.

To conclude, I believe that in this way the Czech Republic effectively entered a group of traditional donors that are committed to make our lives free of extreme hunger and poverty.

Tissa WARNASURIYA (Sri Lanka)

I am presenting this statement on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, Honourable Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, who was to attend the Conference as Head of the Delegation but could not make it as he had to assume duties at the position of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, two days ago.

Let me in the first instance congratulate you Mr Chairman, on your election as the Chairperson of this Conference. I am sure under your guidance the deliberations will be most fruitful.

Let me also convey to you and the Director-General of FAO and to Belarus, the newest member of our FAO family, the best wishes of the newly elected President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, for your re-election as the Director-General of this important Organization.

I wish to emphasize that Sri Lanka will play an active role in the realization of the FAO reform proposals. The vision of the Ministry of Agriculture of Sri Lanka, is to bring prosperity to the farming community. In this regard, the following approaches are being made:

1) Guide farmers in taking measures to cut down the cost of production, in producing agricultural commodities. The Ministry encourages farmers to follow Integrated Plant Nutrient Management (that is IPNM) and Integrated Pest Management (that is IPM) to reduce expenses in fertilizers and agro-chemicals and also to apply less expensive cultural practices like Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) and making very effort to convert "dead soils", resulted from agro-chemicals, to "living soils" through creating conducive conditions for living organisms beneficial to farming.

2) Assist farmers to follow a package of agricultural advice to increase production and productivity with an aim to increase incomes. This includes the use of quality seeds, timely farming and water management. Sri Lanka has commenced producing hybrid paddy seeds and already produced hybrid maize seeds and vegetable seeds such as brinjal and capsicum. Organic farming is also encouraged.

3) Motivate farmers to organize themselves at community, village and agro-ecological regional levels through farmer organizations, enterprises and companies enabling them to market the value added products in fetching attractive prices as to increase their incomes. Recently, our Ministry has established an institute named Sri Lanka Agri-Business Corporation for Grains. This institute will support the farmers to market their raw products, as well as value added products and also provide storage facilities until desired price levels are achieved. The next step is to establish another institute shortly, for horticultural products. We are also considering setting-up of a dedicated radio station to facilitate agricultural development while enriching Agrarian Heritage of Sri Lanka. Institutional support programmes for farm insurance, pensions and farmer banks are being continued.

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Agriculture wishes to place on record that its ambitious five year programme named "Ten Thousand Tank Rehabilitation" has now entered into second successful year. As this programme, has proven its potential in creating prosperity and assuring food security, private sector has come forward to undertake the projects to supplement the Government initiative. Presently each of the Tank rehabilitations undertaken within the context of "entire cascade system" while each and every Tank ecosystem is also improved. This effort will contribute immensely to revive the ancient irrigation heritage which has been recognized by the FAO as Globally Important Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems known as GIAHS.

5) Within the globalized world, we are subject to all the consequences of competition. Sri Lanka survives in today's international spice trade because of the superior flavour and fragrance and chemical properties of our spices and we still insist further improving quality of these spices while quality being improved in other agricultural crops as well.

You all can remember that Sri Lanka was hit by the Tsunami on 26th December 2004, devastating the Southern and the Eastern Coastal areas, displacing about a million and killing about 35 000 people. The FAO has approved several projects to provide emergency assistance to support and rehabilitate Tsunami affected areas. We are thankful to the FAO and officials of the FAO assisting us at a time of national disaster.

These are the highlights of my Government's basic approaches for agricultural and rural development. Under the umbrella of FAO I am sure we can ensure the improved quality of life of our farming community and a better environment for social development of Sri Lanka.

Søren SKAFTE (Denmark)

Let me start by offering my congratulations to Director-General Jacques Diouf on his re-election. He can rely on full support from Denmark in his work of fighting hunger around the world in the years ahead. A lot of important tasks, including the ongoing reinforced modernization of FAO, are waiting in the coming term.

As Member of the European Union we fully align ourselves with the statements delivered Monday by EU Commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel and by Baroness Valerie Amos on behalf of the UK Presidency of the European Union. I do not think I have to repeat a detailed report on Denmark's and the EU's achievements as providers of development assistance. Denmark strongly encourages other countries to join us in realizing the longstanding UN target of 0.7 percent.

For Denmark today there is a strong rationale to address food insecurity.

At the 1996 World Food Summit, leaders from 186 countries pledged to half world hunger by 2015. A decade on, despite progress in reducing hunger at the global level, advancement towards reaching the Millennium Development Goal on hunger is seriously off track.

Furthermore, since 1996, the focus has shifted from FAO to WTO. Meeting in Hong Kong in December to further the Doha Trade Round, the WTO is now firmly focused on agricultural reform and promising benefits for the hungry.

Such reform is vital in moving us forward from the two worlds, of the overfed and the underfed.

Resolving hunger, is however, not the primary mission of the WTO, nor is liberalizing trade the entire answer to the problem of world hunger. We still need a live FAO on the job.

Established in 1945, the FAO was built to help a war-ravaged world feed itself and today the primary obligation is still to support broad-based food security strategies at the national, regional and global level. Food availability, access to food, responses to food shortages and nutritional problems should be at the centre of policy reduction strategies.

We also recognize that food security can be very fragile and even a transitory crisis can trigger long lasting food problems, as assets are quickly depleted and livelihoods undermined.

The picture of global food insecurity points to a number of vulnerable and weak states without neither the capacity nor institutional frameworks to implement long term food security strategies in the face of unfolding crisis. As of October this year, the number of countries facing serious food shortages stood at 39 with 25 in Africa, 11 in Asia Near East, 2 in Latin America and 1 in Europe. In our opinion these figures give a clear guidance on where FAO should focus its limited resources.

While national Government and their regional organizations have the ultimate responsibility in addressing food insecurity, the supporting role of the international community is instrumental, given the scale and complexity of global hunger.

Denmark considers the ability of FAO to deliver public goods improving food security in Member States as the core of the broad mandate of this Organization.

The FAO has immense technical expertise in these areas. This Organization understand the mechanism of hunger better than anyone and knows that establishing partnerships at all levels, especially at grassroots level, is the only means of achieving the changes on the grounds that are vital to ending hunger.

This is how hunger must be tackled, and 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. The FAO is a viable forum for this. We need the FAO, but a FAO in better shape, revamped and revitalised.

FAO's normative activities in inter alia Codex, fisheries, genetic resources and agriculture are of increasing importance in order to establish better, safer and a more fair world. The normative activities and the field work are interlinked ways to fight hunger and to create a better world.

Therefore, we welcome the reform proposals and we support the endeavours of the management of this Organization to reshape FAO to the task before it. Inefficiencies must be swept away to make the FAO more responsive, and the Independent External Evaluation, endorsed by FAO Council, must be carried out, and findings must in time be allowed to influence the further development of the Organization.

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 something vital. An ally that is at risk to become marginalized is barely an ally at all.

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 September's Mid-Term Review of the Plan of Action from 1996.

You can rely on Denmark's ongoing full commitment to this process.

Andrzej KOWALSKI (Poland)

Allow me first to congratulate you on your election to this important function and through you to congratulate Mr Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the post of the Director-General of FAO.

On the 16th October, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations celebrated its 60th anniversary. Since its foundation, FAO has been an important tool, in the efforts of the international community, in the fight against the world's most fundamental scourge - hunger and malnutrition. During this period, the world succeeded in dealing with a problem, which years back seemed to be of almost fateful proportions. In spite of the tripling of world population, we have been able to increase global food production at the rate allowing the satisfaction of the nutritional needs of the whole humanity.

However, as we all know, this extraordinary achievement has a dark side. Eight hundred and fifty million people around the world, who suffer from hunger and chronic food insecurity, know nothing of this success. Furthermore, as the Director-General rightly points out, in his reform proposal, the success of meeting the world's rising amount for food has come at huge environmental and human costs.

Increase in food production has been accompanied by a decline in food prices, decreasing the incomes of farmers, and leading to economic and social collapse in many rural societies, especially in developing and transition countries.

The challenges we are facing are clear and well defined. The remedies, however, are intricate and require complex instruments. This is not the right occasion to engage in the deeper analysis but, maybe, it is a good moment to propose a small, symbolic change.

Historically, we always speak of agriculture and rural development. If the sequence should continue to reflect the key to the solution, we should rather speak of rural development and agriculture.

The year's report of the State of Food and Agriculture, confirms the gloomy, overall picture, with regard to the achievement of the first MDG, of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015. Again, the situation of Sub-Saharan Africa stands out as the most worrisome.

We are, therefore, particularly receptive to any signs for optimism, and not for satisfaction, for the new, evident and positive trend in external assistance to agriculture in this region. The last commitments by the African Union, the European Union and G8 are bound to turn the tide for good.

The development of agriculture and rural areas is at the top of the political agenda in Poland. The needs, in this regard, have prompted us to the adoption, early this year, of a strategy for rural and

agricultural development for the years 2007–2013. The incumbent Polish government lists agriculture and rural development as one of its five top priorities. The aim is to achieve an improvement in the standard of living of the entire population, residing in rural areas, with the use of all human, environmental and economic potential available in the given regions.

Structural unemployment, income disparities, inadequate infrastructure, disadvantaged access to education and health care, reduced availability of investment funding. Inefficient use of resources, both human and material, which beleaguer and hamper rural and agricultural development in developing countries. The same problems are not strangers to us in Poland, albeit at a different scale. That makes thinking together, and solving together, much easier.

In fact, this is what we have been doing, in cooperation with FAO, to benefit agriculture and rural development, both in Poland, and in the developing world, throughout most of the past six decades. The technical support that we have received in the past years from FAO is indeed greatly appreciated.

It gives me great pleasure to say that the time has now come and we are ready to engage, with greater resources, in the assistance to those in need. Upon signing the Millennium Declaration, as well as the Political Declaration and Action Plan, adopted during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002, Poland assumed the obligation to participate in the international community undertakings, aimed at the finding solution to global economic, social and humanitarian problems.

Poland's accession to the European Union brought a change in its position within the framework of global international relations, including international development cooperation. In 2004, Polish Official Development Assistance increased more than fourfold, in comparison with 2003, and reached the level of USD 117.5 million.

Following the increase of ODA in 2004, resulting mainly from the EU membership, Poland intends to continue to extend the scope of bilateral activities. In May 2005, the government of Poland adopted an official declaration on reaching their 0.17% ODA/GNI target by 2010. This is roughly 400 million USD in pure cash terms.

Rysbek APASOV (Kyrgystan)

First, I would like to cordially congratulate you, Dr Jacques Diouf, for your re-election as the Director-General of FAO and I wish you great success in your work. Secondly, I would like to inform you about Kyrgyz Republic's agriculture sector and our collaboration with FAO. The Kyrgyz agricultural sector is providing its more than five million inhabitants with food security and internal and external trade.

However, the potential of Kyrgyz agriculture is much higher. For this, and in the transitional period from former centralized economy to a free market system, the agriculture sector is addressing the issues of the formulation of a new agriculture policy, supporting decentralization, creation of service networks and approaching international standards.

Regarding the collaboration with FAO, Kyrgystan was very active in the establishment of the Mountain Partnership, hosting the World Mountain Summit in 2003, in Bishkek. We are continuing to work with the technical cooperation from FAO in the mountain areas, with water resources management and forestry. We also have programmes in animal genetic resources, agricultural census and the formulation of an agrarian policy.

We are formulating, with the assistance from the FAO technical departments, new projects in veterinary bee-keeping and forest inventory. We also had Telefood projects. After recent, important change, resulting in the election of the new president of our Republic and new institutional changes, we are ready to work actively, and fruitfully, to achieve our objectives of reduction of poverty and raising the living standards for the Kyrgyz people.

Thirdly, we would like to support the reform and, particularly, the idea of decentralization and the creation of multidisciplinary teams, that would be closer to the countries to help them organize

daily problems of rural people. In Central Asia (in all five post-soviet countries), we are missing a direct support from FAO technical officers, as we are far away from regional offices.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all of you good health, happiness in your families and success in your work.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, who could not attend this Conference because of sudden commitments, I would like to express our congratulations to the Director-General for having been re-elected by a majority. This proves the confidence given him in his role in managing this Organization.

We meet in this Conference after the 60th anniversary of the FAO, which has, during the past decades, contributed much in technical assistance programmes, in capacity building, in the elaboration of national policies against poverty, hunger and food security and in alleviating the hunger burden in many countries.

The major challenge that the FAO, and other international organizations dealing with the subject of hunger and agricultural development, face is to halve hunger. We know that 850 million people are suffering from hunger, of which 204 million live in Sub-Saharan Africa. In international fora many of us have already voiced the concern about the slow progress in achieving the MDGs.

We need efficient, onward steps taken, so that we would realize the political commitment of our States. During the WFS in 1996 and 2002, as well as the Millennium Summit of 2000, the World Summit on Sustainable Development of 2002 and the New York Summit of September 2005, it has been reiterated that there is the need for efficient multilateral systems, to face the challenge in eliminating hunger and poverty and in realizing sustainable development and prosperity for all.

We should not disappoint our nations, who look forward to dignified lives, free from hunger and poverty. We must have clear cut, national policies, to increase the agricultural production, to improve the market conditions for poor farmers, to rationalize the use of national resources; policies which prove international cooperation, both in the realm of the exchange of experiences and in a better system of trading in agricultural products and commodities.

We look forward to the Hong Kong WTO Conference and to results that respect the interests of all parties involved. I do commend the FAO activities, especially in holding roundtables on trading, agricultural products, commodities, the necessity to open markets. I especially commend them for taking into consideration the tariff, and non-tariff obstacles, that should be indeed reduced.

In its endeavour for comprehensive development, Egypt highlights the importance of international cooperation and integration with the international community. We do understand the danger of rural poverty as a major challenge we all face. We do commend FAOs technical assistance to Egypt, in the areas of food security, in combating desert locusts and in rural development purposes.

Egypt also fully supports the initiative of the FAOs Middle East Technical Assistant Programme, regarding the bird flu, and we are ready to cooperate in achieving the success of this programme, in terms of capacity building and increased awareness.

The NEPAD Summit was held in Egypt in the beginning of this year and we are responsible for the FAO especially in the technical assistance given to Egypt regarding the food security, combating desert locust and rural development purposes. Egypt also fully supports the initiative of the FAO in terms of the Middle East Technical Assistance Programme regarding the bird flu and we are ready to cooperate in order to achieve the success of this programme in terms of capacity building and increasing the awareness.

The NEPAD Summit was held in Egypt in the beginning of this year and we are responsible for the agriculture and the market access activity of NEPAD and we are also participating in the NEPAD Steering Committee. We are discussing issues such as the agriculture, forestry and

fisheries. There has been changes in the challenges in the international arena, hence, there is a necessity to improve and develop the performance of this international organization. Hence, our support to the proposals for reform presented by the Director-General of the FAO and on behalf of the African group, I do express our appreciation for these proposals and I hope that the Working Group would indeed play an important role to realize such proposals. The African group plays an active role in this group with many new ideas to be presented about a better understanding of the future of this Organization, and opening up a dialogue on the development of this Organization, so that we would have a better ownership feeling towards the FAO.

We understand very well the problem of the reduced liquidity of the FAO. We do understand this in the African group and the 77 Group, and therefore we support the proposal for a Real Growth budget scenario because we have to take into consideration the specialized programmes needed for the developing countries, because if we do not adopt the Real Growth scenario, especially with the increasing needs for assistance by the developing countries, we cannot achieve such a goal.

Francisco Eduardo BONIFAZ (Guatemala)

Deseo felicitar a Usted en nombre del gobierno de Guatemala por el cargo al que fue electo, y al señor Jacques Diouf por su reelección al cargo de Director General. Estamos seguros que su experiencia conducirá a la FAO por caminos seguros.

Guatemala en estos momentos está atravesando por una coyuntura de su historia muy difícil, y al mismo tiempo nos plantea una serie de retos que debemos enfrentar con el apoyo de la Comunidad Internacional. Durante los dos años de la actual administración encabezada por el Presidente de la República, una de las prioridades del gobierno, es el combate al hambre y a la desnutrición crónica. Para esto estamos trabajando muy arduamente en lograr el cumplimiento de una de las principales metas del milenio. Estas acciones se enmarcan dentro de la Alianza Internacional contra el hambre impulsadas por la FAO y teniendo como líder a la Señora Cleito. La voluntad política del gobierno de Guatemala se ha traducido, en la aprobación por parte del congreso de la República, de la ley del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional, que a su vez, crea la Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional responsable de establecer procedimientos de planificación técnica y de coordinación entre las instituciones de gobierno, tales como, la sociedad guatemalteca, las organizaciones no gubernamentales y las agencias de cooperación internacional vinculadas con la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional. Dicha Secretaría actúa a nivel nacional, departamental, municipal y comunitario. La Secretaría de Seguridad Alimentaria diseña y ejecuta la política nacional, propiciando un marco estratégico coordinado, articulado, eficiente y permanente que garantiza la sostenibilidad del programa. Dentro de las prioridades de las políticas de seguridad alimentaria del gobierno, está la de romper el círculo de la desnutrición crónica a través del plan para la reducción de ésta, dirigido a 220 mil niños de 6 meses a 3 años, a 150 mil mujeres embarazadas y a lactantes en 83 municipios del país. Este programa está apoyado por varios países y varias agencias internacionales. Por otra parte se está trabajando también en reducir la crisis alimentaria derivada de pérdidas de cosechas como ha sucedido recientemente con el paso del huracán Stán. Atendiendo a las comunidades de mayor riesgo, se ha diseñado un instrumento descentralizado que facilitará la recopilación de información para la toma de decisiones, llamado Sistema de Monitoreo Evaluación y Alerta Temprana en Seguridad Alimentaria. Todo esto debe estar complementado con la participación activa y solidaria en la lucha contra el hambre, de la sociedad en general, para lo cual se desarrollan adecuadas estrategias de sensibilización. Otros programas que con éxito están contribuyendo a mejorar el cuadro general de la seguridad alimentaria son, el Programa Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA), que impulsa a la FAO, con la ayuda de la agencia española de cooperación internacional, a un modelo exitoso que el Ministerio de Agricultura de Guatemala está asumiendo paulatinamente un papel protagónico en su ejecución. Esto tendrá como consecuencia pasar de un programa piloto a un programa extenso en el ámbito territorial de su aplicación ya que la aspiración del gobierno es convertirlo en un plan nacional. Cabe señalar, otro programa dirigido a combatir la desnutrición crónica, este es aquel impulsado por la primera Dama, llamado Creciendo Bien, el cual busca a través de la educación a la madre, la

sostenibilidad en la recuperación nutricional del niño, desde su concepción hasta los 3 años y a la mejora de las condiciones de vida de la familia en general.

Guatemala y El Salvador se vieron seriamente afectados en el mes de Octubre de este año, por el paso del huracán Stán. Este dejó solamente en Guatemala más de 650 personas fallecidas, 474 mil personas afectadas directamente, que corresponden a un 4% de la población del país y 3 millones 500 mil personas afectadas indirectamente, que equivale al 31% de la población. En su mayor parte la población afectada fue aquella indígena, pobre o extremadamente pobre. El Stán fue un evento que se suma a las condiciones pre-existentes de bajos indicios de desarrollo humano, condiciones de marginalidad, se perdieron más de 20 mil puestos de trabajo, las pérdidas y daños en su totalidad ascienden a más de 980 millones de dólares, que corresponden al 3.4% del PIL de Guatemala. En el agro, las pérdidas fueron cuantiosas y la participación de la FAO en el apoyo al diseño en las estrategias a seguir, para la recuperación de lo perdido fue decisiva. Así mismo el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA), se destacó prestando las primeras ayudas alimentarias. Con la reciente operación de emergencia aprobada y avalada por la FAO, ayudará a la población más afectada durante los próximos seis meses. Por otra parte, la Segunda Comisión de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su declaración, de dar asistencia humanitaria para la rehabilitación de Guatemala y El Salvador, pide al Secretario General y a todos los demás Órganos del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas, a las Instituciones Financieras Internacionales y Organismos de Desarrollo, que ayuden a Guatemala y El Salvador en la medida de lo posible, prestando asistencia humanitaria, técnica y financiera, que contribuya a superar la emergencia, la rehabilitación y recuperación a corto, mediano y largo plazo de la economía de la población afectada a nivel nacional. El Ministerio de Agricultura está trabajando en la reactivación productiva para la recuperación de las siembras perdidas, y que está llevando a cabo un plano en el cual se están entregando bolsas agropecuarias, herramientas, bombas portátiles de riego y fertilizantes. Quiero aprovechar este estrado, para agradecer a todos los países amigos, Agencias Internacionales, ONGs, la ayuda que han brindado a mi país en esta emergencia. Guatemala al igual que la mayoría de países productores agrícolas, está a favor de un comercio libre y equitativo. Esto será posible solamente cuando los países desarrollados, dejen de emplear grandes cantidades de recursos para subsidiar a sus productores, distorsionando de esta manera el mercado de productos agrícolas.

Nuestros países solamente podrán salir de su subdesarrollo y de su situación de permanente inseguridad alimentaria, en el momento que los países económicamente desarrollados abran sus puertas a nuestros productos. Esta es la visión con la que todos deben asistir a Hong Kong dentro del marco de las negociaciones de la OMC sobre el Comercio Agrícola en el contexto de la ronda de dos.

Mi delegación se suma a lo expresado por la delegación de Brasil, en el tema de la utilización de los recursos extra-presupuestarios de la Organización. Nos preocupa que el prestigio y la credibilidad de la FAO sean usados en perjuicios de los intereses de sus miembros, en especial de nuestros países en vías de desarrollo. Un ejemplo concreto de esto, es el informe de un conjunto de expertos OMS-FAO sobre dieta, nutrición y prevención de enfermedades crónicas, un estudio relacionado con la producción de azúcar, que en el caso de mi país, perjudica a una de las industrias más importantes, modernas y eficientes, sostenida con una estrategia de responsabilidad empresarial social fuerte, generando divisas y fuentes de trabajo.

Por último, mi delegación apoya el principio de la reforma de la Organización, que consideramos fundamental para el logro de las metas del milenio, y para esto, necesitamos una FAO renovable, dinámica y más cerca de todos.

Papa Cheikh Saabidou FALL (Sénegal)

Après avoir présenté mes sincères félicitations pour votre élection Monsieur le Président à la tête de notre Conférence, ainsi qu'à tout le bureau, c'est un honneur pour moi de me trouver ici au nom de son Excellence M. Habib Sy, Ministre d'Etat, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Sénégal.

Cette rencontre revêt une importance toute particulière, car se déroulant un mois après la commémoration du 60^{ème} anniversaire du système des Nations Unies et la célébration de la 25^{ème} édition de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation dont le thème qui s'intitulait "Agriculture et dialogue des cultures", plaide en faveur de telles rencontres qui présagent sans aucun doute de l'ébauche d'orientations à même de mieux répondre aux nécessités de sécurité alimentaire qu'impose la crise économique et sociale dans laquelle s'enlise chaque jour nos pays.

Au Sénégal, malgré l'invasion acridienne sans précédent de 2004, qui a eu un impact réel sur la production agricole et pastorale, la campagne agricole 2005-2006 s'est présentée sous de meilleurs auspices grâce à des conditions pluviométriques et de croissance de la végétation jugées dans l'ensemble satisfaisante. La situation de la campagne antérieure aurait dû être beaucoup plus catastrophique n'eût été la bienveillance de Monsieur le Président de la République, Maître Abdoulaye Wade, qui a promptement dégagé cinq milliards de francs CFA et l'intervention diligente du Comité national de lutte antiacridienne mis en place dès le 10 août 2004 par le Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'hydraulique à l'issue du Conseil présidentiel du 30 Juillet et qui s'est acquitté pleinement de sa mission sous la coordination remarquable de l'Armée nationale.

Je saisis l'occasion pour rendre un vibrant hommage à la FAO aussi bien pour son précieux appui à la formation d'agents formateurs sur les techniques de prospection et de gestion de l'information acridienne que pour son assistance en moyens opérationnels.

Ce satisfecit est également adressé à nos partenaires au développement et à tout ceux qui nous apporté leur concours dans cette épreuve en faisant leurs les recommandations de la rencontre "Coalition contre le criquet pèlerin", tenue à Dakar les 30 et 31 août 2004, et qui a vu la participation des Ministres chargés de l'agriculture des Pays membres de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin en région occidentale, élargie à la Gambie, au Burkina Faso, au Cap-Vert, à la Guinée-Bissau, à la République de Guinée et à la FAO.

Pour consacrer le droit inaliénable de l'être humain à une alimentation saine et nourrissante reconnu par la communauté internationale, c'est pour cela que le Président de la République, Maître Abdoulaye Wade, a pris la décision en 2003 de mettre en œuvre des programmes d'urgence de relance des cultures vivrières assortis de mesures spéciales visant à faciliter aux producteurs l'accès aux intrants. Les secteurs de l'élevage, de la pêche et des productions forestières ne sont pas en reste. C'est ainsi que des objectifs de production ont été assignés à certaines filières, entre autres le maïs, le sésame, le manioc, le niébé et le bissap. Ces mesures ont permis d'intensifier la production et d'obtenir des rendements plus élevés. C'est ainsi qu'avec le soutien remarquable de la FAO, la filière maïs a vu la production nationale passer de 78 194 tonnes en 2002/2003 à 400 909 tonnes en 2003/2004, 421 419 tonnes en 2004/2005, 412 756 tonnes en 2005/2006 soit respectivement, 400 pour cent, 439 pour cent, 428 pour cent d'augmentation en valeur relative. Ces résultats très probants obtenus dès la première année réconfortent le gouvernement dans la pertinence de ses options et à poursuivre la politique de diversification et d'intensification agricole en dopant certaines productions. L'installation de la saison des pluies 2005 dans les normes saisonnières notées sur l'ensemble du territoire national a confirmé les résultats optimistes de nos prévisions.

Au sortir du Sommet mondial sur l'alimentation de 1996 à Rome, le Sénégal s'est immédiatement attelé à la mise en œuvre de stratégies et de programmes dans les domaines aussi variés que sont la décentralisation, la promotion de la femme, la protection de l'enfance ainsi que la relance du secteur agricole qui occupe la majorité de la population.

L'avènement de l'alternance politique le 19 mars 2000 est venu consolider et renforcer ces acquis, si bien que toutes ces préoccupations ont été largement prises en compte dans la politique du gouvernement avec les nombreux programmes et projets élaborés et mis en œuvre et ayant pour ultime objectif la lutte contre la pauvreté en général et l'éradication du fléau de la faim en particulier.

Des perspectives novatrices se dessinent donc pour le secteur agricole avec notamment: la loi d'orientation agro-sylvo-pastorale, adoptée par l'Assemblée nationale le 25 mai 2004 et

promulguée le 24 juin 2004 par le Président de la République; la mise en œuvre du plan d'actions prioritaires 2003-2005, issu de la stratégie nationale de réduction de la pauvreté dont 80 pour cent des ressources sont destinées au monde rural; le Programme d'urgence de relance des cultures vivrières, assorti de mesures exceptionnelles de soutien à la production et dont le maïs occupe une place prépondérante à côté du sésame, du manioc et du bissap; l'admission récente du Sénégal au titre du Millenium Challenge Account.

Au plan sous-régional, on notera la mise en œuvre de la Politique agricole commune dans le cadre de l'Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine, dans l'optique d'assurer au mieux la coordination et l'harmonisation des politiques agricoles des Etats membres de l'Union mais aussi le développement des indispensables complémentarités en vue de l'accroissement de la production agricole, de la promotion et de la consommation des produits régionaux.

Des avancées plus importantes sont également attendues à travers cet espace de libre échange qu'offre la Communauté économique des États de l'Afrique de l'ouest qui a déjà démarré une large consultation pour l'élaboration de la Politique agricole communautaire. Au plan continental, le NEPAD constitue un challenge pour les États africains sur la voie de la réduction du fossé qui les sépare des pays développés du Nord. Il constitue aussi un moyen d'intégration des économies africaines avec le développement des infrastructures routières inter-état permettant une plus grande fluidité des échanges.

Du reste, l'élaboration d'un programme pluriannuel relativement au volet agricole et accès aux marchés peut aider à la recherche de débouchés de nos produits. Des opportunités immenses se dessinent avec l'AGOA, mais aussi avec l'initiative "Tout sauf les armes" qui permettent, entre autres, un meilleur accès aux marchés américain et européen.

L'éradication de la pauvreté et la sécurité alimentaire durable pour tous restent au premier rang de nos priorités, ce qui passe par le développement de l'agriculture qui constitue la principale composante.

Je vais conclure en disant qu'en signant en avril 1994 les Accords du cycle Uruguay qui incluent l'Accord sur l'agriculture et la création de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, notre pays a marqué son adhésion aux règles du système commercial multilatéral et son engagement en faveur d'un système commercial multilatéral, commerce ouvert sur le monde. Dans quelques semaines, nous allons nous retrouver à Hong-Kong pour la Conférence ministérielle de l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce, où nous devons œuvrer pour parvenir à un accord qui soit juste et équitable par les Pays Membres, dans les conditions définies par le Programme de développement de Doha.

Je voudrais, encore une fois, renouveler mes remerciements à tous les groupes, tous les pays amis qui ont œuvré pour la réélection de notre compatriote, le docteur Jacques Diouf.

Mrs Yok Yee CHAN (Fiji)

It is indeed unfortunate that our Minister for Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement Honourable Tuisese is unavailable today, however, with his apology to the Chair he has indicated his commitment and support towards the outcome of this Conference. Allow me to convey his statement on behalf of Fiji.

The Government of the Republic of Fiji Islands is strongly committed to the attainment of food security for all its citizens. In our National Strategic Development Plan 2003-2005 food security has been solely singled out as one of the Government's major policy objective. This is being implemented through a number of Government funded and externally assisted projects and programmes to ensure that the people have access to stable food supply.

The Agriculture sector contributes over 14 percent to GDP and is the main source of livelihood for 52 percent of our population, most of whom live in the rural areas. The sugar industry alone, which contributes 8 percent to GDP, provides direct employment to around 40 000 people out of a population of 800 000 people. This is evident enough that a healthy agriculture sector must be

sustained in order to achieve sustainable economic growth and better standard of living for our people.

As in other developing countries the incidence of poverty and food security, depends to a high degree on the production of one or a few agricultural commodities, destined principally for export. In such cases the overall economies and often the welfare of the poor including food security and poverty, are subject to changing market conditions. In the case of Fiji, the erosion of preferential sugar prices received from the European Union will significantly affect the welfare and food security of more than 200 000 people, a quarter of the population, who directly or indirectly rely on sugar for their livelihood.

The erosions of preference would have a catastrophic impact on our people if enough efforts are not put in by our developed partners with adequate measures to help our sugar exporting countries, such as Fiji, to adjust to the changing economic environment that any reform in the sugar reform will bring. Practical action now on the sugar reform would be the best way that our development partners could show its commitment towards international trade.

On food security, our Government's initiative in this critical area has been supported by the assistance of FAO through the implementation of the Pacific Sub-Regional Programme for Food Security. The Fiji Government wishes to thank the Italian Government and its people for their financial contribution which has enabled the implementation of this project that will significantly enhance food security and poverty of our people. These projects are ably assisted through the support of the South-South technicians from the Peoples Republic of China to which we are extremely grateful for this valuable assistance.

Vasco TAVEIRA DA CUNHA VALENTE (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)

I would like to start by greeting you as Chairman of this Conference and to assure you the full cooperation from the Portuguese delegation. I would then wish to express my congratulations to Mr Jacques Diouf on his recent re-election to yet another term, his third as Director-General of this Organization.

This term will be marked by two very important and closely related challenges, the reform of FAO and the subsequent expected improvement in its contribution to a timely achievement of the Millennium Goals. We wish you, Mr Director-General, all the success in this mission and we are certain that you will perform it with the dedication you have already given proof of and in such a way as to guarantee that the reform, already at a preparation stage, will unfurl with a vast information and participation level on the part of the Member States so that the final result we will obtain has the broadest consensus possible. This consensus is crucial to enable FAO to face successfully and under the best possible conditions the huge challenges raised by the society we live in.

I would also wish to take this opportunity to address this assembly to express my Government's full support to the request made by the Government of Angola, that this conference approves the use of Portuguese as a working language at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, which seems to us not only fair but essential, bearing in mind not only the contribution but also the ever increasing expansion of the Portuguese language in the world.

During the 1996 World Food Summit, held by FAO in Rome, an interim target was established regarding the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty in the world, the commitment to reduce to half until 2015 the number of starving people in the world.

This target has been reiterated meanwhile in the various international fora that have taken place since then and the importance given to it in the building of a better, more just and balanced world has confirmed it as the first of the Millennium Development Goals.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the positive and encouraging signs of relative improvement revealed by the estimates on world hunger and poverty that international specialised agencies have meanwhile produced, it is understood that, at the current rate of progress, only in 2150 will be decisive goal of reducing to half the number of starving people be reached.

World hunger and poverty are two calamities affecting hundreds of millions of people in the world, they disturb international peace and harmony and more than that they embarrass humankind and they embarrass each one of us. Paradoxically, they occur within a framework of technological and scientific capacity that ensures the production of food in sufficient amounts to feed the entire world population.

This fact confers to the world hunger and poverty phenomenon a strong political component, particularly as regards its solution. Portugal given its position in the world, a European country belonging to the European Union with strong historical and cultural ties with countries scattered over various continents, is in a privileged situation to understand the importance, for humankind, of eradicating hunger and poverty, which so tragically affect an important part of the international community.

For these reasons, my country has been developing a Development Cooperation Policy within the context of the Millennium Development Goals, giving priority to education, health, good governance and the reinforcement of the civil society participation as well as food safety, environmental adequacy of production processes, environment and landscape protection, and safeguarding the rural world.

According to this policy, it is a goal of my Government to increase the Official Development Assistance up to 0.33 percent of the Gross National Income in 2006, in line with the commitment made by the European Union to reach in average terms, that same year, a 0.39 percent ratio. The commitment for 2010 is to reach a 0.51 percent ratio, so that the collective EU average reaches a 0.56 that same year.

It is in Africa that the poorest countries in the world are located. For that reason, countries in that continent, particularly Portuguese speaking countries are the primary beneficiaries of Portuguese Official Development Assistance.

The problem of hunger and poverty is a world disaster and its eradication is an imperative that involves us all. The next few years, the ten years we have left until the 2015 target, will be decisive to fulfil the ambitious but crucial first Millennium Development Goal.

Portugal is fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and is totally available to strengthen bilateral and multilateral actions aiming at reaching such an important goal.

A final word, to recall the particular importance that the forthcoming WTO Ministers Meeting in Hong Kong has within this context. We wish it will be able to produce a global and balanced agreement in all the areas covered by the Doha Agenda. The European Union will submit a global proposal that, we hope, may favour the consensus that we all not only expect, but crave.

Martin SATNEY (Saint Lucia)

Mr Chairman, Director-General, I bring you both warm, caring and fraternal greetings from the Government of Saint Lucia, the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Kennedy Anthony, the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ignatius Jean and the hospitable people of Saint Lucia.

Director-General, Saint Lucia extends to you, your family the Government and people of Senegal, hearty congratulations, as you commence your third term, which undoubtedly will be the most challenging. This august body and the People of Saint Lucia harbour no reservations about your capability and competence to effectively manage and pursue the existing and emerging challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Saint Lucia is a very Small Island Developing State – 616 square kilometres – and a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, a sub-regional economic grouping within the wider Caribbean Community, CARICOM. Saint Lucia records its gratitude to the FAO and its personnel, its allied agencies and governments, particularly the European Union, Governments of Italy, Japan, France, China and Cuba, who play a critical role in assisting Saint Lucia and other CARICOM States to transform and re-align our national and regional agricultural and rural

economies. Such support plays a critical role in fostering social peace and progress, stability and sustainable livelihoods.

Saint Lucia is very much engaged in the normative programme of FAO. Moreover, we are embarking on several other initiatives and interventions, such as:

- the Regional Food Security Programme with components supported by the Government of Italy;
- the Caribbean Agricultural Marketing Intelligence Network (CAMID), which will eventually be coordinated by our premier regional research institute, CARDI;
- the South-South Cooperation Programme with technical support expected shortly from the Government of China;
- the development of Technical Cooperation Programmes related to agri-business and agri-enterprise development and natural resources management; and
- the development of a National School Garden Development Programme to be linked to the curricula, the schools' feeding programme, and the concept of household and community agricultural development.

These contributions enhance significantly the national and broader regional efforts aimed at making our highly vulnerable services and tourism-based small economies more competitive and resilient. Our Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) has developed an Agricultural Development Policy and Strategic Plan of Action which is aligned to the broad national development policy framework with emphasis on economic diversification, agricultural diversification and commercialization, and social transformation.

At the regional level, we welcome and will appreciate assistance to upscale and expedite the implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative, in the context of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), and to strengthen the operational capacity of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

Moreover, Saint Lucia believes that it is relevant that we highlight the critical challenges facing us as vulnerable Small Developing States and the increasing food-related trade deficits. The major concern is not whether the related Doha discussions and negotiations are completed, but whether the situation of vulnerable developing countries and Small Island Developing States are fairly and adequately addressed, through the provision of special and differentiated treatment within the broad context of free trade and fair trade.

The vulnerability of Small Island Developing States such as Saint Lucia cannot be over-emphasized. One example is the recent experience of our sister nation Grenada, during the passage of hurricane Ivan in 2004. Grenada's economy was completely wiped out with 95 percent of its social and economic infrastructure severely affected, resulting in further economic retardation. On this note, we welcome and strongly urge the international community, FAO included, to promote the up-scaling and implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action as an integral part of the Mauritius Strategy to address the issues of sustainable food security and livelihoods in SIDS.

Saint Lucia is convinced that the proposed reform process and initiatives by the Director-general are not only timely, but necessary. We also support the Independent External Evaluation which we believe will and can only add value and impetus to the initiated reform process. Doing otherwise is an endorsement of a "business as usual" scenario, probably for at least the next four to five years. Is this the message we would like to send to the hungry and marginalized, the over 850 million poor and dispossessed of the world? By then these Millennium Development Goals would have become almost irrelevant.

Saint Lucia fully appreciates the work and efforts of the Organization, but we firmly believe that the effectiveness and efficient responsiveness of the FAO, particularly at the sub-regional and national levels, can and should be enhanced at this time.

Time is of the essence, if we are to get closer to the noble goals and vision of our Organization. Finally, we welcome to the FAO our most recent member, Belarus.

Luis Camilo OSORIO ISAZA (Colombia)

Lo primero Señor Presidente es saludarlo, igualmente a los delegados, deseamos felicitar a la Organización por la reelección del Doctor Jacques Diouf, y por el éxito alcanzado en la Conferencia. También destaco los esfuerzos de la Secretaría por la elaboración del importante documento que permite reflexionar sobre los avances que los países y los organismos internacionales realizan para dar cumplimiento a los objetivos del Milenio. Igualmente, aprovecho la ocasión para expresar el beneplácito por la propuesta de reforma, emprendida con decisión, en hora buena.

Colombia está haciendo avances importantes para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza, con ayudas valiosas, entre otras, de la FAO. En el primer trimestre de 2005, el sector agropecuario creció 3.96 en términos anuales. La superficie cultivada en 2002-2004 ascendió a 4.7 millones de hectáreas. La producción agrícola nacional fue de 22.9 millones de toneladas, resultado del incremento de las áreas sembradas. La mano de obra agrícola aumentó, alcanzando 2.3 millones de empleos directos. En el período enero-marzo de 2005, el producto interno bruto del sector agropecuario creció del 4% anual.

A pesar de las graves repercusiones del problema mundial de las drogas, en Colombia los cultivos ilícitos disminuyeron de 7.16 en el último año. Estos resultados son muestra de una efectividad de la política en el sector agropecuario diseñada por el Presidente Álvaro Uribe. La agricultura se fortaleció y la producción de cultivos ilícitos disminuyó notablemente. Esto significa, menos combustible para las organizaciones terroristas y mayores avances en la capacitación de los campesinos para que así operen como verdaderos creadores de riqueza alimentaria. Todos estos esfuerzos requieren la atención activa de la FAO y de la comunidad internacional.

Colombia es víctima del problema mundial de las drogas. Grupos terroristas violan constantemente el derecho internacional humanitario y generan el desplazamiento rural. Casi 1 millón 700 mil personas aumentan los indicadores de pobreza urbana. Además, esto provoca la deforestación y deteriora los suelos. Por causa de estos cultivos, cerca de 8 millones de hectáreas se destruyen por año, es decir, cada minuto se pierden terrenos en cantidad equivalente a 8 canchas de fútbol. Los sembrados ilícitos en las cuencas montañosas aumentan la sequía, reducen las fuentes de agua y generan erosión.

Según algunos estudios confiables, desde mediados de los años 80, las actividades vinculadas al problema mundial de las drogas han arrojado al ecosistema colombiano, más de un millón y medio de toneladas de sustancias químicas para el procesamiento de la heroína y la cocaína causando grandes daños al ambiente, afectando al desarrollo agrícola y a la alimentación. Se calcula en 78.500 hectáreas el área deteriorada por cultivos de amapola en los bosques andinos y en la región montañosa. Otras 425.600 hectáreas de bosque tropical, en las cuencas de los ríos Amazonas y Orinoco, han sido afectadas por los cultivos de coca.

Sin embargo, se observa el gran potencial que posee nuestro país. El territorio de Colombia representa sólo el 0.7% de la superficie total de la tierra, en esta se alberga cerca de 10% de la biodiversidad mundial. Su riqueza natural incluye bosques tropicales que se extienden por cerca de 680.000 kilómetros cuadrados, en el país se albergan 55.000 especies de plantas, 1721 especies de aves y más de 600 especies de anfibios y reptiles.

La labor de la FAO y la lucha al problema mundial de la droga y la violencia son determinantes para nuestro país. Esto garantiza el acceso de la población más vulnerable a las buenas prácticas agrícolas a favor de la producción de alimentos y consecuentemente de la disminución del hambre y de la pobreza. La expansión de la agricultura reemplazando cultivos ilícitos equivale a más alimentos para todos. En el ámbito del principio de responsabilidad compartida frente al problema mundial de las drogas, la intervención de la FAO, acompañada por la comunidad internacional, eliminaría en corto tiempo este flagelo.

La pobreza, el desplazamiento forzado y sus consecuencias en la seguridad alimentaria, la deforestación y su recuperación negativa en el desarrollo agrícola y el medio ambiente son todos problemas que hacen parte de su mandato. Por esto, proponemos lo siguiente:

1. Trabajar en programas que apunten a recuperar las áreas afectadas por cultivos ilícitos en aplicación del principio de diversificación de cultivos que promueve la FAO.
2. Promover la reforestación de terrenos plantados con cultivos ilícitos para la preservación del medio ambiente, y
3. Ampliar los programas de guardabosques para preservar la riqueza ecológica de la humanidad.

Un paso concreto en esta dirección, es el memorando de entendimiento de Colombia con la FAO para cumplir las obligaciones estipuladas en el Protocolo de Kyoto, con el fin de disminuir los niveles de emisión de gases que provocan el calentamiento global y producen el efecto invernadero.

Solicitamos programas dirigidos a erradicar el hambre y la miseria, para atender a los campesinos desplazados de sus tierras y facilitar su retorno. Igualmente, para lograr que quienes planten cultivos ilícitos, reemplacen de inmediato su actividad por otras que aporten a la erradicación del hambre, la miseria y la malnutrición.

Sin drogas ilícitas y con alimentos en abundancia, se eliminará el hambre, habrá paz duradera y mejor calidad de vida para todos los habitantes del planeta.

Jean DE RUYT (Belgique)

Permettez-moi d'abord de vous féliciter pour votre présidence de notre réunion.

Permettez-moi aussi de féliciter notre Directeur général Jacques Diouf, pour sa réélection et l'assurer que la Belgique continuera à soutenir la FAO dans ce combat que nous menons ensemble contre la faim et l'extrême pauvreté.

Le rapport sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture que nous avons sous les yeux est riche d'enseignements. Il nous indique notamment que les résultats les plus favorables dans la lutte contre la pauvreté extrême et la sous-nutrition sont à trouver dans les pays et les régions qui ont su générer une croissance économique substantielle sur une période suffisamment longue.

Cela met d'abord en évidence l'interdépendance entre les différents Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement. Aucun de ces objectifs ne peut être considéré isolément des autres mais nulle part le lien n'est aussi fort qu'entre faim et pauvreté. La faim est à la fois cause et conséquence de la pauvreté. Ce sont les deux rouages d'un engrenage funeste que nous devons briser.

Cela montre également que le développement économique ne dépend pas seulement de l'aide publique au développement mais aussi des conditions que les États parviennent à créer, en termes de gouvernance, pour attirer les investissements privés créateurs d'emplois et donc sources de richesse.

Enfin, ce constat nous invite à renforcer la cohérence de notre action: la politique commerciale et la politique de la dette doivent venir en appui et non pas contrecarrer l'action menée en matière de coopération au développement.

Parmi les concepts de base d'une aide efficace, il en est deux auxquels mes autorités attachent une importance particulière.

C'est tout d'abord la question du ciblage de l'aide. La guerre que nous menons est une guerre contre la pauvreté, une guerre contre la misère. C'est pourquoi nos efforts doivent se porter d'abord sur les pays les plus pauvres et les plus fragiles dont un grand nombre se trouve en Afrique. La Belgique se réjouit à cet égard des différentes initiatives adoptées récemment en faveur de ce continent.

Deuxième concept auquel mes autorités attachent de l'importance, c'est la question de l'appropriation, par les pays eux-mêmes, de leur politique de développement. Les stratégies de réduction de la pauvreté que les pays en développement sont appelés à élaborer à bref délai ne réussiront que si elles impliquent l'ensemble de la population, à commencer par les groupes les plus vulnérables.

Ces principes que je viens d'évoquer, nous tentons de les mettre en œuvre dans notre coopération avec la FAO. En effet, dans les trois programmes financés par la Belgique – agriculture urbaine et périurbaine, approche participative et gestion du terroir et appui technique à la République Démocratique du Congo – l'accent est mis sur le renforcement des structures et des institutions, l'investissement dans le capital humain, la participation active des populations concernées et le dialogue avec les autorités locales.

Dans le but de renforcer durablement les capacités locales, nous insistons beaucoup sur l'utilisation et la traduction au niveau normatif des leçons qu'ils ont apprises sur le terrain.

La FAO vient de fêter ses 60 ans. C'est généralement un âge où, fort de l'expérience acquise, on songe à un nouveau départ, voire à une nouvelle vie.

Mon pays se félicite de l'initiative du Directeur général Jacques Diouf, de présenter un plan de réformes pour la FAO. Nous voyons ce processus qui sera lancé lors de cette Conférence comme une occasion de mieux intégrer la FAO et ses programmes dans le système des Nations Unies et, dès lors, de renforcer le poids et l'influence de notre Organisation tant sur la scène internationale que dans les pays où elle développe ses activités.

La Belgique est résolument en faveur d'une FAO forte, crédible, transparente, responsable et efficace. Une FAO capable de se projeter dans l'avenir, de se réinventer, de mobiliser les ressources nécessaires pour mieux répondre aux besoins et aux défis de ses clients. Il importe pour cela que la FAO démontre en permanence à tous ses partenaires que sa priorité constante est la recherche de résultats concrets.

Il nous paraît donc essentiel de baser cette réforme sur une étude objective de l'impact de l'action de la FAO. L'évaluation externe et indépendante qui sera menée dans les prochains mois ne peut donc, à nos yeux que donner du poids et de la crédibilité à ce processus de réforme.

La Belgique est fière de sa collaboration avec la FAO. Elle est source d'un dialogue fécond qui nous inspire également dans d'autres volets de notre coopération. La semaine prochaine aura lieu à Bruxelles la consultation bilatérale annuelle où, avec la FAO, nous ferons le point sur nos programmes. Nous avons prévu d'y ajouter, cette année, une séance d'information pour les représentants du monde académique qui pourraient être intéressés à participer à ces programmes. Cette initiative comme d'autres que nous prendrons dans les mois qui viennent, vise à mieux faire connaître l'action de la FAO dans notre pays. C'est aussi une façon pour nous de remercier toutes celles et tous ceux qui, à la FAO, s'investissent avec tant de compétence et de dévouement dans les programmes que nous finançons.

Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Republica Dominicana)

Sobre el estado de la alimentación y la agricultura en República Dominicana, me complace informar aquí la Conferencia, dando cumplimiento a las instrucciones del Presidente Leonel Fernández, la Secretaría de Agricultura viene impulsando, desde inicios del presente año y con el apoyo de la FAO, un programa de alcance nacional, dirigido a impulsar el crecimiento y el desarrollo sostenible del sector agropecuario. Las metas de esta iniciativa son de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, incrementar el volumen y la rentabilidad de la producción de alimentos y elevar el nivel de vida de la población rural.

Los elementos centrales de esta estrategia son el estímulo a la producción de arroz y cacao, la distribución de semillas de alto rendimiento y tolerancia a las plagas, el fomento de microempresas agrarias, la mecanización de granjas pequeñas y medianas, el incentivo de cultivos orgánicos y la promoción de la pesca y la acuicultura. La masa crítica de conocimientos

acumulados en esta Organización es decisiva, en colaboración con las autoridades dominicanas, para diseñar e implementar tales programas.

Deseo aprovechar esta oportunidad para reiterar, a título general, la confianza del gobierno dominicano en el sistema de las Naciones Unidas y en su búsqueda de soluciones comunes a los problemas de la humanidad y, en particular, la convicción de que la FAO es uno de los pilares esenciales de la comunidad de naciones. La nobleza de los propósitos encomendados a la FAO, da sentido a todo esfuerzo para protegerla y preservarla, con la mirada fija en la consecución de dichos objetivos.

A lo largo de esta semana, los delegados a la Conferencia estamos concertando los próximos pasos de un oportuno proceso de reformas estructurales propuesto por el Director General. Mi país apoya las líneas generales de esta renovación, que busca consolidar la FAO como entidad de conocimientos técnicos al servicio de sus países miembros. En particular, el gobierno dominicano respalda el paquete de reformas en cuanto propone una más eficaz estructura organizacional, una ordenación programática de mayor eficiencia, y un decidido impulso a la descentralización, incluyendo aspectos de notable importancia como la delegación de autoridad, el acercamiento al terreno, y la promoción de capacidades multidisciplinarias.

Respaldamos también el proceso de Evaluación Externa Independiente, deseamos ver aprobado un presupuesto que permita a la FAO ejecutar en los próximos dos años los programas que los Países miembros le hemos encargado realizar y reafirmamos nuestro decidido respaldo al continuo fortalecimiento del Programa de Cooperación Técnica (PCT) por ser la herramienta primordial de la FAO para llevar a la realidad concreta sus tareas operativas y sus estándares normativos.

Acabamos de celebrar el 60º aniversario de esta Institución, dentro de otros 60 años, todos nosotros habremos dejado este mundo. Esperando que, para entonces, habiendo cumplido sus objetivos, y en un mundo liberado del escándalo del hambre, la FAO no sea más que un capítulo de los libros de historia y que las palabras pronunciadas durante esta semana, desde esta tribuna, se hayan disuelto en el olvido.

Anastassis MITSIALIS (Greece)

Allow me first of all to convey the greetings and best wishes of the Minister of Rural Development and Food, Mr Evangelos Bassiakos, who regrets being unable to participate personally in this important assembly.

Let me also congratulate the Chairman of the Conference and the Bureau upon their election that guarantees that our deliberations will be fruitful and successful.

My thanks and congratulations also go to the Secretariat, for the excellent preparation of this meeting and for the quality of the documentation made available.

And on this occasion, I also extend my welcome wishes for Belarus, a new member of our Organization.

Moreover, I would like to express my warm congratulations to Dr Jacques Diouf upon his re-election as Director-General of FAO. This re-election is the recognition of his unabated efforts in reducing world hunger and poverty. I wish him well and all success in fulfilling his high duties.

At the outset, I would like to underline the importance of this 33rd Session of the FAO Conference.

In fact we have in front of us a number of very important and close inter-related issues to review and decide upon. Each of them is likely to affect the life of the Organization in the short and medium term.

One of these is the Director-General's reform proposals. This initiative is most welcome and necessary since it seeks to adapt the Organization to the evolving conditions of the world in the 21st century. It is regrettable however, that these proposals have been presented late and there was

little time to consider thoroughly their merit. Moreover, they would not have the benefit and the insight of the conclusion of the Independent External Evaluation, which is only about to start.

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 countries, including Greece, but also because the needs for assistance are ever increasing and have to be met within the limited resources. Therefore, ways have to be found enabling the increased response within the budgetary constraints. In this connection, the timely payment of contributions would alleviate the Organization from the financial costs incurred due to borrowing, a situation which unnecessarily penalizes countries, like Greece, who meet their obligations timely.

Turning now to the other items on our agenda, I note with pleasure from the excellent analysis made on the State of Food and Agriculture, that the crop and livestock production during the past two years has increased above the average of the previous four decades. It is even more heartening that such growth comes from both developing and developed countries. It is also significant that prices of basic food commodities have reached the highest level since the mid nineties and that agricultural exports reached a record value in 2003. These are encouraging trends, but regrettably but they are overshadowed by the worsening trend in the Least Developed Countries. In that context the Doha Development Round is an opportunity to address the specific problems of the Least Developed Countries. Therefore, we all need to make every effort for its success so that it can bring benefits to all countries, both developing and developed.

Greece strongly supports FAO as an irreplaceable international forum on matters concerning food and agriculture including fisheries and forestry and rural development, a role that has always been central to FAO and should continue to be so that if we were to achieve the objectives of sustainable agricultural development and availability of food for all.

Greece, to the extent of its capabilities contributes to these efforts by implementing programmes to assist needy countries both multilaterally, in particularly through FAO and World Food Programme, as well as bilaterally. Considering the geographical position of our country, Greece, feels a particular responsibility to encourage the European orientation of its neighbouring Balkan countries. To this effect, it has put in place a five-year development aid plan, which is under implementation. It has also financially supported programmes of technical assistance in the agricultural sector in Africa and in Asia and has provided scholarships to students from these countries over the past two years.

Greece is pleased and honoured to host the Headquarters and contribute to the operational expenses of the FAO EastMed project, which aims at implementing responsible cooperative management fishing programmes in the Eastern Mediterranean.

On a wider scope of FAO activities, I have to point out that, while our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals should be unrelenting, new emergencies call upon us. The Indian Ocean Tsunami just a year ago, is an example of unforeseen and unexpected emergencies that have to be faced without delay. My country, along with many others, has responded to this immense catastrophe by contributing 1.6 million US dollars to support affected farmers in restoring their productive capacity and their livelihood.

Finally, Greece will participate in the reconstruction plan of Sri Lanka's Government, financing projects in different sectors up to 10 million US dollars.

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2005/LIM/14)

Troisième rapport du bureau (C 2005/LIM/14)

Tercero Informe del Comité General (C 2005/LIM/14)

CHAIRMAN

I thank the Head of Delegation of Greece, now we will have a short interruption to go through the process of adopting the Third Report of the General Committee.

I would like to request delegates to ensure they have the Third Report of the General Committee before them. The report is set out in Document C2005/LIM/14. Since the Third Meeting of the General Committee, the FAO Financial Operation Services have been informed that two countries, Sudan and Sri Nam, have affected the payment of their contributions to the Organization. When the amounts announced have been received, the voting rights of these countries will be automatically restored.

I will now proceed to read the title of each section:

Election of Council Members: Are there any comments on this document? If none, I declare the report adopted.

Voting Rights: I see none. The reports are adopted.

Appointment of the Independent Chairman of the Council

If there are none, I declare the report adopted.

We, thus, declare the entire document adopted.

We now go back to the State of Food and Agriculture. I now call His Excellency, the Head of the Delegation of Uruguay.

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (continued)

5. Examen de la situación de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Ramón Carlos ABIN DE MARIÁ (Uruguay)

Comparecemos en esta reunión de la trigésimo tercera Conferencia, en representación de un país cuya principal actividad consiste en la producción de alimentos, la República Oriental del Uruguay. El nuevo gobierno de nuestro país ha asumido en este terreno un compromiso múltiple, impulsar la actividad productiva, expandirla a través de la creación y diversificación de la agroindustria, mejorarla incorporando maquinaria y tecnología, profundizar la investigación científica para contribuir al desarrollo de dicha producción y al mismo tiempo avanzar en el conocimiento y en la innovación.

Uruguay produce alimentos, en un mundo en el que el hambre es un flagelo intolerable, que todos nos hemos comprometidos a combatir, sabemos que ésto no es un problema de producción, sino un problema político, un problema que tiene que ver con la distribución de los recursos universales, con la justicia en el Comercio Internacional, con el derecho de los pueblos al desarrollo sostenible y con la protección del medio ambiente. Si esto es un problema político, tenemos entonces un problema que puede solucionarse, cuya solución depende en parte de la capacidad de negociación de los involucrados, pero en los términos en los que hoy está planteado y ante la situación angustiosa de ciento de millones de personas, esto seguramente depende de la comprensión, la disponibilidad y la generosidad de todos, especialmente de los más poderosos, que tienen que encontrar los puntos de acuerdo que satisfagan los intereses y las necesidades de todos.

Si la distribución es un eje del problema, habrá que encontrar la forma de mejorarla, tal vez los que disponen de bienes en exceso deben aprender a renunciar a una pequeña parte de ellos para que quienes padecen de miseria o necesidad extrema puedan disfrutarlos, pero deberían de hacerlo ya. Detrás de este problema político se deslumbra un problema ético fundamental de la raza humana y como tal debemos encararlo, los problemas éticos se resuelven también en el nivel de las conciencias y por éstas apelamos y por éstas reclamamos, pues no se acallan las conciencias con pequeños gestos o pequeñas dadas, sino con las grandes decisiones que producen importantes transformaciones.

Sabemos que las grandes aspiraciones de la humanidad como las paz, la seguridad internacional, el bienestar de los pueblos y la preservación de la naturaleza son inalcanzables, en plenitud, sin

una base sólida de justicia, es decir sin la certeza de un bienestar mínimo para todos los seres humanos, todo comienza por la alimentación que es el sustento de la vida.

Con una mirada de más largo aliento, teniendo en cuenta la inquietante proyección futura de la realidad presente, al margen de intereses mezquinos o de posiciones coyunturales, que por lo tanto son susceptibles de ser cambiadas y son esencialmente pasajeras. La justicia en las relaciones internacionales es el punto en el que convergen aunque pueda parecer extraño, los intereses nacionales de todos en el largo plazo, los derechos de los pueblos y de los seres humanos individuales. Tenemos que trabajar duramente para hacer comprender estas ideas inspiradoras y facilitar en este modo los caminos para la solución de los grandes problemas que afectan a este mundo.

El nuevo gobierno de Uruguay ha decidido acentuar su participación en la FAO para hacerla más activa, más enérgica y más responsable, esta actitud ha guiado nuestra aspiración de ocupar una vacante en el Consejo, que afortunadamente parece concretarse, por esto, Uruguay tendrá una presencia mucho más visible en las tareas de esta Organización que el de un simple animador activo de sus debates. En este marco haremos una breve referencia al complejo tema de la reforma.

Uruguay afronta la reforma de la FAO con una actitud de cauteloso respaldo, acompaña lo esencial de su espíritu y se manifiesta satisfecha de algunas de las iniciativas que esta contiene, en particular la que se refiere a la descentralización, garantizamos nuestro trabajo firme y animoso para la búsqueda de las soluciones y de los consensos que permitirán fundar un proceso de reformas realmente productivo, por una mejor consecución de los fines que aquí nos reúnen.

En el horizonte inmediato y en relación al Comercio Internacional que tanto tiene que ver con la posibilidad de desarrollo, o la negación de la posibilidad de desarrollo para muchos países, está próxima la conferencia de la Organización Mundial del Comercio "OMC" en Hong Kong, en el próximo mes de Diciembre. Continuaremos actuando conforme una postura tradicional, buscando de desbloquear las negociaciones para avanzar en el desarrollo y expansión de la actividad comercial, pero esto, no a cualquier precio y sobre todo exigiendo una base de equilibrio, con justicia y reclamando una adecuada consideración de las asimetrías con la apertura de los mercados de los países más poderosos para la producción agrícola y de los países en desarrollo. Exigiremos los mecanismos y las garantías que hagan posible que el Comercio Internacional sea efectivamente libre y una herramienta eficaz para promover el desarrollo de los pueblos, nunca más una herramienta para continuar generando transferencias negativas de recursos desde las economías pobres hacia las ricas, de las periféricas a las centrales, como ha ocurrido durante los últimos 5 siglos.

Uruguay es un país pequeño de población escasa con un desarrollo relativo pero con grandes problemas, pero también es un país de compromisos firmes y de principios sólidos, sus posturas son serias y meditadas, su presencia en la Comunidad Internacional notoria y respetada, ponemos a disposición de la FAO y de todos ustedes este compromiso, estos principios, nuestras ideas, nuestra seriedad y nuestro indeclinable trabajo por un mundo mejor.

Nicolae DUDÁU (Republic of Moldova)

First of all, allow me to congratulate Dr Jacques Diouf, on behalf of the government of the Republic of Moldova, on his re-election to this important post.

The Republic of Moldova, a country with an economy in transition, became a member of FAO in 1995 and, in this relative short period of time, its relation with the Organization has acquired an ascending character. At present, the number of FAO projects, currently run in Moldova, include those of technical assistance and strengthening food safety in countries in transition from Southeast Europe and East Europe and in the prevention of bird flu and other.

We support the efforts taken by FAO mentioned in the report of the Director-General, with a view of reforming the Organization. Also, we will appreciate the support of the FAO member states in

the election of the Republic of Moldova, to the FAO Council, in the framework of this Conference.

Agriculture dominates the national economy of my country and employs almost half of its labour force, its share in the GDP constitutes one-third to two-thirds of its total exports. You may be aware that, at the end of the 80s, Moldova grew thirty percent of tobacco, twenty percent of grapes and wine, ten percent of fruit and ten percent of vegetables of the former Soviet Union market. One of the major events that determined the current situation in agriculture was the mass privatization of land and the restructuring of the collective farms.

As a result, land and collective ownership have been transferred to individual owners. Ninety-nine percent of agricultural land has been privatized and ninety-nine percent of the beneficiaries received quotas of land. This fragmentation of land led to a situation of over one million owners each having, in their possession, 1.7 hectares of land.

Unfortunately, mass privatization has not brought the expected results. Since it was carried out without the essential support of the State and without a clear strategy of agricultural development or an adequate infrastructure in the sharing of information on technology, trade, financial and consultancy services, local producers and farmers ran through such serious problems as a decrease in productivity, outdated technologies, high prices on technical components, old equipment and an excessive dependence on climate conditions. The decreasing volume of production makes it difficult to store, process and sell the agricultural produce.

Post-privatization programmes launched by the government, and other participants to the process, are being directed towards addressing those problems. Recently, the government of the Republic of Moldova approved the National Programme "Moldovan Countryside", called to launch the process of revitalization and development of the rural sector of Moldova; an effort that would require, also, the assistance of various international organizations, such as FAO.

At the same time, the government encourages and financially supports a series of programmes, of the development of agro-business, oriented towards the agricultural sector. Ensuring food safety and high quality of products that can be achieved through the use of know-how in agriculture. It requires the development of new ways of cooperation with the country members of FAO, by encouraging an exchange of experience and technologies, as provided in the drafts of the documents elaborated in the framework of the Conference.

The official visit to the Republic of Moldova of the Director-General of FAO, Jacques Diouf, in 2003, had an extremely positive effect on the cooperation between Moldova and the FAO. Following the visit, and with a view to strengthening its presence in Moldova, FAO appointed its representative to the Republic of Moldova with residence in Budapest.

In order to boost the efficiency of our cooperation, and acquire positive results, the government addressed a letter to the Director-General. The letter included Moldova's views, and priorities, for technical assistance projects. We hope that our suggestions will be examined carefully, in cooperation with the relevant authorities of the Republic of Moldova.

A few days ago, the capital city of Chisinau hosted the activities dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the World Food Day and to FAO's 60th Anniversary. Hope that the discussions, and decisions, of the Conference will further contribute to the development of a fruitful, and mutually advantageous, cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and FAO.

Arie REGEV (Israel)

First, we would like to express our congratulations on the re-election of the Director-General and convey to him our most sincere wishes for success. Israel is looking forward to pursuing a fruitful cooperation, in building together a world without hunger and in contributing, from our experience and knowledge, to sustainable rural development. The FAO, and its Member States, have an enormously important task to fulfil - to support, and booster, all those Member Countries in need in accomplishing the 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 agriculture produce has to be sufficiently provided, in an era where, in many parts of the world, rainfall becomes more unstable and even insufficient. Having said that, one would naturally ask if the aspiration to achieve the goal of the right to food for every human individual on earth is viable - and the answer is - if the right measures will be taken, and implemented in the right way, it definitely is viable.

Take the State of Israel as an example. In a tiny piece of land, more than half of it is considered desert and precipitation is in shortage. Agriculture has been flourishing for many decades now, providing efficiently, and with a high productivity, plenty 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. The three angle of (1) applied and adoptable research and development (2) technology transfer through utilization of extension and advisory services and (3) good farm management, prove to be a winning formula, on the way to gain 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 all over the globe, with a turnover almost as double as that of the export of fresh produce.

We believe these achievements could be replicated by many FAO Member States. Let's take just one crucial input named water. Natural rain water, for the irrigation of crops, is not sufficient in very many cases. Even if potential is sufficient, it might not be available in the right time and/or right place. That is where human ingenuity should be drafted, in order to diversify water resources, and increase water availability, at the time and place needed. Likewise, efficient, accurate and water saving irrigation technologies and techniques should be used to dramatically increase the yield of a large variety of crops.

Taking, once again, Israeli agriculture is an example, it has to be noted that vegetables, fruits and field crops, in our country, are artificially irrigated, making irrigation efficiency and productivity, per cubic metre, unprecedentedly high. If we take the globe as a whole, still most of cultivated arable land is not artificially irrigated and only a small percentage of the irrigated crops enjoy micro and precision irrigation, such as drip and sprinkle irrigation, which prevail in our country.

The path to reach the global goal to provide each and every human being on earth with good and sufficient nutrition, and thus materialize the right to food, necessitates some more measures in comparison to those taken by an individual member country.

It is also a matter of international cooperation, through the good services of international organizations – first and foremost – the FAO.

The State of Israel, for five decades now, has been providing technical cooperation services in agriculture to many countries worldwide, through which dozens of thousands of experts from abroad have been exposed to, and skilled with, Israeli advanced and know-how. In doing so, Israel is not unique. Many other Member Countries have such kind of similar, or similar, technological cooperation bodies, aimed at improvement of agriculture production worldwide. Yet we suppose that more cooperation between these bodies, in which part of their mission's allotment would be done according to the relative advantage of each of them, could create a state of synergism, such that the whole would value more than the sum of its parts.

We would like to kindly ask FAO to take the plunge and form such an intergovernmental group, for technical cooperation bodies, of its Member Countries. This group should be convened at least once a year, to formulate and coordinate its common missions. The State of Israel will avail all the means at its disposal to promote this goal.

Paul REYNOLDS (New Zealand)

May I begin by congratulating the FAO on its 60th birthday and I'd also like to thank it for choosing to appoint Beatrice Faumuina as an FAO Goodwill Ambassador. Her athletics prowess is well known and she is much loved in our region.

New Zealand is proud to have been associated with FAO from its beginnings. Sir Carl Berendson, a New Zealander, was one of the far-sighted individuals who were instrumental in setting up the FAO in 1945 and I see, by the photographs outside of this room, that he then chaired the Conference in 1948.

Since its inception, FAO has accomplished much of which it can be proud. But even as it celebrates its current age, it is fitting that the Organization, Members and Secretariat alike, look to the future, reforming and rejuvenating itself to make better the contribution to those global needs for which FAO is best placed.

New Zealand believes that the Independent External Evaluation of FAO, once complete, will offer constructive recommendations to guide the future of the Organization. Some elements of the Director-General's reform proposals attract our support, but members need more time, during and after Conference, to reflect on major structural changes, particularly as the Independent External Evaluation is about to commence.

Whatever form the details of the reform will take, the FAO will continue to have a key role in the normative sphere, and in assisting countries with their agricultural, fisheries and forestry development, on a sustainable basis. We can look to the FAO to help meet our commitments, in relation to the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit.

Even as we grapple with defining the type of Organization we need, for addressing medium and longer-term issues, we are confronted with more immediate situations that we neglect at our peril. Two of the most pressing are Avian Influenza and the state of trade negotiations in the Doha Round.

We can't help but be alarmed by the emergence of Avian Flu and the risks that it poses for rural livelihoods and to human health. New Zealand is actively participating in monitoring and preparedness activities. We support the development and implementation of the FAO/OIE strategic plan for Avian Influenza control in the affected regions. Key things required are political commitment in the affected countries and resources. New Zealand is providing funds, and experts, in the Pacific and South East Asia and wants to work with FAO in the region, to bolster regional preparedness. We will also take part in the WHO/FAO/OIE pledging meeting, in January, in Beijing.

The launching of the Doha Development Agenda offered hope for those who suffer from the inequities and distortions in the world agriculture trading system.

The World Food Summit Plan of Action recognized that more open trade in agriculture is a key element in building food security and in providing economic development. All the evidence shows that trade is essential to growth. For this reason, New Zealand appreciates the support FAO gives to encouraging trade in agricultural products, its advocacy of further trade liberalization and its normative, and field work, in areas that facilitate trade.

We look to the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations, to reduce international trade distortions and provide greater opportunities for developing countries and efficient agricultural producers. An open trading system for agriculture is a more reliable, and less costly, strategy for food security, than simplistic calls for increased domestic production.

Unfortunately, the portents for the WTO Ministerial meeting next month, are that less will be achieved than we had all hoped. We must, therefore, redouble our efforts in early 2006. We look to this Conference to pass a message to Ministers, who will be meeting in Hong Kong, to renew their earlier commitment, to high ambition in this Round, to deliver tangible trade outcomes.

Nothing has changed in the global economy to make this ambition less important than it was yesterday.

On fisheries matters, a clear priority facing us is the need to close governance gaps.

Recently New Zealand, Australia and Chile initiated a process to establish a new regional fisheries management organization, to manage fisheries and protect biodiversity in the high seas of the South Pacific Ocean. We look forward to the first intergovernmental meeting of interested states in New Zealand, in February of next year.

We appreciate the work of FAO to help countries progress towards sustainable forestry, including its crucial leading role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, which coordinates and supports the work of the UN Forum on Forests.

In conclusion, New Zealand has always been willing to engage on big issues of concern to developing countries and to global agriculture in general. We have worked with FAO on agriculture, forestry and fisheries issues, at a global level and in the South West Pacific. In technical areas, we have a common interest: we are wholeheartedly in support of the Codex work on standards. We also support the development of international phytosanitary standards through the IPPC. We are pleased to be involved in normative work in the areas of forestry, fisheries, pesticides and sustainable use of genetic resources.

I would like to reiterate that we, in New Zealand, would like to share our experience, and any expertise we may have, in developing sustainable practices. We look to FAO to help us fulfil our obligations, and responsibilities, to others who share this planet with us.

Serge CHAPPATTE (Suisse)

Je ne saurais commencer mon intervention sans féliciter Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général, pour sa réélection. Soixante années d'existence ont prouvé que la FAO est une Organisation irremplaçable au sein de la famille onusienne. La qualité de son travail normatif est incontestable. Nous sommes persuadés cependant que sa contribution au niveau des pays, en particulier ceux en développement, devrait être développée. La FAO devrait considérablement renforcer le lien entre son travail normatif et ses activités opérationnelles. Elle doit améliorer sa capacité à transférer ses connaissances aux partenaires du Sud sous la forme d'assistance à l'élaboration de leurs politiques et de soutien aux institutions.

Alors que l'environnement dans la coopération internationale devient de plus en plus compétitif, l'Organisation ne pourra réaliser son potentiel qu'en rationalisant de manière significative son intervention au niveau des pays. A nos yeux, la FAO doit concentrer ses activités dans les domaines dans lesquels elle dispose d'avantages comparatifs et, ce faisant, elle doit s'intégrer complètement dans les équipes communes de l'ONU sur le terrain en s'alignant sur les plans cadres des Nations Unies pour l'aide au développement et en participant activement à leur mise en œuvre, en décentralisant les décisions de financement pour faciliter la programmation conjointe et en appuyant sans concession le système du coordonnateur résident.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous saluons les initiatives prises par la FAO en vue d'une plus grande intégration aux efforts coordonnés du système des Nations Unies et l'encourageons à poursuivre avec détermination dans ce sens.

C'est aussi dans cet esprit que la Suisse soutient la résolution présentée à cette Conférence visant à la mise en œuvre de la Résolution de l'Assemblée générale 59-250 sur l'examen triennal complet des activités opérationnelles de développement du système des Nations Unies. Elle représente, au même titre que l'évaluation externe indépendante et les propositions de réformes, un élément important ayant pour but d'améliorer l'efficacité de l'action de la FAO.

S'agissant des propositions de réformes, la Suisse salue l'initiative prise par le Directeur général. Pour mon pays, la priorité doit être accordée à la réalisation rapide de l'évaluation externe indépendante. Cela étant, cette évaluation ne doit pas nous empêcher d'aller de l'avant dans la mise en œuvre sans délai des propositions bénéficiant d'un consensus parmi les Membres. Je

pense notamment à celles visant à la rationalisation des procédures administratives ainsi qu'à celles découlant des recommandations de l'évaluation sur la décentralisation. Le renforcement des compétences du personnel de terrain de la FAO est un élément fondamental. Les autres éléments du projet de réformes nécessiteront par contre un examen plus approfondi. Une feuille de route doit être établie, la Suisse est prête à contribuer de manière positive à ce processus.

En ce qui concerne le programme de travail 2006-2007, les domaines qui sont importants pour la Suisse sont: la mise en œuvre des Directives volontaires concernant le droit à l'alimentation, activité qui doit faire partie intégrante du programme de travail régulier de l'Organisation; deuxièmement, la mise en œuvre du Traité sur les ressources phyto-génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture; troisièmement, la petite irrigation et l'utilisation durable de l'eau pour l'alimentation et les écosystèmes. Nous estimons ici que la FAO doit s'engager encore davantage dans l'assistance au développement de stratégies de gestion durable de l'eau; quatrièmement, le développement rural durable, notamment en régions de montagnes; cinquièmement, l'application des résultats de la recherche agricole internationale et la collaboration avec le système CGIAR; sixièmement, la lutte contre la grippe aviaire. En ce qui concerne ce dernier point, le gouvernement suisse a récemment décidé d'octroyer une somme de quelques 4 millions de dollars à la FAO pour son action contre ce fléau. J'aimerais également relever que mon gouvernement a pris la décision d'organiser en septembre 2007, en étroite collaboration avec la FAO, la première Conférence mondiale sur les ressources génétiques animales. Cette Conférence sera sans aucun doute une étape-clef dans l'élaboration du premier rapport sur l'état des ressources génétiques animales et la Suisse se réjouit d'ores et déjà d'être l'hôte de cette importante réunion.

Permettez-moi également d'exprimer ma satisfaction pour l'excellent travail réalisé par la FAO dans le cadre de la Convention de Rotterdam et inviter l'Organisation à continuer de collaborer dans ce domaine avec le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement. Mon pays encourage dès lors la FAO à jouer un rôle actif dans la mise en œuvre de l'approche stratégique de la gestion des produits chimiques, approche qui devrait être conclue lors de la Conférence internationale sur la gestion des produits chimiques qui aura lieu à Dubai en 2006.

Alexander A. TITARENKO (Observer for the Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Generate Federation believes that, in the framework of the UN system, FAO is the main intergovernmental organization for the realization of decisions being approved by the international community in the field of food and agriculture, as well as other branches of agro-industrial complex, including decisions on sustainable development, environment and development of world trade.

We are interested in development and strengthening further cooperation with FAO, on a new basis, as a full Member of the Organization, starting 1st January 2006. Priority issues for us are directed as such: security and quality of food products, use of bio-technologies in producing foodstuffs, fighting against epidemics amongst domestic animals and agriculture pests, conservation of plant and animal genetic resources, responsible fishery and others.

We proceed from the understanding that following the full membership of the Russian Federation to the Organization, the Russian language will be one of the official and working languages of FAO. Once the Russian language has been given the status of an official language of FAO, it will bring the language practice of this Organization in line with the list of the official and working languages of the United Nations. This will create additional preconditions for an active participation, of a whole number of states, in the work of the Organization and will give its members and observers, including international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the possibility to join the scientific, and other, achievements of our country in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishery and water economies. It will also allow us to adapt more quickly to such a complex mechanism as FAO.

We hope to broaden our cooperation with the international community by providing consultations of experts, through the training of specialists in the fields of agriculture and forestry economies

and fishery and by using data bases. We also hope to extend participation in projects in fishery, agriculture and water resources, using the information, and recommendations, on storage and processing of food products and trade in them. And wish to participate in the elaboration of international documents on matters of security of food products and others.

New challenges of the current era, in the form of disasters of natural and man-made origin, also dictate the need of making our work in FAO more active, by developing its significant potential in this direction. First of all, we are talking about special programmes for providing aid to Member States in the case of emergencies concerning food. The role of the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture, is helping to provide the collection of information on the situation concerning food in the world, and defining those countries which are being threatened with a shortage, as a guidance for potential donors. The system of assistance in food security should be directed to helping Member States, first of all in developing countries, in the establishment of national food reserves.

The role of FAO is broadening in the fight against a range of epidemics concerning agriculture: bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), Avian influenza, as well as traditional epidemics such as foot and mouth disease, anthrax and so on.

We are sure that dangerous infectious diseases, and first of all new ones, are a serious threat to sustainable development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this connection, we welcome the efforts of key coordinating partners in fighting Avian influenza, FAO, WHO, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and World Bank, in elaboration of effective collective plans of action against this disease.

As for us, we are planning to initiate a number of concrete measures to resist Avian influenza, and pandemic influenza, during our chairmanship in the "Group of Eight".

One of the main themes in the work of FAO, which is of key importance for us, is the matter of safety of food products, seeds and additives. This has led to assistance with biotechnologies, without which it is impossible to solve problems, providing the country with domestic food and simultaneously increasing exports. Traditional aspects of food safety continue to be important.

In the Russian Federation, there is active control of pollution of domestic and imported food, raw materials and foodstuffs by basic contaminants of natural, as well as anthropogenic, origin. Analogical systems exist in European Union countries, U.S.A. and in a number of other countries. At the same time, this huge mass of data is being used only on a national level. One of the important directions of our participation in FAO will be the achievement of a cooperation of all states that possess relevant scientific, and technological potential, for providing safety of foods being produced and used by mankind on global scale.

At the end of our statement, we would like to congratulate the Republic of Belarus as a new full member of FAO. Our congratulations also to Mr Jacques Diouf, who has been re-appointed to the post of the Director-General of the Organization for 2006-2011. We wish him success in his capacity of the captain of the ship 'FAO'.

Walid ABED RABBOH (Observer for Palestine) (Original language Arabic)

I would first of all to congratulate you on your election to the chair of this Conference. I would also like to complement Mr Jacques Diouf on having been re-elected which I think demonstrates the trust and confidence we have in him.

We would also like to bring with us, the thanks and greetings of Palestine and all those who have helped us in combating and overcoming the difficulties imposed on us.

As food and agriculture has enormous burdens placed upon it, which has limited the capacity of Palestinian agriculture from the point of view of being competitive on domestic and external markets. This means that agricultural activities have now become activities with no profit. In other words it is a prey to colonization confiscation.

The direct or indirect damage inflicted on the Palestinian agricultural sector in the past five years have reached a value of 1.3 billion US dollars, compounded by the disastrous effect of the war, which has swallowed up thousands of hectares of Palestinian territory. Despite all of this, farmers are attached to their land and because the Palestinian farmer considers agriculture as a means of not only earning his living but also resisting. It is part and parcel of our national heritage and it is this which emerges from our agricultural policies. The Palestinian authority and the Ministry of Agriculture have set themselves the priority of modernizing Palestinian agriculture, rehabilitating the agricultural sector and turning agricultural production into something that will meet export needs, and also we want to increase the amount of land irrigated.

Despite the pressures on the Palestinian Authorities' budget, agriculture is now part of our priorities and we have dedicated a new budget to help farmers suffering from colonization this year, and also to rehabilitate the agricultural sector, Donors are giving more importance to agricultural sector because agriculture helps to create jobs, guarantee food security and increase exports, which contributes to the establishment of peace. Investments in agriculture are a direct way of bringing peace and preserving peace.

The Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip has been an opportunity and a challenge at one and the same time because, as you know the Israelis are decided, that it would be unilateral and coordination with the Palestinians was very limited. International efforts were made to safeguard greenhouses in the lands from which the Israelis withdrew. We were able to rehabilitate them and use them. Before long we shall be able to export agricultural commodities which will help the Palestinian people to survive. The Minister of Palestinian agriculture has implemented an initiative, that is that the rehabilitated areas will see their commodities, their produce, treated on an equal footing with the European commodities. This is unique and we do hope that the initiative will be made more widespread, in fact to cover the whole area so that it can become a single agricultural production area, and export as a single unit. This would make it possible to provide 80 000 jobs for the Palestinians and 600 000 dollars for export. Once again I would like to thank all those States who have been helping the poor Palestinian farmers and who have worked together to build bridges of love and understanding so that together we can combat hunger and misery, and make agricultural cooperation an example of how to build peace and security for all.

Salem AL-LOZI (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to speak to you on behalf of the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) which includes more than 21 Member States. There are 1.4 billion hectares, that is to say 10 percent of the worlds' surface where about 312 million people live, mainly in rural areas, and they consider agriculture as a main source of food and income.

It is more than ten years since the World Food Summit was held, but we still see that we are far from achieving Millennium Goals, that is to say, halving the number of people who experience hunger. We can see that we are far from achieving this by 2015. Arab States have also seen a considerable increase in agricultural production, between 2003 and 2004, which is US Dollars 68.1 million, whereas for the same period other countries in the world have seen a reduction in agricultural production.

Water is considered as a major factor. Water resources are determining any development to the region. They only cover 2 percent of the Arab Territory, and the water services in fact cover only 1 percent of the world's water resources. These resources are important for the Arab countries, particularly in agriculture. We also have considerable population growth at 2.8 percent, which is amongst the highest rates, whereas in the rest of the world it is only 2.2 percent, which puts more pressure on our agricultural resources.

Our objectives, and in order to achieve sustainable development, our Organization through its Assembly, which covers the Meetings of the Arab Agriculture Ministers, met in April 2002, and issued the Abu Dhabi Declaration on

Agricultural Development and the Fight Against Desertification which aims at coordinating efforts to improve agricultural production, and also to coordinate agricultural industries into export programmes, and also cover natural resources.

The Arab League Council at the Tunis Summit in 2004 also adopted a Declaration by all Arab Heads of State on coordination of all agricultural policies in Arab States, adopting an Arab Agricultural Development Strategy. In Algeria, in March 2005, our Assembly was called on to finish a strategy for agricultural development for the next 10 years. We also aim at strengthening a large Arab Free Trade Area, starting from January 2005. This is seen as being an important step in achieving the objectives of economic integration which would have positive impact on the export of agricultural products and also to improve agricultural trade into Arab States.

We also see the various regional projects to participate in those, particularly modernizing and development projects. We have ensured that we protect animal resources. We have a plan for awareness of diseases such as Avian influenza and we have held training courses on these issues and we have at all our information sessions tried to improve the level of scientific knowledge and information. Our Organization is based on our expertise in agricultural development for over 30 years.

We have therefore gained some renown amongst Arab States concerning our expertise and we also can use our capital and Arab experts. We have more than six thousand who are carrying out various studies after consultations with Member States. The current trend in the Arab world is also aimed at strengthening our competitive capacity of agricultural products in order to have better access to international markets. So, we are increasing our efforts in our training programme in order to help Arab States to join the WTO.

In conclusion, I would like to thank FAO for its productive cooperation with our Organization and also to give us this opportunity for dialogue on regional and international issues which are extremely important, that is to say, the achievement of sustainable agricultural development.

On behalf of my Organization I would like to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Jacques Diouf on his re-election to the Head of our Organization and wish him every success in his work.

Jean-Luc ANGOT (Organisation mondiale de la santé animale)²

L'OIE tient à remercier la FAO pour l'excellente collaboration qui existe entre les deux Organisations. Celle-ci s'est particulièrement manifestée à l'occasion de la crise grippe aviaire, avec les résultats positifs de la Conférence de Genève des 7-9 novembre 2005.

La Communauté internationale a reconnu qu'il convenait d'agir à la source et d'éradiquer la maladie chez les oiseaux pour diminuer le risque de pandémie humaine, et de renforcer les dispositifs de prévention et de contrôle vétérinaire partout dans le monde. La bonne gouvernance repose en effet sur des services vétérinaires forts, et il convient d'aider les pays pauvres à bâtir et reconstruire des systèmes vétérinaires durables.

S'agissant du projet de réforme de la FAO, l'OIE souhaite appeler l'attention de la Conférence sur l'importance de disposer au sein de la FAO d'une entité autonome et bien identifiée, en matière de santé publique vétérinaire, compte tenu des spécificités de ce secteur et des enjeux sanitaires (75 pour cent des maladies émergentes chez l'homme sont d'origine animale et 80 pour cent des pathogènes utilisables par le bioterrorisme sont issus de l'animal).

CHAIRMAN

I thank the Head of Delegation of the Arab Organization for Agriculture Development. I now give the floor to His Excellency Nickey Iyambo, Minister for Agriculture, Water and Forestry of Namibia and Chair of the Round Table on Water for Agriculture in Africa, the Near East and the Small Island Developing States, who will present a brief summary of the Round Table discussions, held in the Green Room yesterday.

² Statement inserted in the verbatim record on request.

Nickey IYAMBO (Namibia)

It gives me great pleasure to present to you a Summary of the Round Table on Water for Agriculture in Africa, the Near East and the Small Island Developing States, which was held yesterday, 22 November, between 9:30 and 17:40 hrs.

The Round Table gathered 160 participants representing 56 delegations, including 22 Ministers.

The Director-General, in his Introductory Statement, highlighted the crucial role of water control to enable an increase in agricultural production, as well as identifying necessary action for the short, medium and long-terms, including small-scale local water control, the rehabilitation of large-scale irrigation systems, and trans-boundary water management. He made reference to the FAO's Special Programme on Food Security, which focuses on local action in which water management features as an essential element.

Participants from the Near East emphasized the fact that water scarcity is the main challenge for their region. There is therefore a need to adopt approaches to ensure that all actors involved in rural development are included in the process to move toward integrated water management.

With regard to the situation in the Small-Island Developing States, participants identified vulnerability as a common element among the Small-Island Developing States. Vulnerability may stem from the small population size, limited natural resources base, fragile eco-systems and limited human and institutional capacities.

Among the main strategies to respond to increasing pressure of water resources, participants highlighted the need for an integrated approach to planning and development of water resources, seeking mutually supportive arrangements between the different water sectors, including agriculture and tourism.

The afternoon session focussed on water management for poverty alleviation, and discussed the situation in Africa. Participants underscored the critical and multi-functional role of water in agriculture in ensuring food security, human health and economic development for the growing population. There is plenty of scope for up-scaling and successful small-scale interventions to address local demands and the needs of the poor rural populations, but this requires appropriate technology choices and credit models on one hand, and the human intervention on the other.

Financing, rehabilitation and new development will be essential to sustain the required level of water control in agriculture since it has huge budgetary implications. The role of the African Union of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan of the NEPAD will be important in achieving some of the evident financing gaps in water control and the related rural infrastructure.

Finally, the participants called upon FAO to better reflect the importance of water for agriculture in its programmes and to reinforce its technical support to member countries in addressing the issues of water management for agriculture.

This was the summary for the Round Table that met yesterday morning and then in the afternoon.

CHAIRMAN

Before we conclude, there is an announcement. The Italian Authorities wish to announce that on the occasion of the 33rd session of FAO Conference, the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and the Italian National Association of Constructors of Agriculture Machinery have organized the Fair Agro-culture outside FAO Headquarters which is 100 meters outside the main entrance. They invite all the delegations to participate and to visit this Fair that will be officially opened this afternoon. Honourable delegates, we now come to the conclusion of our morning session. We will not have a meeting this afternoon but the Conference will reconvene tomorrow at 9.30 hrs. I thank you very much.

The meeting rose at 13.10 hours
La séance est levée à 13 h 10
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.10 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 November 2005

**CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS
QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES
ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS**

**14. Agreement Between FAO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
14. Accord entre la FAO et l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle (OMPI)
14. Acuerdo entre la FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI)**

CHAIRMAN

I call the eighth Plenary Meeting to order. As you will have seen in the journal, we will be adjourning at 10.15 hours sharply, in order to allow those delegates attending the audience with His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, to board the buses for the Vatican.

Now the agreement between FAO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Draft Resolution.

The first item on our Agenda today is Item 14, Constitutional and Legal Matters, the confirmation of the Agreement between FAO and the World Intellectual Property (WIPO), the relevant document is C 2005/LIM/6.

This agreement has been sent to the Conference for approval by the recently concluded 129th Council.

I should like to invite Mr Pucci, the Legal Counsel, to introduce this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you mentioned, the Council, at its 129th Session, approved an Agreement between FAO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and recommended its transmission to the present Session of the Conference for confirmation in accordance with Article XIII, Paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution.

Under Article XIII, Paragraph 1, of the Constitution and I quote " *In order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other International Organizations with related responsibilities, the Conference may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation*"

The Council, at its last Session, noted the views of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which had examined the text of the Draft Agreement. The CCLM, the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, found the text of the Draft Agreement to be consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization. The CCLM recommended that the Draft Agreement be submitted to the Council, at its 129th Session, in November 2005 and, subsequently, to the present Session of the Conference, for confirmation.

In this connection, the Conference may wish to note that this Agreement has been prepared in close cooperation and consultation with WIPO, which took into account the views of its Member States in the context of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee. The WIPO Coordination Committee is expected to approve the Agreement at its Spring Session in 2006.

So, Mr Chairman, the proposed Agreement is before the Conference for confirmation.

CHAIRMAN

Do any Delegations wish to take the floor on this item?

Can I take it that Conference confirms the Agreement between FAO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)?

*It was so decided
Il en est ainsi décidé
Así se acuerda*

15. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters
15. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques
15. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos

15.1 Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius commission (C 2005/LIM/16)
15.1 Amendements aux Statuts de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius (C 2005/LIM/16)
15.1 Enmiendas a los Estatutos de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius (C 2005/LIM/16)

CHAIRMAN

So let us move to the Agreement to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commissions C 2005/LIM/16.

We now move on to Item 15.1 "Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commissions". The relevant document is C 2005/LIM/16.

Once again, I should like to ask Mr Pucci, the Legal Counsel to introduce this sub-item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As you mentioned, the document that is now before the Plenary Meeting of the Conference is C 2005/LIM/16 entitled "Amendments to the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission" which is an extract from the report of the recently concluded Session of the Council.

I should like to say a few words regarding this document.

As you the know, the "Codex Alimentarius Commission" is a joint FAO/WHO standard setting body, established by parallel resolutions of the FAO Conference and the World Health Assembly in 1961 and 1962, respectively. Food standards adopted by the Commission were voluntary, subject to acceptance by Governments. As a result of the entry into force of the World Trade Organization Agreements, this position has changed insofar as "Codex Standards" are recognized as reference points for international trade, irrespective of whether or not standard are accepted by individual Governments.

This matter was extensively discussed within the Codex Commission and one of its subsidiary bodies. At the 28th Session of the Commission, held in Rome in July 2005, the Commission agreed, by clear general consent and without any reservation whatsoever on the substance, to recommend to the FAO Conference and to the World Health Assembly that Article 1 of the Statutes of the Codex Alimentarius Commission be revised in order to abolish the acceptance procedure which, in view of the changes that I mentioned before, is no longer in line with the international framework.

The proposed amendments were reviewed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and endorsed by the Council at its recently concluded 128th Session They are before the Conference for approval.

For your information, I should like to add that they are expected to be approved by the World Health Assembly at its Session of Spring 2006.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any comments on the Draft Amendments to the Statutes of Codex Alimentarius Commission as set out in C 2005/LIM/16 ?

So, can I take it the Conference approves such amendments?

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS
QUESTIONS ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES
ASUNTOS ADMINISTRATIVOS Y FINANCIEROS**

**18. Payment by the European Community to Cover Administrative and other Expenses
Arising out of its Membership in the Organization**

**18. Paiement par la Communauté européenne des dépenses administratives et autres
découlant de sa qualité de Membre de l'Organisation**

**18. Pago de la Comunidad Europea para sufragar los gastos administrativos y de otro tipo
derivados de su condición de Miembro de la Organización**

CHAIRMAN

As we dealt with Item 18, payment by the European Community to cover expenses arising out of its membership in the Organization C 2005/LIM/14

The Third of the General Committee which was adopted by Conference yesterday morning, I believe we can consider item 18 concluded.

This also concluded our work for this morning. I look forward to seeing you at 14.30 hours this afternoon.

The meeting rose at 10.05 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.05 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
NINTH PLENARY MEETING NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 9ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
24 November 2005

CHAIRMAN

We are waiting a little bit in order to achieve the quorum. Our agenda foresees the necessity of having the presence of 95 delegations. We still have not reached that number – we are at the level of fifty-four. The Agenda needs the ninety-five quorum. Be patient. I thank you because you have been in line with our expectations. You should not be punished – but, we have to wait for the rest of the lazy ones.

We are making progress. Don't be discouraged, but we still have not reached the quorum. We need 95, but we are around 70 or 72, and the decisions need a majority – a clear majority. So let us have another little pause. Don't leave. Let us hope our friends will join us as soon as possible.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
ASUNTOS ADMINISTRATIVOS Y FINANCIEROS (continuación)

16. Audited Accounts 2002-2003 (Draft Resolution) (C 2005/LIM/3; C 2005/5; C 2005/5B)
16. Comptes verifiés 2002-2003 (Projet de résolution) (C 2005/LIM/3; C 2005/5; C 2005/5B)
16. Cuentas comprobadas de 2002-2003 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2005/LIM/3; C 2005/5; C 2005/5B)

CHAIRMAN

The Ninth Plenary Meeting is called to Order. I thank you for your patience.

We now turn our attention to Item 16, "FAO Audited Accounts 2002-2003". The documents before Conference are C 2005/5; C 2005/5B; C 2005/LIM/3.

I would like to welcome Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General of the Administration and Finance Department to introduce this item, which includes a Draft Resolution on Audited Accounts 2002-03 as set out in document C 2005/LIM/3.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance)

Document C 2005/5 Part A contains the official Financial Statements of the Organization for the 2002 and 2003 Biennium. It also contains the opinion of the External Auditor on the Financial Statements. Part B is the Report of the External Auditor, which is also referred to as the long form Report of the External Auditor, which contains his Findings and his Recommendations.

I am pleased to inform the Conference that, as in previous Biennia, the External Auditor has expressed an unqualified opinion on the 2002-2003 Financial Statements of the Organization. The results of the accounts of this Biennium, as well as the External Auditor's Report, was examined by the Finance Committee at its May 2004 Session and the September 2004 Session. They were also discussed by the Council in 2004.

In fact, the External Auditors Report and the Implementation of his Recommendations are a standing item on the Finance Committee's Agenda. Not only does the Committee get the status of implementation of the recommendations and the Secretariat's view, but it also gets in a document, the External Auditor's Remarks on the method of implementation carried out by the Secretariat. This particular document is under constant review of the Governing Bodies.

The Audited Accounts for this Biennium 2002-2003 are before you, and there is a Resolution submitted by the Council contained in document C 2005/LIM/3. The Recommendations in the Report of the External Auditor are in large part already implemented and progress, as I have stated, have been regularly reported to the Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN

Are there any comments? Delegates may wish to take the floor on this subject.
 Can I take it that the Conference adopts the Audited Accounts for 2002-2003

Wait a second please. The United Kingdom has the floor.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its twenty-five Members States.

The acceding countries, Bulgaria and Romania, and the candidate countries to the European Union, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement: Part B of the Report of the External Auditor contains a number of recommendations for action. Some of these are categorized as fundamental. While the Report as a whole gives us no cause for concern, and we are pleased to see that the Auditor is content to leave follow-up of earlier recommendations to the Finance Committee, we would like to focus on three of the fundamental recommendations in particular.

The first fundamental finding concerns late and non-payment of members contributions. The European Union has commented at length on this and in the current context only wishes to associated itself strongly with the advice of the External Auditor. Something must be done, and we have suggested possible action.

The second fundamental finding that causes us concern is Recommendation 14.

This says, I recommend that in view of the persistent lower disbursement in the past resulting in huge carried over appropriations, the Organization should take steps to increase disbursements substantially. It also calls for closer monitoring by HQ.

We appreciate the improvements in disbursements achieved in 2003-2004, but it is important for the future, to avoid resources been tied up in the budgets of unimplemented projects.

Finally, we would also be grateful for the Secretariat's comments on Fundamental Recommendation 15, concerning the return flow as this appears related to or perhaps caused by the same disbursement problem.

CHAIRMAN

Any other comments or questions before I ask for replies? Could I ask Mr Mehboob to answer this question, please?

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Division)

About the question on the late payment of contributions, I think this matter was also discussed at length at the Council. It is going to be considered by the Finance Committee again. It was also discussed in the General Committee, if you recall, and in adopting the General Committee's Report there is a paragraph there dealing with this specific aspect.

I think the matter is going back to the Finance Committee to see what sort of measures could be taken to see whether the situation of the payment of the contributions can be improved.

Nicholas NELSON (Director, Finance Division)

Let me share with Conference the Report on the Implementation of the External Auditor's Recommendations, which has been reviewed by the Finance Committee at its last Session 2 months ago. The comment provided by the Technical Cooperation Department at the time was as follows: At the time the External Audit started, the Organization had already taken deliberate management actions to deliberate TCP delivery. However, the results of these efforts could only be fully appreciated after the External Auditor concluded work.

The delivery performance of TCP-funded cooperation reached the unprecedented level of US Dollars 65.5 million in 2003 and US Dollars 70.3 million in 2004.

The response goes on to say that close monitoring of implementation is now a reality. The Field Programme Management Information System has become an effective system for monitoring the TCP pipeline and project implementation, initiating follow-up action to address implementation delays and for reporting to Management.

The Implementation of the Recommendation is therefore considered completed.

CHAIRMAN

So, if we do not have other requests, I would propose to adopt the Audited Accounts for 2002-2003.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

17. Scale of Contributions 2006-2007 (Draft Resolution)

(C2005/LIM/5; C 2005/LIM/5-Corr.1)

17. Barème des contributions 2006-2007 (Projet de résolution)

(C2005/LIM/5; C 2005/LIM/5-Corr.1)

17. Escala de cuotas para 2006-2007 (Proyecto de resolución)

(C2005/LIM/5; C 2005/LIM/5-Corr.1)

CHAIRMAN

We now pass on to Item 17, Scale of Contributions 2006-2007 (Draft Resolution).

The relevant documents are C 2005/LIM/5 which contains the Resolution, and C 2005/LIM/5-Corr.1, which contains the Scale of Contributions as revised, following the accession to Membership of Belarus.

I call upon Mr Mehboob again to introduce this item.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Division)

The paper before you sets out the proposed FAO scale for the years 2006-2007, which has been derived directly from the UN scale of assessments, adopted for the years 2004-2006, as established by the General Assembly Resolution 58/1B, adopted on 23 December 2003.

The 2004-2005 and 2003 scales are also set out for comparison purposes. Assessment rates of 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 an FAO scale.

The Conference is invited to approve the Draft Resolution submitted by the Council regarding the scale of contributions for the years 2006-2007, as revised to reflect the admission of Belarus.

Jun FUKUDA (Japan)

Japan endorses the state of contribution for the next biennium presented in the document.

Japan notes that the United Nations' scales of assessment, which FAO follows, should be reformed to reflect the economic situation, and the position in the United Nations, for each country, in the revision of the scale of assessment staged before the end of 2006.

Japan insists that FAO's state of contribution should also be revised accordingly, as the United Nations' scales of assessment were revised.

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Division)

FAO, as my introduction said and the document also makes clear, follows, or derives, its scale from the UN scales of assessment, so if there is a revision in the UN scales of assessment, it can only be revised following the Conference's approval, so the matter would come to the conference at its next session.

That is how the cycle works.

CHAIRMAN

I see that there are no further questions from the floor.

Can I take it that Conference adopts the resolution concerning the scale of contributions for 2006-2007, set out in document C 2005/LIM/5 and C 2005/LIM/5-Corr. 1?

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

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

23.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee (C 2005/14)

23.2 Désignation des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel (C 2005/14)

23.2 Nombramiento de representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 2005/14)

CHAIRMAN

We will proceed with the next item: Item, sub-item 23.2, appointment of representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee.

I now give the floor to Mr Camarena, Director of the Human Resources Management Division, to present the candidates.

Julio CAMARENA VILLASEÑOR (Director, Human Resources Management Division)

You have before you document C2005/14, titled "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 United Nations 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 alternates, are chosen by the governing bodies, the executive heads of the organizations and the participating staff of each organization.

In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine members and three of the nine alternate members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

It is brought to the attention of the Conference that only the Conference has the authority to appoint members, and alternate members, to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Paragraph 7 of the document C 2005/14 states that appointment is needed for: one member, and one alternate member, to serve from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008; one member, and one alternate member, to serve from 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2009; one alternate member, to serve from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

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 FAO Staff Pension Committee.

For the period 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2008: Member, Mr Saulo Ceolin – Alternate Permanent Representative of Brazil to FAO; Alternate Mr Hassane Abi Akar, Counsellor - Alternate Permanent Representative of Lebanon to FAO.

For the period of 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2009: Member, Excellency Kabelo Gilbert Mafura, Counsellor - Alternate Permanent Representative of Lesotho to FAO; Alternate Ms Nasrin Akhter, Counsellor – Alternate Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to FAO.

For the Period 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006: Alternate Mr Yasser Abdel RAHMAN SOROUR – Alternate Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO.

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.

CHAIRMAN

Can I take it that the Conference has no objections to the list of candidates that has just been read out?

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

25. Any Other Matters (continued)

25. Questions diverses (suite)

25. Otros Asuntos (continuación)

25.6 The Use of Portuguese at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2006

(C 2005/INF/18) (continued)

25.6 Utilisation du portugais à la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique en 2006

(C 2005/INF/18)

25.6 Uso del portugués en la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para África en 2006

(C 2005/INF/18)

CHAIRMAN

Let's now return to item 25. As you will recall, and as mentioned in the first General Committee report, under this item we will consider the proposal made by Angola regarding "The use of Portuguese at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2006". The relevant document is C 2005/Inf/18.

Do any delegations wish to make comments on this item?

Jorge Maria CUSTÓDIO SANTOS (Cap-Vert)

Pour illustrer ce thème, je commencerai tout d'abord en parlant espagnol et successivement je continuerai en Portugais. Au nom des pays de la communauté de langue portugaise, permettez-moi tout d'abord d'attirer votre attention sur la nécessité de traiter ce point de la manière suivante: il s'agit de l'utilisation du portugais pendant la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique en 2006. Pour moi il ne s'agit pas seulement d'une question qui concerne l'année 2006, mais à partir de 2006, il faut corriger ce point là, Monsieur le Président. L'idée de mettre en vigueur l'utilisation du portugais dans les conférences régionales de la FAO pour l'Afrique doit partir du thème fondamental suivant: aujourd'hui le portugais est la langue officielle de 8 pays membres des Nations Unies qui sont également membres de cette Organisation. Le portugais est reconnu comme langue de travail dans un grand nombre d'enceintes internationales et intergouvernementales que je vous citerai. Au niveau régional, le portugais est une langue officielle de l'Union européenne, de l'Union africaine et de l'Organisation des Etats américains.

Au niveau sous-régional c'est la langue officielle de la CEDEAO, l'ECOWAS, SADECC, l'Organisation des Etats de la communauté économique d'Afrique australe ainsi que de la Communauté des Etats africains de l'Afrique centrale. Il y a beaucoup d'organes des Nations Unies, comme celle-ci qui, pour ne pas citer l'UNESCO, l'Union Européenne, et d'autres pays utilisent donc la langue portugaise. Ma proposition a pour but de sensibiliser cette assemblée afin qu'elle tienne compte de la décision qui a été prise lors de la 23^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique et que l'on considère le fait que les pays africains veulent permettre la participation de délégués qui parlent cette langue. Comme je l'ai déjà dit, c'est une langue qui est

utilisée dans beaucoup d'enceintes, notamment des Nations Unies sans oublier que le portugais est une langue parlée par les représentants de 8 pays qui représentent 200 millions de personnes environ dans le monde, c'est la sixième langue parmi les langues les plus parlées du monde.

Vasco TAVEIRA DA CUNHA VALENTE (Portugal)

I would like to express my complete support of the Portuguese delegation to the intervention of my Cape Verde colleague, made on behalf of his Government and of the CP and LP, the community of Portuguese speaking countries. We do indeed believe that requests for the use of Portuguese, at FAO Regional Conference after 2006, is not only fully justified, but also of the utmost importance. Justified because Portuguese is nowadays an expanding language in all continents, Africa being one of them. It is of the utmost importance to the Portuguese speaking countries, but also to FAO, because it will make much easier the dialogue between them and much more efficient the implementing of measures that will bring to effect the FAO aims in the territories. So I very much urge us to adopt that proposal.

Saulo Arantes CEOLIN (Brazil)

The honourable Ambassador of Cape Verde has spoken in the name of the community of Portuguese speaking countries and I would just like to express Brazil's support to this proposal.

When the President of Brazil, President Lula, was here for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of FAO, he also expressed his pleasure, and satisfaction, in speaking in the same Plenary in Portuguese.

We wish to begin with this small step of adopting Portuguese as the official language in the African Conference.

Pedro Agostinho KANGA (Angola) (Original language Portuguese)

Je vais saisir cette occasion de pouvoir parler portugais.

Le débat d'aujourd'hui, sur le thème de l'utilisation du portugais, fait suite à une abondante correspondance. Cela figure en partie dans ce document 2005/INF/18. Toutes les délégations intervenues ont fait allusion à l'utilisation du portugais à partir de 2006 pour les conférences régionales de la FAO pour l'Afrique. L'approbation de cette recommandation de 2004 peut ajouter beaucoup, enrichir la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique. Nous ne devons pas oublier qu'il y a cinq pays d'Afrique qui parlent le portugais, qui sont de langue portugaise et il s'agit, si je ne me trompe, d'environ 110 millions d'habitants. Tous ces commentaires, tous ces arguments ont déjà été fort bien présentés par les délégations du Cap-Vert, du Portugal et du Brésil, qui nous ont précédés dans la prise de parole.

En conclusion, la délégation de l'Angola voudrait soutenir ce qu'a dit l'Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert. Au nom de la communauté de langue portugaise, nous souhaitons que cet objectif soit atteint. Le portugais, d'après moi, est une langue qui doit figurer parmi les langues des organisations internationales. C'est une langue qui appartient déjà à l'Organisation internationale des viticulteurs, qui siège à Paris.

Sergio GOUVEIA (Mozambique)

Allow me to start by apologizing for my poor English but I will try to express myself. Thank you for giving Mozambique the opportunity of being a Portuguese speaking country to use this Assembly to support the proposal of the use of the Portuguese language at the FAO Regional Conference for Africa and on.

As has been said already, five countries in Africa speak Portuguese. It has been very difficult for those countries to communicate at this forum and difficult to be able to read the documentation and to be able to communicate and intervene.

With the approval of this proposal, we will be able to contribute in a more inter-active and dynamic manner. Mozambique suggests approval of this proposal.

Armando ESCOBAR SANCHEZ (Colombia)

Gracias Chairman. La República de Colombia es uno de los grandes vecinos de la República del Brasil, que tal vez es el país que tiene mayor cantidad de personas que hablan el portugués y que a su vez generan un vínculo tan importante con otro gran número de países africanos, por esto deseamos apoyar esta importante propuesta.

CHAIRMAN

Are there other speakers who wish to take the floor? Could I then ask Dr Pucci to try to give some comments.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As indicated in document C 2005/LIM/18, the Government of Angola requested the Director-General to add an item to the Agenda of this Conference, under Rule II.5 of the General Rules of the Organization.

The request of Angola was, and I read, "the use of Portuguese as a working language at the next FAO Regional Conference for Africa in 2006", as indicated in document C 2005/LIM/18. The same document provides the estimated cost of Portuguese interpretation at the Regional Conference in 2006, which is 40 000 dollars.

Now I understand that there is a proposal to go beyond 2006 and to have Portuguese interpretation from 2006 onwards, in all the Regional Conferences for Africa. So this is the question now before the Conference: whether the Conference wants to limit itself to taking a decision in respect of the item as it was in the Agenda or whether the Conference wishes to have Portuguese interpretation for Regional Conferences thereafter, which means from 2008 on. This will be a recurrent cost and we only have an estimate for 2006. However, one may assume that the costs after 2006 will be in a comparable range, subject to applicable adjustments. So this is the question before the Conference, whether for the time being the Conference agree to have Portuguese interpretation only for the Conference 2006 and perhaps revisit the question in the Conference 2007 or whether it wishes to decide now that Portuguese interpretation be provided for all Regional Conferences for Africa from 2006 on. This would concern only interpretation and not translation of documents which will continue to be issued in the relevant languages of the Organization.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Je voudrais peut-être apporter un éclaircissement en ce qui concerne le contenu de notre lettre. Au cours de la Conférence régionale, qui a eu lieu en 2004, les pays lusophones de l'Afrique avaient demandé qu'à partir de 2006, la langue portugaise devienne la langue de travail. Mais dans la version finale que le Secrétariat a présentée, il s'est limité à 2006 pour l'utilisation de la langue portugaise. C'est pourquoi son Excellence l'Ambassadeur du Cap-Vert, qui a parlé au nom des pays surpeuplés qui étaient présents, qui était le Président du groupe africain l'année passée, a apporté cette correction. Ça c'est la première chose.

La deuxième chose, c'est qu'au cours des démarches que nous avons faites auprès du Secrétariat, on nous a dit que: "qu'est ce que vous vouliez? Est-ce la traduction des documents ou bien l'interprétation?" Alors, nous, nous avons dit, dans un premier temps nous voulons l'interprétation parce que nous avons les différentes langues de travail de la FAO, parmi les cinq, le français, l'anglais, l'arabe, le chinois bien qu'en Afrique on ne le parle pas mais on s'est dit dans un premier temps, nous, nous voulons l'interprétation. Il y a aussi l'espagnol mais en Afrique, il n'y a qu'un seul pays qui parle espagnol alors qu'il y a cinq pays de l'Afrique qui représentent au moins dix pour cent des Pays membres qui parlent le Portugais. C'est pourquoi, on s'est dit, bon, nous, nous voulons dans un premier temps l'interprétation. Après le Secrétariat pourra faire des calculs, des statistiques pour savoir combien coûtera la traduction des documents. En Afrique, il faut que cela soit clair, nous, nous demandons en Afrique, donc voilà, les commentaires que je voulais apporter à ce que Monsieur Pucci a dit.

CHAIRMAN

I thank the distinguished Representative of Angola for that clarification. In front of us a request that you have heard, and supported by a serious of speakers.

I put the question to you and could I take it that the request presented by the Representative of Cape Verde and supported by a number of Delegations receives the approval of the Conference?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2005/LIM/15)

Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2005/LIM/15)

Informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2005/LIM/15)

CHAIRMAN

We start our work now on the Report of the Credentials Committee as set out in Document C 2005/LIM/15.

I call upon the Chairperson of the Committee Mr Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, to present the Report.

Krassimir KOSTOV (Chairman, Credentials Committee)

You were so kind to approve the First Report of the Credentials Committee. Now we have the final Report of the Committee which was approved yesterday by the Committee. It is in Document C 2005/LIM/15.

The only difference in the text of the Report between the First Report which you approved and this one, is in the number of countries on list A, who are now 121 and you have them all named in Annex 1, list A to the Report and the countries on list B are now 59.

What I would suggest is, if you would agree, to approve the Report with this change in the integrity of the text as presented in C 2005/LIM/15.

CHAIRMAN

May I take it that the Report is adopted?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Krassimir KOSTOV (Chairman, Credentials Committee)

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Members of the Committee, to thank the Secretariat and the Interpreters for all the help that they were so kind as to provide the Credentials Committee.

CHAIRMAN

I have to ask for a break and we will start again in one hour, here in this room.

The meeting was suspended from 16.35 to 19.40 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16.35 à 19 h 40

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.35 a las 19.40 horas

CHAIRMAN

We are sorry to have kept you waiting for so long. The idea was to get the results of the two working groups on reforms and budget to be submitted for your approval and inserted into the reports of the Commission, but they are not really yet ready. So, I think we will let them work with ease for the rest of the evening. There is no need for us to stay here waiting for their results. We will examine them tomorrow morning, and then pass them to the Commissions. For the moment, therefore I will adjourn this session to tomorrow morning at 9.30, but at the same time I am inviting you to go to the Red Room on the first floor, to reinforce the Quorum of that Commission which has to approve its report.

The meeting rose at 19.45 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.45 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 November 2005

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Mr Cao Duc Phat,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 00
sous la présidence de M. Cao Duc Phat,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Cao Duc Phat,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN

We are supposed to start our Plenary Meeting but now we have only 74 delegations. We are waiting for a quorum of 95 delegations.

The meeting was suspended from 10.00 to 10.20 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10.00 à 10 h 20

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.00 a las 10.20 horas

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS (continued)**QUESTIONS CONSTITUTIONNELLES ET JURIDIQUES (suite)****ASUNTOS CONSTITUCIONALES Y JURÍDICOS (continuación)****15. Other Constitutional and Legal Matters (continued)****15. Autres questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (suite)****15. Otros asuntos constitucionales y jurídicos, en particular (continuación)**

15.2 Restriction of Attendance by the "general public" to Meetings of the Organization

(C 2005/LIM/18)

Point 15.2 Limitation de la présence du « public » aux réunions de l'Organisation

(C 2005/LIM/18)

Tema 15.2 Restricción de la asistencia del "público en general" a las reuniones de la

Organización (C 2005/LIM/18)

CHAIRMAN

The Tenth Plenary Meeting is called to order.

We are going to start our work today with Item 15.2, Restriction of Attendance by the General Public to Meeting of the Organization.

I should like to ask the Legal Council, Mr Pucci, to introduce this Item to the Conference.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Document, which is now before this Plenary Meeting of the Conference, is Document C 2005/LIM/18, Restriction of Attendance by the General Public to Meetings of the Organization – which is an extract from the Report of the Hundred and Twenty-ninth Session of the Council, including a Draft Conference Resolution for adoption by the Conference. This Draft Conference Resolution includes a few amendments to the General Rules of the Organization.

I should like to say a few words about this proposal.

In line with a long standing tradition of the United Nations system, meetings of the main Governing Bodies of FAO are held in public and will continue to be held in public, as reflected in a number of provisions of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

However, a number of developments have taken place since the time when these provisions were adopted, as security concerns have acquired an important dimension. Such new developments call for an approach consistent with the tradition and practice at the United Nations, which would better reconcile the principles of transparency, openness and access by the public to the meetings of the main bodies of the Organization with the responsibilities of the Director-General, as the official primarily responsible for security, in consultation with the authorities of the host country, both at headquarters and in countries where FAO meetings may be held.

It is in this context that it is important to consider the proposed amendments to the General Rules of the Organization, set out in the Draft Conference Resolution, which is now before the Conference.

In particular, I should like to emphasize the principle that the Plenary Meetings of the Conference and Council are public. This continues to be clearly stated in the General Rules of the

Organization. In addition, the regime of access by representatives of the press and other information agencies remains unchanged.

The proposed Draft Conference Resolution was reviewed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters and endorsed by the Council, which forwarded it to the Conference for approval.

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 if 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 Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for and against must be at least 95. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

So, the proposed Resolution amending Rule V and Rule XXV of the General Rules of the Organization is before the Plenary Meeting of 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.

CHAIRMAN

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this question?

We will now proceed to a vote on this matter. I will give the floor to Mr Rouighi, who will ascertain if we have a quorum.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite de façon à ce que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes.

Est-ce que toutes les délégations présentes ont activé le bouton vert? Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a quatre-vingt-dix-sept délégations présentes dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder à la votation électronique.

Si vous êtes d'accord avec la proposition d'amendement au Règlement général de l'Organisation, contenue dans le document C 2005/LIM/18, appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord, appuyez sur le bouton rouge. Si vous voulez vous abstenir, appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Le suffrage exprimé: 99, majorité requise: 67, vote pour 98: abstention: une.



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ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

25/11/2005
10:31:04

Vote on: Nominal roll call vote on "Amendment to Rule V, paragraph 3 and Rule XXV, paragraph 9(a) of the General Rules of the Organization"

Vote sur: Appel nominal sur l' "Amendement au paragraphe 3 de l'Article V et au paragraphe 9a) de l'Article XXV du Règlement général de l'Organisation"

Votacion para: Votación nominal sobre la "Enmienda al párrafo 3 del Artículo V y al apartado a) del párrafo 9 del Artículo XXV del Reglamento General de la Organización"

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	99
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	67
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	99
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	79

Votes For: ALGERIA, ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, D.P.R. KOREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, EGYPT, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, GUINEA, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SPAIN, ST. KITTIS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: BURUNDI
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BURKINA FASO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, COMOROS, CONGO, COOK ISLANDS, COTE D'IVOIRE, CZECH REP., DOMINICAN REP., ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, GHANA, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, ICELAND, IRAN, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KYRGYZ REP., LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALTA, MEXICO, MICRONESIA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAURU, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVENIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SRI LANKA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, TUNISIA, TUVALU, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, VENEZUELA, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

CHAIRMAN

The Resolution has been adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

15.3. Security Expenditure Facility – Amendments to Financial Regulations (C 2005/LIM/17)

*15.3. Dispositif pour les dépenses de sécurité – Amendements au Règlement financier
(C 2005/LIM/17)*

15.3. Servicio de gastos de seguridad: Enmiendas al Reglamento Financiero (C 2005/LIM/17)

CHAIRMAN

We now come to Item 15.3, Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations Security Expenditure Facility.

I would like to ask you all to ensure that you have the relevant Document in front of you, namely, C 2005/LIM/17.

I would like to ask the Legal Counsel to introduce this Report.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much Mr Pucci for your introduction.

I will now give the floor to Mr Rouighi, who will carry out the electronic vote on the Resolution on Amendments to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations – Security Facility Expenditure, set out in Document C 2005/LIM/17.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Si vous êtes d'accord avec le projet de résolution d'amendement du Règlement général de l'Organisation contenu dans le document C 2005/LIM/17, appuyez sur le bouton vert, si vous n'êtes pas d'accord appuyez sur le bouton rouge, si vous voulez vous abstenir appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Vous pouvez voter maintenant.

Vote

Vote

Votación

Est-ce que tout le monde a voté? Je vais maintenant lire les résultats du vote.

Nombre de suffrages exprimés: 102. Majorité requise: 69. Votes pour: 101. Abstention: 1



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LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

25/11/2005
10:37:05

Vote on: Nominal roll call vote on "Amendment to Financial Regulation VI (Security Expenditure Facility)"
Vote sur: Appel nominal sur l' "Amendement à l'Article VI du Règlement financier (Dispositif pour les dépenses de sécurité)"

Votacion para: Votación nominal sobre la "Enmienda al Artículo VI del Reglamento Financiero (Servicios de gastos de seguridad)"

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	102
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	69
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	102
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	76

Votes For: ALGERIA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, D.P.R. KOREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GEORGIA, GERMANY, GREECE, GUINEA, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, ITALY, JAPAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NORWAY, OMAN, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SPAIN, ST. KITTIS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: ARGENTINA
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ANGOLA, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BURKINA FASO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHAD, COMOROS, CONGO, COOK ISLANDS, COTE D'IVOIRE, CZECH REP., DOMINICAN REP., EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, GHANA, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, HONDURAS, ICELAND, IRAN, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KYRGYZ REP., LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALI, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIUS, MICRONESIA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAURU, NICARAGUA, NIGERIA, NIUE, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVENIA, SOMALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SRI LANKA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, TUNISIA, TUVALU, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, YEMEN

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRMAN

The Resolution has been adopted.

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 (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

The Conference will now return to Item 5, the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture to adopt two Resolutions contained in the second report of the Resolutions Committee, which bear the reference C 2005/LIM/21.

The first Resolution concerns the International Year of Natural Fibres which was submitted by Philippines. The Resolutions Committee concluded that this Resolution is receivable by the Conference. Would any delegation like to take the floor on this particular Draft Resolution?

I would now like to request the Conference, if it wishes, to adopt the Draft Resolution on the International Year of Natural Fibres contained in document C 2005/LIM/21.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

We will proceed with another Resolution to be adopted under Item 5, the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture contained in the second report of the Resolution Committee, which bears the reference C 2005/LIM/21.

The second Resolution concerns the International Year of Potatoes which was submitted by Peru. The Resolution's Committee concluded that this Resolution is receivable by the Conference, but we invite the sponsor to further elaborate the text, in particular, as concerns the last paragraph. I give the floor to Peru to respond to this remark by the Resolution's Committee.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

Oswaldo DEL AGUILA RAMIREZ (Perú)

Atendiendo a la sugerencia efectuada por el Comité de Resoluciones, deseamos incluir en el último párrafo del Proyecto de Resolución un último párrafo que diga lo siguiente: "Pide además al Director General que informe a la Conferencia en futuros períodos de sesiones y al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas acerca de los progresos realizados en las disposiciones que se tomen para el Año Internacional de la Papa, incluida la obtención de financiación y con posterioridad sobre los resultados del año, una vez concluido el mismo."

Haremos llegar a la Secretaría el texto que estamos proponiendo.

CHAIRMAN

Would any delegations like to take the floor on this particular Draft Resolution?

Cameroon please, you have the floor.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Nous souhaitons soutenir l'amendement apporté par le Pérou.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

También la delegación de El Salvador desea expresar su respaldo a la propuesta de modificación que acaba de hacer el delegado de Perú y a la resolución en su forma completa.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Me uno a las delegaciones que me han precedido sobre este tema y apoyamos tanto la idea del Año Internacional de la Papa como las enmiendas que acaban de ser propuestas por la delegación de Perú.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Al igual que han hecho mis otros colegas de El Salvador, Colombia y otros, también nos unimos a las enmiendas propuestas por Canadá y aprobamos la resolución en general.

Wilson SONGA (Kenya)

Kenya would like to support this Resolution on the International Year of Natural Fibres and the International Year of the Potato.

CHAIRMAN

We have no more comments. I would, now like to request the Conference if it wishes to adopt the Draft Resolution on the International Year of Potatoes contained in document C 2005/LIM/21 as amended by Peru?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Asi se acuerda

OTHER MATTERS (continued)

QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

25. Any Other Matters (continued)

25. Autres questions (suite)

25. Otros asuntos (continuación)

CHAIRMAN

The Conference will now move on to Item 25, any other matters to adopt a Resolution concerning the Implementation of United Nation's General Assembly Resolution 59/250 of the Triennium comprehensive policy review of operation and activities for development of the United Nations System contained in the second report of the Resolutions Committee, which bear the reference C 2005/LIM/21 and in C 2005/LIM/22. This Resolution concerns the implementation of United Nation General Assembly Resolution 59/250 of the Triennium comprehensive policy review of operation and activities for development of the United Nations system which was submitted by Brazil, Belgium, Canada, Dominican Republic, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

The Resolutions Committee concluded that this Resolution is receivable by the Conference. Would any delegation like to take the floor on this particular Draft Resolution?

Victor C.D. Heard (United Kingdom)

This Resolution has been submitted, as you say, by a number of countries. May I, to begin with, very subtly correct the list of countries. It is, as you say, except that, instead of Belgium, we should have had France and we should also have mentioned the Netherlands there. These are the formal sponsors of this Resolution. In fact, we have consulted with a large number of members of the FAO General Conference. We have taken up a good deal of their time. They have made very helpful suggestions about it for which I am very grateful.

The whole of the European Union, plus the accession countries of Bulgaria and Romania, and the candidate countries of Croatia and Turkey also support this Resolution. In the General Assembly Resolution to which it refers have the universal support of all of their Governments. A similar Resolution was passed in the World Health Assembly earlier this year, which had the equal universal support of all our Governments.

The aim is, very simple, and very much in line with what we have been talking about over the past week. It is to try and approve the coherence, the quality and the impact of the operational activities of the United Nation's system. The Director-General's Reform Proposals refer to this and their expectations of the Independent External Evaluation are very much in line with it.

FAO already works towards this end in the field and through the United Nation's Development Group. The main purpose of this Resolution will be to mandate FAO still further, to implement this Resolution in its operational activities. It is, we believe, those who have discussed it and those who sponsored it positive, constructive and without significant additional costs to FAO.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

Canada welcomes the resolution on the implementation of the General Assembly Triennial comprehensive policy review by FAO. We believe that FAO has a unique role to play within the United Nations Development System, in the context of UN Reform.

FAO, with its unique normative mandate, provides valuable capacity building support for national strategies of the developing country member's particularly low income, food deficit countries towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Canada recognizes the need to further improve the effectiveness, the efficiency and coherence of the UN Development System, including FAO, particularly at country level. We urge the Director-General to continue to actively engage with other UN Agencies in implementing this resolution and to pay particular attention: to transaction costs and efficiency; the coherence effectiveness and relevance of FAO's operational activities for development – notably through a stronger linkage with FAO's normative activities; areas of comparative advantage; to country level capacity of the Organization; and to the mainstreaming of gender in all of FAO's activities as per the relevant chapters of General Assembly Resolution 59/520. These efforts should visibly increase the positive impact of the activities of FAO and other parts of the UN development system on men and women around the world, and on the fight against poverty and hunger.

Ryszard WOJTAL (Poland)

Just a request for clarification. What is the N+5 169 on the second page?

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Secretariat is telling me that this is a simple mistake in the printing, it should be taken out.

CHAIRMAN

I would now like to request the Conference, if it wishes to adopt the Draft Resolution on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 59/250.

I pass the floor to Cameroon.

Moungui MÉDI (Cameroun)

Je m'excuse, nous avons fait partie du Comité des résolutions, qui a reconnu la valeur de cette Résolution. Nous souhaitons dire ici que nous prenons note de ce projet de résolution, qui est soumis maintenant à la Conférence pour adoption. Un projet de résolution, bien qu'il soit soumis par un groupe de pays dénote une application fondée sur le travail de la FAO. Nous reconnaissons le mandat de la FAO, au sein du système des Nations Unies, pour la réalisation des OMD et nous reconnaissons également que la FAO, au-delà des activités normatives, doit également avoir une influence fondamentale dans les activités de terrain, que ce soit sur le plan local ou régional ou sur le plan global. Nous souhaitons donc que cette Résolution, qui va être adoptée aujourd'hui, dans le premier Rapport intérimaire attendu à la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence dans deux ans, qu'elle n'entraîne pas de coûts supplémentaires dans la manière de préparer les rapports pour notre Organisation.

Nous encourageons donc la FAO à œuvrer dans ce sens.

CHAIRMAN

Would any other delegation like to take the floor for further comments on this particular Draft Resolution?

I would now like to request the Conference, if it wishes, to adopt the Draft Resolution on United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/250 contained in document C 2005/LIM/21 and C 2005/LIM/22.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
ASUNTOS ADMINISTRATIVOS Y FINANCIEROS (continuación)

19. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
19. Autres questions administratives et financières
19. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

CHAIRMAN

We will now continue with Item 19. Other Administrative and Financial Matters. By adopting the second report of the General Committee, the Conference agreed to follow past practice and allow a representative of the FAO staff bodies to make a statement under this item.

I should, therefore, like to invite Mrs Margaret Eldon, General Secretary of the Union of General Services Staff to deliver a statement on behalf of the three Staff Representative Bodies.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Margaret ELDON (Secretary, Union General Service Staff)

I have the honour to address you on behalf of the employees of FAO worldwide, who are represented by the Association of Professional Staff (APS), the Field Staff Association (FSA) and the Union of the General Service Staff (UGSS).

We express our appreciation to the Chairperson of the Conference and the Director-General for granting our request to address you today.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General on his recent re-election for a third mandate.

On behalf of the President of Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations, we express appreciation to those member countries who responded positively to the FICSA invitation to talk about the FAO reform process.

We wish to emphasize the respect that we have for you all, as representatives of the member countries that we serve. Indeed, our respect extends to the poor and the hungry, that it is our purpose to assist. For those who have died, for those who in the next few moments will die, from hunger or hunger-related illnesses, there are no words that can heal or restore. For those unfortunate people, we, the employees of the Organization, have therefore decided to dedicate a few moments of the time available to us today to reflect in silence upon the need for greater progress in the fight against hunger and poverty.

In this short address, we will focus on three fundamental issues: staff participation in the reform process; the need for clarification and guidance on the reform and its implementation; the budget level required for true reform. During the address, where we refer to staff, we include all employees working for the Organization.

The aim of the Director-General's reform proposals is for FAO to improve its performance. The staff share the Director-General's wish to have a more effective, responsive and efficient Organization. If the reform is to be successful, it is imperative that it has the support and full participation of the staff. Following recent discussions, Management and the staff representatives have agreed upon the establishment of a Joint Advisory Committee on FAO Reform, which we trust will provide a forum for true dialogue on the reform proposals and their implementation. We know that the staff would appreciate words of encouragements from the Conference for the full and meaningful inclusion of the staff representatives throughout the reform process.

We realize, that from now onwards our future is not going to be business as usual, and we are ready to meet the new challenges with renewed vigour and determination. However, we feel there is still need for much clearer guidance on the reform proposals and on their implementation. We have listened carefully to what you have been saying, and we note that while all in principle favour some reform it is not clear to us what aspects of the reform you consider can be implemented immediately and which aspects may benefit from further consideration. Nor is it clear to us how and when the outcome of the Independent External Evaluation (IEE) is expected to fit in with the current reform proposals. We feel that specific guidance from you on this would undoubtedly assist the work of the Joint Advisory Committee on FAO Reform.

The reform has been presented together with the level of resources required for successful implementation. We are, however, somewhat concerned as we understand as are a number of delegations, that the proposed reforms are being delinked from the budget level. Before the Council and the Conference met, we asked what would happen if the reform was adopted without adequate resources. The response was clear. It would be catastrophic. And yet we now hear that the reform may go ahead irrespective of budget level.

The questions in the minds of the staff are easy to guess. Are we heading for something catastrophic? Will the Organization really be more efficient and effective, or will it be marginalized because of lack of resources and significant reductions in numbers of staff? Will the careful balance between national and international staff be distorted due to the need to cut costs and the independent, international character of the United Nations be affected? Will the cutting of posts further reduce the number of technical staff in key areas so that, with the creation of subregional offices, they will be too thinly spread over various areas to be effective? Will limited resources lead to untenable fragmentation of the Organization? Will the Organization be able to continue to provide the high level technical assistance member countries increasingly demand? What, when the Council and the Conference are over, is really going to happen?

There is no scenario in the documentation of the impact of the reform under an inadequate budget and that is under zero nominal growth or any level of the budget below real growth at 2.5 percent, and that for us is worrying.

As we stated during the Council, the recent staff assemblies, which were undoubtedly attended by the large majority of staff from all levels of the Organization, have instructed the staff representatives to call upon the governing bodies: 1) to approve a delay in the implementation of the reform proposals as a whole until the proposals have been presented in full and time has been given for staff to make their views known on the scope, the sequencing and the timing of the various proposals and to take account of the findings of the imminent Independent External Evaluation of FAO; 2) to provide for sufficient funding of at least Real Growth at 2.5 percent, and with adequate funding of associated transition costs, in order to allow the Organization to implement any reform in an effective and meaningful manner and, should this not be forthcoming, to agree to delay the widespread reform until such time as sufficient funds are available.

We trust that you will provide us with clear guidelines on the nature of the reform and its stages of implementation. We are also confident that you will provide the Organization with the necessary resources for the reform, the reform that you may decide on in order to truly render the Organization more efficient and effective.

We have been greatly heartened by the positive comments from some of you on the constructive dialogue that has been initiated and hope that it may be fostered in ways similar to those in other specialized agencies, where staff matters is a regular item on the agenda of the governing bodies.

On behalf of the workforce of the Organization, I want to thank you for your kind attention and perhaps make one final, very small request, that if we are permitted to address you ever again in the future that our colleagues may be permitted to follow the discussion in the public gallery above.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRMAN

I should like to thank the staff representative for her statement, and now I would like to give the floor to Panama.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

Primero quisiéramos agradecer a usted por haber permitido a la Representación del Personal hacer uso de la palabra. Estamos convencidos que es importante escuchar todas las opiniones, pero también tengo la certeza de que este proceso comenzó escuchando a las partes, inclusive hemos visto las reuniones que el Señor Director General ha tenido con representantes en los grupos. Nosotros naturalmente comprendemos muchísimo sus preocupaciones, creo que son preocupaciones muy validas. Sin embargo, la declaración que se acaba de hacer en nombre de los empleados, es una declaración que verdaderamente hay que tener muy en cuenta. Pero, cuando se comienza a entrar en consideraciones de tipo político, considero que esta es una potestad única y exclusiva de los Países Miembros. Los empleados de la FAO son ciudadanos de nuestros países y tengo la certeza de que cada uno de nosotros sabrá, naturalmente, tutelar los intereses de los empleados de la FAO, pero siempre en el ámbito de esa potestad que se nos da, de trabajar a nombre de ellos.

Saïda ZOUGGAR (Algérie)

Au nom de ma délégation je voudrais juste rappeler que l'Algérie a déjà salué les réformes et les soutien. Nous ne pensons pas que ces réformes aient été élaborées dans le sens d'ébranler les intérêts du personnel de la FAO. Ces réformes ont été inscrites dans le sens des réformes déjà établies dans le cadre des Nations Unies, c'est pour permettre un meilleur recentrage des activités de la FAO, nous souhaitons donc que le dialogue continue et que le personnel de la FAO puisse

être rassuré par rapport à ce qui va se passer dans l'avenir, c'est-à-dire dans la mise en œuvre de ces réformes nous pensons qu'il devrait être un peu plus confiant.

Wilson SONGA (Kenya)

Listening to the statement by the representative of the staff, I do not know why I feel that probably the staff are worried, probably unnecessarily, because listening to what the proceedings were during the Council meeting last week, it was quite clear that the reforms will consider as much as possible and ensure the staff are not unnecessarily affected.

It is my belief, that some of the proposed reforms clearly do not need to delay as such. For example, it was quite clear that decentralization is going to be welcome and is going to make FAO work much more efficiently. It was clearly said here last week that FAO needs to go right away and concentrate on those areas where FAO is best placed, such as ensuring that the standard setting bodies are much more effective than they are now, for example, the OIE issues, the Codex Alimentarius issues and the International Plant Protection issues. So, we simply would be going back, which is really unfortunate, and I believe that the reforms are really geared to making sure that things like the photographs I was seeing on TV this morning in Niger, is what these reforms are trying to see that those become things of the past. It is not really that the reforms are targeting the FAO staff.

CHAIRMAN

We have no further comment on the statement, so as I am sure you are aware, consultations on the Programme of Work and Budget and the reform proposals are still going on. This means that we will not be able to take item 11 this morning.

I suggest we adjourn this meeting and reconvene at 2.30 p.m. this afternoon.

We will elect Members of the Council and the Independent Chairperson of the Council at this meeting; hence it is important that we have a quorum at the start of the Session. I count on seeing you all here at 2.30 p.m.

I have an announcement; there will be a meeting of the G77 at 11.30 a.m. in the Malaysia Room. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 11.15 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 15

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.15 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
25 November 2005

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.20 hours
Mr Cao Duc Phat,
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Cao Duc Phat,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 15.20 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Cao Duc Phat,
Presidente de la Conferencia

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

22. Election of Council Members
22. Élection des membres du Conseil
22. Elección de los miembros del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

I declare open the Eleventh Meeting of the Thirty-third Conference. We now move on to item 22 of the Agenda: Election of Council members.

We shall begin by electing the Council members. You have before you document C 2005/LIM/14.

As you can see from paragraph 4 of that document, the number of candidates for each term and each region is equal to the number of seats to be filled.

Given that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization allows for the election of Council Members by clear general consent when the number of candidates is not more than the number of vacancies to be filled. We will carry out the election by clear general consent. No delegation wishes to make a comment or request clarification, we shall now proceed.

I call upon the Assistant Secretary-General to read the list of candidates for Africa.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Nous avons un candidat, le Cameroun, pour un siège à pourvoir pour la Région Afrique pour la période novembre 2005 - novembre 2007.

Nous avons quatre candidats, la Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, le Nigeria, la Zambie, pour 4 sièges à pourvoir pour la Région Afrique pour la période novembre 2005 – 31 décembre 2008.

Nous avons trois candidats, l'Ethiopie, le Gabon et l'Afrique du Sud, pour 3 sièges à pourvoir pour la Région Afrique pour la période 1^{er} janvier 2007-novembre 2009.

CHAIRMAN

You have just heard the proposed candidates for Africa. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approved these candidates?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

We now move on to Asia.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Nous avons trois candidats, l'Inde, l'Indonésie et le Pakistan, pour 3 sièges à pourvoir, pour la Région Asie, pour la période novembre 2005 - 31 décembre 2008.

Nous avons six candidats, le Bangladesh, la Chine, le Japon, la Malaisie, la République de Corée, la Thaïlande, pour six sièges à pourvoir, pour la Région Asie, pour la période 1^{er} janvier 2007-novembre 2009.

CHAIRMAN

We have just heard the proposed candidates for Asia. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approves these candidates.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

We now move on to Europe.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Pour l'Europe, nous avons quatre candidats, la France, l'Italie, le Royaume-Uni et la Suède, pour 4 sièges à pourvoir pour la Région Europe, pour la période novembre 2005 au 31 décembre 2008.

Nous avons trois candidats, l'Allemagne, République de Moldova et l'Ukraine, pour 3 sièges à pourvoir pour la Région Europe, pour la période 1^{er} janvier 2007 – novembre 2009.

CHAIRMAN

You have just heard the proposed candidates for Europe. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approves these candidates.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

We now move on the Latin America and the Caribbean.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Nous avons un candidat, El Salvador pour 1 poste à pourvoir pour la Région Amérique latine et Caraïbes, pour la période novembre 2005 au 31 décembre 2008.

Nous avons trois candidats, le Chili, le Panama et l'Uruguay, pour 3 sièges à pourvoir pour la Région Amérique latine et Caraïbes, pour la période 1^{er} janvier 2007-novembre 2009.

CHAIRMAN

You have just heard the proposed candidates for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approves these candidates.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

We now move on to the Near East.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Nous avons trois candidats, l'Egypte, le Liban et l'Arabie Saoudite, pour 3 postes à pourvoir pour la Région du Proche-Orient, pour la période novembre 2005 -31 décembre 2008.

Nous avons un candidat, la République Islamique d'Iran, pour 1 poste à pourvoir pour la Région Proche-Orient, pour la période 1^{er} janvier 2007 - novembre 2009.

CHAIRMAN

You have just heard the proposed candidates for the Near East. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approves these candidates.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

We now move on to the Southwest Pacific.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Nous avons un candidat l'Australie pour 1 poste à pourvoir pour la Région du Pacifique du Sud-Ouest pour la période novembre 2005 - 31 décembre 2008.

CHAIRMAN

You have just heard the proposed candidate for the Southwest Pacific. In the absence of objections, may I assume that the Conference approves this candidate.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

Can I take it therefore, that as there are the same of candidates as seats, the Conference considers such candidates elected?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

May I congratulate the countries elected to the Council.

23.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council
23.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil
23.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRMAN

Under Article V, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairman of the Council. We now move on to item 23.1, that is the "Election of the Chairperson of the Council". We have two candidates for the post as mentioned in document C 2005/9, Mr. Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr. Rudy Rabbinge from the Netherlands.

We will now proceed with the vote for the election of the Chairperson. I give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General to run through the voting procedures.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Les délégués vont être appelés un par un à se rendre aux urnes où ils recevront chacun un bulletin de vote portant le nom du candidat.

Les délégués devront exprimer leur vote en mettant une croix en face du candidat choisi.

Aux termes de l'Article XII, Alinéa 4 © du Règlement général de l'Organisation, les bulletins blancs seront considérés comme exprimant une abstention.

Aux termes de l'alinéa 4 (d) du même Article, les bulletins de vote ne doivent porter aucune indication ni aucun signe autre que celui par lequel s'exprime le suffrage, sous peine d'invalider le vote.

Je voudrais ajouter, pour l'information des délégués, que l'alinéa 9 (f) de l'Article XII en question, prévoit la possibilité de substitution du bulletin de vote rempli de manière défectueuse par un bulletin vierge. L'échange ne pouvant être effectué qu'avant que le bulletin ne soit déposé dans l'urne.

Le Président indépendant du Conseil est élu à la majorité des suffrages exprimés. L'expression suffrage exprimé s'entend des votes pour et contre à l'exclusion des abstentions ou des bulletins nuls.

CHAIRMAN

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

In accordance with the provisions of Rule XII.2.A of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 95 Member Nations must be represented at this time. I shall now call on the Assistant Secretary-General to give details regarding the vote and to determine whether we have a quorum.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre, c'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon à ce que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre des délégations présentes.

Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a cent quarante-huit délégations présentes dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder au scrutin.

Je vais appeler les délégations et je vous prie de vous diriger vers le bureau de vote là-bas à droite du podium:

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRMAN

The voting has now been completed. The tellers will leave the room and, with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, will count the vote.

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

The meeting was suspended from 15.58 to 16.29 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 58 à 16 h 29

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.58 a las 16.29 horas

CHAIRMAN

We now continue with Item 23.1, appointment of the Chairperson of the Council.

The Assistant Secretary-General will read the result of the vote.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Voici le résultat du scrutin pour l'élection du Président du Conseil 2006 - 2007.

Bulletins déposés: 155; Abstention: 0; Bulletin nul: 0; Suffrages exprimés: 155; Majorité: 78

Monsieur Mohammad Saeid NOORI NAEINI (République Islamique d'Iran): 78

Monsieur Rudy RABBINGE (Pays- Bas): 77

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	Election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council- 2006-2007 Election du Président du Conseil 2006-2007 Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo 2006-2007
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	155		
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0		
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0		
		4. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	155

5. Majority Majorité Mayoría	78
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Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos	
Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini (Iran, Islamic Republic of)	78	Rudy Rabbinge (the Kingdom of the Netherlands)	77

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature Mr Saulo Arantes Ceolin (Brazil)

Firma

Date
Fecha 25.11.2005

Signature Mr Govindan Nair (India)

Firma

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

C:\Documents and Settings\arterom\My Documents\ReportICC20051.doc

CHAIRMAN

May I be the first to congratulate Mr Mohammad Saeid Noori Naeini from Islamic Republic of Iran on his election to the post of Independent Chairperson of the Council. I wish him well for the demanding role he has taken on.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Adel JALILI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to express my deepest thanks and appreciation to all the countries who voted for Professor Mohammad Saeid Noor Naeini and elected him as the Independent Chairman of the Council of FAO.

I am confident that Professor Noori's Chairmanship will open new opportunities for FAO's Council to be more effective in its future activities.

I would like to thank His Excellency, Aziz Mekouar for his excellent chairmanship for the previous period of the Council. Allow me, I would like to pass the floor to Mr Noori.

Mohammed Saeid NOORI-NAIENI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I wish to thank you and to thank those who have worked for me. I have a long list of friends to thank. Do not worry, I am not going to do that.

In order to express my heartfelt appreciation, I will use the poetic persian language, and to each and all of you, I say motashakeram duste man. That means, thank you my friend, and I really mean it.

I am Persian and I am proud of it. I am a member of the Near East Group and I am proud of that membership. I am a Member of the G77 and I am proud of it, but in discharging my duties and responsibilities as Independent Chairman of FAO Council, I will be independent of my Country, independent of my Region, independent of G77 and independent of FAO Secretariat.

I only represent FAO Member Nations.

I am very well aware of the challenges ahead of us during the next biennium. My responsibilities only can be effectively and efficiently fulfilled, if I have your support and cooperation. Your technical, political and diplomatic advices will be most valuable to proper discharge of my duties. Here, I ask the Assistant Secretary-General, Mr Rouighi to distribute my address, telephone, fax and email and even my personal telephone number in Tehran to all distinguished delegates and I expect to be in constant and continuous contact and dialogue with all of you.

Finally, let me thank Mr Rudy Rabbinge for a very fair and transparent campaign. I hope that I can benefit from his high qualifications in achieving the sacred goals of FAO which is food for all.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Ms Dato' Lily ZACHARIAH (Malaysia)

On behalf of the G77, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Noori for having won in a very fair and equal fight. We look forward to working with him as the Independent Chair of the Council and we look forward to seeing him move FAO to greater heights. We also want to congratulate Mr Rabbinge for having run a worthy campaign, as an opponent to Ambassador Noori. We wish to place our congratulations on record to all those who voted for Ambassador Noori, and for all those who did not vote for him, but nevertheless, we still hope to see a united Council and that we can still work together.

Ewald WERMUTH (Netherlands)

Elections, such as for the Independent Chairperson of our Organization's Council are very important. It actually is a way we can express our commitment to FAO. In that respect, I think, we all should be gratified that Iran and the Netherlands have provided us with two excellent candidates.

I would like to thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for having run a fair, transparent and, most of all, respectful campaign. Equally, we express our sincere and humble thanks to all those countries who have voted for our candidate.

The Netherlands remain dedicated to FAO's noble task in the future, as much as we did in the past. We congratulate Professor Noori from the bottom of our heart and wish him all the best in his future work. We are, sincerely, looking forward to working with him.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Abdel Mohsen AL-GALLAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Kuwait, on behalf of the Near East Group would like to congratulate Professor Noori on his election as Independent Chairman of the Council. We would like to thank all the participants, all the members for their trust in the candidate of the Near East Group, Professor Noori. We are sure that Mr Noori will be up to their expectations, especially as the Organization is continuing with the Reforms suggested by His Excellency, the Director-General and with the Independent External Evaluation. We also would like to thank Mr Rabbinge for entering this campaign with transparency. We would like to thank Mr Mekouar for his Presidency of the Council. He was distinguished during his term of office in his activities and work.

Helmy BEDEIR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like, on behalf of the African Group and on my behalf, to express our congratulations and our best wishes to His Excellency, Ambassador Noori, the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He is a dear friend to us, and we have worked with him. We know his competence and his capacities and we wish him well in this function, which is not easy, especially because of the challenges that are facing us in this world, particularly this Organization.

I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to the Netherlands, Professor Rabbinge for the transparent and fair campaign which he entered, which was an expression that the Organization can select a candidate, choose between two distinguished people who have the competence and capabilities to serve the Organization.

Finally, I would like to express our thanks for the excellent work that was carried out by Mr Mekouar during his two terms of office as Independent Chairman of the Council and I wish Professor Noori all success in the coming period, so that we continue the work which we started a long time ago, in order to improve the work of the Organization.

Ernesto RÍOS LÓPEZ (España)

Gracias Señor Presidente por darme la palabra en este momento tan extraordinario para la Organización. En primer lugar, quiero darle enhorabuena, en nombre de los países de la OECD a los que represento en este semestre. La enhorabuena más cordial y sincera al Profesor Noori, con un resultado tan estrecho como el que hemos tenido, esta es la demostración de que la Organización tenía dos candidatos extraordinarios, el Profesor Noori y el Profesor Rabbinge. Estoy seguro que con el resultado contrario el discurso del Profesor Rabbinge hubiera sido el mismo que el del Profesor Noori, su disposición absoluta para la Organización, para los Estados Miembros, para trabajar todos juntos en cumplimiento del mandato sublime de la Organización. Permítanme que felicite otra vez al Profesor Noori y aprovechar el resultado numérico de la elección 78 contra 77, diciendo que es un gran vencedor, porque entre otras cosas, perteneciendo al Grupo de los 77 ha sabido superar el listón de estos votos sacando un voto más, pasando a 78. Profesor Noori, mi cordial enhorabuena, nuestra lealtad más absoluta, colaboraremos con usted durante este bienio haciendo más fácil y posible el trabajo y el éxito de esta Organización.

Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I am speaking on behalf of a neighbouring country. The people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the people of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan share a common history, one heritage,

identical culture and one language, our lives are intertwined. Their pride is our pride and their sorrow is our sorrow. On this occasion, and on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, I wish to congratulate Dr Noori Naeini for his election as Independent Chairman of the Council.

This Assembly has elected a person whose qualities require no elaboration.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

On behalf of the North American Regional Group, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Noori Naeini on his election, and we look forward to working with him over the next two years of his period as the Independent Chair of Council.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

On behalf of Pakistan, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Noori Naeini on his success on the elections for Independent Chair. Mr Noori Naeni's is someone who enjoys immense respect of all the membership, the fact that it was such a close race is an evidence of the competence of both the candidates.

FAO is lucky to have such wealth of talent ready to serve it. We look forward to working Mr Noori Naeni in the years to come to ensure that FAO steers the course of coming up to the expectation of its Member Nations.

Matthew S.S. WYATT (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States and acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania and the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, associate themselves with this statement.

We too would like to congratulate Ambassador Noori on his election. Many of us in this room have worked closely with him over the past years and we have always found him to be an excellent colleague. We look forward to continuing to work closely in future in his new role.

We would also like to congratulate Professor Rudy Rabbinge on his campaign. Professor Rabbinge has been a worthy and honourable adversary in a very closely fought but always decently contested election. The Conference has been in the happy position of having to choose between two outstanding candidates.

We would also like to thank Ambassador Mekouar for his work as the Independent Chair of Council. He has proved himself to be an outstanding Independent Chair but we would take this opportunity to remind him that his work is not quite yet finished.

Once again, may we offer our sincere congratulations to Ambassador Noori.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

En nombre del GRULAC hacemos llegar nuestras muy sinceras felicitaciones al Profesor Noori por su elección como Presidente Independiente del Consejo de la FAO, y nuestros mejores deseos de éxito. Asimismo, un saludo muy especial al Profesor Rabbinge por su participación en esta elección, cuyo resultado tan estrecho demuestra el respeto de las delegaciones. Esperamos trabajar muy firmemente con el Profesor Noori, por los objetivos de la FAO que él conoce muy bien y con quien hemos trabajado muy de cerca. Agradecemos también al Embajador Mekouar por todo su trabajo durante estos 4 años y le deseamos mucho éxito en sus funciones.

Eluppiti Rodney M. PERERA (Sri Lanka)

On behalf of the Asian Group, and myself, I am honoured and privileged to congratulate Ambassador Noori of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on his election to the very important post of the Independent Chairman of the Council.

We are looking forward to working closely with Ambassador Noori while benefiting from his vast experience. We are extremely thankful to both candidates, Ambassador Noori and Mr Rudy Rabbinge for having placed before us so informatively and authoritatively the important issues that are facing the FAO.

Today, we are extremely grateful to the two candidates for showing us, once again, the importance of how infinitely valuable every single vote is.

Ms Christer WRETBORN (Sweden)

On behalf of the European Regional Group, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Noori on his election as Independent Chair of the Council. The European Regional Group is prepared to work together with Ambassador Noori in a spirit to reach solutions in consensus to the benefit of all member countries of FAO.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Mekouar for his excellent, and I must say, friendly work as Independent Chair of the Council.

Ms Judy BARFIELD (Australia)

On behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, we wish to also extend sincere congratulations to Ambassador Noori on his election to this important post. We wish him every success over the next biennium. This period will present significant challenges for the Organization, and we look forward to working in close collaboration with him over the period.

We also recognize Professor Rabbinge for his fair campaign.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Armenia)

Armenia is also a neighbouring country, like Afghanistan, to Ambassador Noori's country. We have had excellent relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran for centuries. I have known Ambassador Noori's esteemed qualifications and personality for many years. We wish him the best in his work.

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL

Bien que nous ayons un président indépendant du Secrétariat, je pense pouvoir quand même le féliciter sans donner l'impression que c'est pour l'influencer et je souhaite lui confirmer que, naturellement, il pourra compter sur toute la collaboration du Secrétariat pour travailler étroitement avec lui.

Je voudrais aussi saisir cette occasion pour remercier le Professeur Rabbinge d'avoir présenté sa candidature. C'est une personnalité connue et respectée dans le monde scientifique. Nous sommes très heureux de voir que cette élection ait été transparente et claire, comme toujours à la FAO, et que la différence entre les deux candidats était vraiment très mince. Je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier aussi le Président Mekouar pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli lors de ses mandats. Je sais qu'il a été souvent amené à passer des nuits blanches pour essayer de trouver des solutions à nos problèmes. Je voudrais aussi lui exprimer ma gratitude pour le travail qu'il a accompli, pour l'Organisation et pour la bonne collaboration que nous avons eu avec lui.

CHAIRMAN

We conclude this item of our agenda. As I am sure you are all aware, consultations are still going on. This means that we will not be able to turn to Item 11 at this meeting. I suggest we adjourn and reconvene at 19.00 hours. As it is important that we have a quorum at the start of the meeting, I count on seeing you all here at 19.00 hours.

The meeting was suspended from 16.55 to 20.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 55 à 20 h 00

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.55 a las 20.00 horas

CHAIRMAN

The Working Group has not yet finished its work.

I suggest we give it some more time and therefore, propose that we adjourn for today and meet tomorrow morning at 10.30.

It is very important that we have a quorum tomorrow morning, given that we will be voting on the budget.

I wish you all a good evening.

The meeting rose at 20.01 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 01

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.01 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19–26 November 2005 Rome, 19–26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19–26 de noviembre de 2005
TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
26 November 2005

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.55 hours
Mr Cao Duc Phat
Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Cao Duc Phat,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 10.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Cao Duc Phat,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRMAN

I declare the Twelfth Plenary Meeting of the Thirty-third FAO Conference open.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 2005/REP/1)**ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 2005/REP/1)****APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 2005/REP/1)****CHAIRMAN**

We now come to the Adoption of the Commission II Report on Item 11, the Programme of Work and Budget 2006–2007 by Plenary. You all have the Draft Report, reference C 2005/REP/1 in front of you.

In this Report, we have a Resolution on Amendments to Financial Regulation VI, Security Expenditure Facility, which was adopted by the Conference yesterday and under Item 15, Constitutional and Legal Matters.

Secondly, there is a Resolution on reforms in the Organization.

Thirdly, we have a Resolution on the Budget Level for the next biennium which requires a roll call vote.

I would suggest, that we adopt the Report section by section, excluding the Resolutions, and that we vote on these Resolutions at the end.

The first section covers paragraphs 1 to 5. Are there any comments?

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Paragraphs 6 to 7: Main Decisions Required. Are there any comments? No.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Paragraphs 9 to 13: Views on the Reforms. Are there any comments? No.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Paragraphs 14 to 17: Preferences of the Budget Level. Are there any comments? No.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Paragraphs 18 to 22: Other Comments. Are there any comments? No.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

We have completed the adoption of those parts of the Report which do not relate to the Resolutions on Reforms in the Organization, and on the Programme of Work and Budget and Budgetary Appropriations 2006–2007, document C 2005/REP/1.

We will first take the Resolution on Reform which has just been adopted in Commission II. Can I take it that the Conference wishes to approve this Resolution by acclamation?

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

CHAIRMAN

We will now move on to the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations 2006–2007. This vote requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. 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 if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. Votes cast means affirmative and negative votes, and shall not include abstentions.

I should like to give the floor to the Assistant Secretary-General, to determine the quorum and explain the modalities of the vote.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Puis-je demander maintenant à chaque délégation présente d'appuyer sur le bouton vert sur leur pupitre. C'est-à-dire le troisième à droite, de façon à ce que le système électronique puisse vérifier le nombre de délégations présentes.

Est-ce que toutes les délégations ont activé le bouton vert?

Le système de vote électronique indique qu'il y a cent vingt-trois délégations présentes dans la salle. Nous pouvons donc procéder à un vote électronique.

Si vous êtes d'accord avec le projet de résolutions sur le budget de programme, sur le Programme de travail et budget 2006-2007 contenu dans le document C 2005/REP/1 appuyez sur le bouton vert. Si vous n'êtes pas d'accord appuyez sur le bouton rouge. Si vous voulez vous abstenir appuyez sur le bouton jaune.

Vote
Vote
Votación

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Voici les résultats du vote: 119 ont voté, majorité requise: 79, votes pour: 117, votes contre: 2, abstention: 1.

CHAIRMAN

The resolution has been adopted.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos



FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

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

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

26/11/2005
11:12:51

Vote on: Nominal roll call vote on "Budgetary appropriations 2006-2007"

Vote sur: Appel nominal sur l' "Ouverture des crédits 2006-2007"

Votacion para: Votación nominal sobre la "Consignación presupuestaria 2006-2007"

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	119
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	117
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	2
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	1
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	59

Votes For: ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BAHRAIN, BARBADOS, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BELIZE, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CENTRAL AFRICAN REP., CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CZECH REP., D.P.R. KOREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, DENMARK, DOMINICAN REP., EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GREECE, GUINEA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, IRELAND, ITALY, JAMAICA, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, MOROCCO, MYANMAR, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SAN MARINO, SENEGAL, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SEYCHELLES, SLOVAK REP., SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, ST. KITTIS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, SURINAME, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, THAILAND, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against: JAPAN, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Votes Pour:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: ARGENTINA

Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: AFGHANISTAN, BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CHAD, COMOROS, COOK ISLANDS, CYPRUS, DJIBOUTI, ECUADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GHANA, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA-BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ISRAEL, KYRGYZ REP., LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIUS, MICRONESIA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAURU, NETHERLANDS, NIUE, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, QATAR, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SAUDI ARABIA, SIERRA LEONE, SOMALIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUVALU, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, URUGUAY, VANUATU, YEMEN, ZAMBIA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd

CHAIRMAN

I would like to give the floor to Japan.

Manabu MIYAGAWA (Japan)

Japan has actively and constructively participated in the negotiations of Commission II in order to attain a balanced consensus on an appropriate level of the budget. We have attached particular importance to the activities of FAO. FAO is an indispensable institution to ensure freedom from hunger and poverty through the whole international community.

As we repeatedly stated in the Council meeting and Commission II, we are deeply concerned about the deteriorating financial position of FAO, amounting to US\$107.6 million as of the end of June this year. In particular, the total amount of arrears has amounted to the unattainable level. The amount of outstanding arrears is US\$55.7 million plus €8.2 as of 14 November 2005, and more than 30 Member States have been suspended their voting rights. This is, we have to admit, an unusual and critical situation.

It is time for us to reform such institutional financial deficiency of the Organization. Reform requires at least temporal patience for every Member State, but the genuine reform will certainly strengthen the institution as a whole. Priorities will have to become even more focussed, taking into account both availability of resources and implementation of programmes. For example, we fully support the increase in the security costs for protection of the FAO staff in certain unstable areas in the world, but we oppose the unnecessary expansion of the number of Departments in the Secretariat Headquarters or Subregional Offices which may incur additional costs.

Japan will be willing to pursue an idea to give an incentive for the payment of the arrears by establishing a mechanism to review and assess a degree of improvement in the payment of assessed contributions in consideration of the appropriate level of future budget. We have carefully listened to initial views of some Member States to such an idea and appreciate such an occasion provided by the Chairperson of Commission II.

Japan is determined to go through a difficult but significant process of transformation of FAO. For the first time in the history of the relations between FAO and Japan, there has been a serious domestic discussion on the desirability of the existing relationship, including an extreme option.

Today, after difficult consideration, Japan has come to the conclusion to vote against the proposed budget level of US\$773.8 million which is US\$13.8 million higher than the maximum level that Japan could have along with.

Richard BEHREND (United States of America)

I would like to explain to the Conference why the United States voted against the budget resolution that has just been adopted.

My Government recognizes that FAO has essential roles to play in the international system, including its role in helping countries overcome hunger and poverty, its standard setting work that facilitates trade, its role in protecting natural resources, collection of statistics and emergency operations.

The United States continues to support the work of FAO. In addition to our assessed payments, this year we expect to make more than US\$25 million in voluntary contributions to support FAO activities in different parts of the world.

Voluntary contributions represent about half of the financial resources available to the Organization and these continue to rise. The impact on FAO activities of any change in the level of appropriation should be seen in light of all the Organization's resources not just those generated through assessed contributions.

The United States advocates budget discipline, accountability, efficiency and prioritization of the activities of international organizations. In the case of FAO, we appreciate the Secretariat's ongoing efforts to streamline its processes and find economies in order to minimize the impact of budget constraints on programme delivery.

We support increased security expenditures, as proposed by the Director-General, it is our view nevertheless, that the budget should be set at a level that is within members' ability to pay. If the level of expenditures authorized by the budget cannot be financed, then FAO's financial situation will worsen. Recent evidence does not give us much confidence that the budget just adopted can be fully financed, although we of course, recognize our obligations under this budget.

Many Members, including my own country, offer different reasons having difficulty paying their assessments. Sixty four countries have arrears totalling approximately US\$65 million. It is our view that the budget increase of US\$100 million for the present biennium has exacerbated the Organization's financial difficulties.

Under the circumstances, we believe that a zero nominal growth budget would have been prudent and appropriate for the forthcoming biennium.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Let me first express my appreciation to the membership for having made great efforts to respect this period of universalism of FAO by having wide and open discussions on issues facing the Organization with all Members entrusted with its mandate and in ways and means for fulfilling this mandate.

We, in the Secretariat, have the obligation to implement whatever decision you have arrived at. We will therefore faithfully implement the different decisions you have made to take this Organization forward in a period of change within the UN System. We have tried to show that FAO is not among those institutions resisting change or not making efforts to adapt to a new environment. We know the difficulties that any proposal of change brings, because of a natural tendency to be afraid of change or of the consequences of change. We, nevertheless, thought it was our responsibility to propose far reaching changes in this Organization, in line with the concerns that have been expressed by some of our Members.

You have approved the thrust of our proposals, but you have decided that they should be implemented progressively. We will therefore follow what you have decided and faithfully implement your decision for the good of the 852 million people who are hungry around the world, but also for the good of all the member countries who have to produce food, not only for 6 billion persons now, but also for 9 billion by the year 2050. This will require increased productivity and increased production. This will imply trade among nations, hence the importance of our role in ensuring that we have the adequate agreed standards at international level that would ensure and facilitate fair trade among Member Nations of the Organization. We will also continue to make every effort to ensure that agricultural production is protected against pests and diseases, as we have seen recently with foot-and-mouth disease, with locusts and at present as we are facing with the problem of Avian Influenza.

In all these areas, the Organization has shown that it is proactive: it showed that months, sometimes years, before I rang the bell and drew the attention of the membership to the need to act collectively to protect not only agricultural production, but also human life.

We will continue along those lines, balancing - as you have decided - the work that is to be done on the normative side but also in delivering demand-driven assistance to member countries. We believe that such a balance would guarantee the universalism of the United Nations in general and FAO in particular.

I would like to thank you again for all the efforts you have made-working late nights, coming during weekends and being far away from your families. This is proof of your commitment to the cause of humanity; and we, your Secretariat, will do everything to ensure that this Organization is more effective, more efficient in using the resources, both under the Regular Programme and the voluntary resources, you are putting at its disposal to fulfil its mandate.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish all of you who have come from far away a safe return home to your families.

OTHER MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)
OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

25.6 In Memoriam
25.6 In Memoriam
25.6 In Memoriam

CHAIRMAN

We now come to the item "In Memoriam" when the Conference pays tribute to those staff members who died while in service since the last session of the Conference.

May I ask the Assistant Secretary-General to read the names of those staff members whose memory we shall be honouring today.

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Depuis la dernière séance de la Conférence, les membres du personnel dont les noms suivent sont décédés en service.

Monsieur Khalid Abdullah Al-Hamdane, Monsieur Charles Delwyn Barber, Monsieur Ravindran Vijay Chandran, Monsieur Belay Demissew, Madame Evelyne Desfoux-Bassotti, Madame Sissel Ekaas, Monsieur Désiré Angel Esso Priso, Monsieur A. J. Kimamla, Monsieur C. Ranoro-Raharinosy, Monsieur Martin Fritz Rembold, Madame Angelika Schuckler.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you, Mr Rouighi. May I kindly request the assembly to stand for one minute of silent tribute to those staff members who died since our last Session in December 2003.

We now move on to Item 24: the date and place of the Thirty-fourth Session of the Conference.

May I ask the Assistant Secretary-General to let us have a proposal.

24. Date and Place of the Thirty-fourth Conference Session
24. Date et lieu de la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence
24. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 34º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL ADJOINT

Les dates proposées pour la prochaine Conférence sont du samedi 17 au samedi 24 novembre 2007, au siège de la FAO à Rome.

CHAIRMAN

Does the Conference agree that its Thirty-fourth Session be convened from 17 to 24 November 2007? If there are no objections it is so decided.

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

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I

CHAIRMAN

We can turn to the adoption of the Draft Reports of the Session.

First we will adopt the Report of Commission I, which is set out in documents C 2005/REP/4 and C 2005/REP/5.

I would like to ask Ms Guardia Hernández from Costa Rica, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce the Report.

Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Presidente de la Comisión I)

En primer lugar, deseo agradecer a nombre del gobierno de Costa Rica por el honor que se me otorgó al designarme Presidente de la Comisión I de la 33ª Conferencia de la FAO. Honor que tuve el placer de compartir con los vicepresidentes designados por esta Comisión, por la República de Francia su Excelencia el Embajador Alain Pierret, y por la República del Iraq el Dr. Hasan Qutaiba y con el Presidente del Comité de Redacción Dr. Sergio Gouveia de la República del Mozambique. Con los representantes de los Estados Miembros, el Comité de Redacción y con los Representantes de todos los Miembros de nuestra Organización, incluyendo a la Secretaría de la Comisión I.

La Comisión celebró 4 sesiones y el Comité de Redacción 2 sesiones. En manos de los señores delegados se encuentra el documento C 2005/REP/4, los temas cubiertos fueron los siguientes: Tema 6, Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo, a celebrarse en Brasil; Tema 7, Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la FAO sobre Género y Desarrollo; Tema 8, Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO.

Creo que debemos sentirnos satisfechos del trabajo llevado a cabo por el Comité y por el resultado obtenido, así como la contribución y participación de todos los señores delegados del Comité. Espero que el resultado merezca su aceptación y adopción en esta plenaria, lo que gratificaría el empeño de la Comisión I de esta 33ª Conferencia de la FAO.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much, Ms Guardia Hernández. I propose that we take each Report separately.

Are there any comments on C 2005/REP/4? Russia, you have the floor.

Alexander A. TITARENKO (Observer for the Russian Federation)

As for the Report C 2005/REP/4 I have only Observer status, but we are full Members of World Food Programme and I think I listened very attentively to all the delegations here during the Conference, but nobody said anything that they regretted that no document was submitted on the New Business Process Review of World Food Programme, and in this case, if the Conference can, maybe, it will be useful to delete the paragraph 25, the last one of this document.

Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Presidente de la Comisión I)

Efectivamente, fueron 4 países que se expresaron muy claramente durante la reunión en la cual se discutió este tema, y que lamentaban mucho no tener un documento presentado por el PMA sobre el tema que se había tratado en el 128º Consejo de la FAO del mes de junio.

Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI (El Salvador)

Mi delegación fue una de las que lamentó que no se hubiese presentado un documento sobre el Programa Mundial de Alimentos, pero quizás el distinguido delegado de la Federación Rusa tenga razón en el sentido de que lo lamentable es no tener un documento sobre el examen de los procesos operativos del PMA, pues menciona: ningún documento sobre esta importante cuestión. Lo que se subraya es que no se haya presentado el Informe del PMA con las observaciones que había hecho el 128º Consejo en junio del año pasado, y no sobre los procesos operativos; quizás había que buscarle una mejor redacción a este párrafo 25 para que refleje lo que dijimos en la Comisión I.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

We also were one of the countries that thought it would have been desirable to have a document. So we would like to see paragraph 25 stand. Perhaps if you added after the words "document" "regretted that no document was submitted to this Commission on this very important issue" would that satisfy the situation.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Presidente de la Comisión I)

Me parece que el párrafo 25 podría decir: la Conferencia lamentó que no se hubiera presentado el documento que se discutió durante la Reunión del 128º Consejo de la FAO, referente a la relación con el PMA. Tal vez les parezca bien a los señores delegados en esta manera, y así modificar el párrafo 25.

CHAIRMAN

May I assume that the Conference wishes to adopt this Report with the correction made by Madam Chair? It is so decided.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRMAN

So are there any comments on document C 2005/REP/5. I see no comments so document C 2005/REP/5 is adopted. That concludes the adoption of the Reports of Commission I.

I wish to thank the Chairperson of the Commission for her assistance. Thank you very much Madam.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 2005/REP/8)**ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 2005/REP/8)****APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 2005/REP/8)****CHAIRMAN**

We now move on to the adoption of the remaining Report of Commission II, namely document C 2005/REP/8. I would like to ask Mr Malek of Armenia, who chaired the Commission, to be kind enough to introduce the Report.

Zohrab V. MALEK (Chairman, Commission II)

I have the honour of introducing the remainder of the Report of Commission II, which comprises: Item 9 – the Programme Implementation Report 2002/2003; Item 10 – the Programme Evaluation Report 2005; Item 12 – the Performance of the Split Assessment Arrangement; and Item 13 – the Independent External Evaluation of FAO.

Overall, the Reports contained in document C 2005/REP/5 reflect a well-balanced and accurate summary of the debates which we had in the Commission. This is evidenced by the fact that the Commission was able to adopt the Reports with minimal amendment. In this regard, I would like to thank Mr Sren Skalte, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, and the Members of the Drafting Committee, for their excellent work.

In this vein, if I may seek your indulgence, I would also like to thank Mr Juneja, his staff and other members of the Secretariat for guiding us through the difficult processes, as well as the Secretariat of the Commission and all those that worked tirelessly behind the scenes, including the interpreters, messengers and all others – allowing us to get through our work efficiently and effectively.

I do not believe that any comment is required from me on the substance of these Reports, as the issues have been well-debated.

CHAIRMAN

Thank you very much Mr Malek.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/5?

I see no comments.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

That concludes the adoption of the Report of Commission II.

I wish to thank the Chairperson of the Commission for his assistance.

We will now adopt the Report of Items that were examined in Plenary.

The Documents concerned are C 2005/REP/2, C 2005/REP/3, C 2005/REP/6, C 2005/REP/7, C 2005/REP/9 and C 2005/REP/10.

We shall adopt Report by Report.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/2?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/2 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/3?

I see no comments.

C 2005/REP/3 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/6?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/6 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/7?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/7 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/8?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/8 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/9?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/9 is adopted.

Are there any comments on Report C 2005/REP/10?

I see no comments.

Report C 2005/REP/10 is adopted.

I assume this means that the whole Report of Plenary is adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

The delegate of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has asked for the floor. I propose that such intervention be included in the verbatim reports of Plenary. Can I take it that there are no objections?

This effectively brings to an end the substantive work of the Conference. I wish to thank each one of you for the cooperation you gave me that enabled us to reach this conclusion, after many hours of negotiating, in and out of the meeting rooms.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Secretariat, whose hard work before and during this Session of Conference has allowed us to carry out an informed debate and finally come to an agreement on the issues of reform and the budget in a harmonious and transparent manner.

I should also like to thank those who worked behind the scenes – the translators and interpreters, the reports office and room messengers. Thank you all very much.

Before I close this last meeting of the Thirty-third Session of Conference, does anyone wish to take the floor?

May I remind you that the Council will convene for its Hundred and Thirty-third Session on Monday 28 November in the Red Room at 10.00 under the Chairmanship of Mr Noori Naeni, the newly elected Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council.

I declare the Thirty-third FAO Conference Session closed.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 11.55 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 55

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.55 horas